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June 13, 2016

The Supreme Court of Virginia announces new resource for self-represented litigants

RICHMOND: The Supreme Court of Virginia is pleased to announce that a new Website is available to aid self-represented litigants in the Commonwealth. The Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help Website, <http://selfhelp.vacourts.gov/>, provides neutral legal information as a public service in topical areas commonly sought by self-represented litigants, such as traffic tickets, divorce, and landlord and tenant issues. The Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help Website features glossaries of legal terms used in the district and circuit courts and instructions for routine processes, with the goal of making the courts more accessible for all citizens.

A project of the Virginia Access to Justice Commission, the Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help Website addresses various case types and organizes information from the Virginia Judicial System Website and other sources into user friendly content areas. Selfhelp.vacourts.gov features responsive design that works on computers, smartphones, and tablets.

"This is a milestone for the Supreme Court of Virginia and the Commission. We believe launching a website for self-represented litigants is a fundamental step toward providing greater and more meaningful access to civil justice in Virginia."

- S. Bernard Goodwyn, Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and
Co-chair of the Virginia Access to Justice Commission

About the Virginia Access to Justice Commission:

On September 13, 2013, the Supreme Court of Virginia established the Virginia Access to Justice Commission. The mission of the Commission, which is comprised of judges, lawyers, and others, is to promote equal access to justice in Virginia, with particular emphasis on the civil legal needs of Virginia residents. The formation of the Virginia Access to Justice Commission is consistent with Vision 3 of the current Strategic Plan for Virginia's Judicial System, adopted in 2009, which states that Virginia's courts will "maintain human dignity and provide effective access to justice for all persons." In establishing the Commission, Virginia joined 28 other states with Access to Justice Commissions charged with expanding access to civil justice for low income and disadvantaged persons. The goals of the Commission include coordinating access to justice activities among various groups, mobilizing legal professionals to provide legal services to low income individuals, encouraging the development of auxiliary resources for underserved populations, and making the courts more accessible for all citizens.