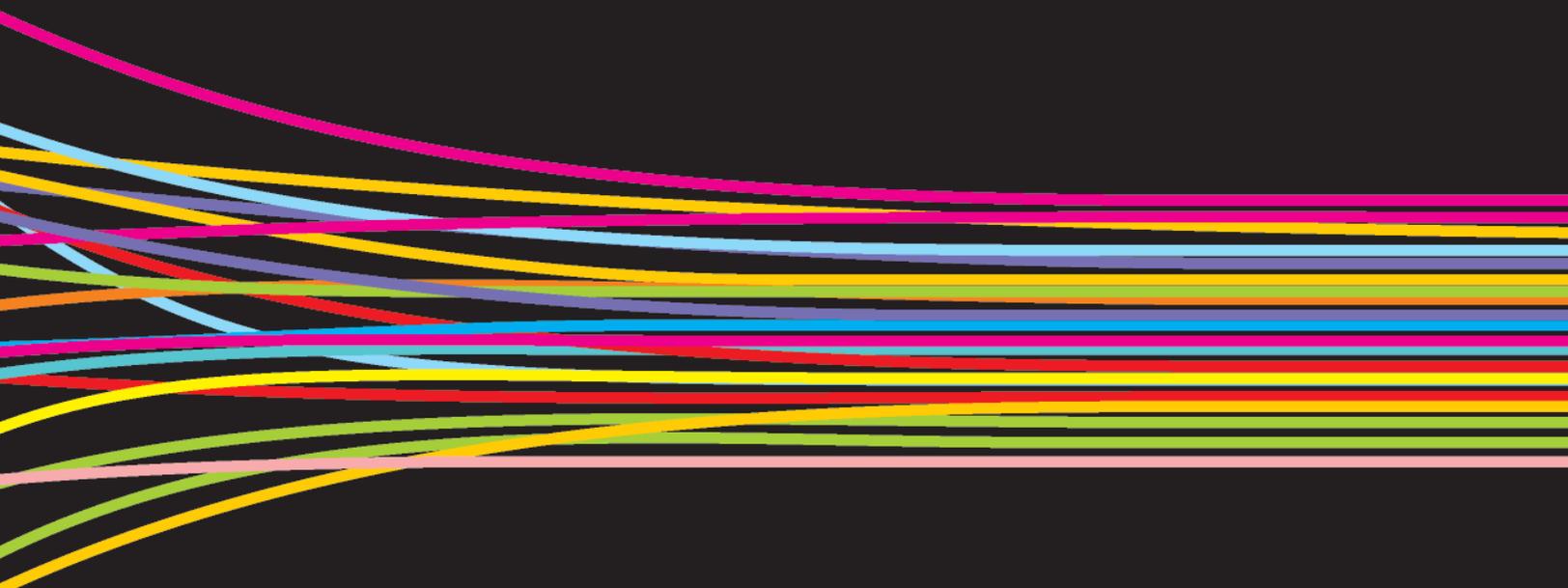


Justice Matters



Technology in the COURTS

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Justice Matters has resumed its quarterly publication schedule for fiscal year 2012 with a reduced page count and an expanded online presence. Visit Justice Matters online for expanded stories, photos and videos: www.mdcourts.gov.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

First in nation to study costs of “Civil Gideon” — a right to civil counsel

An estimated \$106.6 million needed to address critical legal needs involving shelter, sustenance, safety, health or custody.

Other states have proposed “civil right to counsel” plans, but the Maryland Access to Justice Commission has become the first in the nation to take a bold step further by envisioning how the state could administer such a right, and how much that plan could cost.

The right to be represented by a lawyer applies primarily to criminal cases and does not apply in most civil matters. A “civil right to counsel,” also referred to as Civil Gideon, extends the right to be represented by a lawyer in civil cases that deal with the most basic of human needs, such as shelter, sustenance, safety, health or child custody.

In a new report, the Maryland Access to Justice Commission notes that only about 22 percent of the civil legal needs of poor and low-income Maryland residents are being met. The Commission estimates that each year in Maryland, nearly 350,000 people appear in court proceedings involving basic human needs cases. These Marylanders, mostly individuals and families with low incomes, come to court without the benefit of counsel and usually without help from the existing voluntary legal services system.

The report, “Implementing a Civil Right to Counsel in Maryland,” starts from the principle that “low-income Marylanders should have a right to counsel at public expense where basic human needs are at stake.” The report explores how much it could cost to implement the plan, taking into account factors such as the kinds of cases this right to counsel should include, compensation rates for attorneys, income-eligibility criteria and quality assurance standards.

“The Commission asked the unthinkable question – what might it cost to provide meaningful access to counsel if that right to civil counsel was to be established,” said retired Maryland Court of Appeals Judge Irma S. Raker, chair of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission. “In a report two years ago, we recommended that Maryland should support the principle that low-income residents should have the right to counsel at public expense in basic human needs cases. Now, we are projecting what that public expense might be. This is a tough issue, but one that must be addressed and resolved if a state wants to create a viable program.”

The estimated cost for a program that assures lawyers for critical civil cases is \$106.6 million, the Commission

states in the report. The Commission also urges that the creation of a right to counsel initiative should not divert existing funding away from the current civil legal services delivery system, which includes approximately 35 organizations in Maryland providing some legal services in civil matters. The report tries to envision the amount of *additional* funding required to fulfill the mandate of a civil right to counsel in these critical types of cases.

The annual report also highlights work produced by the Commission during the past year including:

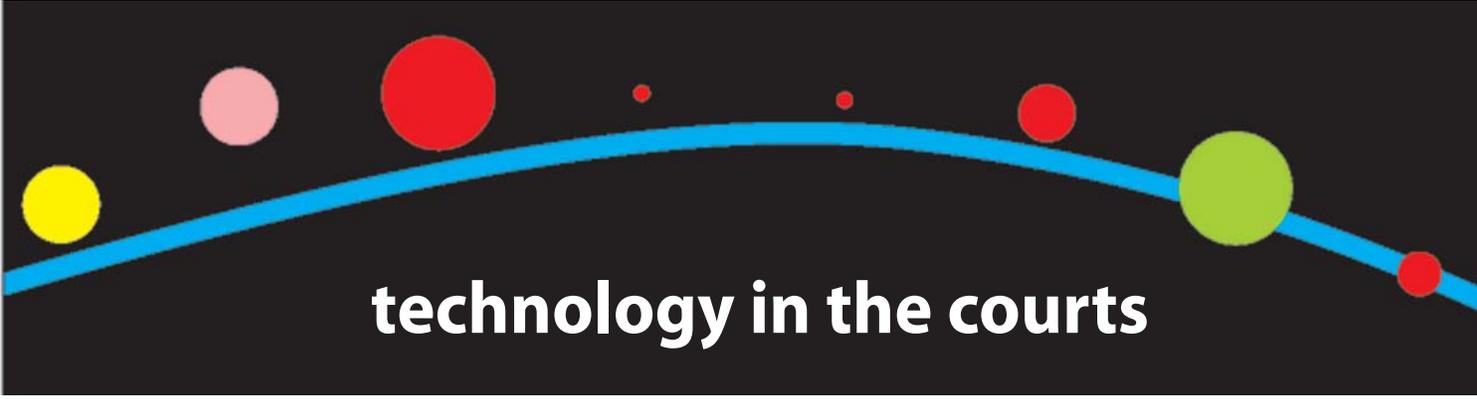
- a summary of lessons learned from the Commission’s year-long public inquiry process, including ten regional listening events;
- a white paper expounding on the important role that attorneys’ fees play in providing access to representation for low-income individuals and proposing legislation to provide attorneys’ fees for state constitutional claims;
- posters developed by the Commission as part of the public education campaign, “My Laws, My Courts, My Maryland;” and
- proposed rules to support the practice of limited scope representation in the state. The proposed limited scope rules are currently being considered by the Maryland Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The Maryland Access to Justice Commission was created by the Maryland Judiciary to improve and expand all people’s access to the state’s civil justice system. The goal of the Commission is to enhance the quality of justice in civil legal matters for persons who encounter barriers when dealing with the courts or trying to solve legal problems.

More Online

Go to the Maryland Access to Justice Commission website www.mdcourts.gov/mdatjc to:

- See the full report, “Implementing a Civil Right to Counsel in Maryland.”
- See the Maryland Access to Justice Commission annual report.
- Order “My Laws, My Courts, My Maryland” posters.



technology in the courts

Shifting to Paperless: Maryland courts go green

Imagine court cases without stacks of paper and files that don't need a filing cabinet. The Maryland Judiciary has been laying the groundwork to go 'paperless' at every court level throughout the state.

Over the next few years, the Maryland Judiciary plans to change the way courts receive, send and keep forms, filings and case records—no more paper unless there's a specific request. Or, in other words, there will be paper on demand. Courts will be able to instantly access complete records as cases travel from District Court to Circuit Court and on to the appellate courts. Cases can be filed, and files can be viewed, anywhere and at any time, with a keystroke rather than a trip to the courthouse.

"Today, you have to go to court and ask to see a paper file," said Chief Judge Ben C. Clyburn of the District Court of Maryland. "Soon, you'll be able to see the file online instead. In fact, there won't even be a paper file." Judge Clyburn is leading the advisory committee that is working to develop and implement the Maryland Electronic Courts initiative, known as MDEC. The overall goals for this initiative are to increase access to justice in Maryland courts, improve public safety, decrease costs and improve efficiency and timeliness.

The new electronic case management system should make it easier to file lawsuits and keep track of cases within any part of the court system. It will also help Maryland's courts save on storage costs because there won't be those staggering stacks of paper anymore. Critical records will be safer and not subject to destruction from disasters like fires or floods, or even simply misfiling or misplacing of paper.

Many other states have been going electronic, but no court system has completely done away with paper, and

neither will Maryland. Plans call for keeping records and doing business electronically, and using paper only when it's requested. If lawyers and people representing themselves want to file paper, they will be able to, and court clerks will digitize the documents. There are also times when papers are necessary, such as protection orders that people need to carry with them. "There will always be some paper," Judge Clyburn said.

In going to this new system, the courts are simply responding to and are even a little bit behind the general trend, Judge Clyburn explained. "What's happening in society today? People are shopping, paying bills, even dating online. They're doing everything online except for matters that have to do with our courts," he said. "Not only are people accustomed to online services, but they are demanding them more and more."

Advantages of going paperless

The advantages of statewide electronic case management are:

- **Improved public safety.** As an example, Judge Clyburn described a common event: "When a judge issues a bench warrant that calls for an immediate arrest, that warrant goes into the system and can literally sit on someone's desk." Under the new system, "when a judge e-signs a warrant and pushes a button, the warrant will go directly to law enforcement, which can react a lot faster. We believe this system can save lives."
- **Efficiency.** The courts should be able to handle more work without more resources. Currently, there are eight separate case management systems throughout the state, and those systems don't talk to each other. With this new technology, courts will be able to communicate with each other, streamline court processes and expedite the more than two million cases filed with the Judiciary each year. The new system will also trim handling and mailing costs, which can result

in substantial savings. “In terms of the paper we send out each day, the District Court is the largest user of the U.S. Postal Service in Maryland,” Judge Clyburn emphasized.

