



MARYLAND JUDICIARY
YEAR IN REVIEW

2022

MARYLAND COURTS OF TODAY

Connecting and Reconnecting



MARYLAND



JUDICIARY

A MESSAGE FROM

CHIEF JUSTICE MATTHEW J. FADER

I am pleased to present the Maryland Judiciary's annual report for 2022. The title and focus of the report, *Maryland Courts of Today: Connecting and Reconnecting*, showcases the work of the more than 4,000 Judiciary employees statewide, including judges, magistrates, clerks, executive leadership, case managers, administrative support staff, and many other court professionals at all levels of the Judiciary who carry out our mission every day to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all. In this post-pandemic era, new connections or reconnections are being made to provide the best possible service to the residents and visitors of the Maryland state courts.

In 2022, the Judiciary implemented a variety of critical initiatives under the auspices of the Judicial Council, a diverse advisory body with representation from throughout the Judiciary that provides collective direction on Judiciary policies. A sampling of the key projects highlighted for 2022 includes:

- the Judicial Council Equal Justice Committee, Rules Review Subcommittee's comprehensive review of the Maryland Rules for any real or perceived biases;
- the Guardianship and Vulnerable Adults Work Group of the Judicial Council's Domestic Law Committee's efforts to enhance court monitoring of people and assets under guardianship;
- the Judicial Council's Domestic Law Committee, LGBTQ+ Family Law Work Group's efforts to create a new Maryland Rule governing declarations of gender identity, streamlining the name change process; and
- a new public outreach strategy connecting judges to schools and community groups to educate children and adults and foster public trust and confidence through the activities planned by Judicial Council's Education Committee, Public Education and Community Outreach Work Group.



MATTHEW J. FADER

Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Maryland

As we emerge from the global pandemic, we continue to look for ways to innovate and modernize Maryland's courts by connecting people, resources, data, and technology. This united effort ensures that the Maryland Judiciary remains committed to providing equal justice for all and continues to set the bar for excellence in service for state court systems.

MISSION

The Maryland Judiciary provides fair, efficient, and effective justice for all.

VISION

The Maryland Judiciary advances justice for all who come to Maryland's courts. We are an efficient, innovative, and accessible court system that works collaboratively with justice partners to serve the people with integrity and transparency.

GOALS

1. Provide access to justice.
2. Be responsive and adaptable to changing community needs.
3. Communicate effectively with stakeholders.
4. Improve systems and processes.
5. Be accountable.
6. Assure the highest level of service.
7. Build partnerships.
8. Use resources wisely.

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MARYLAND COURTS OF TODAY

Q&A WITH

CHIEF JUSTICE MATTHEW J. FADER



The Maryland Judiciary continues to evolve in the fields of access, technology, and inclusion. Maryland citizens have more access to the justice system than ever before with new court help centers and family law centers providing high-quality, free legal assistance. Court technology continues to improve with enhancements for virtual hearings, live broadcasting and court recordings, and remote access and cloud services, among many others. Diversity and inclusion are reflected broadly throughout the court system, exemplified by the Supreme Court of Maryland, which the Brennan Institute for Justice recognized as one of the most diverse state supreme courts in the country.

The Judiciary remains steadfast in its longstanding mission of providing fair, efficient, and effective justice for all. Below is a Q&A with the Supreme Court of Maryland Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader on the progress of the Maryland Judiciary and the vision of what is ahead.

Question:

The theme for this report is, “Maryland Courts of Today: Connecting and Reconnecting.” That seems to be the theme for the Judiciary over the last year and the immediate future. Please explain what that means for the Maryland Judiciary.

Chief Justice Fader:

In 2020 and into 2022, the Judiciary pivoted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and found new ways to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice to Maryland citizens. We utilized various forms of technology to remain operational, which naturally resulted in some disconnection of

interpersonal relationships, including with those we serve and within the workplace.

With that in mind, the theme “Maryland Courts of Today: Connecting and Reconnecting,” is meant to invoke reconnecting as a Judiciary post-COVID, connecting with new members and staff, reconnecting with lawyers and litigants as we complete the transition back into the courtrooms, reconnecting with the community, and connecting through technology as we move forward with new approaches in accomplishing our mission.

Through outreach and leadership, our judges and magistrates continue to promote understanding of the role of the Judiciary in our communities. Many of our judges are actively involved in their localities promoting public trust,

the further development of the law, and collaboration with other agencies and entities. Community outreach and public education opportunities are great ways to connect with court users as well as justice partners. The Judiciary encourages and supports those efforts so that we can further our endeavors to improve public perception and community trust.

Question:

The Maryland Judiciary continues to excel in access to justice, particularly for self-represented litigants. What advancements and successes has the Maryland Judiciary experienced over the last few years in providing access to justice?

Chief Justice Fader:

The Maryland Judiciary continues to be a model of success when it comes to providing access to justice, access to the courts, and overall services for those seeking assistance. In 2022, we were able to open new court help centers in both western and southern Maryland. In 2022, Maryland's court help centers and family law centers combined to provide over 187,000 instances of service to litigants by way of phone, online chat, and walk-in assistance. Providing high-quality, free legal support is an important component of ensuring equal access to justice for self-represented litigants. It is through efforts like these that Maryland has built a reputation as a leader in providing access to justice.

Maryland's efforts have also been recognized nationally. The Maryland Judiciary is ranked first among state courts on the National Justice Index, which is a snapshot of the degree to which each state has adopted best policies in the areas of attorney access, self-help access, language access, and disability access. Maryland's Access to Justice department recently received two national awards: the American Bar Association's Hodson Award, which recognizes outstanding service or a specific accomplishment by a government or public sector law office, and the National Association for Court Management Enhancing Justice Award for managing the successful transition for using integrated interpreter management software in all courts.

Our courts also continue to assist court visitors and employees seeking accommodations. The Judiciary provides informational resources, form documents, and personnel designated to assist with accommodation requests. This assistance begins well before visitors arrive

to our courts. Through online videos, web-based written content, and on-site and online personnel who help litigants navigate the court system, we strive to connect with the public to ensure they are provided appropriate access. Maryland Judiciary committees, departments, courts, and individuals continue to conduct impressive work, recognizing where improvement is needed and acting on those needs for positive change.

Question:

Technology is key to modernizing the court system for Maryland. What does the future of the Judiciary look like as it pertains to court-implemented technology and new initiatives for improved court operations?

Chief Justice Fader:

We learned a great deal about how to provide virtual and online services throughout the pandemic, much of which we continue to this day to varying degrees. In March of 2022, the Judicial Council unanimously accepted the recommendations of the Joint Subcommittee on Post-COVID Judicial Operations. The recommendations are intended to improve the Judiciary's operations for the benefit of the people we serve, our personnel, and the future of the Maryland Judiciary. While the Judiciary continues to implement advancements in court technology, we remain conscious of due process implications and the importance of both transparency and respect for the legitimate privacy expectations of those who participate in the judicial process.

The joint subcommittee's report and recommendations pertain not only to technology, but also to court operations, security and safety, alternative work arrangements, judicial education, and even non-judicial functions. The report can be found on [mdcourts.gov](https://mdcourts.gov/PostCovidReport) at mdcourts.gov/PostCovidReport.

I am excited for what the future holds for the Maryland Judiciary. In 2024, trial courts in Baltimore City will go online with Maryland Electronic Courts, better known as MDEC, thus completing the Judiciary's decade-long transition to electronic filing and a single case management system. The Judiciary will continue to look ahead and embrace new ideas and positive change, while honoring our history and carrying forward what those who came before us have worked so hard to build.

MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL | 2022

The Maryland Judicial Council serves as the central governance body of the Judiciary. The Council develops recommendations for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland and is the central hub for all policy changes, judicial reforms, legislative issues, and other developments, both internally and externally. The committees, which report to the Maryland Judicial Council, are an essential part of a coordinated interdisciplinary effort to fulfill the Judiciary’s mission. They are inclusive, recruiting talented professionals throughout the Judiciary to work together to accomplish key tasks that move the Judiciary forward to serve the people of Maryland.

Honorable Matthew J. Fader

Chair (April 2022 - Present)
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Maryland

Honorable Joseph M. Getty

Chair (September 2021 – April 2022)
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals

Honorable Keith A. Baynes

Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
Circuit Court for Cecil County

Honorable Pamila J. Brown

District Court in Howard County

Honorable Donine Carrington Martin

Circuit Court for Charles County

Honorable Audrey J.S. Carrión

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Honorable Karen Christy Holt Chesser

District Court in St. Mary’s County

Honorable Kathleen Duvall

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Circuit Court for Talbot County

Nancy Faulkner

Deputy State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts

Honorable Jeffrey S. Getty

Circuit Court for Allegany County

Markisha Gross

Administrative Clerk
District Court in Calvert County

Kristin Grossnickle

Vice-Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
Circuit Court for Washington County

Pamela Harris

State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts

Honorable Fred S. Hecker

Circuit Court for Carroll County

Honorable James A. Kenney, III

Chair, Senior Judges Committee

Honorable John McKenna

District Court in Anne Arundel County

Honorable John P. Morrissey

Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland

Honorable Bonnie G. Schneider

District Court in Cecil County

Honorable Kathy P. Smith

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Circuit Court for Calvert County

Lara Stone

Administrative Clerk
District Court in Harford County

Roberta Warnken

Chief Clerk, District Court of Maryland

Honorable E. Greg Wells

Chief Judge, Appellate Court of Maryland

Honorable Alan Wilner (Ret.)

