

VIRGINIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Annual Report to the Supreme Court of Virginia

2018

The Virginia Access to Justice Commission (“the Commission”) submits this annual report in accordance with the order entered by the Supreme Court of Virginia on September 13, 2013.

I. Meetings and Membership

The Commission met four times in 2018: March 12; June 8; October 12; and December 6, 2018. Chief Justice Donald W. Lemons reappointed five members of the Commission to serve three-year terms (from December 1, 2018 until November 30, 2021): Judge Deborah V. Bryan, Ms. Tara Casey, Mr. Chaz Haywood, Judge Mary Malveaux, and Mr. Scott Oostdyk.

Mr. James V. Meath, a founding member of the Commission and the Chair of the Outreach and Education Committee, did not seek reappointment. Nor did Mr. Larry Harley, also a founding member of the Commission. The Commission recognized and thanked Mr. Meath and Mr. Harley for their dedicated service at the Commission’s October 12, 2018, meeting.

Chief Justice Lemons appointed four new members to the Commission to serve three-year terms: Ms. Pamela Kestner, Deputy Director of Housing for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; Mr. Bryan Slaughter, Michie Hamlett; Mr. David Neumeyer, Virginia Legal Aid Society; and Ms. Crista Gantz, Director of Access to Legal Services, Virginia State Bar.

Mr. Mark Braley, Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, resigned his seat on the Commission in December 2018. Chief Justice Lemons appointed Karl Doss, Deputy Director of Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, to fill this seat on the Commission.

The Commission formed a leadership Committee comprised of the Committee chairs and Commission Co Chairs. The Committee has met four times in 2018, including two meetings with Chief Justice Lemons.

II. Amendments to the Commission’s Rules of Operation

At its meeting of June 8, 2018, the Commission adopted an addition to its Rules of Operation, providing guidance on the development and implementation of Commission projects. The rule is attached as Exhibit A.

III. Initiatives and Accomplishments

The Commission's key accomplishments in 2018 include the following:

- The Supreme Court of Virginia approved the Commission's proposal on voluntary reporting of pro bono service under Rule 6.1 on February 27, 2018, adding a new Paragraph 22 (effective December 1, 2018) to Part 6, Section IV of the Rules of Supreme Court of Virginia.
- On October 31, 2018, the Supreme Court of Virginia approved amendments to Rule 1:5 (effective January 1, 2019) to allow attorneys to make limited appearances in civil proceedings. The amendments are nearly identical to a proposal developed by the Commission's Pro Bono Committee and endorsed by the Commission on July 25, 2018.
- At its business meeting on December 5, 2018, the Supreme Court of Virginia approved a model policy for the use of portable electronic devices in courthouses and courtrooms. The model policy contains many of the same elements as the model policy developed by the Commission's Access for Self-Represented Litigants Committee ("SRL Committee") and endorsed by the Commission on December 7, 2017.

The Commission continued in 2018 to operate through its five existing committees: the SRL Committee; Judicial Education; Outreach and Education; Pro Bono; and the Pro Bono Coordinating Consortium. The committees engaged in strategic planning over the first three quarters of 2018. A list of Committee mission statements is attached as Exhibit B; a table showing committee *goals* in relation to Commission goals is attached as Exhibit C; and a table showing committee *projects* in relation to Commission goals is attached as Exhibit D. Additional specific work on the committees' strategic plans – identifying resources and timeframes – will await completion of the Commission's strategic planning process.

The Commission's *ad hoc* Strategic Planning Committee was very active both in supporting the committees' work and in structuring the Commission's strategic planning process, which culminated for the year in a three-hour strategic planning session on December 6, 2018. The session laid a strong foundation for further strategic planning tentatively scheduled for June 2019.

