

# MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

**IRMA S. RAKER**  
JUDGE, MARYLAND COURT OF APPEALS (RET.)  
CHAIR

**BEN C. CLYBURN**  
CHIEF JUDGE, DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
VICE-CHAIR

2001 E/F COMMERCE PARK DR.  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
PHONE: 410-260-1258  
FAX: 410-260-2504

## COMMISSIONERS & DESIGNEES

RICHARD ABBOTT  
JOSÉ FELIPÉ ANDERSON  
STEVE ANDERSON  
CATHY ASHBY  
JOSHUA AUERBACH  
GRAY BARTON  
MICHAEL J. BAXTER  
MARK BITTNER  
SANDY S. BREWER  
TAMMY BROWN  
TRACY BROWN  
HON. MICHAEL E. BUSCH  
MARY JOEL DAVIS  
PAUL B. DEWOLFE  
BARBARA DOMER  
HON. KATHLEEN DUMAIS  
SUSAN ERLICHMAN  
JONATHAN FERGUSON  
PATRICIA FOX-MORRILL  
HON. DOUGLAS GANSLER  
TERESA GARRATY  
HERBERT S. GARTEN  
SHARON GOLDSMITH  
HON. KATHRYN G. GRAEFF  
PHOEBE A. HADDON  
HON. JOHN R. HARGROVE, JR.  
PAMELA HARRIS  
KATHY HOWARD  
HON. KAREN A. MURPHY JENSEN  
WILHELM H. JOSEPH, JR.  
LORETTA KNIGHT  
CONNIE KRATOVIL-LAVELLE  
HON. PETER KRAUSER  
HON. DANIEL LONG  
HON. ROBERT N. McDONALD  
MICHAEL MILLEMANN  
HON. THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER  
HON. WILLIAM D. MISSOURI  
JOHN NETHERCUT  
HON. MARTIN O'MALLEY  
HON. SCOTT PATTERSON  
LU PIERSON  
JONATHAN ROSENTHAL  
HON. THOMAS G. ROSS  
HON. CATHY HOLLENBERG SERRETTE  
BONNIE SULLIVAN  
ROBERTA WARNKEN  
RONALD WEICH  
DAVE WEISSERT  
ANGELITA PLEMMER WILLIAMS  
RACHEL WOHL

PAMELA CARDULLO ORTIZ  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

13 May 2013

### SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETING

#### 1. Old Business.

- a. **Awards.** The 2013 Access to Justice Awards were presented on Thursday, May 9 at the annual Judicial Conference.
- b. **Limited Scope, Pro Bono Practice and Fee Waiver Rules.** These rules remain pending before the full Rules Committee.
- c. **Proposed Change to Code of Judicial Conduct.** The Rules Committee did not endorse the proposal.
- d. **Maryland Court System Lesson Plan and Professional Development for Teachers.** Copies of the lesson plan were distributed to all 26 social studies coordinators for the Maryland Public Schools.
- e. **Final Legislative Report.**
  - i. **HB129/SB262—Civil Right to Counsel Task Force.** Bill passed and will take effect October 1, 2013.
  - ii. **HB838/SB640—Surcharges—Repeal of Termination Date.** Amended to extend the sunset on filing fee surcharges for an additional 5 years until 2018.
  - iii. **HB1303/SB809—Abandoned Property Funds.** Amended to increase appropriation to MLSC from the Maryland Abandoned Property Fund from \$500,000 per year to \$1.5 million per year. No sunset provision.

#### 2. New Business.

- a. **New Administrative Order.** Chief Judge Bell renewed the Commission, added the Chair of the Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Service as a member and removed the sunset date.
- b. **Pro Bono Donation Page.** Donations made through the pro bono donation page totaled over \$63,000 for the latest reporting cycle.

- c. **Draft Policy on Restraints and Human Trafficking Proposals.** The Commission elected to send these proposals back to the Committee for further discussion.
- d. **Website Accessibility Grants.** The Commission will make mini-grants in FY2014 to legal services providers who want to implement recommendations in the report *Beyond Compliance* to enhance website accessibility.

### 3. **Committee Reports.**

- a. **Self-Represented Litigant Committee.** The District Court Self-Help Center has been incorporated into the Judiciary's regular budget.
- b. **Public Education Committee.** The Committee is working on developing new videos. The People's Law Library hired a content coordinator who begins May 15.
- c. **Critical Barriers Committee.** A brochure on U- and T- visas is in production. The Office of Program Services will translate the text into Spanish when it is complete.
- d. **Access & Delivery of Legal Services Committee.** Members of the Committee will provide a seminar on Class Action Residual Funds at the upcoming MSBA Annual Meeting.