Chair, Rules Committee

Burgess Wood

Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
Circuit Court for Calvert County



2022 COMMITTEES

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee

Honorable John S. Nugent, Chair

Promote the use of appropriate dispute resolution processes throughout the courts. Provide an avenue for courts to vet changes to ADR rules and standards of conduct.

Court Access Committee

Honorable Brett R. Wilson, Chair

Address barriers to access to the courts and legal services in Maryland. Strengthen public awareness of the Judiciary's programs, projects, services, and initiatives. Promote knowledge and understanding of the Judiciary.

Court Operations Committee

Honorable Glenn L. Klavans, Chair

Address matters related to the efficient operations of the courts. Assist in the development of consistent statewide operations, policies, and best practices.

Court Technology Committee

Honorable Fred S. Hecker, Chair

Ensure the technology operations of the Judiciary are efficient and effective. Provide advice and guidance regarding the implementation of technology and its impact on judicial operations and functions.

District Court Chief Judge's Committee

*Honorable John P. Morrissey, Chair
Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland*

Advise the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland on the operation of the District Court. Aid in the administration, operation, and maintenance of the District Court statewide.

Domestic Law Committee

Honorable Cathy H. Serrette, Chair

Provide guidance and direction regarding policies, rules, and legislation surrounding family domestic law, including domestic violence. Recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improves the effective administration of domestic law.

Education Committee

Honorable Laura S. Ripken, Chair

Guide, promote, and encourage the education, training, and professional development of all judges and Judiciary employees.

Equal Justice Committee

Honorable Judge E. Greg Wells, Chair

Ensure that judges and staff increase their knowledge and understanding of ethnic disparities, discrimination, and systemic racism, including implicit bias, micro inequities, and microaggressions.

Juvenile Law Committee

Honorable Michael J. Stamm, Chair

Provide guidance and recommendations regarding policies, rules, and legislation surrounding juvenile law, including juvenile justice and child welfare. Recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improve the effective administration of juvenile law.

Legislative Committee

Honorable Stacy A. Mayer, Chair

Protect and promote the Judiciary's interests regarding new laws and initiatives.

Major Projects Committee

*Honorable John P. Morrissey, Co-Chair
Pamela Harris, Co-Chair*

Address policy-related matters regarding the implementation and ongoing operation of new and existing technology projects, as well as the establishment of priorities for the implementation of those projects.

Senior Judges Committee

Honorable James A. Kenney, III (Ret.), Chair

Advise the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland and the Judicial Council on matters relevant to retired/recalled judges.

Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee

Honorable Kimberly M. Davis, Chair

Promote and oversee the development, implementation, and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets in the courts.

PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE:

Reviewing perceived bias in Maryland Rules



Photo from Getty Images

As society and the world continue to evolve and change, so too should the rules that govern it. In 2022, the Judicial Council's Committee on Equal Justice, through its subcommittees and work groups, continued to identify what must change and improve so that the Maryland Judiciary is able to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all in Maryland.

The Rules Review Subcommittee, which is one of the six original subcommittees of the Committee on Equal Justice, was charged with identifying and reviewing both local and Maryland Rules that may be fostering systemic bias. To gather this information, the 15 members of the subcommittee were divided into three work groups: the Survey Work Group, chaired by Justice Angela Eaves, Supreme Court of Maryland; the Public

Meeting Work Group, chaired by Judge Donine Carrington-Martin, Circuit Court for Charles County; and the Report Writing Work Group, chaired by Judge Daniel A. Friedman, Appellate Court of Maryland. The entire process, from start to finish, took over a year.

The Survey Work Group collaborated with the Administrative Office of the Courts, (AOC) Research and Analysis department to create an open-ended survey that asked respondents to identify any rules that reflect, perpetuate, or fail to correct systemic bias or that prevent Maryland courts from administering equal justice. Beginning on March 23, 2021, the survey was distributed to lawyers, advocacy groups, court personnel, and several justice stakeholders, including the Maryland Association for Justice, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Maryland Legal Aid, and others. It was also made available on the courts' public website. By the time the survey closed on October 7, 2021, the subcommittee received over 100 responses.

"The Survey Work Group members challenged themselves to ensure that the right questions were being asked to elicit critical feedback on any

real or perceived biases within the Maryland Rules,” said Justice Eaves. “The AOC’s research and analysis team was instrumental in crafting the survey and guiding the process to help achieve a successful outcome.”

While reviewing the survey responses, the Public Meeting Work Group scheduled 12 open listening sessions from June to July 2021 on the following topics:

- Landlord/Tenant
- Civil Procedure
- Domestic Violence/Protective Orders
- Admission to the Bar and Ethics
- Criminal Procedure
- Pattern Jury Instructions
- Divorce
- Guardianship
- Child Custody
- Evidence
- Probate/Estate law
- Juvenile Delinquency and Child in Need of Assistance (CINA)

“The purpose of the listening sessions was to listen to the community’s concerns on the subtle and often unintended ways that the Rules reflect or perpetuate unfair biases. These sessions also provided an opportunity for justice partners and community members to suggest ways the Rules could be improved to ensure fair treatment for everyone.”

– Hon. Donine M. Carrington-Martin,
Circuit Court for Charles County

The subcommittee created a list of approximately 200 Rules about which people had expressed the most concerns. With the assistance of students from the University of Maryland Francis Carey School of Law and the University of Baltimore School of Law, as well as law clerks, members of the subcommittee, and employees of the AOC, the subcommittee undertook the process of writing comprehensive memos for every one of the 200 Rules. The memos, which varied in length from 10 to 15 pages, included the Rule and its history, information on what other states are currently doing about the issue, and suggestions for what can be done moving forward.

Writers analyzed feedback on every rule mentioned and provided their analysis, then submitted them to the subcommittee for review. The Report Writing Work Group used this analysis to write the report, receiving critiques from members of the subcommittee on each section as it was written until it was completed in June of 2022. Judge Robert K. Taylor, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, turned the memos into a clear, coherent, and uniform report. Doing its due diligence, the subcommittee then met several times to vote on the recommendations to ensure they were supported by all.

“This is not a one-time event. The Rules are pathways to justice and require constant vigilance. If the Rules are not working, we need to fix them to uphold our solemn promise to the people of Maryland: equal justice under law.”

– Hon. Daniel A. Friedman,
Appellate Court of Maryland

Some of the more well-attended sessions were on the topics of child custody, juvenile delinquency and CINA, civil procedure, admission to the bar and ethics, and criminal procedure, during which participants called for changes not only to Maryland Rules, but to statutory law and business practices. The subcommittee also accepted written testimony before and after the listening sessions from those who could not attend or who wanted to provide a more thorough explanation.

“Although the information gathering process was a huge effort, it could not have been done without the collaboration of the subcommittee and work group members, and the law clerks,” said Judge Taylor. “The main goal was to include enough background information and context regarding the 200 questioned rules so the report is comprehensive and can be passed on to the Standing Committee on Rules

of Practice and Procedure (Rules Committee) for further review and recommendations. We wanted to make sure the stakeholders’ suggestions were fairly presented, even if the subcommittee did not endorse them.”

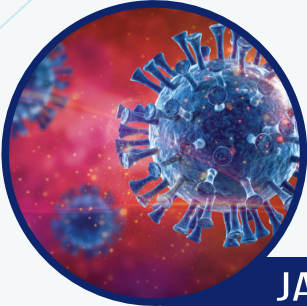
In spring 2023, the subcommittee will present the nearly 2,000-page report to the Judicial Council.* Judge Friedman cautioned that the recommendations

are not a panacea, but adjustments that the subcommittee hopes will help improve fairness. Following the presentation, Judge Friedman proposed a motion to send the report to the Rules Committee to make specific recommendations to the Supreme Court of Maryland.

**The council approved the report in spring 2023.*

2022

IN REVIEW



JANUARY

Then-Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty, Court of Appeals of Maryland, announces that the Maryland Judiciary will continue operating in Phase III through Sunday, March 6, 2022, due to the continued surge in Maryland of COVID-19 cases as a result of the Omicron variant.

MARCH

Maryland Judiciary adopts recommendations and releases report from Joint Subcommittee on Post COVID-19 Judicial Operations.



APRIL

Then-Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty presided over his final regular session of the September Term 2021 oral arguments as the incumbent judge from the third appellate judicial circuit.

MAY

A new court help center opens in Hagerstown providing service to western Maryland.

Jury trials in criminal and civil cases resume statewide.

MARCH

Maryland Judiciary returns to normal operations; exits five-phased COVID-19 resumption of operations plan.

MARCH

Then-Governor Larry Hogan appointed Matthew J. Fader as chief judge of the then-Court of Appeals of Maryland.

