Preface

"Equality under the law" is enshrined in Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but equality in legal forums is often elusive for moderate-income and poor individuals. Those who can't afford an attorney are at a disadvantage as compared to those represented by counsel and often disproportionately burden courts, agencies, and other institutions that must adjudicate their claims or defenses.

The ICAIL 2023 Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Access to Justice, held on June 19, 2023, in Braga, Portugal, was an opportunity for researchers from diverse fields to share insights into the ways that technology can help make justice more equal for all litigants, regardless of economic status. The implications for access to justice of recent dramatic improvements in generative AI systems were a recurring theme in the workshop.

Seven papers from ten submissions were accepted by the Program Committee for presentation and inclusion in these proceedings. These papers can be divided into three categories based on the scope of the access-to-justice issues that they address. Intelligent support for individual litigants is the focus of the first three papers: Westermann et al., "LLMediator: GPT-4 Assisted Online Dispute Resolution," Branting and McCLoud, "Narrative-Driven Case Elicitation"; and Tan et al., "ChatGPT as an Artificial Lawyer?"

Legal text analysis across multiple cases is the focus of Epps et al., "Adapting Abstractive Summarization to Court Examinations in a Zero-Shot Setting" and Saadany et al., "Better Transcription of UK Supreme Court Hearings." Finally, analysis and evaluation at a system level is addressed by Draper and Gillibrand, "The Potential for Jurisdictional Challenges to AI or LLM Training Datasets" and Branting, "The Justice Access Game."

Improving the ability of all citizens equally to assert their rights and defenses in legal forums will require many institutional as well as technical advances. However, the work presented here illuminates many promising avenues for such advances.

AI4AJ Program Committee
Karl Branting, The MITRE Corporation, USA
Marc Lauritsen, Capstone Practice Systems, USA
Amy Schmitz, The Ohio State University, USA
Hannes Westermann, University of Montreal, CA
John Zeleznikow, La Trobe University, AU