

## **Overview**

National Public Automated Documents Online (NPADO) is a document assembly utility that hosts interactive forms for the nonprofit legal aid and access to justice community, and assembles professional-looking legal documents based on a user's input. The NPADO system increases opportunities for self-represented litigants to achieve justice on their own and improves efficiency for legal aid and pro bono programs and courts.

## **Participating Groups**

Local organizations use HotDocs Professional, two copies of which have been donated to each state's legal aid programs, to create automated documents and upload them to the NPADO system. When the document is uploaded, a URL is assigned, which can be posted on a state's public or advocate website. The NPADO server is also compatible with interview templates created using the A2J Authoring System.

Approximately twenty-two states are using NPADO to support web-based document preparation. Examples of automated documents are available at

- <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/equalaccess/natlegsvcs.htm>, and
- <http://www.idaholegalaid.org/Home/PublicWeb/SelfHelpTemp>.

## **Recent and Upcoming Improvements**

NPADO is operated by Pro Bono Net, in collaboration with Kaivo Software, Capstone Practice Systems and Ohio State Legal Services Association. Pro Bono Net assumed a leadership role in mid-2006, in order to provide the project with national leadership and support. A key portion of this support is developing a long-term sustainability plan, which will be completed in the spring of 2007.

The NPADO initiative continues to receive funding from the Legal Services Corporation. The project received a 2007 TIG grant, co-funded by the State Justice Institute, that will fund two staff positions: a Circuit Rider who will help courts and legal aid programs build document assembly partnerships and a Project Coordinator who will manage project activities, including developer training and support and technology enhancements and maintenance. In addition, the California Administrative Office of the Courts has contracted with Pro Bono Net to improve the reliability and usability of the NPADO system.

## **Getting Involved**

If you are interested in becoming involved in NPADO-related projects in your area, talk to Kate Bladow, PBN's NPADO Project Coordinator. She will connect you with any projects in your area that are already in progress, or provide you with the information and resources that you need to get a project started in your area.

## **More Information**

You can also find more information about document assembly and the NPADO system at <http://www.lsntap.org/techlibrary> under Document Assembly.