When we say the Pledge of Allegiance, we close with “justice for all.”

The Maryland Access to Justice Commission exists to fulfill that promise.

The Maryland Access to Justice Commission works to break down barriers in the civil justice system. One potent solution to ensuring fairness in the system is providing civil legal aid. Civil legal aid makes it possible to access legal information, advice or representation when faced with a civil legal problem. We need programs like civil legal aid to ensure that the very principle our founding fathers envisioned remains alive:

Justice for all, not the few who can afford it.

In FY 2022*, there were...

165,878 filings in the criminal justice system

614,756 filings in the civil justice system

Types of cases in the civil justice system:

• Housing
• Veterans
• Employment
• Consumer
• Natural Disasters
• Immigration
• Public Benefits
• Domestic Violence
• Family Law
• Expungement
• Opiod

Yet defendants in civil legal cases have NO LEGAL RIGHT to an appointed attorney if they cannot afford one.

*excluding Motor Vehicle cases

there were 2.21 in 2021 vs 5.2 in 2023 attorneys per 10,000 low-income Marylanders

40 attorneys per 10,000 Marylanders of the general population
Ensuring access to justice saves lives, protects families, streamlines our courts, promotes economic growth and saves tax-payer dollars.

Every $1 of public money invested in civil legal aid on the front end saves $6 of public expenditure on the back end.

Success rate in an eviction case

83% with legal representation
32% without legal representation

Success rate in a protective order case

94% with legal representation
32% without legal representation

Who We Are
The Maryland Access to Justice Commission (A2JC) is an independent entity that unites leaders to drive reforms and innovations to make the civil justice system accessible, equitable and fair for all Marylanders. We are powered by the Maryland State Bar Association.

Why We Exist
In Maryland, 80% of the people who need help with a civil legal problem don't receive it. Marylanders do not get the civil legal help they need because...

- They do not identify their problem as “legal”
- They do not know where to look for help
- They cannot afford an attorney

A2JC unites high-level leaders from all parts of the legal profession, including:
Government • Academia • Private Practice • Civil Legal Aid Organizations • Corporations
Courts • State Bar • Funders • Legislators
We are stronger together.

To learn more and find citations, visit www.mdaccessstojustice.org