A. Self-Represented Litigants Committee

Administrative: The SRL Committee met five times in 2018: February 26, April 16, June 18, September 11, and November 5, 2018. Five Committee members accepted reappointment to a two-year term: Ms. Cheshire l'Anson Eveleigh; Professor Frederic Lederer; Mr. Daniel Rainey; Professor Roger Skalbeck; and Ms. Carolyn St. Clair. Mr. Jay Speer, Virginia Poverty Law Center,

declined reappointment to the SRL Committee, offering instead to serve on the Outreach and Education Committee. Judge Gino Williams has been appointed as Committee Vice Chair.

Strategic Planning: The Committee engaged in strategic planning over the course of its first three meetings in 2018, developing a mission statement (*To support, improve, and promote access to justice in Virginia for people not represented by a lawyer*), and identifying four goals to guide its work over the next two years: (i) provide guidance to help judges most effectively resolve cases involving SRLs; (ii) help SRLs navigate court processes and procedures; (iii) provide guidance to help clerks most effectively assist SRLs; and (iv) simplify court processes and procedures.

Projects: *Court forms* -The Committee continues to work on the forms automation project, which is being staffed primarily by the University of Richmond School of Law and the Virginia Poverty Law Center and funded by a Technology Initiative Grant awarded by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society. The forms on which the project currently is focusing are CC 1411, Application for change of name; DC 412, Warrant in Debt; DC 414, Warrant in Detinue; and DC 429, Tenant's Assertion and Complaint. In October, the Committee initiated a new project to organize Virginia court forms by topic area.

Court access - The Committee is working with the Center for Legal and Court Technology at the College of William & Mary School of Law to develop a video depicting how to obtain a protective order in general district court. The script has been completed; production of the video is anticipated to begin in 2019.

Alternative dispute resolution – At its November 2018, meeting, the Committee formed a subcommittee to explore projects associated with alternative dispute resolution and online dispute resolution. Subcommittee members include Ms. Blake Kavanagh, Mr. Dan Rainey, and Professor Fred Lederer, with staff support from Ms. Sally Campbell, Dispute Resolution Services Manager in the Office of the Executive Secretary.

B. Judicial Education Committee

Administrative: The Committee met four times: March 5, June 21, August 30, and November 8, 2018. The Committee welcomed three new members: Judge William D. Heatwole (ret.), Judge Junius P. Fulton, III, Judge, Circuit Court for the City of Norfolk, and Ms. Palma Pustilnik, Senior Staff Attorney & Director of Sexual Assault Advocacy Services, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society. Judge Marilynn Goss has been appointed as the Committee vice chair.

Strategic Planning: The Committee engaged in strategic planning over the course of its first three meetings, developing a mission statement (*To heighten court awareness of access to justice issues in the Commonwealth by identifying and promoting educational opportunities and developing materials and resources for Virginia's judiciary and clerks*), and identifying three goals to govern its work over the coming two years: (i) educate judges and clerks about access to justice issues; (ii) provide judges and clerks with specific tools to address SRL cases effectively; and (iii) support changes to courthouses to support SRL cases.

Projects: The Committee has received approval from the Commission to undertake three new projects. One project involves provision of guidance to judges on community service plans as a mechanism for satisfying court fines and costs. This project will be undertaken with deference to the role of the Legal Research Department in the Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia. A second project involves integrating the practice points relating to self-represented litigants now contained in the District Court Bench Book into the Circuit Court Bench Book as a checklist. A draft has been prepared and is expected to be supplied to the Bench Book Committee by February 2019. A third project involves supplying guidance (in the form of bench cards) regarding implementation of Supreme Court Rule 1:24 and Virginia Code provisions governing payment of court fines and costs. This project is not yet in development.

The Committee has supplied a list of conference topics to the Judicial Education Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia. The Committee is developing an organizational mechanism for identifying training opportunities (e.g., conferences) and the associated timeframes within which action must be taken for a session to be included in a given agenda.

C. Outreach and Education Committee

Administrative: The Committee met two times in 2018: May 17, and September 5. Ms. Katherine Mitchell, Vice President of Community Engagement, the Community Idea Stations, accepted reappointment to a two-year term on the Committee, and Ms. Crista Gantz accepted appointment to a two-year term. Mr. Ray White assumed the Chairmanship with the departure of Mr. Meath. Mr. Henry Willet was appointed as Vice Chair.

