

**J. JOSEPH CURRAN, JR.**  
*Attorney General*



J. Joseph Curran, Jr., was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, on July 7, 1931. He attended Baltimore parochial schools, Loyola High School, the University of Baltimore, and the University of Baltimore Law School (LL.B., 1959). Mr. Curran served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict, with duty in Japan and Korea. He was honorably discharged with the rank of staff sergeant after a four-year tour of duty.

Attorney General Curran began his career in public service in 1958 when he was elected to the House of Delegates while still a law student. In 1962, he was elected to the State Senate and served on the Judicial Proceedings Committee, and was elected chairman of that committee in 1967, a position he held for sixteen years. During Mr. Curran's tenure in the General Assembly, he sponsored or was the leading spokesman for many significant bills, including those creating the Court of Special Appeals and the District Court system. He consistently supported bills to improve the courts and the corrections system, toughen drunk-driving laws, and guarantee equal rights, and he sponsored the handgun permit law. He also sponsored legislation to modernize Maryland's divorce and alimony laws, reform adoption and guardianship laws, and protect victims of domestic violence. The Maryland Higher Education Loan Program, which Mr. Curran first sponsored as a member of the House, was passed under his leadership while he was a member of the State Senate.

In 1982, Mr. Curran was elected Maryland's third Lieutenant Governor since the office was reestablished in 1970, and he served as legislative liaison for Administration bills. Appointed by Governor Hughes, he chaired task forces on the Drinking Driver, to Review the Defense of Insanity, on Victims Services, and on Liability Insurance. He also chaired the Committee assigned to study budget flexibility for higher education, the Maryland Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and the State Trade Policy Council, and was a member of the Joint Executive-Legislative Task Force on Medical Malpractice Insurance. Consistent with his long-standing involvement in criminal justice matters and social issues, Mr. Curran worked to ensure the adequate delivery of juvenile services, and was involved in corrections and judicial reform and a balanced State policy for deinstitutionalization. As Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Curran worked extensively with the Department of Economic and Community Development to maintain open contact and dialogue with Maryland resident industry and assisted in efforts to bring new industry and jobs to Maryland.

In 1986, Mr. Curran was elected Attorney General of Maryland.

Mr. Curran is married to the former Barbara Marie Atkins. They are the parents of five children, Mary Carole, Alice, Catherine, J. Joseph III (Max), and William (deceased). The Currans reside in the Homeland section of Baltimore City.