APRIL



CAPTIONS

1. Retired Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty (left) with Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader (right).
2. Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader, alongside his wife (left) and former Secretary of State John C. Wobensmith (right), is sworn in by then-Governor Larry Hogan.
3. Pictured: (left to right) President Jeffrey A. Cline, Washington County Board of County Commissioners, Chief Judge John P. Morrissey, District Court of Maryland, Administrative Judge Brett R. Wilson, Circuit Court for Washington County, former Maryland Legal Aid Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., Esq., Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader, Supreme Court of Maryland, State Court Administrator Pamela Harris celebrate the grand opening of the Circuit Court for Washington County Help Center on May 6, 2022.
4. Pictured (left to right): Supreme Court of Maryland Retired Chief Judges Joseph M. Getty, Robert M. Bell, Mary Ellen Barbera, and Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader.
5. Back row: Julee Snyder, self-help and legal resource coordinator; Chief Judge John P. Morrissey, District Court of Maryland; Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader, Supreme of Maryland; State Court Administrator Pamela Harris; Administrative Judge Christy Holt Chesser, District Court in Charles County; Charles County Board of Commissioners President Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq. Front row: Victoria Schultz, executive director, Maryland Legal Aid; Administrative Judge H. James West, Circuit Court for Charles County.
6. Judge Glenn L. Klavans, Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, presides over National Adoption Day 2022.



3.

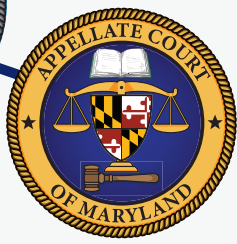


5.

OCTOBER
MDEC goes live in Prince George's County district and circuit courts.

NOVEMBER

The new LaPlata Court Help Center opens providing service to southern Maryland.



DECEMBER

Voter-approved constitutional change renames Maryland's high courts to the Supreme Court of Maryland and the Appellate Court of Maryland.

The District Court of Maryland celebrated 50 years of service with a tribute video featuring former and current chief judges and special appearances by Maryland's elected officials.

JULY



Retired Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera was memorialized with the unveiling of her judicial portrait.

SEPTEMBER



4.

Circuit courts around the state celebrated National Adoption Day.

NOVEMBER



6.

ENSURING RIGHTS:

Rethinking guardianship systems and practices

From choosing living arrangements and making medical decisions to managing finances, guardians are given significant authority over the individuals for whom they care. Most guardians are diligent and committed caretakers. Guardianships can go wrong, however, when guardians use their authority inappropriately or are overwhelmed. National media coverage of abusive guardianships has highlighted the need for effective court oversight and resources to ensure the safety of individuals who are under guardianship.

The Guardianship and Vulnerable Adults Work Group of the Judicial Council’s Domestic Law Committee, has led efforts to improve guardianship court processes statewide. Throughout 2022, the work group, focused on enhancing court monitoring of people and assets under guardianship. These efforts included targeted education for guardianship judges and court staff on how to more effectively manage these cases and strategies to identify cases that can be modified, terminated, or that need to be reviewed due to problems with the guardian’s care or how they manage a person’s property. Work group members, in partnership

with the Judiciary’s Juvenile and Family Services (JFS) office, also expanded a Guardianship Monitoring Program that was first launched in May 2021. The program gives circuit courts access to trained independent investigators who can look into problems that arise in guardianship cases or perform “status checks” to confirm that guardianships are being administered properly. The investigators include forensic accountants and social workers. In 2022, the program was expanded to include a private investigator.

More than 80 cases were referred to the program since it launched. The investigators have helped courts address the misuse of funds, uncovered cases in which guardians were acting inappropriately, and located missing people, which became more challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both guardians and people under guardianships lost their lives or experienced changes in their circumstances, which made it more difficult for people to access the courts. Courts have used the investigators to better understand the needs and wishes of people under guardianship.



“As the ultimate guardian, the court has an ongoing responsibility to monitor and protect the physical, emotional, and financial well-being of those under guardianship,” said Senior Judge Karen A. Murphy Jensen, Circuit Court for Caroline County. “The Guardianship Monitoring Program offers courts a resource to carry out this essential charge. The program’s investigators have helped courts locate missing persons, identify mismanaged assets, and obtain critical information about the care of people under guardianship. It is a key tool in ensuring these cases are effectively managed.”



Photo from Getty Images

“As the ultimate guardian, the court has an ongoing responsibility to monitor and protect the physical, emotional, and financial well-being of those under guardianship.”

– Hon. Karen A. Murphy Jensen,
Senior Judge

“The Guardianship Monitoring Program has allowed us to locate guardianship respondents whose whereabouts are unknown, and through proper and thorough investigation, provided an opportunity for the court to ensure appropriate guardianship supervision,” said Judge Mary M.

Kramer, Circuit Court for Howard County, and work group member. “This program is a successful tool in supporting and enhancing our commitment to public service.”

Maryland has emerged as a leader in identifying widespread challenges that require the need for statewide

reforms to ensure the guardianship system works on behalf of the individuals it is intended to protect.

Contact Juvenile and Family Services at 410-260-1580 for more information.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

Developing relationships through public outreach

On an early October morning, high school students filed into Courtroom One in the Anne Arundel County District Court in Annapolis. The students were there to learn firsthand about the legal system through a program called **Schools in the Court**. During the three-hour event, students witnessed actual criminal court proceedings, learned about the legal consequences of being charged with offenses such as possession of a controlled substance, and listened to heartfelt testimony from victims of impaired driving. The program is one of several outreach initiatives the Maryland Judiciary has created in collaboration with community partners in recent years.

“It is always a privilege to host students from the local high school in my courtroom,” said Administrative Judge Shaem C.P. Spencer, District Court in Anne Arundel County. “I hope we are meeting them before they make the mistake and creating an impact so that they know how to make the right decisions when the time comes. I look forward to supporting my colleagues as they look for opportunities to implement this in additional jurisdictions and I hope this innovative program can continue to serve as a model.”

Other court-based public educational programs, including but not limited to civics and law academies, the **Trial of Goldilocks program**, and school-organized courthouse tours have been ongoing throughout the state prior to the formation of a more comprehensive community outreach plan.

“Court community outreach programs strive to educate students and adults alike,” said Judge Laura S. Ripken, Appellate Court of Maryland. “When people have a greater understanding and knowledge about the justice system and the role of the courts within it, their confidence in and support for the courts is strengthened. Community education and engagement can inform and improve the public’s trust and confidence in the Judiciary. To that end, we know how important it is to continue, multiply, and enhance these programs statewide.”

The Judicial Council’s Education Committee, chaired by Judge Ripken, oversees continuing education for all judges, magistrates, commissioners, and Judiciary employees. In October 2022, the Public Education and Community Outreach Work Group

was formed under the Education Committee to further develop meaningful opportunities for the Judiciary to exchange views with stakeholders and educate the public. Key initiatives of the work group, which is chaired by Judge Jennifer Schiffer, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, include increasing public education efforts, developing and implementing strategies for partnerships with state, local and specialty bar associations, as well as enhancing communication within the Judiciary.

Prior to the pandemic, then-Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera met with senior leadership discussing options for the Judiciary to remain proactive when combating misinformation as it relates to the Judiciary. A direct result from those meetings was the formulation of an outline for the Judiciary to establish a robust community outreach and public education plan. Although delayed due to the pandemic, a new position was created for a community relations specialist to engage with stakeholders and the public for the purposes of education and community awareness. This role is also responsible for developing methods to measure the success of



Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader, Supreme Court of Maryland, speaks with interns from the law links program on July 14, 2022.

“ Court community outreach programs strive to educate students and adults alike. When people have a greater understanding and knowledge about the justice system and the role of the courts within it, their confidence in and support for the courts is strengthened. Community education and engagement can inform and improve the public’s trust and confidence in the Judiciary. To that end, we know how important it is to continue, multiply, and enhance these programs statewide.”

– Hon. Laura S. Ripken,
Appellate Court of Maryland

community and school programs and other civics-based projects.

During the same time the work group was formed, the Judiciary began

enhancing its relationship with the Maryland Public School System. At the direction of Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader, the work group immediately established a partnership with the

Anne Arundel County Public School System to begin connecting justices and judges with schools.

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Chief Judge Wells addresses eighth graders at MacArthur Middle School.

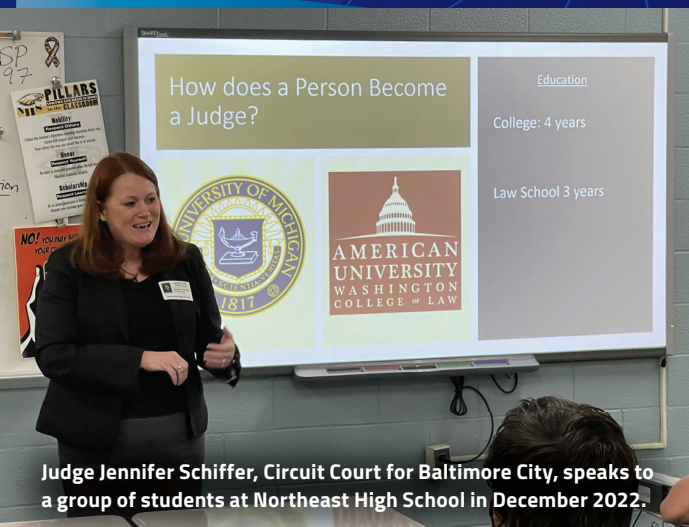
On November 3, Chief Judge E. Gregory Wells, Appellate Court of Maryland, addressed an audience of approximately 300 eighth graders at MacArthur Middle School. The event was part of the Judiciary’s renewed speakers’ bureau program, now known as **Maryland Gavel Will Travel**, in which members of the Judiciary speak to groups of students and adults to educate them on the value of community participation within the judicial system and the vital role that the court system plays in our society. The following month, Judge Schiffer presented to a criminal justice class at Northeast High School in Pasadena on local issues surrounding the Judiciary. During the December 14 event, Judge Schiffer also reminisced about some of the cases she has had throughout her career and what steps she took to become a judge.

