

# Justice Matters

Vol. 4, Issue 4 Spring 2001

## State of the Judiciary



photo by Ron White

I am pleased to report that Maryland's Judiciary has entered the new millennium prepared to meet the challenges facing it and, with the requisite enthusiasm and dedication, to undertake, continue and advance initiatives and programs to further its mission.

Chief Judge  
Robert M. Bell

At noon on January 24th, Chief Judge Robert M. Bell presented his fourth annual State of the Judiciary address before the General Assembly.

In his address, Judge Bell focused on the necessity of a strong, independent judicial branch of government, and the importance of public trust and confidence in the court system. He also discussed the need for new judgeships, the Judiciary's legislative requests, and the success of many new and on-going Judiciary initiatives, including the establishment of family divisions and alternative dispute resolution programs.

The speech is available for viewing over the Internet. The video clip, as well as the written text, can be accessed from the Judiciary's web site, at [www.courts.state.md.us](http://www.courts.state.md.us). The video portion is hosted by the Maryland State Archives.

## Lynne Battaglia Appointed to Court of Appeals

On January 26, Lynne Battaglia was sworn in as the Court of Appeals' newest judge, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Lawrence F. Rodowsky. Her appointment by Governor Glendening on December 21 was history-making, as Judge Battaglia will become only the third woman to ever achieve this lofty position in Maryland. She joins seven-year veteran Judge Irma Raker as the second woman currently serving on the Court of Appeals.

Court of Appeals Chief Judge Bell was "pleased" with the Governor's selection, calling Judge Battaglia "a welcome addition" to the high court. "Ms. Battaglia's contributions to the state of Maryland have been exemplary, and her credentials are outstanding," he said.

Judge Battaglia is best-known for her service as U.S. Attorney for Maryland, a position she has held since her appointment by President Clinton in 1993. She has also served as Chief of Staff for Sen. Barbara Mikulski, and has held high-level positions for the U.S. Department of Justice and Maryland's Office of the Attorney General.

Judge Battaglia is a 1974 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, where she is also a visiting professor.



photo by Ron White

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# Judge Rodowsky Retires



Courtesy of Pamela Bresnahan and Peter Axelrad

On November 28th, Judge Lawrence Rodowsky was fested by his 520(!) nearest and dearest at a very special retirement party, held at Martin's West in Baltimore County. The event included cocktails, dinner, and speeches lauding the retiring Court of Appeals judge and his illustrious career.

Now that he has retired, Judge Rodowsky doesn't intend to spend his golden years relaxing and fishing. Rather, he will continue to serve the Judiciary, this time on the Court of Special Appeals, in partnership with retired CSA Judge Charles Moylan.



## Judiciary Announces New Legislative Team

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a new legislative team that will facilitate legislative matters. The Judiciary's Legal Officer, Elizabeth Veronis, has moved to the Court Information Office, to provide legal counsel to Chief Judge Bell and to work with the new Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Kelley O'Connor (pictured).

Ms. O'Connor comes to us from the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office. She has extensive experience in legislative relations, having spent nine years as a Congressional liaison. For most of that time, she was a lobbyist for FTD Florist.

Ms. Veronis will continue to serve as the Judiciary's legislative technical expert, while Ms. O'Connor will coordinate our legislative outreach efforts. Ms. O'Connor will serve as a general resource for the legislature. Part of her efforts will be directed at educating legislators about the Judiciary, so they can make more informed decisions about issues that affect the courts. Ms. Veronis' move to the Court Information Office prompted the recruitment of a Chief Legal Counsel to handle administrative legal matters arising within the AOC. We hope to profile this individual in the next issue.



photo by Mary Brighthaupt

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District Court, Retired

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*Justice Matters* is published quarterly.  
We welcome your comments or ideas.

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# JUDICIARY PRESENTS 2001 LEGISLATION



Following is a wrap-up of the Judicial Conference package presented to the General Assembly this year:



## CERTIFICATION OF JUDGESHIPS

The annual certification of need includes 21 new judgeships for circuit courts in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Montgomery, Prince George's and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City and District Court in Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City. This legislation includes the judges proposed in the Judiciary's recommendation on State funding of circuit court operations for FY 2001 and 2002. Those proposed for FY 2001 were not enacted last year and, therefore, are included in those proposed for the upcoming fiscal year.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

This bill proposes the transfer of jurisdiction of juvenile causes in Montgomery County from District to Circuit Court. Montgomery County is the only locality in the state in which juvenile jurisdiction is not in the Circuit Court, where family services are more readily available.

