

# Law Librarians: The “Sooner” the Better for Impact

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SWALL 2025

Norman, OK



# LAWPod

Legal Access Workspace

Bridging the Justice Gap



# Presented by:

Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library,  
Houston, TX

- Andre Davison, Director
- Lori-Ann Craig, Deputy Director
- Rod Hall, Associate Law Librarian



# Objectives

Addressing the Justice Gap and Digital Divide through LAWPods

Expanding Legal Access

Enhancing Legal Support



# Timeline

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2018

# Dawn of a New Era



# Introducing the LAWPod!





# Features

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- Standalone, small footprint design for placement in public libraries, community centers, or JP courts
- Core self-help, print collection to ensure access to legal information for patrons with limited computer skills
- Large-screen virtual desktop interface with access to Law Library's resources
- Visual assistance interface
- Enclosure allows researchers to interact via the virtual interface without disturbing others with enough transparency to eliminate potential security issues





2019

- Laying the groundwork

# Framery Q Flip



# New Design



# Initial Setup Estimates

Initial Setup  
Equipment Total:  
\$166,380

- Framery Q Flip N Fold Pod
- Computer hardware, peripherals, & data drops
- Core Print Collection

Personnel (Estimated  
Annual Cost):  
\$373,076

- Additional staffing (3) & promotions(1)
- Professional dues
- Annual Conference Attendance
- Mileage reimbursement

Licenses and  
materials updates  
(Estimated Annual  
Cost): \$83,415

- Remote Access Software
- Annual outreach budget
- Core print updates
- Database licenses



2020

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A Changed  
World



2021

# Acclimating to the New Norm



# Please STAN(d) By

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- Synchronous  
Touchless  
Assistive  
Node





FOUNDATION



2022

# Dealing with the Details



# 2023

The dream becomes a  
reality



2024

We Have Liftoff!



# Business Strategy

Access to Justice through targeted audience, partnerships, and data drive plans

## Audience

Focusing on underserved communities in Harris County.

## Partnerships

Partnering with HCPL and other community groups will help ensure LAWPods are placed in the most needed locations.

## Data Driven

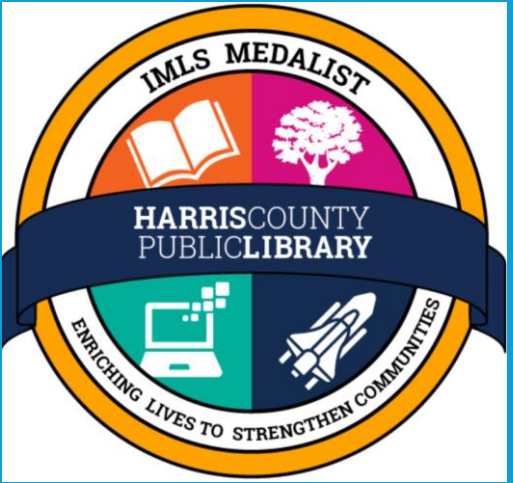
Tracking usage and patron feedback will help in the long-term success of the LAWPods.



The Law Library is a division of the Office of the Harris County Attorney (CAO).



The Law Library has partnered with select **Harris County Public Library** branches to host LAWPods.



The Law Library Committee of the **Houston Bar Association** participated in promoting the LAWPod initiative.