Strategic Planning: The Committee developed a mission statement: *To support access to justice in the Commonwealth by promoting awareness amongst the judiciary, the bar, and the general public regarding the justice gap and the Commission's efforts to close it.* In light of its dynamic position within the Commission, however, as an entity responsive to the Commission and its Committees, the Committee postponed further work on strategic planning pending the Commission's development of a strategic plan.

Projects. The Committee worked with the Virginia Law Foundation to complete a video promoting pro bono services. The video depicts lawyers who have provided and clients who have received pro bono legal assistance, along with commentary from others in the legal community. The video includes commentary from Chief Justice Lemons and Justice Goodwyn. It is anticipated to be in final form for release by February 2019.

The Committee's proposed addition to the Commission's Rules of Operation, addressing how projects are approved and developed, was approved by the Commission at its June 8, 2018, meeting. The Committee's communications template (an alternative to a comprehensive communications plan) was approved by the Commission at its October 12, 2018, meeting. The template is intended to guide communications over the next year as the Commission develops and begins to implement its strategic plan. The Committee will revisit the communications issue in

the summer and fall of 2019, with the intention of developing a comprehensive communications plan for consideration by the Commission in December 2019.

The Committee anticipates seeking Commission approval of the following projects in 2019: developing additional videos celebrating pro bono service; assisting with implementation of the limited appearance provisions in Court Rule 1:5 (approved effective January 1, 2019); assisting with implementation of the voluntary reporting of pro bono service; and disseminating the Commission report “Perceptions of Self-Represented Litigation in Virginia” once it has been finalized. The Committee also plans to develop a mentorship project to support increased provision of pro bono service, using an approach in which one mentor works with multiple mentees.

D. Pro Bono Committee

Administrative: The Committee met four times in 2018: January 31, April 12, August 9, and November 20, 2018. Mr. George Hettrick declined reappointment to the Committee due to his retirement from legal practice. Justice McCullough accepted reappointment to a two-year term, and Ms. Crista Gantz and Ms. Regis N. Rice, Law Office of Rice, Paige, Pandya & Gregg, accepted appointments to two-year terms.

Strategic Planning: The Committee engaged in strategic planning over the course of its first three meetings, developing a mission statement (*To support access to justice in the Commonwealth by informing, educating, inspiring, and mobilizing Virginia lawyers to provide pro bono services to those in need*), and identifying four goals to guide its work over the coming two years: (i) audit Court rules and Virginia State Bar (“VSB”) policies to identify barriers to and opportunities for provision of pro bono services; (ii) promote more systematic data collection and analysis to assess the provision of pro bono services; (iii) increase the number of attorneys providing, and the number and amount of pro bono hours and financial contributions made to qualified legal services providers; and (iv) identify and promote model practices in pro bono service that can be replicated statewide.

Projects. In 2017, the Committee developed the Commission’s proposal on *voluntary reporting of pro bono service* as part of the annual bar license renewal application. The Supreme Court of Virginia approved the proposal on February 27, 2018, thereby adding a new Paragraph 22 (effective December 1, 2018) to Part 6, Section IV of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia that provides guidance relative to voluntary reporting requirements associated with pro bono service under Court Rule 6.1. Throughout 2018, the Committee has worked with the VSB to address implementation of the new voluntary reporting requirements.

The Committee also developed the Commission’s recommendations relative to proposed changes to Rule 1:5, intended to allow attorneys to make *limited appearances in civil proceedings*. On October 31, 2018, the Supreme Court of Virginia approved a proposal nearly identical to the Commission’s proposal, with an effective date of January 1, 2019. The Committee anticipates continuing to work on this matter in 2019, primarily in educating attorneys regarding the provisions.

