



# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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November 1, 2017

Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
State House, H-107  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer  
Chair, Senate Budget and  
Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
State House, H-101  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: Annual Report of the Office of Problem Solving Courts  
CJ § 3-8C-12; 2007 \_p16\_JUD\_Annual Report  
On the Problem Solving Courts (and truancy)

Dear President, Speaker and Chairpersons:

Pursuant to Courts and Judicial Proceedings, § 3-8C-12, and the 2007 Joint Chairmen's Report page 16, please find enclosed the Annual Report of the Office of Problem Solving Courts (and truancy) for Fiscal Year 2017. As you will see, these court programs seek to address the behavioral manifestations associated with drug and alcohol addiction, mental health problems, and habitual truancy.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 260-1295, or via email at [pamela.harris@mdcourts.gov](mailto:pamela.harris@mdcourts.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Pamela Harris  
State Court Administrator

Enc.

Hon. Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.  
Hon. Michael E. Busch  
Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer  
Hon. Maggie McIntosh  
November 1, 2017  
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cc: Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals  
Honorable Kathleen Gallogly Cox, Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges  
Honorable John P. Morrissey, Chief Judge, District Court  
Honorable Nicholas E. Rattal, Chair, Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee  
Honorable James E. DeGrange, Sr., Chair, Public Safety, Transportation and  
Environment Subcommittee  
Honorable Keith E. Haynes, Chair, Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee  
Honorable Susan Braniecki, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks  
Timothy Sheridan, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators  
Faye Gaskin, Deputy State Court Administrator  
Roberta Warnken, Chief Clerk, District Court  
Kelley O'Connor, Assistant Administrator, Government Relations  
Victoria Gruber, Chief of Staff, Senate President  
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# **PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS**

## **Annual Report**

### **Fiscal Year 2017**



Administrative Office of the Courts  
November 1, 2017

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## Executive Summary

The Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC), which began in 2002 as the Drug Treatment Court Commission, was tasked to oversee the six existing operational drug courts and to expand the concept of coordinated substance abuse treatment and intensive supervision with judicial oversight. Today, there are 34 drug courts, two re-entry courts, six mental health courts, eight truancy reduction courts, two veterans courts, and one Back-On-Track program in Maryland. Over the years, hundreds of criminal justice and treatment professionals have had access to professional development courses on a wide range of topics: an overview of the Justice Reinvestment Act; problem-solving court leadership and the role of the problem-solving court judge; pros and cons of medication-assisted treatment; DUI court best practices; understanding psychiatric disorders and hearing voices.

During this time, data collection has changed as well. Where paper surveys once were faxed, Maryland now benefits from a real-time web-based data management system. When the Commission first was formed, there were no general funds dedicated to problem-solving courts. Now, with the help of OPSC, there are upwards of \$9 million of state and federal funds dedicated to problem-solving courts annually in Maryland.

Problem-solving courts offer a non-traditional approach to integrating treatment provision and criminal justice case processing. These courts rely on close collaboration with multidisciplinary teams, including members from the judicial and treatment communities, to provide accountability, treatment, and services to offenders to reduce substance abuse and recidivism.

As part of the annual appropriation to the Judiciary, OPSC provided more than \$4.6 million in grants to Maryland's Circuit and District problem-solving courts during fiscal year 2017. These funds were used for program staff, treatment, drug testing, travel and training, and ancillary services that directly benefited court participants.

During fiscal year 2017, 3,517 individuals participated in problem-solving courts in Maryland. Judges and magistrates met with participants in mental health, re-entry, veterans, and drug courts nearly 23,000 times in court hearings. Problem-solving courts continue to be the most intensive, community-based programs available to address aberrant behavior associated with addictions and mental illnesses.

OPSC continues to provide direct assistance to both planning and operational programs to ensure continued positive outcomes and sustainability. Training and education for problem-solving court practitioners are integral parts of expanding the field. The Judiciary continues to set high expectations for monitoring and evaluating these problem-solving courts to ensure the use of best practices. As these programs continue to be successful in Maryland, the problem-solving approach will gradually become more integrated into the traditional adjudicatory system.

### Problem-Solving Court Definition

Problem-solving courts address matters that are under the courts' jurisdiction through a multidisciplinary and integrated approach that incorporates collaboration among court, government, and community-based organizations.

## History and Governance

In 1994, one of the first drug courts in the country was initiated in Baltimore City to address substance abuse issues for those caught in the seemingly endless cycle of the criminal justice system. In 2002, the Maryland Judiciary established the Drug Treatment Court Commission (Commission) for the purpose of supporting the development of drug court programs throughout Maryland. The Commission led the Judiciary's effort to implement and maintain drug court programs in the State. Commission members included Circuit and District Court judges, legislators, and representatives from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Public Safety and



Correctional Services, State’s Attorney’s Offices, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

In December 2006, then-Chief Judge Robert M. Bell issued an administrative order to establish a Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts to institutionalize the work of the Commission and to expand its scope to include all problem-solving courts. At the same time, OPSC was formed in the Administrative Office of the Courts, to assume the role held by the Commission and to address the needs of other problem-solving courts in Maryland.

