

Hot Topics Newsletter

GENERAL NOTICES

- All overnight lodging requests should be arranged through the AOC Travel Coordinator, Allison Leebrick, at allison.leebrick@mdcourt.gov, unless otherwise approved by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland, the State Court Administrator (SCA), or their designee.
- For State Retirement updates, visit: <https://sra.maryland.gov/members> and for the newsletter: https://sra.maryland.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/retireenewsfeb2023_-_final_for_web.pdf?1677782761.
- For the latest news, updates, payroll info, Hot Topics newsletters 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.

2025 JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

The 2025 Judicial Conference launched with great energy on April 23, the first day ending with the Senior Judges Meeting and Reception in the Choptank Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay. Judge James A. Kenney III opened the meeting with a warm welcome and words of appreciation for all Senior Judges.



Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader, Chief Judge E. Gregory Wells, Chief Judge John P. Morrissey, and Judge Fred S. Hecker, Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, addressed the attendees, and emphasized the contributions of Senior Judges to court operations at every level. Judge Irma S. Raker presented the 2025 Senior Judge Award to former Chief Judge Joseph Getty, who delivered a heartfelt acceptance speech. One of the most anticipated segments of the meeting was the discussion on upcoming prescription drug policy changes, led by Judge Lynne A. Battaglia, Judge Deborah S. Eyler, and Judge Robert J. Steinberg.

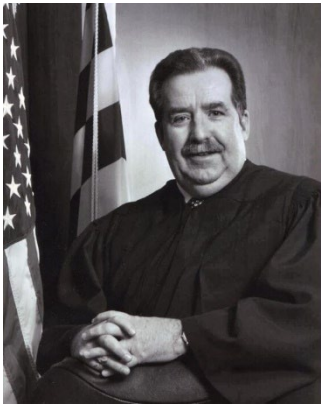
The meeting handouts and recording of the Senior Judges Meeting and Reception are available in the Digital Library, <https://mdcourts.instructure.com/courses/10/pages/2025-judicial-conference>. Please save the date for the 2026 Judicial Conference, which will be held April 29 to May 1, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay.

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**IN MEMORIAM –
HON. JOHN P. DAVEY**

The Maryland Judiciary and Prince George's County lost a legal icon on 10 February 2025 when Judge John P. Davey succumbed, after a brief illness, to brain cancer. Anyone who was aware of the legal or business community either knew or knew of Judge Davey. This was true even before he was appointed to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. He did not become an attorney until he was 35 years old. Although he may have gotten a later start than most attorneys, he had a big impact. For almost 20 years, he was the Managing Partner of O'Malley, Miles, Nylen & Gilmore, P.A., one of the largest and more well-known firms in Prince George's County. He was an experienced and accomplished practitioner and astute businessman. He was also a fierce business advocate, appearing often on behalf of business owners, builders, and developers before administrative agencies at the State, County, and Municipal levels throughout Maryland.

He served also as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Prince George's County Government. He was one of a very few attorneys in Maryland to be accredited by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program as a LEED Accredited Professional and has the distinction of being the first LEED accredited attorney with offices in Prince George's County. He utilized his knowledge of green development and construction practices to advocate for his clients during contract negotiation and in the land development process.

He served a twelve-year tenure on the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); was a Member of the Board of Directors of the region's leading business organization, the Greater Washington Board of Trade; and, served as a Director of the Med-Chi Insurance Agency, Rosecroft Raceway, and Old Line Bank. He was also a member of the Economic Club

of Washington and was on the Executive Committee of the Federal City Council.

He served with distinction until his mandatory retirement in 2022 on the circuit court. He was the Civil Coordinating Judge, a position he held for four years, coming in contact daily with the civil litigators appearing before the Court. He served also on the Maryland Standing Committee on Rules of Practices and Procedure.

Judge Davey was not only an impartial arbiter of the facts and law at the trial level, he was also a compassionate jurist who believed in justice and in making certain everyone was heard and had their day in court. He will be missed truly.

**JUDGE WILLIAM B.
SPELLBRING, JR. PASSES**



Judge Spellbring, late of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, died on 13 May 2025. Born in Southeast D.C. on 5 November 1942, Bill attended Gonzaga High School, where he excelled at extra-curricular activities (to the dismay of the Jesuit priests who tried to teach him something useful). Following his graduation from Gonzaga (which many considered a gift), he attended Georgetown University for a year before being run out of town to the University of Scranton, from which he graduated somehow. Moving on to Philadelphia, Judge Spellbring graduated from Villanova Law School, where he developed a special interest in ecclesiastical law. In the course of his "studies," he met and married Ann Marie (nee) Horan, who was a nursing student at the University of Pennsylvania. They set-up housekeeping in Prince George's County, Maryland.

The United States informed Bill that it was giving him a 2 year, all expenses paid trip to Vietnam, and it wouldn't take "No" for an answer. He became the scourge of the Viet Cong for the U.S. Army, much as he would become later to unprepared attorneys and ne'er-do-wells appearing before him in the circuit

court. After Vietnam, Bill returned to Prince George's County. After passing the Bar exam, he was hired by Arthur "Bud" Marshall into the Prince George's County States Attorney's office. Bill's success as a prosecutor caught the attention of Peter F. O'Malley, Esq., who ran a little law firm in Prince George's County, then named O'Malley, Miles, Farrington & McCarthy. Bill hired and trained many young lawyers who went on to become pretty great lawyers themselves (you know who you are). When Mr. O'Malley retired, Bill became reluctantly managing partner of the law firm. He decided later to throw his hat in the ring for a vacancy occurring on the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in 1992. He was sworn into that position on 29 December 1992, where he remained until he retired in 2007.

