

Supreme Court of Kentucky

AMENDED ORDER

2018-09

RE: Establishment of Kentucky Access to Justice Commission

Purpose. The Kentucky Access to Justice Commission (KAJC) is created in recognition of the need to expand access to civil legal representation to safeguard the fundamental right to justice and fairness for people of low and moderate income in Kentucky.

Authority. Section 109 of the Kentucky Constitution establishes the Court of Justice, and Section 110 vests in the Chief Justice the duty and responsibility to perform all necessary administrative functions relating to the Courts of this Commonwealth. Section 14 of the Kentucky Constitution further ensures open and speedy access to our court system.

Membership. The Commission will consist of 5 – 15 appointed members and, as necessary to the work of the Commission, ex-officio members. Members shall be residents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It is desirable that the composition of the Commission be diverse and inclusive. The Chief Justice or designee will serve as Chairperson of the Commission.

Responsibilities. The Commission is charged with the following goals, purposes and responsibilities:

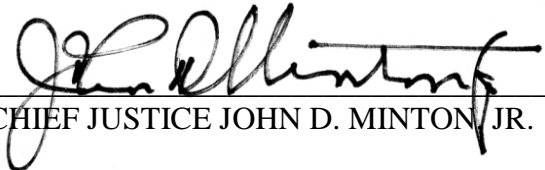
1. Identify the current and future needs of the legal services community in providing access to justice to low and moderate-income people living in Kentucky;
2. Develop and establish a strategic statewide plan for delivery of legal services to low and moderate-income people living in Kentucky;
3. Develop strategies to increase resources and funding for access to justice in civil legal matters and to make recommendations to appropriate entities to ensure that the resources and funding are applied to the areas and organizations having the greatest need;

4. Work to improve funding, resources, support, development and delivery of civil legal services to low and moderate-income people living in Kentucky;
5. Assist in increasing access to the justice system through use of pro bono volunteer lawyers, self-representation and limited scope representation;
6. Expand the delivery, support and development of civil legal aid through collaboration with committed government leaders, and increase public education on the justice system, civil legal aid and the positive impact of both on society;
7. Work to reduce barriers to the justice system by addressing existing or proposed court rules, procedures and policies that affect access to the justice for low and moderate-income people living in Kentucky;
8. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the statewide justice delivery system and those organizations providing services in the justice system and work collaboratively to increase the effectiveness;
9. Report and make recommendations to the Supreme Court concerning access to the justice system for low and moderate-income people living in Kentucky;

Bylaws. The Commission shall establish bylaws and other internal operating procedures pertinent to its responsibilities and may appoint committees to assist in its work.

Review. The Commission will submit an annual written report to the Supreme Court, subject to more frequent reporting as required by the Supreme Court or the Commission's bylaws. The Supreme Court will review and evaluate the work of the Commission on an annual basis.

Entered this 6th day of June 2018.


CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN D. MINTON, JR.