Judges and magistrates met with drug, veterans, and mental health court participants nearly **23,000** times in court hearings in FY2017.

In 2015, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera changed the Judiciary’s governance by appointing a new Judicial Council and a new set of Judicial Council Committees. The Judicial Council serves as the principal policy advisory

body to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The newly created Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee promotes and oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets statewide in the courts. The Committee ensures the utilization of best practices by specialty courts and special dockets in areas such as substance abuse, mental health and alcoholism, and business and technology. It monitors and directs the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, direct assistance, research, funding, and support for specialty courts and special dockets. See Appendix A for more information on the Judicial Council, this committee, and its membership.

This committee has a Problem-Solving Courts Subcommittee to assist these courts and provide a comprehensive and collaborative approach to dealing with the issues that arise for the participants in these courts. This subcommittee assists each county in employing best practices, including providing evidence-based training, direct assistance, research, and identifying funding to support their courts.

In addition, the Mental Health, Alcoholism and Addiction Subcommittee explores trial court sentencing alternatives for the treatment and rehabilitation for the seriously mentally ill and for substance-addicted defendants who are not enrolled in the specialty courts. This subcommittee works closely with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and other governmental agencies to monitor and provide information regarding both community and residential based treatment.

Finally, the Business and Technology Case Management Subcommittee deals with the issues generated by the Business and Technology Specialty Docket, which includes, (1) reviewing of forms, (2) using Maryland Rule 16-205 to promote consistency within the State regarding the categorization of a case as a business and technology case, (3) providing training in this area to judges, and (4) formulating recommendations on the management of complicated discovery and scientific issues that arise in certain business and technology cases.

## Oversight

### Office of Problem-Solving Courts

OPSC is a department in the Administrative Office of the Courts, Programs Division, responsible for assisting the problem-solving courts in development, maintenance, and advancement of a collaborative therapeutic system. OPSC has overseen the creation of problem-solving court programs in 21 of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland and works with public and private stakeholders to develop and establish best practices in problem-solving courts.

OPSC oversees the financial support for Maryland’s problem-solving courts and is responsible for setting and administering programmatic guidelines, creating a statewide management information system, and targeting new and expanding populations for problem-solving courts. Working with the Judiciary’s justice partners, OPSC continues to serve as the courts’ liaison to sustain and advance problem-solving courts in Maryland.

### New Problem-Solving Court

In fiscal year 2017, the Court of Appeals, with the recommendation from the Judicial Council’s Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee and OPSC, approved one new problem-solving court:

#### Baltimore City Circuit Mental Health Court

The Baltimore City Circuit Mental Health Court strives humanely and effectively to address the needs of individuals with mental health disorders who enter Baltimore’s criminal justice system. The Court is committed to focusing resources, training, and expertise on the unique needs of these individuals. All participating agencies have agreed to collaborate for the purpose of improving outcomes for this special population while increasing public safety. Most importantly, the Court and partner agencies will make every effort to encourage the involvement of the individual in all aspects of the process. In 2011, under the leadership of Judge Gale Rasin, the project began with a pilot of twenty (20) carefully selected cases to be consolidated to one docket with the goal of developing a program that would provide a more effective criminal justice response to the mentally ill offender. This consolidation allows for case processing

