
HOT TOPICS

April 26, 2017 – Sixth 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 are 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 can 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.

EDITORS

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IN MEMORIAM – JUDGE AARON A. BAER



Judge Aaron A. Baer, who was the oldest living judge in the State of Maryland at the time of his death, died on January 23, 2017, just shy of his 103rd birthday. As was one of the twelve original judges of the Municipal Courts appointed by the late Governor Tawes, Judge Baer was known for being extremely efficient and fair. During Judge Baer's time on the bench in Municipal Court, the "courthouse" was located within the police precinct. When Judge Baer was appointed to the Municipal Court, he raised several concerns about the fairness of the police's involvement with the judicial process at the time. After his objections, the Municipal Courtrooms soon resembled the familiar setting that included attorneys, witnesses and a judge presiding without the aid of the police.

Judge Baer was so efficient in the running of his docket and that he was nicknamed "Running Baer." It was not unusual for him to hear over 100 cases on a daily basis on both his traffic and criminal dockets. He was also known for creating, "the Baer plan," a deferred payment system for debtors. He is survived by his daughters Susan Reichmister and Judge Barbara Baer Waxman (Administrative Judge- District Court for Baltimore City (District One)), two sons "in love," Dr. Jerome Reichmister, Dr. Carl Waxman, grandchildren, Beth (Bart) Casper, Jodi (Craig) Kessler, great-grandchildren, Nicole and Mitchell Casper, Sloane and Blair Kessler, and nieces and nephews.

Judge Barbara Baer Waxman reminisced about her first experiences in the courthouse with her father, "As a little girl, I would ask to go to court with him to observe the proceedings, and I immediately fell in love with the entire process. I spent holidays and many summers with my father, the State's Attorney, and the Public Defenders. I learned everything about the court at an early age." She added that, "[Her father] served as a judge for exactly twenty years to the day, May 1, 1961 to May 1, 1981."

Judge Baer also served as a Maryland State Senator for Northwest Baltimore's Fifth District from 1959 to 1961. Judge Baer was active in many legal organizations and social clubs, including: the ABA, MSBA, and Baltimore Bar Associations. He was also a member of the Masons, Center Lodge A.R. & A.N., a member of Golden Eagle Square and Compass Club, the Variety Club, Yedz Grotto Mounted Patrol, and the Safety First Club of Maryland.

IN MEMORIAM – JUDGE GORDON BOONE, JR.

Portions of this Article are excerpted from The Baltimore Sun Obituary which appeared on February 6, 2017.

On February 5, 2017, the Honorable Gordon Boone Jr., a retired Baltimore County District Court judge, died of complications from dementia at the Masonic Home of Maryland. "Gordon was a wonderful ambassador for the judiciary," said retired Maryland Court of Appeals Judge Joseph F. Murphy Jr. "He was humorous at appropriate times and he could be self-deprecating at others."

"He knew how to handle the people who came before him," said Judge Murphy. "... When he would scold, it would be meaningful and effective." "Gordon was one of the most fascinating men I have ever met. Part [Winston] Churchill and part Damon Runyon, he was a bon vivant, raconteur, polymath and also a rascal and rascalion — all words he loved and would use," said Baltimore County Circuit Judge Robert E. Cahill. "Heaven has just become a more interesting place — and Maryland just lost one of her most beloved judges."

Judge Boone as the son of A. Gordon Boone, a Towson attorney and former speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates. He obtained a degree at the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1963, the year he established a law practice in Towson. "He played the District Court docket the way Stradivarius played the violin," said retired Circuit Judge Thomas J. Bollinger Sr., a close friend. "He truly gave justice, often with a lot of humor."

Judge Boone was a county prosecutor in the late 1950s. He was later a public defender and a city prosecutor. Gov. Harry R. Hughes named him a District Court judge in 1982. He retired in 2003.

"Everyone who walked out of his courtroom felt well listened to. They also had heard an application of Gordon's common sense," said Judge Cahill.

SENIOR JUDGES RECEPTION

The Senior Judges Reception during the Maryland Judicial Conference will be held on Monday, June 12, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Garden Room (1st Floor) of the Hunt Valley Inn and Conference Center.

The Committee welcomes Chief Judge Morrissey and speakers from the AOC's Human Resources Department. Chief Judge Morrissey will discuss MDEC. The HR Dept. will address several retirement concerns. Please send any questions about the above-referenced topics or other related areas to jacina.stanton@mdcourts.gov by May 15, 2017 so that speakers can better respond to your concerns.

Only Senior Judges serving as panelists, moderators, subject matter experts, or in some other predetermined and approved role during the Conference will receive a per diem. The Judiciary will hold a block of rooms for all judges for the conference on June 12th and June 13th only. Please reserve your room as soon as possible by registering at the website below:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017JudConf_Register

Mileage will be reimbursed for the conference for all judges per Judiciary policy.

RETIREMENT PROCESS AND PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE

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 wished you possessed additional information, please let us know by contacting JaCina Stanton at (410) 260-1408, jacina.stanton@mdcourts.gov with your requests.

2017 Legislative Session Review

The 437th Maryland General Assembly concluded on Monday, April 10, 2017. During the Legislative Session, there were several bills that impacted the Maryland Judiciary, including retired and Senior Judges. There were also a few bills that the Senior Judges Committee monitored during sessions.