“Outreach is a necessary first step to community engagement and provides communities with new information while correcting misinformation. Our local community programs are essential to educate the public on the role of courts and the judicial system in our society.”

– Hon. Jennifer B. Schiffer,
Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Local educators, attorneys, and members of the Judiciary gathered at Frederick High School for the annual **Civics and Law Academy** on November 12. Approximately 90 people attended, including Judge Theresa M. Adams, Circuit Court for Frederick County, and Magistrate Joanie Raymond, Circuit Court for Frederick County, who partnered with Frederick County Public Schools to make the event happen. The program creatively engaged students with workshops on topics such as the First Amendment and “Digital Dirt: The Case for Becoming Unplugged,” which explored the implications of internet and social media use on relationships, education, careers, and sense of self. The students also had the opportunity to participate in interactive sessions, including mock trials during which they crafted and delivered an effective cross examination.

Community outreach is critical to the Maryland Judiciary’s mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all. As part of the work group’s strategy, programs are currently piloting in Anne Arundel County with the goal of expanding across all jurisdictions. Work group members are working with judges statewide to support existing educational programs, establishing additional outreach programs, developing a robust speakers bureau program, and creating program toolkits that judges can easily implement for future use.



Judge Jennifer Schiffer, Circuit Court for Baltimore City, speaks to a group of students at Northeast High School in December 2022.



High School students volunteer during the Schools in the Court program at the District Court in Anne Arundel County on March 24, 2022.

“The introductory year of the Maryland Gavel Will Travel program has been quite impactful for students and teachers in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Hundreds of students across multiple secondary schools have had the unique opportunity to learn more about the judicial system through a discussion based experience with a current judge. These real world connections are what make civics and learning come alive for students. A spark is ignited for students when they can see their classroom learning applied in a relatable context and hear from an expert about this connection. As we strive to prepare students to become productive citizens in our democracy we are grateful to the Maryland Judiciary for their investment of time and energy around visiting schools.”

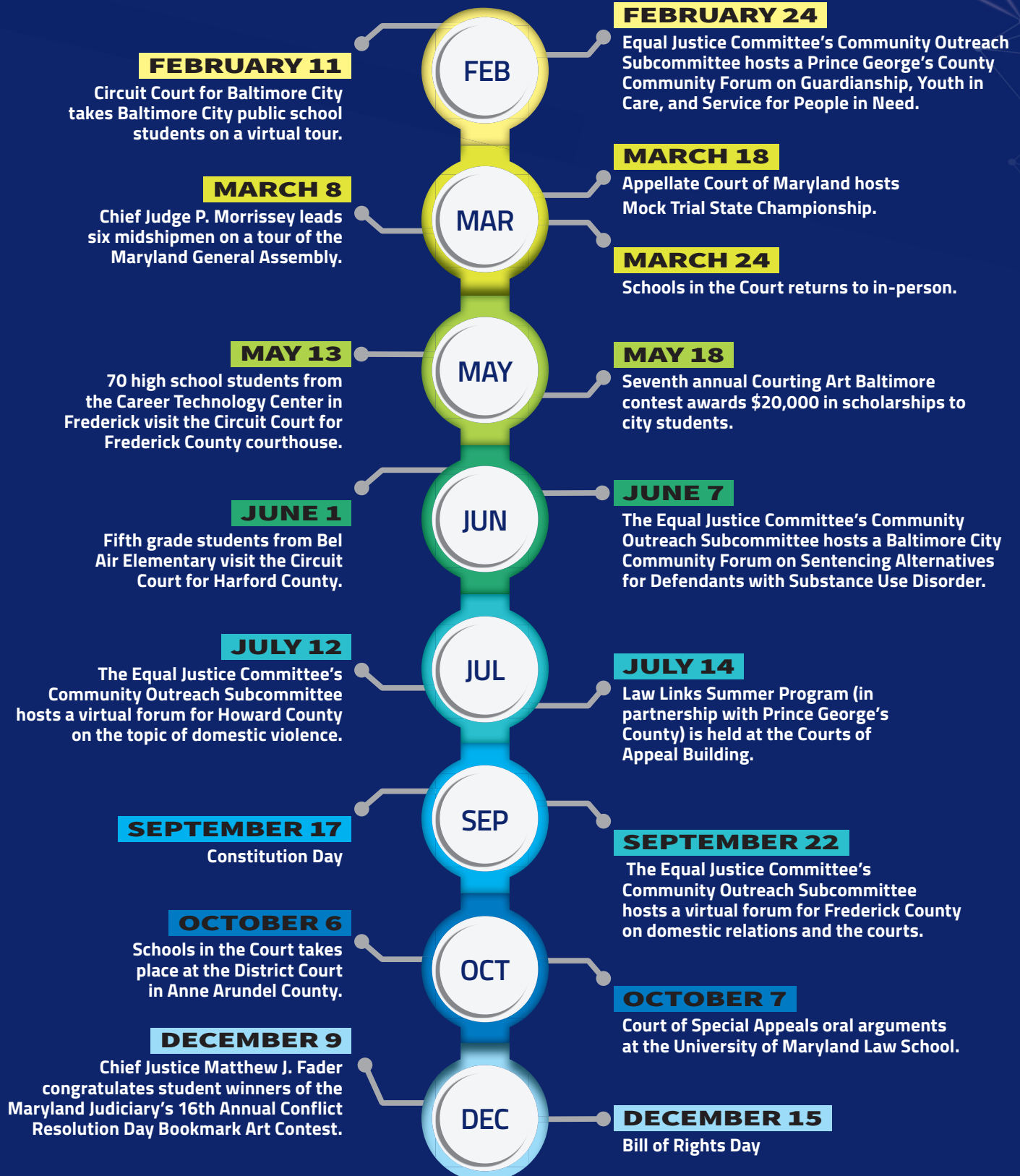
– Eve Case,
social studies coordinator with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools



Administrative Judge Yolanda Curtin, Circuit Court for Harford County, addresses fifth grade students from Bel Air Elementary on June 1, 2022.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

2022



PEGASUS SCHOLARSHIP TRUST PROGRAM



Four barristers from the Pegasus Scholarship Trust program observe oral arguments at the Supreme Court of Maryland on April 4, 2022, with Supreme Court of Maryland justices pictured (left to right) **Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader**, **Justice Robert McDonald** (ret.), **Justice Brynja M. Booth**, **Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty** (ret.), **Justice Michele D. Hotten**, **Justice Jonathan Biran**, and **Justice Steven B. Gould**.

COURTING ART BALTIMORE

Reproductions of the winning student artwork on display in the Eastside District Courthouse at the District Court in Baltimore City on May 19, 2022.



BOOKMARK ART CONTEST

Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader, Supreme Court of Maryland, poses with student during the Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Art Contest awards ceremony on December 5, 2022.



Bookmark entries on display at the reception for student winners.

REMOVING BARRIERS:

New legislation eases the name change process

Applying for a new job, presenting a passport while traveling, or filling out paperwork at the doctor's office are everyday tasks that require individuals to provide identification documents and legal names. Many do so without a second thought. For transgender individuals, however, navigating these routine life experiences and using a name that is inconsistent with their gender identity increases their risk of discrimination, harassment, and even violence. Substantial barriers and safety risks have prevented members of the transgender and non-binary community from seeking to legally change their names. The Maryland Judiciary is helping to remove those barriers.

On January 1, 2023, a new rule will go into effect governing judicial declarations of gender identity, which will streamline Maryland's name change process and help to modernize best practices. The rule, which was unanimously adopted by the Supreme Court of Maryland and signed by Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader on September

