

## INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Part of the Executive Branch, independent agencies are those offices, commissions, boards, departments, and other agencies of State government established by statute as independent units of government. Generally, the law creating an independent agency originates with the Maryland General Assembly, but occasionally an agency is formed pursuant to a mandate of the U.S. Congress. While statutorily distinct from principal departments of State government, independent agencies may receive budgetary or administrative support from them.

### OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

John W. Hardwicke, *Chief Administrative Law Judge*

Administrative Law Building  
Green Spring Station  
10753 Falls Road (410) 321-3993  
Lutherville, MD 21093 fax: (410) 321-2040

World Wide Web: [http:// sailor.lib.md.us:80/ oah/](http://sailor.lib.md.us:80/oah/)

#### BUDGET (CODE DA11, formerly 23.01.11)

Funds	FY1994 (actual)	FY1995 (actual)	FY1996 (approp.)
General	\$ 20,661	\$ 23,595	\$ 24,000
Special	\$ 7,926	\$ 11,280	\$ 6,000
Total Funds	\$ 28,587	\$ 34,875	\$ 30,000
Reimbursable	\$7,274,211	\$7,851,119	\$8,387,193
<b>Staff</b>			
Authorized	139.5	141.5	141.5
Contractual (FTE)	4.5	2.1	1.5
Total Staff	144.0	143.6	143.0

#### MANDATED REPORTS

*Annual Report to Governor & General Assembly.*  
*Annual Report of State Advisory Council on Administrative Hearings to Legislative Policy Committee.*

#### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

##### OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

John W. Hardwicke, *Chief Administrative Law Judge*,  
2002 (appointed by Governor with  
Senate advice & consent). (410) 321-2043

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
(410) 321-2022

*Chair:* Robert A. Zarnoch, Esq.,  
designee of Attorney General, 1996

*Appointed by Governor:* William S. Hudson, Jr., 1997; Scott M. Uhl, 1997; Nancy S. Grasmick, Ph.D., 1998; Nathan J. Greenbaum, Esq., 1998; Kurt J. Fischer, Esq., 2000; Susan Dishler Shubin, Esq., 2000.

*Appointed by Senate President:* F. Vernon Boozer

*Appointed by House Speaker:* Carol S. Petzold

DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
James G. Klair (410) 321-2037

##### ADMINISTRATION

Benjamin C. Rudo, *Director of Administration*  
(410) 321-2038

##### DATA PROCESSING

Bonnie L. Nicholson (410) 321-2050

##### FINANCE

Patricia A. Bennett (410) 321-2046

##### PERSONNEL

Viola E. Byrd (410) 321-2049

##### PROCUREMENT

Victoria Zimmerman (410) 321-2047

##### OPERATIONS

Judith S. Singleton, *Director of Operations*  
(410) 321-2051

James T. Murray, *Assistant Director*  
(410) 321-2042

##### CHIEF CLERK

Linda A. Berge (410) 321-2171

##### ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

(410) 321-3993

##### QUALITY ASSURANCE

Suzanne S. Fox, *Director of Quality Assurance*  
(410) 321-2044

##### LEGAL ASSISTANTS

(410) 321-3993

##### LIBRARY

Judith L. Cohen (410) 321 2079

Anne D. Morrison (410) 321-2079

The Office of Administrative Hearings was authorized in 1989 and established in January 1990 (Chapter 788, Acts of 1989). An administrative hearing provides the opportunity for a citizen to appear before an Administrative Law Judge to obtain an unbiased and objective review of an action taken by a State administrative agency with which the citizen disagrees. The Office hears all contested State administrative law cases except for those concerning agencies exempted by law.

The Office is headed by the Chief Administrative Law Judge, who is appointed to a six-year term by the Governor with Senate advice and consent (Code State Government Article, secs. 9-1601 through 9-1610).