

Designing Court Forms

Margaret Hagan Stanford Legal Design Lab @margarethagan June 2022



Today's Session

- 1. Seeing Forms From the User's POV
- 2. Visual Design Principles to Follow
- 3. Walk Through Form Redesign
- 4. The Design Process
- 5. Your Questions

Seeing the Form Through Its Users' POV

What is the job that a form is supposed to do?

What's the point of a form?

A successful form is a key 'Access to Justice' gateway.

A good form will allow people to participate in the court system,

by getting their key information & stories into the court staff, in the clearest & most strategic ways for their problem's just resolution.

A successful form will increase procedural justice & substantive justice.

It will make a person feel that the court process is transparent, fair, and trustworthy.

It will let them share their info, perspective, & experiences so that the judge can make a fair decision, applying the law to the situation in a just way.

Our design lab works on making documents that are more likely to build people's legal capability & increase their access to justice.

There are many other labs at law schools & other universities that also do this. Other government agencies also have their own design labs.

Eviction Summons BEFORE

(SUMMONS RETURNABLE BY 02/19/2019) SUMMONS IN ACTION IN FORCIBLE ENTRY, DETAINER, AND MONEY **Hamilton County Municipal Court** 1000 Main St. Rm.115 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 No clear Headline message in prime location A complaint to evict you has been filed with this court. No person shall be evicted unless his right to possession has ended and no person shall be evicted in retaliation for the exercise of his lawful rights. If you are depositing rent with the clerk of court, continue to deposit such rent until the time of the court hearing. The failure to continue to deposit such rent may result in your eviction. You may request a jury trial. You have the right to seek legal assistance. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you may contact your local legal aid or legal service office. If none is available, you may contact your local bar association. Too many You are being sued for eviction by the following plaintiff(s): large blocks of text. Reader likely Your court date is scheduled for 02/27/2019 at 09:00 A.M. in Room 121 will not read in the Hamilton County Courthouse, 1000 Main St. Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. all 3 — or If you do not appear in court at that time to answer the allegations stated in the eviction complaint, you will be evicted based on the plaintiff's evidence. even past 1st *PLEASE ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME TO ENTER COURTHOUSE DUE TO SECURITY CHECK, DELAYS POSSIBLE. * 2ND CAUSE OF ACTION The plaintiff's complaint also asks for money damages against you. You must serve your written answer upon the plaintiff's attorney, or upon the plaintiff if the plaintiff has no attorney, within 28 days after the service of this summons is made upon you. In addition, you must file a copy of your naswer with the office of the clerk of this court within 3 days after the year the plaintiff attorney. Unless you do both of the forgoing, the complaint of the plaintiff will be taken as true, and a default judgment will be rendered against you for the damages demanded in the complaint. Your answer must contain a certification by you of the date you served the answer, how you served it and whom you served.

Dollows* The the mane and address of the attorney for the plaintiff. sentence in each. SHERI E AUTTONBERRY 2600 VICTORY PARKWAY CINCINNATI, OH 45206 AFTAB PUREVAL, Clerk of Municipal Court Hamilton County, Ohio I received this summons on ____20__at ___o'clock __M
[]Made personal service of it upon ______
[]Made residence service of it upon ______ Date: 02/06/2019 at their usual place of residence with
a person of suitable age and discretion then residing
therein, tendering a copy of the summons, complaint, and accompanying documents. accompanying documents.

[]Made service by posting a copy of the complaint in a conspicuous place on the premises.

[]I was unable to serve a copy of the summons upon for the following reason(s): Absence of Deputy Bailiff / Special Process Server any SUMMONS RETURNABLE BY: 02/19/2019 resources, referrals, or N201A action steps for reader

Absence of logo, symbols, and other 'official' signals

Complicated vocabulary & sentence structure, for info about lawsuit & rights

Key action steps in small text in middle of page

Second action (about what happens with \$ owed) is buried in 'dead zone'. Reader likely tunes out.

Key real estate for "Next Steps" is taken up by signature

Eviction Summons AFTER

Title the Document clearly to explain its purpose on 1st read, and then for reference when the reader is going through stack of papers later **Eviction and Money Claim Court Summons** Address reader from Hamilton County Municipal Court politely Dear Anne Marie Vallone. Your landlord is suing to evict you from 500 Syacamore Street, Apartment 2B, Fairfield 45202. Your landlord is also suing you for money. Clear CV-1602-4000 **Eviction Lawsuit** statement of Case caption March 20, 2019 at 10am. Come at least one hour early. The who is suing security lines will be long. If you are late, you may be evicted Marie Vallone automatically. who, for what. Hamilton County Courthouse, Room 121,1000 Main St. Cincinnati, OH, 45202 Money Lawsuit Most important File an Answer. If you disagree that you owe money, file an Answer. You Call Out for only have 28 days after you received this Summons. File it in room 115 of 513-224-5698 the courthouse. After you file, the court will set a second trial date. Hearing When/ Where: the Don't ignore this eviction. You could be given 7 days or less to leave your home. If you do not file an Answer, the landlord may win a judgment againmain goal of you for all of the money they claim you owe. If you don't go to court, your landlord can evict you automatically. doc is to **Get Help** prevent default. Bailiff's Code 12778800995 Speak With a Free Lawyer. Make this info Call the Help Center at 513-946-5650 to make a free 40 minute **Date Created** appointment with a lawyer. They cannot represent you in court. For primary focus

more information, visit room 113 of the Hamilton County Courthouse or visit www.cincyhelpcenter.org.

Find a Lawyer to Represent You in Court.
Call Legal Aid at 513-241-9400. If you qualify for a free lawyer, Legal Aid could represent you in court. Hire a private lawyer. Visit www.cincybar.org or call 513-381-8213.

 Seek Help Paying Rent. Call United Way at 211, to see if you qualify.

Request a translator or accommodation for a disability. Call the court at 513-946-5200.

A COMPLAINT TO EVICT YOU HAS BEEN FILED WITH THIS COURT. NO PERSON SHALL BE EVICTED UNLESS THE PERSON'S RIGHT TO POSSESSION HAS ENDED AND NO PERSON SHALL BE EVICTED IN RETALIATION FOR THE EXERCISE OF THE PERSON'S LAWFUL RIGHTS. IF YOU ARE DEPOSITING RENT WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT YOU SHALL CONTINUE TO DEPOSIT SUCH RENT UNTIL THE TIME OF THE COURT HEARING. THE FAILURE TO CONTINUE TO DEPOSIT SUCH RENT MAY RESULT IN YOUR EVICTION. YOU MAY REQUEST A TRIAL BY JURY. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEEK LEGAL ASSISTANCE. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD A LAWYER, YOU MAY CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OR LEGAL SERVICE OFFICE. IF NONE IS AVAILABLE, YOU MAY CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION.

Your Case Number

Richard Osborne vs. Anne

Landlord, Richard Osborn 400 Sycamore Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

Landlord's attorney. Elizabeth Levinsky 500 Sycamore Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

Tenant, Anne Marie Vallone 634 Sycamore Street Cincinnati OH 45202

Certified Mail Number 9400 3000 0000 0000 0000

March 15, 2019

Clerk's signature



Hamilton County Courthouse 1000 Main Street

Get help by texting HELP to 513-555-5555 Your code is SUMC-123-123

Court logo to signal this is an important & trustworthy communication

All key information reader may be asked about in one place for reference

Warning Nudge: tap into negative consequences for default.

Visualize desired action of going to the courthouse. Also prevent confusion about which building to line up at.

Provide Clear Next Step, in this case of signing up for text hotline to connect with help

Include language required by statute. Keep its typical all-caps formatting and 'block of text' to signal that this is the legalese for 'power users'.

Call out Action

Help in spaced-

Steps to Get

out bullet

points with

clear titles,

contact points,

payoffs. This is

important info

and possible

2nd most

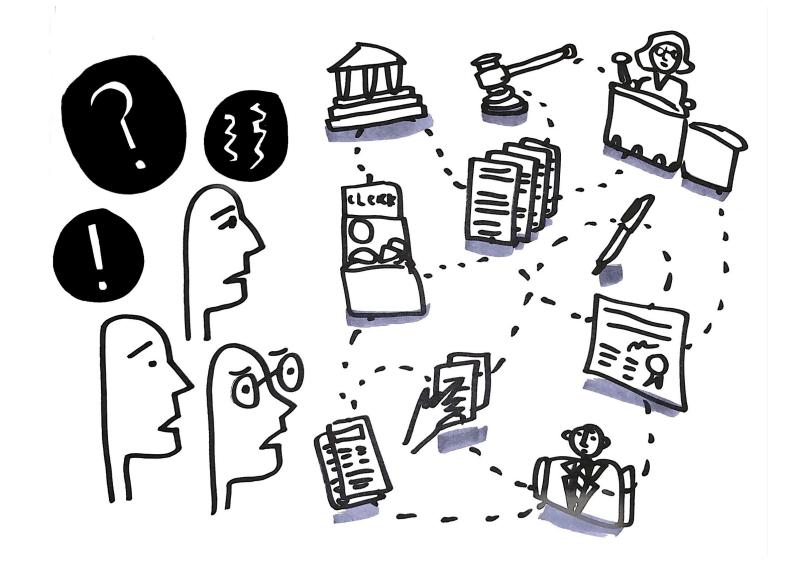
To make better forms, we need to see them from users' perspectives

CFN IER your work Around



USERS KNOW who you Are Working For, & Make Their needs and goals your Lodestar For Decision Making

Who are the form users?



Who are the form users?

People trying to get their story & info across:

- Self-represented litigants with a paper form or PDF
 Litigants using a document-assembly website tool by themselves
- Litigants receiving brief services at a clinic or help center
- Litigants with full counsel

Who might have situations like:

- Limited English Proficiency
- 8th Grade Reading Level
- High Stress

Who are the form users?, pt. 2

Advocates helping people get their story across:

- Self Help Center Staff
- Legal Aid lawyers
- Pro Bono lawyers
- Paralegals
- Private lawyers

Who are the form users?, pt. 3

Family & Friends trying to help a litigant do this right

- a child translating for their parent with limited English proficiency
- a friend helping their stressed-out friend to get this done
- a mom helping their kid

Who are the form users? Inside the court

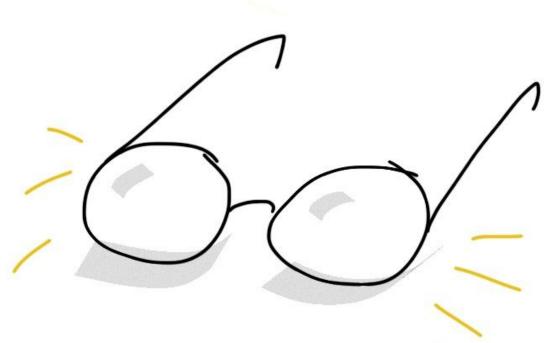
Clerks who must make assess the form entries & get it into the court IT systems

Judge & team who must make sense of the form's information narrative, to prepare for calls, meetings, & hearings

Software systems that must interpret the form info to triage the case to the right place



Is this form Usable, Useful, and **Engaging** to its intended users?





Would a litigant be able to find & use it easily?

Would they find it **useful**, to get their key info across & prepare for court?

Would it **engage** them, so they want to spend time & resources filling it in?

"I need to figure out whether I can get a guardianship of my 7 year old grandson while his mom is in treatment."

	RNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY	STATE BAR NO.:	FOR COURT USE ONLY
AME			\$50 NO. \$4,000 P. \$1,000 P
	NAME:		
	ET ADDRESS:	2000	
ITY:	PHONE NO.:	STATE: ZIP CODE:	
	L ADDRESS:	FAX NO.:	
	RNEY FOR (name):		
	ERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COL	JNTY OF	
	EET ADDRESS:		
	ING ADDRESS:		
	RANCH NAME:		
_			
iUF	ARDIANSHIP OF (name):		CASE NUMBER:
	TITION FOR APPOINTMENT O		PRS* HEARING DATE AND TIME: DEPT.:
F	Petitioner (name each):		
,	equests that		
8	n. [] (name):		
	(address):		
	(telephone):		
	be appointed guardian of	the PERSON of the minor or minors named in	item 2 and Letters issue upon qualification.
b.			
t	 (Not applicable to proposed war 	ds 18 years of age and older.)	
t	 (Not applicable to proposed war (name): 	ds 18 years of age and older.)	
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CI	IARDIANSHIP OF (name):	1000000000	GC-21				
ال	ARDIANSHIP OF (name):	CASE NUMBER:					
/4	SOCOVERS 40						
	Petitioner is						
	a. related to the minor or minors named in item 2, as sho						
	GC-210(CA).	item 2, as shown in term 7 or each millions attached form					
١.	The proposed guardian is (check all that apply):						
	with this petition.	fa or file Nomination of Guardian (form GC-211, items 2 an	d 3)				
	b. related to the minor or minors named in item 2, as sho						
		other, as shown in item 3 of each minor's attached form GC-210(CA). a professional fiduciary within the meaning of the Professional Fiduciaries Act. The proposed guardian's license status is					
		al Fiduciary Attachment. (Use form GC-210(A-PF)/GC-310(
5.	Petitioner, with intent to adopt, has accepted or intends to	accept physical care or custody of the minor.					
ò.	A person other than the proposed guardian has been nom writing. A copy of the nomination is affixed as Attachment attached form GC-210(CA).)	6. (Specify name and address of nominee in item 2 of mino	other or's				
	Character and estimated value of property of the estate (c or the person and estate):	omplete if petition requests appointment of a guardian of the	e estate				
	a. Personal property:	\$					
	b. Annual gross income from all sources, including real and						
	personal property, wages, pensions, and public benefits:	\$					
	c. Total:	\$					
	d. Real property: \$						
	Appointment of a guardian of the person estate convenient for the following reasons:	of the minor or minors named in item 2 is necessary or					
	Continued in Attachment 8						
		ould be detrimental to the minor or minors named in item 2 proposed wards 18 years of age and older).					
	Granting the proposed guardian of the estate powers to be	a exercised independently under Probate Code section 250	O would				
ii.		the guardianship estate. Reasons for this request and the					
0.	Notice to the persons named in Attachment 10 should be	dispensed with under Probate Code section 1511 because					
-		ce (specify names and efforts to locate in Attachment 10).					
		st of justice (specify names and reasons in Attachment 10)					
	Total see the second of the se		_				
C-	10 [Rev. July 1, 2016] PETITION FOR APPOINTMEN	NT OF GUARDIAN OF MINOR	Page 2 of				

PRI 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10			GC-21
GUARDIANSHIP OF (name):		CASE NUM	MBER:
11. (Complete this item if this petition is filed by appointment of a guardian of the estate on		ated to a minor named	I in item 2 and is not a petition for
Petitioner is the proposed guardian and Probate Code section 1543.	d will promptly furnish all	information requested	by any agency referred to in
 Petitioner is not the proposed guardian information requested by any agency re 	eferred to in Probate Co	de section 1543 is affix	
	is not a license		
d. The proposed guardian has never filed	a petition for adoption o	f the minor [] exc	cept as specified in Attachment 11d.
 Attached to this petition is a Declaration Un GC-120) concerning each child under 18 years 			
13. Filed with this petition are the following (check all	I that apply):		
Consent of Proposed Guardian (form GC-2			
Nomination of Guardian (form GC-211, item Consent to Appointment of Guardian and V		2.211 item 4)	
Petition for Appointment of Temporary Gua		5-211, Item 4)	
Petition for Appointment of Temporary Gua		n GC-110(P))	
Confidential Guardianship Screening Form			
Petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Find	dings (form GC-220)		
Other (specify):			
14 All	hi		N
 All attachments to this form are incorporated by t 	nis reference as though	placed nere in this for	m. Number or pages attached:
Date:			
		(SIGNA	FURE OF ATTORNEY*)
*(All petitioners and the proposed ward—if he or she is	at least 18 years of age b	ut not yet 21 and not a	petitioner—must also sign.)
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the	he State of California tha	t the foregoing is true	and correct.
D-t			
Date:			
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)		(SIGNAT	TURE OF PETITIONER)
	-		
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	<u> </u>	(GIGNA)	TURE OF PETITIONER)
(The section of the s		(didie)	one or removeny
	•		
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)		(SIGNAT	TURE OF PETITIONER)
I consent to the appointment of the person named in guardian on my behalf.	item 1.a as guardian of	my person and to his o	or her performance of the duties of a
Date:			
	200		
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)		(SIGNATUR	RE OF PROPOSED WARD)
GC-210 [Rev. July 1, 2016] PETITION FOR A	APPOINTMENT OF G	UARDIAN OF MIN	OR Page 3 of
	-Guardianships and Co		575/9
For your protection and privacy, please press the Clear			
This Form button after you have printed the form.	Print this form	Save this form	Clear this form

"My landlord just sued me for eviction. Now what can I do?"

