

# Maryland Judiciary 2018 Strategic Plan Update

# Greetings from Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera

January 2019

I am pleased to present the Maryland Judiciary Strategic Plan Update for 2018. This report highlights the efforts of the dedicated professionals who serve in Maryland's judicial branch.

We have been working diligently to achieve the goals set out in our Strategic Plan, which guides our efforts to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all.

The Maryland Judiciary made significant progress in 2018. Some examples of notable achievements include the following:

- Over 83 percent of the state's jurisdictions have now transitioned to electronic case filing and management under the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) platform, keeping on pace to bring MDEC to every court by 2021.
- We continued to engage in the fight against the opioid crisis. Funding from the HOPE Act contributed \$750,000 to support current drug courts and create five new programs. The Judiciary also distributed more than \$6 million to support operational problem-solving courts.
- A new self-help center in Frederick opened as the first in the state to help self-represented litigants with the full range of civil matters in the District Court and the Circuit Courts. There are now five walk-in self-help centers and one call-in center.
- Tapping into technology to enhance service to the public and improve court systems, the Judiciary launched a new pilot program that uses text messaging to alert the District Court and the Circuit defendants about hearings and trial dates.
- The Judiciary worked with justice partners to encourage lawyers to provide pro bono services by ensuring that training, mentoring, malpractice insurance, and service-learning opportunities are available at the local level. A 2018 data report shows that Maryland lawyers donated 1,160,906 hours of volunteer or pro bono legal services in the most recent report year to help the state's indigent population, an increase of 10,701 hours over the previous year.

The accomplishments detailed in this year's Strategic Plan Update reflect the hard work and commitment of the Judiciary's judges, magistrates, clerks, administrators, commissioners, and staff. I am honored to work with them to fulfill the mission of the Judiciary in serving the people of Maryland.



**MARY ELLEN BARBERA**  
**CHIEF JUDGE**  
**COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND**

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## Mission

The Maryland Judiciary provides fair, efficient, and effective justice for all.

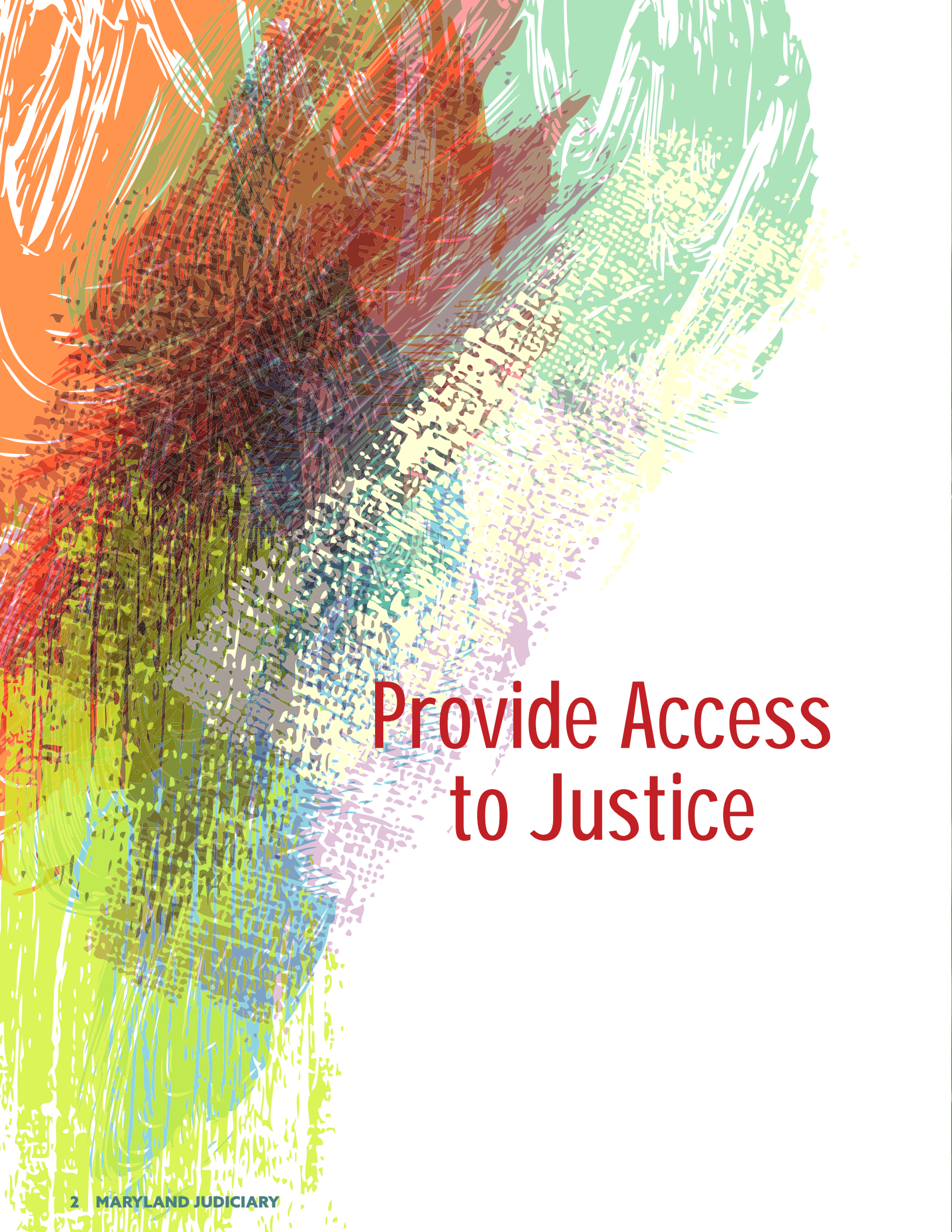
## Vision

The Maryland Judiciary advances justice for all who come to Maryland’s courts. We are an efficient, innovative, and accessible court system that works collaboratively with justice partners to serve the people with integrity and transparency.

## Goals

1. Provide access to justice.
2. Be responsive and adaptable to changing community needs.
3. Communicate effectively with stakeholders.
4. Improve systems and processes.
5. Be accountable.
6. Assure the highest level of service.
7. Build partnerships.
8. Use resources wisely.





# Provide Access to Justice

## 2,360 Litigants Served in 2018 \*

The Circuit Court and District Court in Frederick County opened a Self-Help Center, which is open five days a week during court hours. The center provides legal services to Frederick County, as well as to other counties in Western Maryland.

\* July 2018 - December 2018



Court and community leaders celebrate the official opening of the Maryland Court Self-Help Center in Frederick with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in October 2018.

- To better assist the public, the District Court in Carroll County refers those in need of legal assistance to the public law library and Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers. The law library in the Circuit Court for Carroll County allows people to utilize the library's research area. The clerk's office also has a number of brochures available that directs litigants to resources to better navigate the justice system.

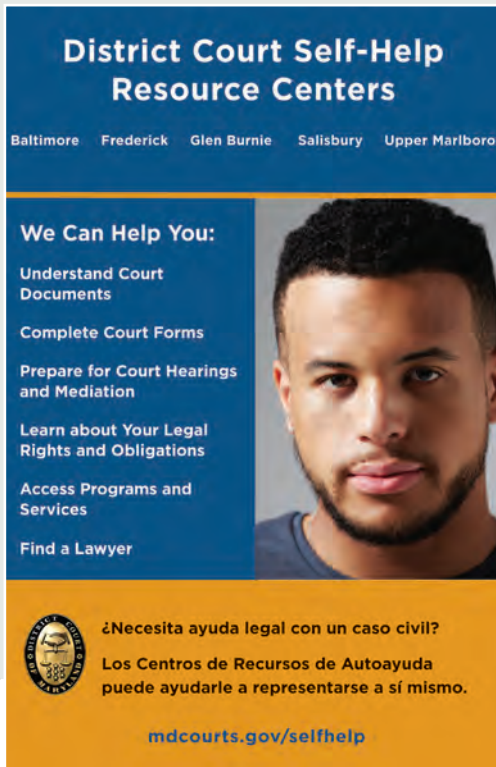
- The Access to Justice Department offered several webinars to court staff on resources available for the self-represented, as well as serving those with limited-English proficiency.
- The Parent Resource Work Group completed a Child In Need of Assistance video for parents involved in child welfare matters.
- The Circuit Court for Calvert County remodeled six restrooms and replaced signage to enhance ADA-compliance standards.
- The Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors and the Access to Justice Commission partnered in a statewide initiative to provide training to public librarians in answering legal questions and making referrals.

“The existing courthouse is 175 years old and, though historic, is no longer able to support the infrastructure necessary to serve the needs of the residents of Howard County. The new courthouse will provide improved safety, security, and access for all who rely on the courts.”

Mary Ellen Barbera,  
Chief Judge of the Maryland  
Court of Appeals

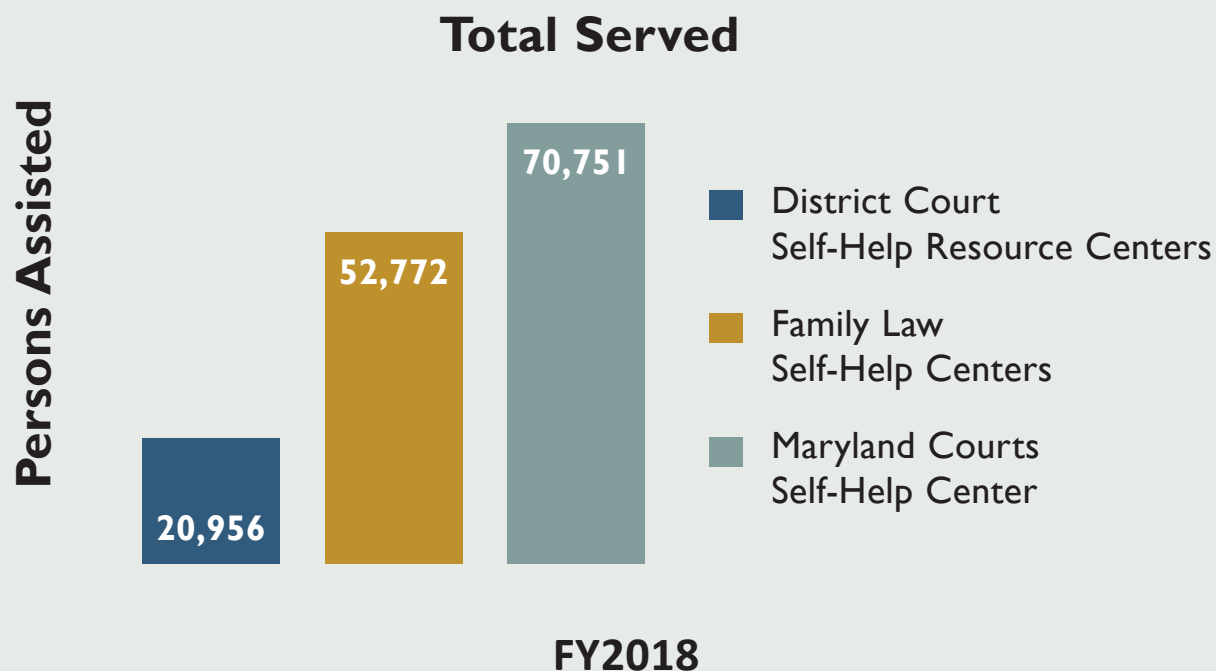


The Howard County Council approved a public-private partnership to build a new circuit courthouse along Judiciary Way in Ellicott City. The new facility will be built on the site of the current Thomas Dorsey Building, which is scheduled to be demolished in June 2019. Construction of the new courthouse will begin in August 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2021.



In an effort to assist self-represented litigants, posters were added to the lobby of each clerk’s office in various District Court locations, including Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties, informing litigants about the various self-help centers in Maryland.

- In an effort to improve accessibility, the District Court in Prince George’s County equipped all courtrooms and the clerk’s office with laminated Language Identification Cards. This allows judges and court staff to identify the preferred language on the language line. In addition, the court provided translations of commonly used Spanish phrases to assist the bench in communicating with the parties.
- Seventeen electronic docket boards were installed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and one was installed in the Circuit Court for Kent County.
- The Circuit Court for Calvert County added a dual-handset language line phone at the clerk’s counter to assist court users for whom English is a second language. The clerk’s office also offers a card which lists 20 different languages. Members of the public can point to the language they need and the language line operator connects the court to the appropriate interpreter. The court also received a laptop that can be used to provide immediate visual interpretation to those customers who need a sign language interpreter.
- The Circuit Court for Montgomery County processed 3,000 requests for spoken language interpreter services.
- The Circuit Court for Talbot County renovated the courthouse to install a wheelchair-accessible desk and computer. New bilingual signage was also installed throughout the courthouse.



- To enhance privacy and ensure confidentiality, the District Court in Dorchester County provided access to a private office for the Office of the State’s Attorney’s victim and witness staff.
- The Access to Justice Department provided laptops to the Circuit Court for Allegany and Calvert counties to enable remote video American Sign Language services for clerks and commissioners.
- The Circuit Court for St. Mary’s County added evening hours at the local library to better accommodate self-represented litigants, thereby increasing the number of litigants served by six percent.
- The Circuit Court for Charles County replaced its antiquated court interpreter equipment and streamlined its interpreter coordination program. Interpreters now report to a central location where they can interface with the coordinator and retrieve equipment.
- The Circuit Court for Worcester County updated the computer terminals in the bar association library, helping to make them more user-friendly for attorneys and self-represented individuals.
- Anne Arundel, Dorchester, and Prince George’s counties each added four pretrial mediation programs in the District Court.







The Access to Justice Department redesigned marketing materials in an effort to promote the Maryland Law Help app.

- Several courts on the Eastern Shore and statewide have provided self-represented litigants with the “purple notebook” to organize their cases. This notebook was developed by Joanna Shapiro, a Frederick County Self-Help Center attorney. It enables litigants to organize their case documents, information, and arguments. Mid-Shore Pro Bono has partnered with several counties on the shore to provide “purple notebook clinics” for litigants who have received the notebooks. More than 140 clinics were held during fiscal year 2018.



### Meet Lynn Sprouse.

In 2018, the Circuit Court for Baltimore County began staffing an information desk located in the main lobby of the courthouse. Sprouse is one of about 10 employees assigned to

a rotation to staff the desk. “Mornings are the busiest for us, especially on Mondays,” Sprouse said. Sprouse and her co-workers are tasked with answering general court questions, including inquiries on civil matters. “It helps cut down on the foot traffic we see at the civil window,” she said. “That allows for a better work flow within the clerk’s office.” Sprouse is currently a criminal assignment court clerk and has been with the Maryland Judiciary for 35 years.

