

Hot Topics Newsletter

GENERAL NOTICES

- The Senior Judges Committee through the Human Resources department is compiling personal email addresses of retired and recalled judges. If you have not already done so, please send your personal email address to Debra Kaminski at debra.kaminski@mdcourts.gov. Please also share the request with those retired judges you are in contact with.
- For State Retirement updates, visit: <https://sra.maryland.gov/members> and for the newsletter: https://sra.maryland.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/retireenews_feb2023_-_final_for_web.pdf?1677782761.
- 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.



UNITED NATIONS APPOINTMENT

In June, the Honorable Sean D. Wallace was sworn in as a United Nations judge assigned to Nairobi, Kenya. This opportunity ended his over two-month Senior Judge status after over 21 years of service as an associate judge in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. In a sit-down (through email) interview with the Senior Judges Committee, he stated the following:

SJC: What are your new duties?

SDW: The United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) was established by the UN General

Assembly as the trial forum for the resolution of employment disputes arising in the UN and related organizations. There are about 120,000 employees within the UNDT jurisdiction world-wide, and cases involve failure to hire or promote and discipline including wrongful discharge. The tribunal sits in three locations: New York City; Geneva, Switzerland; and Nairobi, Kenya. There is one full-time judge assigned to each location and six part-time judges who fill in at various locations for 1-2 weeks at a time. As the full-time judge in Nairobi, I am primarily responsible for all employee disputes assigned to that venue.

SJC: What attracted you to seek the position?

SDW: As my retirement eligibility approached, I began thinking about what I would do when I retired from the circuit court. I read a book by Harvard Professor and Atlantic magazine columnist Arthur Brooks, *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life*, that I recommend to every Senior (or soon to be Senior) Judge. According to Brooks, research shows that successful people often become unhappy when their career

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success tapers or ends. The secret is to use the wisdom and skills you have gained in some new venture (“your second curve of life”). And I thought about how I could do that.

For most of my legal and Judicial career I’ve been active in legal/judicial education, lecturing to lawyers, law enforcement officers, and judges both locally and across the US. I have also been involved with international Rule of Law work for several years, training and consulting with foreign lawyers and judges on various topics. This seemed like fertile ground for my Second Curve, so I started looking into job possibilities.

I interviewed to be a law school dean, applied for some international consultancies, and when this vacancy came up, I threw my resume in just to see what happened. It was a lengthy selection process including a written assessment, an interview in The Hague, and a secret ballot vote in the UN General Assembly. I learned I had been chosen while waiting for my annual physical checkup. Moments later the nurse came to take my blood pressure and I told her “that’s going to be a little high”. She sympathetically asked, “rough day at work?” and I responded “No, not exactly...”

SJC: Why Nairobi?

SDW: Simple answer—that’s where the vacancy was. But I had been to Nairobi twice before COVID to train Kenyan judges. It is a large modern city surrounded by beautiful country with elephants, lions, rhinos, giraffes, etc. And the Kenyan people are wonderful—kind, friendly and happy.

SJC: What, if anything, do you believe your experience as a judge in the circuit court will help you in this new position?

SDW: UN employment law is very similar to the law which I applied to employment cases I saw in the circuit court (and taught at the Maryland Judicial College). And the rules of procedure are also quite similar. In March, I visited the judge I will be replacing (a brilliant Polish jurist who served on the Cambodia War Crimes Tribunal before her UNDT term) and watched a part of a trial. Other than the flag on the wall and the presence of interpreter booths in the back of the courtroom, that trial was very much like a bench trial in Upper Marlboro. So it should be a seamless transition.

Judge Wallace, the Senior Judges Committee congratulates you on your work for Maryland Judiciary and wishes you the best in this second curve of life.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS SUMMARIES

Effective: April 7, 2023

Administrative Order- Compensation of Senior Judges

General Overview

A. Temporary Court Assignments – All senior judges shall be compensated for courtroom or non-courtroom time for temporary court assignments.

