

COURT OF APPEALS

Chief Judge:
Hall Hammond, Second Appellate Circuit.....Stevenson, 1985

Associate Judges:

Marvin H. Smith, First Appellate Circuit.....Federalburg, 1985
Thomas B. Finan, Third Appellate Circuit.....Cumberland, 1983
J. Dudley Digges, Fourth Appellate Circuit.....LaPlata, 1985
William J. McWilliams, Fifth Appellate Circuit.....Annapolis, 1981
Frederick J. Singley, Jr., Sixth Appellate Circuit
Baltimore, 1983
Wilson K. Barnes, Sixth Appellate Circuit.....Baltimore, 1981

James H. Norris, Jr., Clerk of the Court
Joseph L. Di Saia, Chief Deputy Clerk
Olive Jane Richards, Deputy Clerk III
Virginia S. Hubbard, Deputy Clerk II
Mary J. Morris, Deputy Clerk I
James H. Norris, Jr., The State Reporter

Court of Appeals Bldg., Annapolis 21404 Telephone: 267-5341

The Court of Appeals is the highest tribunal of the State of Maryland. It was created by the Constitution of 1776. From 1777 to 1805 the Court sat in Annapolis, on the Western Shore. Between 1805 and 1851 it sat at Easton on the Eastern Shore, as well. Since 1851 the Court has met only at Annapolis.

By the terms of the reorganization Act of 1960, Ch. 11, the Court is composed of seven judges, five of whom shall sit in each case unless the Court shall direct that an additional judge or judges sit for any case. One judge is to be elected from each of the first five Appellate Judicial Circuits and two from the Sixth Appellate Judicial Circuit, which is Baltimore City. The terms of the Judges are for fifteen years. The Governor designates the Chief Judge.

The Court hears appeals from the decisions (criminal cases only when the death sentence is imposed) of the Circuit Courts for the counties and the several courts of Baltimore and also considers applications for leave to appeal under the Post Conviction Procedure Act (Code 1957, 1967 Repl. Vol., Art. 27, sec. 645-I) in cases where the death sentence is imposed. The Court also admits all eligible candidates to the State Bar. The term of the Court begins the second Monday of September in each year.

The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is the chief administrative officer of the State's judiciary. The Court of Appeals makes rules for the conduct of its own practice and procedure and that of the various courts and districts of the State. The Chief Judge may also assign the Judges of the various Circuits to duties in other Circuits or Districts, the Court of Appeals and the Court of Special Appeals—for any purpose.

The Clerk of the Court of Appeals is appointed by the Court. He maintains the docket, receives the briefs and transcripts of all appeals filed with the Court, and maintains official custody of the decisions of the Court, the Acts of the General Assembly, and of all other records which the law may require to be filed with the Court (Const. 1867, Art. IV, sec. 17).

The State Reporter, also appointed by the Court, is responsible for the publication of the *Maryland Reports* and the *Maryland Appellate Reports*, which contain the official opinions of the Court of Appeals (Const. 1867, Art. IV, secs. 14-18A) and of the Court of Special Appeals, respectively.