“I really enjoy helping people. Coming to court for matters, such as child support or custody can be overwhelming, and we understand that. I think it’s beneficial for both the public and court staff to have a desk like this one.”

Lynn Sprouse, Courtroom Clerk  
Circuit Court for Baltimore County

- The Access to Justice Department, in collaboration with Judicial Information Systems, conceptualized and installed the Video Enterprise Management System, also referred to as Court TV, in Circuit Court and District Court locations. Existing televisions were wired as monitors to replace failing DVD players. In 2019, a server will stream informational videos to the general public.
- The Circuit Court for Dorchester County partnered with the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People during its expungement seminar by providing the appropriate forms and brochures, as well as volunteering at the event to answer questions.
- Case Search, the public’s online court portal, was accessed nearly 2 million times each day in 2018.

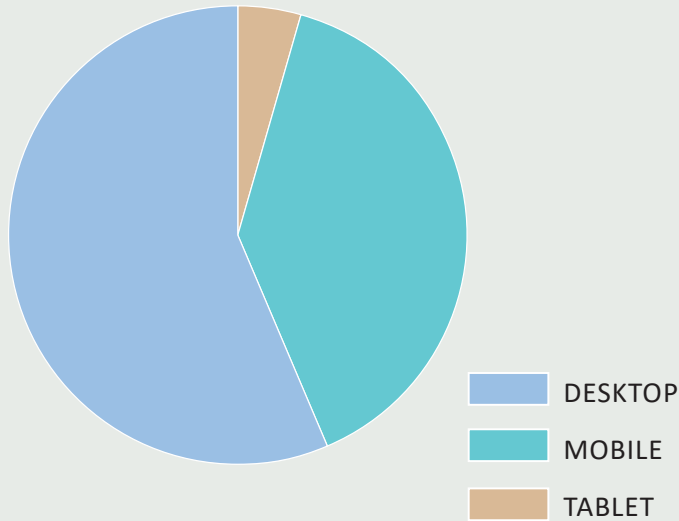
Meet Gail Morningstar. She is the Domestic Case Navigator in the Circuit Court for Carroll County. Morningstar assists people involved in domestic cases by answering questions, providing legal resources, and explaining forms. In 2018, the court’s Family Law Administration Department increased office hours from 20 hours a week to 25 hours a week to better assist court visitors.



“I’ve always been a people person. I enjoy helping people who don’t quite understand the legal process. Most of the people I interact with have very limited knowledge of the court system and they are involved with very emotional and stressful domestic cases. It’s very rewarding to help them navigate the courts.”

Gail Morningstar,  
Domestic Case Navigator  
Circuit Court for Carroll County

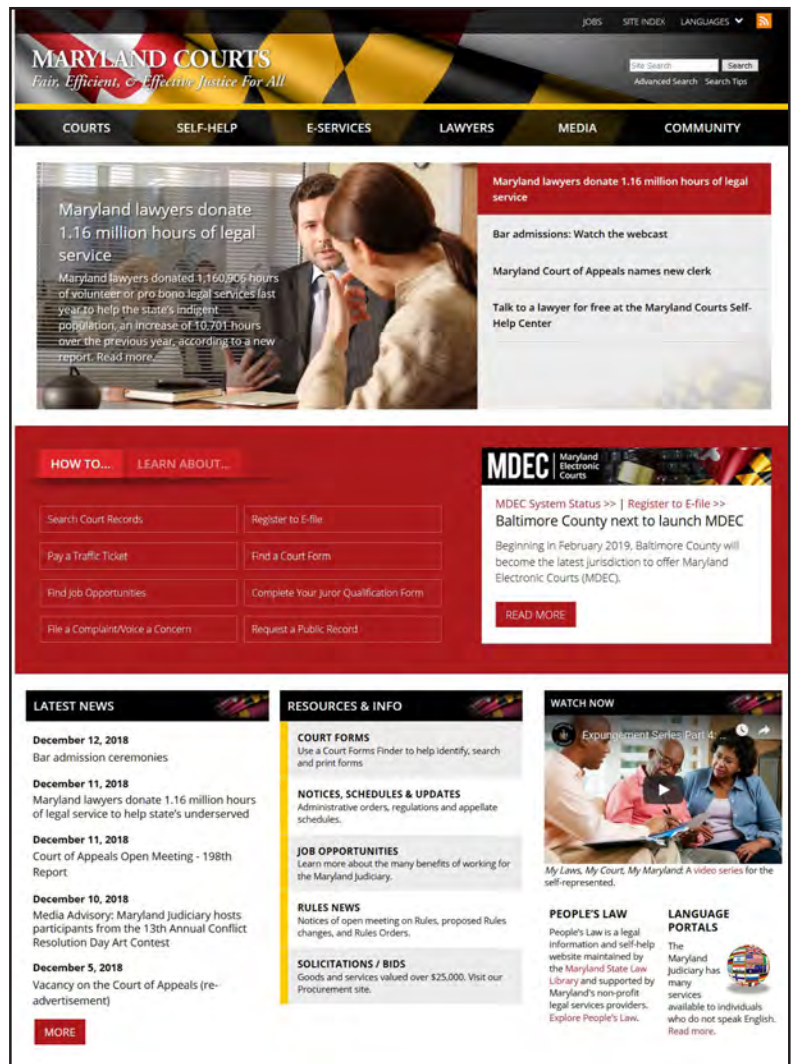
## MDCOURTS.GOV: SESSIONS BY DEVICE

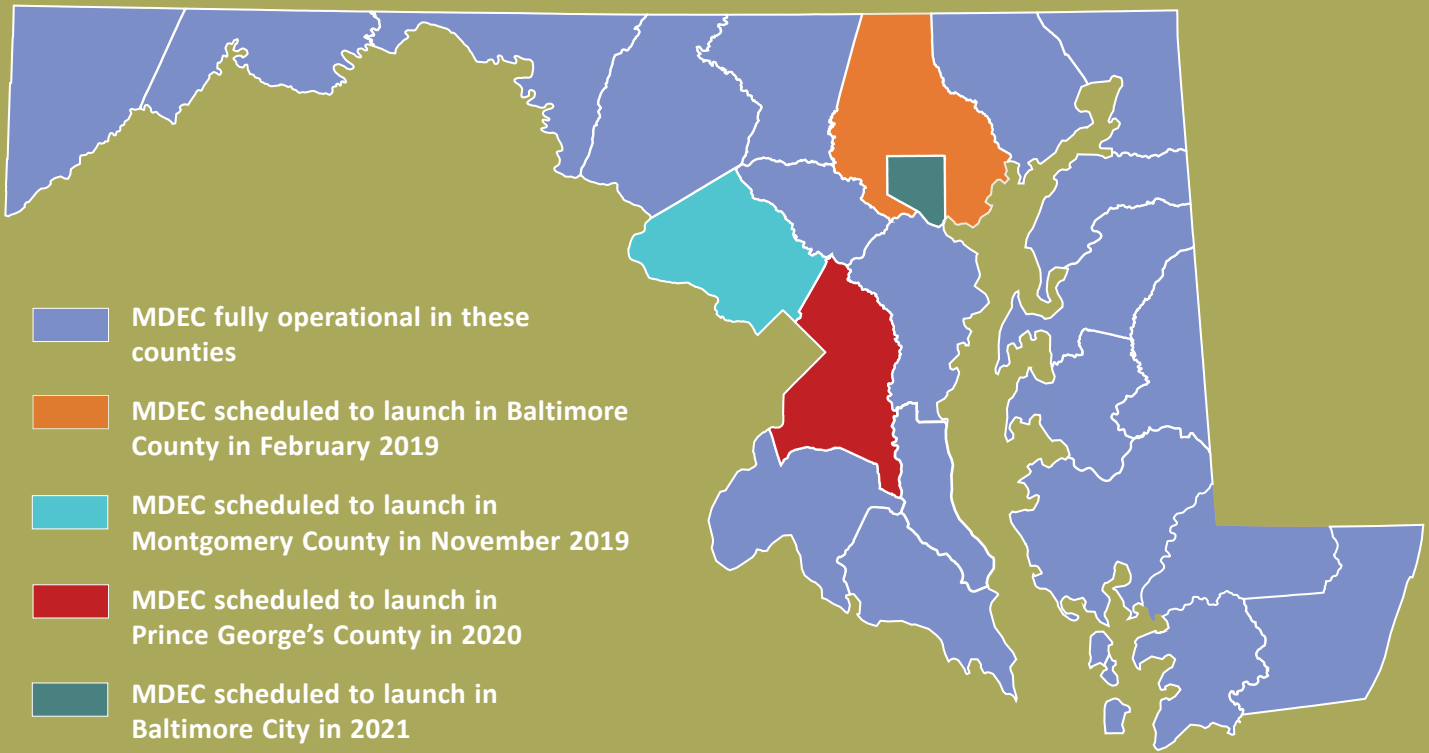


## TOP 10 PAGES:

1. Homepage
2. Court Records
3. Court Directory
4. District Court homepage
5. Jury Service
6. Attorney List
7. Appellate Opinions
8. Court Forms
9. Careers
10. MDEC/e-filing

The Maryland Judiciary re-designed its website, [mdcourts.gov](http://mdcourts.gov), in January 2018. The new, forward-facing design and layout has important features, which allows for a better user experience. The responsive design yields itself to all platforms. Further, a new court forms page provides a central location for public forms and a revised menu allows for a more intuitive navigation experience for users. The project involved migrating the old website to a content management system for better security and more accessible site updates. The new system allows the Judiciary to provide more interactive options to the site and displays a more welcoming look for users to find what they need both quickly and efficiently while providing a secure environment.





With the successful launch of Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) in the North Central counties — Carroll, Howard, and Harford counties — 20 of the 24 jurisdictions are using MDEC. In addition, the data conversion in the Court of Special Appeals was successful and is now fully operational on MDEC.

The statewide case management system is now operational in the following counties:

- > Allegany
  - > Anne Arundel
  - > Calvert
  - > Caroline
  - > Carroll
  - > Cecil
  - > Charles
  - > Dorchester
  - > Frederick
  - > Garrett
- > Harford
  - > Howard
  - > Kent
  - > Queen Anne's
  - > Somerset
  - > St. Mary's
  - > Talbot
  - > Washington
  - > Wicomico
  - > Worcester

The MDEC User Group was formed to support MDEC users and enhance business processes and reporting. Members are experienced court staff, including MDEC specialists and subject matter experts who regularly use MDEC. The group is staffed by the Administrative Office of the Courts' Court Operations Department, Judicial Information Systems (JIS) Support, Court Business Services, and the Department of Technology Education, as well as District Court Operations Department. The MDEC Event Code Review Work Group was formed out of the user group to analyze codes that are duplicated, unnecessary, or not being used to determine if they should be eliminated.

- To prepare for the implementation of MDEC, the Circuit Court for Baltimore County collaborated with MDEC courts. In addition, the bench, clerk of court, staff, court administration, and justice partners have worked together to formulate the tools needed for intra-court communications to ensure a successful transition to MDEC.

**MDEC Weekly Updates** is the first systematic case management business practice communication. It goes to all trial courts across the state and notifies MDEC users of changes to court business processes, documentation, and relevant news.

**MDEC Weekly Update**  
Circuit and District Courts  
Thursday, November 15, 2018

**Statewide Information**

**File & Serve**  
(Updated to clarify information in last week's update)  
A new stamp on e-filed documents has been added in File & Serve for "Submission Date," in addition to the existing "Docket Date" stamp. When a filer resubmits a deficient filing, the courts will now change the file date back to the original docket date of the deficient filing (in File & Serve during the review of the filing). Therefore, the document will have a "Submission Date" representing when the filer submitted the document, and a "Docket Date" that reflects the date of the original filing. Contact [Service-Now](#) if you have questions.

**Opening your Odyssey Application – A Reminder**  
Please open Odyssey from your App Launcher – not a shortcut on your desktop. This is a recommendation from the vendor to ensure users receive timely system updates.

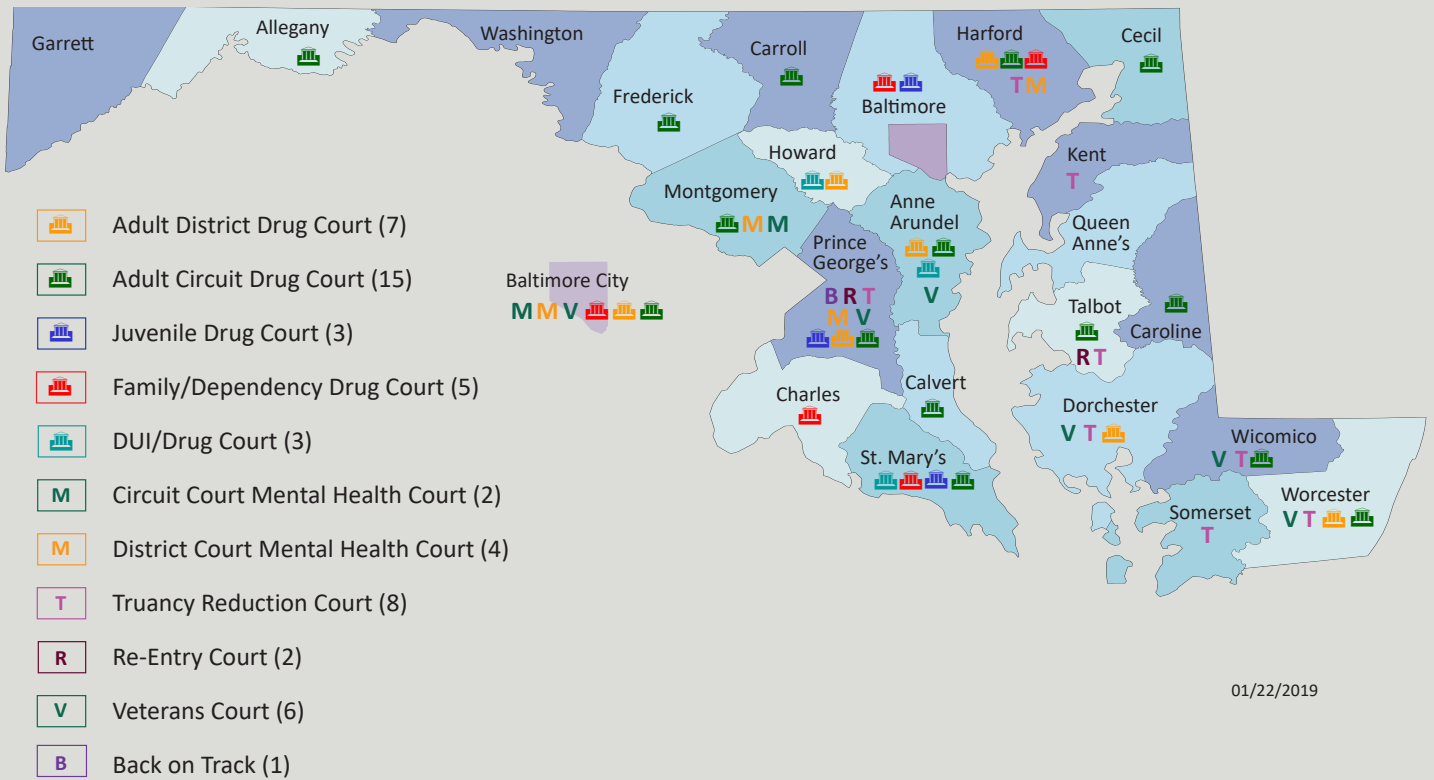
**District Court**

**Traffic Installment Payment Plan**  
It is recommended to print the Traffic Violation(s) Installment Plan Agreement [DCA 132](#) form from CourtNet or by selecting **Save/Print** from the TRPPA event. There is a prompt on the TRPPA event to enter the installment plan number. You will need to verify and complete the form prior to printing. Do not merge the form from the Forms button in Odyssey as the information will not populate correctly. The tip sheet will be updated to include this information.



