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A new director and four new members have been announced for the state Access to Justice Commission.

The commission named Boston lawyer Deborah M. Silva as its next director, effective Dec. 9. She will succeed Carolyn Goodwin, who stepped down in July after five years as director to accept a Trial Court position.

For the past eight years, Silva has been executive director of the Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law & Justice. She previously held positions as director of the Equal Justice Coalition, as director of public policy for the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, and as legislative director for the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute.

The Supreme Judicial Court also has appointed four new members to the commission:

- Probate & Family Court Judge Dana S. Doyle;
- Ilana Gelfman, advocacy director, Greater Boston Legal Services;
- Inês Kenney, managing attorney of the Fitchburg Office of Community Legal Aid; and
- Dr. Natoschia Scruggs, chief access, diversity and fairness officer for the Trial Court.

The [Access to Justice Commission](#) was established by the SJC in 2005 to provide leadership and to and coordination with organizations and people involved in providing and improving access to justice for those unable to afford counsel for their civil legal need.