

Meeting Minutes
ATJ Commission Meeting, November 14, 2025
ATJ Hybrid, In-Person (with video appearance option)

Location: New Mexico State Bar, 5121 Masthead St., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Item 1: Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, In Attendance:

Attendance:

Justice Shannon Bacon	Marie Marmash (NM Eviction & Prevention Diversion)
*Hon. Erin O’Connell (ATJ Chair; SJDC)	Mary H. Smith
Aja Brooks (AOC)	*Mark Fidel (ATJ Commission)
Alison H. Block-Chavez (NM Law)	Marlee Miller (UNM Law School Student)
*Allison Freedman (UNM Law School)	*Hon. Mercedes Murphy (ATJ Commission)
Alma Lerma (AOC)	Meryl Sutton (NMLA)
Amanda Colburn	Michael McGuire (SCLO)
Amy DiBello (NM State Library)	Hon. Michael Aragon (4th JDC)
Bette Fleishman (Pegasus Law)	Natalie Meyers (LREP)
Caitlin Carcerano (SBNM)	Nicolas Cordova (NMCLP)
Charlotte Goodenow (CEDP)	*Rebecca O’Gawa (ATJ Comm; 2nd DAO)
Cheryl Thompson (Metro Court)	Rudy Sanchez (DNA)
*Doug Echols (ATJ Comm; SBNM)	Sam Gilman (Community Economic Defense Project)
Gary Housepian (DRNM)	Sonya Bellafant (NM Legal Aid)
Heather Norfleet (Equal Access to Justice)	*Scott Cameron (ATJ Commission)
*Jennifer Salazar (ATJ Commission)	Sireesha Manne (NMCLP)
John Greacen	Stephanie Wilson (NM State Law Library)
*Juan Abeyta (ATJ Commission)	*Teague Gonzalez (ATJ Commission; NMILC)
Kasey Daniel (MMH)	Torri Jacobus (AOC)
Katherine Farquhar	Winter Torres (NM Eviction Prevention & Diversion)
*Kelley Stout Sanchez (ATJ Commission)	
Laura Bassein (SBNM)	
Lupe Velasquez (SBNM)	
Maria Griego	

Announcement

Judge O’Connell congratulated John, Juan and the portal team for the portal project, announcing that the Supreme Court and the Bar Foundation approved the proposal of the portal project and can move forward with the plan.

Item 2: Minutes Approved from August 08, 2025:

Commissioner Rebecca O’Gawa moved to approve minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Juan Abeyta, with no objections. The minutes are approved.

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Item 3: Scribing & ADA Updates (Peggy Cadwell, State LAS ADA Coordinator, AOC):

Peggy Cadwell, was unable to attend as planned. Alma reported that Peggy has no updates to report at this time.

Item 4: Law Help MN (J. Singleton, Program Manager for Minnesota Legal Services State Support):

Presentation: “Law Help MN and MN Legal Advice Online (lawhelpMN.org and website of volunteer lawyers) was created by a coalition in Minnesota from Legal Aid and access to justice providers. It provides trainings for legal aid partners, self-represented litigants and resource providers. This is a website for self-represented litigants and also for lawyers who provide help to self-represented litigants. It provides a directory of legal services and tools that can merge all of the information needed. The website content contains a Self-Help Library which is broken into twelve (12) categories. The content includes *Fact Sheets* for each legal topic: eviction/lockouts, ending a lease, security deposits, renter safety, low-income housing, eviction, expungement, reasonable accommodations, mortgages/foreclosure/contracts for deeds and mobile homes (all translated into Spanish/Somali/Hmong). It provides tools like forms and booklets for each topic and links to other resources that may also provide additional information for these topics. They work with partners to make sure that material and information is updated as needed. Its audience is the general public and legal aid. The *Fact Sheets List* is the most used resource for all of the legal topics.

Providers and clinics can also use their search engines to screen for eligibility, for other legal services, information on other legal topics and resources by county/region. In addition, Law Help MN provides a separate function called LOON (Legal Organizations Online Network) which allows providers to update their own data/account information with its use for editing rights to their own information and resources.

Referral data includes Legal Aid, Court Self-Help Centers, Law Libraries and Bar Association Referral Services. What is not included are specific referrals to direct lawyers/law firms as those can be provided by the Bar Association Referral Service.

An additional note that can be helpful to know is that the process of moving to LOON was a challenging transition because providers were trying to case manage their referrals and also utilizing LOON as they were updating/editing. Also helpful to note is having an intake process that will ask for general and specific information, including, which automatically calculates the individual’s income and filters their eligibility and criteria.

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Q & A's

Q. Judge O'Connell – Who is Minnesota Law Help partnered with?

A. Nested within a section of Legal Aid non-profit organization, but not the Judiciary.

Q. Laura B. – What is the level of staffing to keep up with updates?

A. Staffing includes 8 total, of which 6 are within LawHelp roles (all divided between different functions; between one staff at .3, two staff at .75 and three staffed full time).

Q. Kasey D. – Per chat, how is LawHelp MN funded?

A. Minnesota's civil legal aid which is equivalent to IOLTA funding and state appropriation. Not LSC funded.

Q. Gary H. – How critical is its use and that everyone utilizes it? What were the obstacles, if any?

A. The most useful functions for them are the coordinated intake program with referral information in LOON and its ability to help screen cases for them or to transfer user to partner agencies, if they are not able to take the case/provide services.

Q. Gary H. – Was this tested and what has been the experience for its consumers?

A. User testing is performed by consumers and partners. There are evaluations and collaborations with the university for user testing and its use for accessibility.

