

# PROPOSED VENUE RULE CHANGE

## ISSUE OVERVIEW

On Dec. 22, 2018, the Civil Procedural Rules Committee published a proposed rule change in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. This proposed change would revise the venue rule (the county in which a case may be filed) for medical liability cases and would bring back “venue shopping,” where personal injury attorneys seek to move claims to counties that award higher payouts to plaintiffs.

The Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) is committed to mobilizing a movement through stakeholder involvement to flood the committee with comments (**which must be received by Feb. 22, 2019**). The best immediate option is to flood this committee with as many comments as possible to encourage them to allow the current medical liability venue rule to remain unchanged.

## ACTIVITIES



Stakeholders (individual physicians, insurance writers, medical malpractice providers, specialty societies, county medical societies, nursing homes, business groups, etc.): outreach via phone, email, and face-to-face meetings



Membership education: Board of Trustees communication, inclusion in *The Dose*, special email alert to all Pa. physicians, frontline call



Media: story pitches, Op-Ed articles, TV appearances



Communications strategy: website, digital messages (Facebook/LinkedIn), talking points, summary documents



Legislators: meetings with chair of both House and Senate Judiciary Committees

## KEY DATES

**1/14:** Stakeholder meeting to mobilize movement

**2/22: COMMENTS DUE TO CIVIL PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE**

## TALKING POINTS

- Health care costs will rise.
- Liability premiums will skyrocket.
- You may have to say goodbye to your physician.
- Recruiting physicians to the state and keeping them here will be a challenge.
- Innovations in patient care will grind to a halt.
- Long-standing, trusted patient-physician relationships will be broken.
- Patient care will suffer.