1. Assignments lasting four or fewer hours shall be compensated by a half-day per diem; more than four hours shall be compensated by a full day per diem.
2. Senior Judges shall be compensated by a full day per diem for a day they worked four or fewer hours if:

- a. If the senior judge was scheduled to preside over a trial that was scheduled to begin that day and last at least one day,
 - b. The case settled that day or the day before,
 - c. After the case settled, the senior judge sought additional work from the administrative judge, and
 - d. The senior judge confirmed with the administrative judge that no other work was available for the senior judge.
3. By accepting a temporary assignment, the senior judge agrees to take whatever case or matters assigned except in cases of a conflict of interest or other similar circumstances.
 4. Senior judges sitting in multi-judge adjudications may leave only after being excused by the administrative judge or their designee.

5. Senior judges in a single judge jurisdiction must remain on duty in the courthouse to handle business until the close of business.

B. Committee, Subcommittee, and Workgroup Compensation

1. All senior judges serving on committees, subcommittees, or work groups of the Judiciary shall be compensated for participating in the meetings based on the half-day or full-day per diem structure.
2. All senior judges shall also be compensated for time spent attending meetings that are not formal meetings but that relate to the Committee's business IF expressly requested to attend by the chair of the relevant committee, subcommittee, or workgroup.
3. Executive members of the Committee (Chair, Vice Chair of the Committee's subcommittees and workgroups shall be compensated for additional time spent preparing for meetings not to exceed one-half day per diem for a meeting that is 4 hours or less, or one full-day per diem for a meeting that is more than 4 hours.
4. Non-executive members of committees, subcommittees, and work groups shall not be compensated for time spent preparing for meetings.

C. Judicial Education and Conferences

1. Participating in Judicial Education- Senior judges shall be compensated for participating in required in-person and online courses consistent with the number of credit hours earned up to a total of seven days per calendar year including both mandatory in-person and online courses and statewide or local judicial conferences sponsored by the Maryland Judiciary.
2. Attendance at the annual Judicial Conference- Subject to the total of 7 days of compensation for judicial education, Senior Judges shall be compensated for attendance at the Judicial Conference for up to one day provided they did not decline a request for a temporary court assignment.
3. Teaching or presenting time- Senior judges teaching at the Judicial College or other required educational course such as

Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Options (CANDO) or New Trial Judge Orientation (NJTO), or presenting at the Judicial Conference or at a local or circuit judicial conference, shall be compensated for a half-day or full-day per diem based upon the course length up to one full day for a course that exceeds four hours of teaching time.

4. Preparing to teach-

Senior judges who teach shall also be compensated for preparation to teach the course in accordance with the teaching time, i.e. a half-day per diem for less than four hours and a full day for courses exceeding four hours.

D. Miscellaneous

1. Senior judges shall follow the Judicial Branch Travel Policy. Travel time is NOT counted towards per diem.
2. Senior judge time as a mentor shall not be compensated.
3. Receipt of fees for private services shall prohibit the receipt of a per diem for a court assignment, Judicial education courses, conferences, or serving on committees, subcommittees, or workgroups during the same period on the same day.

Effective: January 30, 2023

Amended Administrative Order on Continuing Education and Outreach and Leadership of Judges and Magistrates General Overview

A. Education Programs

1. Family Law University is a requirement for judges and magistrates assigned to hear family law cases. Attendance at the next available Family Law University is required. Those who continue to hear family law cases must attend the Family Law University for a second time within three years after their first attendance and every three to five years.
2. Judges who continue to hear criminal cases must attend the Criminal Law University on a schedule as recommended by the Judicial Education Subcommittee.
3. Beginning in 2024, three hours of diversity and inclusion education will be added to the

12-hour education requirement, increasing the annual hours to 15. The course will include in-person and instructor-led-distance-learning (“ILD”) courses and live judicial education webinars. At least six hours of the required 15 hours must be completed by attending in-person courses.

