



*Because libraries are at the heart of our communities
and justice is at the heart of our democracy.*

Law Day (May 1): Lawyers in Libraries

“Talk to a Lawyer”¹

OVERVIEW

On Law Day, May 1, Maine lawyers will be present at prearranged times at many Maine public libraries throughout the state to meet and speak with members of the public about issues of access to courts and justice in the Twenty-First Century. The lawyers will also provide general guidance and information on referral to legal resources to individual attendees.

LOCATIONS and TIMES

The names and locations of participating local libraries will be published at lawyersinlibraries.org. The organizers suggest that the event be held from noon until 2:00 p.m., but individual library sites may opt for different times on May 1, based upon the particular needs and availabilities of those libraries and lawyers.

FORMAT

The format for the event will be as follows:

I. Access to Law and Justice in the Twenty-First Century (10-15 min.)

- Lawyers will deliver a brief presentation on the challenges facing individuals with legal questions or predicaments. Organizers of the event will prepare materials to assist the lawyers with this aspect of the presentation.

II. Resources (10-15 min.)

- Lawyers will review the prepared list of resources (including referrals to attorneys and online services) and how to access those

¹ This event is organized and presented by the Maine Justice Action Group Collaboration on Innovation, Technology and Equal Access to Justice which includes the Maine State Bar Association, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Maine public libraries, the Volunteer Lawyers Project, the State of Maine Judicial Branch and other organizations committed to furthering the cause of access to justice.

resources. Lawyers will provide attendees with specific resource contact information particularized to their specific needs and eligibility. Organizers of the event will prepare materials to assist the lawyers with the presentation.

III. General Questions (10-15 min.)

- Participants are welcome to pose general questions regarding access and resource issues in a group setting.

IV. Individual Questions and Consultation (60 min.)

- Lawyers will offer generalized suggestions – but not specific legal advice – to individuals with questions regarding specific circumstances. Organizers of the event will provide written materials to assist the attorney in clarifying his or her relationship with individuals seeking individual consultations. Participants will be subject to a presumptive ten minute maximum time for individual consultations.