
COURT OF APPEALS

Robert C. Murphy, <i>Chief Judge</i>	2nd Appellate Circuit, 1989
William H. Adkins II, <i>Associate Judge</i>	1st Appellate Circuit, 1996
John F. McAuliffe, <i>Associate Judge</i>	3rd Appellate Circuit, 1995
Albert T. Blackwell, Jr., <i>Associate Judge</i>	4th Appellate Circuit, 1998
John C. Eldridge, <i>Associate Judge</i>	5th Appellate Circuit, 1991
Harry A. Cole, <i>Associate Judge</i>	6th Appellate Circuit, 1998
Lawrence F. Rodowsky, <i>Associate Judge</i>	6th Appellate Circuit, 1992
Alexander L. Cummings, <i>Clerk of the Court</i>	
Robert C. Franke, <i>Chief Deputy Clerk</i>	

Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

974-3341

As the highest tribunal in Maryland, the Court of Appeals was created by the Constitution of 1776.

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 also may review certain decisions rendered by the Circuit Court if that court acted in an appellate capacity with respect to an appeal from the District Court. The Court may 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.

Throughout the year, the Court of Appeals holds hearings on the adoption or amendment of rules of practice and procedure. It also supervises the Attorney Grievance Commission and admits persons to the practice of law (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 12-301 through 12-307). The term of the Court begins the second Monday of September.

The Court is composed of seven members, one from each of the first five Appellate Judicial Circuits and two from the Sixth Appellate Judicial Circuit (Baltimore City). After initial appointment by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate, members of the Court run for office on their records without opposition. If the voters reject the retention in office of a judge, or the vote is tied, the office becomes vacant. Otherwise, the incumbent judge is retained in office for a ten-year term. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, designated by the Governor, is the constitutional administrative head of the Maryland judicial system (Const., Art. IV, secs. 5A, 18(b)).

The clerk of the Court of Appeals is appointed by the Court. The clerk maintains the docket, receives briefs and transcripts of cases filed with the Court, and maintains official custody of Court decisions, Acts of the General Assembly, and other records required to be filed with the Court (Const., Art. IV, sec. 17).