

# Rapid Fire Tech

2023 Statewide Civil Legal Aid Technology Conference

GEORGETOWN  
UNIVERSITY

# CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS

**James Carey**

Attorney & Policy Fellow



GEORGETOWN LAW

GEORGETOWN  
UNIVERSITY

McCourt School of Public Policy

**MASSIVE  
DATA  
INSTITUTE**

# CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS

A “Data Commons” is a secure repository of sensitive data from multiple sources accessible by outside researchers.

The perfect tool for answering policy questions like

*“How many Hispanic women are sued for eviction in Arizona?”*

# CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS

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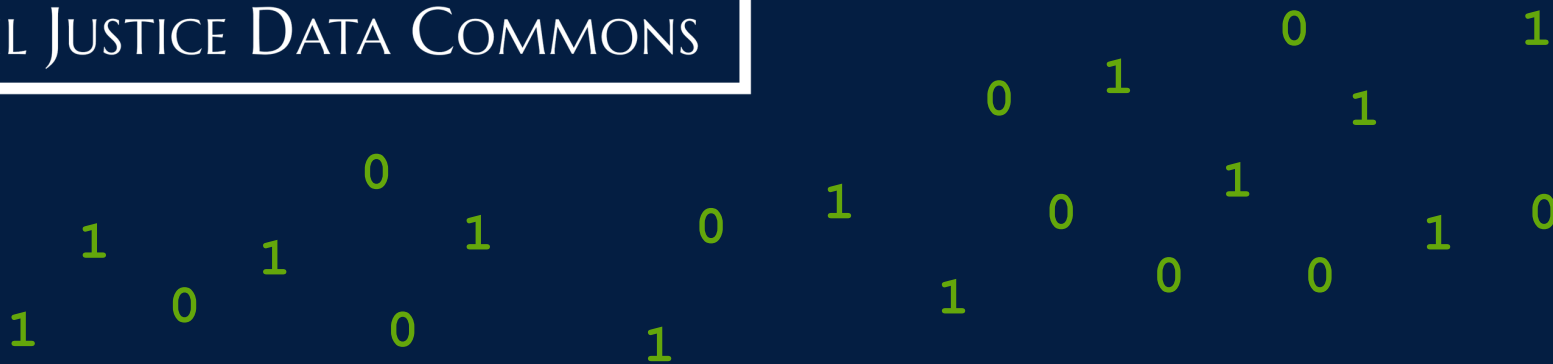
The perfect tool for answering policy questions like

*“How many Hispanic women are sued for eviction in Arizona?”*

But...

Court Data are **Inaccessible**, **Dirty**, and **Incomplete**.

# CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS



## Inaccessible Data

- Allowed to be shared?
- Resources to share it?
- Can it be understood?
- Can it be worked with?

# CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS



## Inaccessible Data

- Allowed to be shared?
- Resources to share it?
- Can it be understood?
- Can it be worked with?
- Clarify data policies
- Provide frictionless tech
- Localized legal research
- Change formats and clean

# CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS



## Dirty Data

Names, addresses, and  
other data are messy, so  
how do you know who  
these people are?

# CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS



## Dirty Data

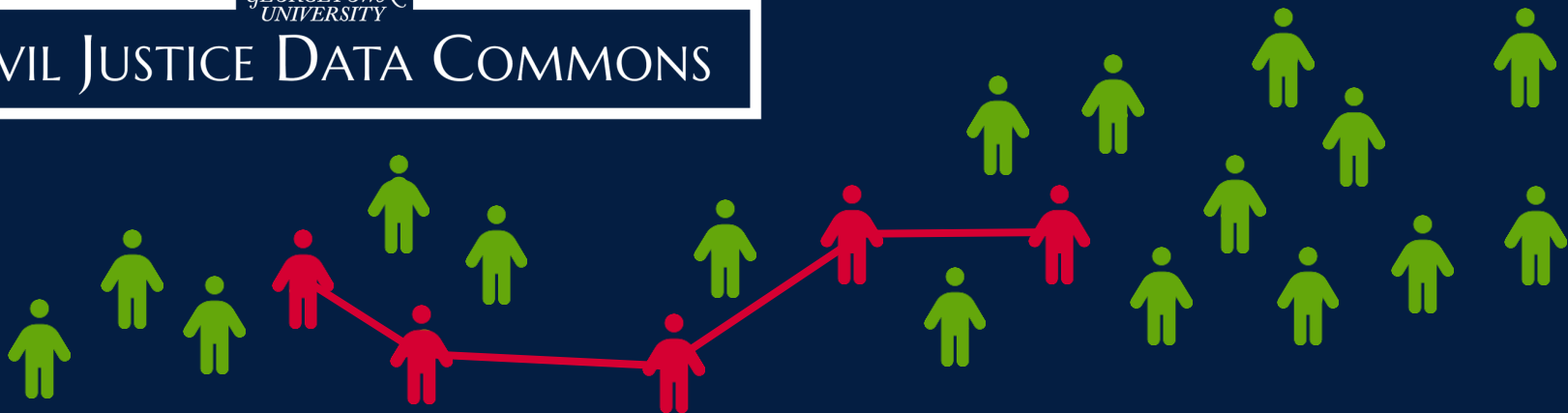
Names, addresses, and other data are messy, so how do you know who these people are?