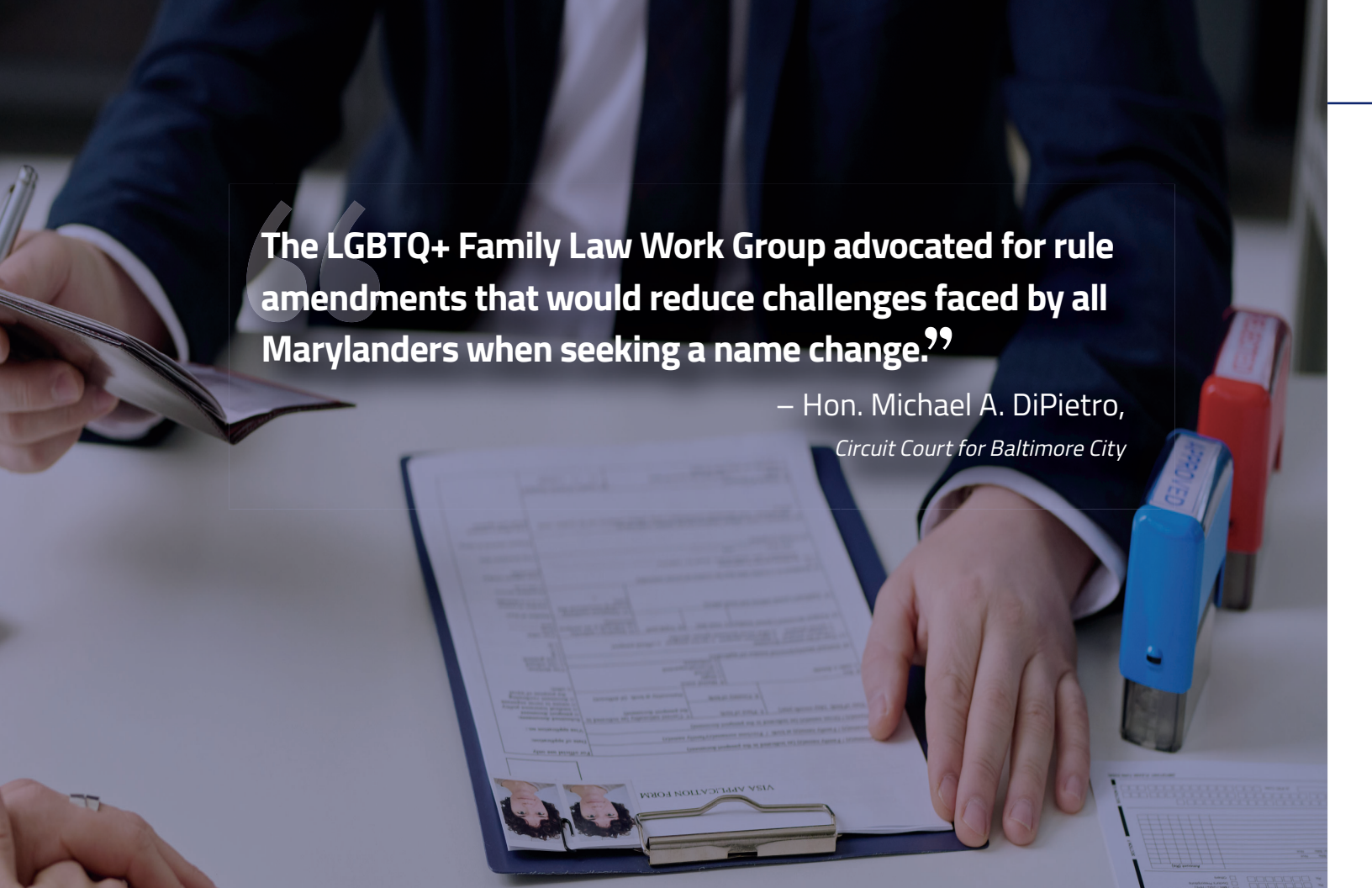
30, 2022, is the work product of the LGBTQ+ Family Law Work Group of the Judicial Council's Domestic Law Committee, which is chaired by Judge Michael A. DiPietro, Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

The most significant change is the elimination of the long-standing requirement that a person seeking to change their name must fill out a publication notice and pay a fee to have their request published in a newspaper. Given the nature of online newspapers, these notices remain online indefinitely. Prior to the new legislation, if an 18-year-old transgender person underwent a name change, both their legal name and home address would be published on the internet for the rest of their adulthood. Every job they sought, person they met, or home they wished to buy would forever be tied to that Google result.

"The LGBTQ+ Family Law Work Group advocated for rule amendments that would reduce challenges faced by all Marylanders when seeking

a name change," said Judge DiPietro. "The elimination of the publication requirement and clarifying requirements for name changes of minors should allow these matters to move through our courts more expeditiously than in the past. The new judicial declaration of gender identity rule provides clarity to litigants, lawyers, and the courts alike in an effort to create a uniform process across the state. That rule also provides for immediate protection from public inspection for those Marylanders who seek this relief. Further, both rules allow greater access to courts for those born in Maryland, but who no longer reside here. We hope these changes will prove helpful to LGBTQ+ Marylanders and beyond."

Though courts have been able to waive the publication requirements, there was a lack of consistency within the court system. Because



“The LGBTQ+ Family Law Work Group advocated for rule amendments that would reduce challenges faced by all Marylanders when seeking a name change.”

– Hon. Michael A. DiPietro,
Circuit Court for Baltimore City

of the circumstances in which a person’s name can be changed without publication, such as marriage, divorce, or adoption, questions were raised about whether the publication requirement was serving its original purpose. The work group learned it was not. Members consulted with representatives from the credit industry and law enforcement to determine more effective tools for the tracking of people and name changes that do not rely on publication notices.

Not only did the work group discover that the publication requirement was outdated; it was also a financial burden. Many transgender community members faced name change costs ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Removing the financial requirement is a structural change that will make it easier for the transgender community

to move through public systems. Additionally, an individual can now seek a declaration of gender identity with or without a name change, in one filing, paying one fee, and have the case be confidential at the outset without filing a motion to make the action confidential.

“As an openly nonbinary transgender person who personally underwent the legal name change process, I intimately understand how life affirming the rules changes are for my community,” said Lee Blinder, executive director of Trans Maryland. “Creating Trans Maryland’s name and gender marker change program, the largest such program in the state, has allowed me a seat at the table to advocate for pro se filers, who comprise the vast majority of filers seeking actions related to change of name and or judicial declaration of gender. That seat has resulted in voices

being heard that have traditionally been invisible, even with the best intentions. Our lived experiences upheld in these conversations, fundamentally changed the outcome, and granted access to justice, which will enable greater participation in public life for the transgender community.”

From safe housing access to equal employment opportunities, the LGBTQ+ community still faces innumerable issues, but seeing change in Maryland through the efforts of this work group provides hope to many and highlights the Maryland Judiciary’s mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all.

64%
Pre-trial Remote Settlement Rate.

1534
Pre-trial Remote Referrals.

20,500,000
Unique views on mdcourts.gov

58%
Day of Trial Settlement Rate.

\$31.6 MLN

Invested to support courts in the areas of access to justice, juvenile and family services, mediation and conflict resolution, problem-solving courts, and research and analysis.

484

Graduates of problem-solving court programs.

272
Drug treatment courts graduates.

187,267

Acts of service to litigants through Maryland Court Help Centers via walk-in, online chat, and phone.

3,148

Individuals who participated in Maryland problem-solving courts.

62

Problem Solving Courts in Maryland.

5,900,000
Users on mdcourts.gov

406
Days of Trial Referrals.

2022 STATS

A MESSAGE FROM

CHIEF JUDGE JOHN P. MORRISSEY AND STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR PAMELA HARRIS

In 2022, the Maryland Judiciary returned to full court and office operations, after emerging from the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Judges, clerks, and administrators have explored and now adopted new ways to continue to serve the public and interact with justice partners, through updated technologies and innovative ways to deliver justice, all while keeping everyone safe. It has been our distinct privilege to serve alongside the hardworking and dedicated judges and staff of the Maryland Judiciary, who have all contributed to the implementation of these new efforts. The following are a few initiatives that were accomplished in 2022, as well as some that are next up for implementation:

- In October of 2022, the Judiciary successfully launched Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) in Prince George's County. MDEC is a single Judiciary-wide integrated case management system that will be used by all courts in the state court system.
- The Judiciary is preparing for MDEC to be launched in Baltimore City. This final step will bring together over 900 internal court users, multiple case management systems and five locations, to join the rest of the state. All attorneys will be required to file electronically in Baltimore City effective May 6, 2024.
- In June of 2022, the Judiciary launched the pilot of the landlord/tenant e-filing project in Baltimore County, with the goal of this initiative to have all failure to pay rent cases electronically filed into the MDEC system by the filing party.
- The Judiciary is moving forward with redaction and artificial intelligence software to streamline clerk efforts beginning with expungement work and protection of personal identifying information in case files.
- The Online Dispute Resolution program will integrate with MDEC and be available for, among other things:
 - ◊ traffic cases pleading guilty with an explanation,
 - ◊ establishment of Title IV-D child support cases including the child support order and parental access, and
 - ◊ certain small claims.
- Text notifications were expanded to parties and to attorneys of record for certain civil case types.
- The Judiciary looks forward to exploring initiatives regarding digital evidence submissions, e-tickets to better transmit ticket data to the courts, and remote forms and signature projects to better assist self-represented litigants access the courts.
- There was an ongoing commitment throughout 2022 to examine access, retention, and use of court data.
- The Judiciary continues to explore the options for a central, automated portal for payment of court costs and fees, recognizing the evolving needs of court users.

Thank you,



PAMELA HARRIS
State Court Administrator



HONORABLE JOHN P. MORRISSEY
Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland

Administrative Office of the Courts



JUDICIAL COLLEGE

The Judicial College was established by administrative order in 2016, under then-Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, replacing the Judicial Institute and merging with the existing Professional Development and Technology Education departments. The Judicial College is responsible for providing high quality and effective educational opportunities for judges, magistrates, commissioners, and other judiciary employees. Since 2016, the Judicial College has increased its number of course and program offerings by more than 200% by expanding learning modalities to include face-to-face, webinar, instructor-led distance learning, and self-paced distance courses.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Internal Affairs is comprised of Fair Practices, Internal Audit, and Legal Affairs. It was created in 2014 to provide legal and audit-related advice and to support the Maryland Judiciary.

JUDICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (JIS)

Established in 1976, JIS was created to develop and implement electronic applications to support criminal and juvenile court case management for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Today JIS supports all case types and major IT initiatives in the District Court, the circuit courts, the Supreme Court of Maryland and Appellate Court of Maryland, as well as administrative offices and other judicial units. JIS is responsible for multiple data centers and a statewide network connecting all court facilities.

