

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND EXPANSION
OF MARYLAND ELECTRONIC COURTS STATEWIDE

WHEREAS, The Maryland Judiciary has undertaken the Maryland Electronic Courts project (MDEC) to create a single, Judiciary-wide, integrated case management system that will be used by all of the State appellate and trial courts; and

WHEREAS, The initial pilot implementation of MDEC began in the fall of 2014, in Anne Arundel County, and that pilot program having been successful, MDEC is being implemented statewide in phases, on a geographic basis; and

WHEREAS, The statewide implementation of MDEC is approaching completion with the three largest jurisdictions undertaking the transition; and

WHEREAS, Allowing voluntary electronic filing for Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County through the MDEC system assists appellate counsel and parties and facilitates the continuity of operations of the Court of Special Appeals and the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Upon full implementation, MDEC will drive efficiencies in monitoring, managing, and maintaining the systems critical to the Judiciary and achieve consistency in business processes and data management for Maryland courts; and

WHEREAS, Centralized and unified systems are critical to short and long-term reliability, responsiveness, communication, uniformity of processes, and data compilation; and

WHEREAS, Access to the centralized MDEC system from desktops and other user devices residing on non-Judiciary maintained networks would reduce application performance by requiring communication to traverse multiple security systems, increase

risk to system compromise, and create inconsistencies with system maintenance and upgrades, thereby increasing costs and threatening the effectiveness of MDEC to function as a fully integrated system serving one Judiciary,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, do this 31st day of August 2021, order as follows:

(a) All appellate and trial courts shall utilize MDEC as their integrated case management system, with the coordination of transitions from legacy systems to be managed by the State Court Administrator and the Administrative Office of the Courts, in consultation with the Chief Judge of the District Court for District Court locations; and

(b) Courts Utilizing MDEC

Consistent with Maryland Rule 20-102, the courts utilizing MDEC are as follows:

- i. The Court of Appeals may accept electronic filings from the courts listed herein and continue to accept electronic filings from counsel and self-represented parties who are registered users of the MDEC system, in new and pending matters, through the MDEC system originating in Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County;
- ii. The Court of Special Appeals may accept electronic filings from the courts listed herein and continue to accept electronic filings from counsel and self-represented parties who are registered users of the MDEC system, in new and pending

- matters, through the MDEC system originating in Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County;
- iii. The Circuit and District Courts in Allegany County, effective October 16, 2017;
 - iv. The Circuit and District Courts in Anne Arundel County, effective October 14, 2014;
 - v. The Circuit and District Courts in Baltimore County, effective February 19, 2019;
 - vi. The Circuit and District Courts in Calvert County, effective June 12, 2017;
 - vii. The Circuit and District Courts in Caroline County, effective July 18, 2016;
 - viii. The Circuit and District Courts in Carroll County, effective April 16, 2018;
 - ix. The Circuit and District Courts in Cecil County, effective July 18, 2016;
 - x. The Circuit and District Courts in Charles County, effective June 12, 2017;
 - xi. The Circuit and District Courts in Dorchester County, effective December 12, 2016;
 - xii. The Circuit and District Courts in Frederick County, effective October 16, 2017;
 - xiii. The Circuit and District Courts in Garrett County, effective October 16, 2017;
 - xiv. The Circuit and District Courts in Harford County, effective April 16, 2018;
 - xv. The Circuit and District Courts in Howard County, effective April 16, 2018;

- xvi. The Circuit and District Courts in Kent County, effective July 18, 2016;
- xvii. The Circuit and District Courts in Montgomery County, effective October 25, 2021;
- xviii. The Circuit and District Courts in Queen Anne's County, effective July 18, 2016;
- xix. The Circuit and District Courts in Somerset County, effective December 12, 2016;
- xx. The Circuit and District Courts in St. Mary's County, effective June 12, 2017;
- xxi. The Circuit and District Courts in Talbot County, effective July 18, 2016;
- xxii. The Circuit and District Courts in Washington County, effective October 16, 2017;
- xxiii. The Circuit and District Courts in Wicomico County, effective December 12, 2016;
- xxiv. The Circuit and District Courts in Worcester County, effective December 12, 2016; and

(c) Effective immediately, all courts utilizing MDEC as described in (b) shall further:

- (1) transition to the Judicial Information Systems Department (JIS) maintained network and utilize JIS supported devices and system services for MDEC and related ancillary functions including, but not limited to, email and remote access, all of which are necessary for efficient and effective functions; and

- (2) transition from any stand-alone or legacy case management systems to the JIS systems and infrastructure supporting MDEC; and
- (3) the transitions under (c)(1) and (c)(2) shall be implemented no later than thirty days after the go-live date and completed no later than 6 months after the go-live date.

(d) Exemptions

- (1) Landlord/tenant failure to pay rent cases in the above-mentioned jurisdictions are exempted from the electronic filing requirement until further notice; and
- (2) Criminal indictments and informations, juvenile delinquency petitions, and petitions for:
 - (i) civil orders of protection from domestic violence;
 - (ii) peace orders; and
 - (iii) extreme risk protective orders

are exempted from the electronic filing requirement pending development and implementation of interfaces to facilitate such filing.

(e) Units of the Judiciary

- (1) Effective March 18, 2019, the Commission on Judicial Disabilities shall file electronically through MDEC any disciplinary action against a judge, regardless of the home or court address of the judge who is subject to the action.
- (2) Effective October 14, 2014, the Attorney Grievance Commission shall file electronically through MDEC any disciplinary action against an attorney, where all or any part of the action results in a filing in any

Maryland court, whether by appeal or otherwise, regardless of the home or business address of the attorney who is subject to the action.

- i. Upon the entry of an order designating a judge of a circuit court to hear a disciplinary or remedial action pursuant to Maryland Rule 19-722, transmittal of the action to a circuit court in an MDEC County, as defined in Maryland Rule 20-101 and listed in subsection (b) above, shall be transmitted via MDEC; and.
- (f) The *Administrative Order on Expansion of Maryland Electronic Courts*, filed November 7, 2019, shall be and hereby is rescinded, effective immediately.
- (g) The *Administrative Order on the Permissive Use of the MDEC System for Appellate Filings During the COVID-19 Emergency*, filed March 27, 2020, its substance having been incorporated into this Order, shall be and hereby is rescinded, effective immediately.

/s/ Mary Ellen Barbera
Mary Ellen Barbera
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Filed: August 31, 2021

/s/ Suzanne C. Johnson
Suzanne C. Johnson
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Pursuant to Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal
Materials Act
(§§ 10-1501 et seq. of the State Government Article) this document is authentic.



Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk