
CIRCUIT COURTS

The Circuit Courts are the highest common law and equity courts of record exercising original jurisdiction within Maryland. Each has full common law and equity powers and jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases within its county, and all the additional powers and jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and by law, except where jurisdiction has been limited or conferred exclusively upon another tribunal by law (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, sec. 1-501).

The Circuit Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction. Its jurisdiction is very broad but generally covers major civil cases and more serious criminal matters. Circuit Courts also may decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies. These courts are grouped into eight geographical circuits: the first seven circuits each contain two or more counties; the eighth consists of Baltimore City.

Presently, there are 116 Circuit Court judges, with at least one judge for each county. Unlike other Maryland courts, the Circuit Court has no chief judge. Instead, eight circuit administrative judges perform administrative duties in each of their respective circuits. Appointed by the chief judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit administrative judges are aided by county administrative judges. Within each circuit, the judge who has served longest on the court is designated chief judge of the circuit.

Each Circuit Court judge is appointed by the Governor and then must stand for election. The judge's name is placed on the ballot in the first general election that occurs at least one year following the vacancy the judge 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 (Const., Art. IV, secs. 19-26).

1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico & Worcester Counties—7 Judges

Lloyd L. Simpkins, *Chief Judge & Circuit Administrative Judge*..... Somerset, 1991
 Dale R. Cathell..... Worcester, 1997
 Theodore R. Eschenburg, Sr. Worcester, 1999
 Donald F. Johnson Dorchester, 2001
 D. William Simpson Wicomico, 2003
 Alfred T. Truitt, Jr. Wicomico, 1993
 Richard Dexter Warren..... Wicomico, 1990

Courthouse
 Princess Anne, MD 21853 651-1555

2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's & Talbot Counties—6 Judges

Donaldson C. Cole, Jr., *Chief Judge* ... Cecil, 1995
 J. Owen Wise, *Circuit Administrative Judge* Caroline, 1999
 Elroy G. Boyer Kent, 2003
 William S. Horne..... Talbot, 1990
 Edward D. E. Rollins, Jr..... Cecil, 1999
 John W. Sause, Jr. Queen Anne's, 1990

Courthouse
 P. O. Box 356
 Denton, MD 21629 479-2303

3RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Baltimore & Harford Counties—18 Judges

Frank E. Cicone, *Chief Judge & Circuit Administrative Judge*..... Baltimore, 1989
 Maurice W. Baldwin, Jr. Harford, 2003
 Alfred L. Brennan, Sr. Baltimore, 1990
 William R. Buchanan, Sr. Baltimore, 1993
 William O. Carr Harford, 2001
 Edward A. DeWaters, Jr. Baltimore, 1991
 John F. Fader II Baltimore, 1997
 A. Owen Hennegan Baltimore, 1999
 J. William Hinkel Baltimore, 1997
 Barbara Kerr Howe..... Baltimore, 1990
 Leonard S. Jacobson Baltimore, 1999
 Dana M. Levitz Baltimore, 2001
 Joseph F. Murphy, Jr. Baltimore, 2001
 William M. Nickerson Baltimore, 2001
 James T. Smith, Jr. Baltimore, 2001
 John G. Turnbull II Baltimore, 2003
 Stephen M. Waldron Harford, 1990
 Cypert O. Whitfill..... Harford, 1999

County Courts Building
 401 Bosley Ave.
 Towson, MD 21204 494-2500

4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Allegany, Garrett & Washington Counties—6 Judges

Frederick A. Thayer III, *Chief Judge* ... Garrett, 1993
 Frederick C. Wright III, *Circuit Administrative Judge*..... Washington, 1995