

MASSACHUSETTS ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Supreme Judicial Court
John Adams Courthouse
One Pemberton Square, Suite 2200
Boston, MA 02108-1735

March 2014

Honorable William N. Brownsberger
Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Judiciary
State House, Room 413C
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Christopher M. Markey
House Vice Chair
Joint Committee on Judiciary
State House, Room 136
Boston, MA 02133

Re: In Support of a Bill to Expand the Housing Court to Provide Statewide Jurisdiction

Dear Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

The Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission (“Commission”) urges the Judiciary Committee to favorably report out and work with your colleagues to ensure passage of a comprehensive bill proposed by the Judiciary that will expand the jurisdiction of the Housing Court so that every resident will have the opportunity to resolve their housing case in a Housing Court.

Created by the Supreme Judicial Court, the Commission is a diverse group of judges, private bar attorneys, and representatives of agencies that serve low-income individuals and communities. Last year, the Commission voted unanimously to endorse expansion of the Housing Court Department to the remaining unserved areas of the Commonwealth, which represent 31% of the state’s population. Presently, these residents may resolve their housing cases only in District Court. Under the proposed bill, these residents would have the opportunity, if they chose, to bring their cases in Housing Court.


We are joined in this effort by those who have signed this letter.

We support comprehensive expansion because the Housing Court effectively and efficiently provides the public with access to justice in the following ways:

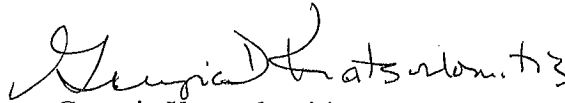
- **Housing Is the Priority:** Housing Courts are set up to handle code enforcement, evictions, and other housing issues on a daily basis.
- **Expertise:** Housing Court judges have the expertise to analyze the labyrinth of federal, state, and local laws on housing.
- **Housing Specialists:** Only the Housing Courts have Housing Specialists who mediate cases that save the time and expense of litigation. They also perform on-site reviews of property to resolve issues concerning housing conditions.

- **Code Enforcement:** Housing Court is set-up to quickly and efficiently respond to building, fire, and sanitary emergencies and code violations.
- **Tenancy Preservation Program:** Based in Housing Courts, the Tenancy Preservation Program prevents homelessness among people with disabilities.
- **Efficient Problem Solving:** Housing Court expertise across the entire spectrum of residential housing law enables quick and efficient solutions to a broad range of cases.
- **User-Friendly:** Housing Court has been at the forefront in developing lawyer-for-the-day assistance and self-help forms to serve a large number of self-represented litigants.

As Co-chairs of the Access to Justice Commission's Housing Court Expansion Initiative, we urge the Legislature to complete the expansion of the Housing Court statewide through a comprehensive bill.



James T. Van Buren
Commissioner
Access to Justice Commission



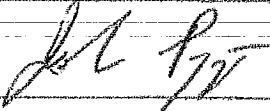
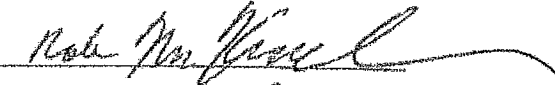

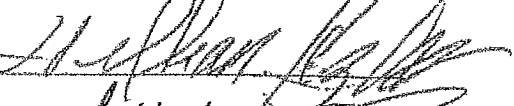
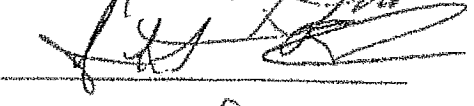

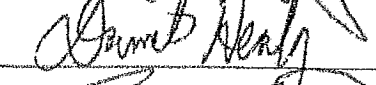

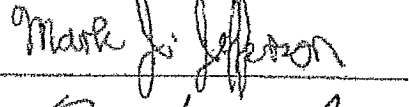

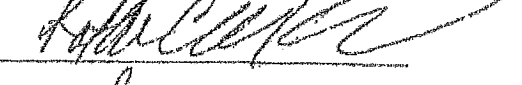


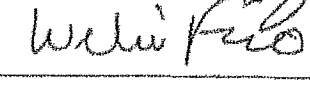



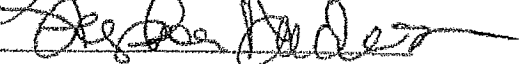
Georgia Katsoulomitis
Executive Director
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

