

Albert D. Brault, Elsa R. Kaufmann, J. James McKenna, Theodore A. Miller.

J. Theodore Wieseman, *District Public Defender*

**District No. 7: Anne Arundel County**

Bruce C. Williams, *Chairperson*

Judith Billage, William A. Franch, Mettie M. Smith, Edwin A. Lechowicz.

Stephen Harris, *District Public Defender*

**District No. 8: Baltimore County**

Gerard W. Wittstadt, *Chairperson*

Charles E. Foos III, Michael J. Lambros, C. Victor McFarland, Raymond E. Pryor.

Paul J. Feeley, *District Public Defender*

**District No. 9: Harford County**

Edward D. Higinbothom, *Chairperson*

Judith C. H. Cline, Stanley Getz, John S. Landbeck, Jr., E. Edward Toscani.

Henry C. Engel, Jr., *District Public Defender*

**District No. 10: Howard and Carroll counties**

Guy J. Cicone, *Chairperson*

Nathan Greene, Marker J. Lovell, William R. MacDonald, *one vacancy*.

Orrin J. Brown III, *District Public Defender*

**District No. 11: Frederick and Washington counties**

Fred C. Wright III, *Chairperson*

James F. Strine, *three vacancies*.

William R. Leckemby, Jr., *District Public Defender*

**District No. 12: Allegany and Garrett counties**

Paul J. Steakem, *Chairperson*

Donald W. Mason, Matthew J. Mullaney, Harry I. Stegmaier, William Walsh.

Michael Robert Burkey, *District Public Defender*

The terms of all members of the District Advisory Boards for the Public Defender System expire on January 1, 1984.

Tower Building

222 East Baltimore Street  
Baltimore 21202

Telephone: 659-4830

The Public Defender System was created in 1971 and began operation on January 1, 1972 (Chapter 209, Acts of 1971). It provides counsel

for indigents, including related necessary services and facilities, in criminal and juvenile proceedings within the State. The System assures effective assistance and continuity of counsel to indigent accused taken into custody and indigent defendants in criminal and juvenile proceedings before the Courts of the State. The Office of the Public Defender administers and assures enforcement of these provisions.

The Board of Trustees of the Public Defender System consists of three members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Two members must be active attorneys-at-law. The Board elects its own chairperson.

The Public Defender is appointed by the Board of Trustees and serves at the Board's pleasure. He must be an attorney-at-law, admitted to practice law in Maryland by the Court of Appeals, and must have engaged in the practice of law for a period of five years prior to appointment. The Public Defender, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, appoints the Deputy Public Defender and one District Public Defender for each District of the District Court who must possess the same qualifications as the Public Defender. Assistant Public Defenders may also be appointed by the Public Defender with the advice of the District Public Defenders.

Each District has a District Advisory Board composed of five members. One member is the judge of the Circuit Court or the District Court in the district. The other four must be active attorneys-at-law and are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. The Governor annually designates the chairperson of each board.

The Public Defender provides legal representation for indigent defendants in criminal or juvenile proceedings requiring the presence of counsel before a commissioner or judge, post-conviction proceedings, and any other proceeding where incarceration may result pursuant to a judicial commitment of individuals to public or private institutions.

In 1975 the Public Defender installed three Divisions in the headquarters office, i.e., Mental Health, Appellate, and Inmate Services. The Mental Health Division furnishes counsel to all persons involuntarily committed to facilities under the jurisdiction of or licensed by the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Appellate Division processes all appeals to the Appellate Courts. The Inmate Services Division offers legal assistance to all indigent inmates who have legal problems concerning their incarceration.