Walking Our Race Equity Talk
Room: Kentucky Ballroom, Salon C (1st Level)
As access to justice commissions who work with the civil legal aid community to address racial inequities that marginalized people face, we need to make sure we’re walking our talk. While we work to advance race equity work externally, how do we make sure we’re not perpetuating racial inequity internally? How does a commission evaluate its own structures, policies, and practices through a race equity lens? Join us for an interactive workgroup to learn how to use an organizational equity toolkit and begin the process for doing a race equity audit for your commission.

- Esperanza Borboa, Program Director at Eastside Legal Assistance Program and Member, Washington Access to Justice Board
- Jennifer Werdell, Executive Director, JustLead Washington
- Diana Singleton, Access to Justice Manager, Washington State Bar Association

Setting a Research Agenda for Access to Justice Commissions
Room: Kentucky Ballroom, Salon D (1st Level)
An essential aspect of any statewide coordinated access to justice plan should include research and evaluation. Yet, this is a topic that can be quite daunting for the legal community as it involves expertise that is often a bit outside our comfort zone. To be successful, such endeavors often require partnerships among service providers, law schools, and others. Using Indiana as an example, this panel will discuss the ingredients to incorporating evaluation into access to justice initiatives and will facilitate a discussion about the role of the access to justice commissions in leading such efforts.

- April Faith-Slaker, Associate Director of Research Innovations, Harvard Access to Justice Lab
- Marilyn Smith, Director of Civil Justice Programs, Indiana Bar Foundation
- Carlton Martin, Staff Attorney, Indiana Supreme Court
- Victor Quintanilla, Professor, Indiana University Maurer School of Law; Co-Director, Center for Law, Society & Culture; Adjunct Professor, Indiana University Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

The Importance of Strategic Planning for Healthy ATJ Commissions
Room: Kentucky Ballroom, Salon F (1st Level)
Strategic planning is important for an access to justice commission because it provides a sense of direction and outlines measurable goals. It is also a tool that is useful for guiding day-to-day decisions and for evaluating progress and changing approaches as commissions adapt and move forward. In this session, attendees will be split into two smaller breakout discussion groups, one for “beginner” commissions that have not engaged in strategic planning, and the other for “advanced” commissions that are considering future rounds of strategic planning.

- Danielle Hirsch, Principal Court Management Consultant, National Center for State Courts
- Bob Glaves, Executive Director, The Chicago Bar Foundation
- Alison Spanner, Assistant Director, ATJ Division, Administrative Office of Illinois Courts
- Anne-Louise Wirthlin, ATJ Coordinator, Tennessee Administrative Office of Courts
Reentry Courts: Helping Integrate Inmates Back into the Community Benefits All of Us
Room: Win (1st Level)
The models for reentry courts exist in several jurisdictions. Additionally, many different organizations exist in communities that are assisting inmates, but few states have a comprehensive organization that can pool resources and talent in this area. This session will look at how to begin to address this problem in a comprehensive manner.
- Hon. Michelle Keller, Associate Justice, Kentucky Supreme Court; Chair, Kentucky Access to Justice Commission
- Alecia Webb-Edgington, Executive Director, Life Learning Center
- Jeffrey Coreil, NeunerPate; Co-Chair, Louisiana Access to Justice Commission
- Laura Tuggle, Executive Director, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

All Rise for Civil Justice: Strong Stories and Effective Media Outreach
Room: Place (1st Level)
While the elements of a good story never change, the way we tell those stories does. Just as we long ago stopped drawing on cave walls, effective storytelling in today’s world requires meeting people where they are. This session will use the new All Rise for Civil Justice as a case study in how to blend storytelling with earned media and social media advocacy for maximum impact. You will learn how to recognize and act on media opportunities, including how to pitch a news story, and when writing an op-ed or letter to the editor is the right response.
- Elizabeth Arledge, Deputy Director, Voices for Civil Justice
- Sam Scarrow, Media Relations Manager, Voices for Civil Justice

ATJ Commissions as a Key Player in the Increasingly Successful Civil Right to Counsel Movement
Room: Show (1st Level)
Burgeoning movements for a right to counsel in civil proceedings involving basic human needs (such as eviction, guardianship, and fees/fines proceedings) have sprung up across the country, from California, to Ohio, to Indiana, to New Jersey and New York... and every day the list just keeps on growing. This session will explore some of the campaigns currently underway involving a variety of civil justice system stakeholders, as well as ways in which access to justice commissions could contribute to these types of efforts. In addition, the session will discuss how the commissions can help promote the different, often little-known routes to appointment of counsel that are potentially available to state court judges, including “hidden gem” statutes providing broad discretion, inherent/supervisory power, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the development of pro bono plans such as those used by the federal courts. We’ll also look at the ABA Directory Governing Appointment of Counsel, which provides a state-by-state guide to many such authorities, and discuss how commissions might best raise awareness of this directory within their states.
- Hon. Mark Juhas, Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles; Chair, California Commission on Access to Justice
- Sherri Knuth, Access to Justice Director, Minnesota State Bar Association
- John Pollock, Coordinator, National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel