



520 West Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-685-7878 | 800-492-1964  
fax 410-685-1016 | tdd 410-539-3186  
msba.org

**To:** Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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

**Date:** February 24, 2021

**Subject:** **House Bill 950 - Judges - Community and Cultural Awareness Training**

**Position:** **Oppose**

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The **Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) OPPOSES** House Bill 950 – Judges - Community and Cultural Awareness Training, requires the State Court Administrator to ensure that each appellate, circuit court, and District Court judge receive annual training to increase community and cultural awareness that includes (1) antidiscrimination training; (2) antiracial bias training; (3) implicit bias training; (4) procedural justice training; (5) training on reconciliation techniques; and (6) “antiblackness” training.

While the Maryland State Bar Association strongly supports community, and cultural awareness training for judges and any other court personnel the Court of Appeals believes would benefit from such training, the MSBA believe that it is within the domain of the Judiciary of Maryland, rather than the legislative branch, to determine the form and parameters of such training.

Accordingly, the MSBA opposes HB 950, on the basis of separation of powers, and urges an unfavorable Committee report.