# Legal Information at the Touch of a Button



## Why LAWPods?

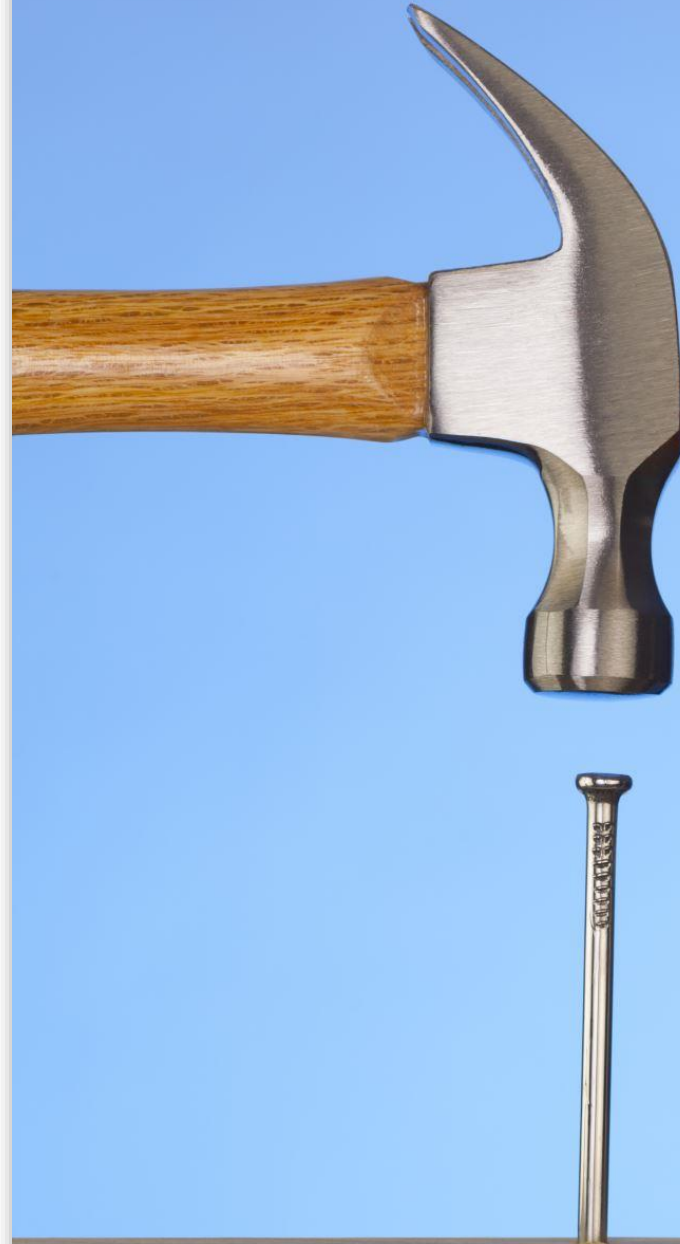
- Many homes in Harris County do not have access to digital resources
- 54% of citizens of Houston cannot afford a \$400 dollar emergency according to Kinder Institute at Rice University
- Average attorney fees in Houston range from \$200 to \$500 per hour.



The struggles of building  
a LAWPod

Or...

You have to  
remember that  
Finland is in a  
different time zone!



August 18, 2023

8:22 am



5 Months  
and  
22 Days  
later

- Computer Bracket
- Table Resizing
- Computer wiring re-configuration
- Ramp Adjustments
- Lock research, locating, acquisition, and installation
- Computer configuration and installation
- Fire code debate
- Etc.



February 8, 2024  
10:09 am



KT Okay.  
Yeah, take a screenshot to commemorate this moment. So, smile pretty. Let's see. Here's my

“take a screen shot to commemorate this moment”



# Partner Locations

## Current LAWPods Locations

Bear Creek

Clear Lake

North  
Channel

Barbara  
Bush

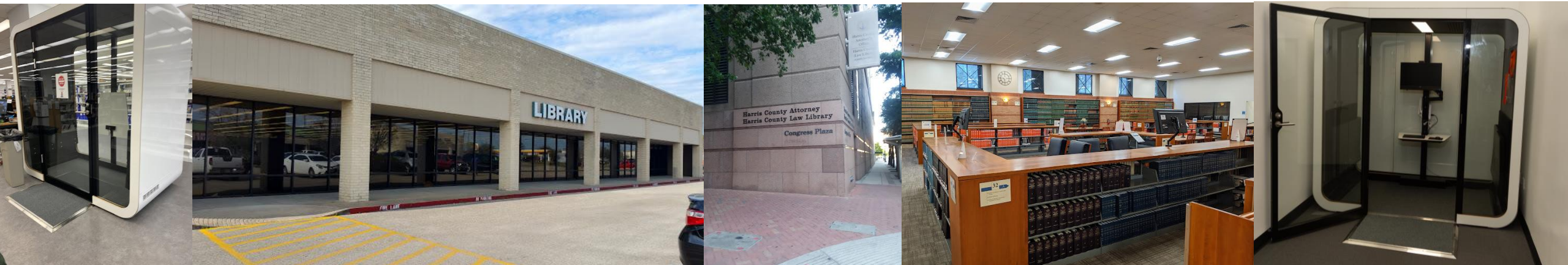


# Partner Locations

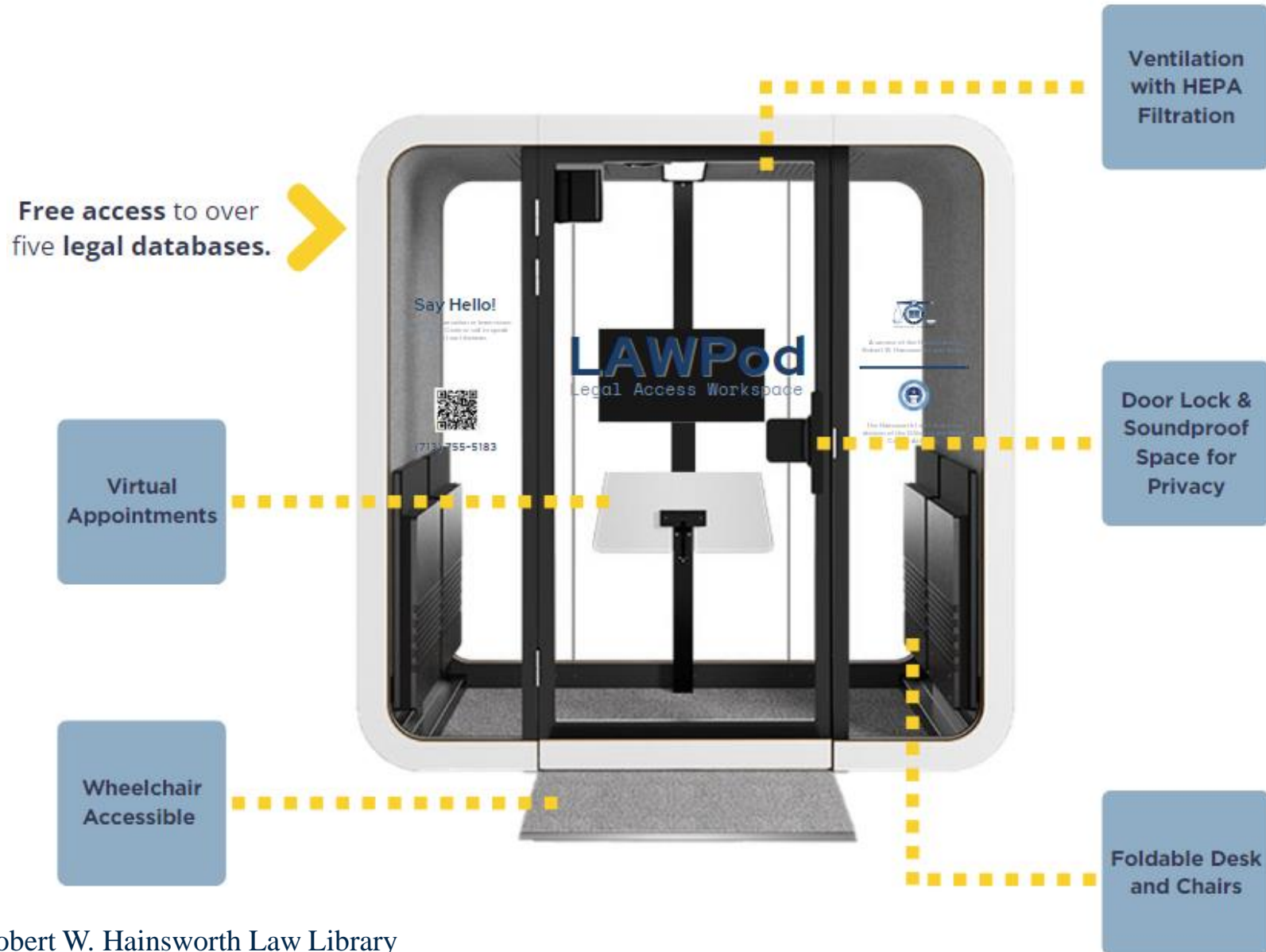
## Current LAWPods Locations

Parker  
Williams

Law Library



# LAWPod Breakdown



# Hardware

Providing reliable technology tools



1.Virtual Reference

Interactions

2.Document Camera

3.Touchscreen Interface

4.Sound dampening and  
private environment

# Software

Accessing professional tools

**Free Access to Legal Resources**

All LAWPods are equipped with a legal resource kiosk launcher that helps patrons get access to:

- Westlaw
- Lexis +
- HeinOnline
- Legal Information Reference Center
- Zoom
- And more!

**LAWPod**  
Legal Access Workspace

Zoom To The  
Law Library

Research  
Guides

Texas Law  
Help

Westlaw

Legal  
Help

Find Your  
Records

Lexis +

Google

Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library, 1019 Congress Street, 1st Floor,  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Phone: 713-755-5183

THOMSON REUTERS  
**WESTLAW™**

 **HEINONLINE**

 **LexisNexis®**

**EBSCO**

# Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library Leadership Transition

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# LAWPod Grand Opening

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# LAWPod Grand Opening

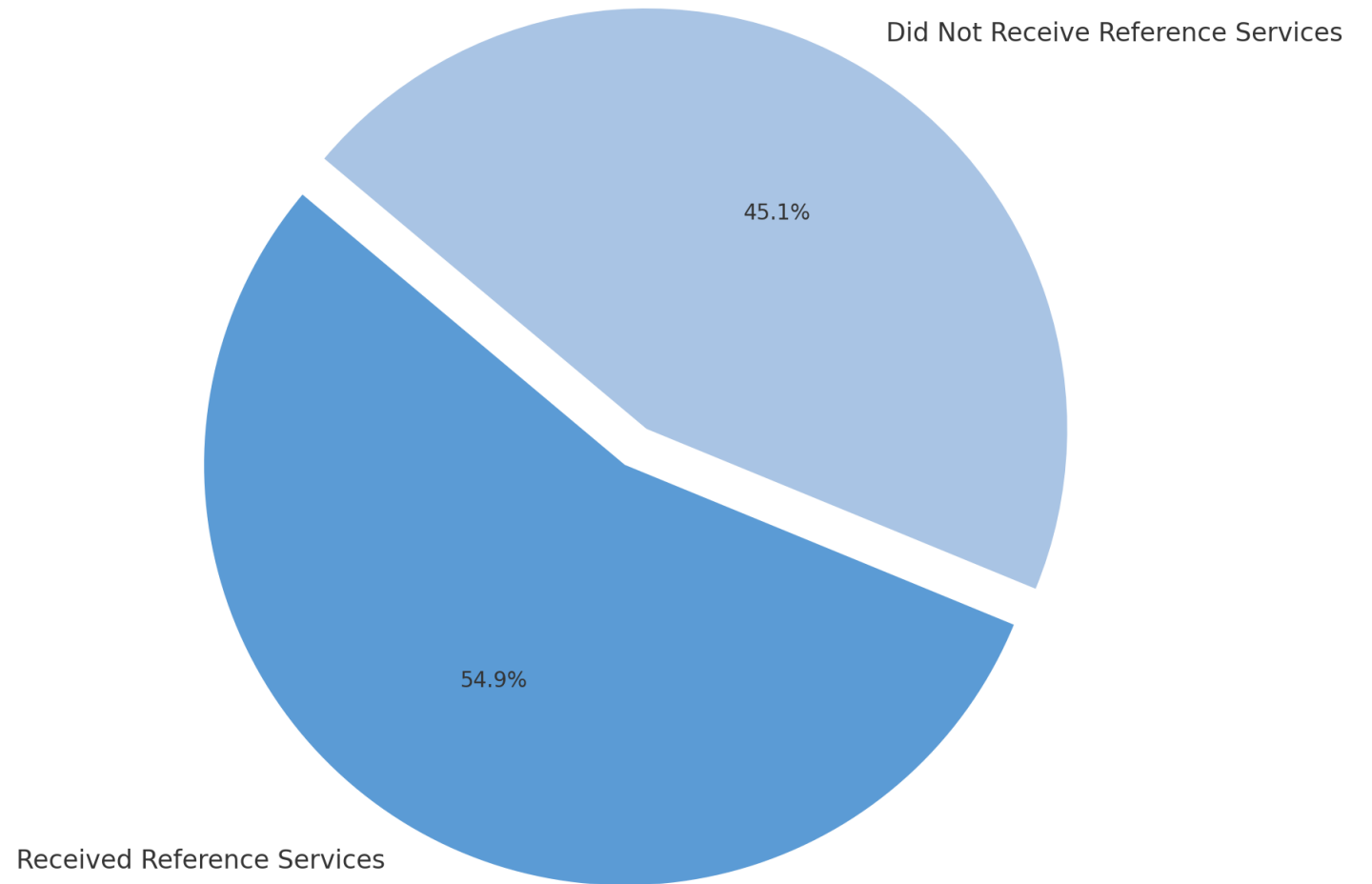
Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library



Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library

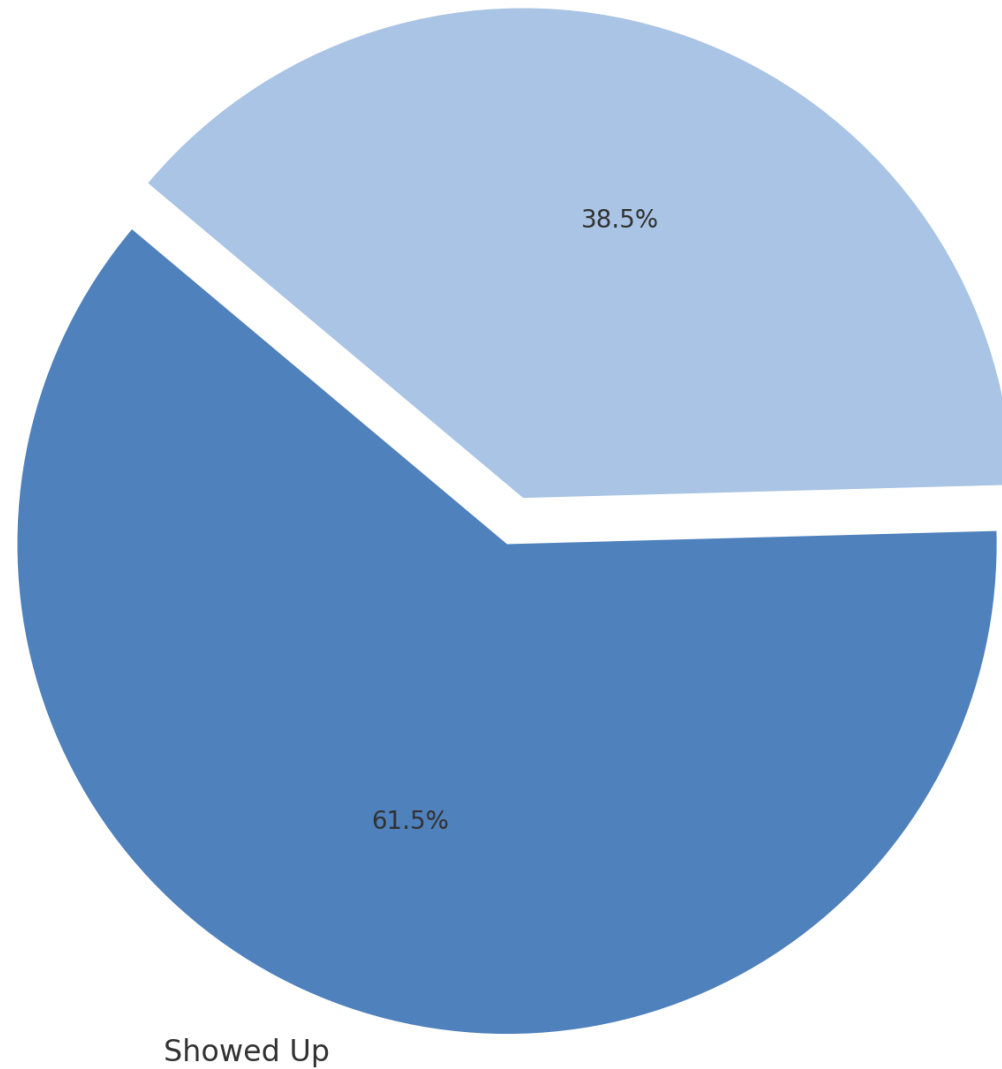
# LAWPod Metrics – Unique Users

LAWPods Unique Users Breakdown (102 Users)

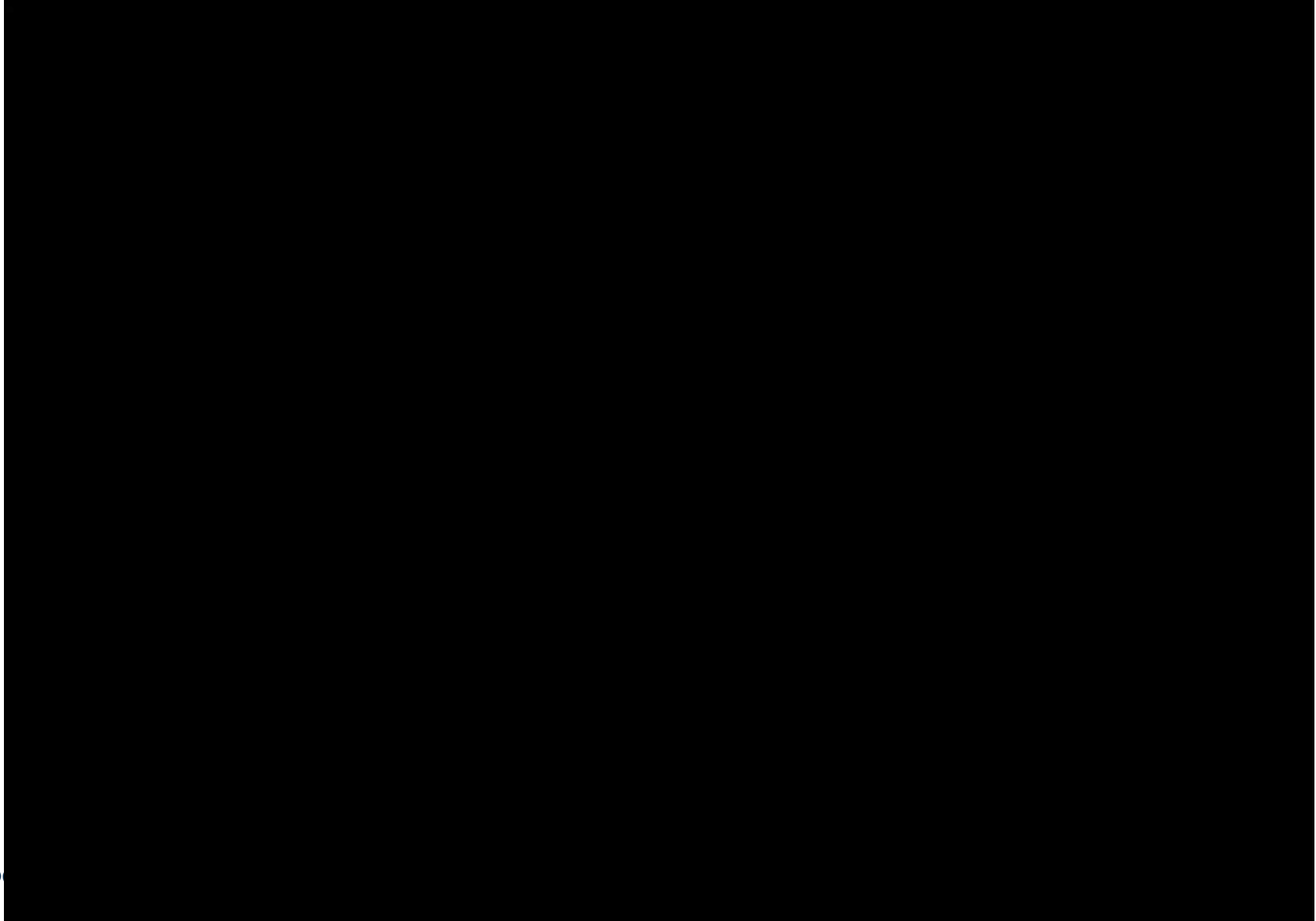


# LAWPod Metrics – Total Bookings

LAWPods Attendance Breakdown (195 Bookings)  
No Show

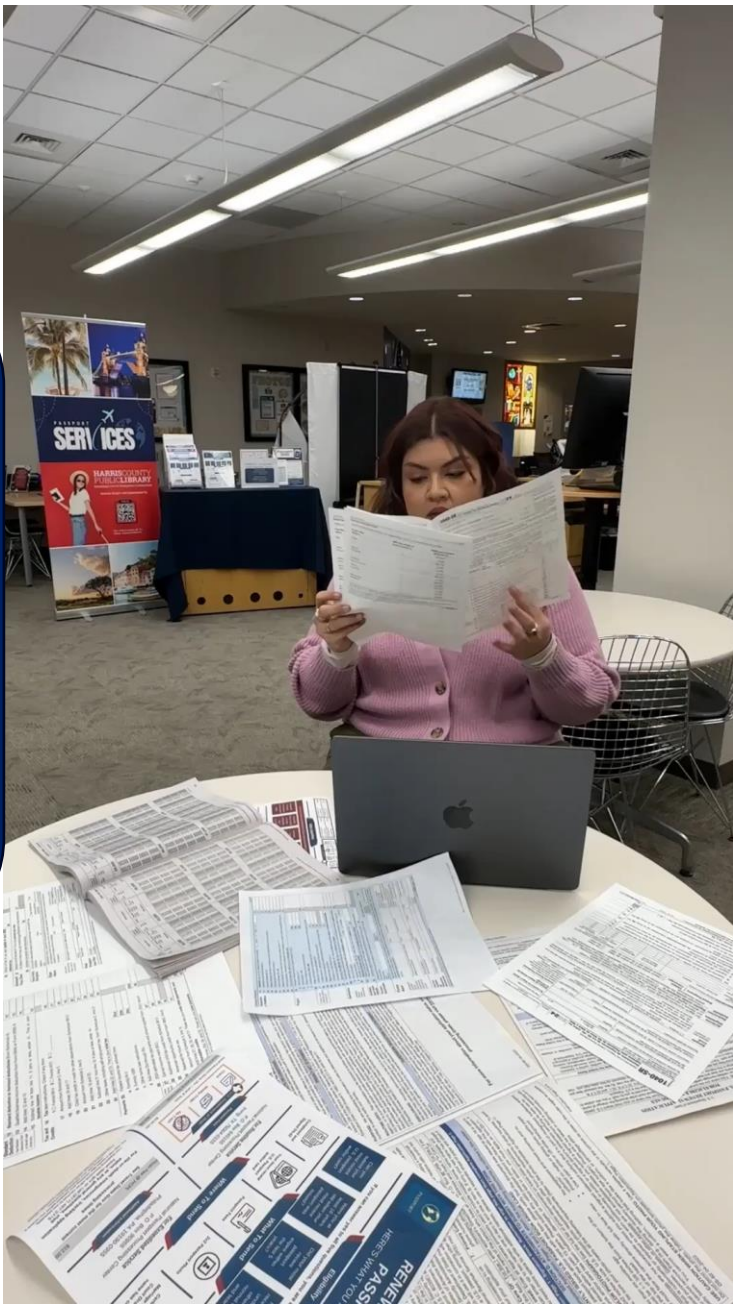


# Game Changing Opportunity





**CURBSIDE  
LARRY  
&  
LAWPOD  
ROD**



# Branded Items





HOUSTON  
VOLUNTEER  
LAWYERS

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A SERVICE OF THE HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION

# **LAWYERS in a LAWPod: Where Pro Bono Meets Pro Se**



# LAWPAD



