

KEITH A. BAYNES
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CHAIR
(410) 996-5317



AUDREY J. S. CARRIÓN
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
VICE-CHAIR
(410) 396-5130

Conference of Circuit Judges

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CENTER
187 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

Meeting of the Conference of Circuit Judges

A meeting of the Conference of Circuit Judges was held Monday, November 14, 2022, via Zoom for Government, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present

Hon. Keith A. Baynes, Chair
Hon. Audrey J. S. Carrión, Vice Chair

Hon. James A. Bonifant
Hon. Donine Carrington-Martin
Hon. Yolanda Curtin
Hon. Jeffrey S. Getty
Hon. Fred S. Hecker
Hon. Ruth A. Jakubowski
Hon. Stephen H. Kehoe
Hon. Glenn Klavans

Hon. Viki M. Pauler
Hon. Richard Sandy
Hon. S. James Sarbanes
Hon. Brian D. Shockley
Hon. Kathy P. Smith
Hon. Sheila R. Tillerson-Adams
Hon. Barry G. Williams
Burgess Wood

Also, Present Were:

Nancy Faulkner
Chief Judge E. Greg Wells
Chief Judge John P. Morrissey

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Judge Baynes welcomed attendees and reminded everyone the meeting would be live streamed as the Conference is subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Discussion of the minutes from the September 19, 2022, meeting commenced. Judge Curtin noted that the September minutes did not indicate that she was present. Chief Judge Morrissey had no additions or corrections to the minutes, but suggested the group continue meeting remotely. Judge Baynes stated the process going forward will be up to the new chair, Judge Carrión. Judge Klavans then moved for approval of the amended minutes, which was seconded and passed.

2. Appeals Issues

Chief Judge Wells discussed a Court of Special Appeals initiative. Judges frequently encounter issues regarding in-person versus remote appearances, including lack of pre-filed exhibits. In addition, hearings such as foreclosures, merging sentences, monetary awards, and custody issues raise concerns over appeals. He inquired whether the Conference would be open to a presentation reviewing these recurring issues, such as a video refresher on foreclosures. Judge Baynes stated that would be very beneficial, and Judge Adams suggested that the presentation be held in-person to allow a more meaningful dialogue. Chief Judge Wells agreed that face-to-face interaction would be an important piece.

Judge Jakubowski suggested the Judicial Conference meeting would be an optimal time for a presentation since all of the judges are in one place, and it would prevent additional time away from the bench. Judge Baynes agreed. Chief Judge Wells suggested recording some of the presentation for future use and will talk with the other judges to discuss further.

3. Nominating Commission

As Judge Baynes is nearing the end of his time as chair, on behalf of the Nominating Commission, Judge Adams nominated Judge Carrión as Chair for the next term of the Conference of Circuit Judges. Judge Jakubowski nominated Judge Hecker as Vice Chair. Judge Bonifant made a motion and following no opposition, the nominations were passed unanimously.

4. Rules Amendments

Judge Baynes moved on to say the Conference had not made a formal decision regarding the new committee. He asked if there were any objections to the Rules amendment about Clerks serving the Reports and Recommendations of magistrates, as opposed to magistrates' chambers serving them. Judge Jakubowski summarized, regarding Domestic and Family Law cases. All members present agreed that all Recommendations not served in open court would be served by the Clerk electronically in MDEC jurisdictions and by mail in non-MDEC jurisdictions. A motion was made by Judge Jakubowski. Having been seconded and no opposition made, the motion carried.

The Conference of Circuit Judges currently consists of the Administrative Judge and one elected judge from each circuit. Changes were recently proposed to the Rules Committee to remove references to the circuit administrative judges, expand membership to the county administrative judges, and remove provisions for the election of certain judges. The name would therefore be amended to be the Conference of Circuit Court Administrative Judges. An alternative proposal from the Court of Appeals suggested membership of all County Administrative Judges, plus one additional judge from each circuit. Discussion ensued and Judge Kehoe made a motion to leave the conference as its current composition. Judge Adams seconded the motion, and following no objection, the motion unanimously passed. Rule 16-702 will remain unchanged.

5. For the Good of the Order

Judge Jakubowski thanked Judge Baynes for his service to the conference and affirmed his great leadership. She then congratulated Judge Adams on her upcoming retirement and wished her the best of luck. Judge Klavans stated he is not leaving until April and Judge Curtin noted this would be her last meeting as her term is up. Judge Carrión echoed Judge Jakubowski's comments and thanked both Judge Baynes and Judge Curtin for their dedication.

Judge Adams thanked the conference and stated she truly enjoyed her 29 years on the bench. Despite the challenges of COVID, she appreciates the closeness and comradery it brought between judges. She thanked Judge Bonifant for his help during MDEC Go-Live and assured Judge Carrión that Judge Cotton will be a great support for her team when their time comes to transition to MDEC.

Having no further items to discuss, the meeting ended at 9:52 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2023, via Zoom for Government, beginning 9:30 a.m.