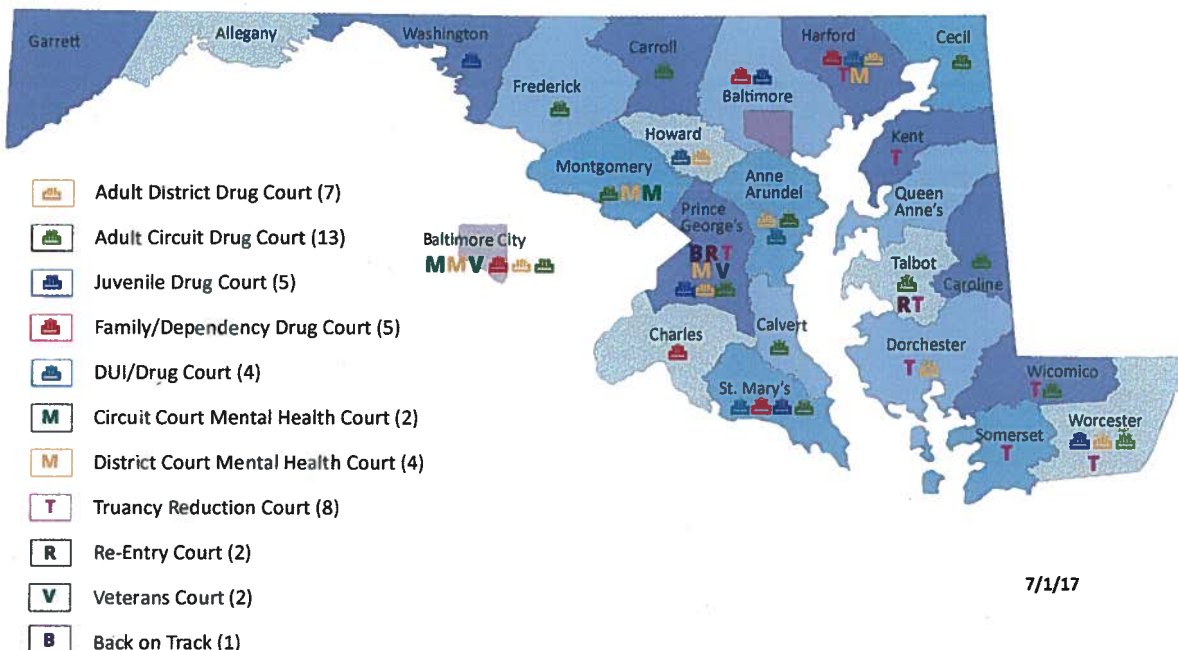
by a team of individuals trained in mental health law who follow the cases throughout the process. All involved agencies identified the need to design and commit to a coordinated effort based on collaboration with recognition of the individual responsibilities of each agency. The map below identifies the location of all operational problem-solving courts statewide.

## Funding

### Office of Problem-Solving Court Grants

In fiscal year 2017, OPSC solicited grant applications to support and maintain the capacity of existing and planned problem-solving courts across Maryland. The Problem-Solving Court Discretionary Grants core purpose area is to support staff and services targeted for the problem-solving court participants. Funds were allocated to problem-solving courts to address staffing needs by the Judiciary and collaborating agencies, to provide needed ancillary services, to provide critical drug/alcohol testing, to conduct trainings, and to fund services that are deemed non-reimbursable by managed care services through OPSC’s partnership with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA).

### Operational Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland



Over the past several years, OPSC has recognized and responded to state budget trends by accessing resources from federal, state, and local partners in an effort to sustain programs. OPSC continues to collaborate with state partners, such as the BHA, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Maryland Highway Safety Administration, and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to maximize access to existing resources. The partners also supplement other resources that would otherwise be lost due to budget reductions.

### Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA funds treatment/criminal justice programs provide integrated drug treatment services and criminal justice supervision for high-risk substance dependent offenders, including drug testing and graduated sanctions for individuals that violate program requirements. The treatment services must include an assessment of the individual's drug use and criminal history, as well as placement in the appropriate level of care, such

### OPSC/BHA Problem-Solving Court Grant Allotments for FY 2017 by Jurisdiction

Problem-Solving Court Program	OPSC Grant Award	BHA	OPSC Award	Total by County
Anne Arundel Circuit Adult	\$284,102		\$275,908	\$819,147
Anne Arundel District Adult/DUI	\$259,137			
Baltimore City Circuit Adult/ Family/Juvenile	\$442,163	\$445,790		\$1,039,572
Baltimore City District Adult/Mental Health	\$151,619			
Baltimore Co. Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$130,604		\$63,559	\$194,163
Calvert Circuit Adult	\$219,568		\$40,691	\$260,259
Caroline Circuit Adult /Juvenile	\$116,544		\$42,868	\$159,412
Carroll Circuit Adult	\$215,891		\$61,381	\$277,272
Cecil Circuit Adult	\$274,940		\$ 91,328	\$366,268
Charles Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$154,068		\$58,659	\$212,727
Dorchester District Adult	\$46,718		\$37,968	\$84,686
Frederick Circuit Adult	\$246,358		\$64,648	\$311,006
Harford Circuit Family/Juvenile	\$113,151	\$74,449		\$334,850
Harford District Adult/DUI/Mental Health	\$147,250			
Howard District Adult/DUI	\$84,526	\$52,669		\$137,195
Montgomery Circuit Adult	\$248,768	\$67,915		\$414,583
Montgomery Circuit Adult	\$97,900			
Prince George's Circuit Adult/Juvenile/ Re-Entry/Veterans	\$315,190	\$130,531		\$499,721
Prince George's District Adult/Mental Health	\$54,000			
St. Mary's Circuit Adult/Juvenile	\$243,662	\$66,282		\$309,944
Talbot Problem Solving Court	\$135,474	\$36,879		\$172,353
Washington Circuit Juvenile	\$101,298		\$30,890	\$132,188
Wicomico Circuit Adult	\$280,007	\$55,392		\$335,399
Worcester Circuit Adult/Juvenile	\$223,756	70,093		\$320,349
Worcester District Adult	\$26,500			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,613,194</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$767,900</b>	<b>\$6,381,094</b>



as: residential, intensive out-patient, out-patient, or aftercare services. During fiscal year 2017, three jurisdictions received \$712,143 to fund treatment services.

