

# District Court of Maryland

## APPOINTED ATTORNEYS PROGRAM Fact Sheet



The Maryland Judiciary is actively seeking attorneys to serve in the District Court of Maryland Appointed Attorneys Program. The program was created in response to a ruling issued by the Maryland Court of Appeals that held that indigent criminal defendants have a state constitutional right to appointed counsel at initial appearances before District Court commissioners. This program provides attorneys with the opportunity to contribute their valuable legal expertise to assist low income Marylanders, while receiving compensation from the state.

### Selection of Attorneys

To be eligible for the District Court of Maryland Appointed Attorneys Program, an attorney must:

- Be licensed to practice in the state of Maryland, in good standing and not subject to any pending disciplinary proceedings;
- Comply with protocols established by the District Court and local Commissioner's Offices and/or detention centers involving accountability, security and processes.
- Review the online information videos and have read and understand that the rules on initial appearances have been reviewed;
- Agree to compensation of \$60 an hour, for services rendered or receive pro bono credit, in lieu of compensation.
- Complete an application form and an anti-discrimination acknowledgement.

### Scheduling

The scheduling process for the Appointed Attorney Program is quite complex and is affected by a multitude of factors including (but not limited to) the number of hearings held, the demand for attorneys at these locations, shifts available for staffing and funding.

The Appointed Attorney Program Coordinators (Coordinators) strive to make the scheduling process as fair as possible and to include as many as attorneys as possible, but the overriding goal is to fulfill the Constitutional mandate to ensure those who are arrested and cannot afford an attorney have the opportunity of being represented by an attorney. The Coordinators continually adjust the process and are continually adding new attorneys in scheduling.

Due to this, the Coordinators will not provide information on scheduling, cannot accept unsolicited calls to be scheduled and will only accept emails regarding preferences. The Coordinators will contact attorneys for all scheduling.

**Applying to the program does not guarantee any selection to serve as an appointed attorney and any selection does not guarantee further or continued selection to serve as an appointed attorney.**

### How to Apply

Interested attorneys may download an application at [www.mdcourts.gov](http://www.mdcourts.gov) or email a request for an application to [appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov](mailto:appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov).

Completed applications can be emailed to [appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov](mailto:appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov), faxed to 410-260-1217 or mailed to:

**Commissioner Headquarters**  
ATTN: Appointed Attorney Program  
251 Rowe Boulevard, Suite 341  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**For additional information, please email [appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov](mailto:appointedattorneys@mdcourts.gov) or visit [mdcourts.gov](http://mdcourts.gov).**