Elder Justice Coordinating Council: 10-11-2012

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#### ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Panel Three: Enhancing Response

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# Capital Reporting Company Panel Three: Enhancing Response Elder Justice Coordinating Council: 10-11-2012

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8	Speakers Panel: Enhancing Response	
9	MS. GREENLEE: So we will continue with	
10	another very fine panel, and we will talk now on	
11	"Enhancing Response." So let me introduce the panel.	
12	Laura Mosqueda, M.D., is the Director of	
13	Geriatrics, University of California, Irvine School of	
14	Medicine.	
15	William Benson, that we all know as Bill, is	
16	the National Policy Advisor for the National Adult	
17	Protective Services Association.	
18	Lori Stiegel is Senior Attorney with the	
19	American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging.	
20	Page Ulrey is the Senior Deputy Prosecuting	
21	Attorney in King County, Washington.	
22	And Patricia Banks is Presiding Judge of	

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1	Elder Law and Miscellaneous Remedies Division in Cook	
2	County, Illinois. And I believe, ma'am, you were with	
3	us also in June at the White House.	
4	JUDGE BANKS: I was there, yes.	
5	MS. GREENLEE: So a fine panel. Welcome to	
6	you all.	
7	Dr. Mosqueda, we'll start with you.	
8	DR. MOSQUEDA: Thank you. And remind me	
9	never to go to the movies with you.	
10	(Laughter.)	
11	MS. GREENLEE: You can't go to the movies	
12	with me?	
13	DR. MOSQUEDA: Well, I don't know. You	
14	showed really depressing stuff.	
15	MS. GREENLEE: Oh, actually really bad films,	
16	yeah?	
17	(Laughter.)	
18	DR. MOSQUEDA: I thought I would just start	
19	with a brief story, and this was a couple of months	
20	ago. An adult protective services social worker was	
21	notified that an elderly woman was living in a motel	
22	room with her adult daughter. We had an anonymous	

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- 1 reporter who called because she was concerned that the
- 2 older woman didn't look good. So the APS worker went
- 3 for a visit. The daughter opened the door but wouldn't
- 4 let her come into the motel room, but from the doorway
- 5 the APS worker could see an old woman sitting in a
- 6 corner in kind of a darkened room and there was a foul
- 7 odor coming out. So she brought this concerning
- 8 situation to our Orange County Elder Abuse Forensics
- 9 Center in California for help on how to proceed.
- 10 And let me just break by saying that this is
- 11 a group of people -- I think it's a fairly
- 12 extraordinary team -- that comes together for one hour
- 13 every Tuesday that includes representatives from Adult
- 14 Protective Services, ombudsmen, public guardian,
- 15 police, legal aid, the District Attorney, county mental
- 16 health, a domestic violence expert, a geriatrician, a
- 17 neuropsychologist; those are the usual participants.
- 18 And I'll mention it because I'm in an academic medical
- 19 center, it also serves as a teaching site, and we have
- 20 many students who come as well.
- 21 So during this particular meeting when the
- 22 APS worker presented this case, the detective made a

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- 1 phone call and discovered right then that the daughter
- 2 had been jailed several times for drug-related
- 3 activity. So we made plans for a social worker, a
- 4 geriatrician, public guardian, and patrol officer to
- 5 make a group visit the following day.
- 6 This time when we went out, the daughter did
- 7 not open the door, we knew that somebody was in there,
- 8 so the officer was able to obtain a key from the clerk
- 9 to perform a welfare check. We got into the room. It
- 10 was cluttered with plastic bags. There was trash all
- 11 over the place, clothes sort of strewn throughout. The
- 12 elderly woman was sitting in a chair, she was very
- 13 thin, filthy, confused, smelled of feces, and on exam,
- 14 she had an abnormal heart rhythm, she was dirty, she
- 15 had very elongated nails, she was unable to get out of
- 16 the chair by herself.
- 17 We did a cognitive exam, and it wasn't just
- 18 that she was confused, she really had a lot of memory
- 19 problems and could not understand the situation that
- 20 she was in. So as a result of our visit, an emergency
- 21 guardianship was issued, and she was brought to a
- 22 nursing home where she was cleaned and fed. The

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- daughter was no longer able to access her mother's
- Social Security income.
- And we can come back and talk about that 3
- story if you want to, but to me it was an example of a 4
- multidisciplinary response that might be of interest. 5
- Separately, you can imagine that agencies face 6
- insurmountable obstacles in addressing abuse of elders.
- Collaborations among professionals with a variety of
- backgrounds are absolutely key for identification,
- 10 intervention, and prevention. In fact, it's
- 11 interesting to me that the need for interdisciplinary
- teams is so great that these teams form all over the 12
- 13 country without funding, without mandates, without much
- help, to tell you the truth, yet there are a growing 14
- 15 number of communities that have multidisciplinary
- 16 teams, financial abuse specialist teams, elder death
- 17 review teams, and forensic centers or things like them.
- 18 Why is it so great to have an Why?
- 19 interdisciplinary team and so important? Well, for
- one, we provide swifter and more effective 20
- interventions. We improve access to needed services. 21
- 22 Cases are more likely to be filed and prosecuted when

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- 1 appropriate. The combined wisdom and knowledge from a
- 2 group of people from different perspectives really
- 3 provides a forum for creative problem-solving, which is
- 4 often needed, and I think really untapped resources for
- 5 helping people like you identify gaps in services and
- 6 policy issues.
- 7 But even when all of the components are
- 8 available for a team in any community, there are a lot
- 9 of barriers to smooth and efficient implementation.
- 10 Laws related to HIPAA and ombudsmen, for example, are
- 11 interpreted in such a way that really hinders reporting
- 12 and communication. Many cases that are really
- 13 complicated either leave us with a choice of doing way
- 14 too much or way too little. We rarely can find the
- 15 just right sort of Goldilocks response that we're all
- 16 in search of. We have limited understanding of each
- 17 other's roles and responsibility. There is a lack of
- 18 geriatric training among those in the criminal justice
- 19 system and a lack of forensic training among those in
- 20 medical and social service systems. And all of these
- 21 issues impede the formation and function of
- 22 interdisciplinary teams.

