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To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Richard A. Montgomery III
Director of Legislative & Governmental Relations

Date: February 2, 2021

Subject: **Senate Bill 335 - Courts – Nongovernmental Corporate Parties – Disclosure Statements**

Position: **Oppose**

The **Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)**, as well as the **Business Law Section of the MSBA**, oppose **Senate Bill 335 - Courts – Nongovernmental Corporate Parties – Disclosure Statements**. Senate Bill 335 would require a nongovernmental corporate party to file, at a first appearance, pleading, petition, motion, response, or other request addressed to the court, and two copies of a certain disclosure statement specifying the identity of certain corporate entities, or the nonexistence of a particular entity. Additionally, the bill specifies the required contents of the disclosure statement, requires a nongovernmental corporate party to file a supplemental statement, with any required information changes. Further, SB 335 requires that this Act shall interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

While the MSBA expresses no conceptual opposition to the judicial processes set forth in SB 335, the MSBA, and the Business Law Section of the MSBA strongly believe that this set of procedures are more appropriate for the Maryland Rules than the Courts Article of the Annotated Code. Accordingly, we would urge an **Unfavorable Report on SB 335**, on the grounds that the matter should be considered by the Court of Appeals' Committee on Rules and Procedures.

Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Montgomery, MSBA Legislative Director at (410) 269-6464 or richard@msba.org.