RULES REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

June 2021

P U R P O S E

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.

F O R M E D  T H R E E  W O R K G R O U P S

- 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 the believe contain implicit bias