

# Justice Matters

a publication from the Maryland Judiciary

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## Animals Helping Maryland's Justice System

### These dogs hope to have their day in court

He carries a badge and he loves going to work. His job at the Office of State's Attorney for Carroll County is to help victims and witnesses as they go through the justice system and prepare for court. Although he's not yet two years old, he's training for an advanced certificate. And his salary is the canine equivalent of chicken feed.

Buddy, a 16-month-old mixed breed dog, is one of the newest members of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit in the state's attorney's office. As part of his daily duties, Buddy helps juvenile victims of abuse by providing comfort and a way to communicate in a non-threatening way.

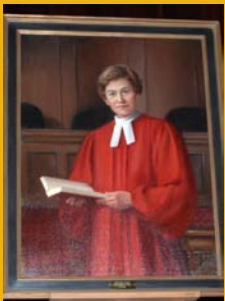
"When the victim of a sensitive, emotionally charged case—like child abuse, sexual assault, homicide, or manslaughter—meets with the prosecutor to prepare for trial, a therapy dog can help ease their stress by providing unconditional love and emotional comfort," said Carroll County State's Attorney Jerry F. Barnes.

Although the work is sensitive, Buddy apparently enjoys it. "He likes coming to work more than I do," joked his owner Joyce Schaum, director of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit. "When I'm driving to work, he gets excited about two blocks away." Buddy greets people, then gets to work, which might mean being a confidante during an investigation with a young rape victim, helping calm a family of a victim who are unhappy with a ruling, or being a friend to children who are getting ready to go to court or preparing a victim impact statement. Some of the appointments are scheduled; others are with people who show up at the office without notice to report a crime. "I ask people, 'Do you like dogs?' and we go from there," Schaum said.



Joyce Schaum and Buddy at the Carroll County courthouse

Jack Firo



6



7



12

### Start with a puppy

Schaum had thought about using a therapy dog for years and collected information about the subject, especially about King County in Washington State that pioneered the use of therapy dogs. After getting Barnes' approval about a year and a half ago, Schaum worked with the local humane society to find a dog with a gentle, calm and friendly personality. Buddy was eight weeks old when Schaum adopted him. The county pays Buddy's vet bills and therapy dog

# Milestone Marked on Court of Appeals



Molly Kalifut

On Monday, Sept. 8, when the Court of Appeals heard arguments for case No. 1, *Christopher Hutchinson v. State of Maryland*, history was made—because four of the seven judges were women. “For the first time in Maryland’s history, we have the majority of women seated here today on this court, a majority of the court,” said Judge Lynne A. Battaglia as she, retired Judge Irma S. Raker, Judge Sally D. Adkins, and Judge Mary Ellen Barbera joined Judge Glenn T. Harrell, Jr., Judge Clayton Greene, Jr., and retired Judge John C. Eldridge for the case.

To see the webcast, go to case No. 1 at [mdcourts.gov/coappeals/webcastarchive.html#september2008](http://mdcourts.gov/coappeals/webcastarchive.html#september2008).

# For judges: Ethics questions answered here

By Hon. John P. Morrissey

Have you ever wondered whether you can accept tickets to a sporting event or the theater from an attorney? Are you losing sleep worrying whether your clerk's zealous sales pitch to co-workers for the Girl Scout cookie drive (she is the leading salesperson in the greater metropolitan area) can run you amuck when scrutinized under the hot light of the Judicial Disability Commission? Does Judge Smith think it is okay, yet Judge Jones is not so sure? If these or a myriad of other questions are taking up precious space on your docket, the answer you have been looking for may be the Judicial Ethics Committee.

The Judicial Ethics Committee—we go by JEC for short—is tasked with the responsibility of giving advice and opinions with respect to the application or interpretation of the Maryland Code of Judicial Ethics and the Maryland Code of Conduct for Judicial Appointees. The JEC is a nine member panel appointed by Chief Judge Bell and consists of members from the Court of Special Appeals, the Circuit Court, District Court, Orphans' Court, a Clerk of a Circuit Court, a judicial appointee and a person that has absolutely nothing to do with the law or legal profession. To add additional perspective to our committee, we are hopeful that a retired judge may soon join our ranks.

Any judge or judicial appointee may seek an opinion from the committee by simply filling out a request. The form for requesting an opinion is online at [mdcourts.gov/ethics/request-opinion.html](http://mdcourts.gov/ethics/request-opinion.html). In addition to the form for requesting opinions, the Web page contains the canons, all published ethics opinions issued by the JEC and, for the truly diehard, the Orders Adopting the Ethics Rules. The Committee is presently working on an index for the reported ethics opinions, which will be added online once it is complete.

Once the committee has met and reviewed the request for an opinion, one of three opinions may be rendered: a published opinion, an unpublished opinion, or a letter of advice. All requests are confidential, and all efforts are made to conceal the identity of the requestor when the opinion is published. The benefit of the opinion or letter of advice is that so long as the requestor is in compliance with the opinion, he or she is protected from a charge of violation of that ethics provision. Best of all, we are free.

So, if there are nagging questions that you want answered or if you are just not so sure about an ethics issue, please feel free to send a request for an opinion to the Judicial Ethics Committee. Remember, we are concerned about your concerns.