# Be Responsive and Adaptable to Changing Community Needs

# 56 Operational Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland

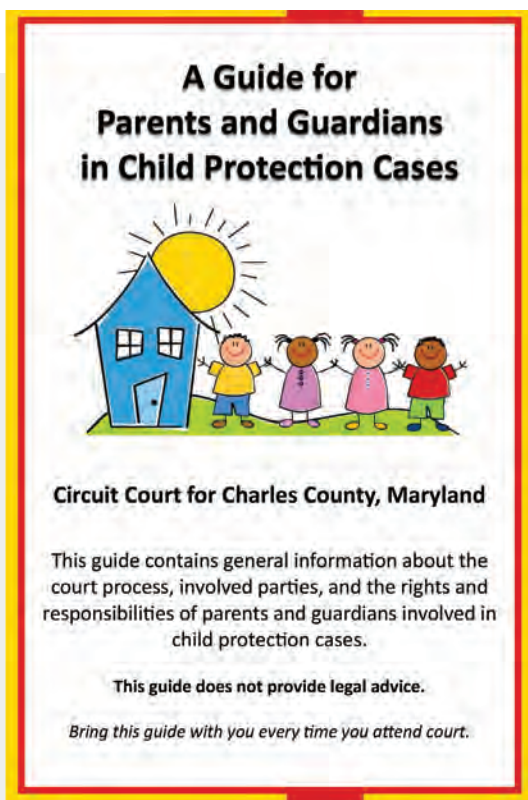


## 5 New Problem-Solving Courts in 2018:

- > Allegany County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court
- > Anne Arundel District Court Veterans Docket
- > Dorchester County District Court Regional Veterans Court
- > Harford County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court
- > Somerset County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court

- The Circuit Court for Montgomery County held meetings with the Problem-Solving Court Community Partnership Panel to address unmet service areas for drug and mental health court participants, including identifying viable employment options or meaningful volunteer opportunities, addressing medical needs not covered by insurance, and finding housing for mentally ill participants.

- The Circuit Court for Baltimore City’s Juvenile Court Services Division offered a full-day “Living Out Loud” (LOL) Youth Symposium for Baltimore youth ages 13 to 17. Program goals included fostering increased sensitivity and respect toward people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender. It also provided education and support to promote positive decision-making and healthy lifestyles.
- To foster increased accountability for drug court participants and implement best practices, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City began providing random, on-site urine testing through the Division of Parole and Probation’s Addictions and Assessments Unit as an integral part of its drug court program.
- In compliance with the changes in the guardianship rules, the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County held a remote hearing at a local hospital to accommodate a litigant’s right to be present at a hearing on a petition for guardianship. The litigant’s guardian, family, and doctor were present while a judge conducted the hearing at the facility. A courtroom clerk and a member of the IT staff also attended the hearing.
- Twenty courthouses provided new alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mediation and settlement conference forms, including “Agreement to Participate in ADR Mediation” and “Agreement to Participate in ADR,” in an effort to better educate litigants about Day of Trial ADR, mediation and settlement options, the role of the practitioner, and the confidentiality of the session.



Utilizing grant funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Circuit Court for Charles County updated “A Guide for Parents and Guardians in Child Welfare Cases” and the “Permanency Planning Mediation” brochures. These publications reflect current statutory requirements and use plain language to make them easier to understand.



**“We created the award to honor Judge Mulieri for starting the Schools in the Court Program and Kason Donato to ensure his legacy lives on in Anne Arundel County.”**

**Judge Shaem C.P. Spencer,  
District Court in  
Anne Arundel County**

**Due to popular demand, the Schools in the Court program in the District Court in Anne Arundel County expanded from two to four dates annually. Hundreds of county high school students visit the court to learn about the judicial system. In 2018, Anne Arundel County District Court Judge Shaem C.P. Spencer also announced the creation of the Honorable Vincent A. Mulieri/Kason Donato Annual Student Spotlight Award. The award, which honors Senior Judge Vincent A. Mulieri, who founded the program in 2001, and Kason Donata, who was struck and killed by a drunk driver in 2015, recognizes students who best exemplify the program’s mission of encouraging people to make good choices.**



**Judge Shaem C.P. Spencer (left) with Judge Vincent A. Mulieri (right).**

- The Accessibility and Accommodations Subcommittee of the Court Access and Community Relations Committee held three listening events to hear from the disability advocacy community about their experiences in using the courts to garner suggestions for future accommodations.
- The District Court in Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne’s counties continued pretrial mediation programs with Community Mediation Upper Shore. Day of Trial ADR is now also being used for some landlord/tenant cases.
- In response to new housing legislation in Baltimore City, the District Court developed a brochure and web page, which provide information about mediation services for Baltimore City tenants and landlords.
- The Judiciary Human Resources Department briefed the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families on paid parental leave.

“Hopefully, through this program, we are able to uncover problems before they reach a boiling point that may result in a child appearing in juvenile court or dropping out of school.”

Retired Judge  
Karen A. Murphy Jensen

Having missed 45 days in her senior year, Kent County High School student Kendra Johnson was one of 51 students in the Kent County Truancy Reduction Program during the 2017-2018 school year. The program aims at supporting students, like Johnson, so they can complete school requirements. Students appear in Kent County Circuit Court at least once a month for a specialized docket. A judge reviews a student’s file, receives status updates, and connects students and their families with local resources. In July 2018, Johnson completed the program and received her high school diploma in a special ceremony in Kent County Circuit Court. Since the Kent County Truancy Reduction Program was established in 2014, more than 100 students have participated in the program.



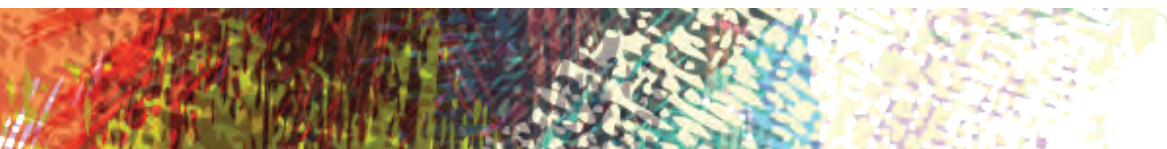
- The Circuit Court for Dorchester County expanded its Truancy Court Program and aligned the program’s policies, procedures, and forms. It increased the allotted docket time, worked to strengthen relationships with stakeholders, and sought new partnerships, including one with Mid-Shore Community Mediation.
- The District Court in Carroll County created a criminal domestic violence docket in response to the increase in domestic violence-related crimes within the county. The new docket is held weekly and has a dedicated judge and state’s attorney assigned to it.
- The Circuit Court for Baltimore City began Early Neutral Evaluations (ENE), a confidential, flexible alternative dispute resolution process in which a senior judge evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the case and suggests a settlement range. ENE offers an alternative for parties who want to avoid extended discovery and save time and money. Parties may also elect to engage in early settlement discussions. This program is the first formalized use of neutral evaluations in Maryland. More than 275 cases have been referred to ENE.

- The District Court began a pilot program to use ShareFile to provide electronic recordings of court hearings in Prince George’s County. This allows requestors to listen to hearings on any device, including smartphones and tablets, without the need for a computer with a CD player.
- The District Court in Garrett County continued its involvement with the Drug Free Communities Coalition and the District Court in Allegany County continued its involvement with the Safe Streets initiative. Both courts met regularly with local law enforcement, prosecutors, educators, hospitals, and other key stakeholders to assess the opioid and methamphetamine problem affecting the local community.
- The Circuit Court for Dorchester County celebrated Opioid Awareness Month in September by “going purple” to bring local awareness to the opioid crisis. The courthouse exterior was illuminated with purple lighting and purple candles were placed in first-floor windows. Court staff also made purple handprints on windows to identify people and agencies affected by the opioid crisis.
- To improve accessibility for court users, District Court in District 4, including Charles, St. Mary’s, and Calvert counties, displayed multi-lingual and braille signage. In addition, each counter and courtroom has laminated Language Identification Cards to help court staff identify the language of preference for language line users.
- The Judicial Information Systems Division implemented the Domestic Violence Office application in all Circuit Courts and the District Court to process domestic violence cases with greater efficiency.

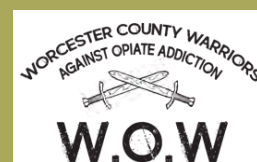


The Maryland Judiciary’s Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC) held its 15th Annual Symposium in October 2018 at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum. More than 350 judges, public and private attorneys, clerks, court administrators, and treatment professionals attended the symposium. This event allows problem-solving court professionals to brainstorm, share best practices, and learn innovative approaches for specialized dockets, including drug, mental health, re-entry, truancy, and veterans treatment courts. The event has grown exponentially. As a result, it moved off-site to a larger venue after being held at the Judicial College Education and Conference Center in Annapolis for the past 14 years.

- The Circuit Court for Somerset County supported efforts to address the growing heroin and opioid crisis in the county. This ongoing issue affects families, schools, medical and emergency services, and communities. Educational and prevention awareness forums were offered to Somerset County high school and upper middle school students, parents, and the community. The forums were created with the help of Anne Arundel County government, whose award-winning “Not My Child” initiative brings awareness and a community conversation to the topic of addiction. With support from the Circuit Court for Somerset County and the collaborative efforts of law enforcement, faith-based communities, county agencies, mental health services, and the county Board of Education, the forums reached approximately 1,200 students.
- The Circuit Court for Talbot County trained all judicial staff in the use of an opioid overdose antidote, commonly known as Narcan, to respond to the growing opioid epidemic in the county.



**Drug Court Coordinator Tracy Simpson represents the Circuit Court for Worcester County on the Opioid Intervention Team and Senior Policy Group, which operates from the Governor’s Opioid Operational Command Center. Simpson also assists Worcester County Warriors Against Opioid Addiction in connecting addicts to treatment, as well as resources for addicts, their parents, and families. Simpson also worked with Hope4Recovery to assist in obtaining grants for Worcester County’s first sober-living community.**



“Problem-solving courts, and in particular drug courts, are the mechanism for the Judiciary to help break the cycle of addiction and related criminal behaviors. Persons who participate in these programs need to understand that they have the Judiciary actively supporting them in their journey.”

Tracy Simpson, Drug Court Coordinator  
for Worcester County



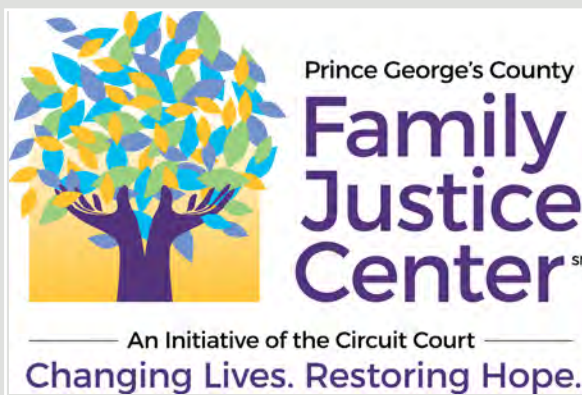
Denise C. McCain, Director of the Prince George's County Family Justice Center (center), smiles for a picture with volunteers.

Sondra D. Battle, Prince George's County Circuit Court Administrator (left); Administrative Judge Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, Circuit Court for Prince George's County (center); Denise C. McCain, Director of the Prince George's County Family Justice Center (right).

The Prince George's County Family Justice Center (PGCFJC), an initiative of the Circuit Court, continues to change lives and restore hope for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and elder abuse. The PGCFJC houses a full array of co-located services that are provided through a coordinated, collaborative, and holistic advocacy model.

In 2018, the PGCFJC provided more than 2,200 individual services to clients and made 2,000 referrals to its 23 on-site partnering organizations. Additionally, the PGCFJC added a human trafficking law firm and a teen-oriented domestic violence prevention program.

Community outreach initiatives include "No Mas! An Open and Honest Discussion on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault," "The Trickle Effect: A Roundtable Discussion on the Invisible Signs of Domestic Violence and the Negative Impact on Children," and "#TEENSTALKBACk, A Candid Conversation on Love and Relationships for Teens and Parents."



**"A person's true character and strength is cultivated in the weakest of moments."**

Administrative Judge  
Sheila R. Tillerson Adams,  
Circuit Court for Prince George's County



# Communicate Effectively with Stakeholders

“This annual event, sponsored by the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office, is both educational and enlightening. It’s amazing to see so many partners come together in one night to spread awareness about domestic violence. We must continue to educate the community with a unified voice to advance the legal protection and expand resources for survivors of domestic violence.”

Judge Ada Clark-Edwards,  
District Court in  
Prince George’s County

Prince George’s County District Court Judge Ada Clark-Edwards attended the Purple Lights Night in 2018. The event is sponsored by the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office during domestic violence awareness month each year. The county administration building is illuminated in purple in an effort to bring greater awareness to the community about domestic violence.



As Domestic Violence Coordinating Judge and Chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC), Judge Ada Clark-Edwards (center) received an award for her commitment to end domestic violence.

- The District Court in Harford County continues to participate in quarterly Criminal Justice Coordinating Council meetings to discuss issues of mutual concern.
- The District Court in Frederick and Washington counties continue to hold monthly meetings of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission to discuss and resolve issues that affect the court system.
- The Circuit Court for Frederick County holds regular stakeholder meetings to discuss services, areas of concern, new initiatives, and process improvements.
- The Circuit Court for Washington County hosts and participates in quarterly Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and juvenile stakeholder meetings.

