



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rosie's Place President Leemarie Mosca Appointed to Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission

BOSTON– The Supreme Judicial Court recently announced the appointment of Rosie's Place President/Executive Director Leemarie Mosca to the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission.

First established by the Supreme Judicial Court in 2005, the Access to Justice Commission seeks to improve access to justice for people who are unable to afford an attorney for essential civil legal needs, such as cases involving housing, consumer debt, and family law.

"It's a tremendous honor and responsibility to serve on the Commission. At Rosie's Place, we see poor, homeless, and immigrant women who face multiple challenges in accessing the court system. It's my primary goal to represent our guests' voice in the justice system," said Leemarie Mosca.

Along with Leemarie Mosca, the Supreme Judicial Court appointed 2 additional members to the Commission, they are Adrian Angus, a trial attorney in the Worcester Superior Court Office of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, and Gladys Vega, Executive Director of the Chelsea Collaborative.

"We are delighted to welcome these new members to the Commission," said Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants, who co-chairs the Commission. "The new members include a public defender, the head of Boston's pioneering provider of shelter and support services for women, and the leader of an innovative community organization known for helping children, immigrants, and refugees. Each of these new members is familiar with the barriers that too often block access to justice for the Commonwealth's residents, and they will each bring an important perspective to the Commission's ongoing efforts to remove those barriers."

Among other activities, the Access to Justice Commission coordinates with civil legal aid organizations to support their activities and develop new initiatives to address unmet needs. The Commission also works to increase the number of attorneys able to provide pro bono or limited assistance civil legal services and coordinates with the court system on initiatives that assist individuals to better understand and navigate civil legal proceedings. The Commission's members include representatives from the court system, legal aid organizations, social service organizations, bar associations, law schools, businesses, and other stakeholders in the access to justice community.

The Commission is co-chaired by Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Gants and Susan M. Finegan, Esq., of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, P.C.

About Rosie's Place

Rosie's Place's mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that helps poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives. Rosie's Place relies solely on the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporations and does not accept any city, state or federal funding. Thanks to these donations, 86 cents of every dollar raised go directly to services for poor and homeless women. Additional information is available at www.rosiesplace.org.

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