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1	There is also a dearth of easily available
2	experts in one or more of the core team disciplines,
3	and this leaves a hole in many communities' ability to
4	respond.
5	Fortunately, there are a lot of things that
6	the federal government can do to help us overcome these
7	and other barriers. Simply clarifying some of the
8	existing federal rules and regulations such as what I
9	mentioned related to HIPAA and the ombudsmen, the
10	ombudsmen's authority to report abuse can enhance
11	interdisciplinary communication. That requires no
12	funding, simply clarification that goes out across the
13	country.
14	You can create guidelines to promote sharing
15	of information across agencies. You can make it easier
16	for us to use technology and help each other across
17	state lines. You can insist that interdisciplinary
18	responses be integrated into existing programs that
19	serve older adults.
20	Paul Greenwood, my colleague who is a
21	prosecutor in San Diego, mentioned rapid response
22	teams which is also something I've noted. We do this

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- 1 in medicine in hospitals. Instead of waiting for
- 2 somebody to code now, many hospitals have rapid
- 3 response teams that see when somebody is in trouble,
- 4 and you get the right group of people to them quickly
- 5 before there's a code. We should be applying the same
- 6 kind of principles to elder abuse.
- 7 You need to support research in the areas of
- 8 standardized measurement, data collection, evaluation,
- 9 and translation, and then promote the use of evidence-
- 10 based best practice models. We have to have national
- 11 leadership on this issue.
- 12 And just as we found I think individually at
- 13 the local level, that we've had to move from a silo
- 14 mentality to the village mentality, we think the same
- 15 applies at the federal level as well. Communication,
- 16 cooperation, shared goals among the agencies
- 17 represented here, can really promote understanding and
- 18 efficiency and coordinated action.
- 19 However you accomplish this, be it by
- 20 creating a new position in the government so that we
- 21 know where the buck stops or by some other mechanism,
- 22 the need for national leadership is urgent and clear.

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173 Too many of our nation's elders are becoming impoverished, are suffering, and are dying as a result of abuse. Somebody said earlier that the problem is 4 that people fall through the cracks, and I think the 5 problem is that we not only have cracks, we have huge crevices in our systems, and it's not that people are 8 falling through it, it's that we have these cracks and these crevices, and that's what we really need to fix. 9 10 Thank you. 11 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you very much. 12 (Applause.) 13 MS. GREENLEE: Bill. MR. BENSON: It's an honor to speak to you 14 15 today on behalf of the National Adult Protective 16 Services Association, or NAPSA. NAPSA represents the 17 nation's state and local adult protective services 18 programs. Your convening today represents a 19 significant step toward implementing the landmark Elder 20 Justice Act and a federal commitment to addressing elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. 21 22 APS is the nation's state-based statutorily

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- 1 authorized system for investigating elder abuse,
- 2 neglect, and exploitation and responding to and
- 3 protecting its victims as best possible. APS, which in
- 4 most states also responds to abused younger adults with
- 5 significant disabilities, operates under state laws in
- 6 every community. APS is the primary system we have for
- 7 responding to vulnerable older adults who are victims
- 8 of elder abuse.
- 9 I note with some pride about APS that I think
- 10 six of the eight preceding speakers have all mentioned
- 11 APS, not that I'm keeping track.
- 12 (Laughter.)
- 13 MR. BENSON: Research shows us that there are
- 14 more elder abuse victims than other types of abuse
- 15 victims, such as victims of child abuse and domestic
- 16 violence, yet older victims are the only ones who
- 17 receive no designated federal support for services.
- 18 Federal support and attention to other types of abuse
- 19 have resulted in reduced incidences of both child abuse
- 20 and domestic violence homicides.
- 21 APS relies heavily on state and local funds,
- 22 which have been under intense pressure over the last

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- 1 few years. APS receives no designated federal funding,
- 2 although 60 percent of states opt to use some Social
- 3 Services Block Grant funds to support APS. The Elder
- 4 Justice Act authorizes the first-ever dedicated funding
- 5 for APS, but thus far, as we all know, not a dollar has
- 6 been appropriated.
- 7 Every single day, state and local APS
- 8 investigators, case workers, and others in every state
- 9 do the best they can to deal with an onslaught of
- 10 increasingly difficult, complex cases. They do so with
- 11 virtually no national infrastructure behind them. As
- 12 the GAO noted in their report last year, there is no
- 13 federal agency with responsibility for APS, although
- 14 we're very thrilled that Assistant Secretary Greenlee
- 15 would like AoA/ACL to be that place. There is no
- 16 national data system nor practice standards nor minimal
- 17 training standards nor a host of other things that
- 18 would constitute support for this program on a national
- 19 basis.
- In our written testimony, we offer a number
- 21 of suggestions as to what the federal response could be
- 22 to strengthen and support APS to better address the

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176 The white paper we are preparing

- needs of victims.
- will elaborate on each of those points, but in the
- limited time I have, I want to briefly touch upon
- several of our suggestions. 4
- 5 First, there is a great need for support for
- research about the effectiveness of APS interventions, 6
- promising practices, and optimal outcomes for victims.
- We need to develop and field test field-friendly
- capacity assessment and screening tools to replace
- 10 antiquated tools that are currently being used by APS,
- 11 such as the Mini-Mental Status Exam, still used by APS
- The field needs new easy-to-use tools 12 in 22 states.
- 13 that are not costly in terms of either time or money.
- As the GAO called for, and others have said, 14
- 15 it is imperative that a national data system be
- 16 developed, tested, and implemented that will be capable
- 17 of annually telling us how many cases are reported to
- 18 APS, what types of abuse, those cases alleged, how many
- 19 are substantiated after investigation, and other
- 20 important data about elder and vulnerable adult abuse.
- 21 Federal victims services funds such as VOCA
- and VAWA should be allocated to older victims in

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- 1 proportion to their numbers and needs. Older victims
- 2 of abuse are underrepresented by these other victims
- 3 services programs both in terms of the dollars
- 4 allocated and the services provided.
- We believe that the aging and disabilities
- 6 services networks need to be better educated about
- 7 recognizing, reporting, and responding to elder abuse
- 8 as well as other forms of non-elder adult abuse. With
- 9 47 states having mandatory reporting laws, these
- 10 networks, along with many others, including federal
- 11 employees, need to be trained about their
- 12 responsibilities and about elder abuse in general.
- 13 It is important to expand training for law
- 14 enforcement, prosecutors, and judges to all forms of
- 15 elder and vulnerable adult abuse and to make that
- 16 training widely and easily available throughout the
- 17 country. While not all elder abuse is criminal in
- 18 nature, the abuse that is needs to be thoroughly
- 19 investigated and prosecuted. We need to move from
- 20 training hundreds in law enforcement and prosecution to
- 21 thousands.
- 22 We wholeheartedly applaud Assistant Secretary

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- 1 Greenlee for her leadership and for funding the first
- 2 ever national APS Resource Center. It is an important step
- 3 toward building a modest national infrastructure to
- 4 support and strengthen adult protective services. This
- 5 center needs to be an ongoing part of the federal
- 6 response to elder abuse.
- 7 I might also take the opportunity to applaud
- 8 her for funding the first ever Resource Center
- 9 dedicated to addressing elder abuse in Indian country,
- 10 a terribly neglected area, and it's an area in which we
- 11 need to do more work to collaborate between states and
- 12 state APS systems, law enforcement, and tribal
- 13 officials.
- 14 And, finally, we remain thrilled by the
- 15 enactment of the Elder Justice Act as part of the
- 16 Affordable Care Act, but the great promise of this new
- 17 law, especially the authorized support for desperately
- 18 needed funds for states, is an unfulfilled promise
- 19 until we have some funding that comes through for that
- 20 piece of legislation. A stable source of funding to
- 21 states and local communities for adult protective
- 22 services will save victims' lives, it will improve

