

# **VIRGINIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION**

## **Quarterly Report to the Supreme Court of Virginia**

**March 10, 2014**

The Virginia Access to Justice Commission submits this report in accordance with the order entered by the Supreme Court of Virginia on September 13, 2013. That order requires quarterly reports on Commission progress during the first two years of the Commission's existence.

The members of the Commission were appointed by the Chief Justice effective December 1, 2013. The Commission had its inaugural meeting on December 16, 2013, at the Supreme Court Building in Richmond. All members of the Commission were present.

At that meeting, the Commission members identified access needs in Virginia that the Commission could address, recommended and created committees, assigned tasks to the committees, and adopted rules of operation.

The committees, which may include individuals who are not members of the Commission, are: Judicial Education, chaired by Judge Tonya Henderson-Stith; Pro Se/Court Access, chaired by Judge Deborah V. Bryan; Pro Bono, chaired by George H. Hettrick; and Public Relations/Communications/Education, chaired by James V. Meath. Justice Goodwyn and John Whitfield, Commission co-chairs, will serve as ex-officio members of all committees. Commission members all chose at least one committee on which to serve.

Since the December Commission meeting, all of the committees have met to identify short- and long-term goals and potential committee members who are not Commission members. Several of these individuals have been invited and agreed to serve on committees. Additional invitations are expected in the near future.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2014, at the Supreme Court Building. At that time, each committee will report its progress to the Commission.