## CHILDREN IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE (CINA)

This bill is similar to last year's Judicial Conference legislation on Children In Need of Assistance (CINA). The goal of the bill is to create a separate "best practice" CINA statute that is clear, precise, and comprehensive.

## CIRCUIT COURTS

This bill would implement the recommendations of the Judiciary regarding State funding of circuit court operations during Fiscal Year 2002. Phase 1, passed last year, includes pick up of the per diem for jurors and conversion of certain master provisions to State employment for Fiscal Year 2001, although deferred until Fiscal Year 2002. This bill would implement the next phase.

## DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONER BILLS

This legislation, initiated by District Court Chief Judge Martha F. Rasin, would provide protection to victims of domestic violence 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The bill would enable the abused person to obtain an order from a commissioner at any time day or night when courts are closed. The order would provide protection until courts open and a temporary order can be obtained from a judge.

— Kelley O'Connor contributed to this story



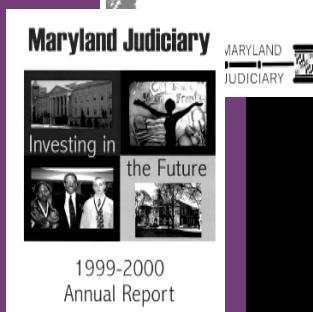
## NEWS FROM THE BENCH

### ANNUAL REPORTS

This year, the 1999-2000 Annual Report has been produced in two volumes:

- Statistical Abstract
- Investing in the Future: Highlights of Initiatives

Both will be available on our website.



The Circuit Court for Baltimore City welcomes **Judge John M. Glynn**, who fills the vacancy created by the death of Judge Gary Strausberg. Judge Glynn had served on the Baltimore City District Court since 1994. During that time, he was judge-in-charge of that court's Civil Division from 1997 until 2000, when he became judge-in-charge of Eastside District Court.

Prior to joining the bench, he worked in private practice and as a trial attorney for the National Labor Relations Board. He accepted a gubernatorial appointment as People's Counsel in 1986. Judge Glynn holds a law degree with honors from the University of Maryland.

The Circuit Court for Baltimore County welcomes **Judge Alexander Wright, Jr.** to the bench. Judge Wright fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Barbara Howe.

### JUDICIAL RETIREMENTS

The following judges have recently retired: Judge Alan J. Karlin, District Court for Baltimore City; Judge L. Edgar Brown, Caroline County District Court; Judge Joanne T. Wills, Montgomery County District Court. [See story on Judge Lawrence Rodowsky, page 2.]

## Linda Love McCormick Loves HR

The word from Linda Love McCormick, the Judiciary's new Human Resources Director for both the AOC and District Court, is that positive changes are ahead for Judiciary employees.

"I'm happy to be on board, and anticipate that this will be a fruitful year," she said.

Ms. McCormick is presently looking at what programs the Judiciary offers, and will be seeking employee input on what they value. "Don't be surprised if you get a call asking you to be part of a survey, or a meeting, to give us your opinions," she said. She is a strong proponent of inclusiveness, and considered herself an advocate for employees as well as management.

And you'll be meeting her soon. "I'm looking forward to working with, and eventually meeting, everyone," she said. She's planning to schedule a tour to visit all the courts, both District and circuit. She's already been to Charles County Circuit Court, where she was welcomed "with open arms."

She will be unveiling new employee programs this year, and we at *Justice Matters* will keep you posted on the exciting developments.



photo by Mary Brighthaupt

# Judiciary Adopts Guidelines for Cases Involving Children

CINA  
TPR

On February 5, 2001, The Court of Appeals adopted the new *Guidelines of Advocacy for Attorneys Representing Children in CINA and Related TPR and Adoption Proceedings*. The *Guidelines* will take effect July 1, 2001, and will be made available to children's attorneys and Juvenile Court Judges and Masters statewide.



The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure had earlier approved guidelines to assist attorneys representing children in Child in Need of Assistance ("CINA") and related Termination

of Parental Rights ("TPR") and Adoption proceedings. The Rules Committee recommended to the Court of Appeals in its 148th Report the inclusion of the *Guidelines* in the appendix to the Rules of Professional Conduct and to amend the comment to Rule 1.14 (client under a disability) by referencing the *Guidelines*.

