



Legal Triage: Because Laws Change ID: 4238

Featured Innovators: Elizabeth Van Nostrand, JD, Christopher Dellana, and Alix Ware

Identifying legal issues and accessing laws can be difficult, even for lawyers. Although many laws are available on the internet, how can professionals identify those that impact them specifically? How can they be sure all of the laws relevant to their activities are identified? And how do they know if the laws are updated and current? Legal Triage is a web-based legal database that allows users to easily access current laws in seconds. Moreover, the laws have been pre-sorted for relevancy and summarized to facilitate user comprehension.

Technology Description

Legal Triage (legalinventory.pitt.edu) is a web-based legal database that gives users clear, concise, and comprehensive summaries of current laws for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 8 US territories. Laws are searchable by profession and jurisdiction so users can identify the provisions that impact them specifically. A hover feature shows definitions of words that may not be familiar to non-lawyers. Traditional legal search engines – such as LexisNexis and Westlaw – require users to search laws using keywords, which are generally not standardized across jurisdictions, so searches can take hours or days. Legal Triage speeds search time to seconds.

Advantages

- Clear, concise, and comprehensive summaries of statutes and regulations
- Access to full text of the law
- Quick and intuitive

Applications

Legal Triage can be repeated with different areas of law, such as:

- Health care compliance
- Human resources
- Health information sharing and security
- Employment and human resources

Stage of Development

The first iteration of Legal Triage is live. We are currently completing customer discovery to understand the next area of focus where Legal Triage can simplify the law.

IP Status

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Notable Mentions

The Emergency Law Inventory – the first iteration of Legal Triage – received the 2017 Medical Reserve Corp Recognition Award for a National Partner.

Innovators



Elizabeth Van Nostrand, JD

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Ms. Van Nostrand's projects include researching the public health system with respect to emergency preparedness and response, integrating traditional legal analysis with social networking principles, analyzing hydraulic fracturing and its impact on the aquifer, and investigating laws governing infectious diseases outbreaks. Previously, she was an attorney specializing in litigation with the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC, with Thompson & Knight in Dallas, Texas, and with several small law firms in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is an active member of the Louisiana Bar.

Education

JD Tulane University
BS Tulane University



Christopher Dellana

JD/MPH Candidate
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Education

BS Gettysburg College

Mr. Dellana is a fourth-year JD and MPH candidate at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Graduate School of Public Health in the Health Policy and Management Department. He is also pursuing a certificate in health law.

Publications

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BS University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ms. Ware is a third-year JD and MPH candidate at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Graduate School of Public Health in the Health Policy and Management Department. She is also pursuing certificates in health law and public policy. She is certified in Public Health from the National Board of Public Health Examiners.