Judge Morrissey is a District Judge for Prince George's County.





## Courthouse Treasures: Harford County

# "Those Whose Portraits Adorn The Walls"

By Hon. Emory A. Plitt, Jr.

With those words on March 4, 1942, Circuit Judge Frederick Lee Cobourn prefaced a collection of biographies of prominent Harford Countians whose portraits are hung in the ceremonial courtroom and the halls of the Harford County courthouse. The original courthouse was built in 1791 and rebuilt in 1853 after a fire. The building was expanded in 1904 and 1984. The original ceremonial courtroom has been carefully preserved and is still in daily use.

On all four walls of the ceremonial courtroom and the surrounding hallways are paintings of prominent residents of Harford County.

No one is really certain just when the custom of hanging such portraits began. At least prior to March 4, 1942, there did not seem to be any fixed rule or practice concerning portraits. On that day, Judge Cobourn issued a "local rule" that provided that no portrait could be hung in the courthouse if the subject was still living and no portrait could exceed 12 square feet. The rule also provided that Judge Cobourn had to approve the painting and the frame. Of course, Harford County had only one Circuit Court judge—in other words, you had to be dead to be hung!

That rule remains in effect. As additional portraits were acquired over the years, the 1942 biographies were updated under the direction of Judge Harry E. Dyer in 1974 and Judge Maurice W. Baldwin in 1997. There are 67 paintings in the collection.

Many of the individuals portrayed are well known outside of Harford County.

**Edwin Booth (1833-1893)** was one of the most renowned actors of his time and was especially known for his acting in Shakespeare's plays. He performed all over the United States and Europe. He was also the brother of John Wilkes Booth who shot President Abraham

Lincoln. His father, Junius Brutus Booth, was also a well-known actor. The Booth family home is located just outside Bel Air and has been preserved by Harford County.

**William Paca (1740-1799)** was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, third governor of Maryland, a member of the original state senate, chief judge of the Maryland General Court, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and Maryland's first federal district judge. He was also one of the founders of Washington College in Chestertown.

**Millard E. Tydings (1890-1961)** was a decorated hero of World War I. He became, in order, speaker of the House of Delegates, president of the State Senate, member of the House of Representatives, and finally United States senator, where he served with distinction representing Maryland for 24 years.

**Colonel Otho Scott (1797-1864)** Scott served in the State Senate for many years and was the original lawyer for the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. He is most often known as one of the two original compilers of the Code of Maryland laws, which were adopted by the Maryland Legislature in 1860.

One of the most renowned military families in the United States is the Rogers family, several of whose members served with distinction in the U.S. Navy. Several members of the family are represented among the portraits. They include **Commodore John Rogers (1771-1838)**, first lieutenant of the frigate *Constellation* and captain of the sloop *Maryland*; **Commander John Rogers (1881-1926)**, a founder of naval aviation and chief of the Bureau of Naval Aeronautics; and **Colonel Robert Rogers (1809-1891)**, son-in-law of Commander Matthew Perry and brother-in-law of Oliver Hazard Perry.

One of Harford County's oldest and most eminent families is the Archer family. Paintings of seven members of the Archer



Edwin Booth



William Paca

## The paintings are a virtual pictorial history of Harford County from 1711 to the present.

Judge Plitt

family are in the collection, from **John Archer, M.D. (1741-1810)** to **Major Robert Archer (1882-1948)**. All seven members of the Archer family portrayed were involved in medicine, law, politics (elective office) and/or military service.

Other prominent Harford Countians in the collection include **Dr. Earle Hawkins** (former longtime president of Towson University), **Mary Risteau** (the first woman elected to the Maryland Legislature); **C. Stanley Blair** (Maryland Secretary of State and federal district judge); **Major General Milton Reckord** (Adjutant General of Maryland); **Thomas Robinson** (Attorney General of Maryland) and **John Finney, M.D.** (World War I hero, founding surgeon of Johns Hopkins Hospital, founding member of the American College of Surgeons).

The collection also includes some paintings of the courthouse and the ceremonial courtroom, including a recent painting of the courthouse donated by noted artist Caroline Jasper.

The collection also includes paintings of almost all deceased former judges of the Circuit Court, which have been donated by their families.

The paintings are a virtual pictorial history of Harford County from 1711 to the present. Short biographies of each individual portrayed are collected in a locally produced publication prepared by Judge Maurice Baldwin, "Those Whose Portraits Adorn the Walls."

Judge Plitt is a Circuit Judge for Harford County.



Mary Risteau



Commander John Rogers



Dr. Earle Hawkins



John Archer, M.D.



Millard E. Tydings



# Judge Raker's portrait unveiled

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, the Maryland Judiciary celebrated the unveiling of the portrait of Judge Irma S. Raker, who retired from the Court of Appeals in April. Judge Raker was appointed to the state's highest court in 1994 and was the second woman to serve on the Court. For the last 4½ years before her retirement, she was the senior judge on the Court of Appeals.

During the unveiling ceremony, Chief Judge Robert M. Bell praised Judge Raker as “a very gracious and valuable colleague.”

He told her colleagues, family, and friends who crowded the courtroom, “Judge Raker brought real enthusiasm to her work. She has proven to be what she started as, an asset to the court, an assiduous worker and an effective, scholarly, and articulate opinion writer.”

