

1 of general jurisdiction.

2 It was our considered view, after much research
3 and thought, that the most feasible and practical manner
4 of adopting into a unified uniform court structure the
5 chaotic condition now existing in Maryland in the courts
6 of limited jurisdiction was by adopting in the unified
7 court system the fourth tier, namely the District Court,
8 to take over the jurisdiction of the trial magistrates
9 and people's courts and by whatever other name the
10 courts of limited jurisdiction are now operating in the
11 State of Maryland.

12 Basic to our recommendation is that courts at
13 all levels shall be peopled by judges, full-time judges
14 who are lawyers. We think without that requirement the
15 situation cannot be improved to meet the expanding case
16 loads and mounting litigation now rising and increasing
17 from day to day in our complex society.

18 We acknowledge that the proposed court structure
19 does not include in the plan the existing Orphans' Court
20 system. As some of you may know, there has been a
21 movement and recommendation in the state for years that