The Commission approved the Committee's proposal for *replication of the 25th Judicial Circuit pilot project*. Chief Justice Lemons agreed to participate in the new projects, and recruitment is underway in six additional judicial circuits across the Commonwealth.

E. Pro Bono Coordinating Consortium

Administrative: The Consortium met five times in 2018: February 22, April 26, June 26, August 28, and December 18, 2018. A special subcommittee of the Consortium met on August 21, 2018, to address strategic planning. Ms. Tanishka Cruz, formerly of the Legal Aid Justice Center, and Ms. Ann-Lewis Shaw, former executive director of Good Samaritan Advocates, are no longer members of the Consortium due to their departure from those positions. Mr. Patrick Kenney, Roanoke Bar Association, also is no longer a member of the Consortium. Mr. Brian Slaughter, President of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, accepted appointment to the Consortium.

Strategic Planning: The Consortium engaged in strategic planning, developing a mission statement (*To support access to justice in the Commonwealth by nurturing an environment that promotes the provision of pro bono services and information as a critical function of legal practice*), and identifying three goals to guide its work over the next two years: (i) communicate within the Consortium to encourage collaboration among providers, and facilitate the effective use of resources; (ii) inform the public about available pro bono resources; and (iii) inform active attorneys and retired members of the VSB about pro bono service, resources, and training opportunities.

Projects. In 2018, the Consortium continued to focus on facilitating information sharing and collaboration among pro bono service providers and coordinating pro bono training and associated activities of the VSB, the Virginia Bar Association, local bar groups, and specialty bars.

F. Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

Administrative: The Committee met three times in 2018: February 28, June 4, and September 10, 2018. The Committee's membership is unchanged, and comprised of Commission members Ms. Gail Warren, Chair, Judge Daniel Ortiz, Mr. Karl Doss, Ms. Tara Casey, and Mr. Ray White.

Strategic Planning: As an ad hoc committee focused on strategic Commission operations, the Committee did not undertake strategic planning.

Projects: The Committee generally oversaw the strategic planning undertaken in each of the Committees, and in the Commission. In the course of that work, the Committee identified a number of other issues, and the Commission eventually approved several Committee recommendations at its March 12, 2018 meeting, resulting in the following developments.

The Committee recommended that the Commission *hold one regular meeting annually at a Virginia law school* at which student and local bar involvement would be solicited, including

information regarding the local bar's pro bono awardees. The Commission's March 27, 2019, meeting will be held at Regent University Law School in Virginia Beach.

The Committee recommended that the Commission direct staff to establish regular telephone meetings four to six times a year among the Committee Chairs and Commission co-chairs to discuss strategic planning, Committee initiatives, succession planning, and other issues. The Commission's *leadership committee* was formed in response to this recommendation, and met four times in 2018.

The Committee recommended use of *written committee reports* and a corresponding diminishment in spoken reports. Written committee reports have been available in the packages for three of the four Commission meetings in 2018.

The Committee recommended that the Commission direct staff to prepare an *overview of the status of Commission and Committee membership and develop recommended processes for position recruitment and succession planning* at both the Commission and Committee levels for consideration by the Committee chairs and approval by the Commission. Related, the Committee recommended that the Commission direct staff to work with the Committees to *identify areas of expertise needed in Committee members*, and to *develop expectations for Committee and Commission membership*, to be expressed both in discussions with Commission and Committee candidates, and in orientation for new members. The overview of membership status has been prepared and circulated; additional work on recruitment and succession will be initiated in 2019.

The Committee had thought that its mandate might be complete with implementation of the Commission's strategic planning session on December 6, 2018. However, because the Commission has decided to hold an additional strategic planning session at its June 2019 meeting, the Committee expects to continue operating in its current form, although it eventually may request that the Commission authorize its transition to a "Governance Committee" designed to support the work of the Commission's leadership and address succession planning and other operational issues.