PROGRAMS

The Programs Division was created in 2014 as part of a reorganization of the Judiciary that helped to streamline operations, increase support for courts and justice partners, and promote internal collaboration and teamwork. Programs helps advance the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all by supporting court innovations and services statewide. Programs provides grant funding, subject matter expertise, Judicial Council committee support, and other services to courts and justice partners in the areas of access to justice, juvenile and family services, mediation and conflict resolution, problem-solving courts, and research and analysis.

OPERATIONS

Operations was created in 2014 to address matters related to the efficient operations of the courts and assists in the development of consistent statewide operations, policies, and best practices. They are responsible for the Office of Facilities and Security Administration as well as Budget and Finance, Procurement, Contract and Grant Administration.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (GRPA)

The government relations and public affairs functions were established under the Maryland Court of Appeals on June 11, 1997, as the Court Information Office. In 2001, then-Chief Judge Robert M. Bell created a new, expanded legislative team within the Court Information Office to coordinate legislative outreach efforts, and in 2007, he ordered that Government Relations become a separate office reporting directly to the chief judge. Additionally, the Court Information Office's name was changed in 2010 by administrative order to the Office of Communications and Public Affairs. In 2017, then-Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera merged the two offices, establishing Government Relations and Public Affairs under the Administrative Office of the Courts, which focuses on internal and external communications, media and government relations, and public outreach.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The mission of the Judiciary Human Resources Division is to serve the judicial branch by focusing efforts on its most valuable asset, our employees. Human Resources is responsible for providing a comprehensive human resource program, including: policy development and administration; talent acquisition of qualified applicants into a diverse workforce; employment and orientation services; administration of employee benefits, including the state's health and retirement program for the judicial branch; payroll and leave administration; position classification and salary administration; employee relations; and training and professional development and more. We provide leadership and guidance in development, implementation, and equitable administration of policies and procedures. The Human Resources Division is committed to providing high quality customer service to the Maryland Judiciary.

DISTRICT COURT HEADQUARTERS

Office of the chief judge

The chief judge is the administrative head of the District Court of Maryland. The Office of the Chief Judge supports the Chief Judge in the general administration of the District Court, collaborating with the administrative heads of the districts, working closely with the District Court Headquarters, and in conjunction with the Administrative Office of the Courts. The Office of the Chief Judge is focused on providing leadership for major projects that are implemented statewide and annual legislative implementation and education.

Office of the chief clerk

The Chief Clerk's office plays a pivotal role in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the statewide District Court system. Their primary responsibility is to ensure timely and efficient processing of all administrative tasks, operational functions, and technology advances of the District Court. This office serves on multiple committees and workgroups, providing leadership and guidance in various areas.

As the principal advisor to the District Court's chief judge on all non-judicial matters, the chief clerk is accountable for human resources, budget and finance, auditing, facilities, procurement, operations, and technology. The office operates with a high degree of professionalism and creates a formal environment that exudes a sense of competence and reliability. Their work ensures that the court runs smoothly, and all operations are efficient, timely and effective in delivering justice to the litigants of the state.

Operations

The Operations department oversees establishing broad policies and procedures related to District Court automation projects while coordinating with intra and intergovernmental agencies. They compile, analyze, and disseminate statistical reports and data; manage transcription services statewide; coordinate operations of the District Court Traffic Processing Center; design, develop and deliver District Court-specific education curriculums; manage and control the lifecycle of equipment deployment; and conduct legal research and oversee legal publications. This department also initiates the coordination of the system programmer changes to accommodate operational and legislative requirements.

Administrative Services

The core functions of the Administrative Services department are to track legislation and prepare fiscal notes discussing the potential impact on the District Court. They also orchestrate the creation and revision of judicial forms and Guide & File interviews to keep current with new laws and rules; create and maintain District Court pages of the Judiciary website and intranet (CourtNet); maintain a list of authorized sureties and bail bondsmen and oversee the monthly absolute bond forfeiture process; oversee public access and identify methods to make courts more accessible/user-friendly.

Engineering and Central Services

Engineering and Central Services is responsible for the District Court's capital budget, facilities design, construction, and lease management issues. This department is responsible for managing the warehouse, supplying all forms and materials to courts, fleet and records management, and coordinates with the Department of General Services for all District Court facilities. It is responsible for designing, implementing, and maintaining records for all bailiff training and SPO certifications and handgun qualifications. It works directly with the districts to facilitate security training and awareness for all locations. It coordinates and manages all District Court procurements and works directly with the AOC Procurement Department to ensure polices are met and procurements obtained. It oversees the asset management system for all District Court locations.

Finance

The Finance department is responsible for the development and management of the annual operating budget for the District Court. They monitor, approve, and analyze expenditures, disbursements, and encumbrances while establishing statewide accounting policies and procedures for the District Court. The department reviews and approves all revenue disbursements for the District Court in addition to any adjustments impacting revenue. The Finance department oversees the Money Room at the Traffic Processing Center which includes processing revenue received from various sources, researching unapplied funds, processing all traffic refunds statewide, and monitoring of the traffic installment plans for the District Court.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) department develops, maintains, supports, and evaluates the civil ADR programs in the District Court. They are a direct-service provider to the public through the delivery of Day of Trial and Pre-trial ADR services. They provide training, scheduling, and continuing education to volunteer ADR practitioners.

Commissioners

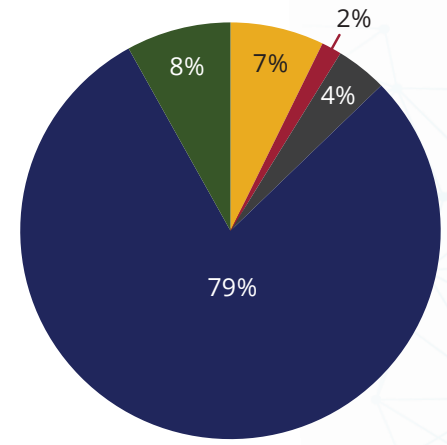
The Commissioners department provides support and general oversight of administrative commissioners. This department also develops policies and procedures for 290 commissioners operating out of 39 facilities on a 24/7 schedule statewide. The Commissioners department operates the appointed attorney program and implements and maintains the public defender eligibility program.

MARYLAND JUDICIARY

AT A GLANCE

PERSONNEL PROFILE FISCAL YEAR 2022

JUDGES	
The Supreme Court	7.00
The Appellate Court	15.00
Circuit Court	174.00
District Court	123.00
Total Judges	319.00
MAGISTRATES	
Circuit Court Magistrates	68.60
Total Magistrates	68.60
LAW CLERKS	
Law Clerks ¹	175.00
Total Law Clerks	175.00
JUDICIAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL	
The Supreme Court	38.00
The Appellate Court	89.50
Circuit Court Clerk's Offices	1,435.00
District Court	1,462.50
Administrative Office of the Courts	442.40
Judicial Units ²	35.60
Total Judicial Support Personnel	3,503.00
Contractual Employees³	356.00
Total State-Funded Judicial Branch Personnel	4,421.60
LOCALLY FUNDED JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL	
Orphans' Court Judges ⁴	59.00
Circuit Court Personnel	1,179.80
Total Locally Funded Judges and Personnel	1,238.80



- JUDGES
- MAGISTRATES
- LAW CLERKS
- JUDICIAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL
- CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES

¹ Law Clerks include circuit court law clerks only. District Court, Appellate Court of Maryland, and Supreme Court of Maryland Law Clerks are counted as part of their respective Court Support Personnel.

² Judicial Units include the Commission on Judicial Disabilities, Rules Committee, State Board of Law Examiners, and Thurgood Marshall State Law Library. The Attorney Grievance Commission and Client Protection Fund are also units of the Judiciary; however they are staffed through those entities.

³ Includes District Court Bailiffs.

