

MISSISSIPPI  
**Access to Justice**  
COMMISSION

JUSTICE *for* ALL

**Action Plan**  
**2024-2025**

*The Mississippi Access to Justice Commission adopts this 2024-25 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 2024-25 and thereafter.*

*Delivery System:*

1. Complete the online interview for Irreconcilable Differences Divorce with Children and add to forms database. Publicize new form. Work toward completion of expungement forms for simple misdemeanor arrests/convictions and add to forms database.
2. Update resources on website for Youth Court issues, primarily to assist parents who represent themselves in Youth Court.
3. Continue to provide training seminars and distribute educational materials for guiding judges and court clerks in assisting self-represented litigants. Create recorded zoom training options and continue to offer in person training sessions. (*Possible video topics: Resources for Representing Yourself; What Forms are Available; In Forma Pauperis Procedure; What is the ATJ Commission; Legal Information vs. Legal Advice: How You Can Help; Summonses-Rule 4 vs. Rule 81; Language Access Assistance*)
4. Work toward expanding resource tables/areas at courthouses and libraries for self-represented litigants.
5. Inform courts and clerks about guardianship resources and add information to the website.
6. Create a Subcommittee to review the current website and suggest changes. Request cost proposal for suggested changes. Investigate whether a chat bot or AI would be a useful tool for assisting SRLs.
7. Work toward adding Secretary of State resources to MSATJC and court websites.
8. Continue to evaluate SRL surveys and use the info to guide Commission work. Identify potential sources for focus group participation.
9. Continue ATJ-Language Access Collaboration to expand access for limited English proficient individuals. Add Attorney Guide to website and provide training sessions for attorneys statewide.

*Public Awareness:*

1. Promote Speakers Bureau and opportunities for Commission awareness. Continue to assist with presentation outlines and PowerPoint Materials.
2. Continue to keep brochure of legal service providers and resources updated and identify public areas for distribution/re-distribution. Contact newly elected public officials to inform about resources.
3. Continue outreach 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. Sponsor, promote and encourage free legal clinics across the state. Encourage expansion of clinics to include other issues, including expungements, debtor/creditor issues, housing.
5. Celebrate and promote Pro Bono Week. Promote MSATJC Pro Bono Toolkit to judges.
6. Submit proposals to national conferences as appropriate to promote the ATJ work and successes in Mississippi.

*Resource Development:*

1. Explore grant or other funding sources to sponsor law students participating in the MS Bar ATJ Committee's Rural Summer Clerkship Program.
2. Assist legal aid providers in grant applications as requested and determined eligible/available. Explore grant opportunities.
3. Determine whether other income generating events, like CLEs, might be used to supplement budget income to allow for additional projects and resources.
4. Work with law schools and stakeholders to investigate a Rural Practice Initiative that includes a stipend for attorneys in rural areas.

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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. Review MEC 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. Educate members of The Mississippi Bar on the Modest Means Directory and encourage participation.

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. Explore additional ways to encourage and promote the legal profession and to increase the number of attorneys staying in Mississippi as a whole and especially in rural areas in Mississippi. Continue Themis Law Camp in North Mississippi and encourage camps in other areas in the state. Promote the Law Camp Toolkit.
7. Develop flow charts and expand instruction sheets for cases for self-represented litigants. Review resources in Mississippi Judicial College's Bench Books for judges for content.