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179 investigations and investigative outcomes, and it will save us money in other programs such as Medicaid. Thank you again for this opportunity to offer 3 NAPSA's thoughts today. 5 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you very much. (Applause.) 6 MS. GREENLEE: Lori Stiegel, ABA? 7 8 MS. STIEGEL: Thank you for inviting me to be here today and for convening this. And I need to give the caveat that I'm talking twice as long as everybody 10 11 else because I'm talking about civil --12 With permission. MS. GREENLEE: 13 requested that you talk about two things. I'm talking about civil 14 MS. STIEGEL: Yes. 15 legal services and about the courts as well. 16 And I also, like my colleague Erica, and 17 being a lawyer, need to give a disclaimer that I'm not 18 speaking on behalf of the American Bar Association 19 today, although what I'll be talking about largely 20 stems from my work there. 21 Also, like Assistant Secretary Greenlee, I'm a once and always legal services lawyer, and those

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- 1 programs are central to my testimony because so many of
- 2 the victims who we've talked about and heard about
- 3 today can't afford to pay for a private lawyer. But
- 4 there is a role for private lawyers to play in
- 5 preventing, detecting, and redressing abuse, and we
- 6 also know that civil lawyers play many other roles as
- 7 well. Many of us here in the room are civil lawyers
- 8 working on elder abuse issues. We advise protective
- 9 services or we work for the state attorney general's
- 10 office or for other governmental agencies. Civil
- 11 lawyers who may be working for financial services
- 12 industries are increasingly playing a role in dealing
- 13 with the problem of elder abuse. And, of course, we
- 14 help create laws, whether as legislators or as staff to
- 15 legislators and policymakers.
- 16 I'm going to highlight four gaps and then
- 17 talk about three ways that I think the federal
- 18 government can help start to fill those gaps. First,
- 19 we know that many victims are challenged in their
- 20 ability to obtain civil legal services. They don't
- 21 recognize what's happening to them in the first place,
- 22 thus, the need for public awareness, but they don't see

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- 1 how civil legal services can help. We have done a lot
- 2 of improvement on dealing with the criminal justice
- 3 aspects of the problem, and we need to start doing the
- 4 same on civil legal services.
- 5 They need help in finding those services.
- 6 Those of us who deal with this every day know what's
- 7 out there, but the public still doesn't. I'm
- 8 constantly astounded when I get calls from people who
- 9 have worked their way all the way up to me but have not
- 10 found their local legal services provider to help them
- 11 in their community.
- 12 Services need to be affordable, they need to
- 13 be accessible to them, and whether that's through an
- 14 Older Americans Act funded program, through the Legal
- 15 Services Corporation, through pro bono through a
- 16 private lawyer, that needs to happen. But it's not
- 17 enough just to have a lawyer, you have to have a lawyer
- 18 who knows about elder abuse, who understands the
- 19 problem, can help you work to prevent it, can detect it
- 20 if it's already happening to you, and knows what
- 21 remedies to pursue and how to do it. They need to
- 22 understand diminished capacity, so that's just as

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- 1 relevant as it is to the other professionals we've
- 2 talked about today. They need to understand undue
- 3 influence. We're increasingly seeing how critical that
- 4 is.
- 5 No matter what role civil lawyers play, they
- 6 need training, preferably starting in law school. If
- 7 not then, or in addition to then, occurring after
- 8 they've passed the Bar through continuing legal
- 9 education programs and so forth, but they also need
- 10 much more than that. I constantly get requests for
- 11 case analyses, for brief banks, for information on who,
- 12 what expert witness to find and how to find them and
- 13 assess whether they would be appropriate or not.
- 14 They're looking for legislative analyses, case
- 15 consultations. The kind of things that we've seen the
- 16 federal government support for child abuse and for
- 17 domestic violence need to happen in elder abuse as
- 18 well.
- 19 The Missing Link Project that the Department
- 20 of Justice is talking about implementing at the White
- 21 House event -- and I know that they're working on it --
- 22 is a drop in the bucket. It will be a great start, but

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- 1 it's only one piece and we hope it will develop further
- 2 in the future.
- 3 I want to talk some about what civil lawyers
- 4 can bring to the table, though, to help protective
- 5 services and other agencies and the federal government
- 6 as well. Understanding the role that civil lawyers can
- 7 bring, if you're an APS professional, law enforcement,
- 8 health care, any others, can also help victims directly
- 9 because then you're better able to make a timely
- 10 appropriate referral to a civil legal services
- 11 provider, but they also should be at the table in the
- 12 multidisciplinary initiatives that we've been talking
- 13 about today that can bring a wealth of knowledge to
- 14 efforts to build systems, change laws, and serve
- 15 victims. And federal legislators and policymakers, as
- 16 well as state legislators and policymakers, also need
- 17 to hear from civil lawyers about the impact of laws,
- 18 about what laws are out there, whether there are
- 19 barriers to reporting, to sharing information, all the
- 20 issues that we've heard about today, that's the brain
- 21 power that civil lawyers can bring to the table.
- 22 Let me talk quickly about some ways that I

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- 1 think the federal government can deal with these gaps.
- 2 One of my favorite lines from The West Wing was when
- 3 President Bartlet said that he was a human starter gun,
- 4 and in the context he was talking about, that was a
- 5 negative thing, but I think in general it's a positive
- 6 thing, and I think that all of you here can use your
- 7 power as human starter guns in your agencies and
- 8 broader in the community and nationally to raise these
- 9 issues to a higher level of attention. And I don't
- 10 mean to pick on DOJ, but I've been to a lot of DOJ
- 11 conferences over the years where unless it's
- 12 specifically focused on elder abuse, you never hear
- 13 those words in the plenary sessions or from the higher
- 14 level officials. They talk a lot about child abuse,
- 15 they talk a lot about domestic violence, and other
- 16 important issues, but I would like to see elder abuse
- 17 start working its way in there, too.
- 18 You certainly can use your existing resources
- 19 to try and fold these efforts in, MT spoke a lot about
- 20 that, again bringing civil lawyers into the mix,
- 21 bringing civil lawyers, bringing elder abuse into the
- 22 issues that you're already working to train civil

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- 1 lawyers about will be a huge boon.
- In the more medium term, I think that once
- 3 you start that human starter gun effect, to really try
- 4 and fold these into your existing programs even without
- 5 the additional resources that we all know are needed
- 6 can be a real benefit. The Office for Victims of
- 7 Crime, through it's wraparound legal services program,
- 8 is working to benefit all victims of crime and to make
- 9 sure that they get the civil legal services that they
- 10 as well as the criminal justice process and victims
- 11 services that they need, but we need to be sure that
- 12 elder abuse is included in that effort as well.
- 13 I think that there are things that the
- 14 Administration on Aging can do in trying to push state
- 15 units on aging and the area agencies on aging to
- 16 provide more funding to civil legal services and to
- 17 really emphasize to them the need to deal with elder
- 18 abuse. I know that's a pet issue of yours.
- 19 Civil legal services can also provide us with
- 20 information that will help us assess the costs of elder
- 21 abuse and the impact of elder abuse on the Medicaid
- 22 budget and even potentially on the criminal justice