## “Entity Resolution”

- Data Standardization
- Machine Learning
- Cross-Reference Sources



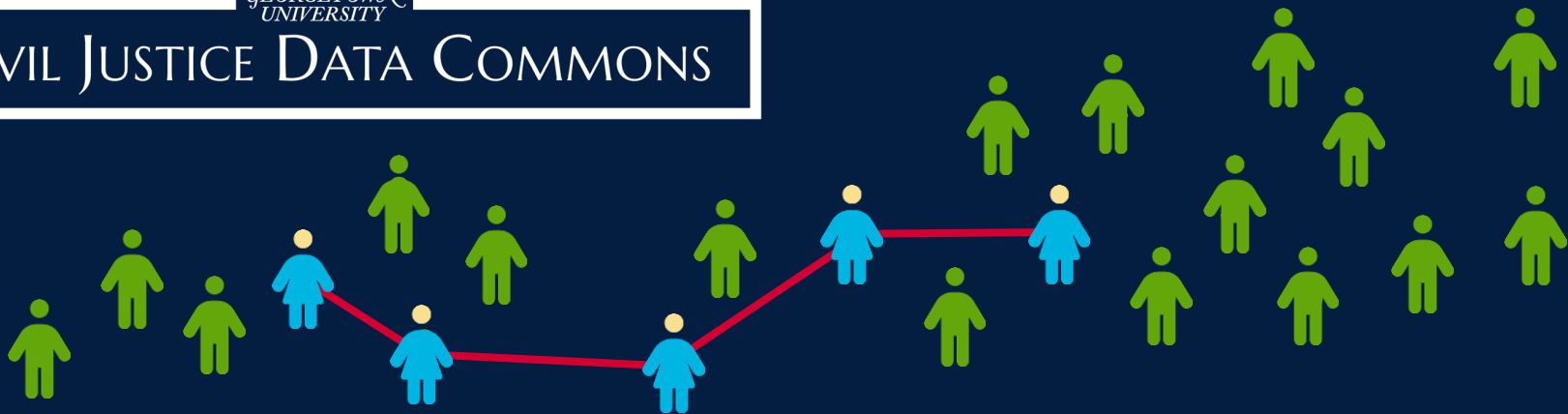
## CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS



## Incomplete Data

Lacks demographic data  
and other info that tells  
the whole story of a  
person.

## CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS



## Incomplete Data

Lacks demographic data and other info that tells the whole story of a person.

The Data Commons allow us to link to other sources, such as Census Records.

# CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS

## The Commons Now

- Over 30 jurisdictions,  
including whole states
- Wide range of  
researchers
- Contributing to other  
court modernization  
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# CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS

## The Commons Now

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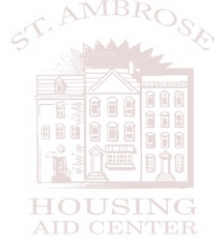
## What's Next?

- More data, working with peer organizations
- Building more linkages
- Putting the data to work for A2J research

# Maryland Justice Passport

Carrie McCully, Deputy Director, Civil Justice, Inc.

Nicole Kiker, MD Justice Passport Manger, Civil Justice, Inc.