Judge Raker graduated from Syracuse University in 1959, and deferred her law career to raise three children with her husband Samuel Raker. She graduated from the Washington College of Law of the American University and was admitted to the bar of Maryland in 1972. In 1973, she joined the Office of the State's Attorney for Montgomery County as the county's first woman prosecutor. She prosecuted major criminal cases and was a leading advocate in Maryland to revise the sexual offense laws, modernize jury instructions in rape cases, and champion the rights of victims of domestic violence and child abuse.

Judge Raker was a partner in the law firm of Sachs, Greenebaum and Tayler when she was appointed in 1980 to serve as a judge on the District Court of Maryland. In 1982, she was appointed, and then elected, to serve as an associate judge on the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. In 1994, she was appointed to serve on the Court of Appeals.

From 1994 until 2008, she served as chairperson of the Judicial Compensation Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference. She served two terms as chairperson of the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Standards Committee and was elected to the ABA Criminal Law Section

In 1980, she was appointed by the Maryland State Bar Association to chair the newly created Committee to Draft

Pattern Jury Instructions, and continues to serve in that capacity. Under her leadership, the jury instructions are now recognized as model instructions in the nation and used regularly throughout the state.

Judge Raker has received many awards, including the Women's Law Center Annual Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award for Significant Contribution to Women's Rights, the Women's Bar Association Rita C. Davidson Award, the Maryland State Bar Association Robert C. Heeney Award, the

*Daily Record* Maryland Top 100 Women and the Circle of Excellence Award. In 2007, she was the recipient of the ABA Margaret Brent Award, one of the association's highest awards, bestowed upon women who have achieved professional excellence in law and have influenced other women to pursue legal careers.

After Judge Bell recalled many of Judge Raker's accomplishments and highlights of her professional career, he reminded the audience that, while she has ‘retired,’ Judge Raker will

return to the court as a recalled judge and chairs the newly established Access to Justice Commission.

During her comments, Judge Raker thanked her husband, who commissioned the portrait “and encouraged me to do this, not just for me or for him, but because when you think about this court, it is really not about anyone of us individually but really as an institution.”

The portrait was painted by nationally renowned artist Loryn Brazier. Judge Raker told the audience that one of her granddaughters, when she saw the portrait in progress, recommended that “more lines” be added. Judge Raker relayed that request to Brazier, but her final portrait, Judge Raker joked, is “how I looked in high school.”

Judge Raker's portrait hangs in the atrium on the third floor of the Courts of Appeal Building in Annapolis. The archived webcast of the unveiling ceremony and a program that includes a biography of Judge Raker are on the Judiciary's Web site.

*(Judge Raker's biographical information was provided by the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property of the Maryland State Archives.)*



Judge Raker and artist Loryn Brazier unveil the portrait.

Den Clark

In The Long Term

## Judge Frederick C. Wright, III

The Fourth Judicial Circuit (Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties) has been ‘home court’ for almost four decades for Judge Frederick C. Wright, III. When he retired this summer, Judge Wright had sat on the bench for more than 37 years, one of the longest terms in Maryland history, and perhaps the longest in modern memory.

Additionally, Judge Wright had been the circuit administrative judge for the past 23 years, since 1985, and as county administrative judge in Washington County. Before being appointed as judge, he was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1966-71 and was speaker pro tem in 1971. He received his law degree from the University of Virginia Law School in 1963.

Reprinted here is the editorial from the Nov. 5 *Herald-Mail* about Judge Wright’s retirement.



Judge Frederick C. Wright, III

*In The Long Term* recognizes and profiles long-term employees and members of the Judiciary, and highlights their contributions to the Maryland courts. Please contact us with suggestions to include in future issues: [justicematters@mdcourts.gov](mailto:justicematters@mdcourts.gov).

## Shunning spotlight, Judge Wright dispensed justice well for 37 years

Quick, name the best umpire in baseball.

This is something of a trick question, since, in the purest sense, it is an umpire’s job not to make a name for himself. We remember the ones who botch a call at first base or butcher the strike zone. But the umpires who demonstrate steady, day-to-day competence blend unnoticed into the background and almost become part of the field itself.

In a sense, Washington County Circuit Judge Frederick C. Wright III is like that umpire. For 37 years, Wright has been the county’s steady hand, interested not in the spotlight, but in dispensing plain and simple justice for our people.

Other Tri-State area judges have gotten more headlines—in one instance for waving a pistol at a helicopter—and other judges have been flashier, happy to use their offices as a lightning rod for public opinion.

Wright, who is retiring and will step down from office once his replacement is named, never bought into the idea of a judge as a celebrity. Instead, he

paid the utmost attention and care to the people who came before his bench, be it an accused criminal, victim or the children of divorcing parents.

Wright turned down tempting offers of a seat on Maryland’s appeals courts, preferring to work directly with the people who found themselves in the court system.

This may have been his loss, but it was our gain. In and out of the courthouse, Wright has been a steady hand, which has been a comfort in times when other county leadership could best be described as shaky. With Wright, we knew—at some level—that an adult was always in charge.