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- 1 budget. When I worked for Legal Services, we, even
- 2 though we were not required to do this, kept very
- 3 detailed records of what financial benefit we brought
- 4 to our clients, and when we informed our area agency on
- 5 that at times when they were cutting other services,
- 6 they would increase our budget, because we were able to
- 7 demonstrate the value that we were bringing.
- 8 So we know that that information can be kept
- 9 though generally not doing it voluntarily as my old
- 10 program did, and so whether we use a carrot or a stick,
- 11 maybe we need to help that because that's the sort of
- 12 data we all need, and they can provide some really
- 13 useful data.
- 14 I talked already, and other folks have talked
- 15 about, the need to review laws, policies, and programs
- 16 to see if coordination is hindered or helped by our
- 17 current system of laws.
- 18 In the longer term, I know that "funding" and
- 19 "new resources" and "money" are bad words these days,
- 20 but we all know that that's what's needed in the longer
- 21 term, and certainly again using your bully pulpit to
- 22 try and get that. In the previous administration, we

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- 1 saw examples of them actively opposing efforts to try
- 2 and get those resources, so we hope that those kinds of
- 3 things will not continue.
- 4 It's very delightful and great to see the
- 5 newer research that's coming out on decision-making
- 6 capacity, and certainly continuing to support that and
- 7 translating it to make it useful to civil lawyers as
- 8 well as the other professionals we're talking about
- 9 will be critical.
- Now I'll move on to the court system. I have
- 11 worked for 19 years at the ABA on elder abuse, and it's
- 12 interesting that my first work on elder abuse in the
- 13 early '90s, and now my more recent work with an NIJ
- 14 project that just wrapped up last year, have been about
- 15 courts, and the sad thing is that the recommendations
- 16 that we developed in the mid-'90s, when we did a big
- 17 research project funded by the State Justice Institute,
- 18 on whether elder abuse cases that were going into the
- 19 court system, if not, why not? What could we do about
- 20 it? Those recommendations, those issues, are just as
- 21 timely today as they were 19 years ago, and that's a
- 22 sad fact because it shows how little progress there has

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been in involving the courts and recognizing the role of the courts in this problem. I again will highlight four major gaps and 3 then sort of do the same thing I did with short, medium, long-term issues. And my work has really been 5 focused on state courts, but I think much of what I say 6 will apply to federal courts as well. 8 Courts have provided leadership and community education to the public and in their communities on child abuse, on domestic violence. A few of them are 10 11 doing that on elder abuse. An example will be what Judge Banks will talk about in the new Chicago court, 12 but we really have not seen much of that, and the 13 federal government supporting that, making it a 14 15 priority, pushing the courts to do that, would really 16 have a boon because when courts talk, when judges want 17 something to happen, it happens just in the same way 18 that when you ask us to come to these things, we do it. 19 We all know that's how it works. 20 (Laughter.) 21 MS. STIEGEL: Having the courts include civil lawyers on court advisory councils or whatever they may

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- 1 call them is also really important in the way of
- 2 enhancing the Bar's response then to the problem.
- 3 Judges can, within the confines of their ethical
- 4 responsibilities, do public awareness, they can speak
- 5 at Bar Association meetings or CLE programs on these
- 6 issues, and those things could make a huge difference.
- 7 Judges and court staff need training on
- 8 myriad issues related to elder abuse. I won't go into
- 9 all the details about what those are, I'll do that in
- 10 my written paper.
- 11 There is a recent curriculum developed. We
- 12 had developed a curriculum in the '90s with State
- 13 Justice Institute money. The National Center for State
- 14 Courts has recently updated that and is putting it
- 15 online using money from the Bureau of Justice
- 16 Assistance and a foundation. That's great, but we've
- 17 really got to get the word out and make sure judges are
- 18 participating and getting their training.
- 19 Judges don't recognize that they're seeing
- 20 elder abuse cases. They don't come in labeled as elder
- 21 abuse, they're guardianship cases, they're murder
- 22 cases. They may come in under all kinds of guises, and

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- 1 judges, like all the rest of us, are so busy that
- 2 they're not going to take the time to learn about
- 3 something that they don't recognize that they're seeing
- 4 come before them. So we have to get the messages out
- 5 to them that they are seeing them, and it's not just a
- 6 guardianship judge or an elder judge who's seeing them,
- 7 all sorts of judges are.
- 8 Courts need to learn about and consider
- 9 implementing different ways of meeting the needs of
- 10 older litigants who appear before them. We recently
- 11 looked at five different communities across the country
- 12 that were setting up sort of three categories of what
- 13 we generically labeled as court-focused elder abuse
- 14 initiatives. Two were elder protection courts, similar
- 15 to what Judge Banks will talk about, two were elder
- 16 justice centers, and then there was -- one was an elder
- 17 protection court, two elder justice centers, and two
- 18 programs that helped homebound litigants get protection
- 19 orders by telephone from the court. These things and
- 20 other sorts of progressive, innovative court processes
- 21 are really necessary to meet the needs of older
- 22 litigants who are terrified of going to court, who

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- 1 can't sit on hard benches all day, particularly without
- 2 breaks, without lunch, or the ability to take their
- 3 medicines, who can't get up the stairs in older
- 4 courthouses. These are real issues that inhibit their
- 5 pursuit of justice.
- 6 We need further assessment of the role of the
- 7 courts and particularly of these new initiatives, like
- 8 Judge Banks, like the ones that we just studied, but
- 9 that raises some really complicated issues about data
- 10 collection. And we found in doing our assessment that
- 11 when we would ask the courts and the court-related
- 12 programs what they were doing to collect data, to
- 13 evaluate data themselves, they would get a blank look
- 14 in their eyes and say to us, "That's your role. That's
- 15 why we're playing with you." So one of the issues we
- 16 looked at was, well, what data are they collecting, and
- 17 is there going to be something that could support a
- 18 more in-depth evaluation than what we were doing at the
- 19 time? We were really assessing them, not evaluating
- 20 them.
- 21 And not to our surprise, but to our continued
- 22 horror, that data is just not there. Part of the

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- 1 reason is that courts don't see their role as
- 2 evaluating themselves, and part of that role I think is
- 3 now shifting because courts have been facing huge
- 4 budget cuts and have greater understanding that they
- 5 need to evidence to state legislators that, "If you cut
- 6 our funds, this is the impact on the broader society,
- 7 the broader economy." So the mindset may be a little
- 8 bit right for what I'm talking about. But they also
- 9 just don't collect data.
- 10 One thing we've heard often was that, well,
- 11 if we -- and it's similar to the bank issue we heard
- 12 earlier, that if we write down their age, we're
- 13 committing age discrimination. Well, of course,
- 14 they're not, but apparently we have to get that message
- 15 across to them.
- 16 The problem again of court cases not being
- 17 labeled as elder abuse cases means the data is not
- 18 there. And it's sort of interesting that for many
- 19 years the policy wonks among the elder abuse field have
- 20 been talking about, well, you don't need, when you're
- 21 talking to a prosecutor or law enforcement, you tell
- 22 them you don't have to have an elder abuse law in order

