

## MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

08 May 2014

### SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETING

#### 1. Committee Reports

- a. **Access & Delivery of Legal Services Committee.** The Committee presented a report, *Pro Hac Vice Fees & LARP: The Impact of HB 523/11*. After discussion, the Commission approved the report for publication.
- b. **Critical Barriers Committee.** The Committee reported on three proposals regarding persons with mental illnesses that had been referred to the Executive Committee.
  - i. **OUTREACH.** The Public Education Committee will develop a brochure and poster for programs and facilities serving the mentally ill.
  - ii. **ACCOMMODATIONS.** Commission staff will work with Office of Fair Practices to educate the public on how to request an accommodation.
  - iii. **EXPUNGEMENTS.** The Committee will establish a subcommittee to make recommendations on how to educate and inform people who need expungements, and consider legislative reform.
- c. **Public Education Committee.** The Committee reported on a conference call with Voices for Civil Justice, a nonpartisan group that aims to raise public awareness of the vital role of civil legal aid. The Committee will meet again to discuss how the Commission might participate in the group's national awareness campaign. The Committee also reviewed three new video scripts, which were approved by the Commission.
- d. **Definitions, Standards & Awards Committee.** The Committee shared an updated timeline for soliciting nominations for the annual awards.
- e. **Self-represented Litigant Committee.** The Committee presented challenges facing self-help providers, including the difficulties finding helpful information online. The Commission discussed having multi-media material translated into Spanish. The Committee also presented several "Tip" sheets to accompany each

video. The Commission approved the “Tip” sheets and adopted a proposal that the Committee not bring each sheet to the Commission for approval.

- f. **Strategic Planning Committee.** The Committee presented a planning process. The Commission discussed the proposal and approved it. The Commission also approved a proposal to disband the current Committee and create a new Long-range Planning Committee.

## 2. **Old Business.**

- a. **Rules Initiatives.** The Rules Committee approved three outstanding initiatives (limited scope representation; fee waiver; pro bono practice). The proposals will be included in a forthcoming report to the Court of Appeals for consideration.
- b. **Media Projects.** Two new videos were released; three titles are in production; several new scripts have been approved. Videos will be modified for use by federal courts.
- c. **Task Force on Implementing a Civil Right to Counsel.** The Task Force will have monthly meetings through September.

## 3. **New Business.**

- a. **MDEC Self-Help Advisory Committee.** The Commission will participate with the MDEC Committee.