Instinglance									
Justiceinnov javascript (function(a,b,c,d)%78function e(a,c IATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY	UD	-105	UD-105	5					
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER:	FOR COURT USE ONLY	PLAINTIFF:	CASE NUMBER:]		UD-105			
FIRM NAME:		DEFENDANT:		PLAINTIFF:	CASE NUMBER:				
STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE ZIP CC	one.	2. b. (2) (d) Defendant has no information or belief that the	following statements on the Mandatory Cover Sheet and Supplemental)EFENDANT:					
TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.:		Allegations—Unlawful Detainer (form UD-101)	are true, so defendant denies them (state paragraph numbers from	m. (3) Plaintiff did not provide an unsigned de	eclaration of COVID-19-related financial distress with the 15-	day notice. (Code			
EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR Journal:		form UD-101 or explain below or, if more room Explanation is on form MC-025, titled as		Civ. Proc., § 1179.03(d).)		and the state of the state of			
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF				(4) Plaintiff did not provide an unsigned de landlord was required to provide a trans	eclaration of COVID-19-related financial distress in the langunslation of the rental agreement. (Code Civ. Proc., § 1179.03)	ige in which the			
STREET ADDRESS:				(5) Plaintiff identified defendant as a "high-	n-income tenant" in the 15-day notice, but plaintiff did not post	ess proof at the			
MALING ADDRESS: GITY AND ZIP CODE:		2 DEFENSES AND OR SECTIONS (NOTE: For each loss should	cked, you must state brief facts to support it in item 3w (on page 4) or, it		g that defendant met the definition of high-income tenant. (Co	de Civ. Proc.,			
BRANCH NAME:		more room is needed, on form MC-025. You can learn mor			r more declarations of COVID-19-related financial distress ar	d, if required as a			
PLAINTIFF:		www.courts.ca.gov/seifhelp-eviction.htm.)			in support. (Code Civ. Proc., §§ 1179.03(f) and 1179.02.5.)				
DEFENDANT:		(Nonpayment of rent only) Plaintiff has breached			nd check all other items below that apply):				
ANSWER—UNLAWFUL DETAINER	CASE NUMBER:	 (Nonpayment of rent only) Defendant made need not give proper credit. 	ed repairs and properly deducted the cost from the rent, and plaintiff did						
Defendant (all defendants for whom this answer is filed must be na	amed and must sign this answer unless their attorney signs):	c. (Nonpayment of rent only) On (date): the rent due but plaintiff would not accept it.	before the notice to pay or quit expired, defendant offered						
		d. Plaintiff waived, changed, or canceled the notice	o quit	(a) Plaintiff's demand for payment incl 2020, and September 30, 2021.	cludes late fees on rent or other financial obligations due betv	een March 1,			
answers the complaint as follows:		Plaintiff waived, changed, or canceled the notice Plaintiff served defendant with the notice to quit o			cludes fees for services that were increased or not previously	charged.			
2. DENIALS (Check ONLY ONE of the next two boxes.)		f. By serving defendant with the notice to quit or filing	g the complaint, plaintiff is arbitrarily discriminating against the	(c) Defendant, on or before September	per 30, 2021, paid or offered plaintiff payment of at least 25%	of the total rental			
 General Denial (Do not check this box if the complaint d 	demands more than \$1,000.)	defendant in violation of the Constitution or the laws of the United States or California. g. [] Plaintiff's demand for possession violates the local rent control or eviction control ordinance of (city or county, title of		payments that were due between September 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021, and that were demanded in the termination notices for which defendant delivered the declarations described in (a). (Code Civ. Proc.,					
Allegations—Unlawful Detainer (form UD-101).	laint and of the Mandatory Cover Sheet and Supplemental			§ 1179.03(g)(2).)					
	b. Specific Denials (Check this box and complete (1) and (2) below if complaint demands more than \$1,000.)		ordinance, and date of passage): (Also, briefly state in item 3w the facts showing violation of the ordinance.)		 (7) Defendant is currently filing or has already filed a declaration of COVID-19-related financial distress with the court. (Code Civ. Proc., § 1179.03(h).) 				
Defendant admits that all of the statements of the comple	laint and of the Mandatory Cover Sheet and Supplemental		Tenant Protection Act of 2019, Civil Code section 1946.2 or 1947.12,		dential property is based on nonpayment of rent or other finar	rial obligations			
Allegations—Unlawful Detainer (form UD-101) are true E		and is not in compliance with the act. (Check all the	at apply and briefly state in item 3w the facts that support each.)	due between October 1, 2021, and March 3		olai congations			
(1) Denial of Allegations in Complaint (Form UD-100 or O	Other Complaint for Unlawful Detainer) plaint are false (state paragraph numbers from the complaint o	(1) Plaintiff failed to state a just cause for terminal	ation of tenancy in the written notice to terminate.	(1) Plaintiff's notice to quit was served before					
explain below or, if more room needed, on form MC-02		(2) Plaintiff failed to provide an opportunity to cur	e any alleged violations of terms and conditions of the lease (other than	(a) Did not contain the required contact other content required by Code of	act information for the pertinent governmental rental assistance Civil Procedure section 1179.10(a).	program, or the			
Explanation is on form MC-025, titled as Attachro	ment 2b(1)(a).	payment of rent) as required under Civil Code		(b) Did not did not include a translation	on of the statutorily required notice. (Code Civ. Proc., § 1179.	0(a)(2) and Civ.			
		(3) Plaintiff failed to comply with the relocation as		Code, § 1632.) (2) Plaintiff's notice to quit was served between	ween April 1, 2022, and June 30, 2022, and did not contain the	e required			
		 (4) Plaintiff has raised the rent more than the am is the unauthorized amount. 	ount allowed under Civil Code section 1947.12, and the only unpaid rent	information about the government renta	tal assistance program and possible protections, as required l				
(b) Defendent has no information or helief that the following	no statements of the complaint are true so defendant denies	(5) Plaintiff violated the Tenant Protection Act in	another manner that defeats the complaint.	Procedure section 1179.10(b).	2-4-b 4 2024 -1-1-1989	ent according			
them (state paragraph numbers from the complaint or			Plaintiff accepted rent from defendant to cover a period of time after the date the notice to quit expired.		 For a tenancy initially established before October 1, 2021, plaintiffs demand for possession of a residential property is based on nonpayment of rent or other financial obligations due between March 1, 2020, and March 31, 2022, and (check 				
Explanation is on form MC-025, titled as Attachr	ment 2b(1)(b).		against defendant or a member of defendant's household that	all that apply):					
		constitutes domestic violence, sexual assault, sta	king, human trafficking, or abuse of an elder or a dependent adult. (This	(1) Plaintiff did not complete an application before filing the complaint in this action	n for rental assistance to cover the rental debt demanded in t	ne complaint			
		more than 180 days old; OR (2) a signed statem	prary restraining order, protective order, or police report that is not ent from a qualified third party (e.g., a doctor, domestic violence or	(2) Plaintiff's application for rental assistan	nce was not denied.			PLAINTIFF:	CASE NUMBER:
(2) Denial of Allegations in Mandatory Cover Sheet and S			rorker, or psychologist) concerning the injuries or abuse resulting from	 Plaintiff's application for rental assistan judgment in an unlawful detainer action 	nce was denied for a reason that does not support issuance on (check all that apply):	f a summons or	UD-105	DEFENDANT:	
 (a) Defendant did not receive plaintiff's Mandatory of not checked, complete (b) and (c), as appropria 	Cover Sheet and Supplemental Allegations (form UD-101). (It		ant or another person calling the police or emergency assistance (e.g.,	(a) Plaintiff did not fully or properly co	omplete plaintiff's portion of the application. (Code Civ. Proc.,		CASE NUMBER:		
(b) Defendant claims the statements in the Verification required for issuance of summons—residential, item 3		ambulance) by or on behalf of a victim of abuse, a victim of crime, or an individual in an emergency when defendant or		§ 1179.09(d)(2)(A).) (b) Plaintiff did not apply to the correct rental assistance program. (Code Civ. Proc., § 1179.09(d)(2)(C).)		21/02 2	Order Homosoft	Other (specify below or on form MC-025): All other requests are stated on form MC-025, titled as Attachment 5e.	
of plaintiff's Mandatory Cover Sheet and Supple	emental Allegations (form UD-101), are false.	and during person believed that absolution was not			ct rental assistance program. (Code Civ. Proc., § 1179.09(d)(as filed before April 1, 2022, and the determination is still pend		mand for possession is based only on late fees for defendant's failure to provide landlord payment within	L rel center requests are stated on form wic-ozo, used as Att	monitorii oc.
	andatory Cover Sheet and Supplemental Allegations—Unlawfo	 Haintin's demand for possession of a residential p obligations due between March 1, 2020, and Sept 	roperty is in retaliation for nonpayment of rent or other financial ember 30, 2021, even though alleged to be based on other reasons.		and tenant is separately filing an application to prevent forfeit		nand for possession is based only on late fees for defendant's failure to provide landlord payment within icelving governmental rental assistance. (Health & Saf. Code, § 50897.1(e)(2)(B).)		
Detainer (form UD-101) are false (state paragraph numbers from form UD-101 or explain below or, if more room needed, on form MC-025): Explanation is on form MC-025, titled as Attachment 2b(2)(c).		(Civ. Code, § 1942.5(d); Gov. Code, § 12955.)		 Plaintiff's demand for possession of a residence 	dential property is based on nonpayment of rent or other finar		he COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act (Code Civ. Proc., § 1179.01 et seq.) or a local COVID-19-related		
Explanation is on it	on mo ozo, and as rusa men zu(z)(c).	 m. I Plaintiff's demand for possession of a residential p due between March 1, 2020, and September 30, 2 	roperty is based on nonpayment of rent or other financial obligations	and (check all that apply): (1) Plaintiff received or has a panding anni	olication for rental assistance from a governmental rental assi	tance program or	ing evictions in some other way (briefly state facts describing this in Item 3w).		
			tices of rights under the COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act as required by	some other source relating to the amou	ount claimed in the notice to pay rent or quit. (Health & Saf. Co	de,	overed by the federal CARES Act and the plaintiff did not provide 30 days' notice to vacate.		
		Code of Civil Procedure section 1179.04.	uces or riginis under the COVID-18 Tellant Relief Act as required by	§§ 50897.1(d)(2)(B) and 50897.3(e)(2).			d by the CARES Act means property where the landlord: In a covered housing program as defined by the Violence Against Women Act;		
	Pag	1 of 5 (2) Plaintiff did not serve the required 15-day not	ice. (Gode Civ. Proc., § 1179.03(b) or (c).)	some other source for rent accruing sin	olication for rental assistance from a governmental rental assi ince the notice to pay rent or quit. (Health & Saf. Code, §§ 50		in the rural housing voucher program under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949; or	Number of pages attached:	
Form Approved for Optional Use Judicial Council of California ANSWER—UNLAW	Civil Code, § 1940 VFUL DETAINER Code of Civil Procedure, § 5 1981 et see, 1779,07		NLAWFUL DETAINER Page 2 of	50897.3(e)(2),)			backed mortgage loan or a federally backed multifamily mortgage loan.)		
Judicial Council of California ANSWER—UNLAW UD-106 (Rev. April 14, 2022)	1991 et seq., 1179.01 www.courts			3-105 (Rev. April 14, 2022) ANSWE	ER-UNLAWFUL DETAINER	Page 3 of 5	ly applied payments made by defendant in a tenancy that was in existence between March 1, 2020, and 321 (Code Civ. Proc., § 1179.04.5), as follows (check all that apply):	UNLAWFUL DETAINER ASSISTANT (Bus. & I	Prof. Code, \$5.6400-6415)
							ied a security deposit to rent, or other financial obligations due, without tenant's written agreement.	(Must be completed in all cases.) An unlawful detainer assistant	
							ied a monthly rental payment to rent or other financial obligations that were due between March 1, 2020,	assistance with this form. (If defendant has received any help or advice for	r pay from an unlawful detainer assistant, state):
							mber 30, 2021, other than to the prospective month's rent, without tenant's written agreement.		Telephone number:
							I to accept payment from a third party for rent due. (Civ. Code, § 1947.3; Gov. Code, § 12955.) a disability and plaintiff refused to provide a reasonable accommodation that was requested.	c. Street address, city, and zip code:	500 To 100 To 10
						(Cal. Code Reg	s., tit. 2, § 12176(c).)	d. County of registration: e. Registration numl	ber: f. Expiration date:
							s and objections are stated in item 3w. thitem checked above, either below or, if more room needed, on form MC-025):		100 Page 100
					w.		facts or defenses are on form MC-025, titled as Attachment 3w.	(Each defendant for whom this answer is filed must be named in item 1 and n	nust sign this answer unless defendant's attorne
								(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	