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- 1 to bring a case, you can use your murder and rape laws
- 2 and other laws, and that's true, and you want to
- 3 encourage prosecutors not to say, "Oh, I can't take
- 4 that case, we don't have an elder abuse law," but, of
- 5 course, it means the data is not there, and we need to
- 6 find ways to support the courts in collecting and
- 7 developing this data because otherwise we can't do
- 8 everything else that needs to stem from that data.
- 9 MS. GREENLEE: Lori, we're going to have some
- 10 questions for you, but I want to make sure we can get
- 11 the judge in because I've asked Page to talk about a
- 12 couple of things, too.
- MS. STIEGEL: Okay, excellent.
- 14 MS. GREENLEE: So is there -- I don't want to
- 15 miss sort of the closing point that you might have.
- 16 MS. STIEGEL: Well, my three things are just
- 17 basically, again, the bully pulpit, short and medium
- 18 term of working this into your existing work and your
- 19 agencies, and then the longer term of funding and
- 20 resources.
- 21 MS. GREENLEE: I think your role in the
- 22 middle of the panel is a nice and interesting

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- 1 transition to the courts, and what I leaned over to say
- 2 to Mr. West is I've always thought about DOJ as helping
- 3 us on the prosecution side, but this light bulb is
- 4 like, "You can help us with the courts." So I'm
- 5 looking forward to kind of exploring it.
- 6 MS. STIEGEL: And the civil side, too.
- 7 MS. GREENLEE: Yeah. Yeah. So let me go to
- 8 Page before we have the judge close us.
- 9 MS. ULREY: Thank you. Thank you to all of
- 10 you at the Elder Justice Coordinating Council for
- 11 asking me to speak today. It's a true honor to be
- 12 here.
- 13 I'm going to be speaking about the issues
- 14 faced by law enforcement and prosecutors in responding
- 15 to elder abuse cases at a local level, and I'll be
- 16 talking about both the subjects together since I think
- 17 they've very intertwined.
- 18 I've prosecuted felony level elder abuse
- 19 cases for over 10 years at the King County Prosecutor's
- 20 Office in Seattle. My office is unusually well
- 21 resourced compared to other prosecutors offices around
- 22 the country when it comes to elder abuse. We have two

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- 1 dedicated elder abuse prosecutors. We have a financial
- 2 analyst who analyzes the extensive financial documents
- 3 that are so often a part of these cases. One of the
- 4 largest of the police agencies that we work with has
- 5 several specialized elder abuse detectives as well as
- 6 an elder abuse victim advocate, which is a rarity in
- 7 our state.
- 8 We are also lucky enough to have been a
- 9 recipient of the Office on Violence Against Women's
- 10 Elder Abuse Training Grant, which has allowed us to
- 11 train law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and direct
- 12 service providers on elder abuse recognition and
- 13 response.
- 14 And we are also the lucky recipients of a
- 15 grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics to gather
- 16 data on the cases we are prosecuting and the outcome of
- 17 those cases and looking at the many different factors
- 18 that go into our filing charges and then the results
- 19 that we end up getting on those cases.
- On a table in our Elder Abuse Unit sits a
- 21 stack of documents almost 2 feet high. This stack
- 22 consists of copies of reports of elder abuse recently

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- 1 faxed by Adult Protective Services to the 39 police
- 2 agencies in our county. Each document contains a
- 3 summary of a phone call made to APS's hotline by
- 4 someone reporting a case of possible physical or sexual
- 5 assault, neglect, financial exploitation, or homicide
- 6 of an elder or vulnerable adult. It is by these faxes
- 7 that APS makes their reports to law enforcement in our
- 8 jurisdiction.
- 9 Years ago, my office asked APS to send us
- 10 copies of these faxes so we could occasionally follow
- 11 up with law enforcement on some of the more serious
- 12 cases out of concern that law enforcement might mistake
- 13 them for being civil matters rather than potentially
- 14 crimes, and also to encourage them to coordinate their
- 15 investigations with those at Adult Protective Services.
- 16 We had reason to be concerned about that.
- 17 Investigating and prosecuting these cases is extremely
- 18 difficult. It requires knowledge of concepts like
- 19 capacity, dementia, consent, guardianships, wills,
- 20 powers of attorney, and forensics of elder abuse,
- 21 subjects that law enforcement rarely receives training
- 22 on and that prosecutors haven't dealt with in law

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- 1 school, if at all. These cases almost always require
- 2 the assistance of financial, medical, and/or capacity
- 3 experts as well.
- 4 In Washington State, as in most states, APS
- 5 is a primary clearinghouse for reports of elder abuse,
- 6 yet APS in our state does not have sufficient funding
- 7 to staff a 24-hour hotline, so law enforcement often
- 8 receives these faxes days after the incident occurred
- 9 and was reported.
- 10 Each of the 39 police agencies in King County
- 11 that receives these APS reports handles them
- 12 differently. The one agency that has specialized elder
- 13 abuse detectives reviews each report, calls APS to
- 14 follow up if they need to, and assigns anything that
- 15 appears to be criminal to its elder abuse detectives
- 16 for investigation.
- Not coincidentally, it is from this one
- 18 police agency that our elder abuse unit gets the vast
- 19 majority of its cases. Further, it is those
- 20 specialized detectives who are the most actively
- 21 involved in our county's elder abuse multidisciplinary
- 22 team, elder fatality review team, and in doing

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- 1 trainings for the community. It is also these
- 2 specialized detectives who have the strongest
- 3 connections with local experts who assist them in
- 4 developing the evidence they need to build their
- 5 cases. Again, not coincidentally, this is the one
- 6 agency with whom we do not need to follow up to make sure they are responding to those APS faxes.
- 7 As for the other 38 agencies without
- 8 specialized detectives, how they respond to one of
- 9 those reports differs widely, depending on whether they
- 10 have received our OVW training, and on whether they
- 11 place a significant priority on elder abuse cases or
- 12 not. From some of these agencies we do receive cases,
- 13 and from others we don't.
- 14 Despite our relative abundance of resources
- 15 in King County, the pile of reports in our office
- 16 continues to grow. As we have conducted more trainings
- 17 for law enforcement through our grant and as our
- 18 visibility has increased, our elder abuse caseload has
- 19 risen dramatically. Now we are lucky when we can
- 20 triage the most serious of those APS reports to make
- 21 sure they are followed up on.
- 22 Despite our best efforts, we are failing

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- 1 countless older victims of criminal neglect, abuse, and
- 2 exploitation every day in our county. In most other
- 3 jurisdictions in this country the situation is far
- 4 worse than in King County. Most do not have
- 5 specialized elder abuse prosecutors or detectives, they
- 6 have received no training on elder abuse, they have no
- 7 multidisciplinary teams or connections with experts or
- 8 anyone to whom they can turn for help.
- 9 Elder abuse cases are being handled across
- 10 the country by local prosecutors offices with local law
- 11 enforcement, local medical examiners, and state APS
- 12 ombudsmen and departments of health and welfare, but
- 13 this is an issue that is bigger than any of us. We
- 14 urgently need information and support that only federal
- 15 involvement can provide us.
- In that vein, I have three recommendations
- 17 for federal agencies that are part of this Council that
- 18 I think would make a huge difference to those of us on
- 19 the front lines of law enforcement and prosecution.
- One is to fund pilot tests and collect data
- 21 on the impact of specialized elder abuse detectives,
- 22 prosecutors, and victim advocates in a few

