PORTFOLIO · EXAMPLE 4 · EXPERT EVENT TO USEFUL SYNTHESIS

From the room to practice: turning a one-day symposium into resources people can use

The Civil Legal Aid Crisis in Eviction Cases: Options and Opportunities. RAND Institute for Civil Justice, UC Berkeley Civil Justice Research Initiative and Berkeley Judicial Institute, Washington DC, 23 June 2023.

STATUS: DEMONSTRATION

Built from public proceedings. Not commissioned, reviewed or endorsed by RAND or any speaker.

1 The problem

RAND published the symposium as a 143-page edited transcript [CF-A4040-1, 2025], two years after the event. It holds four panels, a keynote and a conversation with a federal official. Points agreed by several speakers, real disagreements, evidence and things organisations promised to do are mixed together in the order they were said. Someone who wasn't there cannot easily tell which points were settled, which were contested and who committed to what.

2 The audience

Teams who did not attend and need to act: legal assistance and tenancy services, court administrators, funders and government, peak bodies and coalitions. Also practitioners claiming professional development, and the organisers themselves, who need a record that outlasts the day.

3 The source

The full published transcript, read end to end and cited by page. The studies speakers relied on are traced through RAND's footnotes. The date and venue were confirmed against an independent listing. No recordings, slides or interviews were used, and Lejacie did not attend.

4 The translation

The pieces get shorter as the reader has less time, and each one is shaped for the decision its reader has to make.

PIECE	PAGES	FOR WHOM, AND WHY THIS FORMAT
One-page overview	1	Anyone. The central question, evidence, disagreements, gaps, commitments and next steps, readable in five minutes.
Synthesis: From the room to practice	3	Managers and policy staff. Disagreements are set out as a table of positions side by side, so neither side is summarised away.
Discussion guide	2	A team that wasn't there. A timed hour that ends in one named step and an owner.
Whole-of-Conference Synthesis	15	The full depth behind the short version, organised around six questions rather than a recap of each session.
Panel Evidence Summary	13	Practitioners claiming CPD, and speakers. One session treated properly.
The Action Layer	10	Funders, coalitions, government and acquittal reports. A register of commitments and a plan for 30 days, 90 days and 12 months.
Numbers Sheet · Quote Bank · Evidence Map · Reading List	36	Reference tools for people who will cite the event: every figure with its source, quotes in panel order, the studies with their limits, and the cited works with covers.

5 The safeguards

- **Four kinds of statement are kept apart:** what a speaker said, Lejacie's interpretation, Lejacie's recommendation, and commitments organisations made. Every attribution carries a transcript page.
- **Agreement isn't invented.** "Agreed" is defined as made by several speakers and not challenged. The symposium is never said to have agreed to a proposed step.
- **Commitments are narrow.** The register lists only what an organisation said it was doing itself, in its own words. Suggestions aimed at others are recommendations, not commitments.
- **Qualifications stay attached.** Both Massachusetts trials are reported, though they point in different directions. Bell's correction on "majority" is kept. So is Sandman's own caveat on AI.
- **Time is marked.** The transcript records June 2023. The register's status column is left blank for checking. Later updates from RAND's footnotes, such as the right-to-counsel count as of April 2025, are flagged, as are cited works that post-date the event.
- **Jurisdiction is flagged.** The discussion guide asks teams outside the US to test each point against their own system before relying on it.

6 The status

DEMONSTRATION An independent piece built from public proceedings. It has not been reviewed by RAND, the organisers or any speaker. The discussion guide has not been tested with a team. The commitments have not been checked against what happened since 2023.

Intended contribution: to let people who weren't in the room use what was said there accurately, and to give organisers a record that can be checked at the next gathering. No evidence of use is claimed.

What would move it on: review by an organiser or speaker, one tested team session, and a status check of the 29 commitments.

Chami Rupasinghe · Admitted Australian lawyer (non-practising) · Founder, Lejacie. Source: Bethany Saunders-Medina, Adriana Temprano, Jamie Morikawa, Anne Bloom and Julia Pelletier, The Civil Legal Aid Crisis in Eviction Cases: Options and Opportunities, Conference Proceedings CF-A4040-1, RAND Corporation, 2025.

Case study · Portfolio example 4 · Expert event to useful synthesis · Lejacie. Draft 2, 4 November 2026: the Draft 1 content, set in Lejacie's current design. Feedback: info@lejacie.com