

Proposed Supreme Court Rule 1403: Access to Justice Liaisons

The Kansas Supreme Court is accepting public comment on proposed Rule 1403: Access to Justice Liaisons.

The new rule would direct the chief judges of the Court of Appeals and each judicial district to designate two liaisons—one judge and one court employee—to work with the Supreme Court Access to Justice Committee to remove barriers and promote equal access to justice throughout the state.

Comment may be made by email to publiccomments@kscourts.org until 5 p.m. Monday, July 27, 2020. The subject line must read "Rule 1403."

Rule 1403

ACCESS TO JUSTICE LIASIONS

- (a) **Purpose.** To assure that access to justice is promoted at all levels of the judicial branch, this rule provides for the designation of representatives from each court to work with the Access to Justice Committee to remove barriers and promote equal access to justice throughout the state.
- (b) **Local Access to Justice Liaisons.** Each judicial district and the Court of Appeals will designate a judge and a court employee to act as local access to justice liaisons.
- (c) **Responsibilities of Liaisons.** A local access to justice liaison will have the following responsibilities:
 - (1) transmitting information between the courts and the Access to Justice Committee about efforts to expand access to justice and improve court operations;
 - (2) maintaining a list of judges and employees within the judicial district or appellate court who frequently interact directly with self-represented litigants;
 - (3) reporting programs and technology the judicial district or appellate court has established and utilized to improve the delivery of legal services and to reduce barriers to equal access to justice;
 - (4) sharing information with the Access to Justice Committee about barriers to justice, including technological barriers, that have been observed and any programs the judicial district or appellate court has considered or adopted to reduce those barriers; and

- (5) providing feedback to the Access to Justice Committee about training, technology, or resources needed to improve access to the courts and to better serve the public.