

CHARGE OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into federal law in July 1990 to ensure equal access to American society for all people regardless of ability.

The Judicial Branch is committed to maintaining its compliance with the ADA. This dedication is reflected in the first outcome goal of the Branch's Strategic Plan: "*The Judicial Branch will provide equal access to all of its facilities, processes and information through the identification and elimination of barriers.*"

In the first prong of the Strategic Plan, the [Committee on the Americans with Disabilities Act](#) was formed to identify those barriers and make appropriate and feasible recommendations for their removal. After conducting focus groups with various stakeholders, the Committee members reviewed Branch policies and processes relating to ADA compliance.

In its 2008 report to the Chief Justice, the ADA Committee developed sixteen recommendations designed to support the Strategic Plan's first outcome goal, including the creation of a multi-pronged Internet page that provides easy [access to information](#) to the public. Among the Committee's suggestions was that the Judicial Branch establish an Advisory Board to continue reviewing progress of the implementation of the recommendations.

The [Advisory Board on the Americans with Disabilities Act](#), which is chaired by a Judge and comprised of Judicial Branch staff members from each Division, will support the Judicial Branch's continued compliance with the ADA. The Advisory Board, which meets quarterly, may also develop recommendations that support the Strategic Plan's Access goal. Additionally, the Advisory Board may expand its membership if required to meet its charge. The Advisory Board will report annually to the Chief Justice.

The members of the Advisory Board are:

- Deputy Chief Court Administrator Judge Patrick L. Carroll III, Chair
- A member of the Court Support Services Division
- A member of the Administrative Services Division
- A member of the Superior Court Operations Division
- A member of the External Affairs Division
- A member of the Information Technology Division

The Board has two subcommittees to review the progress and implementation of initiatives designed to meet the public's needs and Branch employee needs, the [External Implementation](#) and [Internal Implementation](#) subcommittees.