

# Hot Topics Newsletter

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## 2021 SENIOR JUDGE AWARD JUDGE ALAN WILNER

Since 2018, the Maryland Judiciary and the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA), have recognized a senior judge for outstanding service on the bench, for continued service to the judiciary, and for service to the community. The prestigious Senior Judge Award usually is announced at the Judicial Conference and awarded at the MSBA Annual Meeting, neither of which could be held in person this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. This year's well-deserved recipient is Judge Alan Wilner, Senior Judge from the Court Appeals of Maryland.

In 1977, Judge Wilner was appointed to the Court of Special Appeals by Governor Blair Lee. He served as an associate judge for almost thirteen years, and then as Chief Judge of that Court from 1990 to 1996. That year, Governor Parris Glendening appointed him to the Court of Appeals, where he served until his retirement in 2007.

While Judge Wilner was Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals, he also served as Chair of the Rules Committee. When he retired and took senior judge status, the Court of Appeals again appointed him as Chair of the Rules Committee, and he has served in that capacity for the past 14 years. Under Judge Wilner's leadership of the Rules Committee, both before and after his retirement, Maryland has seen an abundance of changes in the Rules of Practice and Procedure. They include adoption of the rules of evidence, probate rules, revision of the appellate review rules, adoption of Title 9, Chapter 100 Rules, creation of an asbestos docket, adoption of e-filing rules, major revisions to the Rules governing the Commission on Judicial Disabilities, adoption of foreclosure rules, and most recently adoption of rules regarding court operations during the Covid Pandemic. While chairing the Rules Committee, which is itself a full-time job, Judge Wilner has continued to sit as a senior judge on both appellate courts, where he is known for his scholarly opinions. Judge Wilner also has been a major contributor to the Maryland Benchbook for judges.

Before his retirement, Judge Wilner shared his intellectual and leadership skills internationally, traveling often to Russia and Kiev to meet with representatives of those governments in an exchange program to foster the Rule of Law.

After 30 years as an incumbent judge and 14 years as a senior judge, Judge Wilner still is going strong. Other than in name (and perhaps years) only, it is difficult to call him retired or Senior Judge. Judge Alan Wilner is an outstanding recipient of the Annual Judicial MSBA Senior Judge Award.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

- For all COVID-19 updates, please visit [mdcourts.gov](http://mdcourts.gov) and click on the red banner labeled COVID-19 UPDATE at the top of the page.
- For the latest news, updates, payroll info, Hot Topics and more, check out the Senior Judge webpage, <https://mdcourts.gov/hr/seniorjudges>. Don't forget to save the link so you can refer to it at any time.
- Have something about yourself that you want to share? Please contact Eliana Pangelinan at [Eliana.pangelinan@mdcourts.gov](mailto:Eliana.pangelinan@mdcourts.gov) to be featured in an issue of the Hot Topics Newsletter.

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## MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Beginning June 23, 2021, the use of MFA is required to access Office365 (including your mdcourts.gov email account) when you are not connected to the Judiciary private network and to access VDI.

**If you use Office365 while off the network or use VDI while on or off the network, you will need to register your JIS Windows account for MFA. If you did not register by June 22, 2021, you no longer have access to Office365 while off the network or VDI while on or off the network and must register before you can gain access.**

Registration for MFA is a one-time event and must be completed while on the Judiciary network. To assist you with the set-up process, JIS has partnered with the Judicial College, Technology Education, to create a Quick Reference Guide (QRG) that can be found on CourtNet using this link: <https://courtnet.courts.state.md.us/technologyeducation/pdf/mfaqrg.pdf>. Please note to access this link, you must be connected to the Judiciary network. For courts with a JIS regional support technician, you can work directly with your technician if you need assistance with registration. Please contact the JIS help desk at 410-260-1114.