A miser at dispensing his political capital, his words were taken seriously when he did choose to speak out. At the swearing-in ceremony of a particularly litigious group of County Commissioners in 2002, Wright took the opportunity to mildly dress-down the group for setting a bad community example by clogging the courts with matters that could be settled by compromise. That was pretty much it for county lawsuits against City Hall.

But most of his success played out behind the scenes, in all-but-empty courtrooms and on the administrative side where he efficiently kept the docket humming along.

Much of what is wrong in politics today stems from public servants who stress the public over the servant. It’s all about their own star power, how high they might rise in the system and how many times they can get their photo before the press.

Wright is the consummate servant. He stunted his own career for the sake of the people, because it was the people to whom Wright believed he had a duty to serve.

For nearly four decades, he has done this quietly, but marvelously. For this, we owe him our gratitude and wish him an interesting and active retirement.

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# They were the 'originals'

By Hon. William Adkins

When the District Court of Maryland started operations on July 1, 1971, its 73 judges were pioneers who frequently presided over court cases without the benefit of courtrooms.

The District Court began as a hodgepodge of widely varying locations, from existing court sites to hastily converted facilities. In some places, the old Magistrate's or People's Courts were used, in others, a District Courtroom was set up in the existing Circuit Court buildings. But the fledgling District Court judges also heard cases in police stations, basements, warehouses, schools, and storefronts.

It is hard to imagine how the Court could function in such a variety of facilities when compared to the modern, secure, and technologically based facilities we have today. The job of helping to bring form and function to the early days of the District Court fell on the shoulders of the original 73.

All were lawyers. They came from a variety of backgrounds. Some came to the District Court from private practice, some came from the public sector, i.e. state's attorney or public defender's office, and some had served as either part-time or full-time judges of the various Magistrate's or People's Courts that were the predecessors of the District Court.

All began their District Court service in the spring of 1971 at the very first District Court Educational Conference, held outside Annapolis at Manresa on the Severn River. Chief Judge Robert F. Sweeney created the educational meetings held during the three months leading up to July 1. The new District Court judges met with experienced judges and learned procedure and the various aspects of District Court law. "Most of us had never been judges before," recalled Judge Miller Bowen, who was appointed to the bench in District 12. "My only time in court had been as an attorney with a case."

He said that serving in a smaller District (Allegany and Garrett counties) was an advantage while learning the job. "We weren't as busy as other places like Baltimore City. We went kind of slow in the beginning. We had no problem holding cases overnight to consider issues."

Like so many of the original District Court judges, Judge Bowen had a good practice and enjoyed a healthy salary when he came to the Judiciary. In fact, he recalled that his salary was cut almost in half when he put on a robe. He was aware that "there was a certain amount of prestige that goes along with the position," but more important, "I thought the District Court was better for the community, a system of law. I was very pleased with the job I had to do."

More than 37 years later, 18 of the original 73 are still alive and active [see the list of the original judges on p. 10]. With the exception of District 4, they represent all 12 districts statewide. Several still sit as recalled retired judges. At least one, Judge Edgar Silver, is engaged in the private practice of law. Many are active in other ways. Judge Ned Thomas is a sculptor and one of his works, a bronze bust of Chief Judge Sweeney, is located in the Annapolis District Court building. Judge Aaron Baer, father of District Court Judge Barbara Waxman, is raising and riding horses. Judge Lloyd Simpkins is

an ardent fan of Orioles baseball and University of Maryland basketball. Judge Bowen divides his time between Maryland and Florida.

All of the retired original judges express their pride in being part of the establishment of the District Court and the huge impact that the Court has had on Maryland's court system. In particular, they feel that the replacement of various Magistrate's and People's Courts with the District Court in 1971 has resulted in an extremely positive impact on the delivery of justice to the citizens of Maryland. They are all justifiably proud of their role in this important and historic change. [Judge Adkins is a District Judge in Talbot County.](#)



Judge Sweeney, c. 1971

For a retrospective of the District Court's first 30 years, go to [mdcourts.gov/district/archive/retrospective.pdf](https://mdcourts.gov/district/archive/retrospective.pdf).

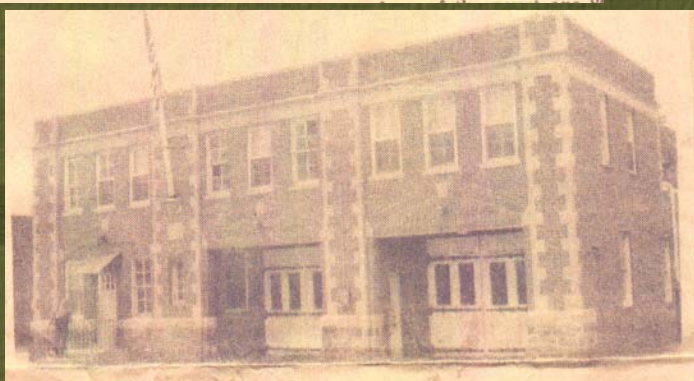


District Court of Maryland Scrapbook: newspaper clippings c. 1971 reflect the early struggles to find workable facilities



