

Subcommittee on
The American Bar Association and Technology & Access to Justice

This Subcommittee shall work jointly to conduct outreach to the American Bar Association (ABA) and seek its input on how to best utilize technology to increase access to justice for all people.

Technology can be overwhelming for many people. In addition, court patrons are often emotionally invested in their search for information, so navigating unfamiliar technology and trying to digest the complexities of the law may be even more distressing.

The Subcommittee shall consider the needs of all stakeholders in examining the current information structures on the Judicial Branch's [website](#). This examination shall include the design accessibility of the site as it relates to those with different physical and intellectual abilities.

Further, the Subcommittee shall develop specific recommendations to support the Branch's partnership with the ABA and the various bar associations throughout Connecticut. These bar members are acutely aware of the challenges facing the Judicial Branch and public stakeholders when access to justice is diminished or threatened because of a lack of adequate resources.

To help fulfill this charge, the Subcommittee may wish to consider the following:

1. Review existing structures and strategies in use by the Branch that highlight the need for legal services for indigent residents, and call attention to the disparity between the need and the resources available to meet those needs. (i.e., media outreach)
2. Continue to develop and expand new and innovative ways to provide access to justice through the use of technology in Connecticut's courts.
3. Review the existing Access to Justice reports from other states to identify the best practices on each topic nationally.
4. Consider the use of social media as it relates to access to justice. Examine the role of social media in other states and how it impacts all stakeholders, including the attorneys, self-represented parties and members of the public.
5. Develop suggestions or recommendations to incorporate social media into our justice system by considering whether social media increases the public's knowledge of the court system while increasing access or creates an additional barrier for some to access to justice.

6. Examine the availability of videoconferencing in the Judicial Branch and its applicability and usefulness in increasing access to justice. Consideration should be given to pro bono training or service; access for parties with disabilities, victims, children, and others. The Subcommittee should also review what Practice Book Rules effectuating videoconferencing are in place or set to take effect in January 2012.
7. Review the Branch's [Law Libraries](#) site and the Branch's overall website to determine what information is available online and can be grouped into a single "Access to Justice" web page for the Branch (i.e., a one-stop shop for information that helps increase access to justice for all people, including: self-represented people, those with limited English proficiency, and the ADA community).