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## UNICORN TO RETIRE

On August 31, 2021, Ann Kaiser will retire after 32 years of service as the administrative assistant/paralegal for five (count them!) Maryland appellate judges. She may be the only judicial employee able to lay claim to that title. Ann started with Judge Robert Fischer of the Circuit Court for Howard County and later on the Court of Special Appeals (in Ellicott City, 1989-97). Upon his retirement, she moved on, in order, to: Judge James Kenney of the Court of Special Appeals (in Leonardtown, 1997-2007); Judge Glenn Harrell of the Court of Appeals (in Upper Marlboro, 2007-15); Judge Deborah Eyler of the Court of Special Appeals (in Annapolis, 2015-18), and finally Judge Kathryn Grill Graeff of the Court of Special Appeals (in Annapolis, 2018-21). Commuting from her home in Chaptico in St. Mary's County, Ann may have set another record for mileage traveled to her places of work.

Ann is held in high esteem by all who have had the pleasure to work with her. She leaves behind a huge cadre of grateful former law clerks that she raised. She will be missed.

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## PURSUIT OF JUSTICE BLOG

The Senior Judges have continued to assist the Court of Special Appeals ADR Division in mediation during the pandemic in 2020 and on. One of our own, the Honorable Steven I. Platt, has written an article on this topic as posted to his Pursuit of Justice blog, titled, "[The Intersection of Advocacy and Financial Forensics: The Role of the Expert in 21st Century Dispute Resolution – A Recovering Judge's Perspective.](#)"

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## JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

The Judicial Conference, now a distant memory in our minds, was an experience for us all. The 2021 conference was held virtually in April. Every year, each of the Judicial Council Committees put together a video showcasing its work, and most years, the videos follow a theme. Although this year's videos did not have a theme, they were still entertaining. Please click on the video to the right to view the Senior Judges Committee's video starring the talented Honorable Thurman H. Rhodes.



### NEW JUDICIAL ETHICS ONLINE COURSE

The preponderance of courts across our country require a mandatory judicial ethics course for their jurists as an essential continuing education requirement. In August 2019, the Judicial Council approved a request by the Education Committee to make a judicial ethics course mandatory for all sitting judges and magistrates.

The existing mandatory eight-module judicial ethics course for all new judges and magistrates has been retooled. Each of the eight modules will be released quarterly, taking two years to complete the program. **All judges, including Senior Judges, and magistrates currently sitting on the bench should expect to complete the program.**

The expectation is that new judges and magistrates who have taken the course as part of their mandatory coursework at the time of appointment or hire will complete the quarterly modules along with their peers. The purpose is for judges and magistrates to participate in bench and other informal discussions regarding completed modules as they roll out.

It is the hope of the Education Committee that the judicial ethics modules are an agenda item at bench meetings the month following their release. For example, we anticipate the first quarterly module will be released this coming July. The hope is that a bench meeting in August or September includes a judicial ethics module discussion.

A detailed schedule of all modules will be provided when the program launches in July.

### UPCOMING ADVANCED PAYROLLS FOR SENIOR JUDGES

**08/18/21–08/31/21.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

**10/27/21–11/09/21.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

**11/10/21–11/23/21.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

**12/08/21–12/21/21.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m. This will be the last pay period paid in 2021. The 2022 Earnings Limitation will begin on December 22, 2021.

**02/22/22 – 02/15/22.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

**05/11/22 – 05/24/22.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

### IN MEMORIAM

Hon. Paul A. McGuckian

Hon. Allen L. Schwait

### The Judicial Council's Senior Judges Committee

Hon. James A. Kenney III, Chair  
 Hon. Jean Baron, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Lynne A. Battaglia, Senior Judge  
 Carole Burkhart, District Court Headquarters  
 Hon. Deborah Sweet Eyler, Vice Chair, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Barbara Kerr Howe, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Steven I. Platt, Senior Judge

Hon. Irma S. Raker, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Gale E. Rasin, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Thurman H. Rhodes, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Nancy B. Shuger, Senior Judge

Eliana Pangelinan, Staff

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[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid**

1-800-633-4227

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)**Maryland Supplement Retirement Plan (MSRP)**

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