a. Defendant vacated the premises on (date):
b. The fair rental value of the premises alleged in the complaint is excessive (explain below or, if more room needed, or form McO25):

that plaintiff be ordered to (1) make repairs and correct the conditions that constitute a breach of the warranty to provide habitable premises and (2) reduce the monthly rent to a reasonable rental value until the conditions are corrected.

ANSWER-UNLAWFUL DETAINER

Explanation is on form MC-025, titled as Attachment 4b.

a. that plaintiff take nothing requested in the complaint.
 b. costs incurred in this proceeding.

5. DEFENDANT REQUESTS

c. Other (specify below or, if more room needed, on form MC-025):

Other statements are on form MC-025, titled as Attachment 4c.

A Successful Form would...

- Engage the person -- so they'd actually fill it out
 Be confident & strategic in how they fill it out
- Fill it out with lowest cost & resources possible (low administrative burden)
- Feel that the court is respectful & fair
- Reduce amount of calls and visits to court staff
- Reduce amount of mistakes clerks must deal with
- Get correct & comprehensive info, in clear & accessible presentation, to clerks and judges

How do we make it more likely that litigants will engage with these forms, use them easily & correctly, and find value in filling them out? *

Today we'll talk about forms as the way to get info into courts. But we should also be moving beyond forms to:

- Document assembly tools to gather the info
- Data fields sent in directly to court system (no more pdfs!)

Visual Design Principles

Forms should follow the best practices for visual design to make them engaging, useful, and usable.

General Visual design principles

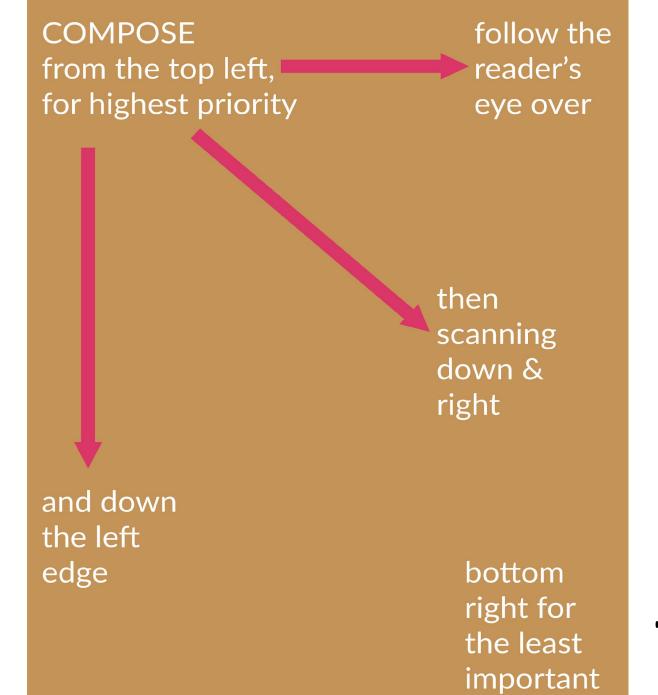
Key visual design rules

- + Support the User Journey: by making it easy for a person to navigate the document, and guiding them through a 'story'.
- + Hierarchy: prioritize the info & tasks, with clear navigation.
- + Standard, Clear Layout: all aligned, with single visual language -- and with distinct zones for the person to explore.
- **+ White Space:** let the eye breathe, make people calm, and give space to the most important info.
- **+ Selective Pops:** use limited amounts of special fonts or colors to draw attention to high-priority info.

