AI & ACCESS TO JUSTICE SUMMIT

Intros & Check-In

Learning and Innovating Together

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The Meeting House, Columbia, MD · September 17, 2026 · 9:15 – 9:55 AM

Sign in on Poll Everywhere. Then answer this one while we wait to start: Are you a Dog Person, Cat Person, Goldfish Person, or None of the Above

Dog Person

0%

Cat Person

0%

Goldfish Person

0%

None of the Above

0%

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at **pollev.com/app**

Introduction

I am allergic to cats and dogs. When I was little, I won a goldfish at the Howard County Fair and named him/her Charlie. He grew to be about 6 inches long, and I tried to teach Charlie tricks. I now have a hypo allergenic Wheaten Terrier named Seamus.



Get to know your tablemates

1. Introduce yourself, what organization you are from, and what your response was to the first question.

2. If you already know everyone at your table, or are done with cats and dogs, discuss the most interesting thing you have done with AI.

Why This Matters

1

Costs and benefits

AI has real costs (data centers, electricity, judgment offloaded to machines). We manage the costs; we can't pretend the technology away.

2

Providers, not clients

Today is about equipping legal aid staff who already know the law and the client — not steering self-represented people to a chatbot instead of a lawyer.

3

Already here, already busy

Legal aid staff are short-staffed and stretched thin. This is about finding ways to support lawyers who are not interested in figuring out the technology. Some need easy plug and play tools..

What do you hope to get out of today, and what excites you about this work?

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at **pollev.com/app**

What are your concerns

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at **pollev.com/app**

9:37 – 9:42 • 5 MINUTES

What 187 of You Already Told Us

Baseline survey of Maryland civil legal aid staff, run ahead of today's summit

187

Four things worth pointing out

HIGHLIGHT 1 OF 4

Adoption Has Outrun Understanding

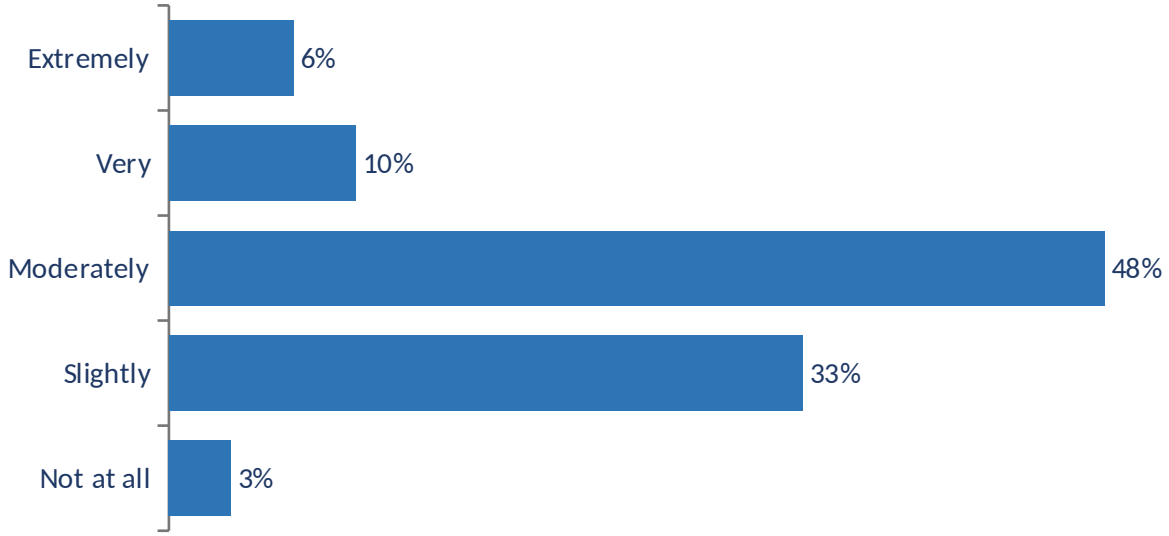
53%

already use AI tools at work

16%

call themselves “very” or “extremely” familiar with AI

How familiar are you with AI technologies and tools?



Most people are using these tools before they feel they understand them.

81% of respondents rate themselves only “slightly” or “moderately” familiar with AI — exactly the gap this summit's AI 101 session is built to close.

n = 187 · Baseline AI & A2J Survey, July 2026

HIGHLIGHT 2 OF 4

This Is Happening Bottom-Up, Not Top-Down

35%

describe their org's AI adoption as “early exploration — informal or individual use” (the single largest answer)

