



ACCESS TO JUSTICE E-NEWS

The SC Access to Justice Monthly
Email Newsletter



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the first SC Access to Justice E-Newsletter!

I have been with the commission just over a year (!) and since I see you all so infrequently—even less often now due to the pandemic—I thought I would try my hand at connecting with you monthly with a newsletter. Each one will include updates from me, interesting tidbits from around the web, a deeper dive into an ATJ hot topic of the moment, and some things you can act on immediately to help the ATJ cause.

So what has SCATJ been up to since you saw me last? We're making progress on the Justice Gap Report, working on the commission restructuring plan (more on that soon!), weighing our funding options for a state-wide legal needs assessment next year, and keeping our boots-on-the-ground providers connected through our listserv and bi-weekly Zoom meetings. We're excited about where SCATJ is going and will have more soon!

Stay safe, stay well, and [reach out to me any time!](#)

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AROUND THE WEB

News, research, and helpful links

- The Bolch Institute at the Duke University School of Law has put together [a resource guide](#) for judges on COVID-19 and the courts
- Washington state [abruptly ended](#) its limited license legal technician program in June (similar initiatives are still underway in [Utah](#) and [Arizona](#))
- The New Republic: [No Money, No Lawyer, No Justice: The Vast, Hidden Inequities of the Civil Justice System](#)
- The Oxford American: [The Blessing and Burden of Forever](#) - (be sure to read more about the work of our own [Center for Heirs Property Preservation](#) as well)
- Stout Risius Ross created a [data visualization tool](#) that estimates the number of renter households by state that could be facing eviction in the coming months
- The SLS Blogs/Legal Aggregate talked with Professor David Engstrom and Michigan Chief Justice Mary McCormack about [Post-COVID Courts](#)

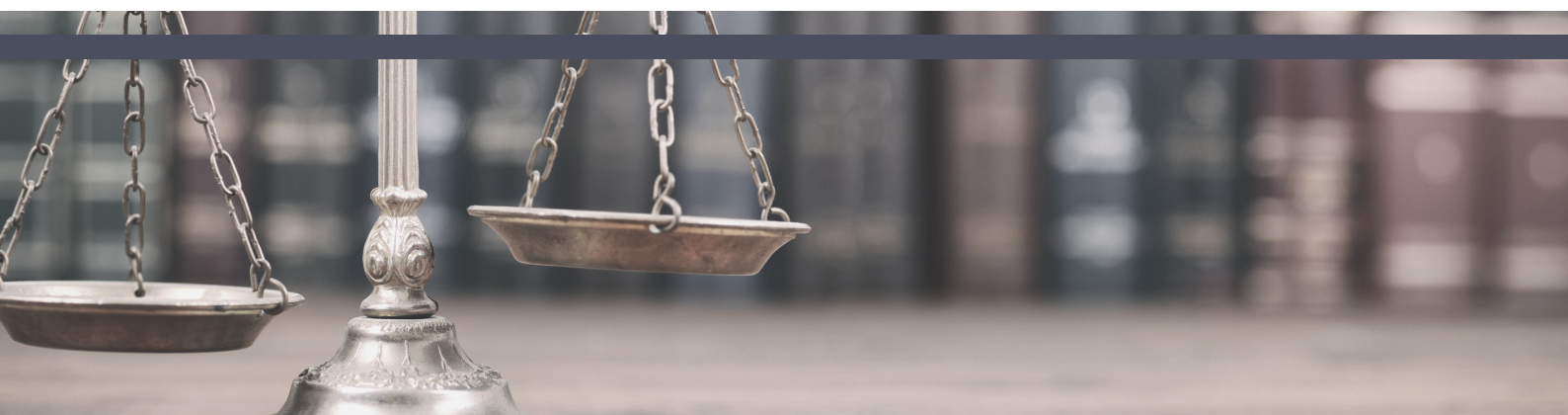
"For the dwindling number of African Americans who still own ancestral land, those acres are our historical ledger. This soil made us Americans. First, we shaped it against our will, then to our will."

- Rosalind Bentley, *The Blessing and Burden of Forever*

Hot Topic:

EVICITION

Eviction continues to be one of the most talked-about legal problems related to COVID-19. [Experts estimate](#) that 30-40 million people in the United States could be affected by the impending eviction crisis. When state moratoriums ([including the one in SC](#)) and CARES Act protections began to expire, advocates nationwide called for a federal moratorium. On September



Hot Topic: Evictions, *cont.*

1st, the Trump administration announced a sweeping halt on evictions through the end of the year. Though this measure won't solve the eviction problem, and there are still significant questions about how it will be applied, this moratorium could help keep thousands of families in their homes while the pandemic rages on.

Evictions lead to job loss, long-term residential instability, and can even negatively impact someone's mental health. There is no doubt that having an attorney in an eviction case dramatically improves outcomes. To help connect as many people as possible with the legal help they need, the SC Bar Pro Bono Program and SC Legal Services have teamed up to create a hotline for low-income residents facing housing or other legal issues due to COVID-19.

HOW CAN I HELP?

What you can do for ATJ today

- ☒ Help spread the word about the pro bono/legal services hotline by posting on social media or telling your friends and coworkers
- ☒ Recruit a volunteer for pro bono (and volunteer yourself!)
- ☒ Tell someone about the eviction crisis and the importance of legal aid
- ☒ Make a donation to the Bar Foundation, one of ATJ's provider partners, or to SCATJ



*Remember to follow
us on social media!*