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Legal Evidence from Outer Space (4)

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JUDICIAL ADMISSIBILITY OF SATELLITE DATA/EVIDENCE IN NIGERIAN COURTS

Abstract

While it is appalusive that some modern societies' legal systems increasingly rely on technological tools and pieces of evidence to help the enforcement and application of domestic and international law, it may not be wrong to say that others have legal systems that do not support on all fours the reliance on such tools and pieces of evidence. The Courts of those societies, therefore, face serious challenges coping with the development. Nigerians courts and legal practitioners were faced with such challenges for a long time, until June 2011, when the new Evidence Act was enacted to repeal the Evidence Act, Cap E14. This paper focuses on the admissibility of satellite data/evidence in Nigerian courts in the light of the old and the new evidence law, using the available case laws. It expresses the views of the Nigerian judges and lawyers on the admissibility of such evidence in Nigerian courts under the Nigerian Evidence law. It then summarizes the discussions and gives suggestions and recommendations.