

Hot Topics Newsletter

Summer Issue



2018 Judicial Conference

On May 23, 2018, the Senior Judges held their Annual Gathering and Reception during the 2018 Judicial Conference. Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbara, Chief Judge Patrick Woodward, Chief Judge John Morrissey, and State Court Administrator Pamela Harris delivered remarks to an audience of more than 70 Senior Judges.

ALERT

2019 RETIREE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE CHANGES

On January 1, 2019, Medicare-eligible State retirees will not be covered under the State’s prescription plan. **Retirees must enroll in a Medicare Part D plan during Medicare’s open enrollment season between October 15 and December 7 or they will NOT have prescription drug coverage on January 1, 2019.** Because of the impact on the Medicare-eligible retirees, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has launched a communication campaign notifying affected retirees of the need to secure prescription coverage as of January 1, 2019, to be followed by reminders and resources regarding various available options and the steps that need to be taken to obtain coverage. For more information, contact DBM’s Employee Benefits Division at (410) 767-4775 or visit them online at: <http://dbm.maryland.gov/benefits/Pages/EGWP.aspx> or email DBM at ebd.mail@marvland.gov

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Judge Lynne Battaglia delivered a lecture on Involuntarily Retired Judges in Maryland and Quality of Life and Satisfaction. Judge Dorothy Wilson presented information on the Maryland Mentor Program.

The Human Resources Department also provided updates on payroll, retirement, and other issues.



Legislative Summary

On April 24, 2018, Chief Judge John Morrissey of the District Court of Maryland delivered a legislative summary to the Senior Judges concerning the highlights of the 2018 Maryland General Assembly. At midnight on April 9, 2018, sine die occurred and the Maryland General Assembly concluded. Some bills that were discussed included:

House Joint Resolution 3 - Judicial Compensation Commission – Recommendations

HJ 3 increased judicial compensation based on the recommendations of the Judicial Compensation Commission. There will be an increase of \$5,000.00 in judicial salaries in Fiscal Year 2019 through 2022. The bill will go into effect on July 1, 2018. Additionally, all State employees of the judiciary that are not judges are expected to receive a two percent cost of living adjustment (COLA).

HB 1302 Public Safety Extreme Risk Protective Orders

The bill allows a petitioner to file for an extreme risk protective order when he or she believes that the respondent poses an immediate and present danger of causing injury to himself/herself, the petitioner, or another, by possessing a firearm.

HB 286/SB 668 Circuit Court Clerks – Salary Increase

The bill allows the Clerk of the Court to request an increase in salary from \$114,500 to \$124,500 per annum from their local governments.

HB 1646 - Criminal Procedure Firearms – Transfer

HB 1646 requires the State's Attorney, before trial or acceptance of a guilty plea or equivalent, to provide written notice to the defendant and the court when a defendant has been charged with a disqualifying crime that is a domestically related crime and the State's Attorney is seeking surrender of a firearm. The bill also requires the Court to make a finding on the record and in writing if the request has been made.

SB 233/HB 111 – Maryland Department of Health – Defendants Found Incompetent to Stand Trial or Not Criminally Responsible – Commitment

The bill requires the Health Department to commit a defendant found incompetent to stand trial and a danger to themselves or others, to a designated health care facility as soon as possible, but not later than ten (10) business days after the Health Department receives the order. The bill also requires the Court to hold a restoration of competency hearing within ten (10) business days of notification from the health Department.

HB 388/SB 170 Criminal Procedure – Violation of Conditions of Release

These bills add a crime of violence under § 5-101 of the Public Safety Article and a crime against a victim who is a person eligible for relief under § 4-501 of the Family Law Article to the list of charges for which a person is statutorily prohibited from violating a condition of pretrial or post-trial release prohibiting contact, harassment, or abuse of the alleged victim or going in or near the alleged victim's residence or place of employment.

SB 96 Family Law – Divorce on Grounds of Mutual Consent – Court Appearance

This bill allows only one party to appear for an absolute divorce case.

HB 1093 – Maryland Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act – The bill establishes uniform procedures for the electronic recording of real property records in the State. The bill defines specified terms, establishes requirements for electronic documents and signatures, and authorizes a county or the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to accept electronic payments.

HB 1448 – Clerks of Court – Traffic Fines – Installment Payments permits the Clerks of Court to accept installment payments.

HB 447 – Pretrial Services Program Grant Fund – Establishment - This bill provides funding for certain counties to establish or improve their pretrial programs.

SB 226 – Real Property – Wrongful Detainer and Distress Actions – Trial by Jury

The late Senator Wayne Norman introduced this bill. SB 226 authorizes a party in an action brought in District Court for a wrongful detainer or distress action to demand a jury trial.

SB 1239 Appointment or Designation of Standby Guardian – Adverse Immigration Action

This bill appoints a standby guardian for a child, if a minor's parent is subject to an adverse immigration action against them.