4. Attendance at educational programs offered by non-Maryland Judiciary entities must be pre-approved in writing by the Education Committee Chair. The request submission must be supported by written course documentation.
5. Judges presiding over Problem-Solving and other specialty courts, or Ad Hoc and other specialty programs may be required to complete courses specific to the docket. Also, judges appointed to hear juvenile cases must attend the next Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Options (“CANDO”) Conference. Those judges and magistrates who continue to hear juvenile cases must attend CANDO once every three years.

B. Faculty

1. All course faculty will be one or more instructors who are active and retired Maryland judges with appropriate knowledge and expertise. The Judicial College will offer in-state travel expenses or an honorarium to faculty.

C. Administrative Leave

1. Judges and magistrates may receive administrative leave for mandatory attendance at courses or programs, participation as faculty, out-of-state educational opportunities, and outreach or leadership activities. Prior approval may be required from the applicable administrative judge.
2. In addition to the administrative leave as stated above, judges and magistrates may receive an additional eight days of administrative leave.

For additional or in-depth information, please consult the Administrative Order.

JIS CORNER: STAY IN THE KNOW

Typosquatting



What is Typosquatting?

Typosquatting is when an entity purposefully owns a closely named website that is similar to a trusted website but contains a typo in the url address.

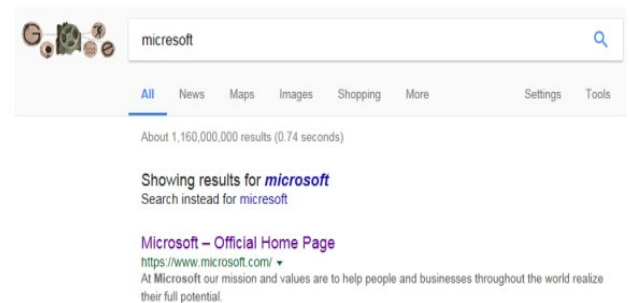
Typosquatting is common with popular websites and is often used to redirect you to the fake site for monetary gain, to provide false news/information or to obtain personal information about you.

As an example: Microsoft.com is a legitimate website address for Microsoft. Micsrosoft.com is a site address that will redirect you a few times through adware sites.

Malicious actors are also buying popular U.S. websites using the '.cm' domain extension instead of the standard '.com' domain extension. The malicious actors are hoping you will mistype the domain extension and then riddle your machine with malware and pop-ups designed to harm your system and steal information.

Tips to protect against typosquatting:

1. Pay close attention to the spelling of the website URL address you are entering.
2. Never click on links in unexpected email or on unknown sites, to include banner ads.
3. Bookmark your favorites.
4. If you are unsure of the address, use a search tool and look for the official home page of the site.



ADR ALLY AWARD: HON. NATHAN BRAVERMAN

By Shannon M. Baker, District Court ADR Office Deputy Director

For his generous contributions to the ADR field in Maryland and to the District Court's ADR Programs, the Honorable Nathan Braverman was presented the ADR Ally Award at the District Court of Maryland ADR Office's Annual ADR Programs Recognition and Volunteer Appreciation event on July 11, 2023 in Annapolis.

The Honorable Nathan Braverman served as an Associate Judge in the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore from July 2000 until his retirement in August 2016. During his time in Baltimore City, the ADR Office benefitted from his referrals to the Day of Trial ADR Program.

Although no longer a sitting judge in Baltimore City, Judge Braverman continues to be one of the ADR Office's staunchest ADR advocates and supporters in his role as a senior judge.

Sitting all over Maryland, Judge Braverman makes time to meet with the Programs Manager or practitioner on a Day of Trial date. If Judge Braverman is the senior judge filling in for a one-judge county on the shore, the ADR Office always leaves the volunteer scheduled, because they are confident he will send a case if he has one.

Judge Braverman is one of the longest-tenured ADR Committee members, having served as a member of the Judicial Council's ADR Committee since 2015, and is in his fifth consecutive term of service through December 2024.

Due to his understanding of ADR, Judge Braverman was appointed to the Standards of Conduct Work Group in 2017, where he and his fellow Work Group members spent a year and a half drafting and revising new Standards of Conduct for Mediators.