Use visual design to emphasize key info & tasks.

Establish a visual HIERARCHY among your info, using

font, Size & color



Put the key info in the right location.

Use a grid to ensure content is clean aligned balanced

Standardize with a 'grid plan'.

Divide the page into consistent zones, consider columns.
Always align!

More White Space.

Don't overstuff.

Always more White Space.

2 FONT MAXIMUM

If you must use two, use two that contrast:

serif & non-serif script & standard

Have a standard, simple font language.
Prioritize legibility!

Never use Comic Sans.

Avoid fonts with lots of baggage. 'Fun' fonts often read 'inauthentic'.

Even if you are making comics.

Don't do it. Ever.

Use color sparingly,

take baby steps.

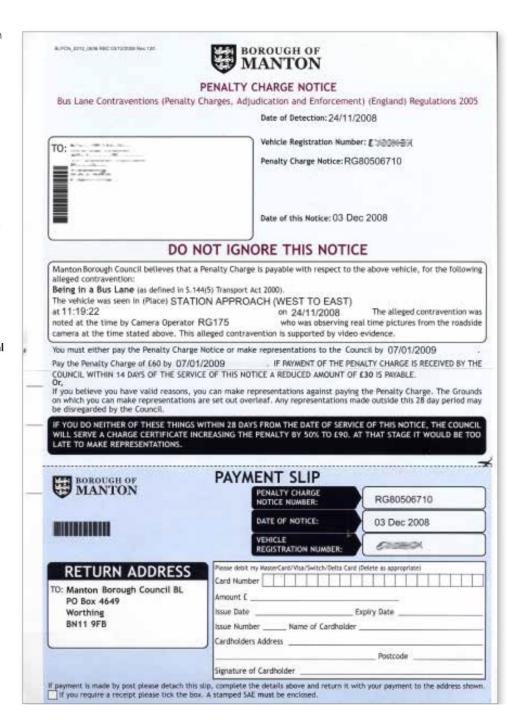
Have a standard, simple color language.

Documents like this have often evolved over time, with new information added from time to time – for example, when the regulations change, or to cope with an operational problem.

- Everything competes for our attention, using bold type, capital letters, and black backgrounds – including some things that are not very important, such as some of the headings highlighted in the payment slip.
- The 'story' is hidden.
 What has happened? What happens next?
- The language uses technical jargon, taken directly from the relevant government regulations:

'The council will serve a charge certificate...'
'You can make representations...'
'The alleged contravention'

 It includes a number of features known to detract from legibility: long line lengths, extended passages in capital letters, white type on black, small print.



The Before

From Simplification Centre UK

https://www.simplificationcentre.org.uk/simple-actions/simple-action-reports

- A clear title says what it is, and includes the context ('bus lane'). We thought about changing the title to 'traffic fine', but we decided that 'penalty charge' is now fairly familiar as a term.
- The left hand column tells a story in headline form. 'Your car was photographed...' 'The penalty' Then a choice of two actions: Appeal or Pay.
- The penalties and deadlines are given clearly, in equivalent terms (amount and deadline) and in terms meaningful to the recipient.
- Actual dates are given, not '14 days from service of this notice' (what does that mean? When it was sent or when it was received?)
- The photographic evidence is included, making a more convincing case and potentially reducing appeals and queries. Also reduces sense of injustice for people who were unaware of their error.
- The payment slip includes all the different ways to pay.
- The box around the return address is a visual cue that the payment slip can be used in a window envelope.



Bus Lane Penalty Charge Notice

Mr Andrew Sample 12 Acecia Avenue Manton MN3 6XY

This is an important notice. Do not ignore it. You must either pay the penalty charge or challenge It by 05 September 2013.

This Penalty Charge Notice is issued under the Bus Lane Contraventions (Penalty Charges, Adjudication & Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2005

Notice date: 06 August 2013

Your car was photographed in a bus lane

Vehicle

Place

Evidence

Date of photo 03 August 2013 1233 ABSTHTY Startion Approach Video (operator MN175) You are entitled to view this. Write to us at the address below or phone us

on 01234 000 0000.



The penalty

£30

If you pay by 22 Aug 2013 £60 if you pay by 05 Sept 2013 £90 if you pay later.

How to challenge

If you wish to challenge, see the back of this form for instructions. You must contact us by 17.30 (5.30pm) on 05 September 2012. You will not have to pay the penalty while we consider your appeal. If we refuse your challenge we will give you a new date by which you will need to pay the penalty.

You can pay by cash,

cheque or card at the

Civic Offices, Mon-Fri

How to pay

Notice date Roference.

D6 August 2012 MNT 234567

Manton Borough Council

By phone Call 0845 1234567 with your credit or debit card details.

Online https://secure. manton.govut/ parking/ 9.30-5.30. Sat 9.30-1.00.

By post Send this slip with a cheque paid to Manton Borough Council, or enteryour card details here. Send a stamped address envelope if you need a receipt.

Name on card Card number Start date Expiry date ksue number Address Sonature of cardholder



PO Box 2323

Worthing

BN11 9XY

The After

From Simplification Centre UK

https://www.simplificationcentre.org.uk/simple-ac tions/simple-action-reports

Specific Court Form design principles

What's in a court form?

Let's make sure we know the key, usual components that are in a form document.

What is on a court form?

- Credentials that signal the form is official for a jdx
- Title and purpose, what the form is & what it's about
- Instruction info for the user, so they know what to do overall, and then in each section
- Questions and tasks, asking the user for key information and posing choices to them
- Entry fields for the user to put information into
- Insider fields for the court staff to mark notes, enter info
- Links to more help and associated documents

How do litigants use a form?

This helps us figure out specific principles that can help increase engagement, usability, and usefulness.

