

Tim Baran:

So, stay tuned for Helaine Barnett. She's the Chair of the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice. Helaine, are you there?

Helaine M. Barnett:

I am, Tim.

Tim Baran:

Awesome. It's all yours.

Helaine M. Barnett:

Thank you, Tim. I believe this is the third time you have produced the '25 Apps' session with the technology conference, and each year it is even more amazing than the year before. So thank you so much, Tim.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our new Chief Judge, Rowan Wilson. Judge Wilson has been a longtime advocate of Access to Justice, and we have been so fortunate that he has served as a member of the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice. We so look forward to continuing to work with him as Chief Judge.

I am pleased to announce an important initiative of our Technology Working Group this year: many of the New York State civil legal aid providers have received, or will receive later this week, an invitation to complete the 2023 Civil Legal Aid Technology Survey. This is the third time that the Commission has conducted a technology survey. We did one 10 years ago in 2013 and five years ago in 2018. The data from these surveys revealed that most civil legal services providers had not sufficiently embraced and integrated technology into their day-to-day operations and client service delivery systems. It demonstrated a need for the civil legal services community to prioritize technology and cultivate much-needed support with their staff, board and funders.

The surveys also led to the establishment of this annual Technology Conference with the goal of educating civil legal service leaders across the state about how technology can improve the delivery of legal services. This year, the Commission has partnered with the Legal Services Corporation's Office of Data Governance and Analysis to conduct a 2023 New York State Civil Legal Aid Technology Survey. The survey asks questions about budget, staffing, training, policies, cybersecurity, hardware, software and service delivery. New this year are questions about remote working and cybersecurity, which were not topics of concern prior to the pandemic. The Office of Data Governance and Analysis will analyze the 2023 data, and where applicable, will make comparison to the 2018 and 2013 data.

The Commission hopes the use of this data to analyze the state of the provider's implementation of technology. The data will help the Commission assess gaps, review successful projects and systems to share with the wider community, and help us plan future conferences, programming, and initiatives. It is also a tool to assess technology infrastructure funding needs. I urge you to please complete the survey and respond by May 13th. I'm sorry, May 16th - three more days.

Now a few quick announcements before we conclude the conference. We have recorded all the sessions, so if you missed anything or want to see something again, you'll be able to watch the recordings on the Permanent Commission's website. Regarding CLE, for attorneys admitted in New York, California, and Texas, a request for CLE credit is pending. CLE credit is expected in Illinois. You must submit a request for CLE credit for attending the live presentations on or before April 26th to our CLE provider, Skadden Arps.

The CLE forms are on the Permanent Commission's website, and the links will be emailed to you. What we have set up is a post-conference survey so that you can share your thoughts about the conference. Your feedback will help us tailor future presentations to your needs. The link to our brief anonymous survey is in the chat, will also be emailed to you.

Thank you once again to all the presenters who generously shared their time and expertise with us today and yesterday. Thank you to our conference planning committee and Division of Technology staff for helping to make this conference such a success. And thank you to all of you for attending the 2023 New York Statewide Civil Legal Aid Technology Conference, promoting the use of technology to improve access to justice for all. I hope you have found this to be a rewarding and a productive experience and that you will see us again at next year's conference. Thank you again for joining us.