There were 11 meetings throughout 2017, with work in between. There were intense debates about wording and tedious wordsmithing. Throughout the entire process, Judge Braverman didn't just show up; his participation at every meeting was genuine and sincere.

When the Work Group sunset, Judge Braverman signed up for (and continues to serve) the ADR in the Maryland Rules Subcommittee, where he assists in crafting revisions to Title 17, the court rule governing ADR programs in all levels of the Maryland Courts.

The ADR Office is grateful to Judge Braverman for his continued leadership and advocacy for ADR while sitting in the districts, and through his participation in the ADR Committee, Subcommittee, and Work Group.



RECENTLY DECEASED JUDGE'S BENEFICIARY SUPPORT ASSISTANCE: REPORTING A RETIRED JUDGE'S DEATH

On July 19, 2023, the Recently Deceased Judge's Beneficiary Support Assistance: Reporting a Retired Judge's Death was emailed to Senior Judges. This document is a result of inquiries received by members of the Committee and the nonexistence of a similar document.

For additional information, please see the PDF document posted on the Senior Judges page, [Judge's Beneficiary Support Assistance \(mdcourts.gov\)](https://www.mdcourts.gov).

A PURSUIT OF JUSTICE BLOG

Summer is ending, but that does not mean the weather will be cooler any time soon. Mother Nature can still throw a curve ball at us, that curve ball being a heatwave. But none the less, the end of summer means time to get back to our regular schedules, taking on the roles we have taken temporary breaks from in the form of vacations.

The Honorable Steven I. Platt wrote an article on his *A Pursuit of Justice* blog, titled, “[The Role of the Judge in Our Society](#).” Check it out!

Judge Platt also wrote a memoir titled, “My Life On and Off the Bench – Lessons Lived and Learned.” It is published and released by Ramses House Publishing, LLC. For additional information, visit judgestevenplatt.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Hon. Norman E. Johnson, Jr.
District Court in Baltimore City

Hon. Theresa A. Nolan
Circuit Court for Prince George’s County

Hon. Calvin R. Sanders
Circuit Court for Montgomery County

UPCOMING ADVANCED PAYROLLS FOR SENIOR JUDGES

10/25/23 – 11/07/23 Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, November 6th.

11/08/23 – 11/21/23 Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Friday, November 17th.

***12/06/23 – 12/19/23** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, December 18th.

01/31/24 – 02/13/24 Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, February 12th.

05/08/24 – 05/21/24 Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, May 20th.

Managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

*Senior Judges - This will be the last pay period paid in 2023. The 2024 Earnings Limitation will begin on December 20, 2023.

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL’S SENIOR JUDGES COMMITTEE

- Hon. James A. Kenney III, Chair, Senior Judge
- Hon. Deborah Sweet Eyler, Vice Chair, Senior Judge
- Hon. Jean Baron, Senior Judge
- Hon. Lynne A. Battaglia, Senior Judge
- Hon. Paul M. Bowman, Senior Judge
- Hon. Lawrence R. Daniels, Senior Judge
- Hon. Steven I. Platt, Senior Judge
- Amanda Purnell, Court Administrator, Circuit Court for Talbot County
- Hon. Irma S. Raker, Senior Judge
- Sharon Reed, District Court Headquarters
- Hon. Marcus Z. Shar, Senior Judge
- Hon. Nancy B. Shuger, Senior Judge
- Hon. Norman R. Stone III, Senior Judge
- Hon. Dennis M. Sweeney, Senior Judge
- Eliana Pangelinan, Staff

RETIREMENT SERVICES CONTACT LIST

Maryland State Retirement and Pension System

1-800-492-5909

Shane Brown

sbrown@sra.state.md.us

410-625-5664

Social Security Administration (SSA)

1-800-772-1213

www.socialsecurity.gov

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

1-800-633-4227

www.medicare.gov

Maryland Supplement Retirement Plan (MSRP)

1-800-545-4730

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