

files current. As with past issues of the *Maryland Manual*, Bill Jabine of the Department of Natural Resources freely gave his time to assist in updating the Maryland At a Glance section. New information for this part of the *Manual* was provided by Neil M. Shpritz, Division of Research, and Jim Devine, Division of Public Affairs, both of the Department of Economic and Community Development. Willard Morris of the State Administrative Board of Election Laws provided necessary election returns in a timely fashion, and permitted us to print the valuable information on voter turnout for the 1980 primary and general elections. William S. Ratchford II, Director of the Department of Fiscal Services, was helpful as always in fleshing out the section on legislative agencies. William H. Adkins II and his staff at the Administrative Office of the Courts were unfailingly courteous and prompt in resolving questions that arose with respect to the judiciary. Information on Maryland cities and towns was provided by Don Stickle of the Maryland Municipal League, and we would like to thank Leigh Sands, Clerk of the Caroline County Board of Commissioners, for her thorough work on compiling information for that county.

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Finally, most of the artwork in this *Manual* was prepared by Severn Graphics, Inc., of Glen Burnie. The new organizational charts for the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch are based on those by Shirley Blann, which appeared in the *Legislator's Guide to the Maryland State Government* (Annapolis: Department of Fiscal Services, 1978). Artwork for the seals of Maryland counties and Baltimore City was prepared by Julia Jones Bryan from original color art generously supplied by Frederick T. Wehr, author of *Flags and Seals of Maryland and of the United States* (Baltimore, 1975). The cover design, as well as much of the layout of the text, was the creation of Carleton "B" Hayek of the Department of General Services. "B" Hayek also assumed responsibility for cropping photographs and artwork, for which we are most appreciative.

It is impossible to thank by name all of the hundreds of people throughout the State of Maryland who contributed to this edition of the *Maryland Manual*. The Hall of Records has compiled the *Manual* for over forty years. What is good about the book is to a large extent due to help we receive from outside our agency, because to date it has not been possible to establish a permanent editorial staff to handle the work of constantly updating and preparing information for each successive edition. It is our hope that at some point in the near future one or more staff positions can be created to undertake on a full-time basis the compilation of the *Maryland Manual* and other Hall of Records publications. This would enable us to exercise much greater editorial control and to increase the amount of original descriptive material in the *Manual*. While it remains necessary for us to allocate resources from our existing staff to produce the *Manual* every two years, however, we must continue to rely on a host of government officials who patiently respond to our questionnaires and telephone calls for the bulk of the information contained in the *Manual*, and to all of them we express our deepest appreciation.

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Gregory A. Stiverson, *Editor*
Edward C. Papenfuse, *Managing Editor*