MARYLAND COURTS

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Access to Justice Commission Posters Highlight How to Find Legal Help

(**ANNAPOLIS, Md.**) – Dec. 16, 2010 Maryland's courts want people to find legal help when they are facing issues like foreclosure, debt collection, eviction, divorce or custody disputes.

"Marylanders don't have a constitutional right to a free lawyer in civil cases, but there are free or low-cost legal help options available, and we are trying to get that message out," said retired Judge Irma S. Raker of the Maryland Court of Appeals. Judge Raker is chair of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, which works to expand access to and enhance the quality of justice in civil legal matters.

The Commission has produced a series of free posters to help Marylanders know where to get legal help and to promote a better understanding of the civil justice system. They feature information about and phone numbers and website addresses for organizations that provide free or low-cost legal services and information.

Small posters can be printed from the Maryland Access to Justice Commission's website. Larger versions of the posters -- 11" x 17" and 24" x 36" -- can be ordered from the Commission and will be provided free, as resources allow.

To see and order the posters, visit the Maryland Access to Justice Commission's website at www.mdcourts.gov/mdatjc.

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