



Howard County Bar Association, Inc.

9250 Judicial Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043

February 21, 2024

PRESIDENT

Thomas Mulinazzi

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Alisa Cummins

TREASURER

Katie Haladay

Chairman Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

PAST PRESIDENT

Lisa Mohink

Re: Support for SB 827/HB 1079
Courts and Judicial Proceedings – Jury Examination

MEMBERS AT-LARGE

Tyler Brown

David Coaxum

Opeyemi Glover

Victoria Heyliger

Kellie N. Lego

Jason Ridgell

Dear Chairman Smith and Chairman Clippinger:

We write to urge a favorable report on SB 827/HB 1079 which addresses critical issues surrounding *voir dire* in Maryland. This legislation aligns Maryland with U.S. Supreme Court precedent and mitigates the risk of bias in jury selection. SB 827/HB 1079 is a crucial step towards improving our legal system, ensuring equal representation, and fostering diversity within our courtrooms. SB 827/HB 1079 offers a necessary clarification of the scope and purpose of *voir dire*, and provides attorneys with essential information to exercise peremptory challenges judiciously without violating constitutional principles.

We urge you to support the passage of SB 827/HB 1079 to ensure equal access to a fair and impartial trial by jury. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your dedication to the principles of justice.

Sincerely,

Thomas Mulinazzi