- **Speed.** When the ‘paperwork’ moves faster, so can cases, which can save money for litigants, as well. The new system will allow courts to capture and relay real-time data.
- **Consolidation.** All files from a case are in one place. “As a judge, I will be able to see it all, and that’s a benefit for everyone involved in a case,” Judge Clyburn said.
- **Access.** Eventually, the new coordinated system will provide litigants and members of the bar with 24/7 access to court case records, Judge Clyburn said.
- **Timeliness.** The courts are at the center of the criminal justice system. The new system will allow the Judiciary to use new standard ways of providing information to and receiving information from federal, state and local justice partner agencies electronically as things happen. This is called interoperability and it means that courts will be able to receive up-to-the-minute information on whether a warrant or domestic violence order has been served, or whether a defendant has been released from a detention center or is in transit to the court. Likewise, courts can notify police officers when a hearing they were scheduled to attend has been postponed or cancelled. Judicial Information Systems (JIS) is working with these justice partners to pilot the use of emerging standards for exchanging information between organizations.



Other considerations

Improving the case management technology is absolutely necessary, but expensive. The state has allocated more than \$20 million so far, but final contract costs will be much higher. To recoup some of the costs, the Judiciary is considering a convenience fee for electronic filing and paper-on-demand printing.

Judge Clyburn has discussed MDEC during meetings with court leadership, and the response has been very

positive. Judge Clyburn describes the typical reaction as something along the lines of, “We’re not reinventing the wheel here. It’s the kind of technology that we’re all familiar with and work with at home right now.”

Any change brings uncertainty about jobs and work duties but, while the implementation of an updated, integrated system may mean that job responsibilities change, it will also mean that there will be new and different job opportunities. “No one’s going to lose their job” because of the start of this updating of technology, Judge Clyburn noted.

Next steps

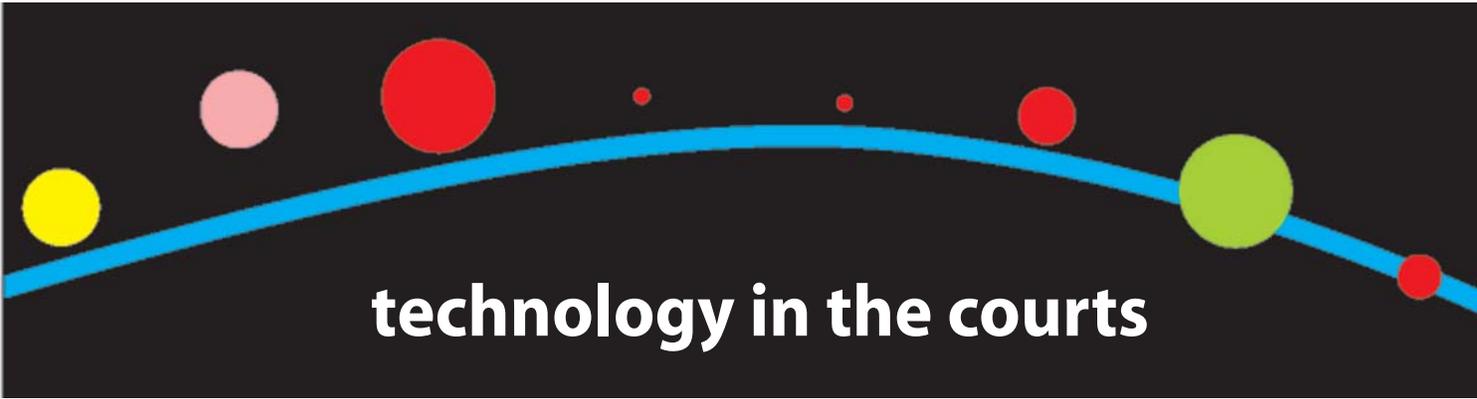
The Judiciary is in the process of choosing a vendor for the system. In the meantime, focus groups of Circuit Court and District Court judges are providing input about workflow, forms, in-court filings, exhibits, orders and other needs. Additional focus groups from the Circuit and District courts are being considered. Other groundwork includes online and in-person surveys and discussions with groups such as the Maryland State Bar Association and other justice partners, as well as some site visits.

“This is a needs-based effort,” Judge Clyburn said. “We want the needs to drive the technology rather than bring in technology and try to make it fit.”

This groundwork will play a huge role in crafting the design of the system with the vendor. After a vendor is secured, the next step will be to put a final plan together, then test the system with a pilot program to work out operating details and fix glitches. A pilot program is planned to begin in 2013 in Anne Arundel County. Once that pilot is successful, the system will be put into place county by county with full statewide implementation planned by the end of 2016.

More Online

The Maryland Electronic Courts initiative (MDEC) website has more information, including answers to frequently asked questions from attorneys and the general public, illustrations of how a paperless system might work, and news and updates as the project moves forward: www.mdcourts.gov/mdec.



technology in the courts

Legal help online

The People's Law Library launched a newly redesigned website at www.peoples-law.org. The site offers free legal information and self-help resources, including expanded, updated and easy-to-find information about legal issues, including housing and family law.

The People's Law Library website began in 1996 to help people who may be representing themselves in legal matters. The Maryland State Law Library has managed the website for the past three years. More than two million visitors used the People's Law Library last year.

The new website has the most popular search items on the home page and provides step-by-step instructions on how to file a case, prepare for court and appeal a decision. The site also features new laws, a legal services directory and a calendar of events.

"The People's Law Library is the place where so many people turn first for information about legal issues and to find links for legal help," said retired Court of Appeals Judge Irma S. Raker, chair of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission. "It is critical that we provide information and resources for all, and perhaps especially for the most vulnerable, including low-income Marylanders and those who are representing themselves in our state's courts."

The People's Law Library is supported by Maryland's non-profit legal services providers. Several legal aid programs, public interest attorneys and community advocacy groups have provided information.

To visit the updated and redesigned People's Law Library, go to www.peoples-law.org.

New rule: cell phones allowed inside courtrooms

You can now bring cell phones, laptops or other electronic devices to court in Maryland. The new Maryland Rule (16-110) took effect Jan. 1, and allows cell phones, cameras, personal computers and other electronic devices in court facilities. However, these devices may be inspected by security officers, and can be used **only** in accordance with the rule and the court's orders. Electronic devices are not allowed in jury deliberation rooms under the new rule.

More Online

- Maryland Rule 16-110 about cell phones and electronic devices [http://mdcourts.gov/reference/rule 16-110.pdf](http://mdcourts.gov/reference/rule%2016-110.pdf)
- The Rules Committee notice <http://mdcourts.gov/reference/cellphonenotice.html>
- What is a Maryland Rule? <http://www.courts.state.md.us/faq.html#rules>



Law librarians go “live” online

The Maryland State Law Library has gone “live” with a popular statewide online help service.

The Law Library provides online help to customers who use the state’s public library system’s AskUsNow! chat service. AskUsNow! is a statewide virtual reference live chat service that relies on more than 500 librarians across the state, representing all types of libraries, to answer questions during live chats with customers. AskUsNow! is free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to any resident or student of Maryland who wants help with questions, research and navigating the Internet.



Until last year, the Law Library received law-related questions from AskUsNow! chat sessions and answered those questions by email, usually the next day. Now, a Maryland State Law Library librarian is available to answer questions live during AskUsNow! chat sessions each Tuesday from 9-11 a.m. and 2-9 p.m. and Thursday from 2-4 p.m. During other hours, questions for the Law Library that come in through AskUsNow! are answered by email, as usual.

More Online

You can get to AskUsNow! through its website: www.askusnow.info, through the State Law Library’s website, www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib, or on the People’s Law Library home page, www.peoples-law.info.

Juries and Social Media: Why Can’t I Google, Tweet, Facebook or Blog about the Trial?

(With thanks to Retired Judge Dennis M. Sweeney for his contributions to this article, and to the Maryland State Bar Association Bar Journal’s in-depth article on this subject.)

Instant electronic communications and social media are everywhere, which is amazing considering how new they are.

- Google was officially launched in 1998, only 13 years ago. It is the most used search engine on the Web and gets several hundred million queries each day.
- Facebook was created in 2005, and today has almost 500 million members worldwide.
- Twitter didn’t exist until five years ago. Now, its estimated 195 million users send out more than 60 million tweets each day.
- Forty years ago, there were no cell phones. Now, there are more than 290 million in the United States, and about one in five households have gotten rid of their land line in favor of going exclusively mobile.

But the new technology, which encourages us to stay constantly connected to friends, families and online acquaintances, does not always mesh with jury rules, which include:

- Don’t talk about a case with anyone, even fellow jurors, until you are told by the judge to do so.
- Don’t talk to your friends, family or anyone else about the case or anyone involved in the case.
- If you have a question, get your information from official court sources, not from anywhere else.

New technology tempts jurors to ignore the rules and text or post their feelings, opinions and details about the trial they are sitting on, or get answers and information the way they do in their everyday life—by searching the Internet or asking friends on social media sites.

But serving on a jury is not everyday life. It’s special, with special rules to make sure that trials are fair for all and carried out according to laws that govern all of us.

More Online

Judge Sweeney’s draft jury instructions about social media and electronic communications are in **JM Online**, available on the Judiciary’s website, www.mdcourts.gov.



Innovation streamlines jury service

(With thanks to Diane Pawlowicz, executive director, Court Research and Development, Administrative Office of the Courts, for her contributions to this article.)

Technology is making it easier to get ready to serve on a jury.

Many of the larger counties in Maryland have used specialized computer software for several years to help in the random selection, notification and management of jurors. The Administrative Office of the Courts is now providing support for the implementation of new jury management software for 15 jurisdictions in Maryland. When this roll-out is complete, by the end of next year, all 24 jurisdictions will have modern jury management systems.

The new systems have been launched in the nine counties of the Eastern Shore. Implementation in Washington, Allegany, Garrett, Charles and St. Mary's counties is in process, and jurors received summons under the new system in May. Baltimore City will follow, with jurors summoned there for the first time on the new system by early 2012.

Compared to the former jury systems, citizens who are selected for jury service may notice some of the following changes:

- Potential jurors will receive only one document in the mail—a combined qualification questionnaire and summons. The juror questionnaire section of the form determines an individual's qualification to serve on a jury. This portion can be mailed in, and some jurisdictions will offer the option to complete the questionnaire online.

- In many jurisdictions, potential jurors will also be able to take a one-time postponement of jury service to a future date online. The summons portion of the document notifies the potential juror of their term of service and provides instructions about how to find out whether to report on a given day. There are several ways courts provide this information, including a call-in number with a recorded message, and a web address that posts a schedule.

Modern jury management systems that are currently installed have improved the experience of potential jurors in several ways:

- There is a reduction in the number of people required to complete a questionnaire each year.
- The check-in process for jurors reporting for service is quicker.
- Postage costs are reduced for both the court and the potential juror who is given the option for online completion of the questionnaire.
- Courts are better able to determine how many jurors are needed on a given day, thus reducing the need to bring in potential jurors unnecessarily.
- Jury commissioners and clerks are able to access information more quickly to answer questions from potential jurors.

Options available vary from one jurisdiction to another, but such options apply to all fifteen jurisdictions in the current roll-out.

Courts have also updated their websites to provide 24-hour information about instructions for jury service, policies and procedures, maps, directions, parking information, and contact information. Take a look at individual court information at www.mdcourts.gov/juryservice/commissioners.html.

State laws impact public access to online records



If you search for Maryland court cases online, you may see a new message: “No electronic record exists or case not subject to electronic inspection.” The new message will appear in Case Search, the Judiciary’s online database of court records either when there is no case record, or when a case record exists but the information is not publicly available.

