
RULES REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

June 2021

PURPOSE

Identify local and Maryland Rules, written and unwritten, that are perceived to create systemic racism and contribute to implicit bias and find ways to address the created bias.

FORMED THREE WORKGROUPS

- Survey Workgroup
 - Disseminated a survey to more than 200 stakeholders, as well as judges, magistrates, and clerks
 - consisted of 6 questions that addressed the Maryland Rules and implicit bias
 - to date, 66 substantive responses have been received
 - 22 responders indicated no bias in the Rules; the remaining responders vary in citing specific Rules or generally speak to perceived bias in the Rules
 - Public Meetings Workgroup
 - Holding 12 listening sessions, each concentrating on a different topic; stakeholders and members of the public are invited to provide input on any Rules they believe contain implicit bias; all sessions will be held via Zoom
 - Landlord/Tenant
 - Civil Procedure
 - Domestic Violence and Protective Orders
 - Admission to the Bar and Ethics
 - Criminal Procedure
 - Pattern Jury Instructions
 - Divorce
 - Guardianship
 - Child Custody
 - Evidence
 - Probate/Estate Law
 - Juvenile Delinquency/CINA
 - Report Writing Workgroup
 - Will draft a report to catalogue the findings and information gathered by the Survey and Public Meetings Workgroups
 - Will formulate recommendations based on the information gathered
 - Collaborating with law schools and clinics in Maryland for students to submit memos on the Rules they believe contain implicit bias
-