**Court Is Back In Basement**

**State Refuses New Lease;  
Fire House To Be Converted**



*Present quarters cramped*  
**District Court needs  
space of its own**

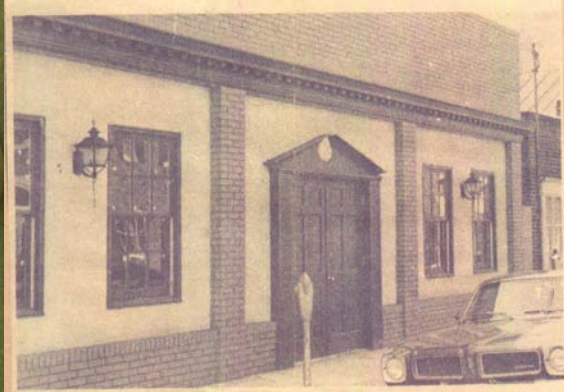
**Interim  
Courthouse**

The 52 year old former Essex Fire Station will be used by the Essex District Court as an interim courtroom until more permanent provisions can be made. Located adjacent to the Essex Police Station on Eastern Blvd., the old fire station had been used most recently to store furniture from homes of evicted persons.

**Crowded Judges Still Wait**

**New court facilities  
should speed trials**

**New Space for Court Offices**



DISTRICT COURT office space in this building on Main Street, Upper Marlboro, will be used to relieve congestion in court offices in the Courthouse. The building, which formerly housed an A & P store, has been renovated inside and an entire new brick front in a colonial style added. E-G Photo by Carol Di Julio.



A Day In District Court

**District Court Moves To Armory**

# Judges of the District Court of Maryland – July 1, 1971

*Hon. Robert F. Sweeney, Chief Judge*

## District 1 – Baltimore City

*Hon. John R. Hargrove, administrative judge*  
*Hon. Howard L. Aaron*  
*Hon. Mary Arabian*  
*Hon. Carl W. Bacharach*  
*Hon. Aaron A. Baer*  
*Hon. Solomon Baylor*  
*Hon. Joseph L. Broccolino, Jr.*  
*Hon. A. Jerome Diener*  
*Hon. Joseph G. Finnerty*  
*Hon. Robert J. Gerstung*  
*Hon. William M. Hudnet*  
*Hon. I. Sewell Lambin*  
*Hon. Harold Lewis*  
*Hon. John A. McGuire*  
*Hon. E. Paul Mason, Jr.*  
*Hon. Vern J. Munger, Jr.*  
*Hon. William H. Murphy, Sr.*  
*Hon. Jerome Robinson*  
*Hon. Henry L. Rogers*  
*Hon. Edgar P. Silver*  
*Hon. Henry W. Stichel, Jr.*  
*Hon. William T. Tippett, Jr.*

## District 2 – Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties

*Hon. Charles E. Edmondson, administrative judge*  
*Hon. Robert W. Dallas*  
*Hon. Lloyd L. Simpkins*  
*Hon. Edward O. Thomas*

## District 3 – Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Kent, and Cecil Counties

*Hon. Clayton C. Carter, administrative judge*  
*Hon. Walter E. Buck, Jr.*  
*Hon. William D. Gould*  
*Hon. John C. North, II*

## District 4 – Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties

*Hon. George W. Bowling, administrative judge*  
*Hon. David A. Harkness*  
*Hon. William O. E. Sterling*

## District 5 – Prince George's County

*Hon. James M. Rea, administrative judge*  
*Hon. J. Franklyn Bourne*  
*Hon. Thomas R. Brooks*  
*Hon. Howard S. Chasanow*

*Hon. James F. Couch, Jr.*  
*Hon. Edgar L. Smith*  
*Hon. Richard V. Waldron*  
*Hon. Robert J. Woods*

## District 6 – Montgomery County

*Hon. Phillip M. Fairbanks, administrative judge*  
*Hon. William M. Cave*  
*Hon. Richard B. Latham*  
*Hon. Douglas H. Moore, Jr.*  
*Hon. Calvin R. Sanders*  
*Hon. J. Hodge Smith*  
*Hon. John C. Tracey*

## District 7 – Anne Arundel County

*Hon. Thomas J. Curley, administrative judge*  
*Hon. Robert S. Heise*  
*Hon. Vernon L. Neilson*  
*Hon. George M. Taylor*  
*Hon. Bruce C. Williams*

## District 8 – Baltimore County

*Hon. J. William Hinkel, administrative judge*  
*Hon. William R. Buchanan*  
*Hon. Allen E. Buzzell*  
*Hon. Edward D. Hardesty*  
*Hon. Cullen H. Hormes*  
*Hon. James Kardash*  
*Hon. Marvin J. Land*  
*Hon. Werner G. Schoeler*  
*Hon. Fred E. Waldrop*

## District 9 – Harford County

*Hon. Charles J. Kelly, administrative judge*  
*Hon. Harry St. A. O'Neill*

## District 10 – Carroll and Howard Counties

*Hon. J. Thomas Nissel, administrative judge*  
*Hon. Donald M. Smith*

## District 11 – Frederick and Washington Counties

*Hon. Frederick C. Wright, III*  
*Hon. Stanley Y. Bennett*  
*Hon. J. Louis Boublitz*  
*Hon. Byron W. Thompson*

## District 12 – Allegany and Garrett Counties

*Hon. Lewis R. Jones, administrative judge*  
*Hon. Miller Bowen*  
*Hon. Milton Gerson*



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## Benchmarks

### Appointments

**Hon. Sharon V. Burrell** was appointed to the Montgomery County Circuit Court, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Hon. Ann Newman Sundt.