Jurisdiction	HIDTA Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$122,805
Baltimore City	\$486,307
Prince George's County	\$103,031
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$712,143</b>

### Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) Grants

The Maryland Vehicle Administration's MHSO is dedicated to saving lives and preventing injuries by reducing motor vehicle crashes through the administration of a comprehensive network of traffic safety programs. The purpose of the highway safety grant program is to fund activities aimed at reducing the number of motor-vehicle-related crashes, deaths, and injuries on Maryland roadways. During fiscal year 2017, four DUI Courts received \$227,600 to fund drug and alcohol testing, treatment services, program personnel, housing, and transportation costs.

Jurisdiction	MHSO Funding
Anne Arundel County	\$70,875
Harford County	\$57,150
Howard County	\$56,070
St. Mary's County	\$43,505
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$227,600</b>

### U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance also awarded a three-year \$175,419 grant to the Judiciary in October 2015. This grant provides the means to partner with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to develop and implement performance measures for Maryland's Adult Drug Courts. This project has four objectives:

1. To identify evidence-based performance measures that are appropriate for the context of Maryland;
2. To document the performance measures in a reference document;
3. To identify performance targets or "benchmarks" for each measure; and
4. To provide training to drug court personnel which will enable them to utilize the performance measures for managing the performance of their courts.

The first objective was completed in fiscal year 2017. OPSC identified and convened a select group of drug court professionals and stakeholders for a two-day meeting to consider recommendations made in advance by NCSC and to modify them as needed for the context of Maryland's adult drug courts. The second objective is to produce a manual that will describe each measure in detail, justify its selection, identify required data, and clearly delineate any required calculations in draft form. The advisory group met again in fiscal year 2017 for a second two-day meeting to consider recommendations for adult drug court performance targets. These final recommendations will be introduced to the advisory committee by the end of the calendar year. To accomplish the fourth objective, NCSC will design a training program based on realistic scenarios (with input from OPSC) that describe performance issues or challenges frequently encountered by adult drug courts and that demonstrate how performance measures can be used to address the issue. Work under this grant is scheduled to be completed by September 2018.

### Professional Development and Direct Assistance

#### Professional Development

Professional Development among problem-solving courts remains a priority for OPSC. On an annual basis, the OPSC staff and the Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee plan a series of events to encourage ongoing educational opportunities for problem-solving court teams and criminal justice professionals.

In fiscal year 2017, OPSC arranged and implemented the following professional development events:

### **Adult Problem-Solving Court Symposium**

OPSC provided a one-day professional development session for problem-solving court practitioners in adult problem-solving courts such as adult drug courts, mental health courts, re-entry courts, and veterans courts. This year, the Adult Problem-Solving Court Symposium was held in Annapolis and was attended by more than 270 practitioners. The session included:

#### **Perspectives from Problem-Solving Courts Graduates**

Former problem-solving court participants and graduates offered an inside look into their motivators for success, as well as things that deterred them during their time in Maryland problem-solving courts.

#### **Pros and Cons of Medication-Assisted Treatment in Problem-Solving Court**

Dr. Laurence Westreich discussed the biological basis for addiction and substance abuse disorders, the FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorders, the key indications and contraindications for medications used to treat opioid use disorders, identified goals for treatment, and how physicians decide on treatment changes and reduce the risks of diversion.

#### **Understanding Justice System Reform and How It May Impact Your Treatment Court**

Chief Judge John Morrissey provided an overview of Maryland's Justice Reinvestment Act and how local problem-solving courts may be affected.

#### **Mistakes Problem-Solving Courts Make and How to Fix Them**

Brian L. Meyer, Ph.D., LCP addressed trust issues, trauma-informed and evidence-based treatment differences, becoming trauma competent, myths of believing the self-medication hypothesis, the relationship between Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse, and issues with cold turkey and the goal of abstinence.

### **Juvenile Problem-Solving Court Symposium**

OPSC provided a one-day professional development course for problem-solving court practitioners in juvenile-related problem-solving courts such as juvenile drug courts and truancy courts. This Juvenile Problem-Solving Court Symposium was held in Annapolis where nearly 100 practitioners attended. The session included:

#### **Perspectives from Juvenile Drug Court Graduates and a Truancy Court Magistrate**

Juvenile drug court graduates and a truancy court magistrate offered an inside look into their motivators for success, as well as things that deterred them during their time in Maryland problem-solving courts.

#### **Individualizing Incentives and Sanctions in Your Juvenile Treatment Drug Court**

Participants learned about privilege reduction strategies to gain compliance over a single negative behavior, individualizing incentives for positive behaviors, delivering a timely response, and creating individualized behavior contracts to reward and motivate for positive behavior change in other areas (e.g., school attendance; family connectedness; community involvement). Participants also learned about program-wide incentives to motivate families to engage in the program, upward phase movement, and promoting a strength-based atmosphere.

