

## **Five new members join Access to Justice Commission**

August 23, 2017

The Mississippi Supreme Court has appointed five new members to the Access to Justice Commission and reappointed three.

New members include David Calder of Oxford, associate clinical professor and director of the Child Advocacy Clinic at the University of Mississippi School of Law; and attorneys Kacey Bailey of Meridian, Nicole McLaughlin of Tupelo, Charliene Roemer of Biloxi and Trena Williams of Hernando.

“We look forward to the experience and perspective they will bring to our work,” said Access to Justice Commission Executive Directory Tiffany Graves.

Supreme Court Justice Leslie D. King of Greenville, Hinds County Chancellor Denise Owens of Jackson and Circuit Judge Lillie Blackmon Sanders of Natchez were reappointed to three-year terms on the commission. The order of appointment, signed by Chief Justice Bill Waller Jr., was filed on Aug. 15. Justice King has been a member of the Commission since 2011, and Judge Sanders has been a member since 2009. Judge Owens served for 10 years as Commission co-chair, and has been a member since the Commission was created in June 2006.

Concluding their terms on the Commission were attorney A. La’Verne Edney of Jackson, Rev. Hosea Hines of Jackson, attorney Ronnie L. Walton of Meridian and former Mississippi Economic Council President and CEO Blake Wilson. Chief Justice Waller said in the order “that the Supreme Court offers its sincere thanks to those retired or retiring Commissioners for their dedication to access for all persons to the courts of Mississippi.”

The Access to Justice Commission was created by the Mississippi Supreme Court in June 2006 to develop a unified strategy to improve poor people's access to the civil courts. The Commission is tasked to investigate the need for civil legal services to the poor in Mississippi, and to evaluate, develop and recommend policies, programs and initiatives which will assist the judiciary in meeting the civil legal services needs of the poor.

The next meeting of the Access to Justice Commission is Sept. 5 at 10 a.m. at the Mississippi Bar Center, 643 North State Street in Jackson.

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