

## COURT OF APPEALS

Robert C. Murphy, *Chief Judge*, 2nd Appellate Circuit, 2000

- Robert L. Karwacki, *Judge*, 1st Appellate Circuit, 2002
- Lawrence F. Rodowsky, *Judge*, 3rd Appellate Circuit, 2002
- Howard S. Chasanow, *Judge*, 4th Appellate Circuit, 2002
- John C. Eldridge, *Judge*, 5th Appellate Circuit, 2002
- Robert M. Bell, *Judge*, 6th Appellate Circuit, 2002
- Irma S. Raker, *Judge*, 7th Appellate Circuit, 1996

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

(410) 974-3341

### BUDGET (CODE CA0001, formerly 22.01.00.01)

Funds	FY1994 (actual)	FY1995 (actual)	FY1996 (appropriation)
General . . . . .	\$2,449,210	\$2,532,578	\$2,637,371
Total Funds . . . . .	\$2,449,210	\$2,532,578	\$2,637,371
 <b>Staff</b>			
Authorized . . . . .	36	36	36
Contractual (FTE) . . . . .	0	0	0
Total Staff . . . . .	36	36	36

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

**COURT OF APPEALS**

**CHIEF JUDGE**

Robert C. Murphy, *Chief Judge*  
(designated by Governor) . . . . . (410) 887-4810

**CLERK**

Alexander L. Cummings, *Clerk*  
(appointed by Court of Appeals)  
. . . . . (410) 974-3341

**CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK**

Robert C. Franke . . . . . (410) 974-3341

**DEPUTY CLERKS**

. . . . . (410) 974-3341

**RECORDERS**

. . . . . (410) 974-3341

**JUDGES**

- Robert M. Bell, *Judge* . . . . . (410) 333-6396
- Howard S. Chasanow, *Judge* . . . . . (301) 952-4173
- John C. Eldridge, *Judge* . . . . . (410) 974-3741
- Robert L. Karwacki, *Judge* . . . . . (410) 974-2777
- Irma S. Raker, *Judge* . . . . . (301) 217-7530
- Lawrence F. Rodowsky, *Judge* . . . . . (410) 333-4374

### ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS

Functions of the Court of Appeals began in the colonial period. Then, the Upper House of Maryland's Assembly consisted of the Governor and Council, who, in 1664, first reviewed writs of error appealing judgments of the Provincial Court. In 1694, the Governor and Council were authorized by statute to consider appeals from the Provincial Court (Chapter 18, Acts of 1694). The four-member court of Governor and Council first sat in May 1695 in Annapolis.

As the highest tribunal in Maryland, the Court of Appeals was created by the Constitution of 1776 (Art. 56). The Court was to be "composed of persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, whose judgment shall be final and conclusive in all cases of appeal, from the general court, court of chancery, and court of admiralty . . ." Five judges were commissioned in 1778, and that number reduced to three in 1801. The Court was restructured in 1806 by dividing the State into six judicial districts with a chief judge and two associate judges for each district appointed by the Governor and Council. Together, these