# Passport Features

- Detailed case information
- Next steps for litigant
- Sharing
- Files



Court Self-Help Center

Partner Organization

Litigant-generated



Warm referral

Warm referral

Warm referral

Warm referral

Legal Services

Housing Counseling

Rental Assistance

Credit Counseling

Referrals build upon one another

Case



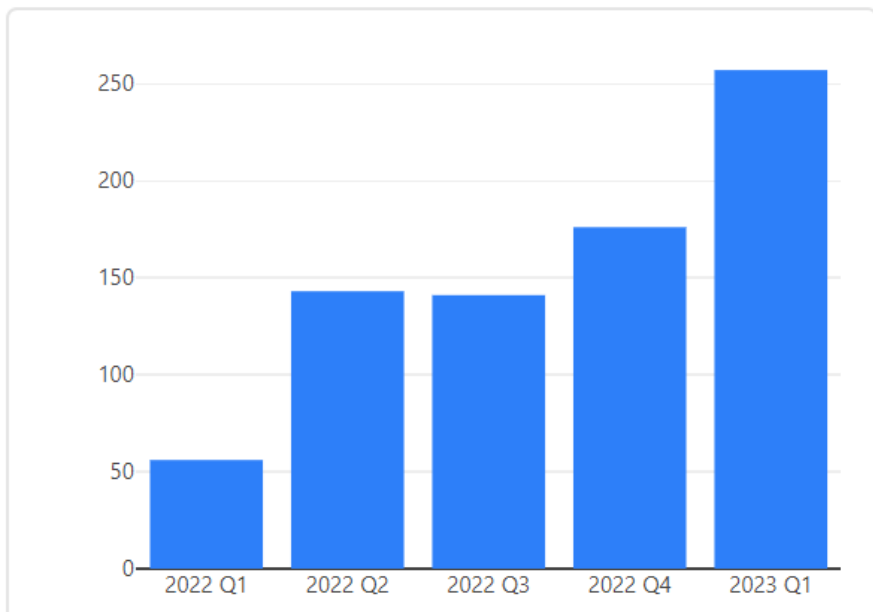


# Seamless Referrals Between Organizations

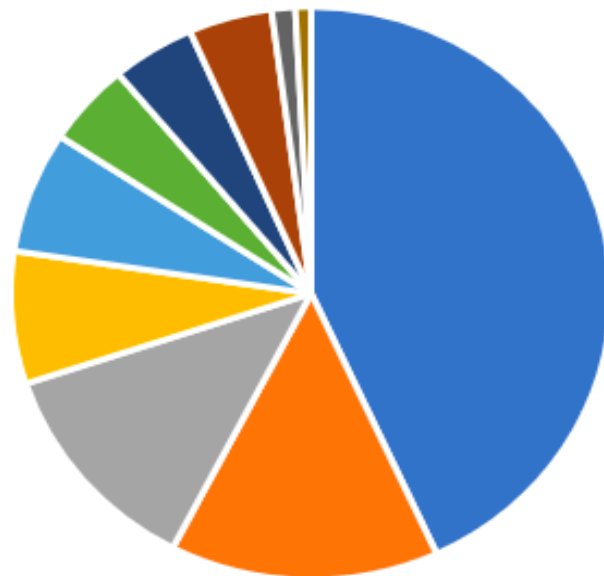


# Outcomes

Passports Created by Quarter ▾



MJP Case Types



# Contact Information



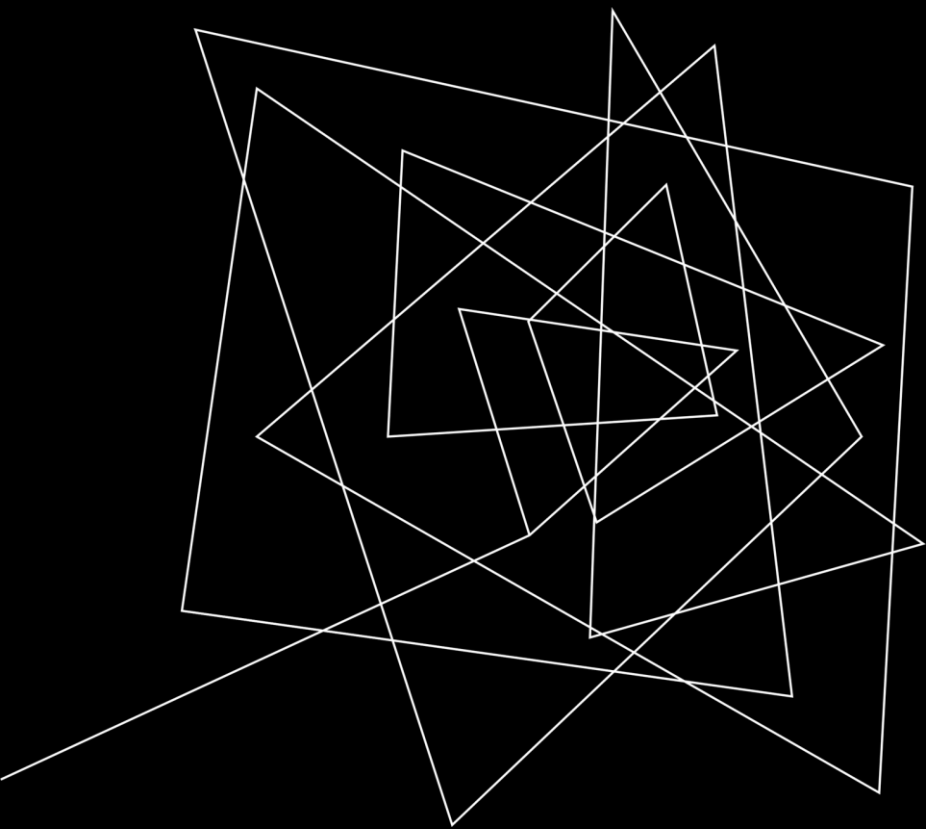
Nicole Kiker

- [nkiker@civiljusticeinc.org](mailto:nkiker@civiljusticeinc.org)
- 443-853-1011 x 405



Carrie McCully

- [cmccully@civiljusticeinc.org](mailto:cmccully@civiljusticeinc.org)
- 443-853-1011 x 402




# MYOPENCOURT

Powered by the Conflict Analytics Lab

# ACCESS TO JUSTICE IS A GLOBAL ISSUE

1.4 billion people suffer from unmet civil and administrative justice needs

Only 29% sought any form of advice to understand or resolve their legal problem



*“...COMMUNITY-BASED ACCESS TO JUSTICE IMPLIES EQUIPPING INDIVIDUALS TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN CONSTRUCTING SOLUTIONS TO THEIR JUSTICE PROBLEMS.”*

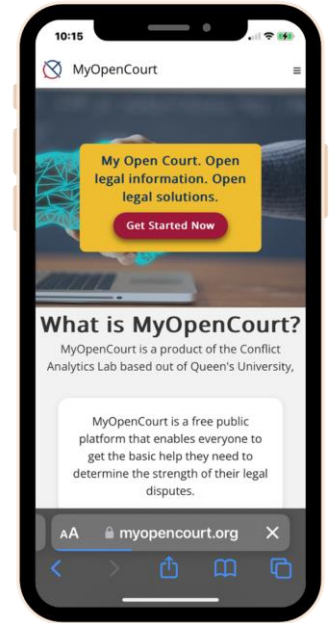
Ab Currie, Canadian Forum on Civil Justice

# MYOPENCOURT: AN APPROACH TO DIRECT-TO-PUBLIC LEGAL HELP TECHNOLOGY

Launched in 2020 at Queen's University.

A multidisciplinary collaboration between the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Business, and Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

MOC is a platform that provides answers to common problems faced by low-income and marginalized populations.





**Contact a dispute resolution professional**

Schedule a free initial consultation with a dispute resolution professional. Your questions, answers, and results will be shared with the professional. Providing your location allows us to connect you with a professional closer to you.

Your Name

Your Email

Your Phone Number (Optional)

City (Optional)

Province (Optional)

# MISCLASSIFICATION ASSESSMENT: EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACTOR?

Legal tech tool trained on an annotated case law dataset comprised of over 700 Canadian court and tribunal decisions between 2001 and 2021.

