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## DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND

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Robert F. Sweeney, *Chief Judge*, 1991

Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

974-2412

Margaret P. Kostritsky, *Chief Clerk*

District Court Building  
Rowe Blvd. and Taylor Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

974-3486

The District Court of Maryland was created by constitutional amendment ratified in 1970 (Chapter 789, Acts of 1969; Const., Art. IV, secs. 41A through 41-I). The Court began operating in July 1971. It replaced a miscellaneous system of trial magistrates, and people's and municipal courts. It is a court of record and has statewide jurisdiction.

The District Court has jurisdiction in both criminal (including motor vehicle) and civil areas. It has little equity jurisdiction and has jurisdiction over juvenile cases only in Montgomery County. The exclusive jurisdiction of the District Court generally includes all landlord/tenant cases; replevin actions; motor vehicle violations; criminal cases if the penalty is less than three years imprisonment or does not exceed a fine of \$2,500, or both; and civil cases involving amounts not exceeding \$2,500. It has concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts in civil cases over \$2,500 (but not exceeding \$10,000) and concurrent jurisdiction in misdemeanors and certain enumerated felonies. Since there are no juries provided in the District Court, a person entitled to and electing a jury trial must proceed to the circuit court (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 586, 594D, 616 1/2, 643A; Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 1-601 through 1-608, 2-601 through 2-607, 4-101 through 4-405, 6-403, 7-301, 7-302, 9-201, 11-402, 11-701 through 11-703, 12-401 through 12-404; Code Family Law Article, secs. 4-501 through 4-510).

The District Court is divided into twelve geographical districts, each containing one or more political subdivisions, with at least one judge in each subdivision. Presently, there are 95 judges on the Court, including the Chief Judge.

The Chief Judge is the administrative head of the Court and appoints administrative judges for each of the twelve districts, subject to the approval of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. A chief clerk of the Court is appointed by the Chief Judge as are administrative clerks for each district, and district commissioners who issue arrest warrants and set bail or collateral.

District Court judges are appointed by the Governor to ten-year terms, subject to Senate confirmation. They do not stand for election. The Chief Judge is appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

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### DISTRICT 1

Baltimore City—23 Judges

Joseph A. Ciotola, Sr., <i>Administrative Judge</i> 1996	Keith E. Mathews..... 1993
Carl W. Bacharach ..... 1998	Joseph P. McCurdy, Jr. .... 1997
H. Gary Bass ..... 1993	Richard O. Motsay ..... 1998
Charlotte M. Cooksey ..... 1993	Theodore B. Oshrine..... 1995
Andre M. Davis ..... 1997	Alan M. Resnick ..... 1994
Sol J. Friedman ..... 1993	Mary Ellen T. Rinehardt..... 1992
Askew W. Gatewood, Jr. .... 1994	Carol E. Smith..... 1995
Robert J. Gerstung..... 1991	Paul A. Smith ..... 1993
George J. Helinski ..... 1992	Kathleen M. Sweeney..... 1999
Alan J. Karlin..... 1995	Blanche G. Wahl..... 1997
Martin A. Kircher ..... 1993	David W. Young..... 1995
Alan B. Lipson ..... 1991	