#### **Overview of the Maryland Juvenile Justice System**

The Maryland Secretary of Juvenile Services, Sam J. Abed, provided an overview of the juvenile justice system, addressing common interventions, processes, outcomes, and solutions to juvenile delinquency within problem-solving courts.

#### **Working Together: Education and Juvenile and Truancy Courts**

A panel of professionals on the role of an educational liaison to truancy and juvenile drug court discussed the role as a pupil personnel worker for the school system and what juvenile drug courts and truancy courts should know about the education system, such as school-to-work programs for students who will not attend college or the service. The panel also discussed

tutoring programs, the individualized education plan (IEP) process, and funding streams attached to education that may be available for special needs students within Maryland.

***Problem-Solving Court (PSC) Leadership and the Role of the PSC Judge***

Judge William Meyer (Ret.) educated nearly 30 judges and magistrates about problem-solving court best practices in areas such as: constitutional issues, ethics and federal confidentiality laws, the role of the problem-solving court judge, and incentives and sanctions.

***DUI Court Best Practices Training***

With support from the MHSO, 50 DUI Court team members from three DUI Court teams Maryland convened in St. Mary’s County to learn the most up-to-date information on DUI court best practices. Steve Hanson, Associate Commissioner for New York’s Office of Substance Abuse, discussed treatment best practices for DUI population, how DUI courts should respond to behaviors specific to this population, and how to manage a DUI docket. Mary Pizzo from the Maryland Office of the Public Defender and Steve Ward, retired prosecutor from Charlotte, NC, presented on *The Pros and Cons, How We Make Partners from Traditional Adversaries: Finding the Balance*.

***Understanding Psychiatric Disorders and Hearing Voices***

Dr. Denise Beagley provided a basic understanding to over 50 problem-solving team members of the most common disorders that court, public safety, and other related personnel are likely to encounter, as well as being able to identify these disorders and the common situations in which they may encounter individuals struggling with their illnesses. Attendees also learned practical, immediately implementable techniques, such as motivational interviewing and verbal de-escalation to help manage and defuse potentially dangerous situations.

***Problem-Solving Court 101***

This three-hour class introduced new and existing staff to the problem-solving court model, the components of drug courts, mental health courts, truancy court, and an overview of the OPSC.

***Direct Assistance***

OPSC provides direct assistance to court programs including expertise and guidance to help courts improve operations, client services, and team communication. Teams may address protocol development, ancillary services, treatment service/ types, funding opportunities, court proceedings, and role clarification with support from OPSC. Teams may also discuss and devise plans to institute new research and evidence-based practices into their current operations.

In fiscal year 2017, OPSC provided direct assistance to several problem-solving courts by guiding them in improving their drug testing policy, enhancing sanction and incentive responses, reworking and expanding program entrance criteria, developing therapeutic responses to relapse, and understanding the roles and responsibilities of each team member. In a few jurisdictions, the team reviewed staffing processes and court proceedings to enable the court to operate more efficiently and consistently.

***Number of Months in Drug Court \****

Adult Circuit	22.5 months
Adult/DUI District	19.3 months
Juvenile	14.7 months
Family Recovery	7.87 months

\* for those participants who were discharged (Completed, Unsuccessful, or Neutral) from drug courts during FY 2017.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The Statewide Maryland Automated Record Tracking (SMART) system is a web-based data management system that allows the collection and standardization of data related to problem-solving courts' outcomes to include all drug, re-entry, veterans, and mental health courts in Maryland.

**5,305** drug court participants have successfully graduated since 2008.

SMART provides problem-solving court team members with direct access to information needed for making informed decisions about participants and the court. SMART is a multi-purpose tool that can be

used for several purposes: identifying and prioritizing participant needs; developing knowledge about services available across agencies; and obtaining immediate access to information about participant status.

In addition, individual problem-solving courts use SMART data for a variety of purposes: to generate presentations for local community and oversight boards; to report mandated data to state or federal stakeholders; to provide information on outcome and continuous quality improvement activities to accrediting bodies; and to evaluate program and service effectiveness.

Through a contract with the University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Services and Research (IGSR), OPSC provides support to problem-solving court programs across Maryland for the purpose of maintaining their data management. In addition to responding to thousands of technical assistance and training questions, the IGSR project team developed a SMART Case Management curriculum training for all problem-solving court case managers. IGSR also modified several components of SMART at the request of the problem-solving court users.

## Drug Courts

Drug courts are a Judiciary-led, coordinated system that demand accountability of staff and court participants and ensure immediate, intensive and comprehensive drug treatment, supervision and support services using a cadre of incentives and sanctions to encourage participant compliance. Drug courts represent the coordinated efforts of the criminal justice, mental health, and social service agencies, along with treatment communities that actively intervene and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime. As an alternative to less effective interventions, such as incarceration or conditions of general probation, drug courts quickly identify substance-abusing offenders and place them under strict court monitoring and community supervision that is coupled with effective, individually-assessed treatment and ancillary services.