In retirement, Bill read some heavy historical and biographical books, played a lot of tennis with his doubles partner, Judge Harrell (they were known as "The Juniors"), traveled the world with Ann Marie, took gourmet cooking classes, and continued to learn about, acquire, and consume some pretty amazing wines. When his daughter, Erin, gave him two granddaughters, he realized the role he always longed to play: Grandpa. Bill was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2011. Parkinson's made it increasingly more and more difficult for Bill to get around. He died suddenly from massive internal bleeding.

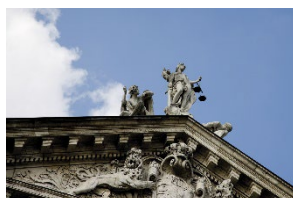
He is survived by his wife of nearly 57 years, Ann Marie, his son Brian, daughter Erin Schiesel, son-in-law Robert Schiesel, and granddaughters, Evelyn and Alexa Schiesel.

He was one of the best of us.

A PURSUIT OF JUSTICE BLOG

BY: HON. STEVEN I. PLATT

Check out the latest article on [A Pursuit of Justice](#) titled, *The Intersection of Advocacy and Financial Forensics: The Role of the Expert in 21st Century Dispute Resolution*.



2025 SENIOR JUDGE TECHNOLOGY DAY

Please join us for another informative Senior Judge Technology Day on October 16, 2025, at the MJC. There will be time for online course completion and one-on-one assistance for any technology needs. Attendance will satisfy three hours of your annual continuing education requirement. Registration will open in September 2025.

Also, please mark your calendar for the 2026 Judicial Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Maryland, from April 29 to May 1, 2026. Attendance will satisfy two hours of continuing education or diversity and inclusion annual educational requirement for those in attendance. Registration will open in February 2026.

JIS CORNER: STAY IN THE KNOW CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS: CYBERATTACKS AND OTHER MALICIOUS ACTIVITY



Judicial Information Systems (JIS) would like to remind all staff to remain especially vigilant for suspicious emails, behavior, or activity. Historically, these circumstances have increased the threat landscape, making government entities like ours more attractive targets for cyberattacks and other malicious activity.

Watch Out For:

- **Phishing Emails or Messages** - These may mimic trusted sources and attempt to lure you into clicking malicious links, downloading harmful attachments or prompt you for your credentials.
- **Spear Phishing or Social Engineering** - Personalized attacks aimed at gaining access to sensitive systems or data.
- **Malicious Websites or Fake Logins** - Links that appear legitimate but are intended to steal credentials.

- **Disinformation and Misinformation Campaigns** - Especially around politically sensitive topics, be cautious with what you read and share.

What You Should Do:

- **Protect your Network Account Credentials** - Be skeptical of any request that prompt for your network account credentials, you should not be prompted to enter your credentials to access shared documents.
- **Think Before You Click** - Be cautious with emails or messages that are unexpected, urgent, or come from unfamiliar senders.
- **Verify Sources** - Don't open attachments or links from unknown senders without confirming their legitimacy.
- **Report Suspicious Messages Immediately** - If you are unsure of any email, you can report it using the "Report Suspicious Email" button in Outlook.
- **Stay Informed** - Be cautious about the sources of news and updates you follow regarding geopolitical events.

The security of our environment is a shared responsibility. While our technical defenses remain strong and proactive, your awareness and vigilance are essential.

If you are unsure about an email, text, call, or any other cyber-related matter, please contact the JIS Information Security Operations Center at 410-260-2500 or by email at jissoc@mdcourts.gov.

For additional tips and to learn about current threats, please visit the [Information Security](#) page on CourtNet.

IN MEMORIAM

❖ Hon. William J. Rowan, III
Circuit Court for Montgomery County

❖ Hon. George L. Russell, Jr.
Supreme Bench of Baltimore City

❖ Hon. James B. Sarsfield
District Court in Montgomery County

❖ Hon. William B. Spellbring, Jr.
Circuit Court for Prince George's County

❖ Hon. Cypert O. Whitfill
Circuit Court for Harford County

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 S. Baron, Senior Judge
Hon. Lynne A. Battaglia, Senior Judge
Hon. Lawrence R. Daniels, Senior Judge
Missy Gallagher, Court Administrator, Circuit Court for Dorchester County
Hon. Glenn T. Harrell, Jr. Senior Judge
Hon. Michele D. Hotten, Senior Judge
Hon. Steven I. Platt, Senior Judge
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
Hon. Barbara B. Waxman, Senior Judge

Eliana Pangelinan, Staff

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Shane Brown
sbrown@sra.state.md.us
410-625-5664

Social Security Administration (SSA)

www.socialsecurity.gov
1-800-772-1213

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

www.medicare.gov
1-800-633-4227

Maryland Supplement Retirement Plan (MSRP) – 1-800-545-4730

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