

ORIGINAL

FILED

09/30/2025

Bowen Greenwood
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 11-0765

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

AF 11-0765

FILED

SEP 30 2025

Bowen Greenwood
Clerk of Supreme Court
State of Montana

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION:
IN RE THE PROPOSAL TO ADOPT RULES
AUTHORIZING CERTIFIED LAY ADVOCATES
TO PROVIDE LIMITED LEGAL SERVICES IN
JUSTICE COURTS AND CITY COURTS

ORDER

On September 15, 2025, the Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) filed a petition with this Court to adopt rules authorizing certified lay advocates to provide limited legal services in Justice Courts and City Courts. The petition proposes that MLSA will train and mentor these non-lawyer lay advocates, or Community Justice Workers, who will provide legal services in Order of Protection cases and in simple housing and consumer matters in Justices Courts and City Courts. MLSA has developed this project with support from the Montana Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission and in conjunction with the State Bar of Montana and the Office of the Supreme Court Administrator.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Court will accept public comment for a period of 60 days from the date of this Order regarding the Community Justice Worker program and the recommendations submitted.

This Order and the Petition submitted by MLSA will be published on this Court's website. In addition, the Clerk is directed to provide copies to: the State Bar of Montana, with the request that they be posted on the State Bar's website; the State Law Library; the members of the Access to Justice Commission; the Executive Director of the Montana Legal Services Association; and the Dean of the Alexander Blewett III School of Law.

DATED this 30 day of September, 2025.

For the Court,


Chief Justice