We sign in support of a statewide Housing Court:

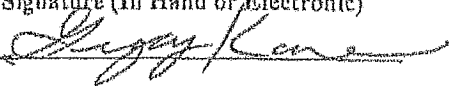
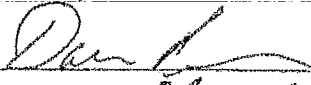
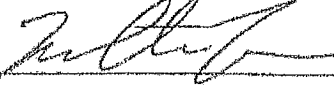
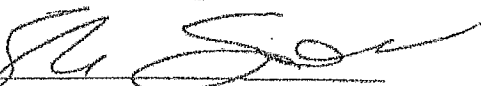









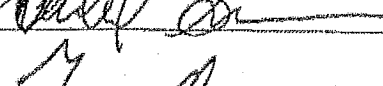





Print or Type Name & Organization	City/Town	Signature (In Hand or Electronic)
<i>William Berman</i> , Attorney	Newton	Electronically submitted
<i>Kathleen MacVarish</i> Clinical Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Boston University School of Public Health	Boston	Electronically submitted
<i>Elizabeth A. Soule</i> , Executive Director <i>Stephen Matthews</i> , Advocacy Director MetroWest Legal Services	Framingham	Electronically submitted
<i>Christopher Saccardi</i> , Attorney The Law Office of Christopher T. Saccardi	Somerville	Electronically submitted
<i>Nadine Cohen</i> , Attorney	Newton	Electronically submitted
<i>Jacqueline Bowman</i> , Executive Director <i>Jay Rose</i> , Managing Attorney Housing Unit <i>Susan Hegel</i> , Housing Attorney Greater Boston Legal Services	Greater Boston area including Chelsea, Cambridge, and Somerville	Electronically submitted
<i>Engjellushe (Angel) Kozeli Mozina</i> , Attorney	Cambridge	Electronically submitted
<i>David Grossman</i> , Attorney	Newton	Electronically submitted
<i>Dan Bancroft</i> , Attorney Broderick Bancroft	Newton	Electronically submitted
<i>Anne L. Randazzo</i> Asst. City Solicitor/Director of Human Resources	Methuen	Electronically submitted
<i>James B. Lampke, Esq</i> Town Counsel-Town of Hull	Hull	Electronically submitted
<i>Sarah E. Bellino</i> Blatman, Bobrowski & Mead, LLC	Newburyport	Electronically submitted

<i>Heather M. Ward, Esq.</i> Law Office of Heather M. Ward	Boston	Electronically submitted
<i>Alex Pirie</i> , Coordinator, Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health	Somerville	Electronically submitted
<i>Liz Mengers</i> , Homeless Services Planner Cambridge Homeless Services Continuum of Care, City of Cambridge	Cambridge	Electronically submitted
John Yazwinski, President and CEO Father Bill's & Mainspring	Brockton	Electronically submitted

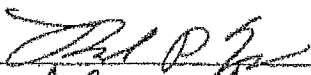





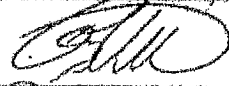
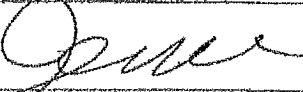
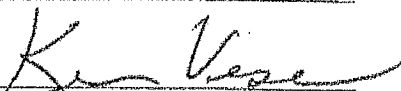
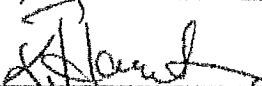