- The Circuit Court for Talbot County meets regularly with the Talbot County Sheriff's Office, the Division of Parole and Probation, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Juvenile Services. It also meets periodically with the Department of Corrections, the Office of the State's Attorney, and the Office of the Public Defender to discuss issues of mutual concern.
- The Judiciary educated the legislature on the importance of prompt placement of a defendant who is found incompetent to stand trial or not criminally responsible. As a result of these efforts, legislation was passed that requires the Maryland Department of Health to admit the defendant to a designated health care facility no later than 10 business days after receiving the order of commitment.
- The Circuit Court for Worcester County instituted regular meetings with the Division of Parole and Probation and the Department of Juvenile Services as a forum for discussing and resolving issues of mutual concern and interest.



In collaboration with the National Center for State Courts, the State Justice Institute, and the Pretrial Justice Institute, the Maryland Judiciary hosted the 2018 Pretrial Summit in Annapolis. Nearly 200 key stakeholders from every jurisdiction in the state gathered under one roof to discuss ways to develop or improve pretrial services in Maryland on May 14, 2018.





The Circuit Court for Carroll County conducted mock trials for elementary students and participated in the Carroll County High School Mock Trial Program.

- The Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County holds monthly meetings with the state’s attorney and the district public defender to discuss issues related to the criminal docket.
- The Circuit Court for Somerset County continues to work with the county to plan for a long-term solution to accommodate a second courtroom for the magistrate, as well as offices for the court administrator, drug court coordinator, and the self-help clinic.
- The Circuit Court for Carroll County meets weekly with representatives from the Department of Corrections and works closely with the local management board to coordinate with other programs to provide support as needed.
- In an effort to provide more efficient service to mental health court participants, the District Court in Montgomery County Government’s Health and Human Services Department’s clinical staff to support the mental health courts in both the District Court and Circuit Court.
- The Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, with assistance from local law enforcement, established a password protected warrant check-in web page on its website to increase communication and security. The page is for law enforcement use only, specifically those officers seeking approval of a warrant.



# Improve Systems and Processes

- The District Court’s Administrative Services Department implemented a scanning project to convert paper forms into electronic files. They are stored on a SharePoint site which eliminates the need for file cabinets. More than half of 579 form folders have been scanned and bookmarked for future reference.
- The District Court’s Finance Department developed a number of accounting and cashing quick tip sheets for staff in MDEC jurisdictions to improve processes and ensure efficiency in operations.
- Additional security cameras have been added to the District Court Multi-Service Building in Wicomico County to ensure the safety and security of court users and staff.

Under a law that went into effect October 1, 2017, District Court commissioners are required to make indigency determinations for the purpose of qualifying for the services of the public defender. From October 2017 through November 2018, commissioners accepted more than 202,000 applications for the services of the public defender.



Back Row (left to right): Nettina Surpris-Gause, D5; Linda Lewis, D1; Megan Dickerson, D2; Timothy Haven, Director of District Court Commissioners; Peter Saquella, D7; Tony Weddle, D9; Carolyn Creel, D6; and Rachel Bowen, D11.

Front Row (left to right): Jessica Smith, D3; Megan Harmon, D4; Annetta Lamonica, D12; Damon Streat, Deputy Director of District Court Commissioners; and Monisa Logan, D10.



In an effort to enhance the experience for those serving on jury duty in Baltimore City, the Department of General Services, in conjunction with the Circuit Court, fully renovated the Jury Assembly Room in Mitchell Courthouse. This project doubled the size of the quiet room and created a bright, clean, and inviting space for potential jurors. In addition, a mural was installed on one of the walls in the room. The mural, titled “Historic Views of Baltimore,” was painted by local muralist Dr. Robert R. Hieronimus and was commissioned by Mayor William Donald Schaefer on behalf of the city in 1976 to celebrate America’s Bicentennial. It was previously on display at the War Memorial and the American Visionary Art Museum before being restored and relocated to the jury room.

- The District Court in Worcester County’s Snow Hill location renovated its lobby area to provide more space for the public and the bailiffs’ security equipment. The renovations also provided space for Alternative Dispute Resolution, the Health Department Alcohol Counselor, the Office of Problem-Solving Courts, and other ancillary offices in the future.
- The District Court in Talbot County installed a video surveillance camera system to improve the safety and security of court users and staff.

- The Circuit Court for Montgomery County established a Courthouse Security Committee to review screening practices, building access policies, and other courthouse-security related policies and programs. This committee advises the administrative judge on various courthouse building security issues.
- The Circuit Court for Calvert County improved security in the courthouse by adding 69 security door readers as part of a new security access system.
- The District Court in Baltimore City improved American Sign Language (ASL) services for deaf and hearing-impaired persons. As part of the Access to Justice Department's efforts to expand the use of remote ASL interpreter services, supervisors and staff in each location received a laptop computer and were trained to access a remote ASL interpreter using streaming video software when assisting deaf or hearing-impaired persons.
- The District Court in Prince George's County hosted an expungement and shielding working session to address a significant increase in petitions for expungement. The purpose of the session was to provide a legislative update regarding changes that affect these areas of the law and allow staff and members of the bench to discuss and improve internal procedures. In addition, to accommodate the increased volume, additional dockets were devoted to these matters.
- To improve efficiency in the processing of case information, District Court commissioners were given the capability to update Circuit Court cases in MDEC. This alleviates the need for Circuit Court clerks to re-enter information initiated by the commissioners and results in real-time updating for any hearings conducted or bonds posted by commissioners.
- The District Court in Montgomery County increased the use of ADR and mediation in municipal infraction cases. The increase allows community-based, negotiated resolutions tailored to problems specific to a given residence or structure.
- The District Court in Baltimore City reviews and sponsors annual training regarding security procedures for all judges and staff, including sheltering in place, responding to an active shooter, and reacting to bomb threats.
- The Circuit Court for Kent County conducts quarterly personal safety and security meetings to improve emergency preparedness.
- The Circuit Court for Calvert County updated its digital recording software.
- The Circuit Court for Baltimore City upgraded security cameras throughout the courthouses and installed card readers to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering secure locations.

The Judiciary's Human Resources Department continued to enhance onboarding and off-boarding processes by refining orientation materials and outgoing communications to newly-appointed judges and employees.

## **JUDICIAL ONBOARDING**



- The Circuit Court for Prince George's County deployed Yondr, a mobile device locking pouch that enables patrons to store and maintain possession of their mobile devices while in the courtroom. Prior to entering a courtroom, court users receive an individual pouch to insert their mobile devices which is locked by a magnetic clip.
- The Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County upgraded its security camera system by adding digital cameras capable of capturing enhanced images throughout the courthouse. It also added additional cameras in areas where coverage was limited and implemented a mandatory security screening policy at the entrance of the courthouse.
- The Judicial Information Systems Division implemented e-Recording for land records instruments in the Circuit Courts for Allegany, Baltimore, Caroline, Cecil, Frederick, Howard, Kent, Prince George's, Talbot, and Wicomico counties. Once this system is operational in the Circuit Courts for Baltimore City and Calvert County, the public will have the ability to e-record land records instruments in every jurisdiction in Maryland.
- To keep pace with evolving technologies, the Department of Technology Education implemented a number of training initiatives, including the New Employee Technology Education training for all new Judiciary employees to introduce them to systems, such as the MDEC Core 5-Day New Employee Training and MDEC training for new law clerks.
- The Department of Budget and Finance participated in a number of process-improvement initiatives that enhanced the user experience, including providing additional data for budget development and modifying queries in General Enterprise and Resource Support (GEARS). These changes enhance payment verification for e-Recording and improve tracking of judgment liens.

- The Circuit Court for Harford County’s technology-related upgrades included the installation of a closed network within each courtroom for an evidence presentation system, new signage for the courthouse, and digital court reporting systems in all courtrooms. With grant funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts, the court also installed security cameras in the courtrooms, allowing courthouse security to monitor courtrooms.
- The front-end application and approval process for the Judiciary’s Educational Assistance Tuition Reimbursement process was automated in CONNECT, the Judiciary’s Human Resources Department’s system.
- The Circuit Court for Prince George’s County became the first courthouse in the country to install sound intelligence in the holding cells, allowing the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office to be notified immediately of any aggressive behavior.
- A collaborative team composed of an administrative judge, a clerk of court, magistrate, sheriff, and court administrator in Somerset County meets regularly to discuss issues of mutual concern, as well as projects and goals that help to further the effective administration of justice.

**Maryland Judiciary Case Search Disclaimer**

This website provides public access to the case records of the Maryland Judiciary. Access to these records is governed by the Maryland Rules on Access to Court Records. Acceptance of the following agreement is required to continue.

In Maryland, laws exist to ensure that state government is open and that the public has access to appropriate records and information in its possession. At the same time, both state and federal laws provide exceptions that serve various needs, including the privacy of individuals.

While much information is made available to the public through this site, some information may be restricted or require registration to obtain. All of the information collected at this site becomes a public record that may be subject to inspection and copying by members of the public, unless an exemption in law exists.

The information available through the Maryland Judiciary Case Search (MDJCS) database

**Note:**  
If you believe information provided is inaccurate, please send written notice to the court where the original record was created or filed. For courthouse locations and contact information, see: <http://mdcourts.gov/courtsdirectory/index.html>

I have read, understand and agree to the terms, conditions, and limitations noted above

**Continue**

**EFFECTIVE JULY 9, 2013 CASE SEARCH TO DISPLAY DATE OF BIRTH**  
<http://www.courts.state.md.us/reference/noticerule13221eff070913.html>

**Additional Information**  
[Maryland Access Rules](#)  
[Case Search Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\)](#)  
[Case Search Notices](#)  
[Maryland Judiciary Homepage](#)

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Based on recommendations from the Court Technology Committee’s Secure Case Search Subcommittee, levels of access to case data within Secure Case Search were implemented to align with relevant rules and statutes.

- The clerk’s office in the Charles County Circuit Court maintains a public information station near the entrance of the courthouse. The clerk’s office utilized courthouse security grant funds to install bullet resistant security glass with a pass-through window. It enhances the existing structure and addresses staff security concerns while maintaining customer service.
- The Court Operations Department developed materials to promote best practices for documenting and tracking bail bond forfeitures.



- Representatives from various Circuit Courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts collaborated on statewide data initiatives, including timeliness measures, CourTools, case processing performance, and the National Center for State Courts’ Court Statistics Project.
- In 2018, Court Operations focused on tracking data in the appellate courts. Consequently, it achieved 100 percent reportable data for both the Court of Appeals and Court of Special Appeals, helping to make Maryland one of a few states to have 100 percent reportable appellate data.



(Pictured above is NCSC’S Reporting Excellence Award for 2017.)

In 2018, the Maryland Judiciary was recognized for its court reporting and received the National Center for State Courts’ Court Statistics Project Reporting Excellence Award for a second consecutive year. It is a direct result of the Judiciary’s goal to better map and track civil and juvenile data.



- To comply with new rules on guardianship, the Circuit Court for Baltimore County successfully implemented a number of new procedures, including a process to address financial abuse, a new system for reviewing petitions, and an update to the orientation program.
- The civil department in the Circuit Court for Allegany County Clerk's Office was remodeled to improve customer service and business processes.
- The Circuit Court for Garrett County continues to utilize a settlement/pretrial conference program, which has resulted in settlements in more than 85 percent of cases submitted since the program was implemented in 2015.
- The Department of Professional Development and Judicial Information Systems worked to automate financial approval and payment processes.
- To assist potential jurors, the Circuit Court for Montgomery County added new juror information to the hotline on high volume days and created instructional videos regarding access to the courthouse from the metro, alternate routes to the juror parking lot, and entrances to the courthouse. In addition, the court updated information on the juror summons, improved the juror information packet, and restructured the jury survey to improve jury office communication. As a result, the court has seen a significant increase in jurors arriving early for check-in, helping to reduce long lines.
- The Circuit Court for Washington County implemented a new process for clerk's office staff to accept credit card payments for court costs and fees.
- In conjunction with the Kent County Department of Finance, the Circuit Court for Kent County created a number of reports to help track the court's county-funded and grant-funded budgets.
- The District Court in Washington County received an updated intercom system that allows commissioners to better communicate with transport officers needing building access after normal business hours. It is also used in the holding cells between courtrooms and secure areas near the judges' chambers.



# Be Accountable

- More than 400 Public Information Act requests were fulfilled by the Government Relations and Public Affairs Division from January 1 to December 31, 2018.
- The Internal Affairs Division drafted and completed a Public Information Act and Court Access Rules Manual for use by the Judiciary.
- The Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) continued to work with the Judicial Council’s Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee’s Work Group on Standards of Conduct for Mediators.
- To promote greater accountability with the public, the Court Operations Department started posting the Maryland case time standards on the Judiciary’s website. In addition, the department expanded data made available through the Data Dashboard.

## MARYLAND JUDICIARY DATA DASHBOARD

Maryland Judiciary’s Annual Statistical Performance Measures is an interactive compilation of trial and appellate courts caseload and performance data. These pages include information about the work of the state’s courts and highlight the daily efforts of the Maryland Judiciary’s dedicated professionals to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all. The data presented herein reflect the operation of the courts, including total incoming and outgoing cases, clearance rates, active caseload volumes, and case processing performance measures.