IV. Conclusion

The Commission's first meeting in 2019 will be held on March 27, 2019, at the Regent University Law School in Virginia Beach. The Commission will have a regular work session in the morning, followed by an afternoon session featuring local law firms, bar associations, and legal aid organizations discussing pro bono service and other issues relating to access to justice. Additional meetings for 2019 will be scheduled at that time.

EXHIBIT A: Additional Rule of Operation

To be added as item 5., to Rules of Operation (as amended September 22, 2017)

5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

a. Project Development

1. The Commission may undertake projects outside the framework of its existing Committees.
2. Committees will report to the Commission at each of its quarterly meetings. Reports will describe key issues under consideration in the Committee, and provide updates on existing Committee projects and initial descriptions of proposed projects. Initial descriptions may be in written or spoken form.
3. Proposed amendments to Rules of Court, model policies for courts, legislation, reports on various access to justice issues, and resolutions are included as projects.
4. The initial description of any proposed project will identify the project type, purpose, and timeframe for development, and the potential stakeholders – including departments and offices within the Office of the Executive Secretary (“OES”), the Virginia State Bar (“VSB”), or Virginia Bar Association (“VBA”) – to be invited to participate in or kept apprised of the Committee’s work. An assessment of any key issues may be included with the initial description or requested, as well as a description of preliminary work undertaken by the Committee. The initial description also may describe a tailored communications strategy.
 - i. For any resolution, the description should identify the audience for the resolution, and the way in which the resolution will be disseminated.
 - ii. For any proposed model policy, the description should identify the entities that may be affected by the policy and their anticipated concerns.
5. The Commission may endorse the project, may recommend postponement, may ask the Committee for further refinement of the project, or otherwise inform the Committee as to how to proceed.
6. Commission staff shall immediately after each Commission meeting prepare a summary for the Commission Co-Chairs, copied to Commission and Committee members, that

describes Committee projects and Commission action on those projects, and describes key issues under consideration in Committees.

b. Project Implementation

1. Committees will establish formal processes for engaging the participation of stakeholders, if any, identified in the initial project description.
2. The Outreach and Education Committee will develop protocols to engage identified stakeholders in the work of the Commission and its Committees.
3. Committees may report on project progress by progress reports.
4. Completed projects may be presented by way of a final project report or other communication to the Commission.
5. Commission staff will prepare templates for initial project descriptions, progress reports, and final project reports, and will review any project reports and provide input regarding compliance with Virginia law, the Rules of Court, and other applicable authority to ensure legal sufficiency.
6. The Commission may vote as necessary on certain final project reports.
7. The Commission may determine that some final project reports endorsed by the Commission may require approval of the Supreme Court of Virginia ("Court") before dissemination. Those that do will be transmitted to the Court by the voting Co-Chair in written or video form.
8. Project reports that the Commission intends to supply to other entities for their consideration and action will be sent under cover of a letter indicating whether the Commission has requested Court approval of the project report.
9. Additional information regarding specific types of project reports follow.

Project Reports re amendments to Court Rules

- i. The Commission anticipates the following entities, depending on the Court rule at issue, may be invited to participate as stakeholders:
 - Revisions to Court Rules in Part One, Part Two, Part Three through Part Five A, Section III of Part Six, and Part Seven through Part Eight: the chair of the Advisory

Committee on Rules of Court; the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee (for proposed revisions to Section III of Part Six); and the Director of Legal Research in the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia ("OES").

- Revisions to Sections in Part Six other than Section III: the respective chairs of the VSB's Special Committee on Access to Legal Services; the VBA's Pro Bono Council; and the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia.
 - Revisions to Part Nine: the chair of the Judicial Performance Evaluation ("JPE") Program Advisory Committee; and the Assistant Executive Secretary and Counsel, and the JPE Director in OES.
 - Revisions to Part Ten (Provision of Legal Service Following Determination of Major Disaster): Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Virginia.
 - Revisions to the Medical Malpractice Rules of Practice: the Assistant Executive Secretary and Counsel in OES.
- ii. Once a final draft of a proposed amendment to Court Rules has been submitted to the Court, the Commission's involvement shall cease, unless the Commission (at its request or otherwise) is invited to submit comments.