How people use forms

- **+ They scan them over quickly.** What should I expect? How long is this going to take? Can I even do this? Am I up for this challenge?
- + They do work in bursts. They may have 1 burst when they first engage. But they'll likely pause & disengage after they get tired. Hopefully they'll re-engage with later bursts!
- + They might get distracted or discouraged when they can't understand or feel overwhelmed. Can you help make sure this doesn't lead to disengagement? Instead, support them there.
- + They want to be 'normal' and strategic. The form should amplify their sense of legal capability -- not make them feel lonely or dumb.

How can we make design principles work in this 'court form' context?

Let's get more specific than our general principles!

Court Form Design principles

- + Have a clear navigation scheme & glance-able structure. Can a person 'get' the key zones of info & tasks within a 1-minute glance-over?
- + Be calm & readable. Don't overcrowd with info and tasks. Does it make the person feel more capable or less? Does it have distinct zones of work?
- **Support stressed-out users.** Does it have off-ramps to info, examples, & assistance -- especially near the hardest tasks?
- + Be easy to fill in. Have consistent, ample space to fill info in. Make it clear through spacing, boxes, lines about what is 'right' and 'normal' to put in.
- **+ Don't prioritize 'insider' tasks & info over the user's.** Are user tasks in high-priority places? Are insider tasks put in discrete, low-importance places?

3 Walk Through a Form Redesign

Let's apply the design principles

Innov pt:(function(a,b,c,d)%7Bfunction e(a,c		UD-1
RNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY	STATE BAR NUMBER:	FOR COURT USE ONLY
NAME: ET ADDRESS:		
El ADURESS:	STATE: ZIP CODE:	
PHONE NO.:	FAX NO.:	
ADDRESS:	114114	
RNEY FOR (name):		
ERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF	OF .	
NG ADDRESS:		
AND ZIP CODE:		
RANCH NAME:		
AINTIFF:		
ENDANT:		
ANSWER—UNLAWFUL DETAINER		CASE NUMBER:
Allegations—Unlawful Detainer (t (1) Denial of Allegations in Compla (a) Defendant claims the following explain below or, if more room Explanation is on form N (b) Defendant has no information of them (state paragraph numbers	x and complete (1) and (2) below if tatements of the complaint and of the form UD-101) are true EXCEPT: into (Form UD-100) or Other Comp statements of the complaint are fall needed, on form MC-025): MC-025, titled as Attachment 2b(1)(a) or belief that the following statements or the following statement in the followi	ts of the complaint are true, so defendant denies w or, if more room needed, on form MC-025):
(a) Defendant did not receive not checked, complete (ve plaintiff's Mandatory Cover Shee (b) and (c), as appropriate.)	al Allegations—Unlawful Detainer (form UD-101) t and Supplemental Allegations (form UD-101). (If
of plaintiff's Mandatory (Cover Sheet and Supplemental Alle	
Detainer (form UD-101) are fa		rer Sheet and Supplemental Allegations—Unlawful form UD-101 or explain below or, if more room is, titled as Attachment 2b(2)(c).
		Page 1 Civil Code, § 1940 et

ANSWER-UNLAWFUL DETAINER

Code of Civil Procedure, §§ 425.12, 1161 et seq., 1179.01 et seq.

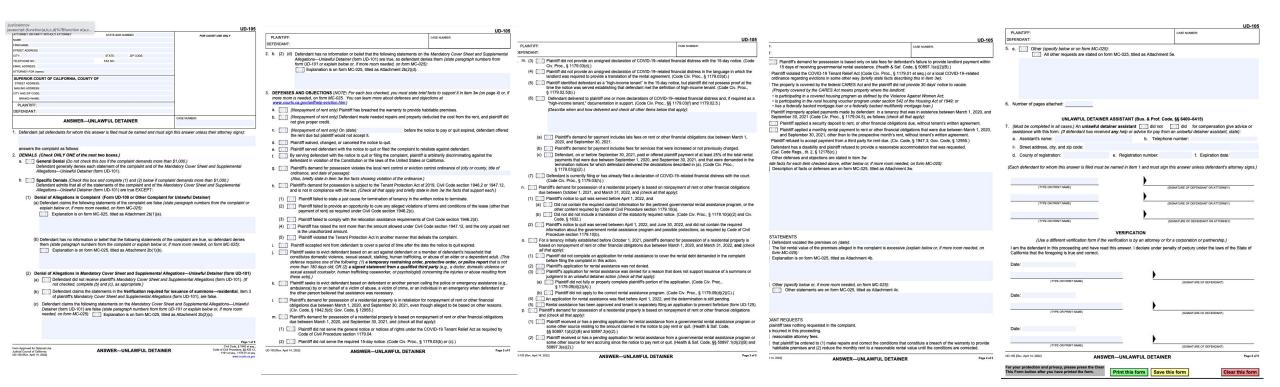
Scenario

A tenant has just been sued for eviction.

They've searched online & found a pdf of this form at the California courts'

webpage. https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/ud105.pdf

How can we make it usable, useful, and engaging to this litigant?



User Journey Review of your form

If a person sat down with this form, could they navigate it?

- At the start, does the document establish a clear, trustworthy relationship between the court & the user?
- Do the tasks follow a logical, clear order?
 - Are they grouped into clear 'zones' that make sense to a user?
 - Are the zones labeled with clear Section Headings?
 - Are there instructions/guidance about sections?
- Are there 'Offramp' links for info & more help in the right place -- in context where the person might be looking for them?
- At the end, does it make the person confident about next steps?

Hierarchy Review of your form

Do you have a clear hierarchy of information & tasks?

- Your strategic ranking: Have you reviewed everything you want to convey & get from the user? What is most important? What is middle? What is least?
- **Giving the right treatment:** For the most important things, have you put them:
 - In the prime locations
 - With bigger fonts
 - With 'pop' of color, font, or bold
- **Strong headings:** Have you put strong, clear headings for the distinct 'zones'?

Clear, Standard Layout review

Do you have standard ways you're laying out groups of info?

- Are things consistently in the same place on the page, in the same font/sizing/alignment:
 - Instructions
 - Questions
 - Entry boxes
 - More info & links
 - Court/clerk
- Are they **grouped in clear & distinct zones** for a user to navigate?
 - Different tasks/topics are clearly delineated from each other
 - So a person can 'take a break' in between zones

Legibility & Capability-building review

Are the zones, text, and layout all accessible & enhancing legal capability -- instead of overwhelming the person?

