
HOT TOPICS

January 20, 2017 – 5th Edition



WELCOME ALL SENIOR & RETIRED JUDGES

The purpose of Hot Topics is to increase and enhance communication with and among the senior and retired judges. This and subsequent Hot Topics publications is intended to contain information helpful to you. We hope you will share information to include in these publications, whether posed in the form of a question to which we will provide answers and information you find helpful in navigating the system or an interesting tidbit about what’s happening in your life – hobbies, interests, etc. So, if there is something that you think your colleagues will find interesting or informative, please let us know. Also, please let us know how we might improve this publication so that it is more meaningful for you.

The Committee recently designated a subcommittee to review the Judiciary’s retirement process and procedures. If, based on your experience, you had or have any concerns about the process or if you needed or wished you had possessed additional information, please let us know by contacting JaCina Stanton at (410) 260-1408, jacina.stanton@mdcourts.gov with your requests.

EDITORS

JaCina Stanton – Associate Counsel, AOC, Internal Affairs
Sharon Wright – Admin. Assistant, AOC, Internal Affairs – sharon.wright@mdcourts.gov - 410-260-3451



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NEW PASSWORD SECURITY CHANGES

On December 7, 2016, JIS implemented a 12-character password requirement and six month password expiration for Judiciary employees.

With this change, you will not have to update your passwords immediately to comply with the new policy. The use of 12 characters will occur the next time the system prompts you to change your passwords.

With the move to 12-character passwords for JIS Network Windows (Active Directory) accounts, JIS is also extending the password expiration period from 90 days to six months. This means you will only be required to change your passwords every six months. However, passwords may still be changed as needed.

JIS will be sending password expiration email notices beginning five days prior to the password expiration date to remind you of your pending password expiration. You will receive a notice each day for five days until the password is changed or becomes expired.



MDEC Update

Karen Lista, the MDEC Data Conversion / Appellate Project Manager for the AOC, presented MDEC information during the Sept. 27, 2016 Committee meeting. Ms. Lista recently provided the following supplemental information about MDEC:

- Senior judges may use the portal for remote access to any MDEC case (trial and appellate levels). Senior judges with an active directory account that is connected to the Judiciary network have access to Odyssey. Note: The portal is different than Odyssey. Odyssey is the case management system, while the portal provides remote access to case information.
- Senior judges may now review transcripts for trial court cases by accessing the portal.
- Senior judges may read case information, but they do not have the ability to sign Orders or make modifications to documents from the portal.

MDEC QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

If you have questions or concerns about MDEC that the Committee may assist you with, please contact JaCina Stanton at (410) 260-1408, jacina.stanton@mdcourts.gov. The contact person for MDEC is Carla Jones, who may be reached at (410) 260-3526– carla.jones@mdcourts.gov.

2017 MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

On Wednesday, January 11, 2017, the 437th Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly convened. There are two bills being introduced this session on behalf of the Judiciary. The first bill changes the definition of sexual abuse due to a new federal law requirement. The new definition will include sexual trafficking in CINA cases.

The second bill expands the geographic areas where District Court Commissioners may reside while serving as Commissioners. The bill proposes that Commissioners do not have to reside in the county where they serve. Expanding the geographic residence requirements for Commissioners will increase the availability of Commissioners around the state.

The topic that has received the most coverage and notoriety is bail reform. A bail reform hearing was recently held before the Court of Appeals and the Court decided to take the issue up again at their next session in February 2017.

New Rules Developments

By: Sandra F. Haines, Esquire

The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure met recently concerning Rule 4-216.1, the purpose of which is to provide clearer guidance to judicial officers regarding the manner in which certain core principles intended to govern decisions concerning how the pretrial release of arrested individuals should be applied. Most of those principles are already either explicit or implicit in current Rule 4-216, but they are not always applied in the manner intended. The central problem, which has been well-documented both nationally and in Maryland, is that, not infrequently, money bail is being set in amounts that many defendants cannot afford. This results in those defendants being incarcerated, prior to trial, for no reason other than poverty.

