

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

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.

In 1986, Mr. Curran was elected Attorney General of Maryland after serving four years as Lieutenant Governor with Governor Harry Hughes. In 1990, he won re-election handily. Under Mr. Curran, the Maryland Attorney General's Office has been a national leader in consumer protection, criminal investigations, Medicaid fraud prosecution, securities regulation and antitrust enforcement. During Mr. Curran's tenure, for the first time in State history, a jail sentence has been imposed on defendants solely for the commission of environmental crimes.

Long a proponent of sensible gun control laws, Mr. Curran played a leading role in the successful 1986 handgun referendum to ban over-the-counter sales of so-called Saturday-night specials in Maryland.

In a landmark 1990 case, *Maryland v. Craig*, Attorney General Curran successfully urged the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold Maryland's law permitting victims of child abuse to testify via one-way television. In 1993, the Office, along with attorneys general from other states, prevailed in the Supreme Court in a major antitrust case against insurance companies. Under Mr. Curran's direction, the Criminal Investigations Division obtained fines and restitution of more than \$13 million and put 97 defendants behind bars. Among those receiving prison sentences have been suspected or convicted drug dealers who were prosecuted for failing to pay State taxes on their income from drug trafficking. The Division also has prosecuted 10 individuals and corporations for fraud under the State's minority business enterprise law.

The office's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit has been recognized repeatedly as one of the country's best under Mr. Curran's leadership. Since 1986, Maryland has been awarded more than \$4.5 million in restitution and fines as the result of the Unit's more than 100 criminal prosecutions for fraud and patient abuse. In 1992, Maryland received national attention by becoming the first state to successfully prosecute a physician for criminally neglecting his nursing home patients.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division responds to 100,000 telephone calls a year, handles 9,000 to 11,000 written complaints, and has obtained several million dollars in restitution and fines.



The Health Education and Advocacy Unit alone has recovered nearly \$420,000 for consumers by resolving billing disputes, and obtaining medical services from health insurance companies and HMOs.

The Securities Division has initiated an average of 400 disciplinary actions each year against stockbrokers and investment advisers. The Division has obtained major settlements including one against a brokerage firm which resulted in the return of \$300,000 to Maryland investors during 1992. During Mr. Curran's tenure, the Securities Division also has implemented the most comprehensive regulatory plan for investment advisers in the country.

The Antitrust Division under Mr. Curran has obtained criminal convictions of numerous persons and businesses for rigging bids in State construction and asbestos abatement contracts; spearheaded nationwide settlements returning more than \$50 million to consumers victimized by resale price maintenance schemes in the consumer electronics industry; thwarted a price-fixing agreement among Baltimore area pharmacies that raised the cost of prescriptions to HMO subscribers; and broadened the availability of a new anti-psychotic drug for schizophrenic patients by forcing its manufacturer to halt an arrangement that rendered the drug prohibitively expensive.

In the Attorney General's Office, Mr. Curran established an in-house continuing education program; encouraged assistant attorneys general to handle *pro bono* cases; and appointed a Special Assistant Attorney General to serve as attorney hiring coordinator.

Attorney General Curran began his career in public service in 1958 when he was elected to the House of