



NEVADA SUPREME COURT ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Know Before You Go! Serving on the Access to Justice Commission

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Equal justice under law is an American ideal, but for those with low incomes representing themselves in court, the results can be less than fair. Access to Justice Commissions in all 50 states work to help deliver on the promise of justice for *ALL*, regardless of wealth, power, or status.

Mission: *To improve access to civil (not criminal) justice for people of limited means in Nevada*

Purpose:

- Assess current and future needs for civil legal services
- Develop statewide polices to support and improve civil legal service delivery
- Improve self-help services and increase pro bono activities
- Increase public awareness of the impact access to justice has on government and society
- Investigate and pursue increased public and private financing supporting civil legal services
- Recommend legislation or rules affecting access to justice to the Nevada Supreme Court

Your Commitment:

Attend Meetings

When: The full Commission typically meets three times per year - March, June & November

Where: Videoconference sites include Carson City, Elko, Las Vegas & Reno, also conference call

Length: Typically two hours

Preparation: Meeting materials are sent in advance of the meeting

Participate in Committee Activities, as agreed

Sample Commission Committees may include:

Publicity, Nominating, Policy, Fundraising, Legislative, Pro Bono, Survey, IOLTA, etc.

Time Commitments beyond Commission Meetings, if participating on a Committee

Activities vary but generally may include 2-4 conference calls/meetings each year to coordinate Commission initiatives. Committee Chairs generally spend 1-2 hours every month or two on Commission activities. General Commission members may have a call or spend a few minutes every few months on activities.

Other Responsibilities

Members are also asked to act as advocates in support of providing civil legal resources for persons of limited means in Nevada. These are often the working poor, including those employed by major organizations. This includes describing the stresses placed on government, the judiciary and society by self-represented litigants, as well as the benefits following increased



service delivery, including to employers. Additionally, Commission members should report back to affiliated organizations (if applicable) on the work of the Commission, and educate those within their sphere of influence on access to justice.

Members are responsible for actively staying informed regarding issues affecting the provision of civil legal services to those of limited means on the national and state level.

About the Commission:

Nevada Supreme Court Rule 15 provides for the creation of the Commission. The governing body is led by the Chief Justice or the Chief Justice’s designate/ees and is composed by one or more members from the following categories: judges, public attorney, core legal aid provider organizations, Nevada Bar Foundation, Clark County Bar Association, State Bar of Nevada, Washoe County Bar Association, Public Interest Law Association, UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, those outside the legal profession, and at-large representatives. Others may also be appointed to the Commission.

“This court agrees with...the importance of access to justice in a democratic society...” and “...the critical need for statewide strategic planning and coordination of efforts to expand services and improve access to justice...”

Agenda and materials are forthcoming for review regarding issues currently before the Commission.

Welcome!