Predicts worker status at ~90% accuracy with a few simple questions.

Output generates a prediction of worker status, factors underlying the decision, and a list of similar cases for users to research.

Users are also given the option to contact a local lawyer for free consultations related to their case.

Employee or Contractor?

**Question 2 of 18**

How many years have you worked in your job? (Round to the nearest year.)

If you have worked less than 1 year in your job please put 1.





Home > Termination Compensation Calculator

The Conflict Analytics Lab suggests that: You are entitled to \$2,400, or 4 months notice

In Canada, an employer has the right to terminate an employment contract without cause at any time by giving reasonable notice of termination.

In practice, this often results in the employer paying the employee the amount they would have earned had they continued to work after the notice date rather than having the employee continuing to work (payment in lieu of notice).

If the worker was terminated without cause and not offered payment in lieu of notice they may be able to sue their employer for the amount of money they would have received had they continued to work during this notice period.

**If you wish to explore this matter further, please use the form on this page to receive a free initial consultation with one of our Legal Partners.**

**Disclaimer**

Your prediction is not legal advice. Instead, it is an approximate AI generated answer based on relevant Canadian case law.

More Details



Download your results

Generate demand letter

# TERMINATION COMPENSATION CALCULATOR

Legal tech tool trained on an annotated case law dataset comprised of over 1,700 Canadian court and tribunal decisions between 2000 and 2021.

Predicts common-law notice entitlements at ~70% accuracy.

Guided pathway pre-screens users to determine eligibility for notice based on legislative requirements, contractual requirements, and accounts for mitigating factors.

Users are also given the option to generate a list of similar precedents and a template demand letter to independently pursue their claim.