### *The HOPE Act, Multi-Agency Response to the Opioid Crisis in Maryland*

In 2017, the Maryland General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed into law, the HOPE Act, a multi-agency emergency bill that consolidates several provisions intended to respond to the opioid crisis in Maryland, including the expansion and enhancement of Maryland drug courts. Under the provisions of this bill, the Judiciary has begun to assess drug court programs in circuit courts statewide. In addition, the HOPE Act establishes directives intended to expand access to opioid addiction treatment within Maryland communities, institutions, and hospitals.

Between 2007 and 2017, an average of **98%** of all drug tests conducted in Maryland's drug courts returned a negative result.



## Drug Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

County	Location	Type of Program	Year Est.	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2017
Anne Arundel	Circuit	Adult	Dec-05	52	33	0	29	141
Anne Arundel	District	Adult DUI	Feb-97 Jan. 05	112	39	33	34	313
Baltimore City	Circuit	Adult	Oct-94	68	50	6	20	251
Baltimore City	Circuit	Family	Aug-05	97	24	20	56	163
Baltimore City	District	Adult	Mar-94	31	13	7	29	166
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Juvenile	Mar-03	19	21	6	7	48
Baltimore Co	Circuit	Family	Aug-10	9	4	3	1	21
Calvert	Circuit	Adult	Feb-15	39	12	0	6	109
Caroline	Circuit	Adult	Nov-11	19	6	4	1	33
Carroll	Circuit	Adult	Apr-07	32	16	0	14	86
Cecil	Circuit	Adult	Jun-06	45	17	2	14	138
Charles	Circuit	Family	Jan-11	21	1	3	19	50
Dorchester	District	Adult	Jul-04	17	3	3	16	44
Frederick	Circuit	Adult	May-05	23	19	0	18	82
Harford	Circuit	Family	May-04	7	0	1	2	23
Harford	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-01	3	4	0	0	13
Harford	District	Adult	Nov-97	26	6	2	7	39
Harford	District	DUI	Jan-05	8	13	0	2	21
Howard	District	Adult	Jul-04	7	4	3	0	19
Howard	District	DUI	Jul-04	19	13	4	0	37
Montgomery	Circuit	Adult	Nov-05	22	9	3	12	104
Prince George's	Circuit	Adult	Aug-02	22	1	0	2	99
Prince George's	Circuit	Juvenile	Aug-02	8	5	0	5	38
Prince George's	Circuit	Re-Entry	Oct-13	6	5	0	1	18
Prince George's	District	Adult	Apr-06	27	16	0	2	55
St. Mary's	Circuit	Juvenile	Feb-04	14	5	3	3	30
St. Mary's	Circuit	Adult DUI	Jul-09	28	17	1	8	59
Talbot	Circuit	Problem- Solving	Aug-07	13	3	3	9	30
Washington	Circuit	Juvenile	Jun-07	9	3	0	10	17
Wicomico	Circuit	Adult	Sep-05	32	13	4	10	67
Worcester	Circuit District	Adult	Dec-05	21	17	1	16	80
Worcester	Circuit	Juvenile	Oct-05	5	2	1	1	11
<b>Total</b>				<b>861</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>2,405</b>

## Mental Health Courts

A mental health court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with a primary mental health diagnosis that substitutes a problem-solving approach for the traditional adversarial criminal court process. Participants are identified through mental health screenings and assessments and voluntarily participate in a judicially-supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. The overarching goal of the mental health court is to decrease the frequency of participants' contacts with the criminal justice

system by providing them with judicial oversight to improve their social functioning with respect to employment, housing, treatment, and support services in the community. Mental health courts rely on individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address both the mental health needs and public safety concerns of communities in which they reside. These courts also seek to address the underlying problems that contribute to criminal behavior and to assist with the avoidance of recurring correctional visits, as well as to lower the overall recidivism rate of this population.

### Mental Health Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

County	Location	Year Established	Entered Program	Discharged Program	Total Served in FY 2017
Baltimore City	District	Oct-02	134	123	396
Harford	District	Jan-03	4	8	14
Montgomery	Circuit	Jan-17	9	0	9
Montgomery	District	Jan-17	46	7	46
Prince George's	District	Jul-07	149	161	307
<b>Total</b>			<b>342</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>772</b>

## Veterans Courts

Veterans Courts serve those who served in the military and who now live with conditions such as PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs), and/or substance abuse disorders. Veterans can resolve outstanding criminal offenses, obtain the treatment and services they need, and stabilize their lives. A veterans court connects eligible participants to U.S.