Fiscal Year 2017

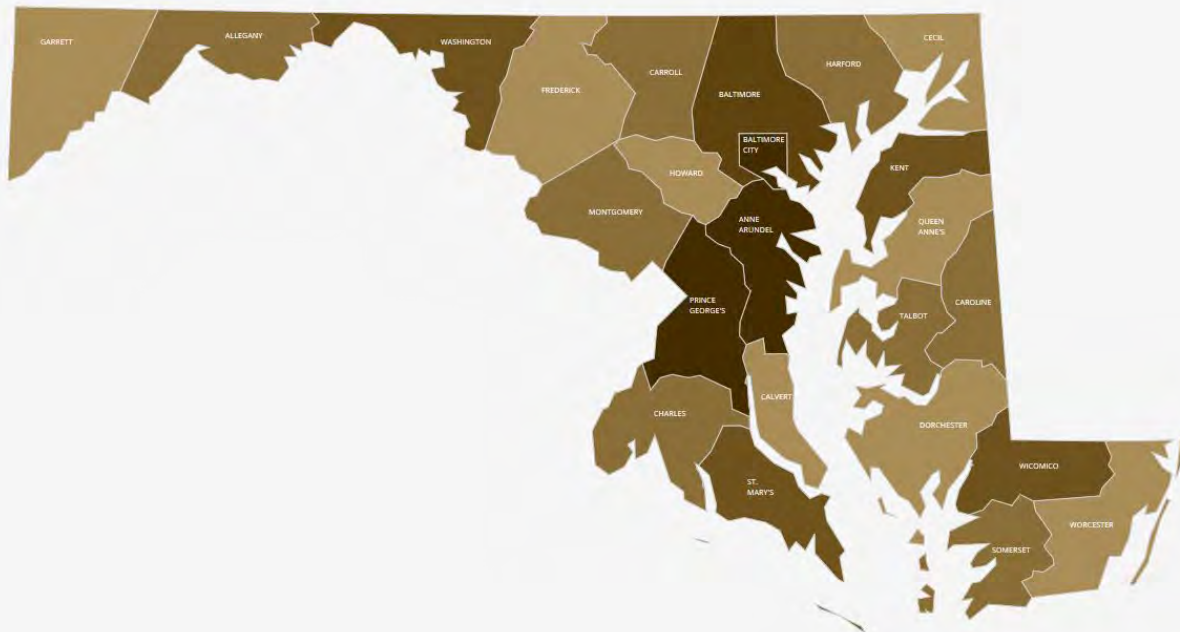
TOTAL FILINGS  
1,886,882

TOTAL TERMINATIONS  
2,068,940

Click on a county to view its performance measures

CHOOSE COUNTY

or



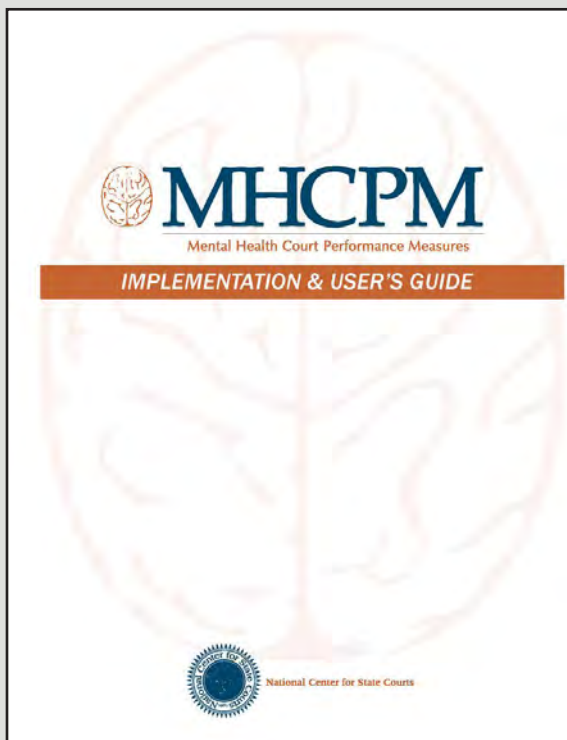


Jonathan S. Rosenthal, Esq., the Director of the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office, welcomes hundreds of attendees to the event.

Nearly 300 people attended the 2018 Mediators Conference on December 7 in Annapolis. Judges, private practitioners, Judiciary employees, volunteer mediators, students, trainers, and Community Mediation Center staff participated in the conference which addressed various topics, including practical implications and ethical considerations, how to navigate meetings with different points of view, and court interpretation during mediation. The conference also included **MACROTalks**, which are brief, compelling, and motivational talks about a particular topic.

- Volunteer ADR practitioners staffed 42 weekly dockets and seven monthly dockets throughout 21 District Court locations. The ADR Office in the District Court conducted quarterly audits of all Day of Trial ADR volunteer and program schedules to assess the number of dockets with cases referred to ADR and the number of dockets with no cases referred to ADR, as well as the frequency and availability of practitioners to staff dockets. The audits were conducted to measure continuity and viability of the local ADR program.
- The Foster Care Court Improvement Program implemented the second phase of the Maryland Research Online Communication Center, which provides juvenile court judges and magistrates a secure document vault and communications forum.
- In coordination with the local detention center, the Circuit Court for Baltimore County began holding all bail and bench warrant hearings by video with the exception of specially assigned cases.

- Judges from across the state attended the 2018 Judicial Conference. The three-day event was an educational retreat, featuring presentations, workshops, panel discussions, and a number of distinguished speakers.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts provided testimony to the Workplace Harassment Commission regarding the Judiciary’s workplace harassment policies and complaint procedures.
- The Domestic Violence and Peace Order Subcommittee revised the Maryland Judge’s Domestic Violence Resource Manual and distributed hard copies of the manual to all Circuit Court and District Court judges. The distribution was made possible with funding from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. Judges also received revised bench cards with best practices and considerations when presiding over domestic violence protective order and peace order proceedings.
- The Court Operations Committee’s Case Management Subcommittee finalized a multi-year project to support the courts in developing Differentiated Case Management plans for the Circuit Courts and case management plans for the District Court.
- The Circuit Court for Worcester County implemented status conferences for family-related cases that have had no activity for 90 days to ensure compliance with case time standards.



**The Office of Problem-Solving Courts contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to create Mental Health Court Performance Measures. Throughout the past year, NCSC visited mental health courts in Maryland to gather data and to ensure that a representative number of state’s mental health court programs are included in the creation of these performance measures.**



# Assure the Highest Level of Service

- The Circuit Courts for Allegany and Frederick counties encouraged their staff to participate in professional development and technical training courses, ranging from customer service to navigating the new domestic violence computer application, at the Judicial College Education and Conference Center (JCECC) and through the Judicial College’s expanded online offerings.
- The Office of Security Administration, recognizing that security threats at courthouses across the state have become more prevalent, implemented a number of security initiatives, including conducting active shooter training, providing CPR/AED training at the JCECC, as well as performing courthouse security reviews and home security assessments for judges.
- The Department of Judicial Education increased the frequency of the Family Law University from every other year to annually and incorporated field trip-based courses. The first half of the day is spent visiting a prison or a mental health facility, and the remainder of the day is spent in a traditional classroom setting, where judges are able to integrate ideas from the field trip into the discussion.



The Engineering and Central Services Department in the District Court strengthened and improved various security measures to promote the safety of court users and judicial personnel, including active shooter training for employees. More than 220 bailiffs have completed in-service training and 43 new bailiffs have completed new hire training. Over 2 million people were scanned and 6,253 knives, razors, tools, firearms, cameras/video recorders, and chemical spray devices were collected at metal detectors and x-ray machines.



Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera approved the first Magistrates' Conference, a one-day educational and networking conference. It took place on November 28, 2018, at the Judicial College Education and Conference Center in Annapolis.

- The Education Committee approved allowing judges and magistrates to complete six of the 12 required continuing education hours online.
- In 2018, the Department of Professional Development launched the online pilots for the Proficiency-Based Education (PBE) and Training System programs for commissioners, supervisors/managers, and judicial assistants. Each of the programs is expected to go live in 2019. PBE focuses on building competence and proficiency in the skill sets necessary for effective job performance.
- More than 300 employees attended the New Employee Orientation and New Employee Technology Orientation classes.
- The Circuit Court for Baltimore City provided two types of parenting education seminars, including Co-Parenting Education, also known as COPE, which focuses on parents who are divorcing and Shared Parenting Education, also known as SHAPE, which is a specialized class for parents who are not married, but have a child together.



- The Fair Practices Department delivered in-person trainings on fair practices policies and procedures to more than 270 judicial branch employees.
- The Human Trafficking Work Group completed a draft training curriculum to be used for judges and magistrates across the state. Among the objectives were defining labor and child sex trafficking, identifying risk factors for sex trafficking, developing strategies for making courtrooms more trauma-informed, and describing options for providing post-conviction relief to sex trafficking victims.
- The District Court in Montgomery County provided access to professional development webinars to all court personnel by utilizing its conference rooms to ensure as many staff members as possible are able to participate.
- District 12 (Allegany and Garrett counties) strongly promotes cross-training among departments to allow for the highest levels of customer service. Employees are encouraged to attend continuing education courses offered through the Judicial College. A number of employees also participate in the various certificate programs offered.
- The District Court in Baltimore City utilized portions of its bench meetings to provide training on a variety of topics, such as implementing new laws, administering newly-formed dockets, understanding pretrial services, and reviewing the new bail rules.
- The Senior Judges Committee provided professional development opportunities for senior judges on various topics, including retirement, MDEC, and work-life balance.
- The Education Committee worked with the Government Relations and Public Affairs Division to produce more than eight new Video on Demand and podcast segments for judges and magistrates.

More than 350 people attended approximately 30 CPR classes at the Judicial College Education and Conference Center in Annapolis.



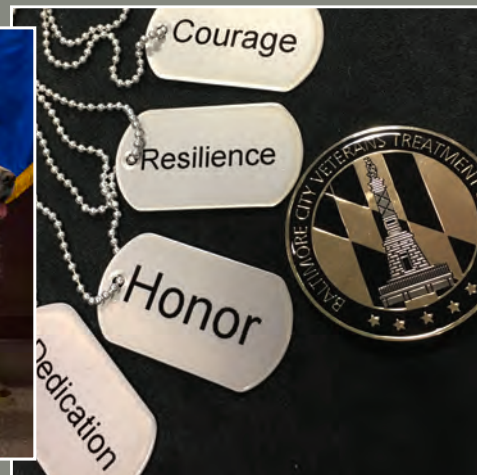
- The Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC) sponsored a number of educational opportunities for judges and judicial personnel involved in the problem-solving treatment courts across the Judiciary, including:

**Problem-Solving Court 101** — A three-hour class intended to introduce new and existing staff and judges to the problem-solving court model, the components of drug courts, mental health courts, veterans courts, and truancy courts. It also provided an overview of the OPSC.

**Problem-Solving Court Case Management Training** — A two-day training event developed by the problem-solving coordinators in Maryland. Following the training, OPSC staff and three coordinators met to modify the program and to explore the option of having PSC Case Management Training 101 and 102 courses with more specific training topics.



The OPSC, along with Baltimore City District Judge Halee Weinstein and other stakeholders, presented “Veterans Treatment Court: A Collaboration of Local, State, and Federal Partners,” at the National Association for Court Management in Atlanta, Georgia. The session discussed how the program has responded to the needs of justice-involved veterans admitted to the Baltimore City Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and helped put VTC in the national spotlight.



Changes to court rules that help safeguard the personal and financial well-being of vulnerable Marylanders went into effect January 1, 2018. The changes apply to court-appointed guardians, guardianships, and attorneys. Guardians are appointed by the court to make personal or financial decisions on behalf of someone who is unable to manage those matters because of age, disease, or disability. After the Judicial Council endorsed 25 recommendations from the Domestic Law Committee's Guardianship and Vulnerable Adults Work Group for improving guardianship court processes in 2016, the Rules Committee proposed changes to the Rules, which the Court of Appeals adopted.

Amendments to Title 10 of the Maryland Rules include:

- Improving the content and quality of certificates of competency;
- Clarifying how courts are to assess attorney's fees in guardianships;
- Clarifying the role of independent investigators in guardianships;
- Establishing training and eligibility requirements for court-appointed guardianship attorneys and guardians;
- Providing factors for courts to consider when deciding whether to require a guardian of the property to file a bond; and
- Providing courts guidance on when to decide "good cause" exists to appoint a person convicted of a disqualifying offense as guardian.

"The Judiciary is committed to protecting the rights of older Marylanders and vulnerable children and adults whose matters bring them before our courts. The change to the Rules will ensure that guardians are qualified, trained, and monitored in the courts."

**Mary Ellen Barbera,**  
Chief Judge of the  
Maryland Court of Appeals



Orientation Program for Court-Appointed Guardians  
3,857 views

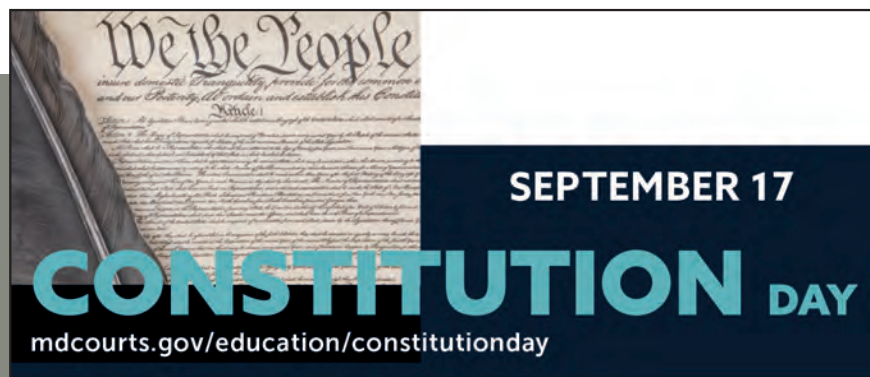
9 0 SHARE SAVE ...

The Judiciary website has a Maryland Guardianship section that features guardianship information, including an orientation video for prospective guardians, links to training programs, and new forms.



# Build Partnerships

- Through collaborative efforts between the courts and justice partners, a number of pretrial supervision programs have been formed or are in various stages of planning and development. Pretrial supervision services in Maryland do not exist in every jurisdiction and are not operated by the court system. For those jurisdictions that do provide services, they vary in their level of resources and capacity. Some are as basic as making telephone calls to defendants reminding them of court dates; others include varying levels of supervision based on the use of risk and needs assessment tools.
- Judges in the District Court in Baltimore City mentored high school and law school students as informal interns through the Baltimore EXPLOR (Experience in Legal Organizations) Program. The EXPLOR Program allows law school students to spend 16 to 20 hours per week for eight to 10 weeks as volunteer legal externs after their first year of law school. Through this program, judges provide students with opportunities to perform substantive legal research and writing, conduct courtroom observations, and gain exposure to the legal profession.
- Each year, the District Court in Frederick County invites local schools to visit the court on Law Day. Attendees have the opportunity to watch a docket and, once it concludes, the judges give a presentation and answer questions from the group. Approximately 165 students and chaperones visited in 2018.
- Circuit Court and District Court locations designated a mental health point-of-contact judge for the Maryland Department of Health to ensure greater efficiency with respect to the exchange of information and adherence to critical deadlines, as well as to track pending evaluation and commitment orders.



Each year, Constitution Day is observed on September 17 to celebrate the date of the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787. Celebrating and acknowledging Constitution Day helps foster a few of the Judiciary's Strategic Plan goals, which include communicating effectively with stakeholders, strengthening public awareness, and promoting knowledge and understanding of the Judiciary through educational programs, outreach efforts, and online resources.