Alternatively, they may provide the information to a local lawyer for free consultations related to their case.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Assess the feasibility of a case using predictive analytics.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Help users locate and identify legal information, and to learn how to verify the validity of their case.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Assist with navigating the legal system and procedures.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Create new avenues to resolve disputes via new judicial methods and ADR processes, such as online dispute resolution.

## DIRECT-TO-PUBLIC TOOLS CAN ASSIST BOTH SRLS AND LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

# COMING SOON: OPENJUSTICE

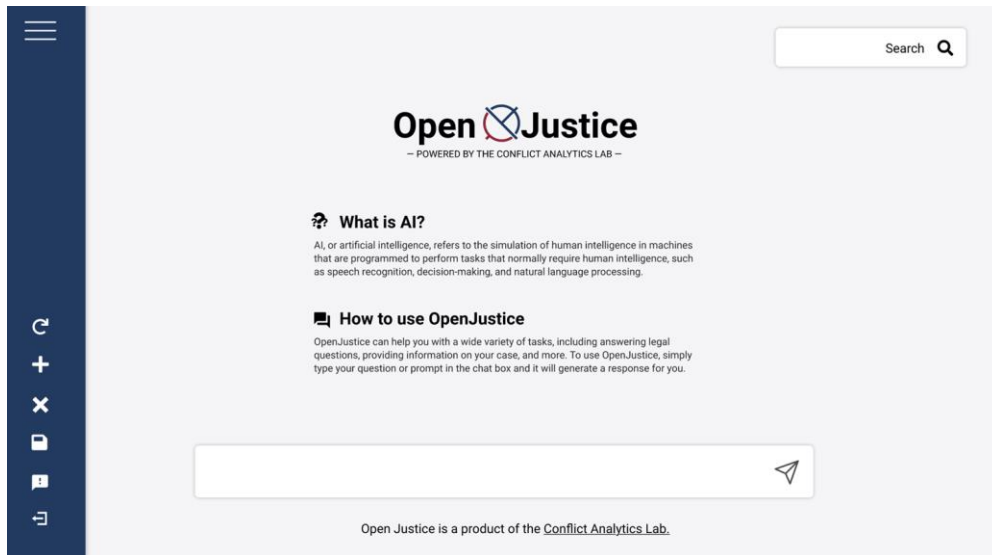
An Open-Access Generative AI designed for law.

Trained on annotated dataset of common legal questions derived from online legal help forums and answered by Queen's Law students and attorneys.

Simply type a legal question to generate a response, coupled with citations to caselaw, academic literature, and additional online resources.

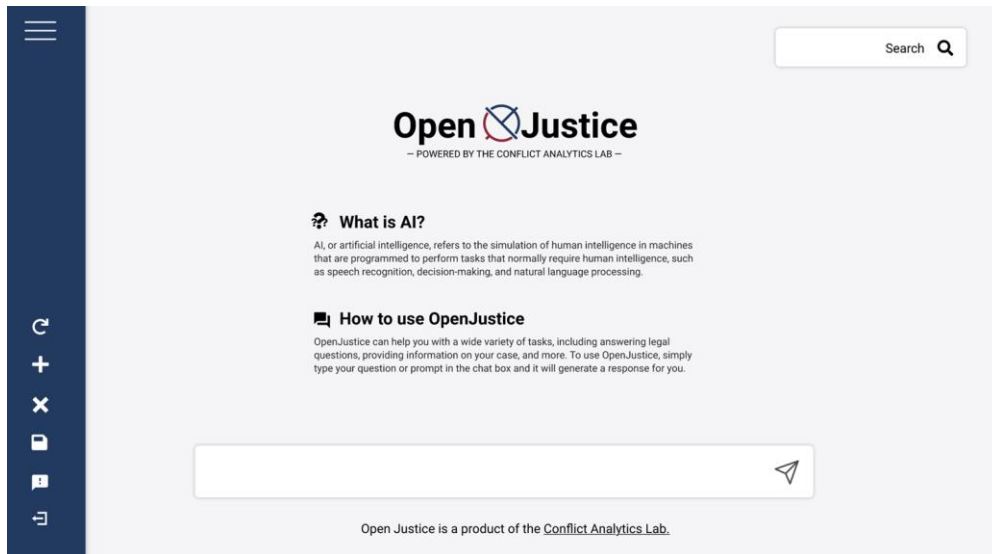
Beta version to launch in April 2023.





## NEXT STEPS: OPENJUSTICE

- Collaborate with public legal aid offices and law schools to fine-tune LLM
- Refine citations to public legal information via OpenJustice
- Integrate MyOpenCourt tools + ADR functionalities
- Keep the project open-access. Indefinitely.