Project Reports re Legislation

- i. The Commission may identify changes to the Code of Virginia that would support access to justice initiatives. Committee recommendations for legislation shall be submitted to the Commission for consideration for the following legislative year no later than at the Commission's second meeting of the year. For example, recommendations for legislation to be considered in the 2019 legislative session would need to be submitted by June 2018.
- ii. If conceptually endorsed by the Commission at that time, staff shall prepare draft legislation which shall be placed before the Commission at its third meeting of the year.
- iii. If endorsed, the legislative proposal may be submitted by the voting co-chair to the Court, with a request that, if the legislation appears acceptable, it be sent to the OES Director of Legislative and Public Relations for processing within that office's established procedures. Once submitted to the Court, the Commission's involvement with the draft legislation shall cease, except the Commission may identify any legislation accepted for the Court's legislative package in the Annual Report.
- iv. Individual members may comment on any draft legislation pending before the General Assembly, but only in their individual capacity, albeit informed by their membership in the Commission.

c. Commission Reports to the Supreme Court of Virginia

1. The Commission will submit its Annual Report to the Supreme Court of Virginia by December 31st.
2. All communications to the Court will be directed to the Chief Justice and copied to the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Exhibit B: Access to Justice Commission and Committee **Mission Statements**

Commission Mission Statement - 2013

The Virginia Access to Justice Commission shall promote equal access to justice, with particular emphasis on the civil legal needs of Virginia residents.

Committee Mission Statements - 2018

Mission Statement of the Commission's Judicial Education Committee

To heighten court awareness of access to justice issues in the Commonwealth by identifying and promoting educational opportunities and developing materials and resources for Virginia's judiciary and clerks.

Mission Statement of the Commission's Outreach & Education Committee

To support access to justice in the Commonwealth by promoting awareness amongst the judiciary, the bar, and the general public regarding the justice gap and the Commission's efforts to close it.

Mission Statement of the Commission's Pro Bono Committee

To support access to justice in the Commonwealth by informing, educating, inspiring, and mobilizing Virginia lawyers to provide pro bono services to those in need.

Mission Statement of the Commission's Pro Bono Coordinating Consortium

To support access to justice in the Commonwealth by nurturing an environment that promotes the provision of pro bono services and information as a critical function of legal practice.

Mission Statement of the Commission's SRL Committee

To support, improve, and promote access to justice in Virginia for people not represented by a lawyer.

EXHIBIT C. COMMITTEE GOALS SUPPORTIVE OF COMMISSION GOALS: 2016-2018

	COMMISSION GOALS 1-8 (detailed on page 2)							
COMMITTEE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Judicial Education		Educate judges and clerks about ATJ issues	Support changes to courthouses to facilitate SRL cases				Provide judges and clerks with specific tools to address SRL cases effectively	
SRL		Provide guidance to help judges most effectively resolve cases involving SRLs	Help SRLs navigate court processes and procedures Provide guidance to help clerks most effectively assist SRLs				Simplify court processes and procedures	
Pro Bono			Audit Court rules and VSB policies to identify barriers and opportunities to provision of pro bono services	Promote more systematic data collection and analysis to assess the provision of pro bono services	Increase the number of attorneys providing, and the number and amount of pro bono hours and financial contributions made to QLSPs			Identify and promote model practices in pro bono service that can be replicated statewide
PBCC	Communicate within Consortium to encourage collaboration among providers, and facilitate the effective use of resources		Inform the public about available pro bono resources	Inform active attorneys and retired members of the VSB about pro bono service, resources, and training opportunities				

Commission Goals

(established in 2013 Supreme Court of Virginia order creating Commission)