In March 2018, 16-year-old Victor Halley got the chance to be a judge for a day through the cooperative efforts of several divisions within the Judiciary, the District Court in Baltimore City, the City of Baltimore, and Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic, Inc. Victor spent much of his life in the hospital battling kidney disease. During his treatments, he watched a lot of television and fell in love with legal shows. Judiciary leaders, judges, court staff members, and a number of outside agencies helped Victor's dream to sit on the bench come true. "To have this one really great, happy day, just having a day where his dreams did come true, it's really what happened," said Victor's mother, Virginia Halley. "His dreams came true." Victor lost his battle with kidney disease within days of his special event in court.



**"Seeing him using his gavel and just enjoying his day as a judge was just magnificent."**

**Judge Jack Lesser,  
District Court in  
Baltimore City**

- The Judiciary scheduled regular meetings with the Maryland Department of Health to address issues involving timely commitments, the shortage of beds and staffing, and adhering to the court's orders.
- The Montgomery County District Court's Mental Health Court (MHC) continues to work closely with the Montgomery Core Service Agency to assist homeless participants in MHC with the Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRP). RRP provides housing and supportive services to individuals with staff support around areas of personal needs such as medication monitoring, independent living skills, symptom management, stress management, and relapse prevention planning.
- A representative from the Circuit Court for Cecil County serves on the Justice Reinvestment Commission, which affords both the county and Circuit Court a voice in changes from the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA). Somerset County Senior Judge Daniel M. Long chairs the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board, which oversees statewide efforts related to JRA. Other members include Baltimore County Administrative Judge Kathleen Gallogly Cox and District Court of Maryland Chief Judge John P. Morrissey.
- The Circuit Court for Harford County, in collaboration with the county's Department of Social Services, maintains the visitation center to provide a supervised setting and monitors child visitation for families in crisis.

- A representative from the Circuit Court for Washington County participates on the Washington County Human Trafficking Task Force. Other task force members include the county’s social and juvenile services, county and state police, the local sheriff’s office, and Safe Place, a child advocacy center.
- Judges in the Circuit Court for Carroll County participated in “Every Fifteen Minutes,” a program geared toward high school juniors and seniors to build awareness about the consequences of drinking and driving. An entire day is dedicated to filming student participants. Throughout the day, students are pulled out of the classroom and their faces are painted gray to represent the deceased. At the end of the day, a driver is handcuffed, charged with vehicular homicide, and brought to court. There is then a plea hearing with courtroom personnel, a state’s attorney, a public defender, witnesses, and sheriff’s deputies. There is a memorial service at the high school the next day for the person who died. Finally, the video is shown to the entire school.
- In partnership with the Charles County Detention Center, the law library provided training to inmates regarding the offline legal database.
- Through Teen Court, the Circuit Court for Dorchester County collaborates with local stakeholders serving high school students. Teen Court offers a peer-centric diversionary program for those accused of minor infractions that otherwise would be addressed by the Department of Juvenile Services.

“Courting Art Baltimore” awarded five college scholarships totaling \$20,000 to Baltimore City high school students in recognition of their outstanding artwork at an awards reception at the Eastside District Courthouse in May 2018.

“Courting Art Baltimore” was established in 2015 and is presented by the District Court in Baltimore City, in conjunction with the Baltimore Bar Foundation, Inc., Bar Association of Baltimore City, Baltimore City Community College, Baltimore City Public Schools, Arts Every Day, Maryland Institute College of Art, and the CollegeBound Foundation.



**Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera (right), District Court Chief Judge John P. Morrissey (center), and Baltimore City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises (left) attended the awards reception for “Courting Art Baltimore.”**



## MARYLAND JUDICIARY SPEAKERS BUREAU

- The Judicial Council’s Community Access and Community Relations Committee revamped materials for the Speakers Bureau and recruited new members.
- Working closely with external justice partners, the Domestic Law Committee’s Guardianship/Vulnerable Adults Work Group helped create online training that meets the Maryland Guidelines for Court-Appointed Attorneys and supported the Maryland State Bar Association in hosting a live training. There is now a webpage with information about the new requirements for court-appointed attorneys and a roster of attorneys who have demonstrated they are eligible for guardianship proceeding appointments.
- The Circuit Court for Queen Anne’s County is involved in community outreach in several areas, including the local libraries, Mid-Shore Council on Domestic Violence, and Mid-Shore Pro Bono. The libraries serve as centers for a pro se clinic and a children’s program.
- The Family Services Department in the Circuit Court for Dorchester County has partnered with many organizations, including the Child Support Administration, for its Parent Factor events to help kids enroll in school, address homelessness, and help parents file for custody, visitation, and child support. The court also partnered with the Dorchester County Health Department to refer children and families to the Connecting for Success program which provides counseling and support to families if a parent is incarcerated. The court also refers parties to the health department’s BIND program, which stands for Becoming INDEPENDENT TOGETHER. It is designed for young adults, ages 16 to 24, who need help re-entering high school, completing a GED, entering college, or developing employment plans.
- The American Bar Association’s Commission on Law and Aging recognized the Guardianship/Vulnerable Adults Work Group as a Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) entity. WINGS is a court-led, problem-solving partnership that drives guardianship reforms and is considered a “best practice.” Maryland’s guardian training programs and support from court leadership were highlighted at a forum in April 2018.
- The Circuit Court for Baltimore City initiated a partnership with Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake, Inc., to provide employment opportunities to drug court participants. Services include job readiness training, retail skills training, case management, pre-apprenticeship programs, and career navigation.



- Through a partnership with the Maryland State Bar Association, Family Law for the People seminars were provided in Carroll, Frederick, Calvert, Allegany, and Charles counties. More than 150 self-represented litigants received information and assistance for their family law cases.
- The Education Committee’s Work Group on Human Trafficking, with support from several justice partners, co-presented on human trafficking with a judge from California’s Growth Renewed through Acceptance, Change and Empowerment, also known as G.R.A.C.E., at the National Association for Court Management Conference. Work Group members also participated in a panel discussion at the annual Pro Bono Resource Center Conference. Additionally, and in conjunction with the Human Trafficking Prevention Project, members of the Work Group co-presented the Legal Track portion of the second annual Maryland Child Trafficking Conference.
- The Judicial Council’s Juvenile Law Kinship Care Work Group collaborated with the Department of Human Services (DHS) regarding proposed policy changes that would expand relative placements for kinship families and amending Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) to provide Department of Social Services (DSS) directors more discretion and guidelines when approving placements in kinship matters. The Work Group is collaborating with DHS to plan and host a symposium on kinship care in practice and the law in Spring 2019.

Staff from the Maryland Judiciary’s Human Resources Department gave presentations on recruitment strategies and initiatives at the National Center for State Courts’ Human Resources



Summit (upper left). State Court Administrator Pamela Harris addressed representatives from the Nigerian Lagos Delegation (upper right) on topics involving human resources. Staff also hosted representatives from the Massachusetts’ (right) trial courts to discuss compensation and classification initiatives, as well as the department’s recruitment initiatives.



Maryland Judiciary's Access to Justice Department hosted a delegation from the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in October 2018. The delegation met with District Court of Maryland Chief Judge John P. Morrissey at the Judicial College Education and Conference Center in Annapolis. Chief Judge



Morrissey, along with the Judiciary's Access to Justice Department Director Pamela Ortiz and Senior Program Manager Lonni Kyhos Summers, provided an overview of Maryland's self-help centers and fielded questions from the group. Following a brief trip to the Maryland Courts Self-Help Center in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County District Judge Eileen A. Reilly and Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA) Supervising Attorney Risheena Schwemle led the



delegation on a tour of the District Court Self-Help Resource Center within Anne Arundel County District Court in Glen Burnie. The delegation concluded their visit with a tour hosted by Senior Judge William M. Dunn and MCLA Supervising Attorney Abena Williams of the District Court Self-Help Resource Center within Baltimore City District Court.

- To strengthen partnerships and collaborative efforts, the Circuit Court for Talbot County reached out to addiction treatment and mental health agencies to educate staff about the problem-solving treatment court program, including how to refer individuals in need of help.
- The Circuit Court for Garrett County works with the Garrett County Bar Association in assisting low income litigants with pro bono legal advice by facilitating contact between litigants and attorneys.
- The law library in the Circuit Court for Charles County collaborates with the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service to provide a foreclosure legal advice clinic for residents of Southern Maryland.

- The Circuit Court for Howard County worked with the National Family Resiliency Center to provide a forum for divorcing parties to develop a written agreement for their children. A new statute lifted the restriction that limited absolute divorces on the ground of mutual consent to parties without minor children. The statute now requires a written settlement agreement that resolves all issues related to the care, custody, access, and support of minor or dependent children.
- The Circuit Court for Carroll County received a grant through the Local Management Board to locate the Family Ties program at the court's visitation center. The program helps incarcerated parents maintain and strengthen relationships with their children with a focus on parent education and visitation. Parent education classes are offered to all incarcerated parents who request the program while at the detention center. Qualified incarcerated parents can visit with their children along with the custodian in the visitation center without any physical barriers.
- The Circuit Court for Caroline County continued to work closely with child support and Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) attorneys and stakeholders to address issues of mutual concern to help streamline processes and avoid scheduling delays.
- The Circuit Court for Prince George's County collaborated with the county's Office of Parole and Probation and the Department of Social Services to include children as a factor in the presentencing investigation process. During the presentence investigation, this process identifies families with children who would need assistance as a result of the extended incarceration of a parent/guardian. The goal is to address the needs of children left behind in the community while a parent is incarcerated.

**During the Maryland State Bar Association's (MSBA) annual meeting in June 2018, Judge Charles E. Moylan, Jr., received the first Senior Judges' Award. It is an annual award given by the Maryland Judiciary and the MSBA to a deserving Senior Judge who has demonstrated exemplary service and dedication to the Judiciary and the legal profession. Judge Moylan, the former State's Attorney for Baltimore City, served on the Court of Special Appeals from 1970 to 2000. As a senior judge, he sits regularly on the Court of Special Appeals and continues to teach courses at the Judicial College and other institutions.**





# Use Resources Wisely



**Construction on the new circuit courthouse in Queen Anne's County was completed in 2018, replacing a 222-year-old structure that had served as the oldest courthouse in continuous use in Maryland.**

- The District Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Office utilized a videoconferencing platform to host virtual meetings with ADR staff to reduce travel time and costs to Annapolis for meetings.
- The clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County coordinated with the sheriff's office to reduce the sheriff's staffing costs and energy usage in the courthouse.

On December 3, 2018, the Maryland Judiciary launched a new text messaging alert system pilot program. Indicators from other state courts have shown that this type of text messaging system may reduce failure to appear rates. The Judiciary's Hearing Notification Public Judicial Access System, also referred to as PJA, allows qualified defendants to sign up voluntarily for court notifications regarding their hearing dates. Defendants in the District Court and the Circuit Courts have the ability to receive text message alerts about their cases by enrolling in the new system through District Court commissioners. The pilot program is limited to cases screened for Public Defender Eligibility (PDE) and includes defendants whose criminal and incarcerable traffic cases are in jurisdictions operating through the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) system. The PDE application process allows commissioners to register a defendant's mobile number during his or her initial appearance. Within seconds, a defendant will receive a text message confirming participation in the pilot. The system then pulls information from each court's docket to inform, alert, and remind defendants of their upcoming court appearances. The pilot is scheduled to end in June 2019. An evaluation will then be completed and, if determined to be effective, PJA will be expanded in scope and reach. This pilot text messaging alert system reflects the Maryland Judiciary's ongoing commitment to leverage technology to ensure meaningful access to justice.

“They walk into a courtroom that is made for adults, they walk into a room full of strangers, they sit in a chair where their feet usually don't even reach the ground, they talk into a microphone and they're expected to tell the room full of strangers the most intimate details of something terrible that happened in their lives. It's going to make a tremendous difference for children who have such anxieties and fears related to coming to court.”

Administrative Judge Laura Ripken,  
Fifth Judicial Circuit




The Maryland Judiciary launched a new pilot program in the Circuit Courts for Anne Arundel County and Harford County. The program allows facility and therapy dogs to enter the courthouse to accompany child witnesses who are testifying or appearing in criminal or civil cases. Teams of trained facility dogs and their handlers joined Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, Judge Laura Ripken, administrative judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit (Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard counties), State Court Administrator Pamela Harris, and State Sen. Bryan Simonaire, District 31, for a ceremony on February 8, 2018. The teams were sworn in and took a tour of the courthouse.

- The drug court program staff in the Circuit Court for Carroll County attended free community trainings and webinars. Staff also attended community events to share information and to discuss current issues and trends.
- In response to the Judicial Council's endorsement of the Court Technology Committee's Email Retention Work Group's recommendation to centralize court-related emails to the Judiciary domain, Anne Arundel and Baltimore County Circuit Courts migrated to the Judiciary network and email server.
- The Circuit Court for Wicomico County completed work on a new roof, landscaping, and lighting project to improve the appearance and repair damage to the exterior of the historic courthouse.
- The District Court in Howard County provided space to the Howard County Sheriff's Office's Domestic Violence Advocate, House of Ruth, and the Howard County Police Department.

- The District Court in Anne Arundel County met with Arundel Lodge, a non-profit organization devoted to mental health issues, the Department of Health, the Office of the State’s Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, and judges presiding over the mental health docket. The goal was to establish a broader range of responsibilities for the mental health docket and create a new jail diversion program.
- The Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County continued to utilize an online parenting program, which makes it easier for litigants to schedule sessions and offers valuable resources for divorcing parents. The transition from an in-person program to an online program has alleviated many stress points for families. This is a mandatory program that parents must attend as ordered by the court. It also allows litigants in domestic violence cases to attend the program without being in the same room. It cut down on overhead costs for the court and overtime for security with the sheriff’s office.
- The Maryland Judiciary released 13 online videos to the public regarding child custody, child welfare, and expungement. The videos, which range from three to seven minutes in length, inform viewers about court processes and explain complex legal principles and procedures in plain, direct language.
- The Judiciary worked with justice partners to encourage lawyers to provide pro bono services. Maryland lawyers donated 1,160,906 hours of volunteer or pro bono legal services in 2017 to help the state’s indigent population, reflecting an increase of 10,701 hours over the previous year. The numbers were reported in 2018 in the publication called **Final Report: Current Status of Pro Bono Service Among Maryland Lawyers, Year 2017** which compiles the required reporting of pro bono legal service hours of 40,215 lawyers.

The Judicial Council’s Community Access and Community Relations Committee revamped the “Judges’ Gazette,” adding new media components like video, as well as special interest stories and events.