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- 1 jurisdictions.
- The second is to create and fund a national
- 3 resource center for the investigation and prosecution
- 4 of elder abuse to accompany the website that DOJ is
- 5 already developing. The center would provide technical
- 6 assistance and support to law enforcement and
- 7 prosecutors on these cases, and would disseminate some
- 8 of this vitally important information that we've been
- 9 talking about throughout the day today.
- 10 The third is to conduct and expand our
- 11 research and data collection, like our current project
- 12 with BJS, to ensure that we have the knowledge base we
- 13 need to support our cases and to help us answer the
- 14 many questions we have about what cases are and are not
- 15 coming into the criminal justice system and why,
- 16 what is happening to these cases when they do come in
- 17 and why, and about the impact of a multidisciplinary
- 18 response on these cases and on our victims.
- 19 The more cases of elder abuse I handle, the
- 20 more aware I become of the extent to which failures in
- 21 our many systems contribute to its occurrence. It is
- 22 only through collaboration among these systems at all

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1	levels of government, and with the development,	
2	support, and coordination of federal programs and	
3	initiatives that we will ever see real progress in our	
4	battle against elder abuse. We are in desperate need	
5	of your help.	
6	Thank you.	
7	MS. GREENLEE: Thank you very much.	
8	(Applause.)	
9	MS. GREENLEE: Judge Banks.	
10	JUDGE BANKS: Thank you. Good afternoon,	
11	everyone. The Circuit Court of Cook County, of course,	
12	is very grateful that the judiciary was included in	
13	this dialogue on elder abuse, neglect, and	
14	financial exploitation. Today, we welcome the	
15	opportunity to share with the Elder Justice	
16	Coordinating Council the road taken by the Circuit	
17	Court of Cook County in developing our Elder Law and	
18	Miscellaneous Remedies Division (ELMR).So it's ELMR.	
19	MS. GREENLEE: ELMR? Okay.	
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1	(Laughter.)	
2	MS. GREENLEE: He's not just some dude, he's	
3	your	
4	JUDGE BANKS: This is ELMR. Okay.	
5	(Laughter.)	
6	JUDGE BANKS: Cook County is one of the	
7	largest unified court systems in the world, and so it	
8	was with some trepidation that Judge Evans, Chief Judge	
9	Evans, made the bold decision in 2010 December to	
10	create a new court division. We have 16 divisions in	
11	our court system.	
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13	Judge Evans felt that we needed an Elder Law	
14	Court because elderly litigants were using every	
15	division in our court in order to get legal	
16	redress for matters. Well, this created a problem	
17	because the 400 judges that we have in our	
18	system were not addressing issues of abuse, neglect,	
19	and financial exploitation in a holistic and focused	
20	manner.	
21	Allowing these cases to be filed throughout	
22		

- 1 the system, as Lori mentioned, did not allow us to keep
- 2 good records, there was no collection of data and we
- 4 couldn't track the cases.
- 5 Chief Judge Evans committed resources, not
- 6 withstanding budgetary restraints, for two full-time
- 7 staff members to work with me on developing an elder
- 8 court and an Elder Justice Resource Center.
- 9 I would like to tell you just a little bit about
- 10 the process. I will further elaborate in my white
- 11 paper.
- 12 The first thing that we did was to form a
- 13 workgroup. We selected the workgroup based on their
- 14 knowledge of the issues, resources available to them
- 15 groups, their connections with the senior community,
- 16 and commitment to the goal of establishing an Elder
- 17 Protection Court. This included the city and county
- 18 Area Agency on Aging, the Public Defender, the State's
- 19 Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, the Chicago Police
- 20 Department, the Attorney General, elder law
- 21 practitioners, the Public Guardian, and law schools
- 22 with elder law programs.

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2	We formed committees, and these committees	
3	were broken down into subcommittees where we discussed	
4	issues such as the threshold age for the Elder Law	
5	Court, and the types of cases that might be appropriate	
6	for handling in Elder Law Court. We looked at models.	
7	I visited California and Florida to observe their	
8	Elder Justice Centers as well their two elder	
9	protection courts.	
10	Judge Evans has assigned three judges to handle	
11	only elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation	
12	cases. We also have persons who are available to	
13	assist victims, it's a victim-based process.	
14	In the Domestic Violence Division of our courts,	
15	we have identified two judges to handle cases involving	
16	seniors over the age of 60.	
17	We have a victims advocate to link the victim	
18	with services.	
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- 1 In the civil courts, our civil judges assigned
- 2 to this division will handle civil matters that runs
- 3 the gamut, e.g. financial exploitation, elder abuse and
- 4 neglect and abuses of power of attorneys.
- Now, I'm fast forwarding here because I know
- 6 that time is limited. Judges of the Circuit Court of
- 7 Cook County have received training and bench cards
- 8 in order to red flag and identify cases that would be
- 9 more appropriate for the Elder Law Division. These cases
- 10 will be assigned to the division; and these litigants
- 11 will be assisted by utilizing services of the Elder
- 12 Justice Center.
- MS. GREENLEE: Good.
- 14 JUDGE BANKS: I would like to talk about
- 15 Challenges: Attempting to convince lawyers within
- 16 our system that we really need elder protection courts.
- 17 Other challenges are collecting the data, creating
- 18 methods to collect age data, and raising awareness
- 19 and sensitizing judges and court personnel to aging
- 20 issues so that we are able to better address issues of
- 21 elder litigants. These courts are essential to the
- 22 present and future well-being of the elderly.

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1 We need resource centers. We need training for judges, a support staff, facilities, and equipment. We need to provide transportation to facilitate court appearances. We need audio-visual equipment in the 4 courtrooms. And we need lots of training for 5 everyone involved with the court process. 6 7 Thank you very much for your time. 8 apologize for going over. 9 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you. Thank you very 10 much. 11 Thank you. Let's thank the panel. (Applause.) 12 13 MS. GREENLEE: I alerted Attorney General West I was going to ask him, give him the mike first, 15 if he has questions. 16 And then, Mr. Spiegel, you're new to the 17 panel, I'll come to you in a second just because I want to make sure everybody has a chance to speak today. 18 19 Well, thank you, Kathy, I MR. WEST: 20 appreciate it, and thank all of the panelists for excellent presentations. This is an issue that I've 21 had the privilege to work on for a while in my various

