

COURT OF APPEALS

Chief Judge:

Robert C. Murphy, 2nd Appellate Circuit, 1989

Associate Judges:

Marvin H. Smith, 1st Appellate Circuit, 1986
Vacancy, 3rd Appellate Circuit

James F. Couch, Jr., 4th Appellate Circuit, 1994

John C. Eldridge, 5th Appellate Circuit, 1991

Lawrence F. Rodowsky, 6th Appellate Circuit,
1992

Harry A. Cole, 6th Appellate Circuit, 1988

Alexander L. Cummings, *Clerk of the Court*

Robert C. Franke, *Chief Deputy Clerk*

Courts of Appeal Building

Annapolis 21401

Telephone: 269-3341

The Court of Appeals of Maryland, the highest tribunal in the State, was created by the Constitution of 1776. In the early years of its existence, the Court met at various locations in Maryland, but since 1851 has sat only in Annapolis. The term of the Court begins the second Monday of September in each year.

The Court is presently composed of seven members, one from each of the first five Appellate Judicial Circuits and two from the Sixth Appellate Judicial Circuit (Baltimore City). Members of the Court, after initial appointment by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate, run for office on their records without opposition. If the voters reject the retention in office of a judge, or if the vote is tied, that office becomes vacant and must be filled by a new appointment. Otherwise, the incumbent judge is retained in office for a ten-year term. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is designated by the Governor and is the constitutional administrative head of the Maryland judicial system.

By legislation effective January 1, 1975, the Court of Appeals hears cases almost exclusively by way of certiorari (i.e., on review). The Court may review a case decided by the Court of Special Appeals or may bring up for review cases filed in that court before they are decided there. The Court of Appeals may also review certain decisions rendered at the circuit court level if those courts have acted in an appellate capacity with respect to an appeal from the District Court. The Court is empowered to adopt rules of judicial administration, practice, and procedure, which have the force of law. It also reviews recommendations of the State Board of Law Examiners, and conducts

disciplinary proceedings involving members of the bench and bar.

The Court of Appeals holds a number of hearings throughout the year in regard to the adoption or amendment of rules of practice and procedure. It also supervises the activities of the Attorney Grievance Commission. Other regular duties include the admission of persons to the practice of law (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 12-301 through 12-307).

The clerk of the Court of Appeals is appointed by the Court. The clerk maintains the docket, receives the briefs and transcripts of all cases filed with the Court, and maintains official custody of the decisions of the Court, the Acts of the General Assembly, and 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, 6th Appellate Circuit, 1987

Associate Judges:

William H. Adkins II, 1st Appellate Circuit, 1994

Paul E. Alpert, 2nd Appellate Circuit, 1994

James S. Getty, 3rd Appellate Circuit, 1994

John J. Garrity, 4th Appellate Circuit, 1994

Theodore G. Bloom, 5th Appellate Circuit, 1994

Robert M. Bell, 6th Appellate Circuit, 1986

Rosalyn B. Bell, At Large, 1994

John J. Bishop, Jr., At Large, 1992

Robert L. Karwacki, At Large, 1986

Charles E. Moylan, Jr., At Large, 1987

Edward O. Weant, Jr., At Large, 1988

Alan M. Wilner, At Large, 1988

Howard E. Friedman, *Clerk of the Court*

Robert J. Booze, *Chief Deputy Clerk*

Courts of Appeal Building

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The Court of Special Appeals, Maryland's intermediate appellate court, was created in 1966 to alleviate the caseload in the Court of Appeals, which had caused that court to develop a substantial backlog.

The Court of Special Appeals sits in Annapolis and, although it was originally composed of five judges, now consists of thirteen members. One member of the Court is elected from each of the first five Appellate Judicial Circuits while two members are elected from the Sixth Appellate