

MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

12 September 2014

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETING

1. Committee Reports.

- a. **Self-Represented Litigants Committee.** The Committee reported on eight additional videos currently in development. The District Court is purchasing equipment to play the videos on a loop in all court locations.
- b. **Definitions, Standards and Awards Committee.** The Committee presented the proposed nominees for the 2014 Awards. The Commission voted to make the annual awards in six categories.
- c. **Public Education Report.** The Committee reported that it has secured a \$3,000 grant. The Commission discussed a proposal to use the funds to purchase *Plain Language for Lawyers* to give to attorneys trained by People's Law Library.
- d. **Critical Barriers Committee.** The Committee reported that the collateral effects of conviction and incarceration, including expungements, continue to be an issue for some populations.

2. New business.

- a. **Creation of Access to Justice Department.** The Commission will sunset by the end of the year. The Judiciary will be creating an Access to Justice Department. The Commission will discuss a transition plan.
- b. **District Court Self-Help Center.** The District Court is planning to expand the Center to open another walk-in Center in Prince George's County.

3. Old business.

- a. **Pending Rules Initiatives.** Two of three ongoing rules initiatives (limited-scope practice and fee waiver) are to be included in 186th Report to the Court of Appeals. The third initiative (pro bono practice rule) is part of a comprehensive rewrite of the attorney rules and will be included in a later report.