

Where a felony offense caused physical, psychological, or economic injury, the Division prepares a victim impact statement as part of the presentence investigation. A victim impact statement also is prepared when a misdemeanor offense has caused serious physical injury or death.

The Pre-Trial Release Services Division of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City became a unit of the Division of Parole and Probation in 1985 (Chapter 725, Acts of 1985). Through Pre-Trial Release Services, the Division screens all defendants appearing before the courts of Baltimore City. The Division then provides the courts with recommendations regarding the pre-trial release or detention of persons awaiting adjudication. A Pre-Trial Release Committee oversees the Pre-Trial Release Services Division. The Committee consists of the Director of the Division of Parole and Probation or the Director's designee, and two judges appointed by the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

The Division maintains field offices throughout the State in close proximity to the residences of large segments of the client population. Offices are located throughout Baltimore City, Annapolis, Arbutus/Catonsville, Bel Air, Beltsville, Cambridge, Centreville, Chestertown, Cumberland, Denton, Dundalk, Easton, Elkton, Ellicott City, Essex/Rosedale, Forrestville, Frederick, Gaithersburg, Glen Burnie, Hagerstown, La Plata, Leonardtown, Oakland, Oxon Hill, Prince Frederick, Princess Anne, Rockville, Salisbury, Silver Spring, Snow Hill, Towson, Upper Marlboro, and Westminster (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 4-601 through 4-613).

## MARYLAND PAROLE COMMISSION

*Chairperson:* Phillip G. Dantes, 1991

Michael A. Bryant, 1988; Maceo M. Williams, 1988; Marjorie A. Jennings, 1989; John W. Wolfgang, 1989; Harry J. Traurig, 1992; Daniel D. Zaccagnini, 1992.

Janet Q. Bacon, *Administrator*

6776 Reisterstown Rd., Suite 307  
Baltimore 21215 Telephone: 764-4231

The Maryland Parole Commission was created in 1976 to replace the Board of Parole (Chapter 540, Acts of 1976). The previous board had been established by Chapter 457, Acts of 1968, to replace the Board of Parole and Probation.

The Commission uses hearing examiners to hear certain cases for parole release. The Commission itself has the exclusive power to hear certain serious cases for parole release and to conduct hearings for revocation of parole. Commission jurisdiction extends to persons sentenced under State law to any penal or correctional institution, including local jails and detention centers. The Commission has the power to issue warrants for the return to custody of alleged violators of parole and to suspend or revoke parole upon a showing of violation.

Decisions of its hearing examiners, if concurred in by the Commission on summary review, become final. A final decision of the hearing examiner may be appealed to a panel of Commission members for review upon the record. The decision of the appeal panel is final.

On its own initiative, the Commission must ask the Division of Parole and Probation to make such investigation as may enable the Commission to determine the advisability of granting parole to persons sentenced for a term of 6 months or more to the jurisdiction of the Division of Correction, or to any other place of confinement or detention of violators of State criminal laws, whenever the prisoner shall have served one-fourth of the term or consecutive terms in confinement. The Commission evaluates information on the activity of parolees as reported to it by the Division of Parole and Probation. In addition, the Commission has the Division of Parole and Probation conduct investigations from which recommendations are made to the Governor on pardons, commutations of sentences, and parole of persons sentenced to life imprisonment. The Commission also is authorized to negotiate and execute tri-party contracts for the release on parole of an inmate at a predetermined future date, conditioned upon the fulfillment of the conditions specified in the agreement. Signatories to such mutual agreements are the Parole Commission, the Commissioner of Correction, and the inmate.

The Commission is composed of a chairperson and six commissioners. All are appointed for six-year terms by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services with the approval of the Governor and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services designates the chairperson (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 4-501 through 4-512).