

Webcasting Project

TIG #04349

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Project Synopsis:

The Webcasting Project will build the capacity to web-cast, record, and distribute streaming audio and video, and will integrate it fully into the content management toolsets on all LawHelp statewide advocate websites. This enhancement will improve access to legal information and resources for clients, particularly pro se litigants and those with limited English and/or low literacy proficiency. It will also enhance training, and thus quality, for advocates and managers. Finally, this project holds significant promise for meeting the challenges inherent to rural delivery to remote and under-resourced communities.

The Webcasting Project will be based on the recording and playback technologies developed by the Illinois Technology Center for Law in the Public Interest. To see how the webcasting technology is integrated in Illinois's advocate site, visit:

<http://www.probono.net/link.cfm?2638>

The project will integrate these tools fully into the content management and permission system of the LawHelp advocate platform, and will provide support for posting of relevant audio and video content on client web sites. This integration will provide site administrators the ability to grant web-casting privileges to organizations within their states. State administrators will have the capacity to produce and post web-cast modules, in both the public and password-protected areas of state sites. Non-technical personnel will need only a low-cost web cam, a Flash-enabled browser, and a high-speed Internet connection to create multimedia content and then web-cast it. All administration of this content, including scheduling, recording, editing, and display, is easily managed using the same Flash-enabled web browser. Editing capabilities include the "chaptering" of video content for display as archived video, and the ability to present transcribed text of the presentation as well as any related training materials in digital formats such as Word, PDF, Excel, etc.

To view a live or archived webcast a user will navigate to a page on a statewide web site and click a button. The Flash plug-in that is needed for the end user to view the multimedia content is bundled with most browser software and generally does not require a download.

Project Timeline:

This is a two-year grant covering the development of the tools, some content development in Georgia, web hosting/bandwidth costs for two years, and technical support for training other states beginning in 2006.

The first half of 2005 will be focused on requirements gathering, setting up a multimedia web server, integrating webcast modules into the advocate site content management system, and system testing.

The second half of 2005 will focus on deployment of these tools for the creation of new advocate and client site resources on the Georgia statewide web sites. These tools will be available for other states to begin using by the end of 2005.