Recognizing the urgency of providing children with competent counsel in CINA and related TPR and Adoption cases, the Maryland Foster Care Court Improvement Project ("FCCIP") developed proposed uniform standards of representation for attorneys involved in abuse and neglect cases. In November 1999, Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell requested that the Rules Committee consider the appropriateness of the standards in rule form.

The *Guidelines* clarify the role of a child's counsel as advocates in CINA and related proceedings. Rather than merely "rubber stamping" an opposing party's legal position, the *Guidelines* further explain the limited circumstances when an attorney may present the alternative "best interests of the child" position to the Court. The *Guidelines* serve to promote competent advocacy by clarifying the Rule 1.14 concept of a client's inability to reasonably participate in the representation.

Juvenile Court Judges and Masters can take yet one more step to prevent serious, even life-threatening, mistakes against these vulnerable children by encouraging compliance with the *Guidelines*. When presenting the proposed standards to the Rules Committee, Attorney Subcommittee Chair Albert D. Brault, Esq., recalled a conversation with a judge familiar with abuse and neglect cases. In reference to the "Brianna

case" a heavily publicized tragedy in Washington D.C. that resulted in a child's death, the judge commented: "There, but for the Grace of God, go I." The judge explained that the volume of litigation is so great that more competent representation by a child's attorney would likely go a long way to avoid serious error. Mr. Brault subsequently informed the Court when presenting the *Guidelines* that the presiding judge in Brianna's case had since chosen to retire.

An eerily similar situation occurred several years ago in Maryland in a case that went to the United States Supreme Court concerning a severely abused infant, now presumed dead. (*Bouknight v. Baltimore City Department of Social Services, U.S.*) The juvenile court returned the child to his mother notwithstanding an evaluation by her own psychologist (never disclosed to the court) that posed a clear threat to the baby's life.



The FCCIP's desire through its development of the *Guidelines* is to enhance the quality of representation for our most vulnerable and least empowered population. It is hoped that Maryland's Juvenile Court Judges and Masters are less likely to say, "There, but for the Grace of God, go I."

Kathleen R. Brault, Esq.,  
Assistant Director, FCCIP

Adoption

## Judicial Conference

This year's Judicial Conference will be held April 26 and 27 at the Doubletree Hotel on Rockville Pike.

The conference themes will be Legislative Relations and Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Bias in the Courts.



## ❖❖❖ Opening Doors for Charity



photos by Ron White

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Second Annual Holiday Decorating Contest for Charity. The entries were beautiful. The judges did not have an easy task deciding on the winners, but after careful deliberation, here they are...

### DCHQ winner: the Operations Department

Charles Moulden, Kathy Peeler, Joan Baer, Brenda Spitzer, Alexandria Powell, Loretta Cunningham, Kay Alston, Cindy Speith, and Michelle Fling. \$192 was donated to the SPCA of Anne Arundel County in the name of Lynn Goad. (photo 1)

### AOC winner: the Finance Department

Joyce Shue, Linda Ries, Kathy Krazinsky, John Purdy, Donna Hensley, and Crystal Stewart. \$78 was donated to the American Cancer Society. (photo 2)

### JIS winner: Data Entry

Greer Sumner, Andrea Dove, Paula Bynum, Rochelle Green, Tersheia Lemon, Kirsten Glenn, Regina Offer, Lisa Smith, Ja-nese Jones, Alfreda Henry, Sandra Randall, Lolita Johnson, Charlene Watson, Toi Hall, Carolyn Simms, Carolyn Turner, and Cheryl Williams. \$58 dollars was donated to UNICEF. (photo 3)

Sharyn Smith

## Judicial Institute Wins Grant

Congratulations are in order for the Judicial Institute. It is the proud recipient of a State Justice Institute grant to implement an educational curriculum for judges entitled *Promoting Justice through Professional Development*. The course material will be based on concepts expounded during a *Leadership Institute in Judicial Education* workshop, which was attended by teams representing five states, including Maryland.

The SJI grant will provide \$4,734 for the creation and implementation of this course. Special accolades are in order for Court of Appeals Judge Alan M. Wilner, who heads Maryland's Judicial Education Committee, and Frederick C. Williams, Executive Director of the Judicial Institute, for obtaining this prestigious grant.

