

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON  
THE CONFERENCE OF ORPHANS' COURT JUDGES

WHEREAS, The Orphans' Courts are vested with enumerated powers under Article IV, § 40 of the Maryland Constitution; and

WHEREAS, A Conference of Orphans' Court Judges has existed since November 2003, whose purpose is to provide a forum for policy discussion, information exchange, professional development, and to assist and advise, as needed, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Judicial Council, the Conference of Circuit Judges, and the Administrative Office of the Courts; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to harmonize the structure of the Conference of Orphans' Court Judges within the governance structure adopted by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, The limited pool of Orphans' Court Judges available to serve as members of the Conference makes it appropriate to modify the number of consecutive terms a member may serve,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, do hereby order this 17th day of September 2019, effective immediately, that:

- (A) Membership. The Conference shall consist of fourteen Orphans' Court Judges appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.
- (B) Terms. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall appoint members to a term of two years, subject to reappointment. The terms of the members are to continue to be staggered such that seven terms expire each year. Effective

October 1, 2019, no member may serve more than four consecutive terms of two years.

(C) Officers.

- (1) The Conference of Orphans' Court Judges shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.
- (2) In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair.

(D) Quorum; Meetings; Staff.

- (1) A majority of the Conference members constitutes a quorum.
- (2) The Conference shall meet at least four times a year, in Annapolis, at the times the Conference determines.
- (3) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall serve as secretariat to the Conference.

(E) Functions. The Conference shall:

- (1) Exchange ideas and views on matters relating to the operation, management, and leadership of the Orphans' Courts;
- (2) Consider and make recommendations to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Judicial Council, the Conference of Circuit Judges, and the State Court Administrator regarding legislation and policies affecting the operation of the Orphans' Courts;
- (3) Provide advice on such other matters as the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Conference of Circuit Judges, or the State Court Administrator may request from time to time;
- (4) Consider and make recommendations to the Education Committee of the Judicial Council regarding the professional development of Orphans' Court Judges; and
- (5) Provide a forum for mentoring of Orphans' Court Judges.

(F) The previous Administrative Order on the Conference of Orphans' Court Judges, filed September 28, 2015, shall be and hereby is rescinded.

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

Filed: September 18, 2019

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

Pursuant to Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal  
Materials Act  
(§§ 10-1601 et seq. of the State Government Article) this document is authentic.



Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk