

nal jurisdiction within the State. Each has full common law and equity powers and jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases within its county, and all the additional powers and jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and by law, except where by law jurisdiction has been limited or conferred exclusively upon another tribunal.

There is a circuit court in each county of the State, which is a trial court of general jurisdiction. Its jurisdiction is very broad, but generally it handles the major civil cases and the more serious criminal matters. The circuit courts may also decide appeals from the District Court and from certain administrative agencies.

These courts are grouped into eight geographical circuits. Each of the first seven circuits contains two or more counties. The Eighth Judicial Circuit consists of Baltimore City. Judges of that circuit are appointed to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. The Supreme Bench is composed of six courts, each of which exercises a varying degree of overlapping or separate jurisdiction in relation to the others. Collectively, however, these courts act as one circuit court.

Presently, there are ninety-seven Circuit Court judges (twenty-three of them on the Supreme Bench), with at least one judge for each county. Unlike the other three levels of courts in Maryland, there is no chief judge for the Circuit Court. Instead, eight circuit administrative judges appointed by the chief judge of the Court of Appeals perform administrative duties in each of their respective circuits, with the aid of county administrative judges.

Each circuit judge is initially appointed to office by the Governor and must stand for election at the next general election following by at least one year the vacancy the judge was appointed to fill. The judge may be formally opposed by one or more qualified members of the bar, with the successful candidate being elected to a fifteen-year term of office.

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND

Chief Judge: Robert F. Sweeney, 1981

Courts of Appeal Building
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-2412

Margaret Kostritsky, *Chief Clerk*

District Court Building
Rowe Blvd. & Taylor Avenue
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-3486

District 1

Baltimore City—22 Judges

- Edward F. Borgerding, *Administrative Judge* 1983
- Carl W. Bacharach 1989
- Aaron A. Baer 1983
- James L. Bundy 1984
- Hilary D. Caplan 1986
- Joseph A. Ciotola 1986
- Daniel Friedman 1981
- Sol J. Friedman 1983
- Robert J. Gerstung 1981
- Neal M. Janey 1990
- Martin A. Kircher 1983
- I. Sewell Lamdin 1985
- Harold Lewis 1981
- Richard O. Motsay 1988
- Vern J. Munger, Jr. 1987
- William H. Murphy, Sr. 1990
- Alan M. Resnick 1984
- Jerome Robinson 1987
- Allen B. Spector 1987
- Henry W. Stichel, Jr. 1987
- Blanche G. Wahl 1987
- James J. Welsh 1984
- William A. Dorsey, *Administrative Clerk*

District 2

Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties—4 Judges

- William B. Yates II, *Administrative Judge* Dorchester, 1985
- Dale R. Cathell Worcester, 1990
- Robert D. Horsey Somerset, 1986
- D. William Simpson Wicomico, 1988
- Thomas A. White, *Administrative Clerk*

District 3

Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Kent, and Cecil counties—6 Judges

- Kenneth A. Wilcox, *Administrative Judge* Cecil, 1983
- L. Edgar Brown Caroline, 1986
- Walter E. Buck, Jr. Cecil, 1981
- John Thomas Clark III Queen Anne's, 1988
- W. Dunbar Gould Kent, 1981
- John C. North II Talbot, 1981
- Grace Achuff, *Administrative Clerk*