## HOLIDAY PARTY A SMASH



courtesy of Lynn Sadler



photo by Maria Sniroldo

As usual, this year's holiday party, held December 18th at the Sheraton Barcelo Hotel in Annapolis, was a smashing success! This year's contest challenged court staffers to design either a holiday necktie or a woman's scarf. First place (drum roll, please), went to the creative staff of the State Law Library for the light-up bowtie modeled here by Chief Judge Bell.

The talented District Court Headquarters Staff won second place with this fetching scarf design, worn with panache by Chief Judge Rasin.

## Women Judges Get a Taste of Hollywood



In October 2000, a delegation of the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) went to Beverly Hills, California for the organization's annual meeting.

While, of course, our judges participated in all the serious meetings and seminars addressing such topics as treatment of our youth, handling the media and women's rights in the international arena, there also was time for star-watching and fun. The host chapter provided many opportunities for networking at several receptions, including one at Fox Studios and one at the historic headquarters of the famous Bullock's Dept. Store.

Our judges, however, being the adventurous types they are, went on their own star searches. One such search found a group lead by Court of Appeals Judge Irma Raker at Spago's, restaurant to the stars. Its famous owner, Chef Wolfgang Puck [see photo with Judge Raker] was so impressed with the number and stature of the women judges in his presence that he not



photo courtesy of Judge Holland

only posed for photographs with us, but presented each of the group of nine judges with autographed copies of one of his cookbooks. He also offered to come cook for us. Judge Raker is planning an opportunity for him to do just that. Other stars sighted by members of our group (the prize goes to Judge Toni Clarke for the most stars sighted and recognized first) included: Diahann Carroll, Whoopi Goldberg, Roma Downey, Michael Nouri, Susan Dey (a guest at Sunday's closing brunch) and Amy Brenneman, from the hit TV show "Judging Amy", who was the speaker at the annual awards dinner.

All in all, it was a fabulous trip and the group is looking forward to October 2001 when we journey to the "Big Apple" for more stimulating, thought-provoking seminars and meetings, networking with other judges from around the country and world, and of course star-searching.

Judge Marcella A. Holland. Pres., Md. Chapter, NAWJ

## Congratulations to:

■ Court of Appeals Judges Irma S. Raker and Lynne A. Battaglia; Baltimore City Circuit Judges Ellen M. Heller, M. Brooke Murdock, Evelyn Omega Cannon, and Carol E. Smith; and Prince George's Circuit Judge Toni E. Clarke, who were ranked among the Top 100 Women in Maryland by *The Daily Record*.

■ Court of Appeals Judge Irma Raker who (also) received the 2001 Citizen of the Year Award from the National Association of Social Workers.

■ Queen Anne's County Circuit Clerk Scott MacGlashan, for his appointment as vice president of the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks.

■ Frederick County Circuit Clerk Sandra Dalton, who was appointed vice president of the Circuit Court Clerks' Association.



## Chief Judge Bell Hosts Conference of Chief Justices



Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Annice M. Wagner at the Governor's reception.

The Conference of Chief Justices' Midyear Meeting, held this year in Baltimore and hosted by Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, was a smashing success, according to the forty-five judges who attended. The whirlwind event, held January 21-25 at the Hyatt Regency, brought together some of the nation's greatest judicial minds.

Between myriad educational programs on such issues as judicial selection, the multi-jurisdictional practice of law, client protection programs, and judicial independence, the Chief Justices found time for a little fun, including a reception at the National Aquarium and a tour of the Walters Art Gallery. The Chief Justices also enjoyed a reception at the historic Clarence Mitchell Courthouse, with an uplifting, soul-inspiring concert by the world-renowned Morgan State University Choir.

Another event highlight was a reception and dinner at Government House, and tour of the State House in Annapolis, hosted by Governor Parris Glendening. Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey of the Supreme Court of Delaware was especially touched by a tribute to his ancestor, former Maryland Governor Thomas Veasey, during the Annapolis reception.

Many of the justices were pleasantly surprised by how much they enjoyed their visit to Maryland. ". . .What a privilege to visit your lovely state!" said Judge Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals in Texas. "I . . . am only sorry I couldn't have stayed longer. At every turn I was struck by the knowledge that I was surrounded by the history of our country." Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Joseph M. Watt agreed, calling the event "a great week in your great state!"