The impetus for the development of proposed Rule 4-216.1 came from an advice letter issued by the Office of the Attorney General on October 11, 2016, expressing the view that current

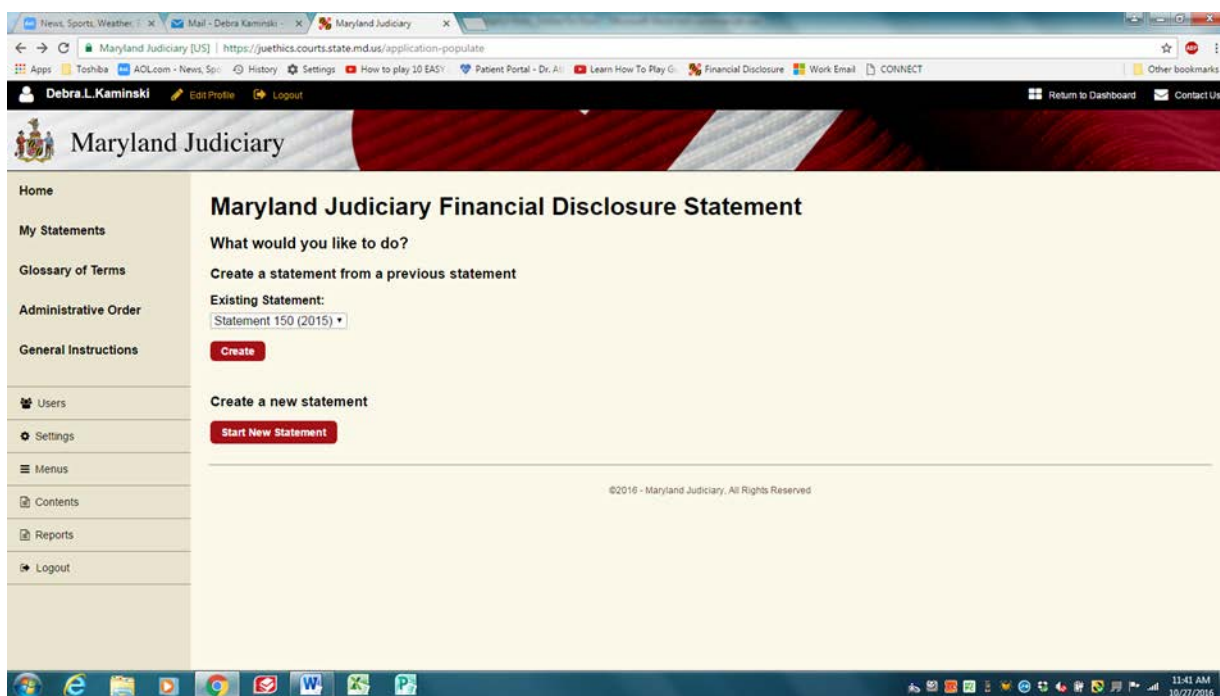
Rule 4-216, as it is being applied, violates both the due process rights of defendants and the Constitutional prohibition against excessive bail. Following the issuance of that advice letter, the Attorney General formally requested the Rules Committee to look into the concerns expressed in the advice letter. After consideration by the Criminal Rules Subcommittee, the changes proposed in this Report were approved by the Rules Committee at an open meeting on November 18, 2016. During a hearing on January 5, 2017, the Court of Appeals heard testimony from Attorney General Frosh, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, former U.S. Solicitor General Paul D. Clement, and others.

File your Disclosure Statement Electronically!

Now is the time to begin submitting your financial disclosure statements for 2016. For those who have not submitted their statements, they are now available for online completion and filing. **Senior Judges are encouraged to complete statements electronically this year.** Each time a statement is submitted electronically, the information will be saved for next year and the processing time will be much quicker to complete. **The filing deadline is April 30, 2017 for online filings.** The forms can be found at the following link:

<https://juethics.courts.state.md.us/>

You can still file a paper copy by mailing it to: Administrative Office of the Courts, Human Resources Department, 580 Taylor Avenue, Building A, First Floor, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. You may also email a scanned copy of your statement to Debra Kaminski (debra.kaminski@mdcourts.gov) or Connie Winkel (connie.winkel@mdcourts.gov).



Never too Late to Learn...

Upcoming Microsoft Office and CONNECT Courses

The Technology Education Department is pleased to announce the upcoming schedule of Microsoft Office 2013 and CONNECT training sessions. These hands-on training sessions will be held at the Judicial College Education and Conference Center (JCECC) in Annapolis.

