



Supreme Court of Illinois

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT SIMPLIFIED NAME CHANGE FORMS

The Access to Justice Commission announced on Wednesday that it is seeking public comment on simplified forms intended to aid in increasing access to justice for litigants involved in civil cases throughout Illinois.

The Forms Committee, one of the seven standing committees established by the Commission, seeks public comment on proposed name-change forms and instructions. The forms and information can be found on the Supreme Court's website at <http://www.IllinoisCourts.gov/Forms/forms.asp>. On the website, comments for each proposed form can be submitted electronically on that page through a direct link.

The 45-day public comment period for the simplified name-change forms and instructions begins October 9 and will end on November 23, 2013.

Afterward, the Forms Committee will consider the feedback, make any needed changes and approve the final forms. Once finalized, the forms will be available for use by litigants either in an interactive electronic or paper format that must be accepted in all judicial circuits in Illinois.

In November 2012, the Supreme Court adopted Rule 10-101 that authorizes the Commission to establish a process to create standardized and legally sufficient forms using "plain language" for areas of law where the Commission determines that there is a high volume of *pro se* litigants.

According to Danielle E. Hirsch, executive director of the Access to Justice Commission, drafts of other simplified forms in the areas of divorce, expungement, sealing, procedural forms and orders of protection will be posted to the website for public comment in the coming weeks.

Appellate Justice Mary K. Rochford and Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation Managing Attorney Michael A. Fiello serves as co-chair the Forms Committee that is comprised of more than 60 volunteers spanning the entire legal and judicial spectrum.

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Based on the recommendation of Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, the Supreme Court announced the formation of the Access to Justice Commission in June 2012 with the goal of removing barriers and increasing the ease of interacting with courts by those persons who can't afford lawyers to represent their interests and needs.

The Commission is comprised of 11 persons, seven of whom are appointed by the Supreme Court. The Illinois Bar Foundation, the Chicago Bar Foundation, the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois and the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation appoint one member each. Jeffrey D. Colman, partner at the Chicago firm of Jenner & Block, serves as the Commission's chair. Commission members also serve as volunteers.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, director of communications to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323; or Danielle Hirsch, executive director of the Access to Justice Commission, at 312.793.2014)