A case record is a document or information that is collected, received or maintained by a court in connection with a judicial proceeding. Sometimes entire case records are not publicly available, including juvenile cases, adoptions, and sealed cases. Sealed cases are cases in which the entire court file is not available to the public, either because of court order or some requirement in the law.

Additionally, a case record can be shielded, which is when part of the case record is made confidential, but the remainder remains open for inspection. Shielded case records are records in which only certain information, such as an individual’s name, address or phone number, is protected from public viewing. This often involves the names of witnesses and victims in cases involving domestic violence, such as protective orders or peace orders and criminal matters.

The Maryland Judiciary created the new message during a regular update of Case Search to comply with Maryland laws that require certain case information to be protected from public inspection. Electronic records, such as those found in Case Search, cannot reveal the name and other identifying information of victims and witnesses in criminal, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence and peace order actions. For example, in order to protect the identity of a person, the new message

neither confirms nor denies that a case exists. Case Search does not confirm the existence of such a case because that would reveal the confidential name of the person. At the same time, it cannot deny the existence of a case that does exist.

Case Search is not the official case record but only a brief summary of information in the case record.

For the official case record, you should visit the courthouse where the case was filed. Go to the Maryland Judiciary’s website, www.mdcourts.gov, for a listing of courthouses. To access Case Search directly, go to www.casesearch.courts.state.md.us/inquiry/inquiry-index.jsp.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications and Public Affairs at (410) 260-1488.

The new message appears on the Case Search website.

“No electronic record exists or case not subject to electronic inspection.”

MSBA internship program links high school students with law firms, law-related agencies and courts

Judiciary Helps Law Links Program

For close to two decades, the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) has worked with local law firms, courts and law-related agencies to open up a whole new world of possibilities and choices for high school students. MSBA's Law Links summer internship program connects young people with attorneys in an educational and professional setting. The MSBA presents this public service program every summer to provide summer employment for students, while helping them prepare for college and the professional business world.

Through MSBA's internship, the law firms and agencies pay the students for seven weeks of summer employment, including time spent at the Law and Leadership Institute, the educational component of the program.

The Baltimore City Circuit Court is an active participant in this unique internship program. Last summer, of the 19 Baltimore City high school students who were accepted as Law Links interns, three were assigned to Baltimore's Circuit Court. All interns take a field trip to that court as part of the educational program, which also includes visits with Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, Maryland Court of Appeals, and Chief Judge Ben C. Clyburn, District Court of Maryland, plus a tour of the University of Maryland School of Law. Law Links is offered in Baltimore City, and Prince George's, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

"My history with Law Links goes back almost to when I came on the bench in 1999," said Baltimore City Circuit Judge Wanda K. Heard, who serves as a Law Links mentor and who has served on the board of the Citizenship Law-Related Education Program (CLREP), the arm of the MSBA that oversees the Law Links effort. "It's a wonderful opportunity for young people to get an up-close look at what it's like to be involved in the law," she said. "I also think that we, as lawyers, benefit greatly. It provides us with an opportunity to give back to the younger generation, and perhaps groom new lawyers. Mentoring these students also puts us on our best behavior. When I'm working with an intern, I learn from their new perspective on my work and the law, and that's invaluable. It continually reminds me of why I chose the law. We are also role models; we are the gatekeepers of the proper way to resolve disputes."

The MSBA reports that, over the years, many interns have excelled in their work and, at the firm's invitation, continued their employment with the law firm well beyond the internship. In fact, several now work full-time at their law firms. A number have also gone on to college and some are now lawyers, graduating from such law schools as Harvard, Georgetown University and George Mason University. But whatever destiny holds for each intern, Law Links is a positive step and a bridge to the youth's future.

More Online

JM Online has interviews and a video of last summer's interns. More information about the Law Links program is available on the website for the Citizenship Law-Related Education Program, www.clrep.org/LawLinksInternship.html.



Law Links interns Tiffany Thornton (left), Charlisha Johnson (center), Jakia Smith (right) worked in the Baltimore City Circuit Court last summer.

Commission names ACCESS TO JUSTICE award winners

The Maryland Access to Justice Commission has announced the recipients of its inaugural Maryland Access to Justice Awards.

“The awards recognize individuals, programs and entities in the state that improve the ability of all Marylanders to access the courts or to get legal help in civil legal matters so they can benefit from the rights, protections, services and opportunities that the law provides,” said retired Maryland Court of Appeals Judge Irma S. Raker, chair of the Commission.

- The 2011 honoree of the Outstanding Program of the Year Award is the **Tenants in Foreclosure** project. Created by the Public Justice Center in late 2009, the Tenants in Foreclosure project is expanding access to justice for a previously powerless and under-represented group of people—tenants who are evicted because their landlord is in foreclosure.
- **Del. Kathleen Dumais**, Maryland House of Delegates, and **Sen. Brian Frosh**, Maryland Senate, received the Legislator of the Year Award. Dumais, vice-chair of the House Judiciary Committee, and Frosh, chair of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, championed a bill, which became law in 2010, to increase surcharges on court filing fees. The increased surcharge helps relieve a significant shortage of funding for programs that provide critical legal services to people in need.
- **Gov. Martin O’Malley** received the Executive Branch Award for 2011. Gov. O’Malley has used his position as governor to prioritize access to justice for Marylanders facing homelessness and financial difficulties during the ongoing economic downturn, most notably through the creation of the Foreclosure Mediation program in 2010.



The Commission announced the Maryland Access to Justice awards during the Judicial Conference in May.

- **Chief Judge Ben C. Clyburn** of the District Court of Maryland received the Judge of the Year Award. Judge Clyburn consistently challenges District Court judges around the state to respond more effectively to people who appear without counsel, the indigent, and those facing a range of barriers in using the courts. Judge Clyburn created the District Court’s first Self-Help Center at the Glen Burnie District Court, with plans to serve users statewide through innovative technology.
- **Joan Bellistri**, director of the Anne Arundel County Public Law Library in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, received the Judicial Branch Excellence Award for her ongoing efforts to make legal information more accessible through publications, training and programs such as the creation of a self-help corner in the court’s law library. Bellistri also created the “Ask a Lawyer in the Library” program in Anne Arundel County, organizing attorney volunteers to staff regular clinics at local public libraries.



Judge Raker (center) and Chief Judge Bell (right) congratulate Gov. Martin O’Malley, recipient of the Executive Branch award.

Now Maryland drivers **must ask for a trial** to dispute a ticket

A new state law does away with automatic court dates for traffic tickets. Instead, drivers who want to dispute their traffic tickets in court must request a trial from the District Court of Maryland.

Drivers who get a payable traffic ticket have three options:

- Pay the full amount of the fine;
- Ask the District Court for a waiver hearing for sentencing instead of a trial; or
- Ask for a trial date at the District Court.



Examples of payable traffic violations include speeding, failure to obey traffic signs or signals, or failure to stop for a school bus. Drivers must comply with the new law within

30 days by paying the fine, asking for a waiver hearing or asking for a trial. If drivers do not choose one of these options within 30 days, they risk having their license suspended by the Motor Vehicle Administration.

If drivers opt to pay the traffic ticket fine, they may do so in any of the following ways:

- By mail to the District Court Traffic Processing Center, P. O. Box 6676, Annapolis, Md., 21401
- Online by credit card at www.paymentchek.com/MD/MarylandCourt/
- By phone with a credit card at 1-800-492-2656
- In person at any District Court of Maryland location.

Traffic tickets have instructions about how to pay the fine, ask for a waiver hearing, or ask for a trial date. Drivers can ask for a waiver hearing or a trial date by marking that option on the ticket and mailing it to the District Court Traffic Processing Center.

There is more information about the new law—what it means and how it works, a list of frequently asked questions, instructions and links—through the Maryland Judiciary’s website address:

www.mdcourts.gov/communications/trafficket.

Volunteer group strives to ensure IMPARTIALITY and DIGNITY in judicial campaigns

The 2012 elections will be here before you know it. Here, Linda Bowers Pierson, who chairs the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee (MDJCCC), answers questions about the group's role in judicial elections.

What is the MDJCCC and its primary goal?

The committee is a volunteer organization made up of a bipartisan and diverse group of Marylanders who have broad experience in law, business, politics, government service and other civic activities. Our primary goal is to ensure that the dignity and impartiality of the Judiciary remains intact during contested elections for Maryland's circuit court judgeships. Where today's elections for legislative and executive offices feature frankly partisan, uncivil and occasionally bare knuckles campaign tactics, MDJCCC maintains that judicial elections are inherently different. The committee is committed to maintaining respect for the uniqueness of the judicial office and aims to promote civil and dignified conduct during those elections.

What is the MDJCCC's role during judicial campaigns?

The committee really has three roles during campaigns:

First, we reach out to every judicial candidate shortly after they file their candidacy to provide them with a handbook that contains eight voluntary Standards of Conduct established by the committee. We invite the candidate to agree to adhere to those standards by returning a signed acknowledgement form.

Second, MDJCCC maintains a complaint-driven process and makes inquiries into all complaints filed with MDJCCC about a candidate's campaign conduct. But it is important to remember that the committee does not act unless an official complaint has been lodged against a candidate. Also, all judicial candidates are subject to MDJCCC inquiries, whether or not they sign the acknowledgment form. The committee's decision is then made public.

Third, we consider public education as a key part of our mission during campaigns. We publish on our website the names of all candidates and indicate whether or not they have agreed to abide by MDJCCC Standards of Conduct. We also distribute a voter brochure explaining the judicial elections process. The committee seeks collaboration with any civic or community organization interested in promoting voter education with respect to judicial elections or judicial function.



Linda Bowers Pierson chairs the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee.

What have been some of the MDJCCC's efforts during the past election year?

In the 2010 election, MDJCCC was able to secure from 87 percent of judicial candidates a signed agreement to abide by its Standards of Conduct—the highest ever participation level since MDJCCC's inception. The committee held inquiries into four complaints. Two of those complaints, which were combined into a single decision, focused on the committee's first-ever investigation into a complaint regarding social media and the Internet. A typical complaint involves whether a candidate's campaign communications are in opposition to the Standards of Conduct, including inappropriate campaign signs or false and misleading campaign literature. We have also addressed complaints dealing with the accuracy of endorsements by political leaders of judicial candidates.

More Online

More information and a printable brochure are available on the Maryland Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee's website, www.mdjccc.org/.

IN THE NEWS

Maryland Conference of Circuit Judges Names New Leaders

Baltimore City Circuit Judge Marcella A. Holland was elected chair and Queen Anne's County Circuit Judge Thomas G. Ross was elected vice-chair of the Maryland Conference of Circuit Judges.



Judge Marcella Holland

The Maryland Conference of Circuit Judges serves as a policy advisory body to Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, who oversees the 289 Circuit and District Court judges that comprise the Maryland Judiciary. The conference works collaboratively and in consultation with the chief judge in developing policies affecting the administration of the Circuit Courts. Its 16 members include the circuit administrative judge from each of the eight judicial circuits and one circuit judge elected from each judicial circuit.

Judge Holland is the first African-American woman to head the conference. She had been vice-chair of the conference since December 2008. Judge Holland and Judge Ross were both elected at a conference meeting in November 2010, and began their two-year terms effective Dec. 4, 2010.

Judge Holland succeeded Howard County Circuit Judge Diane O. Leasure, who had served as chair of the conference since 2008.