Department of Veterans Administration (VA) benefits, long-term supportive housing, and other benefits for participants whose service-related disabilities are so severe as to prevent their return to the workforce. The veterans court can also access local resources in cases where the veteran does not qualify for VA benefits.

### Veterans Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

County	Location	Year Established	Entered Program	Graduated	Neutral	Terminated	Total Served in FY 2017
Baltimore City	District	Oct-15	20	20	9	1	54
Prince George's	Circuit	Apr-15	6	6	0	0	13
<b>Total</b>			<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>67</b>

## Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs

In accordance with Md. Code, State Government, §2-1546, established under Chapter 718, Acts of 2009, the Judiciary reports annually to the legislature on the status of the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program. The Truancy Reduction Pilot Program’s purpose is to improve school attendance and positively affect the youth’s attitude about education through a nurturing approach that ultimately will build a relationship between the family, the school, and the court, rather

than using punitive or harsh measures such as having parents prosecuted in criminal court, or stigmatizing the child and further souring their outlook on education and the criminal justice system. A social worker, counselor, or case manager works with the families to determine the reasons for poor attendance and makes referrals for community-based services when appropriate.

### Truancy Court Statistical Summary July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Location	Year Established	Entered Program	Discharged	Total Served in FY 2017
Dorchester Co.	Mar-07	30	11	42
Harford Co.	Jan-08	21	15	27
Kent Co.	Sept-14	10	10	16
Prince George's Co.	May-09	41	30	50
Somerset Co.	Nov-05	22	9	26
Talbot Co.	Jan-11	0	0	0
Wicomico Co.	Dec-04	66	42	88
Worcester Co.	Jan-07	13	8	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>203</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>273</b>



District Court Associate Judge L. Robert Cooper is preparing to distribute the certificates to the drug court graduates. Notable highlights included an inspiring keynote address given by Dr. Leana Wen, Baltimore City Health Commissioner, during which she expressed the important role drug courts play in combating the opioid epidemic.

L - R: Judge L. Robert Cooper, State Senator Barbara A. Robinson, Baltimore City Councilman John T. Bullock, Dr. Leana Wen, State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby, State Delegate Curtis Stoval Anderson, District Court Chief Judge John Morrissey, and in background, District Court Associate Judge Martin Dorsey.



## Conclusion

Problem-solving courts address underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior in our legal system. As the opioid epidemic is having a devastating impact on communities throughout Maryland and across the country, problem-solving courts continue to be the most intensive, most innovative, community-based program available to address aberrant behavior associated with addictions and mental illness.

The Judiciary continues to be the primary funding source for problem-solving courts in Maryland. Though many agencies and stakeholders provide funding and resources to the 53 problem-solving courts, without the Judiciary's continued financial support for these programs, they would cease to exist.

OPSC and the Maryland Judiciary continue to provide needed direct assistance to both future and current programs to ensure continued positive outcomes and sustainability. Professional development and direct assistance for problem-solving court practitioners are integral parts of expanding the field. The Judiciary continues to set high expectations for the monitoring and evaluating of these programs to ensure that "best practices" occur in the field. As these programs continue to be successful in Maryland, problem-solving courts will find more ways to become integrated into the adjudication process.

For more information, please contact Gray Barton, Office of Problem-Solving Courts director at 410-260-3617 or [gray.barton@mdcourts.gov](mailto:gray.barton@mdcourts.gov).



L- R: Carroll County Circuit Court Judge Fred S. Hecker, DTC Coordinator Dena Black, and DTC Case Manager Laura Drgos at the Union Bridge Drug Awareness Expo.



## Appendix A

### Maryland Judicial Council - An Overview

The Judicial Council serves as the principal policy advisory body to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. In 2013, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, the administrative head of the Maryland Judiciary, commissioned a comprehensive review of the governance and operational structure of the Maryland Judiciary, which led to the reconstitution of the Judicial Council, as well as the restructuring of the Judiciary's myriad committees, subcommittees, and workgroups. The reconstituted Judicial Council and the new committee structure became effective January 1, 2015. Since that time, the Council and its committees have worked to advance the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all, with the strategic plan and eight key goals as their guide.

The Judicial Council consists of twenty-two members, including: the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Chief Judge of the District Court, the State Court Administrator, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Administrators, the Chair of the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Chief Clerk of the District Court, the Chair of the Retired and Recalled Judges Committee, three Circuit Court judges, four District Court judges, and two District Administrative Clerks. The Deputy State Court Administrator serves as Secretary to the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council's Executive Committee, which meets at the request and direction of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to provide input to the Chief Judge on matters that arise between sessions of the Judicial Council, consists of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals, the Chair of the

Conference of Circuit Court Judges, the Chief Judge of the District Court, and the State Court Administrator.

As indicated above, a number of the members serve by virtue of their position, while the remaining members are appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Each appointed member of the Judicial Council is appointed to a two-year term, but may be reappointed to one additional consecutive two-year term as the Chief Judge deems necessary and appropriate. Unless otherwise directed by the Chief Judge, the Judicial Council meets bi-monthly.

As the highest governance body, the Judicial Council is the central hub for all Judiciary-wide policy changes, judicial reforms, legislative issues, and other internal and external developments that impact the administration of justice. To that end, the committees develop recommendations for the Judicial Council's consideration and the Chief Judge's approval that address policies, programs, and initiatives that help to ensure the effective and efficient administration of justice in Maryland. In addition, the Judicial Council takes up external matters that impact the Maryland Judiciary.

The diverse and focused members of the Judicial Council and its committees, including judges, magistrates, trial court clerks and administrators, and commissioners, represent all areas of the State. It is through their collective work that the Maryland Judiciary is fulfilling its mission and achieving its goals, all for the betterment of those who enter the courts and utilize the services the Judiciary offers.

## Maryland Judicial Council 2017

**Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chair \***  
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals

**Honorable Patrick L. Woodward \***  
Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals  
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building

**Honorable James A. Kenney III**  
Chair, Senior Judges Committee

**Honorable Kathleen Gallogly Cox \***  
Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges  
Circuit Court for Baltimore County

**Honorable Laura S. Kiessling**  
Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges  
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County

**Honorable Karen H. Mason**  
Circuit Court for Prince George's County  
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

**Honorable W. Michel Pierson**  
Circuit Court for Baltimore City  
Term: March 10, 2017 – December 31, 2017

**Honorable Brett Wilson**  
Circuit Court for Dorchester County  
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

**Pamela Q. Harris \***  
State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts

**Honorable Susan Braniecki**  
Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks  
Circuit Court for Worcester County  
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

**Honorable Amy J. Craig**  
Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks  
Circuit Court for Dorchester County  
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

**Timothy H. Sheridan, Court Administrator**  
Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators  
Circuit Court for Baltimore County  
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

**Honorable John P. Morrissey \***  
Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland  
Maryland Judicial Center

**Honorable Pamela J. Brown**  
District Court, Howard County  
Term: July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

**Honorable Susan H. Hazlett**  
District Court, Harford County  
Term: January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017

**Honorable Patricia L. Mitchell**  
District Court, Montgomery County  
Term: July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

**Honorable Gerald V. Purnell**  
District Court, Worcester County  
Term: March 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017

**Honorable Alan M. Wilner**  
Chair, Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

**Roberta Warnken**  
Chief Clerk, District Court of Maryland  
Maryland Judicial Center

**Tamera Chester**  
Administrative Clerk  
District Court, Anne Arundel County  
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

**Robert Prender**  
Administrative Clerk  
District Court, Prince George's County  
Term: January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017

**Douglas Hofstedt, Court Administrator**  
Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators  
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County  
Term: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

**Faye D. Gaskin, Secretary**  
Deputy State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts

\* Executive Committee

\*\* Honorable JoAnn Ellinghaus-Jones and Honorable Eugene Wolfe were members until their retirement on June 30, 2017.

## The Judicial Council's Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee

### Purpose

The Specialty Courts and Dockets will promote and oversee the development, implementation, and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets.

### Scope of Activity

The Committee will ensure the utilization of best practices by specialty courts and special dockets, in areas such as substance abuse, mental health and alcoholism, business and technology, and science and technology. It will monitor and direct the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, technical assistance, research, funding, and support for specialty courts and special dockets. The Committee will report on its initiatives and other activities, at least annually, to the Judicial Council.

### Committee Membership

Hon. Nicholas E. Rattal, Chair

NAME	TERM
Hon. George Lipman, Vice-Chair, District Court, Baltimore City	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Hon. Keith A. Baynes, Circuit Court Cecil County	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Hon. Kathleen L. Beckstead, Circuit Court, Wicomico County	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Magistrate James Bonifant, Circuit Court, Montgomery County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Mark S. Chandlee, Circuit Court, Calvert County	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Hon. Broughton M. Earnest, Senior Judge Circuit Court, Talbot County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Helen I. Harrington, Circuit Court, Charles County	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Hon. Patrice E. Lewis, District Court, Prince George's County	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Magistrate Troy Hill, Circuit Court, Baltimore City	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Hon. Thomas J. Pryal, District Court, Anne Arundel County	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Hon. Nancy Purpura, Circuit Court, Baltimore County	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Hon. Ronald B. Rubin, Circuit Court, Montgomery County	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Judy K. Rupp, Circuit Court, Montgomery County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Ronald A. Silkworth, Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Norman R. Stone III, District Court, Baltimore County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Ann Wagner-Stewart, District Court, Prince George's County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Sean D. Wallace, Circuit Court Prince George's County	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018
Hon. Beverly Woodard, Circuit Court, Prince George's County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017
Hon. Ricardo D. Zwaig, District Court, Howard County	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017

Gray Barton, Staff