

Report from Standing Committee on Self-Represented Litigants to the Access to Justice Commission December 9, 2016

Update on Standing Committee: The Committee met in October 2016. The Committee continues to move forward on several areas they were working on prior including the following:

- **Forms Sub-Committee:** The revised forms for dissolution with children continue to be piloted in Gallatin County, though they have not been used for long enough to generate any feedback from self-represented litigants at this time. Nolan conducted an in-person training on the forms in Bozeman in mid-September. A follow-up virtual training was completed in October which focused on use of the forms as well as the role the Self-Help Centers can play in helping litigants with the forms. MLSA, with grant funding, is automating the forms and in-house testing is underway. MLSA will soon be moving to end-user testing of the automated forms.

The Forms Sub-Committee will continue to work off an MSLA inventory that identified existing forms that need editing and/or updating to be consistent with statute and rules, particularly as it relates to privacy.

Education & Outreach Sub-Committee: Nolan became the new Chair of the sub-committee. Nolan suggested the work of this sub-committee would dovetail nicely with the work of the SHLC, which the other Committee members agreed. The Education and Outreach Sub-Committee will get together to discuss a path forward that integrates the Committee's strategic plan with the educational materials and needs Nolan has identified at the SHLC.

- **Legislative Changes Sub-Committee:** At the October meeting, it was determined that, based on a directive from the Commission at the September meeting, the Committee will review and tailor the legislative changes of its Strategic Plan to fit the directive at the next in-person meeting.
- **Proposed Standardized Fee Waiver Form:** No update at this time.
- **New Members and Next Meeting:** The Committee has lost a significant amount of members in the last few years and is seeking new members, specifically court clerks on all levels as well as any interested judges. The next meeting will be in January and meeting date and time will be announced shortly.