Perhaps, one of the most controversial bills of this session, SB983, the Pretrial Release bill, also referred to as “the bail reform bill,” would have changed the Pretrial Release procedures for multiple jurisdictions. Although SB983 passed the Senate 29-18, the bill did not move out of the House Judiciary Committee.

SB182 redefined the eligibility for Senior Judges on temporary assignment in Baltimore City, Charles County, Prince George’s County and Harford County. The bill allows the Chief Judge to assign any Senior Judge to sit in any court if the assignment is approved by the administrative judge of the circuit in which the Senior Judge is to be assigned. SB182 passed out of both houses unanimously. In Talbot County, the Senior Judge must serve in the aggregate at least one (1) year as a judge, have been approved by a majority of Court of Appeals judges, and meet established standards in the bill. The bill also outlined when a Senior Judge may not be recalled for assignment.

HB1122 expanded the beneficiaries who may receive a retirement allowance on the death of a judge or retired judge who has no surviving spouse. Prior to the bill’s introduction, a retirement allowance could be paid to a minor child of such a judge. HB1122 amends the law to provide that a retirement allowance could be paid to a child under the age of 26 or a disabled child, and addresses how the allowance may be handled if there is more than one such beneficiary. The bill passed in the House 137-0 and passed in the Senate 47-0. It will become effective on July 1, 2017.



FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT REMINDER

As reminder, your 2016 Financial Disclosure Statement is due April 30, 2017. If you have already filed, please disregard. If you have any questions, please contact Debra Kaminski at (410) 260-1271 or via email at debra.kaminski@mdcourts.gov

UPDATED MARYLAND JUDICIARY CONTACT LIST

Maryland Judiciary Phone List

HR Main Line 410-260-1280

HR Main Fax: 410-974-2849

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR'S OFFICE		
Lee Robinson	Director	Ext. 1205
Jennifer Boswell	Deputy Director	Ext. 3765
Barbara Prevo	Office Manager	Ext. 1211
Connie Winkel	Management Analyst	Ext. 1275
Debra Kaminski	Judicial Nominations Coordinator	Ext. 1271
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS		
Employee Relations Unit Line:		410-260-1732 Fax: 410-260-1253
Faith Bagnall	Manager, Employee Relations	Ext. 1264
Gisele (Gigi) Mathews	Employee Relations & ADA Compliance Officer	Ext. 1278
Delores Atwater	Employee Relations Officer	Ext. 1283
Ebonye Caldwell	Employee Relations Coordinator	Ext. 3678
CLASSIFICATION & SALARY ADMINISTRATION		
Class & Comp Unit Line:		410-260-1733
Vacant	Manager, Classification & Salary Administration	Ext. 1276
Tammy Ferguson	Supervisor, Classification & Salary Administration	Ext. 1282
Sara Leta-Marie Ringenary	Class & Comp Analyst	Ext. 3633

RECRUITMENT		
Amy Reed	Supervisor, Recruitment	Ext. 1420
Susan Hardisty	Recruiter	Ext. 1204
Marcy Goode	Recruiter	Ext. 1208
Gail Coleman-Terry	Recruiter	Ext. 1279
Kimberly Michael	Recruiter	Ext. 1200
Kacey Prochazka	Recruiter	Ext. 1277
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES & HRIS		
Employment Services Unit Line:		410-260-1731
Karen Fary	Manager, Employment Services & HRIS	Ext. 1289
Monica Jackson	HR Generalist	Ext. 1288
Janean Thompson	HR Generalist	Ext. 1269
Debbie Vlna	HR Generalist	Ext. 1209
Victoria Fowley	HR Generalist	Ext. 1261
Karen Kotschenreuther	HRIS Specialist	Ext. 1281
Jeff Qualey	HRIS Specialist	Ext. 1202
OTHER NUMBERS		
Payroll Unit Line: 410-260-1735		Fax Line: 410-260-1214
Marti Robinson	Manager, Payroll	Ext. 1286
Alex Hoyle	Payroll Specialist	Ext. 1285
Lolli Petrillo	Senior Payroll Specialist	Ext. 1591
Rosie Krich	Payroll Specialist	Ext. 1246
William Washington	Payroll Specialist	Ext. 1287
Gail Graham	Payroll Specialist	Ext. 1721
Deborah Greer	Payroll Specialist	Ext. 1741
Central Payroll Phone:		410-260-7401
AOC Basement Conference Room		Ext. 1270
PeopleSoft Conference Room		Ext. 3511
JIS Help Desk		Ext. 1114
LEGAL DEPARTMENT		
Judicial Ethics Committee & Senior Judges Committee Counsel - JaCina Stanton		Ext. 1408
Fair Practices -Warren Hedges		Ext. 1405
Sharon Wright- Judicial Ethics Committee & Senior Judges Committee Staff		Ext. 3451

Next Scheduled Committee Meeting Dates

- May 2, 2017, 5:30 PM, JCECC (while the Court of Appeals parking lot is being renovated)
- June 12-14, 2017, Maryland Judicial Conference, Hunt Valley Inn and Conference Center
- Senior Judges Reception, Monday, June 12th, 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM, Hunt Valley Inn and Conference Center
- September 26, 2017, 5:30 PM (Location: TBA)