

Technology by Advocates for Advocates

Moderators: Jon Miller and Celia Matos

Panelists: John Hocieniec, Rob Vanderbles, TBA NYC Panelists

This workshop will focus on various technology projects advocates have successfully implemented within their organizations. It will focus on lower cost easily executable technology initiatives that allowed the advocates to better serve their clients by making their jobs easier or more efficient. Panelists will also complete a round robin of technology tip and tools that they use in their day to day work.

- I. Introduction to workshop and panelist.
 - A. Moderators speak about why it is important for advocates to be on the forefront of new technology initiatives and why these projects were successful. (8 minutes)
- II. Technology in Eviction Court (12 minutes)
 - A. John Hocieniec, Neighborhood Legal Services
 1. How NLS has implemented the use of technology in local eviction court
- III. Closing the Gap (12 minutes)
 - A. Rob Vanderbles, Legal Aid Society of Mid New York
 1. Closing the Gap is a partnership between the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY), Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY), Volunteer Legal Services Project (VLSP) and Pro Bono Net to help close the urban/rural service gap in northeastern and western upstate New York through innovative uses of technology and cross program collaborations.
- IV. Consumer and Economic Advocacy Program (12 minutes)
 - A. David J. Bryan, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A
 1. The use of portable laptops and subscriptions to cloud-based file management and storage software creates mobile legal units. These mobile legal units will enable us to conduct on-site intake at CBOs, offices of elected officials, places of worship, and other community locations that are more accessible for low-income individuals who often do not have the means or time to actively seek out our office; expanding our overall reach to new communities and allowing us to use the cloud-based file management software such as Evernote and Dropbox, making attorneys more prone to success in court.

- V. Round robin of quick tech tips (10 minutes)
 - A. Each panelist and moderators give two to three tech tips that make their job easier
- VI. Questions? (6 minutes)

Jon Miller

Jon has been working as an IT Specialist for Legal Assistance of Western New York since June of 2015. In his current capacity, Jon supports the organization's IT systems and training efforts. Prior to LawNY Jon worked as an IT Specialist for St. Albans School in Washington, DC for seven years. With St. Albans he specialized in desktop, network and AV support as well as coached boys lacrosse.

Celia Matos

Having worked in a variety of sectors — financial, insurance and non-profit – Celia Matos is an exceptional liaison with clients and colleagues. Remembering how she loved fixing her computer as a child, she followed her passion for IT and moved from work as an administrative assistant into the world of technology. She thrives in a client-facing environment, providing impeccable customer service skills as a Just-Tech Help Desk Technician. Comptia A+ and Net+ Certified, Matos is honest, open-minded, fun and solution-oriented. It gives her great satisfaction knowing she is supporting organizations that are serving in the public interest.

John Hocieniec

John D. Hocieniec has been a staff attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services for 12 years.

John began his career at the Niagara Falls office of Neighborhood Legal Services. At that time his practice focused on housing and family law. Since moving to the Buffalo office John's practice has focused solely on housing law. John has also taken an active involvement in the use of technology in the legal profession.

John is a 2015 recipient of a Legal Services Corporation TIG fellowship.

Prior to starting law school, John was an instructor of computer science at Trocaire College in Buffalo, New York for 10 years.

John is a graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School and SUNY College at Buffalo.

John's wife, Tracy A. Kassman, is a court attorney referee in Erie County Family Court and their daughter, Annika, will be starting at the University of Toronto this fall.

Rob Vanderbles

Rob Vanderbles found his home at LASNNY when clerking there under an Equal Justice Fellowship. He is a 2006 graduate of SUNY Albany, and 2009 graduate of Albany Law School. Rob has worked at LASNNY since 2010 providing services to low income clients in evictions, foreclosures, fair hearings, utility disputes, and consumer collections. Recently, he was promoted to Senior Attorney, and has completed the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law's Leadership Academy. Outside of work, he served on the Board of Directors for the Homeless Action Committee from 2009 to 2015, is currently the Social Justice Liaison for the Capital District's New Leaders Council, a member of NYSBA, and a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club. He is admitted to practice in New York.

David Bryan

David Bryan has 15 years of experience practicing law in the New York City area. After being admitted to the New York State Bar and prior to joining Brooklyn A, Mr. Bryan worked at Sonin & Genis and then Malapero & Prisco, two New York-based law firms that specialize in personal injury law. In 2003, Mr. Bryan transitioned to Brooklyn A, becoming the Director of the Comprehensive Rights Unit, which served people affected by HIV/AIDS. In 2009, he became the Director of what is now the Consumer and Economic Advocacy Program at Brooklyn A, providing oversight of all aspects of litigation and mediation, as well as leading the development and implementation of strategic plans for effective litigation, case management and funding resources. Mr. Bryan received his law degree from the University of North Carolina School Of Law.