

COURT OF APPEALS

Chief Judge:

Robert C. Murphy, Second Appellate Circuit Towson, 1989

Associate Judges:

Marvin H. Smith, First Appellate Circuit Federalsburg, 1985

Rita C. Davidson, Third Appellate Circuit Chevy Chase, 1980

J. Dudley Digges, Fourth Appellate Circuit LaPlata, 1985

John C. Eldridge, Fifth Appellate Circuit Annapolis, 1991

Charles E. Orth, Jr., Sixth Appellate Circuit Baltimore, 1988

Harry A. Cole, Sixth Appellate Circuit Baltimore, 1988

James H. Norris, Jr., *Clerk of the Court*

Joseph L. DiSaia, *Chief Deputy Clerk*

Olive Jane Richards, *Deputy Clerk IV*

Virginia S. Hubbard, *Deputy Clerk III*

Mary J. Morris, *Deputy Clerk II*

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Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-3341

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 constitute a quorum. One judge is elected from each of the first five Appellate Judicial Circuits and two from the Sixth Appellate Judicial Circuit, which is Baltimore City. The Judges are appointed by the Governor and hold office until the next general election following the expiration of one year from the date of the vacancy, at which time the Judge shall stand election

for continuance in office for a term of ten years. The Governor designates the Chief Judge.

The Court of Appeals of Maryland has (1) jurisdiction to review a case or proceeding pending in or decided by the Court of Special Appeals in accordance with applicable law, and (2) exclusive appellate jurisdiction with respect to a question of law certified to it under the Uniform Certification of Questions of Law Act (Code Courts Article, sec. 12-307). 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 (Code 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 that the law may require to be filed with the Court (Const. 1867, Art. IV, sec. 17).

COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS

Chief Judge:

Richard P. Gilbert, Sixth Appellate Circuit Baltimore, 1987

Associate Judges:

Charles Awdry Thompson, First Appellate Circuit Cambridge, 1983

H. Kemp MacDaniel, Second Appellate Circuit Arbutus, 1980

John P. Moore, Third Appellate Circuit Rockville, 1984

James F. Couch, Jr., Fourth Appellate Circuit Adelphi, 1988

James C. Morton, Jr., Fifth Appellate Circuit Davidsonville, 1983