Judge Holland, who became an associate judge in 1997, has served as the administrative judge for the 8th Judicial Circuit (Baltimore City) since 2003. She was the first African-American woman administrative judge in Maryland. A native of Howard County, she previously worked as an assistant state's attorney and is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law.

Judge Ross has been administrative judge for the 2nd Judicial Circuit (Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties) since April 2009. He was appointed to the bench and named administrative judge for Queen Anne's County in January 2004. Before his appointment, Judge Ross was in private practice and was a partner in the law firm of Ross and Powell from 1982 to 2003. After graduating from Florida State University, Judge Ross studied at the University of Baltimore School of Law and received his law degree in 1978. [No photo of Judge Ross was available at print time.]

Judge Michele D. Hotten celebrates anniversary of historic appointment



PHOTO BY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Judge Hotten speaks at her investiture, joined by (from left to right) Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, Gov. Martin O'Malley and Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Court of Appeals.

Judge Michele D. Hotten is celebrating her first anniversary on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. When she was sworn in last August by Gov. Martin O'Malley, she became the first African-American woman to hold a position on any appellate court in Maryland.

Serving for the Fourth Appellate Circuit (Prince George's County), Judge Hotten filled the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge James P. Salmon.

Judge Hotten brings to the appellate court extensive experience as a trial judge, as well as a diverse legal background in both private practice and government service. For 15 years, she had been an associate judge on the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, where she served as the civil coordinating judge. Prior to joining the Circuit Court, she served for one year as an associate judge for the District Court for Prince George's County.

Judge Shirley M. Watts Elevated to Court of Special Appeals

Judge Shirley M. Watts officially joined the Court of Special Appeals on Jan. 27, filling the vacancy representing Baltimore City created by the retirement of Judge Arrie W. Davis.

Before her appointment to the Court of Special Appeals, Judge Watts had served as an associate judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City since 2002. She began her legal career practicing criminal law. She then spent nine years in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland and served as a supervisory assistant public defender for four years. In 1997, Judge Watts left the Office of the Federal Public Defender to accept an appointment as a federal administrative law judge. She served as chief administrative law judge for the Office of Hearings and Appeals in Maryland from 1999 until 2002, when she was appointed to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.



PHOTO BY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Judge Watts greets guests at her investiture. Seated to her left are (from left to right) Chief Judge Peter B. Krauser of the Court of Special Appeals, Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Court of Appeals, U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (7th District of Maryland), and Gov. Martin O'Malley.

More Online

Visit [JM Online](#) for:

- A video of Judge Hotten's investiture
- More photos from Judge Watts' investiture

IN THE NEWS

Judge Tillerson Adams Appointed County and Circuit Administrative Judge

Judge Sheila R. Tillerson Adams became administrative judge for Prince George's County Circuit Court and the 7th Circuit (Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties) a day after her predecessor, Judge William D. Missouri, retired Sept. 3, 2010 after more than 25 years on the bench. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals made the historic appointment.

As the county administrative judge, Judge Adams supervises all judges, officers and employees of the Prince George's County Circuit Court and the court's budget. As administrative judge for the 7th Circuit, she is also responsible for the administration of the courts within the judicial circuit and supervises the county administrative judges.

Judge Adams was appointed to the Prince George's County District Court in June 1993 and she served until December 1996, when she was appointed to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Before joining the bench, she was a staff attorney in the Legal Aid Bureau's domestic law unit, 1982-1984; an assistant state's attorney for Prince George's County, 1984-1988, ascending to chief of the sexual assault unit; and deputy county attorney for Prince George's County, 1988-1993.



Judge Sheila R. Tillerson Adams



PHOTO BY JUDGE ELLEN HOLLANDER

The Court of Special Appeals

honored three retired judges who are still sitting with the court as recalled judges and who celebrated their 80th birthdays in December. From left to right at the luncheon are retired Judge Lawrence Rodowsky, retired Judge Raymond Thieme, and retired Judge Charles Moylan.

More Online

Visit JM Online for a profile of the Eastern Shore's Judge Lloyd "Hot Dog" Simpkins: www.mdcourts.gov.

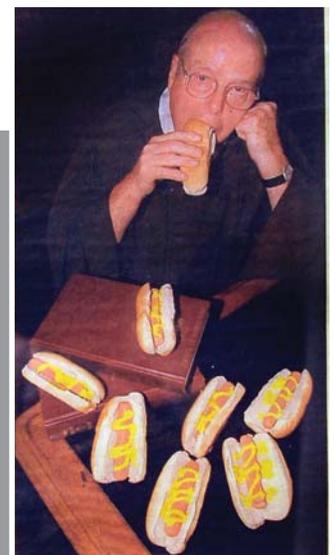


PHOTO BY BRICE STUMP

Judge Murdock First Woman to Head Baltimore Circuit Court's Criminal Division

When Judge Marcella A. Holland, administrative judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, announced the appointment of Associate Judge M. Brooke Murdock to head the court's criminal division in January 2010, Judge Murdock became the first woman in the Baltimore City Circuit Court's history to lead this division.

As the judge in charge of the criminal division, Judge Murdock is responsible for the assignment of judges and the management of the criminal docket; she will also chair the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Judge Murdock was appointed to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City in 1997. At the time of her appointment, she was a principal with the law firm Ferguson, Schetelich, Heffernan & Murdock (now known as Ferguson, Schetelich & Ballew). Before that, she was an assistant federal public defender for the District of Maryland, 1987-1991. Prior to that appointment, she had served as an investigative attorney with the International Trade Commission. From 1978-1979 and then again from 1983-1987, she served as an assistant state's attorney in Baltimore City.



Judge M. Brooke Murdock

Judge Getty Makes History with 90th Birthday on Appellate Bench

Retired Judge James S. Getty celebrated his 90th birthday on March 7, and made history two days later when he became the oldest judge to sit on the bench for an appellate case in Maryland.

"I've always loved the job," Judge Getty said. He began his career on the bench 46 years ago when he was sworn in as a judge for the Circuit Court for Allegany County on March 17, 1965. Judge Getty officially retired in 1995, and has announced his "retirement" a few more times after that, most recently, last March, but he has always offered to serve as a recalled judge should the need arise. Lately, Judge Getty has worked with Court of Special Appeals cases submitted on brief, but recently realized there was a chance to make history by sitting on a case.

"We are delighted that Judge Getty is willing to continue to serve on our court. He is always informed, instructive, and, by example, inspiring," said Chief Judge Peter B. Krauser of the Court of Special Appeals.

In his life beyond the bench, Judge Getty has what retired Court of Special Appeals Judge J. Frederick Sharer describes as "a very acerbic, great wit," and is a devoted family man who counts his two great-grandsons as favorite golfing companions.



Judge Getty (right) sits on the bench with Court of Special Appeals colleagues Judge Patrick L. Woodward (left) and Judge James R. Eyler (center).

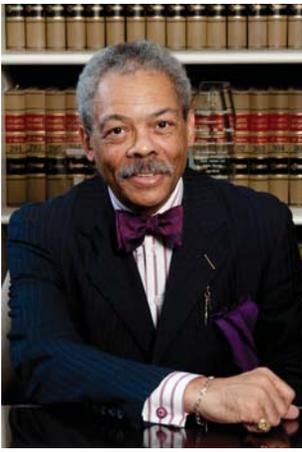


PHOTO BY P.A. GREENE,
MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

An Interview with Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, Maryland Court of Appeals

By Hon. William D. Missouri (Ret.),
Prince George's County Circuit Court

Chief Judge Robert M. Bell

Years before he was Maryland's first African-American chief jurist, Robert Mack Bell was a student at Dunbar High School in Baltimore. In 1960, 12 African-American students, mostly from Dunbar, were refused service at a downtown restaurant and subsequently arrested and convicted for trespassing. One of those students, 16-year-old Robert M. Bell, led an appeal of the verdict in a landmark civil rights case, (*Bell v. Maryland*, 378 U.S. 226, 1964), which eventually was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and brought an end to de facto racial segregation in Maryland.

I know that you were born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, but at what age did you come to Baltimore?

Well, my mother moved to Baltimore with my two brothers and me when I was about a year-and-a-half. I suspect that the decision to come was largely made as a result of the breakup of my mother and father. I know that my mother's brother had settled in Baltimore and was urging her to move up, and she was attempting to better her condition since she was simply a sharecropper.

Chief, you ended up at one of the outstanding high schools on the East Coast for African-Americans at that time. Something significant happened while you were at Dunbar. Would you please elaborate on that?

At the end of my junior year, we were approached by students from Morgan State College, who were going to stage a sit-in demonstration in downtown Baltimore to protest the closing of places of public accommodations to African-Americans. I was Dunbar's student government president at the time. My role was to recruit students to participate. So, on the 16th of June of 1960, I got on the bus with a bunch of other students from Dunbar, and 12 of us ended up going and sitting in a restaurant in downtown Baltimore called Hooper's. We were, as a result of that, arrested and charged with trespassing. The

trial, of course, occurred in Circuit Court, in those days, it was called the Supreme Bench of Baltimore.

Did you receive your mother's blessing and permission to participate in that civil rights act?

My mother, being from North Carolina and having seen discrimination and being very much aware of its impact, always took steps to keep us away from it as much as she could. So, when the opportunity came to participate, knowing my mother, I knew that she would have been concerned about my being involved, and she would have said no. So, I did not ask her. I did it and I told her when it was over, when I had to, after I had been arrested; I told her then. And, interestingly enough, she was very supportive.

Did your experience at the high school level play a part in your decision to attend law school?

Quite frankly, I am not sure. I had already decided to become a lawyer before then. I started thinking about becoming a lawyer when I was a youngster, having read many of the "Perry Mason" books by Erle Stanley Gardner. Now, once I had that experience, that real-life experience, and I went on to college, given some of the feedback from some of my professors, I am sure that it confirmed that intention.

More Online

Chief Judge Bell talks more about growing up in Baltimore, his arrest in high school as part of a civil rights campaign, and that case's journey through the Maryland court system to the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Missouri's full interview with Chief Judge Bell is available in **JM Online** on the Judiciary's website, www.mdcourts.gov.

Excerpted from The Judges' Journal (Winter 2011) and reprinted with permission from the American Bar Association.

Court of Appeals hosts high school mock trial championship

They argued their points like seasoned attorneys, showing no nerves as they presented their cases in the state's highest court in April. The stakes were high and the decision was narrowly won, but shortly after closing arguments, Maryland Court of Appeals Judge Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., announced that the Park School of Baltimore County was the winner of the 2011 High School Mock Trial Championship. Coming in a close second was the team from Montgomery County's Richard Montgomery High School.

The championship was the culmination of a year of competition that began last fall when more than 2,000 students, representing 131 high schools across Maryland, entered the Maryland State Bar Association's (MSBA) annual statewide High School Mock Trial Competition. Each team competes at least four times in local matches held in District and Circuit courthouses.

The success of the mock trial competition depends upon volunteer attorneys and judges who coach teams and score competitions at local, regional, semifinal and championship levels.

Judge Murphy congratulated both championship teams, who came to the match after winning in the semifinals only the day before. "To turn around and do this again the next day, and so well, is a credit to you and to your coaches," he told the capacity crowd in the Court of Appeals courtroom.

More than 48,000 Maryland students have participated in MSBA's Mock Trial Competition since it began in 1983. MSBA's educational arm in Maryland schools, the Citizenship Law-Related Education Program (CLREP), manages the competition. "It's a wonderful competition and combined organizational effort," Judge Murphy said.

