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25 February 2014

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETING

1. Committee Reports.

- a. **Access & Delivery of Legal Services Committee.** The Committee continues to monitor the limited scope, fee waiver and pro bono practice rules. They are scheduled to be on the Rule's Committee's March 14 agenda.

Commission staff are gathering information about the impact of the LARP legislation that the Commission supported a few years ago.

- b. **Critical Barriers Committee.** The Committee made three recommendations to the Commission regarding persons with mental illness. These recommendations included increasing funding for outreach to persons with mental illness, developing additional resources to help individuals apply for expungements and publicizing the process to request an accommodation at court. The Commission deferred the recommendations, noting that some of the issues may be resolved at the upcoming conference for court ADA coordinators.
- c. **Public Education Committee.** The Committee continues to explore the needs of moderate income individuals.

The Commission reviewed and approved scripts for three new self-help videos.

The Committee encouraged the Commission to use social media. The Judiciary's Office of Communications & Public Affairs will meet with new Judiciary leadership and the Technology Oversight Board to discuss the policy.

- d. **Self-Represented Litigants Committee.** The Committee met with guests who provide self-help services in Maryland and discussed needs. The group recommended doing "warm referrals" to prevent client bounce and discussed using 211 services to connect people to public resources. The Committee will bring any recommendations to the full Commission.

- e. **Definitions, Standards & Awards Committee.** The timeline for awards nominations has been pushed back to allow the awards to be given at the October Judicial Conference.
- f. **Strategic Planning Committee.** The Committee held its first meeting and hopes to develop a plan that will enable widespread input from Commission members and stakeholders.

2. **Old Business.**

- a. **Task Force to Study Implementing a Civil Right to Counsel in Maryland.** The task force met a second time and heard about the economic impact of civil legal aid. The next meeting will be in April.

3. **New Business.**

- a. **Longitudinal Analysis of Pro Bono Reporting.** The Commission reviewed and approved a report prepared by Commission staff that collates information gleaned from the past 11 years of pro bono reporting. The Commission hopes to publish the report as a joint report with the Standing Committee on Pro Bono.
- b. **Annual Report.** The Commission reviewed and approved the draft *2013 Annual Report*.
- c. **Legislative Update.** Commission members shared information about bills they are tracking.