# DISTRICT COURT DIGITAL MATTERS

## PILOT TAKES OFF



On December 7, 2000, the District Court implemented a pilot program for domestic violence in Prince George's County (Upper Marlboro.) Using the new program, clerk's office personnel can input data at the initial filing which generates an addendum, a docket sheet, and a list of pertinent addresses and immediately uploads to the JIS mainframe and the courtroom PC. Upon completion of the hearing, the courtroom clerk is able to print the *ex parte* order or protective order, along with corresponding attestations, certifications, and returns of service. A statewide launch of this program is planned for early 2001.

Kay Alston and Loretta Cunningham

## JUDGES GET LAPTOPS

All District Court judges who wanted them are now in possession of a nifty new tool which will help make their jobs much easier—a laptop computer. [Previously, District Court judges had no computer access.] According to Jennifer Prout, who has been training judges on the new equipment, some are already extremely computer-savvy—while others have barely touched a pc before. The computers come equipped with Lotus Notes, Wordperfect 9, Microsoft Office, Excel, Explorer and Mediator, a childsupport guidelines program, access to District Court mainframe and Lexus. All District Court judges now have standard e-mail addresses: first name.last name@courts.state.md.us.



## A Court for Orphans?

*Orphans Court... the term evokes bleak, Dickensian images of starving street urchins. Where did this name come from?*

A court system created to deal with testamentary matters and orphans is relatively recent and grew out of necessity. Three hundred years ago in England, only males could own property, and only adult males could inherit. It was not unusual, however, for a man to die well before any of his children reached their majority. The lord of the closest manor, a stepfather, the sheriff, or, if none of the above, the church, would often step in and manage the property.

While the early English judicial system consisted of a less than harmonious combination of common law and Ecclesiastical Courts, a Court of Widows and Orphans (sometimes called simply "a Court of Orphans") was developed

in London. Its jurisdiction was to protect the rights of male minors whose fathers had died. This court could compel executors and guardians to file inventories and accounts and give security for the estates they administered.

In 1777, after the American Revolution, Maryland's first state constitution created the Orphans Court. It was to be established in each county and served by a Register of Wills. Its jurisdiction includes matters pertaining to orphans, minors and their property. Probate and guardianship issues were inextricably entwined.

Despite massive revisions to Maryland's probate code, the most recent in 1970, the basic structure and name of Orphans Court have survived intact for over 200 years.

Judge Albert Northrop, Chief Judge of the Orphans Court for Prince George's County



## ADR Commission Receives Award

Maryland's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Commission continues to garner national recognition for its groundbreaking work, receiving a 2000 Award for Excellence and Significant Practical Achievement from the prestigious CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution in New York City.

The award, presented January 25<sup>th</sup> during the Institute's Annual Conference, honored the Commission for their consensus-building process and Practical Action Plan to advance ADR use throughout Maryland.

The mission of the CPR Institute is to install ADR practices into the mainstream of corporate law departments and law firms—thus making the legal profession the preferred delivery system of ADR. To fulfill its mission, CPR is engaged in an integrated agenda of research and development, education, advocacy and dispute resolution.

# Baltimore City Juvenile Court Forms Partnership

The Baltimore City Circuit Court's Family/Juvenile Division has formed a new partnership with public agencies responsible for increasing public safety, reducing child victimization, and preventing juvenile delinquency and child abuse.

On December 22, the Juvenile Division signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice, Maryland Department of Human Resources, Office of the Public Defender, Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, Baltimore City Police Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, to foster coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among these entities. This partnership is expected to increase the effectiveness of Court services and ultimately, to develop innovative responses to at-risk children, youth, and families.

In negotiating the MOU, Baltimore City Circuit Judge Martin P. Welch, Judge-In-Charge of Juvenile Court, said, "I am pleased the Court has been able to work successfully with all parties to examine our current policies and practices and begin a new era of collaboration. We are all looking for better outcomes for children and families,

safer streets and communities. I look forward to continued success in establishing 'best practices' in Baltimore, reducing juvenile delinquency, creating healthy families, and exploring linkages between the child welfare system and juvenile delinquency."

The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding marks one more positive step forward in the City's ability to provide better justice to youth and their families.