13%

report “broad, organization-wide use” of AI

51%

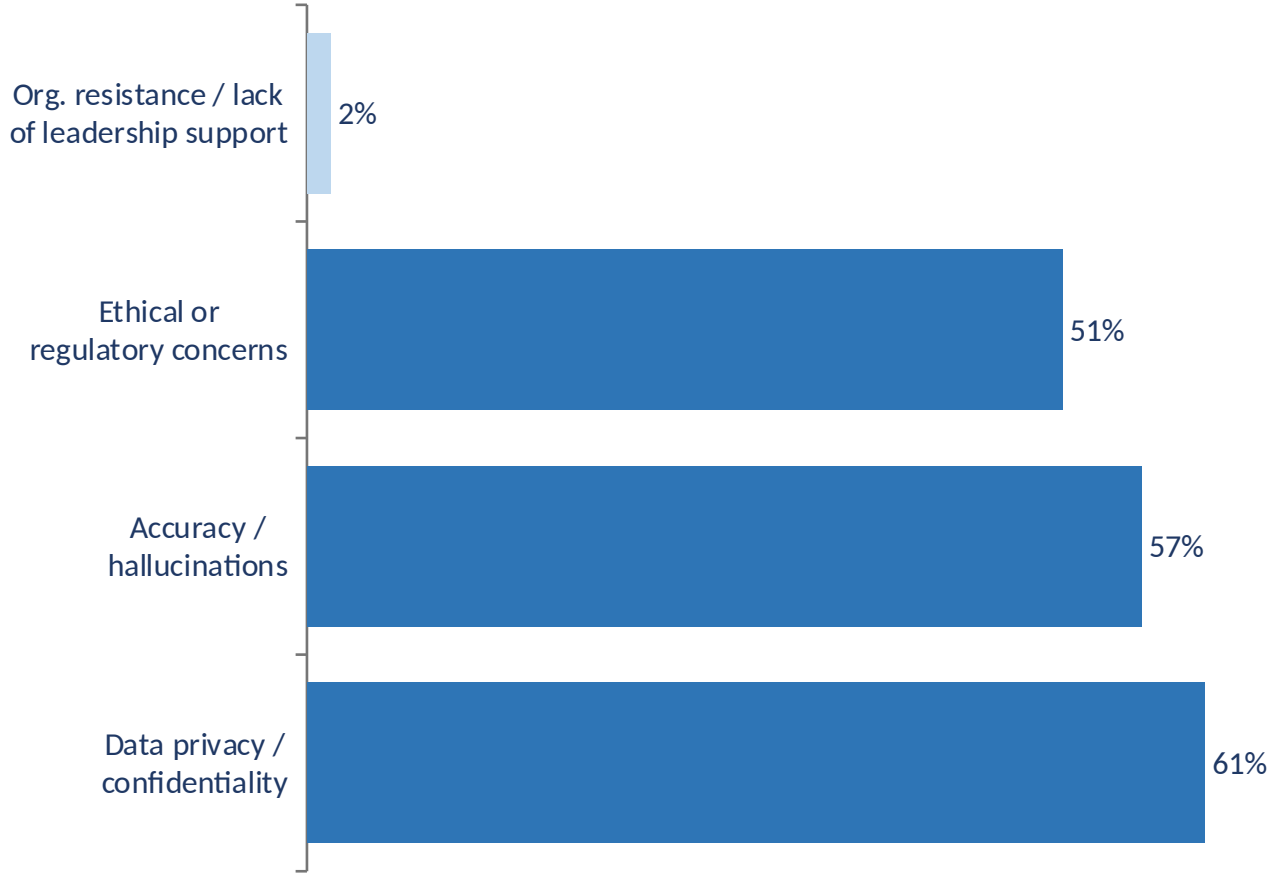
don't know whether their organization even has a paid AI subscription

Individuals are experimenting quietly. Institutions haven't caught up — which is exactly why building a shared community of practice matters.

HIGHLIGHT 3 OF 4

The Resistance Is About Trust, Not Technology

Top barriers to greater AI adoption (respondents could pick up to 3)



"Organizational resistance" was picked by 3 people out of 187.

What people describe as "anti-AI" is almost always privacy, accuracy, and ethics — legitimate risk management, not opposition to the idea. That's a case worth making to skeptics in the room, honestly and without defensiveness.

n = 187 · Baseline AI & A2J Survey, July 2026

HIGHLIGHT 4 OF 4

A Real Motivation Gap — and a Clear Ask

37%

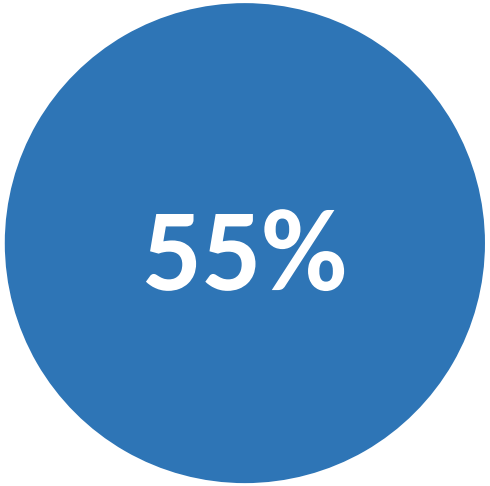
say they are “not at all” motivated to use AI more in their work — the single largest answer, bigger than “very” + “extremely” combined.

55% / 46%

want “guidance on ethical and responsible use” (55%) and “hands-on training with specific tools” (46%) — both ahead of basic AI-101 training.

People aren't asking to be sold on AI. They're asking for permission structures and practical skills — which is exactly what the rest of today delivers.

The Access-to-Justice Reality Is Already Here



of respondents have personally encountered a client or potential client who has already used AI tools for their own legal research or document/case preparation.

Self-represented litigants aren't waiting for a governance framework. The question isn't whether AI touches access to justice — it's whether legal aid helps shape how.

n = 187 · Baseline AI & A2J Survey, July 2026

Thank You. And yes, these slides were made with the assistance of AI.

Up Next

AI 101 / Level-Setting — Angela Tripp, NCSC · 9:55 – 10:35