

COURT OF APPEALS

Chief Judge:

Robert C. Murphy, Second Appellate Circuit..... Towson, 1974

Associate Judges:

Marvin H. Smith, First Appellate Circuit.... Federalburg, 1985

Irving A. Levine, Third Appellate Circuit..... Bethesda, 1974

J. Dudley Digges, Fourth Appellate Circuit..... LaPlata, 1985

John C. Eldridge, Fifth Appellate Circuit..... Annapolis, 1974

Frederick J. Singley, Jr., Sixth Appellate Circuit.. Baltimore, 1983

Wilson K. Barnes, Sixth Appellate Circuit¹..... 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

Courts of Appeal Bldg., Annapolis 21401 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 certain appeals from the decisions of the Circuit Courts and the several courts of Baltimore. Chapter 56, Acts of 1973 vests exclusive initial appellate jurisdiction over any renewable judgment, decree, order or other action of a Circuit Court or Orphans' Court in the Court of Special Appeals, effective January 1, 1975. After that date, the Court of Appeals will review decisions from below only by writ of certiorari (Code 1957, 1968 Repl. Vol., 1973 Supp., Art. 5, secs. 5A-5B). 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 (Courts Article, secs. 12-301 to 12-306).

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 (Courts Article, secs. 13-201 to 13-204).

¹ Judge Barnes resigned from the Court of Appeals effective January 31, 1974. No replacement had been appointed at press time.