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February 5, 2026

TIM FREILICH TO SUCCEED JOHN WHITFIELD AS CO-CHAIR OF THE VIRGINIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

RICHMOND, VA - The Supreme Court of Virginia today announced the appointment of Tim Freilich, Executive Director of Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, as Co-Chair of the Virginia Access to Justice Commission. Mr. Freilich succeeds John Whitfield, whose term as Co-Chair concluded on November 30, 2025. Mr. Freilich will serve alongside Justice Stephen R. McCullough in advancing its mission to improve access to the civil justice system for all Virginians. The Virginia Access to Justice Commission was established by order of the Supreme Court of Virginia on September 13, 2013, and promotes equal access to justice, with particular emphasis on the civil legal needs of Virginia residents.

The Supreme Court expressed its appreciation for Mr. Whitfield's service and leadership and for his contributions to the Commission's work over the course of his tenure. Mr. Whitfield was a founding member of the Commission and served as Co-Chair since 2013, providing leadership from its inception and contributing to the establishment of its structure, priorities, and operations. Mr. Whitfield's work on the Commission drew on his more than forty years of work at Blue Ridge Legal Aid as a law clerk, staff attorney, supervising attorney, and Executive Director and Counsel. During Mr. Whitfield's tenure and with the benefit of his experience and expertise, the Commission enhanced communication and coordination among legal aid organizations, the private bar, and the judiciary; established and administered an annual pro bono recognition program to acknowledge contributions by attorneys making substantial contributions to pro bono; encouraged creation of and supported local access to justice committees throughout the Commonwealth; and promoted education and outreach for judges and court clerks statewide on access to justice issues, including the needs of self-represented litigants.

As Executive Director of Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, Mr. Freilich leads the statewide organization that supports and coordinates Virginia's legal aid programs. Mr. Freilich has a breadth of experience in community service, having previously served as the Executive Director of Madison House (a non-profit that coordinates volunteer efforts out of the University of Virginia), and as a Managing Attorney and Legal Director with the Legal Aid Justice Center. The Supreme Court expressed its appreciation to Mr. Freilich for his willingness to serve and looks forward to his contributions to the Commission's ongoing work.

More information about the Virginia Access to Justice Commission is available at <https://www.vacourts.gov/programs/vajc/home.html>.

About the Supreme Court of Virginia: The Supreme Court of Virginia possesses both original and appellate jurisdiction. The Court reviews decisions of lower courts, including the Court of Appeals, from which appeals have been allowed. The Court's original jurisdiction is limited to cases of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, and actual innocence (based on biological testing), and matters filed by the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission relating to judicial censure and retirement, and removal of judges. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court serves as the administrative head of Virginia's Judicial System. The Chief Justice is charged with overseeing the efficient and effective operation of the Judicial Branch.

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