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- 1 time, not only here at the Department of Justice but at
- 2 the California Attorney General's Office years ago, and
- 3 I think there is a lot that has been done in the many
- 4 years that we've all been working on this, but it's so
- 5 clear that much more work needs to be done, and we have
- 6 a long way to go.
- 7 I actually have questions for everybody, but
- 8 why don't I just start with Bill? One of the things
- 9 you were talking about was the need for better tools in
- 10 the field and particularly the use of sort of outdated
- 11 tools in the field, and I was wondering if you could
- 12 talk a little bit more about what some of those new
- 13 cost effective tools that you've encountered are, and
- 14 whether or not there are any pilot programs going on,
- 15 whether or not there is any funding that's going on in
- 16 particular areas around the country that are bolstering
- 17 the use of certain tools that have been identified as
- 18 particularly effective, particularly user-friendly.
- 19 MR. BENSON: I think my answer will probably
- 20 be very brief because I can't tell you about many tools
- 21 that are being pilot tested. We know that so many of
- 22 the individuals that APS are seeing, as anybody who

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- 1 works in elder abuse see, are people with cognitive
- 2 impairments, whether they're mild or extreme
- 3 impairments. We know we need tools to help
- 4 APS frontline workers be able to make some assessments
- 5 about cognitive capacity, and we've relied on some
- 6 really outdated tools that I think people like Laura
- 7 can speak to better than I can about the Mini-Mental
- 9 Status Test. They just don't work very well, they're
- 10 not appropriate, and we don't have anything to replace
- 11 them.
- 12 So I think that one of the things that's
- 13 needed is the development of these tools, the testing
- 14 of them, the validation of them, and then to start
- 15 using them in the field.
- In terms of tools, there is no question there
- 17 is need for use of better technology. NAPSA, through
- 18 the National APS Resource Center, in collaboration with
- 19 the National Association of States United for Aging and
- 20 Disabilities that represents the state units on aging,
- 21 did a survey of all state units on aging about a
- 22 variety of issues related to APS. They just released

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- 1 this report in the last few weeks, and reported on the
- 2 number of programs that are using things like laptops
- 3 or even cell phones. I think we are really behind the
- 4 curve in terms of using even the technologies that are
- 5 available to help people in the field that are out
- 6 investigating cases.
- 7 I did a study of an Area Agency on Aging program
- 8 a few years ago, and case workers did not even
- 9 have cell phones that were issued to them as they went
- 10 into some unbelievably tough neighborhoods to
- 11 investigate complaints, and their working issues were
- 12 things like, "My car breaks down in a really nasty
- 13 neighborhood, and I don't even have a cell phone, much
- 14 less a computer, to help me out with these cases." So
- 15 I think we've got a whole lot of work to do in
- 16 developing new tools, whether they're technology that's
- 17 available or instruments or assessment devices. We've
- 18 got a long ways to go.
- MR. WEST: Thank you.
- 20 MS. STIEGEL: Can I interject that we have,
- 21 the ABA has, developed a series of guides on capacity
- 22 assessment for lawyers, for judges, and we've done that

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- 1 in conjunction with the American Psychological
- 2 Association, so they have more on their own developed
- 3 one for psychologists. We have been trying for years
- 4 to get someone to fund us to do one for Adult
- 5 Protective Services and haven't been able to get the
- 6 funding. That would be a huge boon to meet that need.
- 7 MR. BENSON: Absolutely.
- 8 MR. WEST: The other thing -- each of you
- 9 have mentioned data collection and the lack of good
- 10 data out there, and I guess the other question I had
- 11 was, where do we see the greatest deficiency in the
- 12 type of data? I mean, there is data that I know AJP,
- 13 for instance, has funded some data collection to raise
- 14 awareness and to raise the ability to identify elder
- 15 abuse, but there is also data needed on the court
- 16 system, there is data needed in the types of
- 17 prosecutions that we're bringing and how effective we
- 18 are in some of the things that we are actually doing,
- 19 data to measure our effectiveness. I mean, is there any
- 20 sense of where our greatest deficiency in data is when
- 21 you start to break that question down as it relates to
- 22 elder abuse?

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1	(Laughter.)	
2	JUDGE BANKS: I've talked too long already.	
3	However, I'm thinking that what we need is data	
4	basically to find out where why is the court putting	
5	together a program such as this? Will the elderly be	
6	better off? Should we continue to do what they're	
7	doing already, causing elderly litigants to go from	
8	court to court?	
9	We need to have data in terms of the	
10	number of cases that we receive, and then whether	
11	cases are disposed of quicker? Is a better result	
12	achieved when the court takes a holistic approach?	
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8	MS. GREENLEE: Bill, do you have a rank order	
9	for	
10	MR. BENSON: Well, I would say	
11	MS. GREENLEE: Is all of the above a choice?	
12	MR. WEST: I think all of the above is	
13	probably	
14	MR. BENSON: When I listen to Page talk about	
15	the stack of faxes with complaint data from APS coming	
16	into her office and they do something with that,	
17	hopefully and I don't know this about Washington	
18	State, at least at the state level, they aggregate the	
19	APS complaints into a common state system. Most states	
20	have some common system, but they do not talk to each	
21	other across the country.	
22	So we don't have any way to aggregate what	

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- 1 Page is getting at the local level, which is really
- 2 important, telling us what kinds of abuse is going on
- 3 out there, against whom, what do we know about the
- 4 perpetrators, what do we know about the victims? We
- 5 are unable to aggregate that data. Just APS
- 6 data alone, if it were aggregated nationally, would give
- 7 us a heck of a view of what's going on out there. We
- 8 don't know it.
- 9 MS. ULREY: And can I add one thing? question?
- 10 I think the answer really depends on what discipline
- 11 the respondent to your question is in and on what
- 12 struggles they are dealing with in their attempts to
- 13 respond to elder abuse. But it seems like the one area
- 14 that is common to all of our disciplines is that of
- 15 capacity and dementia. Capacity and dementia cut
- 16 across all of these disciplines and affect us
- 17 deeply in all of the work that we're trying to do.
- 18 It seems to me, from my perspective anyway, that that's
- 19 a very important area for us to start addressing.
- MS. GREENLEE: Laura, you wanted to jump in?
- 21 DR. MOSQUEDA: Right. Just one comment --
- 22 MS. GREENLEE: Speaking of capacity, a doctor

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- 1 can weigh in here.
- DR. MOSOUEDA: And lack thereof. One comment
- 3 about data, I mean, it always sounds great to collect
- 4 data, and it makes us feel good to have numbers, and
- 5 you can put them together and make really great looking
- 6 charts and graphs and all that kind of stuff, and it's
- 7 nice, but there is a real garbage in, garbage out
- 8 phenomenon that we have done really well in our field
- 9 of elder abuse where we have collected data and put it
- 10 together and came out with these sorts -- and I'm very
- 11 concerned about aggregating data, even at the state
- 12 level, and what we have found and are working on
- 13 publishing right now is just looking at, across the
- 14 State of California, the incredible variability of
- 15 what's getting reported that simply cannot be explained
- 16 by true variability at each community level, it can
- 17 only be explained by the fact that everybody views it
- 18 differently. And so I think we have got to be very
- 19 careful when we start saying we're just going to
- 20 collect all this stuff and put it all together and
- 21 realize that a lot of the stuff that we're aggregating
- 22 just simply isn't valid. And so I just would urge a

