



NOVEMBER 7, 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome All Senior Judges



The purpose of Hot Topics is to increase and enhance communication with and among the Senior 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.

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Senior Judges Gathering at the 2017 Judicial Conference

On June 12, 2017, the Senior Judges Committee held its Annual Gathering at the Maryland Judicial Conference in Hunt Valley, Maryland. More than seventy (70) active and Senior Judges attended the meeting.

Chief Judge Barbera, State Court Administrator Pamela Harris, and Chief Judge Morrissey each delivered remarks at the meeting. Additionally, Melinda Jensen, Lee Robinson, Marti Robinson, Jennifer Boswell, and Karen Fary appeared on behalf of the Human Resources Department. Ms. Robinson, Ms. Boswell, and Ms. Fary delivered remarks concerning retirement issues and other areas pertinent to Senior Judges.



Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera speaks to Senior Judges at the Annual Gathering.



Lolli Petrillo is presented with an award for her dedication to Senior Judges.



IMPORTANT PAYROLL INFORMATION – EARNINGS LIMITATION CY 2017

We are quickly approaching the end of calendar year 2017 and many of you are close to, or have met, your earnings limitation.

Pay period #13:
11/29/17 – 12/12/17 is the last pay period that will be paid in 2017. That pay will count towards your CY 2017 earnings limitation. The calendar year 2018 earnings will begin with pay period #14 – 12/13/17 - 12/26/17, with a pay date of 01/03/18.

Just a reminder of upcoming advanced payrolls:

Pay Period 12/13/17 - 12/26/17 timesheets are due for approval by noon on Thursday, December 21st. Managers must have timesheets approved by 8:00 a.m., Friday, December 22, 2017. Any dates of service for this pay period, or any prior pay periods, that are submitted after December 21st will be processed during the 12/27/17 – 01/09/18 pay

period and the pay will be applied towards your 2018 earnings limitation.

Pay Period 12/27/17 – 01/09/18 timesheets are due for approval by noon on Monday, January 8, 2018. Managers must have timesheets approved by 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Marti Robinson or Gail Graham at (410) 260-1721.

Thank you,
Judiciary Payroll Staff
Administrative Office of
the Courts
580 Taylor Ave. - A4
Annapolis, MD 21401





FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE JRA

To review the final enrolled bill for the Justice Reinvestment Act, click below:

Senate Bill 1005 - Enrolled bill of Justice Reinvestment Act:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2016RS/bills/sb/sb1005e.pdf>

For best practices on mediation concerning the JRA click here:

Justice Reinvestment Act
Criminal Mediation Best
Practices Workgroup

<http://mdcourts.gov/macro/reports/jracriminalmediationbestpracticesworkgroupreport2016.pdf>

Justice Reinvestment Act

The Justice Reinvestment Act (“JRA”) became effective on October 1, 2017 (with some exceptions). The JRA impacts several important areas in criminal cases, including: diminution credits, parole eligibility and release, administrative release, and specifies graduated sanctions for certain parole violations.

On August 18, 2017, several judges were trained on the JRA. Chief Judge Morrissey, representatives from the Department of Parole and Probation, and personnel from the Problem Solving Courts each discussed the JRA’s impact on their respective subject areas.

The Senior Judges Committee is providing copies of the Bench Cards for Senior Judges with its mailing of the Hot Topics November newsletter. The bench cards contain information on sentencing and parole and alcohol and drug treatment. Additional copies are available from the Judicial College.

SENIOR JUDGES SURVEY

The Senior Judges Committee would like your feedback on the differences in court practices of local jurisdictions. Please advise us of your observations of the following areas when you serve on the bench: arrival at court, parking, probation variations, administrative procedures and other areas.

The Survey will be available online in January 2018 at:

<http://www.mdcourts.gov/hr/seniorjudges/judgessurvey.html>



SENIOR JUDGES PASSWORD RESET (SSPR) TRAINING

The procedure for changing CONNECT, Outlook and Windows passwords has changed. Senior Judges must have a Windows Active Directory Account in order to access CONNECT, Outlook, Odyssey, and other programs. JIS is requiring that Senior Judges sign up for Self-Service Password Reset (SSPR) because of their off-site computer usage. New passwords must be between 12 and 32 characters and will stay in effect for six months. The password must also contain: a capital letter, a lower case letter, a number and/or a special character within the password.

**REMEMBER TO LOG IN WITH YOUR
MDCOURTS.GOV EMAIL ADDRESSES AT LEAST
ONCE PER MONTH OR ELSE YOUR EMAIL
ACCOUNT MAY BE LOCKED.**

Lead Service Desk Specialist Dennis Edwards from JIS will be offering a training on SSPR in early 2018 at the JCECC. Once we receive more information, we will be sending out a Save the Date announcement.

SENIOR JUDGES AWARD

The Senior Judges Committee is working with MSBA to develop a nominations process for a Senior Judges Award. The Senior Judges Award Subcommittee has discussed the following criteria concerning the award:

- Award criteria would include the judge's continuing contributions to the Maryland Judiciary (e.g. Judicial Committee membership, Judicial College faculty, etc.) and his or her services to the community at-large.
- The nominating committee would be composed of three people (two Senior Judges and one MSBA member.)
- The Award would be given to a recalled Senior Judge in 2018 (preferably).

If you would like to make any suggestions concerning the award process, please contact Committee Counsel JaCina Stanton at (410) 260-1408, jacina.stanton@mdcourts.gov



Senior Judges – Caring in the Community

The Senior Judges Committee is interested in knowing about any community and volunteer work that Senior Judges have found to be rewarding during their quasi-retirement. Please provide a description of such activities to JaCina Stanton at jacina.stanton@mdcourts.gov or contact her by telephone at (410) 260-1408.

"Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living."

-Albert Einstein

NEXT SENIOR JUDGES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

5:30 PM

JCECC

RETIREMENT SERVICES CONTACT LIST

MARYLAND STATE RETIREMENT AND PENSION SYSTEM

1-800-492-5909

Laura Gorrell
gorrell@sra.state.md.us
410-625-5505

Anne Gawthrop
agawthrop@sra.state.md.us
410-625-5602

Social Security Administration (SSA)
1-800-772-1213
www.socialsecurity.gov

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
1-800-633-4227
www.medicare.gov

Maryland Supplemental Retirement Plan
1-800-545-4730
Angela Anderson
angela.anderson@maryland.gov

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS DIVISION

Cheryl Hill
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HOT TOPICS NEWSLETTER

If you have any questions or concerns about this issue of Hot Topics, contact JaCina Stanton at (410) 260-1408, jacina.stanton@mdcourts.gov.

