

Purpose and Mission

Ensuring that everyone in Montana has access to justice, particularly the low-income and those with other barriers to access. This is best accomplished with a coordinated system-wide approach, as all community members are equally important and each should be considered in its relevance to the others.

Objectives

Objective	Lead Entity
1. Develop and sustain a system of exchange of information and resources between all members of the Access to Justice Community.	Equal Justice Task Force (EJTF)
2. Advocate for adequate levels of funding and supportive policies and laws.	EJTF
3. Expand delivery of legal services to underserved and unserved populations of the state.	ALL except EJTF
4. Build awareness of the importance of access to justice in the general and legal populations.	ALL
5. Develop a culture of pro bono service and professionalism within the legal community.	Access to Justice Committee (ATJC)
6. Promote volunteerism and monetary contributions to organizations that support access to justice initiatives.	ALL except Comm=n on Self-Represented Litigants (CSRL)
7. Educate the courts about the challenges of unrepresented litigants.	CSRL
8. Educate litigations and the general public about the limits of the courts regarding unrepresented and self-represented litigants.	CSRL/ATJC
9. Continue to identify and address gaps in and barriers to the access and delivery of legal services.	EJTF

Strategy

1. Each entity will discuss objectives with its members and report back to Patty Fain regarding its action plan by the end of the calendar year. All information will be sent to the EJTF.
2. Using information gathered from the various entities and other organizations, the EJTF will prepare a report to the Supreme Court annually, as required by the order establishing the task force. This document will be used as a primary information-sharing tool among the community of access to justice entities and service providers.