- Is there **plain language** or legal jargon, code references, etc?
- Is the text presented in a large enough font, with enough line spacing, for it to be easy to read?
- Does the text go all the way across the page (too long)?
- Are the different zones of tasks cluttered together on page? Or is there breathing, white space at margins and between zones?



The Process to Make 'Rough Designs'

Generate sketchy form prototypes to user-test, and then formalize with professional designers & legal experts

A Design Approach to

LegAL SERVICES INNOVATION





CRAFT Solutions
ALONGSIDE +
with critical feelback
from stakeholders

Experiment,
Test,
Improve,
Test again



DESIGN PROCESS: how to generate new solutions

1 DISCOVER

What is the landscape? Understand the challenge's situation & the stakeholders.



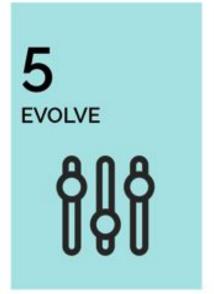
What is your mission? Define & map the users and problem statement you'll be designing for.



What ideas may work? Generate possible solutions for the problem, and prototype them.



Are the ideas worthwhile? Test promising prototypes with your users & in live situations.

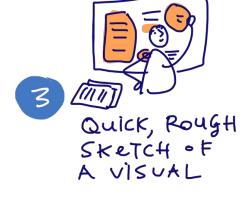


How to move forward? Process the feedback, edit your prototypes, & vet them.

The Legal VISUAL Design Process

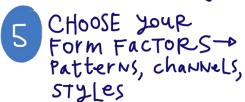












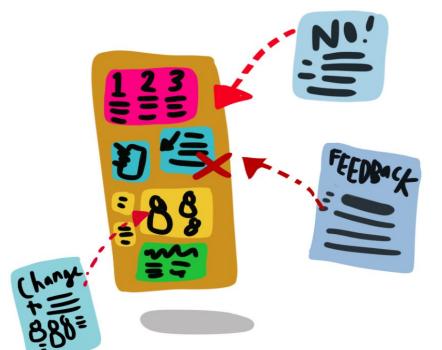


Low-FIDELITY
SKETCH with
High-FIDELITY
CONTENT

Now Test these Sketches! Involve design professionals to make them formal

The Mindsets to Wear During this Process

setting TUNE GOALS INTO AUDIENCE trust Langu-



EVERYTHING IS A PROTOTYPE

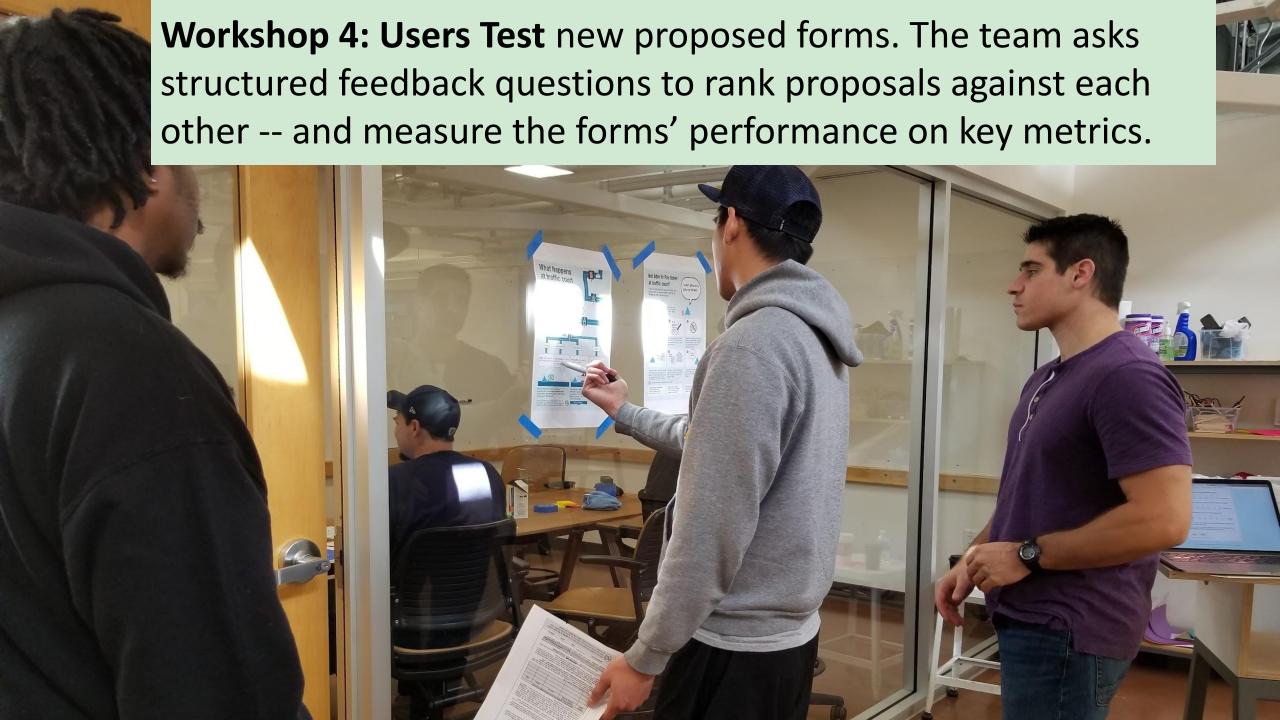
Blas Towards creating Rough, Non-Precious versions of Jour Concepts, Then Be ready To Scrap & Change Them SKetch

Can you hold workshops to jumpstart this work?









Q&A: how can you make this work?

Can you make your forms better designed?

P.S. You can also use similar processes to redesign other form 'interfaces'.

Can you make sure document assembly & online form-filling is also user-friendly?



The Filing Fairness Project is an **ambitious**, **multi-jurisdictional effort** to **simplify court filing** processes and improve **access to** and the **administration of justice** by leveraging **readily available technology**.

Plain-language interview systems to gather information and generate complex forms exist for tax filings, mortgage applications, and benefits administration. Court filings have lagged behind these applications because of institutional history, inertia, and fragmentation, which makes individual-jurisdiction solutions cost-prohibitive. This is a solvable problem.

By partnering with several state court systems, the Project aims to establish the conditions necessary to encourage the **development of sustainable**, **multistate online solutions**. These solutions will provide **user-driven**, **accessible efiling options** for litigants navigating the legal system and, by extension, help improve the accuracy and relevance of court filings and increase access to justice. To

https://law.stanford.edu/filing-fairness-project/

Want to work on forms research & design?

Be in touch!

Margaret Hagan
Stanford Legal Design Lab
@margarethagan

legaltechdesign.com/