The championship was webcast live and can be seen on the Judiciary's website, which also has more information about the mock trial program, including how to start a team, with links to CLREP.

More Online

Links to more mock trial photos, information and webcasts are on **JM Online**. The webcast can be viewed at www.mdcourts.gov/education/mocktrial.html.



Court of Appeals Judge Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., presides over the 2011 High School Mock Trial Championship, held in the Maryland Court of Appeals in Annapolis.



PHOTOS BY SASSER PHOTOGRAPHY

Baltimore County's Park School students and coaches celebrate their victory in the mock trial championship in the Maryland Court of Appeals.

MEDIATION in appellate court

Mediation, provided for more than a decade in Maryland's trial courts, is now part of the process for many civil cases heard at the appellate level.

In February 2010, the Court of Special Appeals launched a pilot program of court-ordered mediation, which means that people who appeal their civil cases to Maryland's second highest court may ask for or be ordered to mediation before pursuing further litigation. Participants are not charged a fee for the mediation service in the pilot program.

The pilot program was created to reduce the cost and time for appeals, improve outcomes for litigants, prevent multiple appeals in the same case, and ease the Court of Special Appeals' heavy caseload.

"The experience of our own trial courts and civil appellate mediation programs in other states suggests that this new program offers the potential to resolve cases before the parties incur the expense and burden of preparing an appeal," said Chief Judge Peter B. Krauser of the Court of Special Appeals. "Mediation provides an opportunity for litigants to devise solutions of their own accord. Because parties in mediation determine the future of their own controversy, mediated agreements have shown to be more sustainable than court-mandated resolutions. Overall, we hope that this program will benefit all Marylanders by improving outcomes, increasing the Court's efficiency, reducing the time and cost involved in lengthy appeals and, in general, improving access to justice."

Since parties will not be required to submit briefs or order transcripts until the mediation is completed, the savings could be substantial if settlements are reached. Cases resolved prior to a hearing save additional public resources by decreasing the Judiciary's work load. Mediations are completed in most cases within 60 days of the order to mediation.

**MEDIATED AGREEMENTS
ARE MORE SUSTAINABLE**

Chief Judge Krauser expects the mediation program will eventually lead to a substantial reduction in the civil cases heard by the Court of Special Appeals. The Court of Special Appeals hears approximately 1,300 civil appeals each year, of which nearly half are viewed as possible cases for mediation.

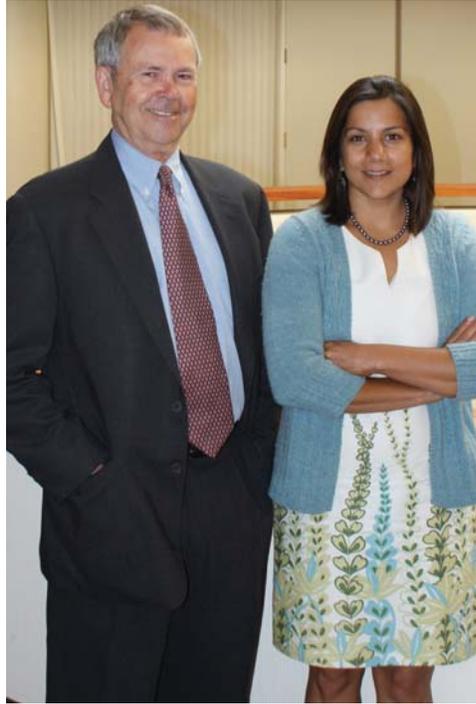


PHOTO BY LYNNE SADLER

Robert J. Rhudy and Mala Malhotra-Ortiz are the director and deputy director, respectively, of COSA's mediation program.

From the first mediation on March 19, 2010, through April 30, 2011, the program conducted 182 mediations. Of this total, 175 were concluded, with 121 full or partial settlements (69 percent) and 106 full settlements (60 percent), making the infant program one of the most successful state appellate mediation programs in the country where average mediation settlement rates are 35 percent to 40 percent. The most common case types mediated during this period were contract (49), domestic (48), tort (26), foreclosure (23), real property/zoning (19), and workers' comp (10). The program mediated cases from 23 Maryland jurisdictions during this period.

The mediation program is woven into the court's existing prehearing conference program, explained Robert J. Rhudy, director of mediation. "It is not too late for mediation at the appellate level," Rhudy said. "By the time people have reached the appeals level, they have already had their 'day in court,' and may see that mediation is an attractive alternative to a lengthy and costly appellate battle. If no settlement is reached, the parties may proceed with their appeal."

Mala Malhotra-Ortiz, an attorney and mediator, is the deputy director of the pilot program and works closely with participants.

For more information about the Court of Special Appeals Civil Mediation Pilot Program, please contact Robert J. Rhudy, director of mediation, Court of Special Appeals, 410-260-3716, bob.rhudy@mdcourts.gov, or visit the program's website, www.mdcourts.gov/cosappeals/mediation.

Rule change: Judges can order that jury information not be disclosed

By Kara Kiminsky, Esq., Assistant Reporter, Rules Committee

A rule change, effective this September, expressly allows Maryland Circuit Court judges to order nondisclosure of jurors' names and places of residence in criminal trials when the judge determines that juror safety, harassment or tampering is a concern.

The Court of Appeals adopted a rule change that outlines the process by which a judge may order nondisclosure of jurors' names and cities or towns of residence if he or she "finds from clear and convincing evidence or information, after affording the parties an opportunity to be heard, that disclosure of the names or the city or town of residence of prospective jurors will create a substantial danger that (i) the safety and security of one or more jurors will likely be imperiled, or (ii) one or more jurors will likely be subjected to coercion, inducement, other improper influence, or undue harassment."

The judge may order that prospective jurors' names and cities or towns of residence not be disclosed during the questioning of prospective jurors, known as "voir dire." For impaneled juries, the judge may order that juror information not be disclosed (i) until after the

jury is dismissed at the end of a trial, (ii) for a limited time after the trial ends, or (iii) at any time. In making the rule change, the Court of Appeals indicated that nondisclosure orders should be used rarely.

Additionally, regardless of whether a judge orders nondisclosure, the rule change requires that jurors in criminal trials be referred to by juror number, and not by name, in open court.



More Online

The entire Court of Appeals Rules Order pertaining to the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure's 168th Report, including the amendment to Rule 4-312 that allows nondisclosure of juror information, is available online at www.mdcourts.gov/rules/rodocs/168ro-rule4-312.pdf.

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THE JUDICIARY IN THE

Judiciary employees are also active members of their communities who share their time, talents and treasures to help others. Below are a few recent examples of outreach and special court programs.

For the past five years, the **Maryland Judiciary for the Cure team has attracted walkers from throughout the Judiciary dedicated to raising money and awareness to battle breast cancer.** This June, the team once again took part in the Komen Global Race for the Cure in Washington, D.C. The event raised more than \$5 million to fund breast cancer programs for women in need, and thanks to donations from courts throughout the state, this year the Maryland Judiciary for the Cure raised almost \$6,000 and received the first place award under Local Government Teams.



Prince George's County Circuit Court honors county veterans.

Just before Memorial Day, the **Prince George's County Circuit Court held its second annual appreciation ceremony to celebrate the county's veterans.** The ceremony was held in front of the restored historic Duvall Wing of the Prince George's County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro. The court called on veterans in Prince George's County to submit photos and information about their service, which were included in a tribute video that is posted on the court's website, www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/JudicialBranch/veteran.asp.

A Judiciary-wide Japan relief effort raised more than \$3,000 for Save the Children to help children in need after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

The District Court for Baltimore City Civil Division gathered and sent 17 boxes full of holiday gift packages for the troops in Iraq. The holiday gift boxes, which included magazines, toiletries and candy, were sent to the 200-plus members of U.S. Army Unit 1-8 FSC. Led by Sharon Schultz, supervisor II, court employees were joined in the effort by local students, who donated many of the items. The court staff raised more than \$200 to pay for the postage and handling. Shultz, Carolyn McNeill, supervisor I, and Delphine Jones, packed the boxes and got them shipped to arrive in time for the holidays.

Men from the **Circuit Court for Frederick County Clerk's Office donned ladies' shoes to help a good cause. They walked around downtown Frederick as part of the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" campaign,** sponsored by the local domestic violence shelter, Heartly House, to draw attention to domestic violence against women. Several members of the Clerk's Office came out to support and walk with fellow employees: Matt Tayman, Buzz Working and Jamie Kline. Just before the walk, the Clerk's Office held a Dress-Down and Tie Day as a fundraiser for Heartly House, which added up to \$1,600 in donations for the shelter.



Employees "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" to draw attention to domestic violence.

COMMUNITY

Three members of the Judiciary joined other state employees to create a uniquely Maryland quilt that earned a blue ribbon at the Anne Arundel County Fair, and was also displayed at the Maryland State Fair and the Miller Senate Office Building. The Judiciary employees on the prize-winning team were Trudy Brown, accounts payable lead worker; Ellen Nye, revenue lead worker; and Sharon Hoff, accounts payable supervisor. **Team members are now using their needles to create quilts for Project Linus**, which provides small blankets and quilts to needy children.

Judiciary Orioles fans **“Hit a Homerun for Haiti”** this spring when they combined an evening at the ballpark with fundraising. At the end of the game, the O’s were defeated by the New York Yankees, but the “MVPs” of the evening were 232 Maryland Judiciary employees, family members and friends, who helped raise \$1,160 for the American Red Cross to help ongoing Haiti earthquake relief efforts. Five dollars of each ticket sold went to the Red Cross Haiti relief fund, which helped make it a win-win situation, regardless of the final score.

The fourth annual **Maryland Judiciary Benefit Basketball Game** in May brought family, friends, co-workers and members of the community together for an evening of fun and fundraising. On the court, the teams from the District Court of Maryland and Judiciary Information Systems battled each other, but off the court, they worked together to raise \$340 for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Annapolis.

Almost 100 county teens crowded into an Annapolis courtroom one morning this April, “summoned” to appear, not with their attorneys, but with their teachers, to learn first-hand about the consequences of making bad decisions. It was part of the **Anne Arundel County District Court’s twice-yearly Schools in the Court program**. Judge Danielle M. Mosley leads the program, which brings students to the court to watch actual criminal cases, hear from victims and people who have been convicted of drinking and driving, learn about the legal and financial consequences of being charged with drunk driving, and meet with a representative from Maryland’s Shock Trauma Center. “Schools in the Court” has been held twice each year since now-retired Judge Vincent A. Mulieri started the program in 2000.



Judiciary employees help state quilt earn blue ribbon.



Employees play basketball to benefit Boys and Girls Clubs.



Judge Danielle M. Mosley leads the Schools in the Court program to reach Anne Arundel students.

