

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 the Baltimore City Circuit Court were formerly appointed to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. The Supreme Bench was composed of six courts, each of which exercised a varying degree of overlapping or separate jurisdiction in relation to the others. As a result of constitutional amendments ratified by the voters in November 1980, the six courts of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore were consolidated. The separate courts became the Circuit Court for Baltimore City on January 1, 1983. This court operates much like the circuit courts in the other subdivisions of the State. Most of the supporting personnel are grouped in one clerk's office.

Presently, there are 104 Circuit Court judges, 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 then must stand for election. The judge's name is placed on the ballot of the first general election that occurs at least one year following the vacancy he or she 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

Joseph A. Ciotola, <i>Administrative Judge</i>	1986
Edward J. Angeletti	1991
Carl W. Bacharach	1988
James L. Bundy	1984
Hilary D. Caplan	1986
Arrie W. Davis	1991
Daniel Friedman	1991
Sol J. Friedman	1983
Robert J. Gerstung	1990
George J. Helinski	1992
Mabel Houze Hubbard	1991
Neal M. Janey	1990
Martin A. Kircher	1983
I. Sewell Lamdin	1984
Harold Lewis	1990
Alan B. Lipson	1991
Richard O. Motsay	1988
Alan M. Resnick	1984
Henry W. Stichel, Jr.	1986
Blanche G. Wahl	1987
James J. Welsh, Jr.	1984
Mary Ellen T. Rinehardt	1992
William A. Dorsey, <i>Administrative Clerk</i>	

District 2

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

William B. Yates II, <i>Administrative Judge</i>	Dorchester, 1985
Theodore R. Eschenburg	Worcester, 1991
Robert D. Horsey	Somerset, 1986
D. William Simpson	Wicomico, 1988
Thomas H. White, <i>Administrative Clerk</i>	

District 3

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

Kenneth A. Wilcox, <i>Administrative Judge</i>	Cecil, 1983
L. Edgar Brown	Caroline, 1986
Walter E. Buck, Jr.	Cecil, 1991
John T. Clark III	Queen Anne's, 1988
John C. North II	Talbot, 1991
H. Thomas Sisk, Jr.	Kent, 1991
Grace Achuff, <i>Administrative Clerk</i>	

District 4

Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties—3 Judges

Robert C. Nalley, <i>Administrative Judge</i>	Charles, 1991
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