GlobalHack V Project Brief

St. Louis' regional municipal court system has been found to lack consistency in citizen-court interactions as well as user-friendliness for residents attempting to access information or resolve cases. The following five challenges reflect real stories from court clerks, judges, attorneys, and the public about the current regional municipal court system. Keep in mind that some citizens do not have access to credit cards, home internet, smart phones, or personal transportation. Over the course of the weekend, please build a technical solution that will contribute to a more transparent, accountable, citizen-focused justice system. Your team's solutions should transcend jurisdictional boundaries in order to serve all residents. Solve at least one, and more if you can, of these hypothetical problems. Creativity is encouraged.

1. I need to go to court to contest a ticket. I remember exactly where I was pulled over - I take the same route to school most days – but I'm not sure which court services the area and I know some courts serve multiple municipalities. I can't figure out where I need to go for court or how to get help with my case.
2. Last month I received a speeding ticket that included information about my court date and rights. I thought I'd put the ticket in a safe place, but I lost it. Now I can't remember when my court date is, and I'm not sure who to call. To be honest, I'd like to pay the ticket right now without going to court, but there doesn't seem to be a way.
3. I owe fines and fees for several violations. I don't make enough money at my job to be able to afford to pay - but I am already active volunteering in my community and caring for my neighbors. I wish I knew whether I was eligible to do community service instead of paying fines and fees, how to get credit for the volunteer work I already do, and how to connect with service opportunities that work for my family.
4. My license is suspended because I was caught with expired plate tags. I couldn't renew my plates because I can't afford to pay my fines, fees, and personal property taxes, which I must pay all at once. I'm working two jobs to earn money - but they are both a half hour drive away and I can't afford to get pulled over with a suspended license. I'd also like to know whether there's a warrant out for my arrest, and how to resolve it.
5. I'm a court clerk. I pride myself on providing good service at our court. To help with this, I'd like to know key analytics, such as how long people have to wait in court, and how that compares to other courts and our past performance.

Resources

Refer to GlobalHack V Resource Document (http://bit.ly/gh5resources) for background information, dummy data, and articles from a variety of perspectives.

Judging Criteria

1. Technical execution: How well does your solution work?
2. Design/UX/UI: How elegant and intuitive is your solution for users from a variety of backgrounds (judges, court clerks, attorneys, general public)?
3. User privacy: Teams should balance ease of use with the importance of user privacy. Solutions should avoid exposing personal information or information about an individual's current charges or court record to the general public. However, individuals should be able to obtain information about their own cases.
4. Process improvement: The bigger the problem you solve, the better. Solutions that improve current processes will score higher than solutions that stop at creating efficiencies within the existing process. Solutions that can scale nationally will be given higher marks.
5. Accessibility to low income users: While people of all income levels interact with the municipal court system, solutions that demonstrate they are accessible to and viable for low income users are preferable.

Beyond the information contained in this project brief, teams will **not** be judged on the legal viability of the product produced. In other words, teams are not expected to know whether or not their idea would fully meet legal requirements for communication between clients, attorneys, and court staff and/or satisfy the goals of recent legislation such as Senate Bill 5 (SB5).

As different municipal courts currently use different back end systems, teams are reminded that they need to create data storage back ends that enable them to best demonstrate the functionality of their idea.

Other Information

- To be eligible for a prize, code produced over the weekend must be released under a recognized open source license of the team's choosing (Trouble selecting? We suggest the MIT license. Find more information at http://choosealicense.com/) Teams who do not wish to use an open source license may still present their work and receive feedback. However, teams will only receive points based on the open source portions of their solution, and teams must disclose the portions of their code that is proprietary. We highly encourage teams to create a completely open source solution.
- Additionally, open source software dependencies are preferred over proprietary software libraries and frameworks.