



## UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW • Suite 1150 • Washington, DC 20425 [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov)

July 24, 2018

Brian E. Frosh  
Attorney General  
State of Maryland  
200 St. Paul Place  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Attorney General Frosh:

I write to share the attached [advisory memorandum](#), *Fines and Fees and Bail Reform*, from the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The Commission maintains 51 Advisory Committees - one for each state and the District of Columbia. The role of the Committees is to study civil rights issues in their communities and report findings and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission appreciates the Maryland Committee's focused attention on civil rights impacts of fines and fees and bail in the state.

The Commission requests that your office review the memorandum, which can be viewed in full at: <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/docs/2018-02-26-Fees-Fines-MD.pdf>. The memorandum recommends (page 6) that the state carry out a comprehensive review of the use of parole supervisory fees and begin to collect specific information to enable effective analysis of the state's fines and fees system. In response to these recommendations, we advise that you take the steps necessary to protect civil rights in your jurisdiction. We have similarly asked the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts to review the memorandum.

We would also invite you to view the Commission's 2017 [report](#), which similarly addresses the impact of targeted fines and fees on communities of color across the country.

The Commission appreciates your consideration, in the hope of ensuring civil rights protections. We look forward to hearing from you on what actions you will take in response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Lhamon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'C'.

Catherine E. Lhamon  
Chair

Encl. Maryland Advisory Committee Memorandum



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July 24, 2018

Kelly O'Connor  
Assistant Administrator

Pamela Cardullo Ortiz  
Director, Access to Justice Department

Jamie Walter  
Director, Court Operations

Administrative Office of the Courts  
State of Maryland  
2001 Commerce Park Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. O'Connor, Ms. Cardullo Ortiz, and Ms. Walter:

I write to share the attached [advisory memorandum](#), *Fines and Fees and Bail Reform*, from the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

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We would also invite you to view the Commission's 2017 [report](#), which similarly addresses the impact of targeted fines and fees on communities of color across the country.

The Commission appreciates your consideration, in the hope of ensuring civil rights protections. We look forward to hearing from you on what actions you will take in response.

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Catherine E. Lhamon  
Chair

Encl. Maryland Advisory Committee Memorandum  
Letter to Attorney General Frosh