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# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Challenges

Privatization of legal resources

Unclear approaches from legal regulatory bodies

## Opportunities

Engage in academic collaborations to further development of open-access technology

Encourage legal regulatory bodies to create regulatory sand-boxes for legal technology development



# THANK YOU



David Liang  
Program Manager, Conflict Analytics Lab



Samuel Dahan  
Director, Conflict Analytics Lab



MyOpenCourt  
Powered by the Conflict Analytics Lab

# Tenant Rights Chatbot

## Law Student Team:

Eliza Hong

Yusong Jin

Kyle Burrus

Jiwon Lee

Jackson Ingram

Sarah Stevenson-Peck

Cornell Law School  
Tenants Advocacy Practicum

Ithaca Tenant Resources



Tenants  
Legal  
Hotline





# Why Did We Create This?



## Tenants' Rights Guide

FOR RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ITHACA AND TOMPKINS COUNTY

### 2.1 Introduction

General advice is provided in this guide to help you understand your rights and obligations as a tenant. It is not intended to provide legal advice. For more information, please contact a lawyer or a tenant organization. This guide is intended to provide general information to tenants in the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County. It is not intended to provide legal advice. For more information, please contact a lawyer or a tenant organization.

### 2.2 Unlawful Deposits and Fees

Under New York State law, landlords are prohibited from charging certain fees. These include:

- Security deposits greater than one month's rent.
- Late fees unless they are reasonable and do not exceed the amount of the rent.
- Cleaning fees unless they are reasonable and do not exceed the amount of the rent.
- Fees for utilities unless they are reasonable and do not exceed the amount of the rent.
- Fees for repairs unless they are reasonable and do not exceed the amount of the rent.
- Fees for lost keys unless they are reasonable and do not exceed the amount of the rent.
- Fees for lost pets unless they are reasonable and do not exceed the amount of the rent.

### 2.3 Security Deposits and Rent Advances

When you rent a home, you may be required to pay a security deposit or rent advance. These are payments made to your landlord to cover the cost of damages or unpaid rent. Security deposits are typically held in a separate account and are returned to you at the end of your lease term, minus any deductions for damages or unpaid rent.

### 2.4 When a Landlord Can and Cannot Deduct from a Security Deposit

- Damages to the property caused by the tenant or their guests.
- Unpaid rent or other charges owed by the tenant.
- Costs of cleaning or repairs that are necessary to bring the property back to its original condition.
- Costs of lost keys or other items.
- Costs of lost pets or other items.
- Costs of lost or damaged items.
- Costs of lost or damaged items.

Remember, unless your landlord is deducting from your security deposit for legitimate reasons, they must give you your deposit back within 30 days. Please see [New York State Law Section 229](#).

### 2.5 Move-in and Move-out Instructions

When you move into a new home, you should receive instructions from your landlord about how to move in and out. These instructions should include information about the security deposit, utilities, and other important details. If you do not receive these instructions, you should ask your landlord for them.

1. The landlord must provide a written copy of the lease agreement to the tenant at the time the tenant signs the lease. The lease agreement must include the following information:

- The names of the landlord and tenant.
- The address of the rental unit.
- The term of the lease.
- The amount of the rent.
- The date when the rent is due.
- The name of the person to whom the rent should be paid.
- The name of the person to whom the security deposit should be paid.
- The amount of the security deposit.
- The date when the security deposit is due.
- The name of the person to whom the security deposit should be paid.
- The name of the person to whom the security deposit should be returned.
- The name of the person to whom the security deposit should be returned.

### 1.3 The Implied Warranty of Habitability

Every landlord has a legal obligation to provide a rental unit that is safe and habitable. This is known as the implied warranty of habitability. It means that the landlord must provide a rental unit that is fit to live in and that meets the basic needs of a tenant.

- The rental unit must be safe and habitable.
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### 1.4 When You Need Something Fixed

If you need something fixed in your rental unit, you should contact your landlord as soon as possible. You should provide your landlord with a written notice of the problem and a reasonable amount of time to fix it. If your landlord does not fix the problem within a reasonable amount of time, you may be able to take legal action against them.

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### 1.5 When Your Landlord Ignores Your Complaint

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### 1.6(K) Without Rent

If your landlord does not fix the problem within a reasonable amount of time, you may be able to take legal action against them. This is known as "repair and deduct." You can deduct the cost of the repairs from your rent. However, you must follow certain rules when doing this.

Remember, you should always try to resolve the problem with your landlord first. If you cannot resolve the problem, you should contact a lawyer or a tenant organization.