**Hon. Leonard J. Eiswert** was appointed to the Garrett County District Court, filling a vacancy created by the death of Hon. Ralph M. Burnett.

**Hon. Steven G. Salant** was appointed to the Montgomery County Circuit Court, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Hon. DeLawrence Beard.

### Retirements

**Hon. Carol E. Smith**, Baltimore City Circuit Court.

**Hon. Frederick C. Wright, III**, Washington County Circuit Court.

### In Memoriam

**Hon. Edward A. DeWaters, Jr.**, Baltimore County District Court, 1972-1975; Baltimore County Circuit Court, 1975-2001 (county administrative judge 1982-1990, 1997-2001, circuit administrative judge for Third Judicial Circuit, 1990-2001).

**Hon. Robert N. Lucke, Sr.**, Anne Arundel County District Court, 1977-1991.

**Hon. Howard L. Muhl, Jr.**, trial magistrate, Catonsville, 1963-1967.

## Congratulations

**Retired Baltimore County Circuit Judge Frank Cicone** was honored by the St. Thomas More Society of Maryland in October, which gave him its annual Man for All Seasons Award.

Clerk of the Court of the Appeals **Bessie Decker** received the Distinguished Alumni Award in October from Kaplan College.

**John B. Wilkerson, Jr.**, was honored by the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County for more than 50 years of service with the Clerk of the Court's office. During a surprise celebration on Oct. 7, Wilkerson was thanked and congratulated by Clerk of the Circuit Court Robert P. Duckworth and received citations from Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals and Gov. Martin O'Malley.

Send submissions to [justicematters@mdcourts.gov](mailto:justicematters@mdcourts.gov)





# State's young artists honored during MACRO's

Several elementary and middle school artists came to the Courts of Appeal Building in October to meet and receive praise and prizes from Chief Judge Robert M. Bell. The students were winners in the third Conflict Resolution Day student bookmark art contest. The contest, held by the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office, drew more than 260 entries from students in kindergarten through eighth grade statewide.

The art was displayed at the Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building in Annapolis through mid-November. Prizes, ranging from \$25 to \$75, were awarded to first, second, and third place in two categories: kindergarten-fifth grade, and sixth-eighth grade. In addition, the four first place winners will be printed as bookmarks for use in promoting conflict resolution across Maryland.

## Student Winners

### Grades K - 5

- 1st Place (Tie)- Victoria Scherini, 5th grade, St. Mary's Elementary School, Annapolis  
 AND 1st Place - Jordan Cerna, 1st grade, Meadow Hall Elementary School, Rockville  
 2nd Place - Darrah Speis, 5th grade, home-schooled, Cumberland  
 3rd Place - Catherine Kinman, 4th grade, Potomac Heights Elementary School, Hagerstown

### Grades 6-8

- 1st Place (Tie) - Amia Kitzmiller, 8th grade, Baltimore  
 AND 1st Place (Tie) - Atticus Speis, 7th grade, home-schooled, Cumberland

2nd Place - Naomi Myers, 6th grade, Piccowaxen Middle School, Newberg

3rd Place - Patrick Wathen, 7th grade, Piccowaxen Middle School, Newberg

## Honorary Mention

### Grades K-5

- Kassandra Burch, 4th grade, Hampden Elementary, Baltimore  
 Linsay Burch, 4th grade, Hampden Elementary, Baltimore  
 Briana Darnaby, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook  
 Monelle Ehahoun, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook  
 Morgan Fedd, 3rd grade, Hampden Elementary, Baltimore  
 Samantha Frazier, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook  
 Lexie Gifford, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook  
 Kimberly Griffith, 4th grade, Hampden Elementary, Baltimore  
 Deirdre Harder, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook  
 Lefton Hartman, 3rd grade, Hampden Elementary, Baltimore  
 Gabby Kessel, Meadow Hall Elementary, Rockville





# Conflict Resolution Day art contest

- Jisu Kim, 2nd grade, Meadow Hall Elementary, Rockville
- Mary Kinman, 5th grade, Potomac Heights Elementary
- Kaycee Miller, 5th grade, Hampden Elementary, Baltimore
- Laél Ngangmeni, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook
- Rwura Osei, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook
- Elaina Perry, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook
- Olivia Ruby, 4th grade, Hampden Elementary, Baltimore
- Nora Snyder, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook
- Griffith Speis, 4th grade, home-schooled, Cumberland
- Madison Steele, 5th grade, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Seabrook
- Stephanie Weller, 4th grade, Hampden Elementary, Baltimore
- Erica Wilson, 5th grade, Meadow Hall Elementary, Rockville
- Candice Wise, 5th grade, Hampden Elementary, Baltimore

