THE MARYLAND COURT OF APPEALS
A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ITS HISTORY
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May 1987
Preface

In 1978, the Maryland Court of Appeals celebrated its two hundredth birthday. The actual age of the Court has been debated over the years. The present Court, however, was formally fathered by the revolutionary Maryland Constitution of 1776.

For years researchers have experienced first hand the real scarcity of published sources on the Court's history. The only real landmark book on the Court was published in 1928. This work astutely documented and narrated by Judge Carroll T. Bond, The Court of Appeals of Maryland, A History, covers the Court's chronology only up to 1867. A review of basic literature indexing tools turns up surprisingly few citations that provide any other substantive discussion on the Court itself since that time.

The rekindling of interest and scholarly research into the origins and contemporary history of our governmental institutions has been sparked by our bicentennial celebrations of 1976 and now by the United States Constitution's 200th anniversary. It is hoped that this preliminary bibliography on the history of the Court of Appeals will stimulate interest and promote scholarly research on this respected institution's experiences, contributions, and development.

Undoubtedly, this resource checklist is a large step forward in filling a void in Maryland legal history. As far as can be determined no such bibliography has before attempted to bring together sources of information on the Maryland Court of Appeals. The bibliographic references offered are admittedly selective yet represent all the major legal and historical sources that could be identified.

The major sources/collections represented in the bibliography are taken from published monographs, periodical and newspaper articles, transactions of the Maryland State Bar Association, the Maryland Archives, various State constitutional convention debates and proceedings and court records preserved in the Maryland State Archives. Though it is a truism that the human beings who serve an institution establish its character, this bibliography, for the most part, concentrates on the evolution of the Court's structure, jurisdiction, growth and management.

For purposes of simplicity this twelve page bibliography is arranged in the traditional alphabetical order by main entry. Some entries have been briefly annotated to reflect subject pertinence. Most of the items referenced are available for review at the Maryland State Law Library where a location coded copy of the bibliography is retained at the library's reference desk.

Robert C. Murphy, Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland


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