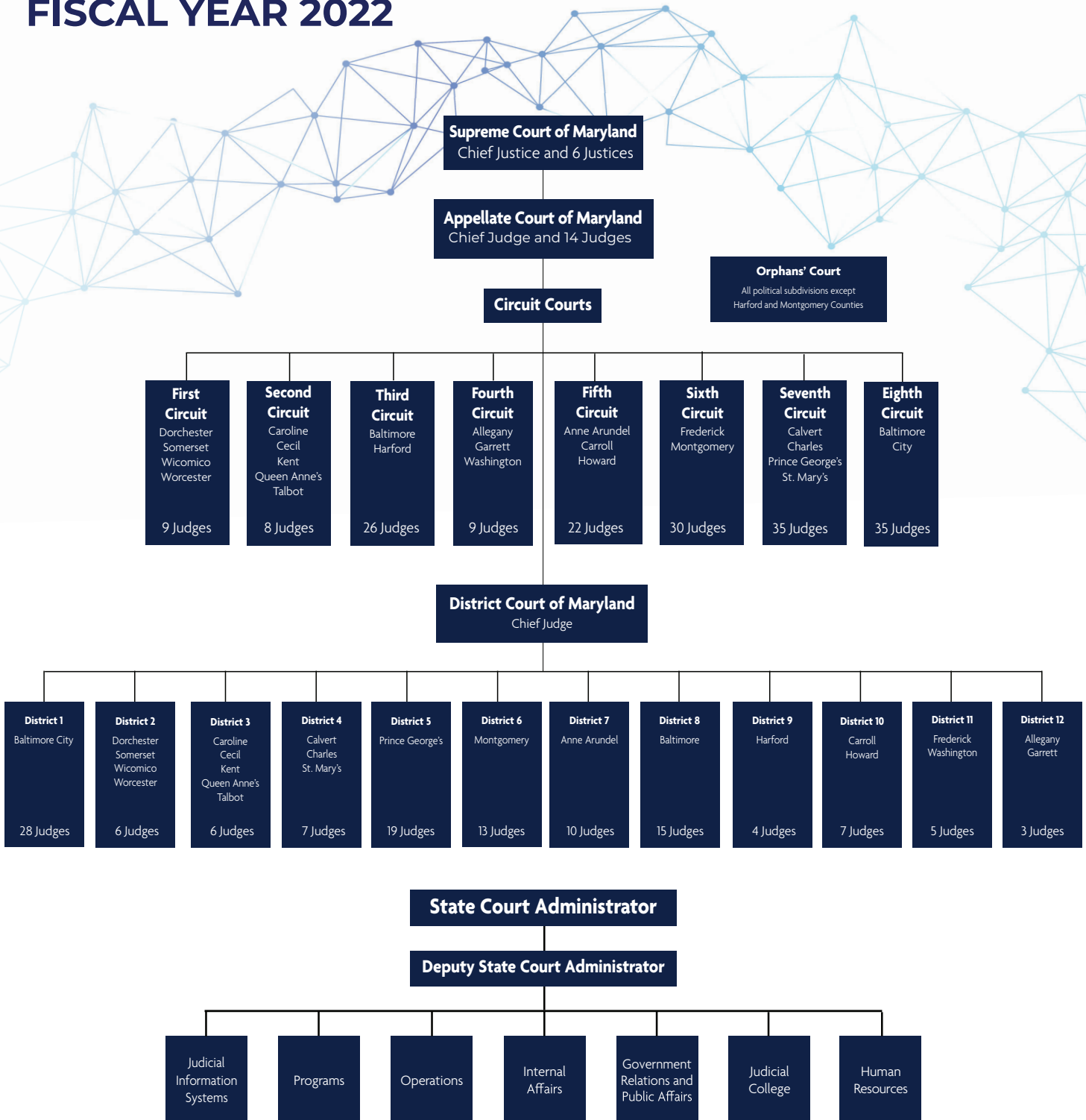
⁴ Three judges sit on the Orphans' Court in Baltimore City and each of the counties with the exception of Harford and Montgomery Counties in which circuit court judges sit as judges of the Orphans' Court.

JUDICIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES* FISCAL YEAR 2022

Revenues	\$645,803,462
Expenditures	\$654,646,677

*Revenues and Expenditures include all fund types. Category includes revenues and expenditures associated with child support reimbursements for magistrates. Includes revenues and expenditures associated with family law.

MARYLAND JUDGES BY COURT FISCAL YEAR 2022



The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the central support agency for the state judicial branch. It provides a broad range of support services to Maryland's courts in operations, information technology, human resources, management, legal, government relations, financial, administration, and programmatic areas.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 JUDICIAL REVENUES¹

Program	Revenue
The Supreme Court	\$84,819
The Appellate Court	\$74,713
Circuit Court	\$576,593,581
District Court	\$55,520,437
Circuit Court Judges ²	\$1,078,127
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$11,067,859
Judicial Units	\$1,354,380
Thurgood Marshall State Law Library	\$4,091
ARP: Pre-Trial Home Detention	\$25,455
Totals	\$645,803,462

FISCAL YEAR 2022 JUDICIAL EXPENDITURES¹

Program	Expenditures
The Supreme Court	\$14,242,940
The Appellate Court	\$14,130,487
Circuit Court	\$133,934,373
District Court	\$223,620,129
Circuit Court Judges ²	\$74,439,346
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$106,739,884
Judicial Units	\$3,548,627
Thurgood Marshall State Law Library	\$3,792,568
Judicial Information Systems	\$67,355,489
Major Information Technology Projects	\$7,842,834
ARP: Pre-Trial Home Detention	\$5,000,000
Totals	\$654,646,677

¹Revenues and expenditures include all fund types.

²Category includes revenues and expenditures associated with child support reimbursements for magistrates.



MARYLAND JUDICIARY TOTAL FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2022

	Total Filings	Total Terminations
The Supreme Court	628	625
The Appellate Court	1549	1739
Circuit Courts	160,167	174,134
District Court	958,311	1,057,467
Total	1,120,655	1,233,965

Note: Due to the transition to Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC), data on filings and terminations are obtained from multiple source systems, which may result in some differences in the comparability across jurisdictions and between reporting periods.

THE SUPREME COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS FISCAL YEAR 2022

	Filings	Dispositions
Regular Docket	60	57
Petitions for Certiorari	421	424
Attorney Grievance Proceedings	101	105
Bar Admission Character Matters	7	7
Certified Questions of Law	4	6
Miscellaneous Appeals	35	26
Judicial Disabilities	0	0
Total	628	625

The Supreme Court is Maryland's highest court. It hears almost exclusively by way of certiorari, a process that gives the court the ability to decide which cases to hear. By law, however, the Supreme Court is required to hear cases involving legislative redistricting and removal of certain state officials.

THE APPELLATE COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS FISCAL YEAR 2022

Appeals Filed	1,549
Appeals Disposed	1,739
Opinions Filed	119

The Appellate Court is the intermediate appellate court. It reviews a trial court's actions and decisions in given cases and decides whether the trial judge properly followed the law and legal precedent.

CIRCUIT COURT STATEWIDE FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2022

	Total Filings	Total Terminations
Total Civil General	38,192	40,947
Total Civil Family	74,325	80,309
Total Juvenile	6,603	7,206
Total Criminal	41,047	45,672
Total	160,167	174,134

Circuit courts generally handle more serious criminal cases, major civil cases, and juvenile and other family law cases such as divorce, custody, and child support, and most cases appealed from the District Court, Orphans' Court, and certain administrative agencies. Circuit courts also hear domestic violence cases. Each county and Baltimore City has a circuit court. Depending on the case type, cases in circuit courts may be decided by either a judge or a jury.

DISTRICT COURT STATEWIDE FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2022

	Total Filings	Total Terminations
Motor Vehicle ¹	374,832	435,884
Criminal ²	124,831	136,544
Civil ³	148,689	175,080
Landlord-Tenant*	309,959	309,959
Total	958,311	1,057,467

* Landlord-tenant filings are used as a proxy for terminations in the totals for District Court. Given the paper-only process used in most locations and quick processing of landlord-tenant cases, we assume that all matters are concluded.

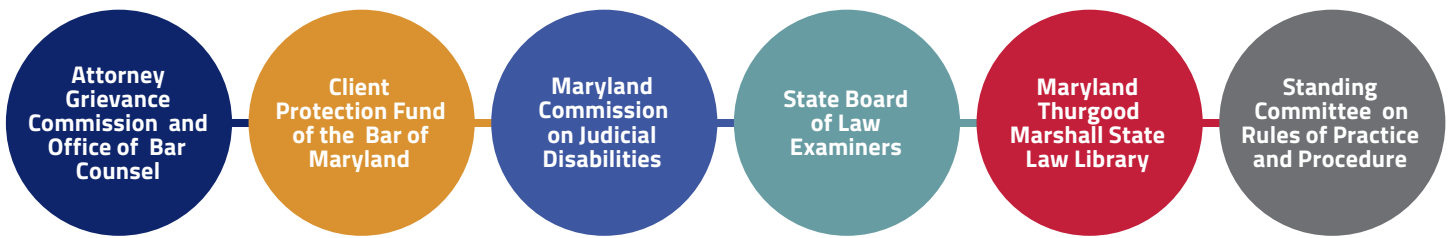
¹ Includes DWI, serious and non-serious traffic cases by incident (including cases prepaid before trial).

² Criminal filings also include fugitive warrants.