1. Coordinate ATJ activities in Virginia.
2. Actively engage the Supreme Court of Virginia, together with Virginia's judiciary at all levels throughout the Commonwealth, in enhancing equal access to justice.
3. Identify barriers to obtaining needed legal services, and develop solutions.
4. Mobilize legal professionals in closing the justice gap by increasing awareness of the importance of access to justice and the legal community's obligation to help provide it.
5. Mobilize legal professionals in closing the justice gap by promoting universal participation among the legal community in providing pro bono publico services, particularly for low income individuals, and transforming legal culture/expectations about doing so.
6. Mobilize legal professionals in closing the justice gap by engaging Virginia's law schools in access to justice issues to inculcate a culture of pro bono service among Virginia's newest lawyers while harnessing their time, talents and energy as a part of their formal legal education to assist in the effort of closing the justice gap for Virginia's underserved.
7. Encourage development of auxiliary resources (such as low-literacy legal information, simpler court forms, technological aids, etc.) for underserved populations.
8. Strengthen delivery of civil legal services through Virginia's legal aid societies and other pro bono initiatives and nonprofit legal services entities.

EXHIBIT D. COMMITTEE PROJECTS SUPPORTIVE OF COMMISSION GOALS: 2016- 2018

Items marked in italics are current projects that have not been completed; other items have been completed.

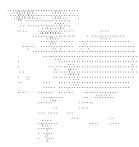
	COMMISSION GOALS 1-8 (detailed on page 2)							
COMMITTEE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Judicial Education		Judicial conference topics Practice points published in District Court Benchbook & in <i>Circuit Court Benchbook</i> <i>Guidance on Rule 1:24 community service plans</i>	Promoting installation of I-CAN! terminals					
SRL		Model policy on personal electronic devices Report on Perceptions of SRL in Virginia	Distribution of ATJ posters, bookmark, and business cards. Self-help Web portal <i>Protective order video</i> <i>Input on Justice Index</i>				<i>Virginia Court Form Automation Project under aegis of the University of Richmond School of Law</i> <i>Organizing court forms by topic</i>	
Pro Bono		Modifications to the Canons of Judicial Conduct re judges' actions relative to pro bono service	Developed proposed rule on limited scope representation		Pt. 6, Sect. IV provisions for voluntary pro bono reporting Circuit-based pro bono initiative Emeritus rule			

	COMMISSION GOALS 1-8 (detailed on page 2)							
COMMITTEE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					Limited scope appearance rule			
PBCC			Distribution of "Free & Low Cost Legal Resources" pamphlet	Creation of shared calendar and list serve				
Outreach & Education	Design Cmsn Logo & letter-head		Development of ATJ posters, bookmark, and business cards.	Presentations on ATJ issues <i>Videos promoting pro bono service</i> Public Service Announcements <i>Pro bono mentorship program – new attorneys will "shadow" attorneys providing pro bono service</i>	CLE Portal providing access to free CLE courses for attorneys providing pro bono services			

Commission Goals

(established in 2013 Supreme Court of Virginia order creating Commission)

1. Coordinate ATJ activities in Virginia.
2. Actively engage the Supreme Court of Virginia, together with Virginia's judiciary at all levels throughout the Commonwealth, in enhancing equal access to justice.
3. Identify barriers to obtaining needed legal services, and develop solutions.



4. Mobilize legal professionals in closing the justice gap by increasing awareness of the importance of access to justice and the legal community's obligation to help provide it.
5. Mobilize legal professionals in closing the justice gap by promoting universal participation among the legal community in providing pro bono publico services, particularly for low income individuals, and transforming legal culture/expectations about doing so.
6. Mobilize legal professionals in closing the justice gap by engaging Virginia's law schools in access to justice issues to inculcate a culture of pro bono service among Virginia's newest lawyers while harnessing their time, talents and energy as a part of their formal legal education to assist in the effort of closing the justice gap for Virginia's underserved.
7. Encourage development of auxiliary resources (such as low-literacy legal information, simpler court forms, technological aids, etc.) for underserved populations.
8. Strengthen delivery of civil legal services through Virginia's legal aid societies and other pro bono initiatives and nonprofit legal services entities.