Q. Heather N. – Were there initial technology grants?

A. Yes

Q. Gary H. – Do providers maintain their own intake system?

A. Yes, they have their own intake line and application system but we have a central legal server site and coordinator.

Q. Do public libraries have access and know about it?

A. There are kiosks set-up at libraries for use and they have held presentations at conferences that libraries host.

Comment: John G. thanked J. for the presentation and recognized Minnesota as a model to New Mexico's future portal project plan. J. shared the spreadsheet that is utilized to keep data and

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questions that are being asked current. It is challenging to keep but this is a way to manage your data. J. expressed excitement that NM will be using AI for all of this work and that will make it so much easier.

Q. Juan A. – Is the information/forms available in other languages and are there any collaborations with tribal interface?

A. Yes, Spanish, Hmong, and Somali are the other languages that information is provided in, and they are looking forward to growing from a language access perspective other than just translation. Currently screening questions include for tribal affiliation and residency. There is currently one partner from Anishinaabe, who collaborates as a resource agency.

For any matters and/or questions that cannot be answered, there are volunteer lawyers who will log on and answer legal questions or will be directed to site administrator. The volunteer lawyers respond asynchronously, whenever they have time. It's a good volunteer opportunity.

Q. Gary H. – How are materials and resources evaluated?

A. Yes, context is continually verified and analyzed through the answers provided to the screening questions. In addition, they have conducted evaluations, but it has been challenging since their priority is to protect user privacy.

Item 5: Colorado's MyReply App for LL/T Issues (Charlotte Goodenow, Community Economic Defense Project):

Presentation: Self-Help - Reimagined (Community Access & Legal Innovation Lab). Charlotte Goodenow is a housing attorney for Colorado's Community Economic Defense Project (CEDP). CEDP was founded in 2020 during the pandemic. Its mission is to help people "maintain and access safe, healthy housing" by "providing stabilization services, confronting economic abuse, and investing in community wealth." The organization consists of 200 employees whose goal is to help litigants navigate legal services and provides legal representation to tenants. Their services are provided through a "Community Access & Legal Innovation Lab," which designs, develops and tests digital tools that provide information through MyReply App. The project consists of the following content tools: MyReply, HomeFix and Tenant Organizer. MyReply helps tenants to generate their defenses and prepare an answer. HomeFix helps write notices to landlords about needed repairs, issues and deadlines. Tenant Organizer helps tenants prepare their case/evidence. The tools provided through this app fills the gaps that self-help materials are not able to provide. MyReply App provides self-help material and information that is

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deployable. Data collection helps them implement the tools that can assist litigants to provide default judgements and provide them with information that is accurate to their defense. In addition, animation videos are provided as real case scenarios of this process with user-friendly instructions/information. Automatically, there are options available as legal defenses that users can use to prepare their Answer by identifying their own defense(s). This app also provides screening tools that consist, not only of general information about the user, but also questions that identify the goals and additional facts, which may be of use to provide the most accurate information and assistance to the user. These questions are very accessible to the user and are presented as multiple-choice options and through images that provide examples of actual forms that are used in an eviction process. To make this deployable, the users' answers to each general screening question will generate a Notice and/or a formal Answer form that can be filed in their case.

Q & A's

Q. What is the time-frame in Colorado for filing an Answer?

A. App will screen for deadlines.

Q. Do you partner with other organizations?

A. Yes, we have many partners and various resources.

Q. What is the number of public users?

A. This is currently being tested but the anticipation is that there will be 20,000 to 30,000 users on average a year. In addition, there is a call center and community partnerships.

Q. Winter T. – We are seeing many petitions that the petitioner is lumping other costs with their rent. They have a request to BERNCO of a portal that has been created. The challenges that they are seeing is that they cannot see if other entities have picked up a referral when there are other needs related to evictions.

A. "What's next for MYReply?" provides context informing future expansion of MyReply to: Scope, Technology, Partnerships & Services." They are working to expand and ensure that all users will be supported.

Q. Will there be income restrictions for users once it goes live?

A. No, it is a website so it will be accessible on any device and to all users. They do screen to make sure the user is in the right place.

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Item 6: Portal Update (John Greacen & Juan Abeyta)

John provided a brief overview of why the portal project was created. The American legal system has a failure rate of 92% and 80% of this population group have not done anything about their legal problem because they don't know that their problem is a legal problem/no money. In the view of the portal project and trusted intermediaries, this will change. Users will know through the portal and trusted intermediaries that their problem may be a legal issue. It will identify a legal topic/its qualification and then take them to the next phase which will identify general information that will provide a referral to providers. Providers will have their own intake system. If no service is available, then they will be referred to a Self-Help Center. The portal will be an AI database that will provide legal information.

The group's time/work was in the proposal and 1.3 million of IOLTA funds will be appropriated to build and support it for three (3) years. It will be housed at the State Bar Foundation. A working group of five (5) members has been created to work with the State Bar Foundation. These members are John Greacen, Juan Abeyta, Gary Housepian, and Lori Thornton who has been the liaison with local libraries. Henry Rael will help to understand how to interface with Native networks.

The next steps are to meet with the State Bar Foundation and to set up meetings. Thank you to the State Bar Foundation for sponsoring. Also note that Richard Spinello, Executive Director of the SBNM, provided a chart with revenues of before and after pandemic revenues which helped to understand the funding needs for this portal. Judge O'Connell spoke to legal service providers and informed them that they will not be harmed with this process. Juan added that this plan provides a model of its budget, projections and also a website with data and information about this project. There is currently a google shared folder and soon there will be a website with data, information and updates on this project. First cohorts will be librarians.

Item 7: Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.