The A2J Initiative

Brian Donnelly
Director of Educational Technology and Lecturer in Law Columbia Law School

donnelly@law.columbia.edu
The final version of this presentation will be posted at:
http://web.law.columbia.edu/educational-technology/special-projects

URL for final version of this presentation
- A2J Overview
- Organizations and Individuals that collaborate to support A2J
- Focus on the implementation by New York State Courts of A2J
- Describe the technical components of the software
- Q/A

Plan for this presentation
A2J described briefly in a few words and pictures
Welcome to A2J Author!

Continue

Access to Justice

This program was developed under grants from the State Justice Institute (SJI grant number SJI-04-N-121), Center for Access to the Courts through Technology, Chicago Kent College of Law, Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI), and Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The points of view expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the SJI, Center for Access to the Courts through Technology, Chicago-Kent, CALI, or the LSC.

© 2000-2007 Illinois Institute of Technology - Chicago-Kent College of Law and the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction
What is the name of the first child?
First: 
Last: 
Welcome to A2J Author!

Continue

DO YOU QUALIFY?

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

This program was developed under grants from the State Justice Institute (SJI grant number SJI-04-N-121), Center for Access to the Courts through Technology, Chicago Kent College of Law, Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI), and Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The points of view expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the SJI, Center for Access to the Courts through Technology, Chicago-Kent, CALI, or the LSC.

© 2000-2007 Illinois Institute of Technology - Chicago-Kent College of Law and the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction
A2J Author® is currently used in 35 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and Canada. More than 550 A2J Guided Interviews® are actively being used on the national server, Law Help Interactive. A2J Guided Interviews® are increasingly popular as a means to conduct online web intake for legal aid, and A2J Guided Interviews® creators are now able to designate graphics more in tune with the purpose of their A2J Guided Interviews®. Step-by-step instructions and graphics virtually lead users along the path to the correct legal aid office. - See more at: http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/news/2012/access-to-justice-on-a-smartphone#sthash.bg8JVFsc.dpuf
CALI’s A2J Author® software has helped 471,942 pro se litigants fill out their court forms! We are on target to help over 629,000 people address their legal needs across the country. From the projected 629,000 A2J Guided Interviews® that will be run in 2014, almost 500,000 court forms will be assembled and ready for the pro se litigant to use in court. Since 2005, we have helped 2.5 million people fill out almost 1.5 million court forms!

http://www.cali.org/blog/2014/10/15/cali%E2%80%99s-a2j-author-has-helped-over-470000-people-year
Eastern District Missouri
http://eprose.moed.uscourts.gov

- Civil Complaint
- EEOC Complaint
- Social Security Complaint

Federal Court Implementing A2J:
"Tad" H.W. Biggs, II
Manager of Information Systems
U.S. District Courts Eastern Missouri

Tadd Biggs
Tad_Biggs@moed.uscourts.gov
(314) 244-7814

Supports A2J for a few Federal Courts
“open to assisting other Federal Courts”
Welcome to E-ProSe

This program is designed to help you complete a Civil Complaint. When you are finished with this program, you will be able to print a copy of your complaint. You must be aware that this program will not file your complaint for you. To file your complaint, you must print it, review it for accuracy, sign it, and take it to the Clerk’s office.

Proceed  Exit
E-Filing

- LEXISNEXIS
- HotDocs
- OnLine

Customer Data

XML

A2J

PDF

XML

CM/ECF
E-Filing

http://www.a2jauthor.org/groups/case-management-and-efiling-integration

a2j
The Center for Access to Justice & Technology
AT CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW
Institutions and People
Professor Ronald Staudt

- [http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/faculty/full-time-faculty/ronald-w-staudt](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/faculty/full-time-faculty/ronald-w-staudt)
- [http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/Documents/Institutes%20and%20Centers/CAJT/access-to-justice-meeting-the-needs.pdf](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/Documents/Institutes%20and%20Centers/CAJT/access-to-justice-meeting-the-needs.pdf)

Chicago- Kent College of Law
Leadership Workshop on Access to Justice Leveraging Law Students and Technology

