

Professor Bill Quigley:

Thank you. Very inspired by the panelists, and thank you for organizing it this way.

I always think that we all know law does not equal justice. We all know that 80% of the people don't have access to a lawyer and the law is stacked in favor of the people with property and the people with money. But there are signs of hope out there and there are signs of inspiration. And it's important for those of us interested in social justice to not only focus on what's bad, but also focus on what's good. And I've figured out seven things that are going on that I am grateful for and inspired by in terms of this.

First is you have to be inspired by and grateful for the thousands of lawyers like Saima and others on this call, and who are working on the front lines full-time, providing legal services. Adrian, others, the judge, people working in legal services office, working for public defenders, some prosecutor's offices, consumer advocates, full-time people. Just very, very inspirational use of their work.

Secondly, it's gratitude for the tens of thousands of people who are in private practice who have figured a way to be able to leverage their situation, to be able to provide free legal assistance to people. And that's not just helping somebody with a divorce or an eviction, which is a very important thing, but helping try to transform the world, to help at Guantanamo, to help in international human rights, to help fight for the justice that we need has been so clear in the criminal legal system that's been going on for some time.

Third is grateful, inspired by those who are challenging and changing institutions to provide a right to counsel. You, the judge knows, we all know that over half the people who show up in family court, they don't have a lawyer. 90% of the people who show up in eviction court, they don't have a lawyer. But 90% of the landlords do have a lawyer. Well, there are efforts that are underway in more than a dozen cities in some states to provide a right to a counsel for eviction, which is a really, really important thing. It's not complex legally always, but it really can make the life and death difference for a family and individuals.

Fourthly, I'm grateful and inspired by people who are helping other people learn how to advocate for themselves. There are not enough lawyers out there to help everybody, period. And we have to loosen our grip on the practice of law that is only for lawyers because people need to be able to advocate for themselves. In your area, the Legal Hand organization has non-lawyers work on problems, participatory defense that's going in almost two dozen cities around the country for legal defense for criminal cases.

Fifth is part of the same thing, is renovating our institutions so that the legal profession doesn't have a chokehold on this stuff. It shouldn't have to all go through lawyers to do this work. And so non-lawyer navigators in Washington State, limited license legal technicians in Utah. My experience and most of our experience, there's some social workers out there, there's teachers out there, there's nurses out there. There's plenty of people who could really help others that we exclude them from actually being able to help advocate.

Six then, and this is a bigger thing, is grateful for those who are in investing their time and energy in movement lawyering. I happen to believe that this movement lawyering, which is trying to partner with directly impacted people and they're organizing efforts. That if we look

back on how social change comes about, it's rarely one lawyer or one person on TV or one legislator. It is a movement of people and those movements of people, there's often a lawyer in the background or helping out part of a team get out in the community to understand what's going on. And again, one thing, a warning is sometimes we get this idea in justice work that we are a voice for the voiceless. I think that's wrong. I was 30 years old before somebody actually told me that there aren't really voiceless people. There are people whose voices are not heard because they're either shouted down or they're not let into the room, or they're overwhelmed by the voices of big corporations or business interests and the like. So to invest in, investigate and invest in the movement lawyer.

And the final thing is, as Shivani has shown us, and I'm sure will be shown on other panels, the law students, the people who are new to the institution, they see the gaps between what law is and what justice is. They see the gaps between our ideals and our practice. Some may call it hypocrisy, others call it just inconsistency. But they see what, as we all did when we were new into the legal profession, they see what needs to be done. They don't know exactly how to do it, but they are trying to help focus our attention on that, trying to point out justice things and help us force our way into doing creative stuff to be able to address that. And there's a lot of good that's been done, but well, I tell you, it is a hell of a lot of good that has to be done before we can ever start calling the legal system a justice system. So with that, those are my ideas of just how you can continue to be hopeful and inspired by others out there, including the others that you see here.

And now I will introduce Professor Ray Brescia, who's going to do the panel on artificial intelligence and access to justice. And good luck with that Ray and all of you. And thank you all for being on board with this and thank my fellow panelists and our moderator.