Libraries and Access to Justice Workgroup

Charge: The Libraries Working Group shall continue in its ongoing efforts to provide training to public librarians, provide resources, (paper and electronic) and otherwise educate them on how best to provide legal information to the public library patrons. A critical piece of the puzzle is the Public Service Announcement campaign suggested by the Workgroup in 2017 and approved by the Commission. The PSA campaign is necessary to make the public aware that libraries are an essential resource for legal information as well as conduits to the primary locations for legal information including Court Service Centers, judicial law libraries etc. While librarians are adept at passing on information to constituents coming into libraries, it is essential to market to those individuals that are not aware of the resources libraries offer. PSA's are a key aspect of library marketing and promotion of services, resources and information. San Francisco Public Library's Social Worker in the Library program was strongly promoted by PSA's with libraries such as the Edmonton Public Library picking up on the value of the service and also promoting via PSA. A PSA will also foster additional partners, resources and most importantly help libraries identify other underserved populations resulting in more opportunities for ATJ.