The District Court for Anne Arundel County bench: a history with a personal connection

By Judge Jonas D. Legum,
Anne Arundel County District Court



Judge Jonas D. Legum

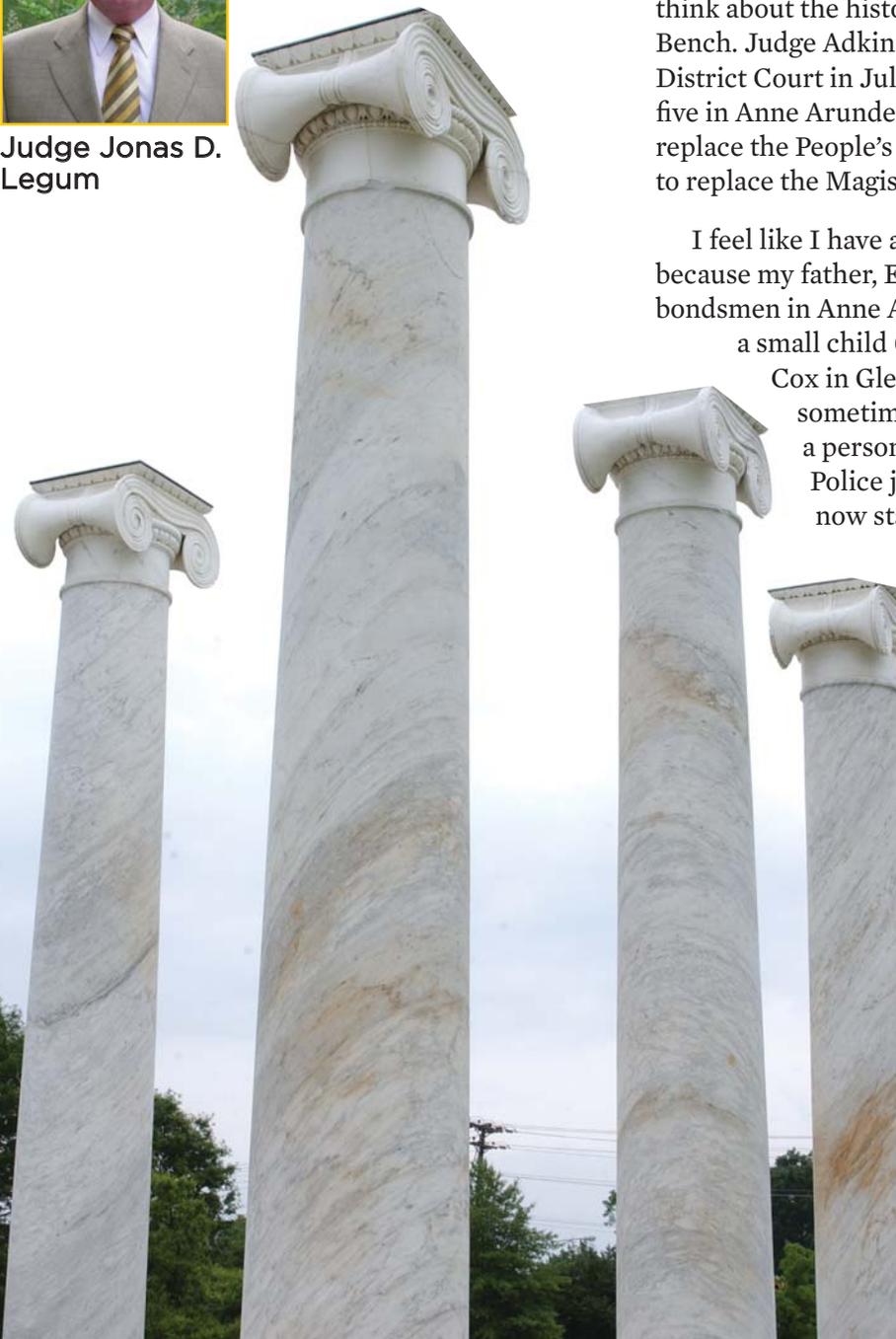
District Court: “. . . the Court where the jurisdiction is inferior, but the attitude is superior!”

—The Honorable Robert S. Heise

Ever since Judge Williams Adkins III wrote an article in the 2009 winter edition of *Justice Matters* magazine, I began to think about the history of the Anne Arundel County District Court Bench. Judge Adkins’ article detailed the start of the Maryland District Court in July 1971, and its original 73 judges, including the five in Anne Arundel County. The District Court was created to replace the People’s Court which, in turn, had been created in 1964 to replace the Magistrates’ Court.

I feel like I have a life-long connection with the District Court because my father, Edward “Udie” Legum, was one of three bail bondsmen in Anne Arundel County in the 1950s, when I was a small child (Carroll Hynson Sr. of Annapolis, and Joe Cox in Glen Burnie were the others). My father would sometimes take me with him when he would pick up a person he just posted bond for at the Annapolis City Police jail on Duke of Gloucester, where City Hall now stands, and the Anne Arundel County Detention Center on Calvert Street, where the Arundel Center now stands. He also took me to Magistrates’ and People’s Court locations in the basement of the Circuit Court, and the Anne Arundel County Police stations in Edgewater and Millersville. I never attended night court in Ferndale.

It is amazing to find out how much information is contained in the Maryland Reports and Maryland Appellate Reports, besides cases and rules changes. In the front of each bound volume are the names of the judges who sit on the Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals, Circuit Court and District Court. Prior to 244 Md., only the Court of Appeals and Circuit Court judges were listed. Beginning with 244 Md., the judges of the Court of Special Appeals, which was created in 1967, were listed; and beginning with 263 Md., the judges of the District Court were listed.



Except for my personal recollection, and speaking with older judges, all of my research comes from the front of the Reports. In the mid-1990s, the Reports began listing the swearing in dates of judges, as well as dates of retirement or moving to another court. When the Reports use the word “qualified,” it means the actual date a new judge is sworn in by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, which sometimes occurs before the formal investiture. When one judge replaces another, the Latin word *vice* is used, which means “in place of.” For example, in 344 Md. when Robert C. Wilcox is listed for the first time, footnote 14 states “Qualified March 13, 1997; vice Judge Rasin.” Since its inception, 33 judges have served on the Anne Arundel County District Court bench (34 if you count Martha Rasin twice, who left to become the Chief Judge of the District Court before returning five years later).

- The original five judges, who were sitting People’s Court judges, were qualified (sworn in) on July 5, 1971. They were: Thomas J. Curley, Jr. (judgeship number one); Robert S. Heise (two); Vernon L. Neilsen (three); George M. Taylor (four); and Bruce C. Williams (five).
- A sixth judgeship was created by the General Assembly in 1973 and was filled by State’s Attorney Raymond G. Thieme, Jr., who was sworn in on June 22, 1973. Judge Thieme gave me my first law-related job when he hired me in 1972 as a law clerk in the state’s attorney’s office.
- On April 13, 1977, Martin A. Wolff was sworn in to replace Judge Williams, who replaced Judge Karl Biener in Circuit Court on November 29, 1976.
- On September 26, 1977, Robert N. Lucke, Sr., was sworn in to replace Judge Thieme, who moved to Circuit Court on June 27, 1977, to replace Judge Matthew Evans.
- On May 29, 1980, Arthur A. Anderson, Jr., was sworn in to replace Judge Wolff, who moved to Circuit Court on December 28, 1979, to fill a new judgeship created there.
- On March 26, 1982, Donald M. Lowman was sworn in to replace Judge Heise, who moved to Circuit Court on December 21, 1981, to replace Judge E. Mackall Childs.
- On June 25, 1984, Martha Wyatt was sworn in to replace Judge Anderson, who retired on June 14, 1984.
- On August 12, 1985, Lawrence H. Rushworth was sworn in to replace Judge Neilson, who retired on June 15, 1985.
- On March 31, 1988, Clayton Greene, Jr., was sworn in to replace Judge Wyatt, who passed away untimely on December 14, 1987.
- On September 6, 1989, both Joseph P. Manck and Martha F. Rasin were sworn in. Judge Manck replaced Judge Taylor, who retired on June 30, 1989, and Judge Rasin replaced Judge Rushworth, who moved to Circuit Court on August 8, 1989, to replace Judge Heise.
- A seventh judgeship was created by the General Assembly in 1990, which was filled by Michael E. Loney, who was sworn in on March 2, 1990.
- On April 25, 1991, Vincent A. Mulieri was sworn in to replace Judge Curley, who retired on January 11, 1991.
- On July 10, 1991, James W. Dryden was sworn in to replace Judge Lucke, who retired on May 3, 1991.
- On August 16, 1994, Essom V. Ricks, Jr., was sworn in to replace Judge Lowman, who retired on April 1, 1994.
- On July 9, 1996, Nancy Davis-Loomis was sworn in to replace Judge Greene, who moved to Circuit Court on October 30, 1995, to replace Judge H. Chester Goudy, Jr.
- On March 13, 1997, Robert C. Wilcox was sworn in to replace Judge Rasin, who became the Chief Judge of the District Court on September 17, 1996, replacing Judge Robert F. Sweeney.
- An eighth judgeship was created by the General Assembly in 1997, which was filled by the swearing in of Paul A. Hackner on March 24, 1997.
- On December 22, 1997, Megan B. Johnson was sworn in to replace Judge Loney, who moved to Circuit Court on June 20, 1997, to replace Judge Thieme, who moved to the Court of Special Appeals.
- On September 10, 1998, David S. Bruce was sworn in to replace Judge Manck, who moved to Circuit Court on March 30, 1998, to fill a new judgeship created there.

District Court for Anne Arundel, *cont.*

- On December 8, 2000, J. Michael Wachs was sworn in to replace Judge Davis-Loomis, who moved to Circuit Court on August 4, 2000, to replace Judge Rushworth.
- In September 2001, Judge Rasin left her position as the Chief Judge of the District Court. She automatically returned to the Anne Arundel County District Court bench pursuant to CJ§1-603(a). This gave Administrative Judge James W. Dryden the luxury of having nine judges, even though the General Assembly only authorized eight judges pursuant to CJ§1-603(b) (7). Judge Rasin subsequently filled the “bracket” vacated by Judge Hackner on June 12, 2002, who moved to Circuit Court to replace Judge Robert Heller.
- On December 5, 2002, John P. McKenna was sworn in to replace Judge Bruce, who moved to Circuit Court on June 17, 2002, to replace Judge Eugene M. Lerner.
- On January 17, 2006, both Danielle M. Mosley and Thomas J. Pryal were sworn in. Judge Mosley replaced Judge Rasin, who retired on August 8, 2005, and Judge Pryal filled the ninth judgeship created by the General Assembly in 2005.
- On July 12, 2006, I was sworn in to replace Judge Ricks, who retired on May 31, 2006. I was sworn in on my father’s 90th birthday, and am happy that he was in attendance.



The Anne Arundel County District Court boasts a proud judicial genealogy.

- On September 3, 2008, both Eileen A. Reilly and Shaem C.P. Spencer were sworn in. Judge Reilly replaced Judge Mulieri, who retired on June 30, 2007, and Judge Spencer replaced Judge Wachs, who moved to the Circuit Court on December 4, 2007, to replace Judge Manck.
- On September 5, 2008, H. Richard Duden III was sworn in to replace Judge Dryden, who retired on July 31, 2007.
- On August 1, 2010, Thomas V. Miller was sworn in to replace Judge Wilcox, who retired on January 18, 2010.

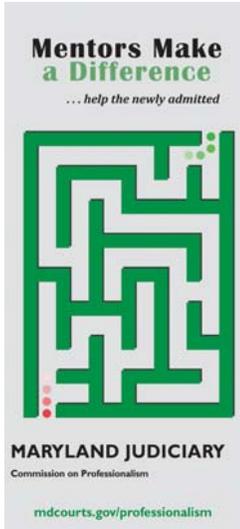
As you can see from above (and discounting the nine current judges), 12 of the first 24 District Court judges (50 percent) moved to Circuit Court. Of these 12, two judges (Thieme and Greene) moved to the Court of Special Appeals, and one judge (Greene) moved to the Court of Appeals. Judge Greene is one of only three judges in Maryland to serve on all four courts.