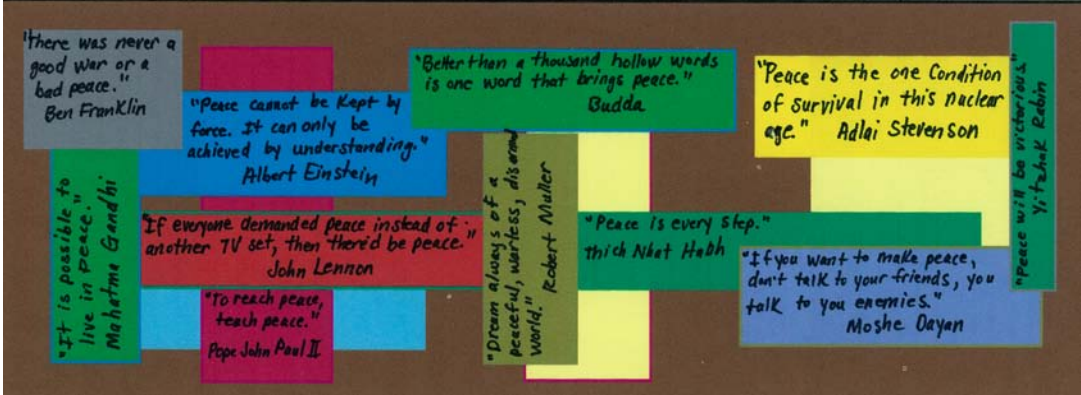
**Grades 6-8**

- Melissa Dodge, 7th Grade, St. Jane DeChantal, Bethesda
- Lexi Earnshaw, 8th Grade, Piccowaxen Middle School
- Chacity Lollar, 7th Grade, Piccowaxen Middle School
- Mary Naecker, 7th Grade, home-schooled, Silver Spring
- Austin Ours, 7th Grade, Piccowaxen Middle School
- Hunter Windsor, 8th Grade, Piccowaxen Middle School, Newberg



Dan Clark

Chief Judge Robert M. Bell and Rachel Wohl, executive director of MACRO, celebrate with the winners of the Conflict Resolution Day student art contest. From left: Victoria Scherini, Catherine Kinman, Atticus Speis, Darrah Speis, and Jordan Cerna.





# Court Solutions Conference— Management by Design

By Sandra Dalton

At a Glance:

## Conference Highlights

### Welcome

Robert Baldwin, executive president and general counsel, NCSC, and Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals.

### Opening presentation

Business Process Reengineering, What Is It and Why Do It?

Redesigning businesses to achieve an improvement in performance. The audience was walked through the process and suggested methodology with activities and objectives to reengineer their own courts.

### Breakout sessions

Attendees chose one of 15 special-interest sessions.

Members of the Maryland Judiciary didn't have far to travel to attend the National Center for State Courts' Court Solutions Conference, Sept. 8-10. Baltimore was the host city for this year's conference, which attracted participants from court systems throughout the U.S. and beyond—including Puerto Rico, Canada, Guam, Trinidad and Tobago, and Nigeria.

As the conference title suggests, this gathering provided both practical solutions and opportunities to network with others to find solutions to some of the challenges facing our courts. Professionals from many areas attended, including judges, clerks of court, court administrators, ombudsmen, managing attorneys, commissioners, law librarians, and legal services staff; and several types of judicial systems were represented, including supreme courts, superior courts, district courts, county courts, court of common pleas, and justice courts, to name a few.

In addition to the informal networking opportunities with other courts, the conference included break-out sessions for individual state courts, both rural and urban. There were 15 modules, and attendees were challenged to continue building on their conference work when they returned to their home courts.

All attendees were provided with materials to use as a resource for reengineering their courts, including a CD of resources and DVD of video segments for leadership.

After a very interactive conference and roundtable discussions, the conference closed with a representative from each break-out session giving a brief wrap-up of what they were most proud of for their court. From the rural Circuit Courts of Maryland, we were most proud of: serving our self-represented litigants, our Judiciary Web site, forms and family services. We were proud that we have many multi-lingual forms and that we recognize the need to do more and further our self-help clinics. We were proud that our court provides access to all and not just the privileged few. We were proud that Maryland courts are more proactive than reactive. [Sandra Dalton is the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Frederick County.](#)





# Dogs in court, from p. 1

training, but Schaum owns him. “He’s mine, but mine with this program in mind,” Schaum said.

Buddy has gone through basic obedience training and the next step is a rigorous training course to earn a certificate as a therapy dog. The training is one hurdle that needs to be cleared before the court can consider the next possible step—allowing Buddy into a courtroom for child abuse cases. “There is a lot to be considered, and it will have to be something that the judge decides on a case-by-case basis,” Schaum said. Questions include: Where will Buddy sit? Should the jury be able to see him? Will he be available to defense?

Buddy also works with the Carroll County Advocacy and Investigation Center to help with forensic interviews when necessary. And he has reached out in other ways, as well. Schaum recalled working with one truancy case. “The boy was just not going to school,” Schaum said. “We made a deal that if he started going to school, Buddy would come visit him and he could introduce him to his class. He hasn’t skipped since.” Buddy visited the boy and his school last month.

## Baltimore City’s program

The idea of therapy dogs in Maryland’s justice system is growing in popularity. Harford County is investigating the idea, as is Baltimore City’s Office of the State’s Attorney. The active planning for Baltimore’s program, Operation Canine for Justice, began in February 2008, and is being coordinated by the Victim/Witness and Community Services office. The office provides a variety of services for victims, including crisis intervention, information and referral, help with victim impact statements, and court escort services

State’s Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy and Baltimore City Circuit Administrative Judge Marcella Holland both support the project, which is a couple of years away from launching, Judge Holland said.