To view the Microsoft Office 2013 course descriptions, please click the following link:

<http://courtnet.courts.state.md.us/technologyeducation/pdf/tecoursedescriptions.pdf>.

To view the CONNECT course descriptions, please click the following link:

<http://courtnet.courts.state.md.us/technicaltraining/pdfs/connectcoursedescriptions.pdf>

Below is the course schedule:

Course Enrollment Procedure

To enroll in a course using CONNECT, please follow these instructions:

1. Log into CONNECT.
2. Click the **Learning Dashboard** tab.
3. Under **Quick Links**, click on **Find Learning**.
4. In the **Search for keyword** field, type the course name or topic, then click the **Search** button.
5. Select the class and session you are interested in, click **Enroll**, then click **Submit Enrollment**.
6. You will receive a message stating your enrollment requires approval. Your manager will receive an email notification stating there is a pending enrollment request.
7. Once your manager approves the enrollment, you will receive an email notification.

If you have any questions or need assistance with enrolling, please contact Mary Keller, Judicial College Registrar, at 410.260.3573 or

mary.keller@mdcourts.gov. Thank you.

Microsoft Office Courses

Date	Class	Time	Location	Room
Tue, 01/10	Word 2013 – Level 1	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Wed, 01/11	Publisher 2013 – Level 1	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Thu, 01/12	Excel 2013 - Level 1	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Thu, 01/12	Word 2013 – Level 3	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Tue, 01/17	Excel 2013 – Level 2	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Tue, 01/17	Word 2013 – Level 2	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Wed, 01/18	Access 2013 – Level 1	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Wed, 01/18	PowerPoint 2013 – Level 1	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Thu, 01/19	Word 2013 – Level 3	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Mon, 01/23	WordPerfect to Word – Level 1	9am-12pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Mon, 01/23	WordPerfect to Word – Level 2	1pm-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Tue, 01/24	Word 2013 – Level 2	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Wed, 01/25	SharePoint 365	1pm-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Thu, 01/26	Access 2013 – Level 2	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Tue, 01/31	Excel 2013 – Level 1	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Tue, 01/31	SharePoint 365	9am-12pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Wed, 02/01	Excel 2013 – Level 2	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Wed, 02/01	PowerPoint 2013 – Level 2	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14
Thu, 02/02	Excel 2013 – Level 3	9am-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Thu, 02/02	SharePoint 365	1pm-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL14

CONNECT Courses

Date	Class	Time	Location	Room
Mon, 01/23	CONNECT – Getting Started	9am-12pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Mon, 01/23	CONNECT – Getting Started	1pm-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Tue, 01/24	CONNECT – Time & Absence for Employees	9am-12pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Tue, 01/24	CONNECT – General Employees Functions	1pm-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Wed, 01/25	CONNECT – General Managers Functions	9am-12pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Wed, 01/25	CONNECT – Performance Appraisals for Managers	1pm-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Thu, 01/26	CONNECT – Time & Absence for Managers	9am-12pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15
Thu, 01/26	CONNECT – Time & Absence for Managers	1pm-4pm	JCECC (Annapolis)	LL15

Next Scheduled Committee Meeting Dates

- May 2, 2017, 5:30 PM
- June 12-14, 2017, Judicial Conference, Senior Judges Reception, Time/Date (TBA)
- September 26, 2017, 5:30 PM

All Committee meetings, except for the Judicial Conference, are held on the 4th floor of the Court of Appeals Dining Room.





RESOURCES

Where do I go to find help?

JIS Help Desk - (410) 260-1114

GEARS - Tammy Sitar – Tammy.sitar@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1419

HR Benefits - Monica Jackson – monica.jackson@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1288

Education Committee - Mary Keller - mary.keller@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-5373

MDEC - Carla Jones – carla.jones@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-3526

Payroll - Lolli Petrillo – lolli.petrillo@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1591

SharePoint - Mylita Jacob – mylita.jacob@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1041

Travel Policy (related to GEARS) - Tammy Sitar – tammy.sitar@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1419

Judiciary State Travel Coordinator - Allison Leebrick – Allison.leebrick@mdcourts.gov or (410) 260-1417