There have been six administrative judges for Anne Arundel County District Court: Tom Curley (07/05/71-01/11/91); Clayton Greene (01/11/91-10/30/95); Martha Rasin (10/30/95-09/17/96); Joe Manck (09/17/96-03/30/98); Jack Dryden (03/30/98-07/31/07); and John McKenna (07/31/07-hopefully 06/30/23, his 70th birthday).

Finally, for those of you who are into “judicial genealogy,” the lineage and creation dates of the nine judgeships are as follows:

- #1 (1971): Curley – Mulieri – Reilly
- #2 (1971): Heise – Lowman – Ricks – Legum
- #3 (1971): Neilson – Rushworth – Rasin (#1) – Wilcox – Miller
- #4 (1971): Taylor – Manck – Bruce – McKenna
- #5 (1971): Williams – Wolff – Anderson – Wyatt – Greene – Davis-Loomis – Wachs – Spencer
- #6 (1973): Thieme – Lucke – Dryden – Duden
- #7 (1990): Loney – Johnson
- #8 (1997): Hackner – Rasin (#2) – Mosley
- #9 (2005): Pryal – (no successor yet)

Mentoring program focuses on PROFESSIONALISM



The Judiciary has launched a pilot mentoring program for new lawyers.

“By encouraging mentoring, this program helps to continue to improve professionalism and competence in the legal profession,” said Judge Lynne A. Battaglia of the Maryland Court of Appeals. Judge Battaglia heads the Maryland Commission on Professionalism, which developed the pilot mentoring program.

Law school graduates who have just been admitted to the Maryland Bar are paired with experienced lawyers who provide one-on-one guidance during the critical first year, when new graduates stop being law students and start becoming legal practitioners.

“Both new and experienced lawyers can benefit from mentoring,” Judge Battaglia said. “The new lawyer receives invaluable help in successfully developing his or her career, and the mentor can feel a renewed sense of pride and purpose in his or her own work, as well as a chance to contribute to an increased level of professionalism and competence in the legal profession in Maryland.”

The Maryland Professionalism Commission has created a website with in-depth information about the new lawyer mentoring program, answers to frequently asked questions for prospective mentors and mentees, application forms and contact information.

For more information, visit www.mdcourts.gov/professionalism/mentoringprogram.html or contact the Professionalism Commission’s executive director, (410) 260-1565, or Sher-Rhonda.Cabean@mdcourts.gov.

Foreclosure rules change

In order to address irregularities in the mortgage foreclosure process, the Maryland Court of Appeals, “finding that an emergency does in fact exist,” adopted new Rule 14-207.1 and amendments to Rules 1-311 and 14-207 concerning foreclosure proceedings in Maryland. The emergency rule allows circuit courts to appoint independent lawyers as part-time masters or examiners to review foreclosure documents for problems. If a problem with the lender’s paperwork is detected, it has 30 days to show—at its own expense—why the foreclosure action should not be dismissed.

In general, the Rules changes mean that courts may screen affidavits filed in

foreclosure cases, and if they have reason to believe that an affidavit may be invalid, enter an order directing the affiant, and where applicable, the notary, to appear before the court and establish that the affidavit is genuine, failing which the foreclosure action may be dismissed.

The Rules changes “govern the courts of this State and all parties and their attorneys in all actions and proceedings, and shall take effect and apply to all actions commenced on or after October 20, 2010, and insofar as practicable to all actions then pending.”

The Rules Order is posted on the Maryland Judiciary website: <http://mdcourts.gov/rules/rodocs/ro166.pdf>.



The Judiciary in the Long Term

Together, four Judiciary employees served

The state of Maryland has been faithfully served by many Judiciary employees who devote years to public service. It is amazing to add up the years of service by long-termers. Here are quick tributes to four who, collectively, worked for the Judiciary for more than 180 years before retiring recently.

Billy Allen

In January, Baltimore County Circuit Court Chief Deputy Clerk Billy Allen retired after 56 years as the Judiciary's longest-serving employee.

"What strikes me is that I was a law clerk in 1964 – and I've been around a long time – but Billy Allen was a veteran then and his 56 years makes my time look like nothing. His dedication is tremendous," said Baltimore

County Circuit Administrative Judge John Turnbull II.

Allen began his Judiciary career as a utility clerk earning eight dollars per day. He started the job shortly after graduating from Milford Mill High School in Baltimore County. Allen, who served under eight Clerks of

the Court, said, "Everything you do affects people's lives. The information must be accurate and filed in a timely manner. I've taken my job very seriously and enjoyed helping people and learning something new each and every day."



Billy Allen

Bernice Bernstein

The Maryland State Law Library recently said farewell to two long-term employees. Acquisitions Librarian Bernice Bernstein exited in February after 45-plus years.

When she joined the then-named Maryland State Library in June 1966 as an assistant librarian, Bernstein planned to stay five years, max. Little did she know she would stay 40 years more than that original plan.

Bernstein started her job the same year the Court of Special Appeals was established. She has worked

under three Library directors, seen several former law clerks become judges, and helped with one major Library move and several renovation upheavals, not to mention the introduction and growth of computer technology. "The Library's collection had consisted of print, microfilm and



Bernice Bernstein

microfiche," Bernstein said. "My entire operation went from a manual system to a much more sophisticated system allowing faster input of information and a quicker response to inquiries, all of which was a plus."

Over 45 years, Bernstein amassed her own 'library' of special memories, but says that the highlight of her career was being nominated by Court of Special Appeals Judge Arrie W. Davis for the Daily Record's Unsung Legal Heroes awards program and receiving the award in 2008.

Maryland for close to two centuries

Dee Van Nest

Dee Van Nest, who retired in April, began her tenure with the Maryland State Law Library in April 1972, just in time for its move from downtown Annapolis to the new Courts of Appeal building.

Barely four months after her arrival, in August 1972, the Library, along with the Court, moved from the old Court of Appeals building in downtown Annapolis (on the site of the current Department of Legislative Services building) to the current location on Rowe Boulevard. Van Nest designed the organizational system to move all of the books, with the help of a phalanx of college students.

Over her four decades, there have been many changes in how the Library looks, functions and serves its customers. Like Bernstein, Van Nest remembers the Library as a place people visited often. She knew most of the appellate judges, law clerks and local attorneys by sight as well as by name. Today, she says, most of the Library's patrons call or email for assistance rather than coming in person. She misses those face-to-face interactions, though she admits much of the technology is more convenient for users.



Dee Van Nest

“The best part of the job has been the intellectual challenge. It’s never boring,” Van Nest said. “No matter how long you work in a law library, you will always encounter a question that you have never researched. What could be better than that?”

Dixie Scholtes

District 11’s Administrative Clerk Dixie Scholtes retired just shy of her 40th anniversary with the District Court of Maryland.

“We grew up together, the District Court and I,” Scholtes said. It’s true: The District Court of Maryland began operating in July 1971, and Scholtes started working for the District Court one month later, in August 1971.



Dixie Scholtes

She started as a courtroom clerk in Ocean City and Snow Hill, and in 1977, moved to the Frederick County District Court as a clerk. Scholtes became administrative clerk for District 11, which includes Frederick and Washington counties, in 1978, and held that position for 33 years until her recent retirement.

Considering that District 11 didn’t even have an electric typewriter when Scholtes started, she considers the development of computer systems to process and manage daily filings to be one of the greatest changes during her career. During her tenure, she helped with the establishment of supervisors and lead workers, and was also involved in the planning, building and opening of new buildings.

“I have been blessed with almost 40 years at a job that I have truly enjoyed and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the Maryland Judiciary,” Scholtes said. “I do look forward to a new chapter of doing new and exciting things, knowing Sara Snyder, the new administrative clerk, will make District 11 even better than it is today.”

Drug Courts in Maryland:

White House drug policy leader visits Anne Arundel Circuit Court drug treatment court

It's not often that someone from the White House drops in on a local graduation. But that's just what happened in May, when National Drug Control Policy Director Gil Kerlikowske came to Annapolis for Anne Arundel County Circuit Court's Drug Treatment Court graduation.

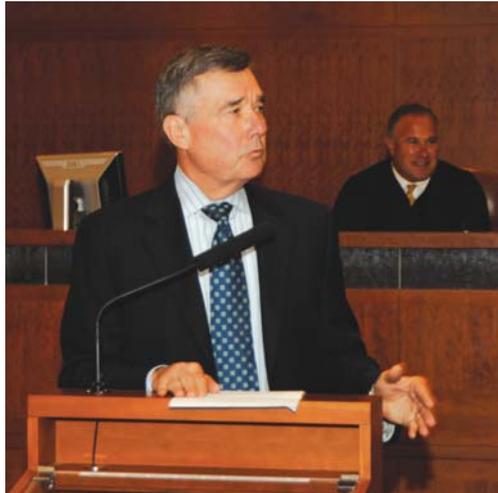
Kerlikowske said his visit was a display of the Administration's commitment to expand drug courts. Just before his visit, in a special statement about National Drug Court Month in May, President Obama praised drug courts as a smart investment and highlighted their effectiveness at reducing substance abuse and crime while saving money.

Drug courts identify drug-addicted, prison-bound offenders and place them under ongoing judicial monitoring, drug testing and community supervision, coupled with long-term treatment services. Research shows drug courts are the most successful and cost effective program for dealing with drug-addicted offenders in the criminal justice system, according to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Maryland's first drug treatment court began in Baltimore in 1984, and the program has expanded to include more than 40 drug treatment courts throughout the state. There are currently more than 2,400 drug courts operating in the United States.

Judge William C. Mulford II presided over the graduation for five people who successfully completed Anne Arundel County Circuit Court's adult drug treatment court.

"Addiction is a terminal illness. Drugs can kill, and drugs will kill. These graduates have just completed the first step toward recovery. They have worked hard and will need to use the skills developed in the drug court program in their everyday lives to continue on a successful path," Judge Mulford said. "I don't want to get the call that they relapsed. I want them to do well."



National Drug Control Policy Director Gil Kerlikowske talks to drug treatment court graduates while Judge Mulford presides.

While there was a national spotlight on the event, it was still a very personal celebration for the graduates and their families.

"I was tired of letting my family down," said Mark Cranston, Jr. "It started with prescription drugs after a car accident. I decided to listen and stop hanging with people who drag me down. I thank the whole team. I am now 445 days clean and planning to go to college."

"I am now making sure sobriety is number one in my life," said Stacey Deavers. "For a long time, I felt like I couldn't achieve anything. I will never go back. This is the time to move on, achieve my goals, and be a good member of society and a good neighbor."

Two graduates brought their babies who were born during their time in the program. Each graduate received gifts from Peter Angelos and the Baltimore Orioles: prime baseball tickets and parking passes for the following night's game, as well as souvenir balls and hats.

The Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Drug Treatment Court was launched in 2005. The program currently has 86 participants, and 83 individuals have completed the program to date.

changing lives



Judge William C. Mulford, II, congratulates drug court graduate Melissa Sudduth.

DRUG COURT MONTH GRADUATIONS

Reported by Gray Barton, Executive Director, Office of Problem-Solving Courts

Here's a snapshot of some of the other drug treatment court graduations that were held in Maryland's courts during National Drug Court Month in May:

Wicomico County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Graduation

The graduates wore caps and gowns to this formal graduation ceremony on May 6, held at the local community college in Salisbury. A light reception was held immediately following the ceremony.

St. Mary's County Juvenile Drug Court Graduation

This Leonardtown graduation ceremony on May 12 was followed by a reception with refreshments and a presentation of a donation to support crime victims.