- [http://www.a2jauthor.org/groups/leveraging-law-students-and-technology](http://www.a2jauthor.org/groups/leveraging-law-students-and-technology) (June 2006)
- [https://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/institutes-centers/center-for-access-to-justice-and-technology/2013-law-review-symposium](https://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/institutes-centers/center-for-access-to-justice-and-technology/2013-law-review-symposium) (June 2013)
Jessica Bolack Frank
Program Coordinator
Center for Access to Justice & Technology
Chicago-Kent College of Law
565 W. Adams St.
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 906-5331
jbolack@kentlaw.iit.edu

- [http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/institutes-centers/center-for-access-to-justice-and-technology](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/institutes-centers/center-for-access-to-justice-and-technology)

- [http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/institutes-centers/center-for-access-to-justice-and-technology/a2j-author](http://www.kentlaw.iit.edu/institutes-centers/center-for-access-to-justice-and-technology/a2j-author)
Http://www.cali.org/

John Mayer – Executive Director

- https://twitter.com/johnpmayer
- http://www.cali.org/blog/2014/10/15/cali%E2%80%99s-a2j-author-has-helped-over-470000-people-year
- http://spotlight.cali.org/2013/01/02/law-schools-team-up-with-cali-to-harness-skills-of-law-students-develop-online-tools-for-low-income-litigants

Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction
- http://www.a2jauthor.org
- https://twitter.com/A2JAuthor
- https://www.youtube.com/user/A2JAuthor

a2jauthor.org
http://www.probono.net

Mark O'Brien
Executive Director & Co-Founder, Pro Bono Net

- https://twitter.com/mhpob
- http://www.probono.net/about/item.2456-Sites_powered_by_probononet
- https://www.lawhelpinteractive.org

probono.net and LHI
Welcome to LawHelp Interactive
You can use this site to create the documents you selected. This is a free service.

Note: Your interview session will expire after 2 hours (120 minutes) of inactivity.
Inactivity means you have not clicked or typed anywhere within the interview for 2 hours.
Please SIGN UP TO SAVE your answers periodically, if possible. You will need to register with the site to do this.

Get Started

- Application to Sue or Defend as an Indigent in Cook County (A2J) for Illinois
  - An online program that will create the form you need to file for free in Cook County.

Proceed
Judge Fern Fisher
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

- [http://www.nycourts.gov/Admin/directory/fisher_fern.shtml](http://www.nycourts.gov/Admin/directory/fisher_fern.shtml)


Rochelle Klempner, Chief Counsel
New York State Courts Access to Justice Program

- [http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/nya2j/pdfs/RochelleKlempner_Court-BasedDIYForms.pdf](http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/nya2j/pdfs/RochelleKlempner_Court-BasedDIYForms.pdf)

Jeff L. Hogue, supervising attorney of Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc

- [https://twitter.com/hogueinstitute](https://twitter.com/hogueinstitute)
  - jhogue@lawny.org

New York (cont.)
According to the LHI statistics, the New York State courts again lead LHI in the number of assemblies for the year. There were 129,024 assemblies from DIY programs; a 10% increase in assemblies from 2013 and the third consecutive year where over 100,000 assemblies were generated. The following chart shows the usage growth of the NYS DIY Form programs over the past six years.
In addition, in 2014, DIY User Surveys data provided the following findings:

