Technology and Equal Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities

Thu Dec 3 2020, 11:30am - 12:45pm ET (US & Canada)

Organizer

G3ict - Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies

Description

How can technology improve outcomes in courts and justice systems worldwide for Persons with Disabilities?

Co-hosted by G3ict and IDA, this session will focus on Art. 13 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that requires States Parties to ensure effective access to justice for Persons with Disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Today, courts and justice systems worldwide are undergoing a massive digital transformation adopting new digital systems and processes. That transformation has only been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Too often, the deployment of technology does not give consideration to accessibility and the digital inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. The role of technology in courts and justice systems becomes even more critical given the global pattern of Persons with Disabilities being incarcerated at much higher rates than the population as a whole.

This session will examine the digital transformation of courts and justice systems today and what steps are required to ensure their accessibility for Persons with Disabilities. The discussion also will explore how technologies can be leveraged in innovative ways to address long-standing barriers to justice for Persons with Disabilities, including accessing critical information, participating in judicial proceedings, tracking the progress of a case, and receiving needed accommodations.

This session will benefit from the perspectives and expertise of:

* Gerard Quinn, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), professor emeritus in law at the National University of Ireland (Galway)
* Frederic Schroeder, President, World Blind Union, and Board member, International Disability Alliance (IDA)
* Laura Ruby, Director, Worldwide Accessibility Policy and Standards Regulatory Affairs, Microsoft Corporation
* Michael Stein, co-founder and Executive Director of the Harvard Law School Project on Disability, and a Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School
* James Thurston, Vice President, Global Strategy and Development, G3ict