September 2018

**JUDGES' GAZETTE**

Government Relations and Public Affairs Division

**VIDEO: Learn more about the self-help centers**

**New circuit courthouse for Howard County**

**VIDEO: Kent County Truancy Reduction Program**

**Worcester County pretrial supervision program starts**

**New Judicial Education On-Demand videos available**

**Orientation for new trial judges**


**COSA completes MDEC data migration**

**Events and outreach**

**Awards, recognitions, and honors**

**Benchmarks: retirements, in memoriam**

**WATCH NOW: What can the Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers do for you?**



Maryland Legal Aid Supervising Attorney Megan Challenger talks with a litigant at the new Maryland Courts Self-Help Center in Frederick.

The District Court in Dorchester County launched a regional veterans treatment court to address the needs of former military service members in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties who have committed crimes as a result of substance abuse or mental illness. Veterans in this court-supervised, intensive treatment program receive assistance in resolving outstanding criminal offenses and obtaining the tools and resources necessary to stabilize their lives. The District Court in Dorchester County's goal with the regional veterans treatment court is to reduce recidivism and help connect veterans on the Lower Eastern Shore with resources available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and local organizations.



Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera (second from left), District Court of Maryland Chief Judge John P. Morrissey (third from left), First Circuit Administrative Judge Brett W. Wilson (left), Dorchester County District Judge Melvin J. Jews (center), presiding judge of the regional veterans treatment court, District 2 Administrative Judge Gerald V. Purnell (far right), and Senior Judge Raymond E. Beck, Sr. (second from right), participated in a grand opening ceremony for the regional veterans treatment court in Cambridge on June 13, 2018.

**“We should not have men and women who have served this country needing basic services. This program is about serving the community and veterans.”**



Judge Melvin J. Jews,  
District Court  
in Dorchester County



In September 2018, approximately 130 representatives from the Maryland Judiciary's network of programs for self-represented litigants gathered for the first Self-Help Center Provider Conference in Annapolis. The Judiciary's Access to Justice and Juvenile and Family Services departments organized the event to bring together self-help providers from across the state to learn best practices for assisting self-represented litigants. The day-long conference featured panel discussions and presentations on landlord-tenant matters, guardianship, expungement, and laws that went into effect October 1, 2018. Staff, contract, and pro bono attorneys, as well as non-attorney staff, discussed methods to enhance the services they provide to self-represented litigants.



**“This conference was a successful forum for self-help providers to address the demand for legal assistance in their respective areas of expertise.”**

**Pamela Harris, State Court Administrator**

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

From bricks and mortar to software and the cloud, the Maryland Judiciary continues to move justice forward through its court operations, programs, projects, events, partnerships, and outreach. The Judiciary has a strong and innovative vision for the future for the thousands of Marylanders who do business with the courts each day. Among the Judiciary's top priorities is its goal to evolve with ever-changing technology trends and grow its wide range of services. The courts implement best practices statewide to assure the highest level of service while maintaining its commitment to fair and impartial decision-making. The following are a sampling of initiatives that will be undertaken in the coming year:

- Analyze data compiled on services provided through the six self-help centers to determine if there are any gaps and move to address any deficiencies in service.
- Expand the text messaging alert system beyond the pilot to ensure more court users have the opportunity to receive notification of their court dates via text message.
- Strengthen training for court staff to enhance the customer service experience throughout the judicial branch.
- Find creative solutions to modernize and improve court technologies to protect and preserve official court records and access to public information.
- Explore ways the Judiciary can address the growing opioid crisis, both at the state and national levels, by offering additional problem-solving court services and building partnerships within communities.
- Share best practices regarding re-entry programs and work with justice partners to find innovative ways to reduce recidivism and help Marylanders become independent and law-abiding citizens.



PAMELA HARRIS  
STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



HONORABLE JOHN P. MORRISSEY  
CHIEF JUDGE, DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND

- Continue the successful rollout of MDEC to the largest remaining jurisdictions, thereby increasing the amount of information electronically available to justice partners.
- Continue to work with courts and justice partners regarding evidence-based pretrial procedures.
- Evaluate the existing orientation and educational programs for judges and Judiciary staff, making the necessary changes to optimize effectiveness. Complete, pilot, evaluate, and implement additional proficiency-based education segments to ensure Judiciary personnel have the core skills necessary to perform their jobs at the highest performance level.
- Explore ways to improve communication continually, both internally and externally.
- Continue to improve the response time in addressing technology issues.
- Expand the network of self-help centers in both the District Court and Circuit Courts.

## JUDICIAL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

The Maryland Judicial Council serves as the central governance body of the Judiciary. The Council develops recommendations for the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and is the central hub for all policy changes, judicial reforms, legislative issues, and other developments both internally and externally.

Committees, which report to the Maryland Judicial Council, are an essential part of a revitalized and coordinated interdisciplinary effort to fulfill the Judiciary's mission. They are inclusive, recruiting talented professionals throughout the Judiciary to work together to accomplish key tasks that move the Judiciary forward.

### MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL 2018

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

Matthew T. Barrett, Esq.  
Vice Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators  
Court Administrator, Circuit Court for Cecil County

Honorable Pamila J. Brown  
District Court in Howard County

Tamera Chester  
Administrative Clerk, District Court in Anne Arundel County

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

Honorable Amy J. Craig  
Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks  
Clerk, Circuit Court for Dorchester County

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

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

Honorable Susan H. Hazlett  
District Court in Harford County

Douglas Hofstedt  
Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators  
Court Administrator, Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County

Honorable James A. Kenney III  
Chair, Senior Judges Committee

Honorable Karen H. Mason  
Circuit Court for Prince George's County

Cheryl Miller  
Administrative Clerk, District Court in Cecil County

Honorable Timothy W. Miller  
Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks  
Clerk, Circuit Court for Garrett County

Honorable Patricia L. Mitchell  
District Court, Montgomery County

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

Honorable W. Michel Pierson  
Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Honorable Gerald V. Purnell  
District Court in Worcester County

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

Roberta Warnken  
Chief Clerk in District Court of Maryland

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

Honorable Brett W. Wilson  
Circuit Court for Dorchester County

Honorable Dorothy J. Wilson  
District Court in Baltimore County

Honorable Patrick L. Woodward \*  
Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals

\* Member of Executive Committee

# 2018 COMMITTEES

## Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

Honorable Mimi Cooper, Chair

Promote the use of appropriate dispute resolution processes throughout the courts. Provide an avenue for courts to vet changes to their ADR rules and standards of conduct.

## Court Access and Community Relations Committee

Honorable Pamela J. White, Chair

Address barriers to access to the courts and legal services in Maryland. Strengthen public awareness of the Judiciary's programs, projects, services, and initiatives. Promote knowledge and understanding of the Judiciary.

## Court Operations Committee

Honorable E. Gregory Wells, Chair

Address matters related to the efficient operations of the courts. Assist in the development of consistent statewide operations policies, and best practices.

## Court Technology Committee

Honorable Gary Everngam, Chair until 7/27/18

Honorable Fred S. Hecker, Chair as of 8/14/18

Honorable Margaret M. Schweitzer, Vice-Chair

Ensure the technology operations of the Judiciary are efficient and effective. Provide advice and guidance regarding the implementation of technology and its effect on judicial operations/functions.

## District Court Chief Judge's Committee

Honorable John P. Morrissey, Chief Judge

District Court of Maryland, Chair

Advise the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals on the operation of the District Court in all its locations. Aid the Chief Judge in the administration, operation, and maintenance of the District Court statewide.

## Domestic Law Committee

Honorable Cynthia Callahan, Chair

Honorable Cathy H. Serrette, Vice-Chair

Provide guidance and direction regarding policies, rules, and legislation surrounding family domestic law, including domestic violence. Recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improve the effective administration of domestic law.

## Education Committee

Honorable Susan H. Hazlett, Chair

Guide, promote, and encourage the education, training, and professional development of all Judiciary judges and employees.

## Juvenile Law Committee

Honorable Michael J. Stamm, Chair

Provide guidance and direction regarding policies, rules, and legislation surrounding juvenile law, including juvenile justice and child welfare. Recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improve the effective administration of juvenile law.

## Legislative Committee

Honorable W. Timothy Finan, Chair

Honorable Stacy A. Mayer, Vice-Chair

Protect and promote the Judiciary's interests regarding new laws and initiatives.

## Senior Judges Committee

Honorable James A. Kenney III, Senior Judge, Chair

Honorable Deborah S. Eyster, Vice-Chair

Advise the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the Judicial Council on matters relevant to retired/recalled judges.

## Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee

Honorable Nicholas E. Rattal, Chair

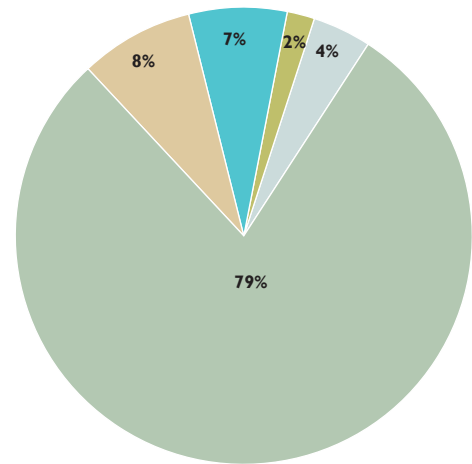
Honorable George Lipman, Vice-Chair

Promote and oversee the development, implementation, and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets in the courts.

# MARYLAND JUDICIARY AT A GLANCE

## PERSONNEL PROFILE FISCAL YEAR 2018

<b>JUDGES</b>	
Court of Appeals	7
Court of Special Appeals	15
Circuit Court	173
District Court	118
<b>Total Judges</b>	<b>313</b>
<b>MAGISTRATES</b>	
Circuit Court Magistrates <sup>1</sup>	74
<b>Total Magistrates</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>LAW CLERKS</b>	
Law Clerks	180
<b>Total Law Clerks</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>JUDICIAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL</b>	
Court of Appeals	38.00
Court of Special Appeals	91.50
Circuit Court Clerks' Offices	1,453.00
District Court	1,430.50
Administrative Office of the Courts	375.25
Judicial Units	33.75
<b>Total Judicial Support Personnel</b>	<b>3,422.00</b>
<b>Contractual Employees</b>	<b>347.00</b>
<b>Total State-Funded Judicial Branch Personnel</b>	<b>4,336.00</b>
<b>LOCALLY FUNDED JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL</b>	
Orphans Court Judges <sup>2</sup>	66
Circuit Court Personnel	937.20
<b>Total Locally Funded Judges and Personnel</b>	<b>1,003.20</b>



- Judges
- Magistrates
- Law Clerks
- Judicial Support
- Judicial Support Personnel Contractual Employees

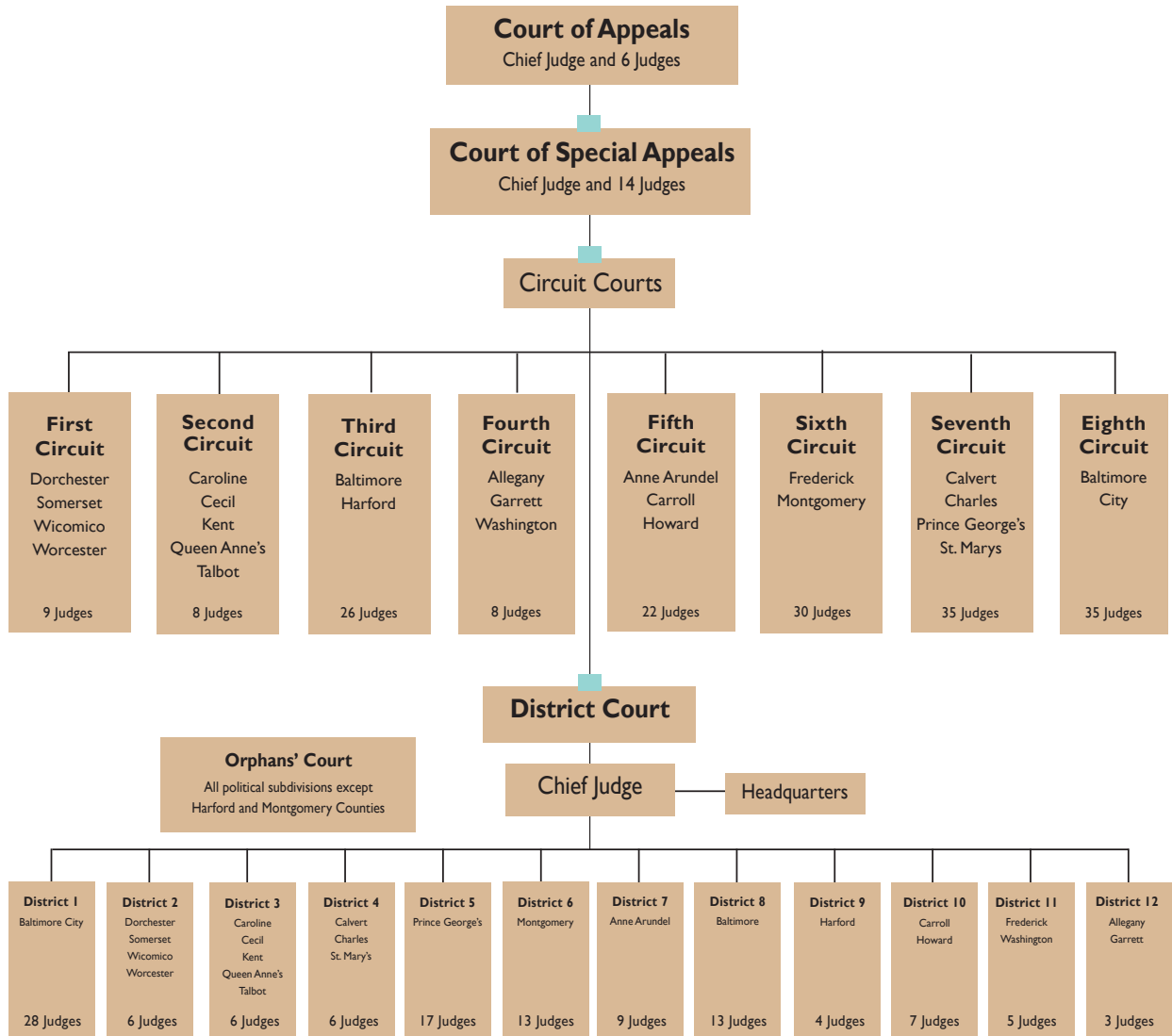
- <sup>1</sup> Includes one contractual Magistrate.
- <sup>2</sup> Three judges sit on the Orphans' Court in Baltimore City and each of the counties with the exception of Harford and Montgomery Counties in which Circuit Court judges sit as judges of the Orphans' Court.

## JUDICIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES \* FISCAL YEAR 2018

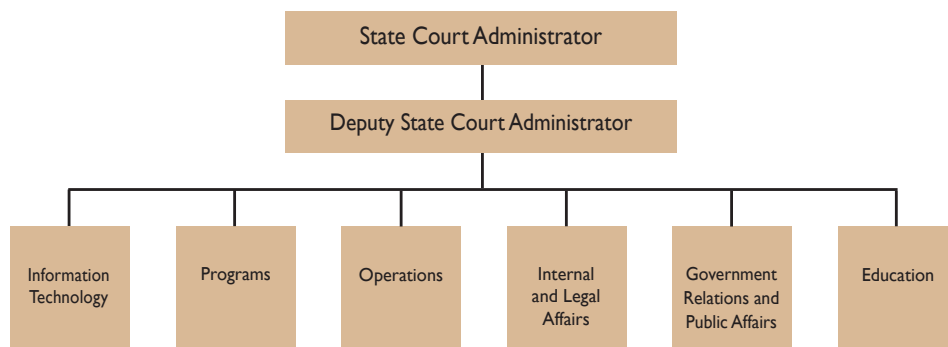
Revenues	\$501,278,833
Expenditures	\$547,730,060

\* Revenues and expenditures include all fund types. Category includes revenues and expenditures associated with child support reimbursements for magistrates. Includes revenues and expenditures associated with Family Law.

# MARYLAND JUDGES BY COURT, FISCAL YEAR 2018



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the central support agency for the state judicial branch. It provides a broad range of support services to Maryland's courts in operations, information technology, management, legal, government relations, financial, administration, and programs.

## MARYLAND JUDICIARY TOTAL FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2018

	Filings	Terminations
Court of Appeals	768	771
Court of Special Appeals	1,864	2,036
Circuit Courts	231,588	225,504
District Court	1,668,359	1,736,804
Totals	1,902,579	1,965,115

NOTE: Due to the transition to Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC), data on filings and terminations are obtained from multiple source systems, which may result in some differences in the comparability of data across jurisdictions and between reporting periods.

## COURT OF APPEALS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS FISCAL YEAR 2018

	Filings	Dispositions
Regular Docket	87	88
Petitions for Certiorari	551	541
Attorney Grievance Proceedings	80	89
Bar Admission Proceedings	5	6
Certified Questions of Law	2	2
Miscellaneous Appeals	43	45
Totals	768	771

The Court of Appeals is Maryland's highest court. It hears almost exclusively by way of certiorari, a process that gives the Court the ability to decide which cases to hear. By law, however, the Court of Appeals is required to hear cases involving legislative redistricting and removal of certain state officials. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals sits with the six other judges on the court to hear oral arguments in each case.

## COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS FISCAL YEAR 2018

Appeals Filed	1,864
Appeals Disposed	2,036
Opinions Filed	1,266

The Court of Special Appeals is the intermediate appellate court. It reviews a trial court's actions and decisions in given cases and decides whether the trial judge properly followed the law and legal precedent. Judges sitting on the Court of Special Appeals generally hear and decide cases in panels of three. Sometimes, all 15 judges sit together, en banc, to hear the case.



## CIRCUIT COURT STATEWIDE FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2018

	Filings	Terminations
Total Civil General	64,714	63,757
Total Civil Family	90,848	88,315
Total Juvenile	15,304	14,261
Total Criminal	60,722	59,171
Totals	231,588	225,504

Circuit Courts generally handle more serious criminal cases, major civil cases, including juvenile and other family law cases such as divorce, custody and child support, and most cases appealed from the District Court, Orphans' Courts, and certain administrative agencies. Circuit Courts also hear domestic violence cases. Each county and Baltimore City has a Circuit Court. Trials in Circuit Courts may be decided by either a judge or a jury.

## DISTRICT COURT STATEWIDE MOTOR VEHICLE, CRIMINAL, CIVIL, LANDLORD-TENANT FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2018

	Filings	Terminations
Motor Vehicle <sup>1</sup>	567,537	615,761
Criminal <sup>2</sup>	132,241	165,331
Civil <sup>3</sup>	315,076	302,207
Landlord-Tenant	635,505	* 653,505
Totals	1,668,359	** 1,736,804

\* Landlord-tenant filings are used as a proxy for terminations in the totals for District Court. Given the paper-only process used in most locations and quick processing of landlord-tenant cases, we assume that all matters are concluded.

\*\* Includes landlord-tenant terminations.

- <sup>1</sup> Includes DWI, serious, and non-serious traffic cases by incident (including cases prepaid before trial), as well as parking/red light requests for trial, Natural Resources citations, and Maryland Transit Administration citations.
- <sup>2</sup> Criminal filings include fugitive warrants.
- <sup>3</sup> Civil case filings are comprised of the following categories of filings: civil complaints; domestic violence; peace order; possession; miscellaneous petitions; aids of execution; municipal infractions; civil citations; emergency evaluations; forfeitures of contraband; and injunctions.

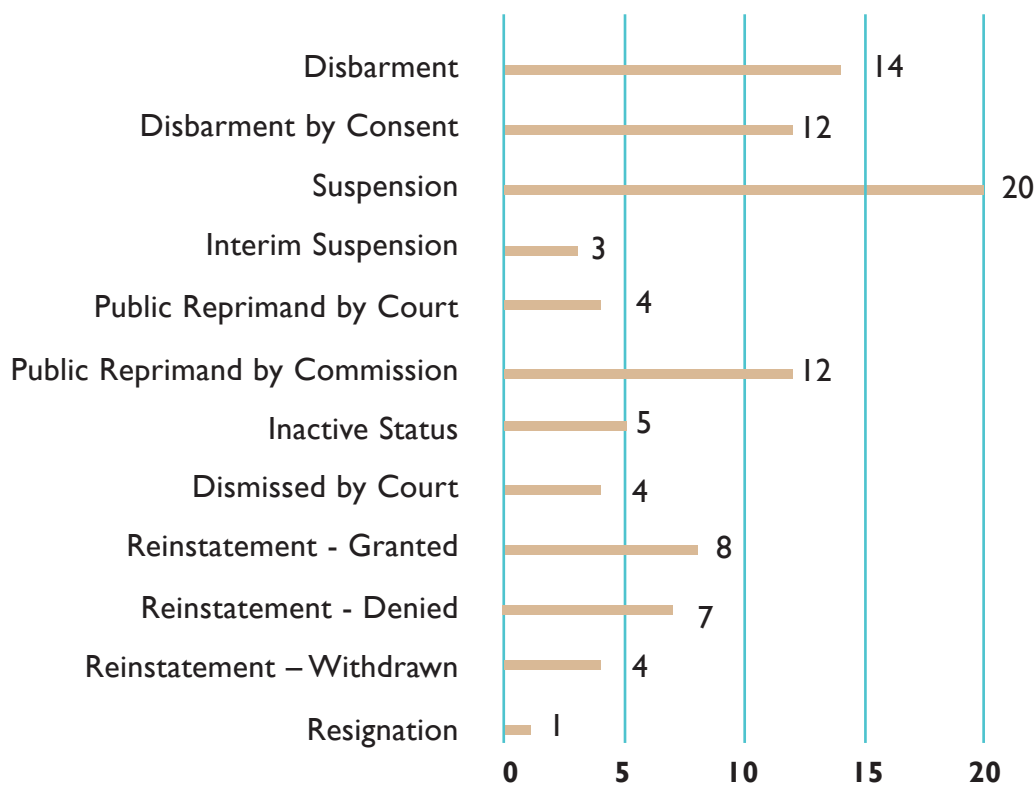
Note: Due to the transition to Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC), data on filings and terminations are obtained from multiple source systems, which may result in some differences in the comparability of data across jurisdictions and between reporting periods.

The District Court is where most people experience the court system. Cases heard here include motor vehicle (traffic) and boating violations and other misdemeanors and specified felonies, domestic violence, and peace order petitions, landlord-tenant disputes, small claims and other civil cases involving limited dollar amounts, and replevin (recovery of wrongfully taken or detained goods). Each county and Baltimore City has at least one District Court location. A case in the District Court is tried before a judge only; there are no jury trials in District Court.

## RELATED JUDICIAL BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND ENTITIES



## ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION AND OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL FISCAL YEAR 2018



ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS: TOTAL NUMBER: 94

The Attorney Grievance Commission oversees the conduct of both Maryland lawyers and non-members of the Maryland Bar who engage in the practice of law in the state. The Office of Bar Counsel investigates and, where indicated, prosecutes attorneys whose conduct violates the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct as well as those engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. Bar Counsel also reviews notifications of overdrafts on attorney escrow accounts.

## CLIENT PROTECTION FUND OF THE BAR OF MARYLAND FISCAL YEAR 2018

Claims	
Decided Claims	83
Approved Payment	51
Total Payment on Approved Claims	\$385,989
Revenue from Assessments	\$828,430

The Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland (formerly “The Clients’ Security Trust Fund”), was created in 1965 for the purpose of maintaining the integrity and protecting the good name of the legal profession. The Fund, supported financially by practicing attorneys, reimburses claimants for losses caused by theft of funds by members of the Maryland Bar, acting either as attorneys or as fiduciaries.

## MARYLAND COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES FISCAL YEAR 2018

Sources of All Complaints	
Attorneys	8
Investigative Counsel Initiated Inquiries	5
Inmates	39
Public	159
Total Verified Complaints	211
Complaints by Level of Court	
District Court Judges	49
Circuit Court Judges	150
Orphans’ Court Judges	7
Court of Special Appeals Judges	3
Court of Appeals Judges	2
Total	211
Disciplinary Actions *	
Filing of Charges by Investigative Counsel	7
Dismissal With Warning	3

\* The majority of complaints in fiscal year 2018, as in prior years, were dismissed because the allegations set forth in the complaints were either found to be unsubstantiated, or the conduct complained about did not constitute sanctionable conduct. Matters of two Circuit Court judges were dismissed by the Commission after filing of charges due to the Commission no longer having jurisdiction.

The Maryland Commission on Judicial Disabilities is an independent body with the power to investigate complaints against Maryland judges and, when warranted, conduct hearings concerning such complaints and take certain actions or make recommendations for other actions to the Court of Appeals.

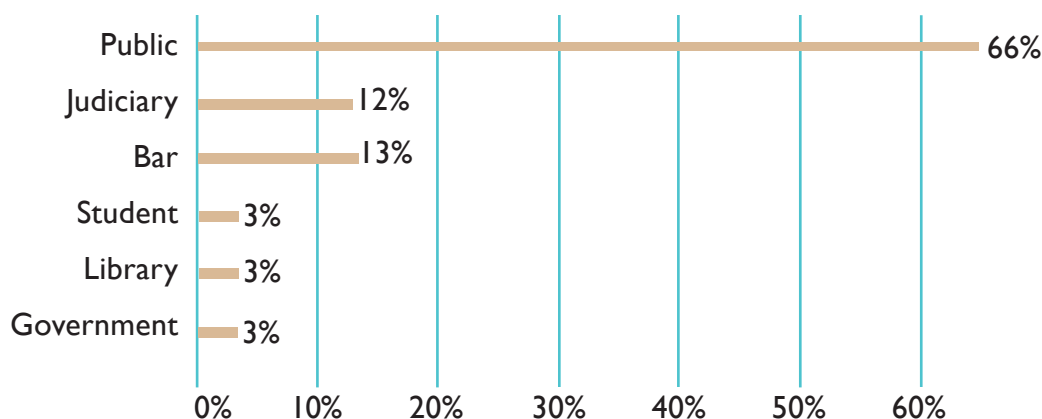
## STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS FISCAL YEAR 2018

	Applied	Sat	Passed	Cleared *
General Bar	1,714 *	1,513	835	828
Out of State Attorney Exam	233	209	164	159

\* Applications for the July bar exam are filed in the prior fiscal year, but are counted for the fiscal year when the exam occurs. Applications are processed by SBLE and investigated by the Character Committee regardless of whether the applicant actually sits for the exam. SLBE only “clears” applicants who are approved for character and passed the bar exam.

The State Board of Law Examiners administers the Maryland bar examination, investigates the legal competence and character and fitness of persons who seek a license to practice law in the courts of the State of Maryland, and recommends to the Court of Appeals those candidates qualified for admission to the Maryland Bar.

## MARYLAND STATE LAW LIBRARY FISCAL YEAR 2018



■ PATRONS BY TYPE

The Maryland State Law Library responds to requests for legal information through email, telephone, in-person visits, online chat follow-up, and traditional mail. The bulk of requests, 67 percent, came from members of the general public. Almost half of requests, 47 percent, arrived through email, up from 30 percent in fiscal year 2011.

The Maryland State Law Library is open to the public and serves the needs of Maryland’s government and citizens by building and preserving collections of legal information resources, promoting access to these collections, and creating educational opportunities that enhance the understanding of legal information. The Maryland State Law Library operates the People’s Law Library, a Maryland legal self-help website.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE FISCAL YEAR 2018

Reports Published *	2
New Rules Proposed	26
New Appendices Proposed	3
Existing Rules Changes Proposed to be Amended	66
Proposed Deletion of Rules	2

\* The 194th Report and the 195th Report, totaling 351 pages. Topics addressed in these reports include:

**194th Report:** Liens for unpaid wages • Guardianship of person • Guardianship of property • Bonds in fiduciary estates • Responsibility for determining indigence for representation by the Office of the Public Defender • Rights of defendants facing possible sentence of life without parole • Respect for rights of third persons • Appendix: Maryland guidelines for court-appointed attorneys in guardianship proceedings • Appendix: Guidelines for court-appointed guardians of the person • Appendix: Guidelines for court-appointed guardians of the property

**195th Report:** Official record • Remote electronic participation in judicial proceedings • Dismissal of appeal • ADR program for Orphans' Courts • Service of pleadings and papers other than original pleadings • Personal injury asbestos cases • Roles of magistrates • Roles of examiners • Subpoenas • Process for documents for inclusion in the record • Sentencing • Probation • Limited appearance • Attorney's fees • Emergency order for oral swab for presence of HIV • Outcome of appeal • Petition • Time for ordering a transcript • Restoration of a party's former name • Foreclosure • Case records shielded from public access • Attorney Grievance Commission

The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, often referred to simply as the Rules Committee, considers proposed amendments and additions to the Maryland Rules of Procedure and submits recommendations to the Court of Appeals.

# Notes

MARYLAND



JUDICIARY

An abstract graphic composed of numerous overlapping, colorful brushstrokes. The colors range from bright yellow and green to deep red and blue, creating a vibrant, textured effect. The strokes are most concentrated in the upper right and lower right areas, tapering off towards the left.

MARYLAND JUDICIARY  
580 TAYLOR AVENUE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401  
[mdcourts.gov](http://mdcourts.gov)

January 2019