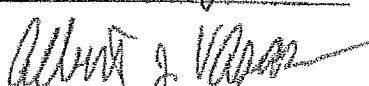
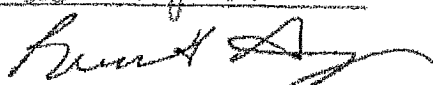
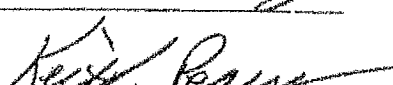
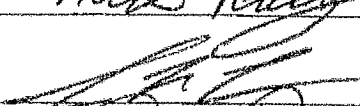
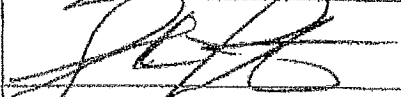

We sign in support of a statewide Housing Court:

Print or Type Name & Organization	City/Town	Signature (In Hand or Electronic)
JOHN PIZZI, FPAM	BELMONT	
BOB MACK-REDRICK FPAM	LYNNFIELD	
NORMAN P. LAPOINTE FPAM	SALEM	
WILLIAM HAZLETT FPAM	WINTHROP	
JEFFREY BAXTER FPAM	WENHAM	
STEVEN BAGLEY FPAM	FOXBOROUGH	
DAVID HEADY FPAM	FOXBOROUGH	
BRIAN COCCARIELLO FPAM	CHERRILL	
MARK J. JEFFERSON FPAM	BROOKLINE	
MELVIN E. TROT FPAM	FELMOUTH	
KATHY CLINE-KALBOUGH FPAM	CHICOPPEE	
STEPHEN TANZELL FPAM	BEVERLY	
DOUGLAS ARMEY FPAM	WORCESTER	
WILLIAM FINE FPAM	BEVERLY	
DANIEL F. GOBIEK FPAM	LYNN	
CHRIS DOWLING FPAM	PEABODY	
? JAMES BROOKS FPAM	DANVERS	
STEPHEN ANDERSON FPAM	AUBURN	

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Print or Type Name & Organization	City/Town	Signature (In Hand or Electronic)
GREGORY KANE FPAM	PLYMOUTH	
DAVID KILKA FPAM	SPENCER	
MILTON TORRES	PITTSFIELD	
Thomas Summers	Pittsfield	
John Cosme	HYANNIS	
Michael Spender	worcester	
BOND DeMello	FALMOUTH	
ROBERT WIPAND-FPAM	WESTBOROUGH	
Ken Miller	Westborough	
Christopher Knight	westborough	
NORRIS SUEVA	HYANNIS	
Maureen MacNeil	MASTON MILLS	
Michael Grossman	Centerville	
Tanya Quigley-Boylan	Tanya Quigley-Boylan	
RICHARD ARES FPAM	GARDNER	
Kevin Nivala FPAM	Westminster	
Sally Pata FPAM	Fitchburg	
MURMAN BOURQUE FPAM	LYNN	
Israel Gonzalez FPAM	Lynn Field	

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Print or Type Name & Organization	City/Town	Signature (In Hand or Electronic)
Richard Zentoni FPAM	FRAMINGHAM	
Michael F. Reardon FPAM	WESTFORD	
DAVID TIBERZI	DOVER	
Clifford Richards FPAM	WALTHAM	
NICHOLAS FERRELLI FPAM	REVEREND	
DAVID DAMSTRA FPAM	HOLBROOK	
GARY SMITH FPAM	HANSON	
Joseph Carchedi FPAM	PITTSFIELD	
Kevin Vesceva FPAM	WORCESTER	
Kate Harrington FPAM	WORCESTER	
STEVEN TANCELL FPAM	UXBRIDGE	
RICHARD JOLLIAMORE	FITCHBURG	
ALBERT VASAS	TEWKSBURY	
Ricardo V Gomez	Woburn	
Keith Peary	Woburn	
Steven R Lavoie	Southbridge	
Fred TUSTIN	Winchester	
Michael Swan	Greenfield	

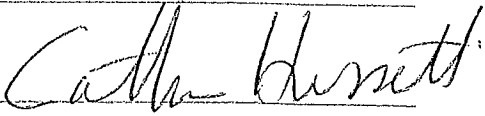
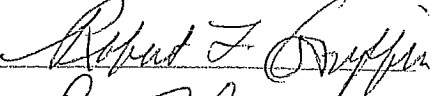


