



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

J. Joseph Curran, Jr., Attorney General of Maryland since 1987, 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 School of Law (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 after serving four years as Lieutenant Governor with Governor Harry R. Hughes. In 1990, 1994, and 1998, he won re-election. Under Mr. Curran, the Attorney General's Office has been a national leader in consumer protection, criminal investigations, Medicaid fraud prosecution, securities regulation and antitrust enforcement. During his tenure, for the first time in State history, defendants have been sentenced solely for committing environmental crimes.

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.

From 1993 to 1994, Mr. Curran played a leading role in a number of controversial issues. He supported Maryland's first workplace ban on smoking as well as efforts to improve judicial

accountability, and legislation to prevent criminals from profiting from their crimes. His 1996 report, "Tune it Out: Media Violence, Children, and Crime," concluded that media violence is responsible for approximately 15% of all juvenile crime. Following that report, the Attorney General's Office issued more than 600,000 media violence diaries, interactive tools that enable parents to monitor their children's exposure to media violence. In 1998, Mr. Curran was instrumental in finalizing Maryland's settlement with the tobacco industry, gaining for the State \$4.4 billion to save lives and stop teenage cigarette smoking.

Long a proponent of sensible gun-control laws, Mr. Curran helped lead the successful 1986 handgun referendum to ban over-the-counter sales of so-called Saturday-night specials in Maryland. He continues to be a vocal leader on this issue. In October 1999, he released his report, "A Farewell to Arms," calling for unprecedented restrictions on the ownership of handguns in Maryland.

Under Mr. Curran, the Attorney General's Office is one of the country's best. Since 1986, Maryland has been awarded more than \$22 million in restitution and fines from over 162 criminal convictions by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for fraud and patient abuse. In 1992, Maryland received national attention as the first state successfully to prosecute a physician for criminal neglect of nursing-home patients. 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 behind bars 97 defendants, including suspected or convicted drug dealers prosecuted for not paying State taxes on their income from drug trafficking. The Consumer Protection Division also has obtained several million dollars in restitution and fines. Within the Division, the Health Education and Advocacy Unit alone has recovered nearly \$420,000 for consumers by resolving billing disputes, and securing medical services from health insurance companies and HMOs. The Securities Division has initiated about 400 disciplinary actions each year against stockbrokers and investment advisers. The Division also has implemented the country's most comprehensive regulatory plan for investment advisers. The Antitrust Division has obtained criminal convictions