(Portions of this article were also excerpted from the 2018 Weekly Legislative Report by the Government Relations and Public Affairs Division.)

UPCOMING ADVANCED PAYROLLS FOR SENIOR JUDGES

- ❖ 06/13/18 – 06/26/18: Timesheets need to be submitted by Noon on Monday, June 25th. Paychecks and Direct Deposits will be available Tuesday, July 3rd.
- ❖ 09/19/18 – 10/02/18: Timesheets need to be submitted by Noon on Monday, October 1st.
- ❖ 10/17/18 – 10/30/18: Timesheets need to be submitted by Noon on Monday, October 29th.
- ❖ 12/12/18 – 12/25/18: Timesheets need to be submitted by Noon on Friday, December 21st.

WANTED: SENIOR JUDGES

Judge Dorothy J. Wilson
Chair, Mentor Subcommittee

For most new trial judges, the transition to the bench happens at a pace that is much faster than they anticipate or are prepared to handle. The Maryland Mentor Program was developed to support new trial judges throughout their first year on the bench. Launched as a pilot in February 2017, the Program provides regular contact and structured activities between an experienced mentor judge and a new trial judge. Since its launch, nearly 50 new trial judges have participated in the Program with 100% indicating that the Program was beneficial. As more new trial judges join the Maryland Judiciary, the need for experienced judges to serve as mentors has increased. At a recent focus group, new trial judges expressed a special interest in having senior recalled judges serve as mentors.

What's involved in being a mentor? Mentor judges are matched with 1 new trial judge for 1 year. While serving as a mentor, senior recalled judges receive payment for 3 days. Mentors typically contact their mentee once a month via telephone, onsite visits, email, Instant Messaging or videoconferencing such as Skype or Facetime. At least one of the contacts should include observing the new trial judge handle a docket.

Since many of you are already serving as mentors informally, why not be part of the Maryland Mentor Program? To become a mentor judge, please contact: The Judicial College of Maryland at judicialcollege@mdcourts.gov or call (410) 260-3660. ****Please see the Mentor Interest Form enclosed with this Newsletter.****



Senior Judges visiting MDEC courts will use Judge Edition to view the court entries and documents from the bench. Recently, the Judge Edition software was upgraded from the 2014 version to the 2017 version. This update changed the way the application looks while maintaining the same functionality. To assist with the transition, a video has been prepared that explains the changes. Another video will provide a demonstration of the application for first time users. Additionally, the MDEC team is also providing a training manual as reference for using Odyssey and performing chambers work tasks in Task Manager. These are good resources to review as a refresher or in preparation for courtroom coverage at any MDEC jurisdiction.

Visit the MDEC Training Resources site for Senior Judges online here:

<https://mdcourts.gov/hr/seniorjudges/mdec>



NEXT SENIOR JUDGES MEETING:

Tuesday,
September 25, 2018
5:30 PM

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S SENIOR JUDGES COMMITTEE

Hon. James A. Kenney III, Chair

Hon. Jean Baron, Senior Judge, District Five

Hon. Lynne A. Battaglia, Senior Judge, Court of Appeals

Sondra D. Battle, Court Administrator, Prince George's County

Hon. Leonard J. Eiswert, Senior Judge, District Twelve

Hon. Deborah Sweet Eyler, Vice Chair, Court of Special Appeals

Hon. Stephen P. Johnson, Senior Judge, District Six

Hon. Barbara Kerr Howe, Senior Judge, Third Judicial Circuit

Hon. Irma S. Raker, Senior Judge, Court of Appeals

Hon. Gale E. Rasin, Senior Judge, District One

Hon. Thurman H. Rhodes, Judge, District Five

Hon. Nancy B. Shuger, Senior Judge, District One

Carole Burkhart, Judicial Assistant, District Court Headquarters

JaCina Stanton, Esquire – Staff Counsel

PUBLIC NOTICE

JUDICIAL DISABILITIES COMMISSION RULES - REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure posted a Public Notice on the Judiciary Website on June 5, 2018 requesting comment on proposed revisions to the Rules governing proceedings before the Judicial Disabilities Commission, the Judicial Inquiry Board, or Investigative Counsel. Comments should be sent to the Rules Committee as directed in the Notice by July 6, 2018.

<https://mdcourts.gov/sites/default/files/import/rules/notices/judicialdisabilitiespublicnotice.pdf>

RETIREMENT SERVICES CONTACT LIST

Maryland State Retirement and Pension System

1-800-492-5909

Laura Gorrell
lgorrell@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 (MSRP)

1-800-545-4730

Angela Anderson
angela.anderson@maryland.gov
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Department of Budget & Management, Employee Benefits Division

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HOT TOPICS NEWSLETTER



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