

# MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

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## MARYLAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

*18 May 2010*  
*9:30 am*

### SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETING

1. **Administrative Order.** Chief Judge Bell created the Access to Justice Commission by Administrative Order. The Order defines the scope of the authority of the Commission.
2. **Awards.** The Commission discussed the possibility of giving out awards. The Executive Committee was asked to review the idea and make some recommendations to the full Commission.
3. **Update on Legislative Session.** Filing fee surcharge bills, HB 106 and SB 248, passed. The Commission sent a letter opposing legislation that would force the University of Maryland law clinics to disclose client names and would tie funding to the disclosure. The disclosure requirement was limited and does not tie funds to disclosure.
4. **Committee Reports.**
  - a. **Access & Delivery of Legal Services (ADLS) Committee.**
    - i. **Civil Right to Counsel (Civil Gideon/Judicare).** This subcommittee has finished reviewing the implementation issues identified in the Interim Report. They plan to go over their draft recommendations with a group of stakeholders before vetting them through the ADLS Committee and the full Commission and hope to bring their final recommendations to the September Commission meeting.
    - ii. **Fee Shifting.** The group is in the process of developing a white paper in support of a proposal for a more general fee shifting statute as recommended in the Interim Report, and hope to have it available for review by the September Commission meeting.

- b. Critical Barriers Committee.** The listening events have concluded.
- c. Definitions & Standards Committee.** The Commission approved the committee’s proposed definition of “access to justice.”
- d. Public Education Committee.** The Commission’s work in supporting the filing fee surcharge bill was highlighted by the ABA Resource Center on Access to Justice Initiatives. People’s Law Library will launch three webinars for public librarians on interacting with SRLs, which will include basic civics, resources available to SRLs, and information on public research for public librarians. They are also planning on recording the webinar for the public to see as well. Sample draft posters developed by the Committee were distributed. They will be used as part of a public education plan the Committee is developing. Once finalized and approved, the posters would be distributed to the courthouses, libraries, etc.
- e. Safety, Accessibility & Convenience.** The Committee reviewed redacted recommendations from the recent security assessments done of each court location. The reassessment of ADA accessibility in the courts will begin in the Fall and will take about a year to complete.
- f. SRL Committee.**
  - i. Limited Scope Rules and Forms.** The draft limited scope rules were discussed.
  - ii. Pilot Project.** The pilot project proposal was discussed. The goal is to test the practice model and give attorneys an opportunity to see it in action, try the practice, and find a way to have the practice reach low- and moderate-income clients.