Judge Ellen M. Heller,  
Baltimore City Circuit  
Administrative Judge

To aid the Court in providing better service to children and family in need, a new Juvenile Justice Center is being constructed in East Baltimore. Upon completion (expected in Fall 2001), the Court, Department of Juvenile Justice and other court-related services will relocate to the facility, and the Center will become the focal point for child welfare and juvenile justice activity in the City.

When the Juvenile Court leaves the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse, its home since 1904, the collaboration will result in improved delivery of services consistent with the Juvenile Justice Center and the 21st century."

Baltimore City's Juvenile Court is the busiest in the state. About 48% of the Juvenile Court's caseload involves the dependency docket—child abuse, neglect, termination of parental rights (TPR) proceedings, and adoption—while around 52% of the Court's workload involves delinquency matters. In 1999, 9428 juveniles were arrested in Baltimore City, and the State's Attorney filed more than 8500 delinquency petitions. In 1999, the Department of Social Services filed 645 TPR petitions, 1955 new petitions for shelter care for abused and neglected children and youth, 601 cases for emergency reviews of shelter care, and 236 petitions for non-emergency care.



### Court of Appeals Deputy Chief Clerk Bessie Decker Makes History



photo by Maria Smiroldo

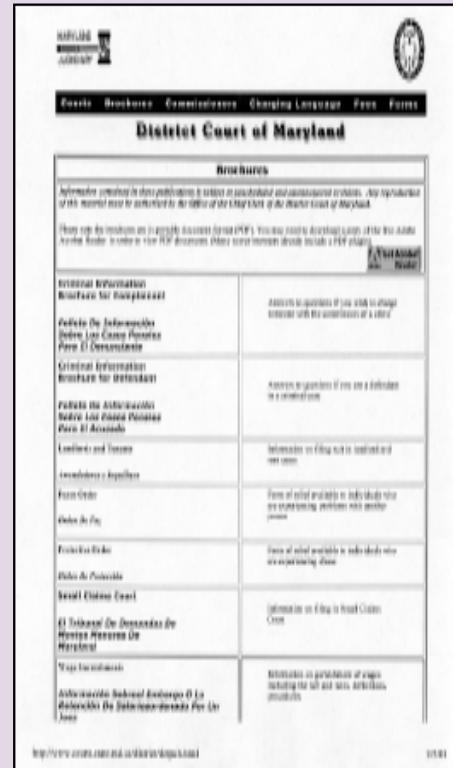
On December 18, 2000, Court of Appeals Deputy Chief Clerk Bessie Decker participated in history by swearing in the members of Maryland’s Electoral College at the State House in Annapolis.

## ¿Qué es una Orden de Protección?

The District Court is pleased to announce that its web site is now accessible in Español!

Especially informative are the Spanish versions of the District Court’s excellent self-help brochures, which cover such issues as filing in “montos menores” (small claims court), how to obtain “ordenes de paz y protección” (peace and protective orders), and “arrendadores y arrendatarios” (landlord-tenant cases).

The web page may be accessed through the Judiciary Website, at [www.courts.state.md.us](http://www.courts.state.md.us) (go to “District Court,” then click on “Español.”)



## DISTRICT COURT AUDITOR BY DAY; DESIGNER BY NIGHT

It’s official—the Judiciary has a logo! The champion of our recent contest is Christopher Ashe, a District Court internal auditor who, in humble our opinion, really missed his calling! As his prize, he will soon be penciling “lunch with Chief Judge Bell” into his busy schedule! The creative new logo will eventually be featured on Judiciary publications, the web site, stationery, and other “logo-friendly” items.



# Employee Extra

### Circuit Court

*Food for Thought...*Employees of the Clerk of Cecil County Circuit Court decided to take the Maryland Charities Campaign one step further this past winter. In addition to providing pledges to the campaign, employees held a bake sale, hot dog lunch, chili/baked potato luncheon, and raffled off several baskets to raise more than \$3,500 for Ronald McDonald House and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

*The Giving Tree...*Employees of Charles County Circuit Court purchased a tree from the county's Christmas Festival of Trees campaign to benefit Hospice, which provides care and support for the terminally ill. Employees decorated the tree with ornaments purchased in memory or honor of loved ones. The tree, which was dedicated to the memory of longtime employees Gayle Cooke and Diane Winkler, both of whom passed away last year, was raffled off and won by State's Attorney for Charles County Leonard Collins. Collins graciously donated the tree back to the courthouse. Good form!