- 95% of litigants found that the DIY Form program saved them time
- 66% of litigants were referred to the DIY Form program by a court employee
- 60% of litigants used the DIY Form program in a court facility such as a Clerk’s Office or Help Center
- 71% of litigants were between the ages of 18 and 44
- 33% of litigants had an income of less than $19,999
- 98% of litigants said they understood the questions in the program
NYS DIY Forms are only for court users who don't have a lawyer and legal services and pro bono attorneys and staff helping clients who cannot afford lawyers. Commercial use is prohibited and no one may charge for using these programs. When you begin the program, you will be asked to accept these terms of use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case type</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Court</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td><strong>Uncontested Divorce</strong></td>
<td><strong>Supreme Court</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Custody/Visitation</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Enforcement Petition</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody/Visitation</td>
<td><strong>Custody/Visitation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Family Court</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Modification Petition</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Support</td>
<td><strong>Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>Family Court</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Enforcement/Violation</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paternity</td>
<td><strong>Paternity Petition</strong></td>
<td><strong>Family Court</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Petición de Paternidad</strong> (Paternity Petition in Spanish)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When Someone Dies</td>
<td><strong>Safe Deposit Box Petition</strong></td>
<td>Surrogate's Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Small Estate Affidavit</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardianship</td>
<td><strong>Guardianship Article 17A</strong></td>
<td>Surrogate's Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Adult Name Change Petition</strong></td>
<td>Supreme Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name Change</td>
<td><strong>Adult Name Change Petition</strong></td>
<td>New York City Civil Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Child Name Change Petition</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems With Money</td>
<td><strong>Vacate Default Judgment in a Consumer Debt Case</strong></td>
<td>Supreme, County, City, District, Town, Village &amp; New York City Civil Court</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Housing For Small Property Owners

Small Property Owner Nonpayment Petition
Small Property Owner Licensee Holdover Petition
Roommate Holdover Program
Tenant Vacate Default Judgment

New York City Housing Court
District, City, Town & Village Court
Nonpayment Answer ****
Programa de Respuestas para Demandas por Incumplimiento del Pago del Alquiler
(Nonpayment Answer Program Spanish)
Tenant Affidavit to Vacate a Default Judgment
Affidávit de un Inquilino para Anular un Fallo en Rebeldía
(Tenant Affidavit to Vacate a Default Judgment Spanish)
Tenant Affidavit to Restore Case to Calendar
Afishávit para Restaurar un Caso al Calendario

New York City Housing Court
Inside the A2J Interview
Document Assembly with Hot Docs


HotDocs Basics Parts 1 & 2 for A2J Clinics

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pCZJaJzpgI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pCZJaJzpgI)
Select a Form Template within a HotDocs Library

Answer Questions at the HotDocs Interview

Completed Form

Answer File

Re-use the Answers in an Answer File
Complete Other Forms
Client
- First name
  - John
- Title, if any
- Refer to client as
  - John
- Marital status
  - Married
- Single
  - Single w/ Partner
- Address

Other Beneficiaries
- Spouse: Other Beneficiaries
- Specific Distributions
- Debts, Funeral/Cremation and Administration
- Residuary
- Appointment of Executor
- Appointment of Funeral Representative
- Appointment of Guardian
- Definitions and Miscellaneous Provisions
- Notary
- Witnesses
- Firm and Attorney
- Formatting and Assembly
Documents Selected

LOC Affidavit re Recordation Tax TF = TRUE
LOC Exemption from Recordation Tax - Credit Line
LOC Affidavit re Recordation Tax TF = TRUE
LOC Exemption from Recordation Tax - First Mortgage
LOC Affidavit re 255 Assignment TF = TRUE
Affidavit pursuant to 255 re Assignment of Leases and Rents - Credit Line
  END IF
  IF DOC STD Affidavit re 255 Assignment TF = TRUE
  Affidavit pursuant to 255 re Assignment of Leases and Rents - First Mortgage
  END IF
  IF DOC Affidavit Undertakes re Violations TF = TRUE
  Affidavit Undertakings re Building Violations
  END IF
  IF DOC LOC Assign Leases TF = TRUE
  Assignment of Leases and Rents - Credit Line
  END IF
  IF DOC STD Assign Leases TF = TRUE
  Assignment of Leases and Rents - First Mortgage
http://www.a2jauthor.org

A2J Author 4.0 and 5.0

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTY9no-uwxx

How to Use A2J Author – Legal Aid Kentucky

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFarrOALmC
A2J Author & HotDocs: How They Work Together

Please complete the following information about your child:

Name: [Input Field]
Date of Birth: [Input Field]
Address: [Input Field]
County: [Input Field]

Child name TE
Child DOB DA
Child address TE
Child county TE

Interview Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Loop</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>User Gender</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Avatar</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client first name TE</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client middle name TE</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client last name TE</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child DOB DA</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child address TE</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child county TE</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>blank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A2J Author Answer File (.anx)

The Center for Access to Justice & Technology
AT CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW