

# MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

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## MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

*22 September 2010*  
*9:30 am*  
*Annapolis, Maryland*

### SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETING

1. **DV Project with Office of the Vice President Biden and DOJ's Access to Justice Commission.** The Commission has been asked to play a role in facilitating the creation of a pilot project which would enhance access to representation for victims of domestic violence in Baltimore. The Office of Vice President Biden and the DOJ Access to Justice Commission contacted Chief Judge Bell who asked the Commission to play a role in facilitating the development of the pilot. The project will involve the University Of Baltimore School Of Law, Family Law Clinic, the House of Ruth, and a law firm. The pilot will provide an attorney at the Baltimore City Protective Order Advocacy Representation Project (POARP) at the Baltimore City District Court. The Commission will be working with the project partners as well as the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to develop the pilot.
2. **Maryland Legal Aid Centennial.** Next year is Legal Aid's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and they are planning a significant celebration of access to justice.
  - a. **History of Legal Aid.** The Commission will explore preparing a history of Maryland Legal Aid to document the history of commitment to legal services in Maryland.
  - b. **Civil Right to Counsel Day.** This idea contemplates the designation of a civil right to counsel day and provides that on that one day, no indigent civil litigant appear in court unrepresented by counsel. The Commission will follow-up with the MSBA.

#### COMMISSIONERS & DESIGNEES

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STEVE ANDERSON  
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SUSAN ERLICHMAN  
HON. DOUGLAS GANSLER  
HERBERT S. GARTEN  
HON. LISA GLADDEN  
SHARON GOLDSMITH  
HON. GLENN HARRELL, JR.  
KATHY HOWARD  
WILHELM H. JOSEPH, JR.  
CONNIE KRATOVIL-LAVELLE  
HON. PETER KRAUSER  
ANGELA KUHN  
HON. DIANE LEASURE  
KRISTEN MAHONEY  
MICHAEL MILLEMANN  
HON. THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER  
HON. WILLIAM D. MISSOURI  
JOHN NETHERCUT  
HON. JOHN L. NORTON III  
HON. MARTIN O'MALLEY  
HON. SCOTT PATTERSON  
LU PIERSON  
ANGELITA PLEMMER  
JONATHAN ROSENTHAL  
JOSEPH ROSENTHAL  
STEPHEN H. SACHS  
HON. CATHY HOLLENBERG SERRETTE  
HON. KATHY SMITH  
BONNIE SULLIVAN  
BILL VAN HORNE  
REBECCA WAGNER  
DAVE WEISSERT  
RACHEL WOHL

PAMELA CARDULLO ORTIZ  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3. **SRL Committee Report.**
  - a. **Limited Scope.** The draft rules and forms have been forwarded to MSBA for review.
  - b. **Media Development.** There have been several scripts and a pilot e-learning tool developed.
  - c. **Self-Help Centers.** The District Court Self-Help Center (DCSHC) is working well and have served over 2500 clients.
  
4. **Definitions, Standards and Awards.** The committee proposed annual Access to Justice Awards. The Commission supported the recommendation and asked the Committee to move forward with the proposal.
  
5. **ADLS Committee.**
  - a. **Civil Right to Counsel.** The subcommittee is working on a draft fiscal model.
  - b. **Fee-Shifting.** The committee is considering a white paper, which includes proposed statutory language.
  - c. **Cy Pres Awards.** The commission discussed the benefits from cy pres awards and the approach taken in some other states.
  - d. **LARP.** Legislation may be introduced again this year to create a separate program for attorneys that would enhance loan assistance repayment for public interest and public service attorneys. In last year's bill, the funding source would have been a \$50 fee paid by all attorneys. The Committee is considering a range of options through which loan assistance repayment might be supported and will be making recommendations at the next meeting of the Commission.
  - e. **Fee Waivers.** It came to the Committee's attention that some courts are denying filing fee waivers to indigent litigants that are clients of MLSC-funded providers and clients of the Office of the Public Defender. The Committee will review the issue.
  
6. **Public Education Committee.** The proposed public education campaign, activities, and posters focused on the theme "My Laws, My Courts, My Maryland." The posters were adopted and endorsed by the Commission.
  
7. **Critical Barriers.**
  - a. **Language Access.** A sub-committee to address issues relating to language access has been established.
  - b. **Other issues.** The Committee will explore issues related to persons with disabilities, the incarcerated, the elderly, youth and other groups.
  - c. **Technology.** It was suggested the Committee also consider making recommendations that solve some of these access problems with technology.