*Longtime Public Servant...*William Allen, Chief Deputy Clerk for the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, will celebrate his 46<sup>th</sup> year with the Maryland Judiciary this year. He began as a utility clerk on January 3, 1955, earning \$8.00 a day, and has worked for six different Clerks of the Court.

*Get Defensive...*Several employees of the Frederick County Circuit Court Clerk's office participated in self defense training last month. Lt. Kirby Maybush, of the Frederick County Sheriff's office, conducted the two hour-long sessions and taught attendees valuable lessons in self defense.

### District Court

*Congratulations* to St. Mary's County Civil Lead worker Tammy Crosby and her husband, Sean, on the birth of their son, Liam Crosby.

*Courting a Cure...*Six employees of the District Court in Cecil County look to raise \$1,500 when they participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event this June. The District Court team will be led by Lea Gochnauer, a cancer survivor, and appropriately named 'Courting a Cure.' The other members will be Grace Achuff, Terri Travers, Mary Lowe, Paul Williams, and Marie Abromitis.

*Logging in the Hours...*St. Mary's County bailiff Wayne Steadman was recently awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for the time he volunteered to assist police personnel and employees with computer education and data entry. In the past two years, Steadman has donated 127 hours assisting the Sheriff's department.

*Adopt-A-Family...*Several District One employees shared the holiday spirit by donating coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and other garments to a local shelter. In addition, participants of the court's Adopt-A-Family project provided Baltimore City families with baskets of food and gifts. The project was coordinated by Geri Lacks, Deborah Sergi, Angie Tallie, and Susan Woodson.

*When Duty Calls...*Jeff Ward, Administrative Clerk for Montgomery County District Court, was the recipient of two great honors last November: shaking hands with President Bill Clinton, and attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Ward is a first founder

of the American WWII War Orphan's Network, a support group for persons whose fathers were killed or missing during WWII. Ward's father was a side gunner on a B-17 that was shot down over Belgium on October 20th, 1943.

### Other News

*A Healthy Return...*All of us at the Maryland Judiciary are looking forward to the healthy return of Kelli Rigsbee, who works at the Judicial Institute. Rigsbee suffered a traumatic illness in November and was given less than 1 percent chance of recovery. Fortunately, she made a miraculous recovery, and she and her unborn child are doing well.

*Our apologies...*In our last issue's *Justice on Wheels* article, we were remiss in our reporting on Cecil County Circuit Judge Dexter M. Thompson's participation in the Bike to the Bay Trek to raise funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. For the record, the judge *only* went along for the bike ride, and took absolutely no part in any fund-raising activities, as specified by the Canons of Judicial Ethics. We regret the error. -ED.

### Let's Hear From You

Submit your events, happenings, and articles to F Todd Silver at 410/260-1488 or email to [todd.silver@courts.state.md.us](mailto:todd.silver@courts.state.md.us).



# Employee Extra

## AOC

Welcome Suzanne Bird, Jennifer Keiser, Kimberly Morgan, Kelley O'Connor, Tracey Taylor, Dawn Lanzalotti, Liza Davis, Willie Lett, Nance Loughrey, Tomasz Zdanowicz, Diana Cain, Laura Dick, John Ross, and Eunice Plank. Congratulations on your promotion Theresa Thomas, Lenett Johnson, Cheryl Morris, and Shari Offer.

## Court of Special Appeals

Best wishes on your retirement Susan Clarke.

## Circuit Court

### Allegany County

Welcome Anthony Kilgallon and Ellen Llewellyn.

### Anne Arundel County

Welcome Ruth Hilde Holbrook. Congratulations on your promotion Kathleen Blough and Dorsey High, Jr. Best wishes on your retirement Sharon Aulton.

### Baltimore County

Best wishes on your retirement Patricia Lucchesi.

### Calvert County

Welcome Kendall Papier.

### Carroll County

Welcome Sharon Maloon.

### Charles County

Congratulations on your promotion Janice Deatley.

### Frederick County

Welcome Sharon Barnes-Pace. Congratulations on your promotion Lynda Byrd.

### Harford County

Congratulations on your promotion Andrea Testerman.

