

# ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONVENING

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In Fall 2019, Stanford's Center on the Legal Profession hosted a convening in honor of its 10th anniversary, featuring some of the nation's leading thinkers on access to justice. Two of the essays in this symposium, those by Professor Rebecca Sandefur, and by Utah Supreme Court Justice Deno Himonas and his law clerk Tyler Hubbard, are the outgrowth of presentations at the opening panel: "Will Changing Legal Services Regulation Increase Access to Justice?" The other contributions on related themes come from the Director of the Center's Legal Design Lab, Margaret Hagan, and Design Lab Fellow Daniel Bernal, and from the Center's Director, Deborah Rhode, its former Executive Director Lucy Ricca, and the Director of Stanford's Pro Bono and Externship Programs and Lecturer in Law Michael Winn.

These essays demonstrate that a multifaceted approach is necessary to address the nation's unmet legal needs, and underscores the urgency of meeting these needs. Justice Himonas and Tyler Hubbard describe the work of a forward-thinking state supreme court seeking to "democratize the rule of law" by offering online dispute resolution, allowing licensed nonlawyers to provide limited legal advice, and experimenting with nontraditional legal service providers through a regulatory "sandbox." Professor Sandefur's essay documents the substantial unmet consumer demand for legal advice, and the research showing that trained nonlawyer providers can provide assistance on routine needs that is as good or better than advice from lawyers at lower cost. Her essay also demonstrates that current bar regulations impede the provision of assistance and identifies promising reforms. The essay by Rhode, Ricca, and Winn explores the challenges and opportunities for increasing and improving pro bono work among in-house counsel. And Margaret Hagan and Daniel Bernal's essay proposes a new design framework for innovation on access to justice issues. It suggests synthesizing "expert-oriented" and "human-centered" approaches and draws on lessons from a case study on providing legal information to unrepresented litigants in Arizona eviction cases.

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Taken together, these essays illustrate the range and depth of work on a crucial issue. The United States has one of the world's highest concentrations of lawyers, but falls well behind other nations in making legal assistance available. The authors point the way forward in promoting access to justice for those who need it most.