A banner in the courthouse applauds the efforts of drug court graduates.

Anne Arundel County District DUI/ Drug Treatment Court Graduation

Graduates, their families and friends gathered in Courtroom 4 on May 12 to celebrate.

Carroll County Adult Drug Treatment Court Graduation

On May 20, graduates came to the Westminster courthouse for a graduation ceremony in Courtroom 4.

Charles County Circuit Court - Juvenile Drug Court Graduation

This graduation on May 24 was held at the Laugh Out Loud Station (LOL) in Waldorf.

Howard County Drug/DUI Court Graduation

On May 25, graduates, families and friends celebrated in Courtroom 5 in the Ellicott City Courthouse.

Frederick County Adult Circuit Court Drug Court Graduation

Circuit Courtroom 1 was the setting for the graduation ceremony recognizing five graduates on May 26.

Prince George's County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Graduation

On May 26, the courthouse in Upper Marlboro hosted a graduation ceremony for graduates, families and friends in Courtroom M3400.



Appointments/Elections

- Hon. Jan Marshall Alexander,** Circuit Court for Baltimore County (new judgeship)
- Hon. Alison L. Asti,** Circuit Court for Anne Arundel (elected)
- Hon. Shannon E. Avery,** District Court for Baltimore City (retirement of Hon. Keith E. Mathews)
- Hon. Keith A. Baynes,** Circuit Court for Cecil County (death of Hon. Richard E. Jackson)
- Hon. Karen Christy Holt Chesser,** District Court for St. Mary's County (retirement of Hon. John F. Slade, III)
- Hon. Audrey A. Creighton,** District Court for Montgomery County (elevation of Hon. Cheryl A. McCally to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County)
- Hon. Karen Friedman,** District Court for Baltimore City (retirement of Hon. Videtta A. Brown)
- Hon. Cheryl A. McCally** Circuit Court for Montgomery County (retirement of Hon. Ann S. Harrington)
- Hon. Thomas V. Miller, III,** District Court for Anne Arundel County (retirement of Hon. Robert C. Wilcox)

- Hon. Joseph M. Quirk,** Circuit Court for Montgomery County (new judgeship)
- Hon. Marsha L. Russell,** District Court for Baltimore County (retirement of Hon. Darryl G. Fletcher)
- Hon. Leo Ryan, Jr.,** District Court for Baltimore County (retirement of Hon. Edward P. Murphy)
- Hon. Leah Jane Seaton,** Circuit Court for Wicomico County (retirement of Hon. Donald C. Davis)
- Hon. Brian D. Shockley,** Circuit Court for Worcester County (retirement of Hon. Theodore R. Eschenburg)
- Hon. Yolanda A. Tanner,** Circuit Court for Baltimore City (resignation of Hon. Kaye A. Allison)
- Hon. Vernon M. Whelan,** Circuit Court for Cecil County (retirement of Hon. Dexter MacArthur Thompson, Jr.)
- Hon. Steven D. Wyman,** District Court for Baltimore County (retirement of Hon. Jan M. Alexander)
- Hon. Ricardo D. Zwaig,** District Court for Howard (retirement of Hon. Alice P. Clark)

Retirements/Departures

- Hon. Thomas J. Bollinger, Sr.,** Circuit Court for Baltimore County
- Hon. Alice P. Clark,** District Court for Howard County
- Hon. John T. Clark, III,** District Court for Queen Anne's County
- Hon. Arrie W. Davis,** Court of Special Appeals, Sixth Appellate
- Hon. Donald C. Davis,** Circuit Court for Wicomico County
- Hon. Theodore R. Eschenburg,** Circuit Court for Worcester County
- Hon. Darryl G. Fletcher,** District Court for Baltimore County
- Hon. Ellen L. Hollander,** Court of Special Appeals, At-Large
- Hon. O. Robert Lidums,** Circuit Court for Cecil County
- Hon. Thomas E. Marshall,** Circuit Court for Harford County
- Hon. Keith E. Mathews,** District Court for Baltimore City
- Hon. William D. Missouri,** Circuit Court for Prince George's County
- Hon. Edward P. Murphy,** District Court for Baltimore County

Hon. Theodore B. Oshrine,
District Court for Baltimore
City

Hon. C. Clarke Raley, Circuit
Court for St. Mary's County

Hon. Nancy B. Shuger, District
Court for Baltimore City

Hon. Thomas P. Smith, Circuit
Court for Prince George's
County

Hon. Durke G. Thompson, Circuit
Court for Montgomery County

Hon. John H. Tisdale, Circuit
Court for Frederick County

Hon. Kaye A. Allison, Circuit Court
for Baltimore City (Resigned)

Hon. Ronald H. Jarashow, Circuit
Court for Anne Arundel County

Deaths

Hon. John J. Bishop, Jr., Court of
Special Appeals, At-Large, 1981-
1996

Hon. Walter E. Buck, Jr., District
Court for Cecil County, 1971-1986

Hon. Robert E. Cadigan, Sr., Circuit
Court for Baltimore County, 1994-
2005

Hon. Richard Eli Jackson, Circuit
Court for Cecil County, 2002-
2010 (County Administrative
Judge, 2006-2010)

Hon. James S. McAuliffe, Jr.
District Court for Montgomery
County, 1978-1981; Circuit Court
for Montgomery County, 1981-
1992

Hon. Henry J. "Harry" Monahan,
District Court for Montgomery
County, 1981-1996

Hon. John N. Prevas, Circuit Court
for Baltimore City, 1986-2010

Hon. Marvin H. Smith, Court of
Appeals, 1968-1986

SPEAK UP in the community

How do people learn about our courts? The Judiciary's Speakers Bureau provides speakers—judges and court officials—for community groups, civic organizations, professional associations, and schools. And we're looking for new volunteers.

Some of the topics have included:

- An overview of Maryland's court system
- Mediation and alternative dispute resolution
- What happens in traffic court
- Sentencing in Maryland's courts
- Judicial independence
- Juveniles and the courts
- Domestic violence and the courts

If you want to volunteer to be a member of the Judiciary's Speaker's Bureau or want to learn more, call the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, 410-260-1488, or email communications@mdcourts.gov.



Court of Appeals Judge Clayton Greene, Jr., talks to visiting students in the courtroom.



Judge Cynthia Callahan, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, was named as one of the *Maryland Daily Record's* "Top 100 Women" for 2011.

Retired Judge Frank E. Cicone, Circuit Court for Baltimore County, received the Maryland State Bar Association's senior lawyers section's Senior Lawyer of the Year Award for 2010.

Retired Judge John T. Clark, III, Queen Anne's County District Court, was honored by the county Board of Education for his dedication to the citizens of the county and the state.

Chief Judge Ben C. Clyburn, of the District Court of Maryland, received a special Leadership Award from the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.

Judge Angela M. Eaves, Circuit Court for Harford County, was named as one of the *Maryland Daily Record's* "Top 100 Women" for 2011.

Judge Judith C. Ensor, Circuit Court of Baltimore County, was named as one of the *Maryland Daily Record's* "Top 100 Women" for 2011.

Baltimore City Orphans' Court Judge Karen Friedman was named to the *Maryland Daily Record's* "Top 100 Women" for 2010. Judge Friedman was also named as one of the *Maryland Daily Record's* VIPs .

Judge Melanie M. Shaw Geter, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, received a 2010 Leadership in Law award from the *Maryland Daily Record*.

Judge Marcella A. Holland, administrative judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, was honored as one of the *Baltimore Afro-American's* "Legends and Pioneers." Also, Judge Holland was elected to chair the National Bar Association Judicial Council for 2010-2011.

Judge Sherrie L. Krauser, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, was named to the *Maryland Daily Record's* list of Maryland's "Top 100 Women" for 2011.

Baltimore County Orphans' Court Judge Theresa Lawler was named to the *Maryland Daily Record's* list of Maryland's Top 100 Women.

Judge Diane O. Leasure, Circuit Court for Howard County, was named as one of the *Maryland Daily Record's* "Top 100 Women" for 2011.

Baltimore City Circuit Court Master Zakia Mahasa received a 2010 Leadership in Law award from the *Daily Record*.

Judge Lynn K. Stewart, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, was named to the *Maryland Daily Record's* Maryland's "Top 100 Women" for 2011.

Retired Judge Ann Sundt, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, received the Maryland State Bar Association's 2010 Anselm Sodaro Award.

Retired Judge Dennis M. Sweeney, Circuit Court for Howard County, was named as one of *Maryland Daily Record's* "Most Influential Marylanders."

Judge John H. Tisdale, Circuit Court for Frederick County, received the 2011 Anselm Sodaro Award from the Maryland State Bar Association.

Retired Judge Alan M. Wilner of the Maryland Court of Appeals and chair of the Rules Committee, was named as a 2011 Influential Marylander by the *Daily Record*. Judge Wilner also received the Maryland Bar Foundation's H. Vernon Eney Award for 2011.

Judge Dorothy J. Wilson, District Court for Baltimore County, was named as one of the *Maryland Daily Record's* "Top 100 Women" for 2011.

Judge Eugene Wolfe, administrative judge for the Montgomery County District Court, received the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County's first annual Peacemaker Award.

Judge Robert A. Zarnoch, Court of Special Appeals, received the Maryland State Bar Association's administrative law section's John W. Hardwicke, Sr., Memorial Award.



THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY ADMINISTRATION received Community Mediation Maryland's 2011 Commitment to Collaborative Conflict Resolution Award, which was presented during Community Mediation Maryland's Annual Gala in May in Annapolis. Several individuals also received certificates of appreciation, including: St. Mary's County Circuit **Judge Karen Abrams**; Kent County Circuit **Judge Paul M. Bowman**; Frederick County Circuit **Judge G. Edward Dwyer**; Talbot County Circuit **Judge Broughton M. Earnest**; Carroll County Circuit **Judge Michael M. Galloway**; Caroline County Circuit **Judge Karen Murphy Jensen**; Queen Anne's County Circuit **Judge Thomas G. Ross**; Prince George's County Circuit **Judge Cathy Hollenberg Serrette**; Anne Arundel County Circuit **Judge J. Michael Wachs**; Dorchester County Circuit **Judge Brett W. Wilson**; Talbot County Circuit Court **Master Jamie Adkins**; Caroline County Circuit Court **Master Joanne Asparagus**; **Jenny Bern**, alternative dispute resolution coordinator for the Frederick County Circuit Court; **John Cambardella**, family services coordinator for the Caroline County Circuit Court; **Robin Derwin**, associate director of the family services division for the Prince George's County Circuit Court; **Linda Grove**, family services coordinator; **Blanche Harris** of the Department of Family Administration; **JoAnne Kreider**, mediation coordinator; **B. Lynn Macpherson**, family services coordinator for the Frederick County Circuit Court; **Lynn Miller**, domestic violence clinician and court mediator for the Prince George's County Circuit Court; Frederick County Circuit Court **Master Julie Minnerand**; **Barbara Mitchell**, family services coordinator for the Talbot County Circuit Court; Carroll County Circuit Court **Master Jeffrey Moffatt**; **Lionel Moore**, director of the family services division for the Prince George's County Circuit Court; Queen Anne's County Circuit Court **Master Patrick Palmer**; Frederick County Circuit Court **Master Richard Sandy**; **Rebecca K. Taylor**, family services coordinator for the Kent County Circuit Court; and **Powel Welliver**, family law administrator.