## Introduction

Tenants in New York State have significant rights related to their housing, and landlords have many legal obligations to their tenants. Housing law can be complicated, and the respective rights and obligations of tenants and landlords are not always clear. This guide was created by the [JustFix Housing Justice Center](#) and the [Housing Justice Center](#) to provide general information to tenants in the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County about their rights. In this guide, you will find information regarding housing discrimination, security deposits, building and maintenance issues, breaking a lease, engaging special provisions for victims and survivors of domestic violence, and more. While much of this information will apply to all New York State residents, some of the information is specific to the City of Ithaca or Tompkins County. The specific information regarding rental housing for Ithaca can be found by visiting [http://www.ithacajustfix.org](#).

It is important to know that housing law is constantly evolving and changing. Information provided in this guide may change or become outdated. This guide is a living document, and updates will be made when possible.

This guide contains basic, general information and is not legal advice. This guide is not a substitute for legal advice from a licensed attorney. Some statements in this guide may not apply to you or be accurate to your specific situation. To get specific legal advice, representation in court, or simply to receive guidance and assistance, Tompkins County residents can call [JustFix Housing Justice Center](#) at (607) 271-3887 or visit the [JustFix Housing Justice Center](#) by visiting [http://www.ithacajustfix.org](#).

## Table of Contents

1. Building Issues & Maintenance
2. Security Deposits & Other Fees
3. Breaking a Lease
4. Lease Renewal
5. Eviction Proceedings
6. Late or Unpaid Rent
7. Illegal Evictions
8. Housing Discrimination
9. Landlord Access to Your Rental Unit
10. Family and Other Occupants
11. Disability-Related Laws
12. Small Claims Court

# JustFix

## Technology for Housing Justice

Who owns what in nyc?

Search

Find other buildings your landlord might own:

SEARCH BY:

Address  Landlord name

# Building a Tenant Rights Chatbot

## Tenants' Rights Guide

FOR RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ITHACA AND  
TOMPKINS COUNTY

Ithaca Tenant Resources



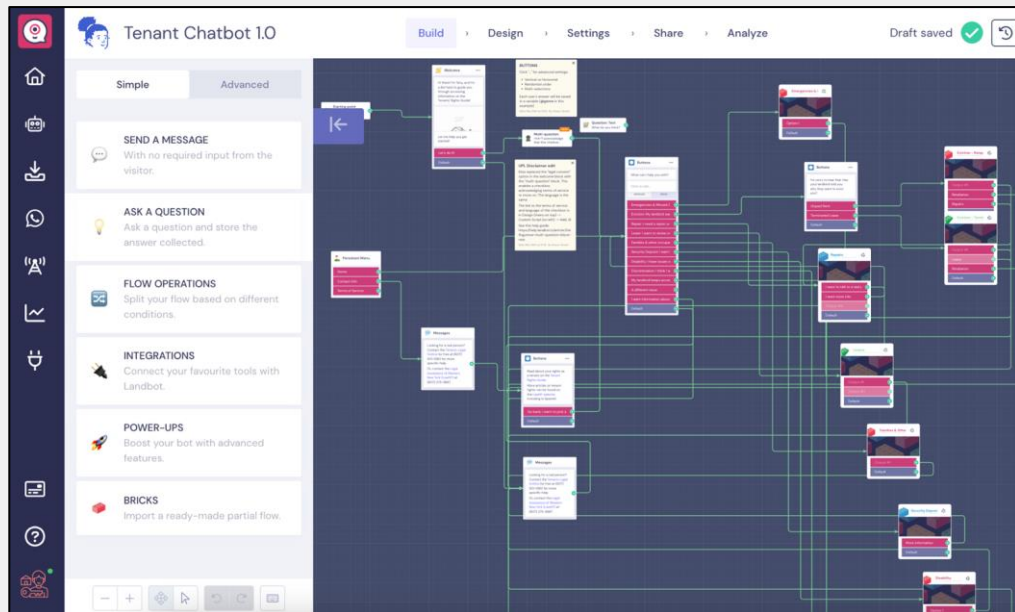
### Tenant Chatbot (upstate NY) Terms of Service

Last Updated: 03-27-23

This Tenant Chatbot (upstate NY) provide tenants of Tompkins County with legal information, not legal advice or services. This service does not replace legal advice from an attorney. The Tenants Legal Hotline encourages all individuals with questions about tenant rights to consult with a licensed lawyer in their jurisdiction. No attorney-client relationship is established through your use of this website and program.