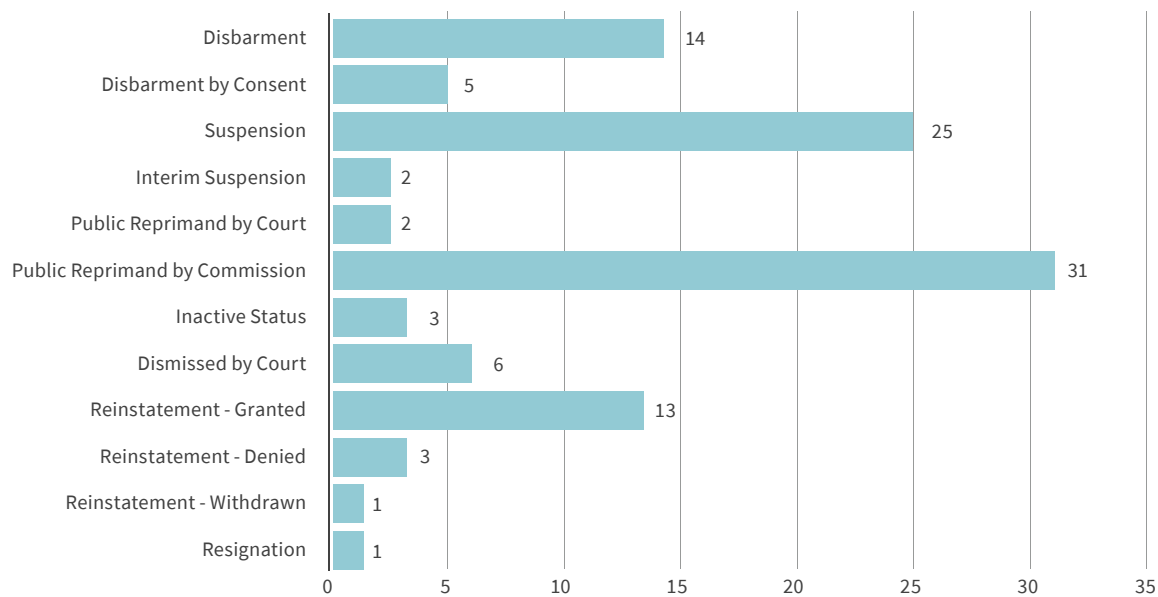
³ Civil case filings are comprised of the following categories of filings: civil complaints; domestic violence; peace order; possession; miscellaneous petitions; aids of execution; municipal infractions; civil citations; emergency evaluations; forfeitures of contraband; and injunctions.



RELATED JUDICIAL BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND ENTITIES



ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION AND OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL



TOTAL ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS: 107

The Attorney Grievance Commission oversees the conduct of both Maryland lawyers and non-members of the Maryland Bar who engage in the practice of law in the state. The Office of Bar Counsel investigates and, where indicated, prosecutes attorneys whose conduct violates the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct as well as those engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. The Office of the Bar Counsel also reviews notifications of overdrafts on attorney escrow accounts.

CLIENT PROTECTION FUND OF THE BAR OF MARYLAND

CLAIMS	
Decided Claims	51
Claims approved for payment	14
Total payment on approved claims	\$43,734.32
Revenues from assessments	\$835,960

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES

SOURCES OF ALL COMPLAINTS	
Attorneys	4
Investigative Counsel Initiated Inquires	15
Inmates	40
Judges	3
Public	234
Total Verified Complaints	296
COMPLAINTS BY LEVEL OF COURT	
Orphan's Court Judges	12
District Court Judges	89
Circuit Court Judges	176
Appellate Court Judges	9
Supreme Court Justices	10
Other	0
Total	296
SUBJECT MATTER OF COMPLAINTS	
Family Law	69
Criminal Cases	83
Civil Cases	88
Juvenile *	1
Sexual Harassment	1
Probate *	8
Traffic *	8
Protective/Peace Orders *	20
Other	18
Total	296

* Juvenile, Probate, Traffic, and Protective/Peace Orders have been compiled since October 2021.

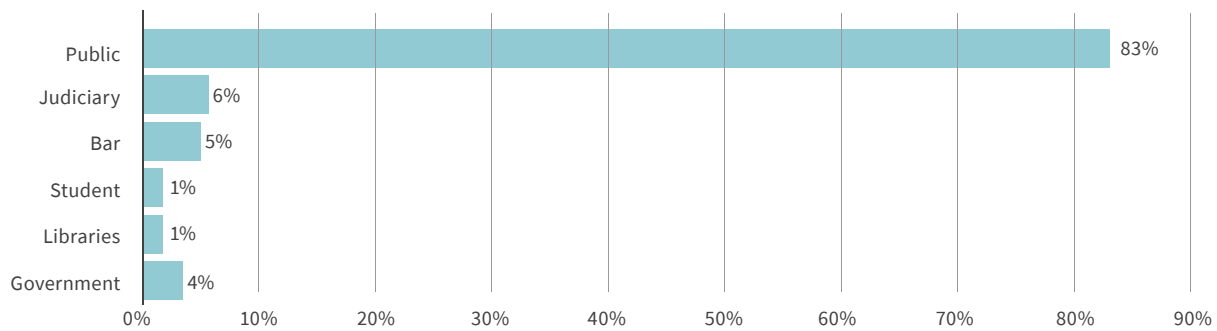
STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

	APPLIED	SAT	PASSED	CLEARED
July 2021 Remote UBE ¹	968	865	589	560
February 2022 Remote UBE ²	416	339	137	117
Uniform Bar Exam Transfer	224			116
Admission without Examination	325			154

¹ Due to the effects and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, the National Conference of Bar Examiners offered a remotely-administered UBE in July 2021, which SBLE administered.

² NCBE preliminarily announced in June 2021 that the February 2022 UBE would return to an in-person, paper-based test and that remote testing would not be offered unless required by local public health orders. NCBE confirmed in January 2022 that the February 2022 UBE would not be offered remotely to any jurisdiction. As such, SBLE returned to in-person testing for the February 2022 UBE in Maryland using COVID-19 precautions that were consistent with precautions then in use throughout the Maryland Judiciary (including reporting of COVID-19 vaccine status, mandatory mask use, and physical distancing).

MARYLAND THURGOOD MARSHALL STATE LAW LIBRARY



■ PATRONS BY TYPE

TOTAL REFERENCE INTERACTIONS: **14,892**

The Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library is open to the public and serves the needs of Maryland's government and citizens by building and preserving collections of legal information resources, promoting access to these collections, and creating educational opportunities that enhance the understanding of legal information. The Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library operates the People's Law Library, a Maryland legal self-help website.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Reports Published*	8
New Rules Proposed	87
New Appendices Proposed	86
Amended Rules Proposed	25
Amended Appendices Proposed	7
Deletion of Rules Proposed	9
Deletion of Appendices Proposed	32

* A third Supplemental Report to the 207th Report, the 208th Report plus one Supplemental Report, the 209th Report plus three Supplemental Reports, and the 210th Report, totaling 893 pages. Topics addressed in these Reports include:

208th Report: Juvenile Causes - Juvenile Restraints - Peace Order Hearings - Papers in a Foreign Language - Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) - Shelter Care - Right to Attorney - Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) - Study; Physical or Mental Examination - Emergency Medical Treatment - Discovery and Inspection - Intervention - Permanency Plans - Guardianship Terminating Parental Rights - Petition for Guardianship - Attorney for Parent and Child; Guardian Ad Litem - Consent by Parent to Guardianship - Termination of Guardianship - Delinquency and Citation Proceedings - Taking Child into Custody - Detention; Community Detention; Shelter Care - Competency of Child - Violation of Probation - Transfer from Criminal Court - Waiver of Jurisdiction - Transfer to Another Juvenile Court - Initial Appearance Hearing - Adjudicatory Hearing - Disposition Hearing and Order - Revisory Power; Post-Disposition Hearings - Final Order of Termination - Child in Need of Supervision (CINA) - Voluntary Placement - Truancy Reduction Pilot Program - Peace Order Proceedings - Expungement - Adult Charged with Contributing; School Attendance Violations

3rd Supplement to 207th Report: Revisory Power over Criminal Sentences

209th Report: Attorney Trust Accounts - Funds Presumed Abandoned - Safekeeping Property - Powers and Duties of Trustees; Treasurer - Issuance, Service, and Execution of Summons or Warrant - Expungement by Operation of Law - Advice of Expungement - Expungement Definitions - Court Order for Expungement of Records - Compliance with Court Order for Expungement - Appeals Heard De Novo - Dismissal of Appeal - Record – Judicial Review of Decision of the Workers’ Compensation Commission - Appeals from Courts Exercising Criminal Jurisdiction – Confidentiality - Method of Securing Review – Court of Special Appeals - Expedited Appeal - Petition for Writ of Certiorari – Procedure - Certification of Questions of Law to the Court of Appeals - Transcript - Record Extract - Filing of Briefs - Style and Form of Briefs - Contents of Brief - Form of Court Papers - Amicus Curiae - Dismissal by Court - Qualifications of Court-Designated Mediators - Action for Change of Name - Show Cause Order; Disability of a Party; Other Notice - Mediation of Child Custody and Visitation Disputes - Custody and Visitation-Related Assessments - Digital Signatures - MDEC Signature - When Electronic Filing Required; Exceptions - Scheduling Order - Access to Electronic Records in MDEC Actions - Restricted Information - Access to Administrative Records - Problem-Solving Court Programs - Cell Phones; Other Electronic Devices; Cameras - Business and Technology Case Management Program - Voluntary Dismissal - In Banc Review - Revisory Power - Charging Order - Peace Orders - Lis Pendens - Address of Participant in Confidentiality Program - Notification of Orders, Rulings, and Court Proceedings - Motions in District Court - Motions in Circuit Court - Sentencing – Procedure - Search Warrants - Order for Cell Site Simulator or Electronic Device Location Information - Order for Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search - Mode and Order of Interrogation and Presentation: Control by Court; Scope of Cross-Examination; Leading Questions - Exclusion of Witnesses - Filing a Will - Assignment of Actions for Trial; Case Management Plan

1st Supplement to 209th Report: Case Records – Required Denial of Inspection – Certain Categories

2nd Supplement to 209th Report: Access to Electronic Records in MDEC Actions

3rd Supplement to 209th Report: Disclosure Statement by Nongovernmental Corporate Party

The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, often referred to simply as the Rules Committee, considers proposed amendments and additions to the Maryland Rules of Procedure and submits recommendations to the Court of Appeals.

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