### Montgomery County

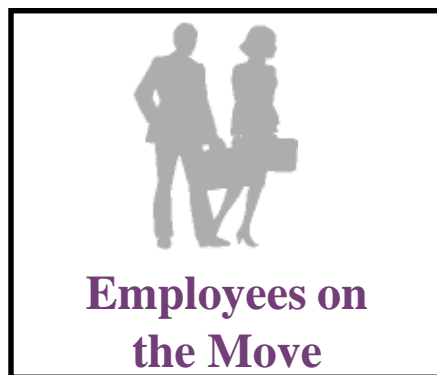
Welcome Lyvonne Holden, Kerry Johnson, Brigitte Krunkaityte, and Anthony Portland. Congratulations on your promotion Fatima Sock.

### Prince George's County

Welcome Alicia Allen, Christina Feldmeier, Elizabeth Kohut, Shelly Mitchem, Nikita Wallace, and Angel Wilson. Congratulations on your promotion Angella Jackson, Lee Cobb, and Mildred Goldring.

### Queen Anne's County

Welcome Rebecca Bilenski.



### Washington County

Best wishes on your retirement Barbara Shives.

### Worcester County

Welcome Cheri Waters.

### Baltimore City

Welcome Angela Mainer, Jamie Paige, Daniel Smith, Elizabeth Trionfo, and Renee Wells. Congratulations on your promotion Edith Coleman.

### District Court

#### Headquarters

Welcome Alice Rentschler, Sammy Wang, Ricardo Vanzengo, and Keith Randall. Best wishes on your retirement Michael Wanda, Jr.

#### Engineering and Central Services

Welcome Ricardo L. Vanzengo and Keith Randall. Best wishes on your retirement Michael Wanda, Jr.

### Anne Arundel County

Congratulations on your promotion Tamera Jones.

### Baltimore County

Welcome Camille Blake, Bob Westerman, Charles Naylor, Gary Settle, Aleta Unverzagt, Tom Gryctz, Joe Gibson, Melissa Nelson, and McCutcheon Marshall, Jr. Congratulations on your promotion Kim Schnaubelt and Joanne Musgrove.

### Calvert County

Welcome Byron Simms.

### Cecil County

Welcome Sally LaFontaine and Catherine Scott Riggs.

### Charles County

Welcome Amy Long.

### Frederick County

Welcome Brenda Bryan.

### Montgomery County

Welcome Marta Arqueta and Maureen Sandlin. Congratulations on your promotion Tanya Stempler.

### Prince George's County

Welcome Peggy Pender, Patricia McDonough, Gloria Russell, Sonya Monnity, Janice Sullivan, Violetta Anderson, and Ann Ramiza. Congratulations on your promotion Kathleen Schnobrich, C. Jean Caldwell, and Patricia Kennedy.

### Washington County

Welcome Cheryl Forsman.

### Baltimore City

Welcome Janice Harris, George Clark, Jr., Alysia Bragg, Danielle Crawford, MaryAnne Cunningham, Davina Hall, Swindell Roulhac, Jr., and Felicia Patterson. Congratulations on your promotion Debra Shover. Best wishes on your retirement Valerie Spencer.

**At press time, we had received no other District Court information.**





**COURT INFORMATION OFFICE**  
**361 ROWE BLVD.**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401**



# Calendar of Events

## March

- 14 Computers 102\*  
Enforcing General Equity Orders\*  
Racial, Gender, and Cultural Sensitivity \*
- 15 Sentencing\*  
Malpractice\*
- 16 Judicial Writing\*  
Significant Recent Appellate Decisions\*  
Marital Property\*
- 19 Conference of Circuit Court Judges
- 20 Conference of Circuit Clerks

## April

- 19 Judicial Ethics\*  
Legal History\*  
Dealing with Discovery Disputes\*

- 20 Computers 102\*  
Managing the Courtroom\*  
Business Law Refresher\*
- 21 Science in the Courtroom\*
- 26-27 Maryland Judicial Conference, Rockville

## Upcoming

- May 14 Conference of Circuit Judges
- May 22 Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
- Sept. 9-14 New Trial Judge Orientation

\* Judicial Institute of Maryland programs.

(Please note that these courses are only open to judges and masters. Masters are permitted to register for courses pertaining to the types of cases they hear.)