Tenants can get specific legal advice by contacting the [Tenants Legal Hotline](#) at (607) 301-1560 or the [Legal Assistance of Western New York \(LawNY\)](#) at (607) 273-3667.

Tenant Chatbot (upstate NY), a "program" of the Tenants Advocacy Practicum at Cornell Law School and the Tenants Legal Hotline, provides a chatbot service that allows residents of Tompkins County to access legal information free of charge about common tenant rights issues in upstate New York.



# Creating a Community-Centered Design

MEIDENBAUER | Cornell and The Ithaca Affordable Housing Crisis



A Familiar Refrain: Housing is an issue in Ithaca, Tompkins County

Edie Velazquez Feb 2, 2022 #2



Ithaca Tenants Union proposes law to protect renters from eviction without cause

Faith Fisher Aug 17, 2021 #0

GUEST ROOM | Support of Tenants' Rights Needs Less Bark and More Bite



*Cornell's Construction Crunch: Ithaca's Housing Crisis and The Catherine Commons*

resident of the Cornell  
e idea of landlords,  
minority of city residents,  
tification whether or not  
e homeless, is in a word,

ing Cornell Democrats President

Catherine Commons is a temporary band-aid to Cornell's insatiable desire for growth. Until Cornell prioritizes sustainability over expansion, the situation will

Home | Press Releases | Attorney General James Sues Ithaca Landlord For Denying Housing To Low-income Tenants

**Attorney General James Sues Ithaca Landlord for Denying Housing to Low-income Tenants**

Hi there! I'm Teny, and I'm a Bot here to guide you through accessing information on the Tenants' Rights Guide!



Let me help you get started!

Let's do it!

I acknowledge that this chatbot does not constitute legal advice and no attorney-client relationship has been formed. For legal advice, please consult with an attorney.

Click on "Contact Info" at the top right at any time for access to the Tenant Legal Hotline.

I understand, let's go!

accept the [Terms of Service](#)

	Branch	Feedback from users	Problem: Solutions
Eliza	Repairs	<p>Self:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too many options</li> <li>language is too formal</li> <li>Too long blocks of text.</li> </ul> <p>Don Izkcor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too much to read - only 3. second attention span.</li> <li>Not another option: repair broke again, or option to write the problem.</li> <li>Very specific and unique issues, but not covered.</li> <li>Funny to go through, can't go back. If wrong answer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not another option: Include alternative options in first block. Go through each block and think about what other options a user might want to choose. add alternative options</li> <li>Can't go back: In each block, link back to at least two earlier blocks.</li> </ul>
Kyle	Evictions:	<p>Self:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be wordy and a bit confusing if unfamiliar with legal terms</li> </ul> <p>Friend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A table of contents could be helpful</li> <li>Get rid of legalese and trim wordy responses, and back button vs. looping back</li> <li>Possible templates for when advising tenants to make requests to the court</li> <li>Bullets/numbers and photos can make things easier to read when a lot of information is necessary</li> <li>Referring to the user as "you" instead of saying "a tenant" saves space and is more personal/less legally</li> <li>Confusing when the end is, possibly offer contact info earlier</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Jackson	Evictions: nonpayment	<p>Self:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could use smoother transitions at times</li> <li>Repetitive at some points -</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will revisit points where I suggest reaching out to a lawyer &amp; balance</li> </ul>

# What's Next?

## Cornell Law School Tenants Advocacy Practicum



Tenants  
Legal  
Hotline



## Ithaca Tenant Resources



- Civil Justice Data Commons
  - James Carey [jc2933@georgetown.edu](mailto:jc2933@georgetown.edu)
  - <https://redivis.com/CJDC>
  
- Maryland Justice Project
  - Carrie McCully [cmccully@civiljusticeinc.org](mailto:cmccully@civiljusticeinc.org)
  - Nicole Kiker [nkiker@civiljusticeinc.org](mailto:nkiker@civiljusticeinc.org)
  - <https://www.mdjusticepassport.org/>
  
- MyOpenCourt ConflictAnalytics Data Lab AI
  - David Liang [david.liang@queensu.ca](mailto:david.liang@queensu.ca)
  - Samuel Dahan [samuel.dahan@queensu.ca](mailto:samuel.dahan@queensu.ca)
  - <https://myopencourt.org/>
  
- Tenant Rights Chatbot
  - Kyle Burrus [kpb56@cornell.edu](mailto:kpb56@cornell.edu)
  - Eliza Hong [eh564@cornell.edu](mailto:eh564@cornell.edu)
  - Tenant Chatbot Team [tenantchatbot@gmail.com](mailto:tenantchatbot@gmail.com)
  - <https://ithacatenantresources.org/>