

MISSISSIPPI  
**Access to Justice**  
COMMISSION

JUSTICE *for* ALL

**Action Plan**  
**2019-2020**

*The Mississippi Access to Justice Commission adopts this 2019-20 Action Plan in accordance with the proposed projects and priorities of the Commission in an effort to provide greater access to justice for every Mississippian. The Commission strives to complete these projects or work toward these goals in 2019-20 and thereafter.*

*Delivery System:*

1. Add GAP Act Guardianship forms to website; inform schools to educate counselors about resource.
2. Work with group preparing videos to instruct self-represented litigants on how to proceed with family law matters, how to conduct themselves in court and other topics. Add to website.
3. Explore court rules, CLE rules and other options for pro bono service for attorneys, especially government attorneys. Evaluate attorney advocate/attorney “good Samaritan” awareness program.
4. Provide training seminars and distribute educational materials for guiding court clerks in dealing with self-represented litigants.
5. Work toward developing and expanding pilot self-help centers at libraries for self-represented litigants.
6. Develop flow charts and expand instruction sheets for cases for self-represented litigants. Review resources in Mississippi Judicial College’s Bench Books for judges.

*Public Awareness:*

1. Update speakers bureau and post list to Commission’s website. Continue to assist with speaking outlines and PowerPoint Presentations.
2. Update brochure of legal service providers and resources and identify public areas for distribution/re-distribution. Contact newly elected public officials to inform about resources.
3. Reach out to local bar associations and other groups (Librarians, Educators, Community Groups) to promote the Commission and provide support for local access to justice initiatives.

4. Continue to sponsor, promote and encourage pro se legal clinics across the state. Expand clinics to include other issues, including expungements, debtor/creditor issues, housing.
5. Send MSATJC Pro Bono Toolkit to new judges during Pro Bono Week.

*Resource Development:*

1. Explore grant or other funding to produce a research-based report on whether and how the civil legal aid community can build funding relationships with philanthropic and other donors outside of the legal community. Determine the best way for the Commission to accept donations and implement.
2. Work with The Mississippi Bar to analyze the funding structure of Rule 6.1(b)(3) and the extent to which additional monies could be generated to support civil legal aid.
3. Continue to pursue proposed Continuing Legal Education fee increase to add funds for civil legal aid.

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**Ongoing Commission Priorities**

1. Ongoing review and evaluation of delivery systems – examining where there are gaps in services and how the Commission can help fill them.
2. Develop systems for capturing data on self-represented litigants – volume and case types.
3. Examine other statutory and procedural barriers to the justice system for self-represented litigants and make recommendations for change.
4. Explore the role of the Commission in meeting the legal needs of people above the legal services eligibility level who are nevertheless unable to afford counsel. (MVLP and Mission First assist individuals at 200% of poverty.) Consider partnering with the Mississippi Bar on a Modest Means Directory.
5. Work with the Mississippi Judicial College to continue to develop judicial education tools with training on how to ensure that self-represented litigants are fairly heard and prepare bench cards on varying topics for judges.
6. Develop a state plan for individuals with disabilities that need accommodations, including who to contact for the accommodation and who to contact to file a complaint.
7. Create and maintain a list of volunteer language interpreters willing to work on a pro bono basis.