

Attachment

2

THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER:
WEST VIRGINIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia is committed to a court system which is fair, accessible, and accountable; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Court as a public institution to ensure that it effectively meets the needs of the citizens whom it serves; and

WHEREAS, the Court created the West Virginia Access to Justice Commission by Administrative Order on January 29, 2009, to identify the various barriers citizens face when using the legal system and to develop ways to be responsive to the needs identified; and

WHEREAS, the Court places high importance on the work of the Commission and desires that the Commission continue in its efforts to identify and address access to justice barriers in West Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the West Virginia Access to Justice Commission is hereby continued until dissolved by further Administrative Order; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission continue its progress on the following directives:

- (1) Examine, identify, and analyze various barriers West Virginians face when using the legal system;
- (2) Devise, coordinate, and oversee a strategic plan for a statewide, integrated, non-duplicative legal services delivery system, responsive to the identified needs;
- (3) Promote understanding of the importance of equal justice and of the problems many West Virginians face in accessing our civil justice system;
- (4) Secure involvement and commitment on the part of attorneys, the judiciary, magistrates, law enforcement, clerks, legislators, executive officers and the general public toward expanding access to justice, and help develop the capacities of future leaders of access to justice efforts in our state;
- (5) Enhance West Virginians' understanding of the legal system, and of their fundamental legal rights and responsibilities through providing public education, and addressing and improving the public perception, trust, and confidence in the court system;

- (6) Provide a mechanism for serving as a clearinghouse for communication and information disseminations about justice issues in West Virginia;
- (7) Assist in the procurement of stable funding and other resources to support access to justice, and work to maximize wide and efficient use of available resources; and
- (8) Address existing and proposed laws, rules and regulations that may adversely affect access to justice in West Virginia in both the short and long term.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission submit a written synopsis of its activities in furtherance of its strategic plan annually to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia for inclusion in the Court's annual report.

ENTER:

Brent Benjamin , Chief Justice

December 17, 2013.