



Committee on Equal Justice

Rules Review Subcommittee

Public Meeting Workgroup

Notice of Committee on Equal Justice, Rules Review Subcommittee Open Public Input Meetings

Mondays and Wednesdays

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

June – July 2021

On June 9, 2020 Chief Judge Barbera issued a *Statement on Equal Justice* and the Judicial Council's Committee on Equal Justice was formed. The purpose of the Committee on Equal Justice is to build upon the knowledge and proficiencies of judges and Judiciary personnel to strengthen the Judiciary's commitment to equal justice under law for all. Its scope is to ensure the increased knowledge and understanding of judges and Judiciary personnel regarding ethnic disparities, discrimination and systemic racism, including implicit bias (both conscious and unconscious), micro-inequities, and micro-aggressions. The Committee will make recommendations on strategies to educate and dismantle any discriminatory behaviors¹ toward others in all aspects of the Judiciary's functions. The Committee will suggest areas of improvement, resources, support services, educational opportunities, and develop training curriculum for on-going Judiciary-wide engagement in the pursuit of equality, fair and impartial justice for all.

The Maryland Judiciary's Equal Justice Committee, Rules Review Subcommittee, will hold several open public input meetings virtually, using the platform Zoom. The purpose of these meetings is to identify Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure that, in language or application, raise equal justice concerns or that affect people and communities of color or members of disadvantaged communities differently or disproportionately. These meetings will be recorded listening sessions. During these meetings, members of the public will be able to explain their observations of discriminatory or implicit bias they have recognized or observed in relation to Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rules and circumstances that raise or contribute to these concerns, any supporting examples and data, and proposals for appropriate revisions to the Maryland Rules. The names and date of each meeting are as follows:

1. Landlord/Tenant – June 14
2. Civil Procedure – June 16
3. Domestic Violence/Protective Orders – June 21
4. Admission to the Bar and Ethics – June 23
5. Criminal Procedure – June 28

¹ Discriminatory behaviors include, but are not limited to, those negative behaviors based upon race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability status, citizenship status, or income status

6. Pattern Jury Instructions – June 30
7. Divorce – July 7
8. Guardianship – July 12
9. Child Custody – July 14
10. Evidence – July 19
11. Probate/Estate Law – July 26
12. Juvenile Delinquency and CINA – July 28

Each of these meetings will be devoted to a particular area of law or practice. A registration link will be sent to members of the bar and the public and posted on MDCourts.gov at least two weeks prior to each meeting. Please email ejcrulesreview@mdcourts.gov to ensure that you receive the Zoom link prior to the meeting time. If you have any comments related to a particular topic, you may e-mail it to ejcrulesreview@mdcourts.gov no later than 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. Your comments will be distributed to the members of the Subcommittee prior to the meeting.