This past June, the office hosted a visit from Ellen O’Neill-Stephens and Carolyn Webster, the coordinators of the justice canine program in King County, Wash., who brought their therapy dog, Jeter, to conduct a demonstration for staff. “We then met with the Circuit Court judges in September to introduce the program and address their

questions and concerns,” said Pam Widgeon, Chief of Victim/Witness and Community Services.

Operation Canine for Justice’s therapy dog will come from the Canine Companions for Independence. CCI is a non-profit organization that provides highly trained service dogs for individuals with disabilities or agencies who meet their criteria. It typically takes 1.5-2 years to get a dog from CCI.

Operation Canine for Justice currently has no funding. “There’s no charge for the actual canine; however, the individual who is selected to be the primary caretaker is responsible for the proper care, feeding, housing, and medical needs of the canine,” Widgeon said. “In order to reduce the expenses for the caretaker, we will be seeking

private contributions, gifts from businesses and civic groups, grants from corporations and foundations, and services donated by local pet stores, and veterinarians.”

Baltimore’s program is modeled after the King County Prosecutors Office program. “Their staff has been phenomenal in helping us to coordinate this project,” Widgeon said.

The office is working with the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office, which has had a canine program in the Clarence Mitchell Courthouse since 2006, and now has three trained bomb dogs and a narcotics dog on duty.

“The office has a working partnership with Baltimore Child Abuse Center, which serves more than 900 children and 600 families a year.”

The dog’s workweek will be split between the two agencies. The dog, it is hoped, will work with BCAC’s clients by “providing a calming presence to help numerous people begin to overcome their personal horrors of abuse,” Widgeon said. “We think the dog will help us by helping children open up and talk with investigators and prosecutors.” The canine will also help at the Clarence Mitchell Courthouse, providing comfort to victims and boosting the morale of prosecutors and courthouse staff who deal with the consequences of crime on a daily basis.

To see Buddy in action on ABC News, go to [www.abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/story?id=5244356&page=1](http://www.abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/story?id=5244356&page=1).

The Web site for The King County Prosecutors Office canine program is [www.courthousedog.com](http://www.courthousedog.com).

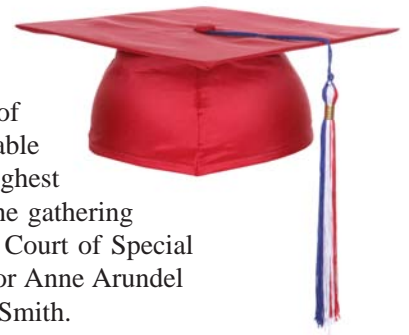


Jack Fino

Haley Breighner, a staff member’s daughter, relaxes with Buddy in the state’s attorney’s office.

# Graduates honored

The Court Professional Certificate program celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2008 on Nov. 7. The three-year program includes a variety of classes designed to enable participants to perform their jobs better and carry out their responsibilities with the highest proficiency. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals spoke to the gathering of 35 graduates and their family and friends, as did Chief Judge Peter Krauser of the Court of Special Appeals, Chief Clerk of the District Court Joe Rosenthal, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County Robert Duckworth, and Clerk of the Circuit Court for Calvert County Kathy Smith.



Dan Clark

The graduates:

**Renay Carrington**, Montgomery County Circuit Court  
**Samuel Colbert**, Court Information Office  
**Kathryn Cook**, Calvert County Circuit Court  
**Terri Corbin**, Worcester County District Court  
**Cathy Diehl**, Carroll County Circuit Court  
**Chasidy Garvey**, Cecil County Circuit Court  
**Priscilla Gray**, Court of Special Appeals  
**Cheryl Griffith**, Talbot County District Court  
**Richard Gutridge**, Baltimore County Circuit Court  
**Karen Hoang**, AOC Procurement  
**Christopher Inman**, Internal Audit  
**Sheila Jones**, Calvert County District Court  
**Robin Justice**, Wicomico County Circuit Court  
**Michelle Kennedy**, Baltimore County District Court  
**Colleen Kenny**, Montgomery County District Court  
**Rebecca Krajewski-LaMarr**, Baltimore County Circuit Court  
**Mari Lee**, Frederick County Circuit Court

**Sheryl Lettau**, Queen Anne's County District Court  
**Patricia Linton**, Montgomery County Circuit Court  
**Geraldine Martin**, Anne Arundel County District Court  
**Juany Meneses**, Montgomery County Circuit Court  
**Judy Mowbray**, Talbot County Circuit Court  
**Kim Owens**, Anne Arundel County District Court  
**Laura Petrillo**, AOC Human Resources  
**Austin Phaire**, Judicial Information Systems  
**Deborah Plaughter**, Court of Special Appeals  
**Jennifer Raymond**, Dorchester County District Court  
**Patricia Robinson**, Wicomico County District Court  
**Christine Shoobridge**, Baltimore County Circuit Court  
**Donna Short**, Wicomico County Circuit Court  
**Cynthia Sizemore**, Carroll County District Court  
**Paula Smith**, Frederick County Circuit Court  
**Constance Tyler**, Somerset County District Court  
**Misty Waller-Simpkins**, Baltimore City District Court