

Who enhances access to justice in Maryland?



Each year, the Maryland Access to Justice Commission recognizes people, programs, and entities in the State that improve the ability of all Marylanders to access the courts or to get legal help in civil matters. Through their work, Marylanders benefit from the rights, protections, services, and opportunities that the law provides.

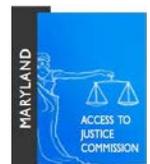
**Please nominate individuals, programs, and entities for the
*2014 Maryland Access to Justice Awards***

- Judge of the Year
- Judicial Branch Excellence Award
- Outstanding Program of the Year
- Legislator of the Year
- Executive Branch Award

For nomination forms and more information, refer to the *Maryland Access to Justice Awards 2014 Information Packet*, available at mdcourts.gov/mdatjc/awards.html.

Nominations are due by July 1, 2014.

For questions, contact Lonni Summers at (410) 260-2508 or mdatjcommission@mdcourts.gov.



Maryland Access to Justice Awards

2014 Information Packet

Each year, the Maryland Access to Justice Commission recognizes people, programs, and entities in the State that improve Marylanders' access to the courts or ability to get legal help in civil matters. Through their work, Marylanders benefit from the rights, protections, services, and opportunities that the law provides.

Honoree Categories

MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Commission presents this award to an outstanding jurist who exemplifies Maryland's commitment to Access to Justice. The award recognizes the effort of the judge to improve the ability of all Marylanders to access justice so that they can benefit from the rights, protections, services, and opportunities that the law and the legal system provide.

MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION JUDICIAL BRANCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Commission presents this award to a member of the judicial branch staff for outstanding service, recognizing their special contributions to furthering Access to Justice for all Marylanders. Awarded to an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to access to justice beyond the usual call of duty.

MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION OUTSTANDING PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Commission presents this award to a program or project that improves access to justice for Marylanders. This award recognizes a program or project which, through well-planned and -executed programs, enhances the rights, protections, services, and opportunities that the law and the legal system provide.

MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Commission presents this award to an outstanding legislator who embodies Maryland's commitment to Access to Justice. The award recognizes the effort of the legislator to improve the ability of all Marylanders to access justice so that they can benefit from the rights, protections, services, and opportunities that the law and the legal system provide.

MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BRANCH AWARD

The Commission presents this award to an outstanding initiative or individual within the Executive Branch that improves access to justice for Marylanders. This award recognizes efforts that enhance the rights, protections, services, and opportunities that the law and the legal system provide.

Nominating Process

Nominations for Maryland Access to Justice Commission Awards

The Maryland Access to Justice Commission solicits nominations each winter for five awards it presents annually to persons making outstanding contributions to advance access to justice for low- and moderate-income Marylanders. The Maryland Access to Justice Commission encourages organizations and individuals to make nominations for any or all five of these awards to the Commission for their consideration and selection. Nominations for the awards must be submitted by July 1 to the Maryland Access to Justice Commission. You may submit your nomination by mail, fax, or email.

Attention: Lonni Summers
Maryland Access to Justice Commission
Mail: 2001-F Commerce Park Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Fax: (410) 260-2504
Email: mdatjcommission@mdcourts.gov
For questions: (410) 260-2508,
or you may use the above email address.

Definition of Access to Justice

The Maryland Access to Justice Commission defines “access to justice” as follows:

Access to justice means all Marylanders can benefit from the rights, protections, services and opportunities that the law and the legal system provide. Having access to justice requires that the information and resources Marylanders need to access these rights are adequately funded and are available regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, institutionalization, income, language, literacy, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

Nomination Solicitations

Each year, the Commission sends a notice of the award nomination process to courts, bar associations, legal services programs, and interested persons and programs. The Commission also publishes a notice soliciting nominations in the *Daily Record*.

We retain nominations for two years. Therefore, if you submitted a nomination for 2013, there is no need to nominate that same person or entity again for 2014. The Commission will already consider that person or entity in the year following your initial nomination for that Award.

Awards Committee

The Commission’s Executive Team will review Award nominations and present a slate of award candidates to the full Commission for its consideration at the Commission’s early fall meeting.

Award Ceremony

The Commission will present the Awards at the Annual Maryland Judicial Conference in the fall.

MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

DESCRIPTION: The Commission presents this award to an outstanding jurist who exemplifies Maryland's commitment to Access to Justice. The award recognizes the effort of the judge to improve the ability of all Marylanders to access justice so that they can benefit from the rights, protections, services, and opportunities that the law and the legal system provide.

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Please complete the form below and attach the following information:

- Narrative (using as many additional sheets as necessary) that describes your reasons for making this nomination including:
 - Nominee's accomplishments over a period of time
 - Description of how such accomplishments relate to this award
- Nominee's curriculum vitae
- At least one letter of support

NOMINEE: _____

Title: _____

Court: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

REFERENCES: Please list below two references that may be contacted about the nominee.

Reference #1: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Reference #2: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

NOMINATED BY: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

We must receive your nominations for the 2014 Awards **not later than Tuesday, July 1, 2014.**

Send by mail, fax, or email to the attention of Lonni Summers, Maryland Access to Justice Commission.

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MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

JUDICIAL BRANCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

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- At least one letter of support

NOMINEE: _____

Position: _____

Employer: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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