
CIRCUIT COURTS

Raymond G. Thieme, Jr., *Chairperson, Conference of Circuit Judges*

c/o Anne Arundel County Circuit Court
 Church Circle
 Annapolis, MD 21401

222-1290

BUDGET (CODE 22.01.00.03)

FY1991 appropriation	\$18,811,161
FY1991 authorized positions	120

MANDATED REPORTS

Annual Report of Administrative Office of Courts of the Seventh Judicial Circuit published.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

CONFERENCE OF CIRCUIT JUDGES

Raymond G. Thieme, Jr., *Chairperson* 222-1290

1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

(Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico & Worcester Counties)

Alfred T. Truitt, Jr., *Circuit Administrative Judge & Chief Judge* 742-3533

2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

(Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's & Talbot Counties)

J. Owen Wise, *Circuit Administrative Judge* 479-2303

Donaldson C. Cole, Jr., *Chief Judge* ... 398-0200

3RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

(Baltimore & Harford Counties)

Edward A. DeWaters, Jr., *Circuit Administrative Judge & Chief Judge* 887-2642

4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

(Allegany, Garrett & Washington Counties)

Frederick C. Wright III, *Circuit Administrative Judge* 791-3112

Frederick A. Thayer III, *Chief Judge* .. 334-1934

5TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

(Anne Arundel, Carroll & Howard Counties)

Raymond G. Thieme, Jr., *Circuit Administrative Judge* 222-1290

Bruce C. Williams, *Chief Judge* 222-1451

6TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

(Frederick & Montgomery Counties)

John J. Mitchell, *Circuit Administrative Judge & Chief Judge* 217-7590

7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

(Calvert, Charles, Prince George's & St. Mary's Counties)

Ernest A. Loveless, Jr., *Circuit Administrative Judge & Chief Judge* 952-4093

8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

(Baltimore City)

Joseph H. H. Kaplan, *Circuit Administrative Judge* 396-5080

Robert I. H. Hammerman, *Chief Judge* 396-5008

The Circuit Courts are the highest common law and equity courts of record exercising original jurisdiction within Maryland. Each has full common law and equity powers and jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases within its county, and all the additional powers and jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and by law, except where jurisdiction has been limited or conferred exclusively upon another tribunal by law (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, sec. 1-501).

The Circuit Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction. Its jurisdiction is very broad but generally covers major civil cases and more serious criminal matters. Circuit Courts also may decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies. These courts are grouped into eight geographical circuits: the first seven circuits each contain two or more counties; the eighth consists of Baltimore City.

Presently, there are 120 Circuit Court judges, with at least one judge for each county. Unlike other Maryland courts, the Circuit Court has no chief judge. Instead, eight circuit administrative judges perform administrative duties in each of their respective circuits. Appointed by the chief judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit administrative judges are aided by county administrative judges. Within each circuit, the judge who has served longest on the court is designated chief judge of the circuit.