**Comenius University / International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference**

**ENCLE - IJCLE 2019 Improving the Future: Using Clinical Legal Education to Educate Lawyers for a Just Society**

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| Title  | Ms |
| Lead Presenter First Name | Lucy |
| Lead Presenter Last Name | Yeatman |
| Organisation of Lead Presenter | University of Liverpool |
| Name/s and details of other presenters | Julia Babiarz, Junior Legal Engineer, SYKE, England |
| Title of Proposal  | The potential and limitations of technology to help litigants in person access justice. |
| Summary of Proposal | Can we use technology to make legal documents accessible and clear to people who cannot afford legal representation? We will be showcasing a joint project between Liverpool Law Clinic and SYKE tech to develop a user friendly app for drafting statements in child law proceedings in England. The parent’s statement an important aspect of their case and the existing government template is off-putting and difficult to use. Our project has redesigned the statement template into a document generating app that will make it easier for legal advisors to assist litigants to prepare their own statements. |
| Abstract Proposal | Following a review of the impact of legal aid cuts in England and Wales, the government have committed to funding technology that will assist with access to justice. Many of those working in the sector are sceptical as to whether technology can provide solutions to the lack of access to advice and representation facing many vulnerable people. To date, despite much talk of change, the promised technology revolution in access to justice has not happened. This paper will look discuss some of limits and also the possibilities of good technological design for improving access to justice for people who cannot afford a lawyer. There is very limited legal aid available for family law proceedings in England and Wales. Approximately 70% of parents involved in disputes with the other parent represent themselves and have not access to free legal advice other than through pro bono services being provided by solicitors and other agencies and law clinics. Liverpool Law Clinic run a free drop-in advice clinic for unrepresented parents in the Liverpool Family Court. Many of our clients are required to file a statement after the first hearing, and this statement is a crucial piece of evidence in the proceedings. There is an online template provided by the court service for writing statements, but this is not at all easy to follow or use. Liverpool Law Clinic have teamed up with SYKE to redesign the standard statement template into a user friendly app that will be accessible from a mobile phone. In this paper we will explain how we have worked on designing the app, and discuss ideas for how design and technology can help with access to justice. Lucy Yeatman is a family law solicitor who has been working with litigants in person in the family courts in England for 5 years. She works at the University of Liverpool in the Law Clinic and runs the Family Court helpdesk. Julia is a recent law graduate from the University of Manchester, with an interest in technology. She works as a junior legal engineer with SYKE. Through this position she has learned how technology can be used to increase efficiency and free up lawyers to concentrate on the more complex issues in their case. She is interested in how these technologies could be developed in the social welfare sector to increase the level of service available. She also took the newly developed Legal Tech and Access to Justice optional module in her final year at Manchester. |