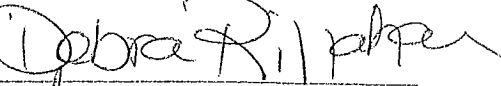

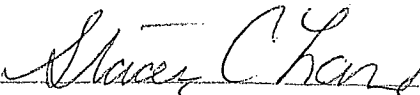
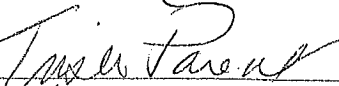
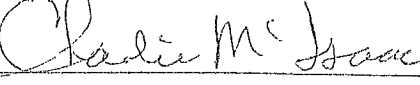

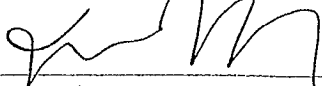

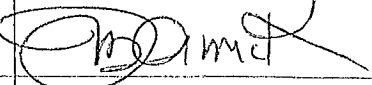
We sign in support of a statewide Housing Court:

Print or Type Name & Organization	City/Town	Signature (In Hand or Electronic)
Karen L Rose Medford Bost	Medford	Karen L Rose
Rich Day	Chilmark	Rich Day
TERRY HAYES	DENNIS	Terry Hayes
Cathleen Leburg	Webster	Cathleen Leburg
Robert Brace	NBPT	
Ann Cary Miller	W. Am.	Ann
Bill Posen	Peabody	Bill Posen
Scott Males	millis	Scott Males
Scott Koczala	Adams	Scott Koczala
Heidi Conlon	Methuen	Heidi Conlon
Frank Marchegiani	Rowley	Frank Marchegiani
Jennifer Sullivan	Seaside	Jennifer Sullivan
Cheryl Kelly	Westwood	Cheryl Kelly
Tara Tradd	Avon	Tara Tradd
Linda Shea	Westwood	Linda R Shea
Jon Yale	Peabody	Jon Yale
John Coulon	Topshfield/NHT	John Coulon
Joey Martel	Andover	Joey Martel
Pat Jany	West Newbury	Pat Jany

We sign in support of a statewide Housing Court:

Print or Type Name & Organization	City/Town	Signature (In Hand or Electronic)
<i>Leominster Health Dept. Committee</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>
Leominster Health Dept	Leominster	Michelle Powell
Tewksbury Board of Health	Tewksbury	ACut
SALEM BOH	SALEM	<i>[Signature]</i>
Kelly Pawluczanski BOH Plainville	Plainville	K. Paw
STEVEN BACCARI BOH	Westborough	<i>[Signature]</i>
Debra Fucini	Middleton	<i>[Signature]</i>
Daniel Syrak	Taunton	<i>[Signature]</i>
Colleen Ferman	Framingham	<i>[Signature]</i>
Sheila Miller	Sharon	Sheila Miller
Richard Marino	Ret.	Richard T Marino
Joan Vitale	Reading	Joan Vitale
RICHARD BERUBES	Billerica	<i>[Signature]</i>
William DiMarco	Methuen	<i>[Signature]</i>
Joe DiMarco	Methuen	<i>[Signature]</i>
Robin Chad	Walpole	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jennifer Keagh	Melrose	<i>[Signature]</i>
Lois Liniawicz	Westminster	Lois Liniawicz

We sign in support of a statewide Housing Court:

Print or Type Name & Organization	City/Town	Signature (In Hand or Electronic)
Catherine Hrussett Middleboro Health Dept	Middleboro MA	
ROBERT F. GRIFFIN SR Robert Griffin	MARSHFIELD	
Brian Flynn	Norwell	
Sharon Health Dept Budget Sweet	Sharon	
Michael Hall, MA	Andover	
Debra Ripper, MA	Andover	
Sigalle Reiss	Norwood	
Stacey Lane	Norwood	
Tina Parent	Upton	
Charlie Mc Isaac	Cambridge	
FRANK GIACALONE Frank Giacalone	Saugus	
FELIX ZEMEL	COHASSET	
Sandy Callis	Westford	
THOMAS A. MCKEAN Tom McKean	Barnstable	
Rae Dault	Westford	