



INCREASING ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Court processes are often technical and obscure. That's why legal counsel is so important. Yet some legal work remains consistent from case to case. By automating certain tasks, defendants can more easily get the guidance they need, and attorneys can do more with less.

Attorneys of all kinds now use document automation to generate routine legal filings instead of redrafting documents for every case. Pro se litigants also use online tools to fill out basic legal documents and administrative forms. Automated advice connects people to courts, saving time and money for attorneys, clerks, and the public.

TIDC funds indigent defense innovation in Texas counties.

TIDC provides funding for improving indigent defense processes and technology.

Programs that measure and ensure the quality of representation are priority areas for funding.

Choose the option that best matches why you are here.

Criminal charges.

Have you been convicted of a crime in Massachusetts?

Yes.

Did your case involve a drug charge in Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth or Suffolk county?

Yes.

You should check out the [Drug Lab Crisis Litigation page](#) to see if your case was affected by the recent drug lab scandal.

MODEL PROGRAM: MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES

One way the public can get information about their criminal cases is through online chatbots. David Collarusso, Director of Suffolk University Law School's Legal Innovation and Tech Lab, created QnA Markup.

QnA Markup is a program that guides users to helpful resources through a simple question and answer format. Massachusetts's CPCS website uses QnA to help its clients find an attorney or direct them to additional information.

**MODEL PROGRAM:
COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF PHILADELPHIA**

The ExpungementGenerator is a web app created by Michael Hollander, an attorney at Community Legal Services of Philadelphia and a software engineer. The program reads court records to determine which cases can be expunged, and then generates a petition. Using the app, attorneys and law clerks save over an hour per expungement petition. The year after the app launched, expungement petition filings doubled, and 92% of the petitions generated by the app were granted.



Automating **routine tasks** saves attorneys time and resources.



Online **chat tools** expand access to information about the criminal justice system.



Some **legal documents** can be quickly generated using information pulled from databases.

TIDC INNOVATION SERIES

For more information on automation and other innovative practices, go to:

tidc.texas.gov/innovation

//// Or call us—you may qualify for grant funding:

512-936-6994