

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**DELAWARE SUPREME COURT ESTABLISHES
DELAWARE ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION**

The Delaware Supreme Court entered an Order on November 13, 2013 establishing a Delaware Access to Justice Commission effective as of January 1, 2014. The Commission, established for an initial two-year period, is charged with providing a coordinated approach to investigating and addressing gaps and critical needs related to access to justice in Delaware. The Commission was established based on recommendations issued by the Access to Justice Exploratory Committee in its Report to the Supreme Court on November 6, 2013. The Exploratory Committee, which was convened by Justice Jack B. Jacobs, on behalf of the Delaware Supreme Court, included representatives from the Courts, Delaware State Bar Association, legal services organizations and others.

States across the nation have created Access to Justice Commissions to identify barriers impeding access to justice for low to moderate income persons. These Commissions have developed coordinated and comprehensive approaches to eliminate these hurdles. The accomplishments achieved by Access to Justice Commissions have been recognized nationally, including by the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators. Members of the Delaware Access to Justice Commission will be appointed by the Supreme Court and include representatives from each of the courts, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Public Defender, the Delaware State Bar Association, the Delaware Bar Foundation, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Inc., the Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, Inc., the State Court Administrator, and other community stakeholders.

Justice Jacobs stated: "I, and the other members of the Supreme Court, are grateful for the work that has been accomplished in Delaware on access to justice initiatives in the past. We look forward to supporting the efforts of the Access to Justice Commission in Delaware, which we believe will offer a great opportunity to address outstanding access to justice issues in Delaware in a comprehensive manner."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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