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- 1 little bit of caution.
- 2 JUDGE BANKS: Just one other point. I'm
- 3 working with a couple of graduate schools of social
- 4 work in terms of helping me to identify what I
- 5 need to collect. I think that is important. You're
- 6 right, garbage in, garbage out. And when we first
- 7 started with developing the Cook County Circuit Court's
- 8 elder law model, we actually had conversations with
- 9 Lori Stiegel, we had a conference call, and during the
- 10 course of that conference call she and Erica emphasized
- 11 to me the need to collect good data, and I've kept that
- 12 in mind.
- MS. GREENLEE: So can I jump in? Our
- 14 audience would like a break here I can sense, so I was
- 15 wondering if we could do about 5 more minutes, if
- 16 that's okay. We've got one more panel after this, but
- 17 Mr. West, I want you to -- we're glad you're here, so I
- 18 want to make sure --
- 19 MR. WEST: Well, no, I only have one more
- 20 question. I don't want to monopolize the time, but on
- 21 the Cook County model, I'm curious about the
- 22 coordination with law enforcement while you were

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- 1 putting together that model and whether or not the way
- 2 that you now process elder abuse cases has impacted the
- 3 way law enforcement investigates elder abuse cases,
- 4 collects them, recognizes them, organizes them,
- 5 prosecutes them.
- JUDGE BANKS: It's too soon to tell because
- 7 we're very new at this. However, I will say that
- 8 from the very beginning, the Circuit Court involved the
- 9 Chicago Police Department, the person on part of my
- 10 workgroup is a representative over senior
- 11 services for the Chicago Police Department. I also
- 12 reached out to the county sheriff, and other members of
- 13 law enforcement, and APS, and the state's attorney.
- 14 And so we are all working together, and we believe that
- 15 it will make a difference because of the fact that
- 16 we're on one page.
- 17 DR. MOSQUEDA: May I just say anecdotally
- 18 when I look at what people like Page Ulrey and Paul
- 19 Greenwood have done, it's absolutely clear in their
- 20 communities, when they have police who know that they
- 21 have folks in the District Attorney's Office who are
- 22 interested --

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1	JUDGE BANKS: That's right.	
2	DR. MOSQUEDA: that the police are much	
3	more willing to put in the time and effort required to	
4	give them the information they need to make a decision	
5	about prosecuting a case. That's absolutely clear.	
6	MS. STIEGEL: And in the courts where we	
7	studied, having the court interested also has that	
8	effect.	
9	JUDGE BANKS: Exactly.	
10	MS. GREENLEE: I was wondering if I could	
11	just sort of just grab the mike and jump in with a	
12	final question. I'm going to sort of jump in. It	
13	strikes me that we are well represented from large	
14	cities, with Los Angeles, Seattle, and Chicago being	
15	here, and all of you talked about a collaborative	
16	effort, whether it's a forensic center, or, Judge, what	
17	you were talking about. Do you have any advice for us	
18	for rural America? I mean, we will not have the	
19	resources or even the talent. And I have visited the	
20	forensics center that Laura mentioned and wondered	
21	and, Laura, you can chime in what do we do about	
22	small towns in this country? You all are facing gaps	

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- 1 in huge cities. What do we do about the rest of the
- 2 country and so many people who are so isolated in rural
- 3 America?
- 4 DR. MOSQUEDA: I think this is a place where
- 5 technology can play a major role. We applied for a
- 6 grant, and unfortunately there aren't a lot of federal
- 7 grants for these sorts of things, but we applied to a
- 8 foundation to see if we can look at the use of face
- 9 time in a community that's more rural than where we are
- 10 and give them equipment to then beam back to our
- 11 forensics center when needed.
- 12 The difficulty is people need help right then
- 13 usually, it's usually an urgent situation, and they
- 14 can't wait around for the monthly MDT meeting, and
- 15 that's why I think technology can be very helpful. We
- 16 just need to prove that you're able to do the kinds of
- 17 exams you need using technology to a reasonable extent
- 18 that it ends up being helpful, but so that rural
- 19 communities are not feeling like they've just been left
- 20 in the lurch without all the personnel that they might
- 21 need.
- 22 MS. GREENLEE: Anybody else on rural? I just

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- 1 want to make sure we got all our questions.
- MS. ULREY: Just that even though we are in a
- 3 city, we had no funding for any kind of multidisciplinary
- 4 effort in our county. We started ours just by convening
- 5 everyone we could think of who might be interested over
- 6 the lunch hour and asking, "What is the one thing that
- 7 prevents you from doing a good job at your work with
- 8 regard to older victims?" From that group meeting, we
- 9 created an agenda for our multidisciplinary team that
- 10 now convenes every month and discusses the different
- 11 systemic issues we face, and doesn't cost anything.
- 12 So I think a lot of this can be done through support
- 13 for global efforts like this through a national center of
- 15 some type and online, and these things are doable even
- 16 without a lot of money.
- 17 MR. BENSON: Recognizing that we really lack
- 18 metrics for measuring successful outcomes, it's hard
- 19 to say what's a really effective APS program without
- 20 those, but we know that there is sort of consensus
- 21 about some strong programs in this country. Georgia and
- 22 Texas, for example, are known for having strong APS

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- 1 systems. They cover vast rural areas, and I think we
- 2 can learn from their practical hands-on experience in
- 3 very rural communities and learn some lessons, but
- 4 we've just got to devote some resources to teasing out
- 5 what those lessons are. I mean, APS works in Dallas,
- 6 but it also works in really isolated spots out there
- 7 in the western part of the state and elsewhere.
- 8 MS. STIEGEL: Sometimes it's easier out in those
- 9 rural communities; there is less turf to deal with,
- 10 fewer agencies to deal with.
- 11 (Laughter.)
- 12 MR. BENSON: Not a lot of peer pressure.
- 13 MS. GREENLEE: Judge, I'm going to give you
- 14 the last word, and then we're going to take a break.
- JUDGE BANKS: All right. I was thinking in terms of
- 16 train the trainer because I get that question quite a
- 17 bit in talking about what we're doing in Cook County,
- 18 "Well, what about us?" downstate. It's possible for
- 19 us to take this information and just pass it along.
- 20 And the online method is also good. And I know the
- 21 National Center for State Court is already involved
- 22 in trying to get that message to the rural areas.

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              MS. GREENLEE:
                             Good.
                                     All right.
   everybody join me in thanking this great panel.
               (Applause.)
 4
 5
              MS. GREENLEE:
                             As you could tell, this was
   the largest panel, so we, I think, could all feel it in
   the length of time we didn't necessarily get on Q&A,
   but I very much want to thank you all and tell you that
   it's wonderful that you're here.
                                      I encourage those of
   us on the panel up here, if we have more questions, to
10
   reach out and ask them.
11
12
                           So I think at 10 minutes 'til
              Okay, team.
   we'll show another video and then we'll start the last
13
            Okay? Do we have more video? I'm hoping we
14
15
   have one more.
                    Yeah.
16
               (Recess from 3:39 p.m. to 3:57 p.m.)
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