

District 11: Frederick and Washington Counties—4 Judges
 Fred C. Wright III, Washington County, Administrative Judge.....1981
 Byron W. Thompson, Frederick County1981
 Stanley Y. Bennett, Frederick County1981
 J. Louis Boublitz, Washington County1981

District 12: Allegany and Garrett Counties—3 Judges
 Lewis R. Jones, Garrett County, Administrative Judge.....1981
 Milton Gerson, Allegany County1981
 Miller Bowen, Allegany County1981

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A proposed constitutional amendment in 1969 which was ratified by the voters in the State at the November, 1970 General Election brought into existence the new Maryland District Court, a state wide court of limited jurisdiction. The initial implementing legislation for the court was contained in Chapter 528 of the Acts of 1970 and was further supplemented by Chapter 423, Acts of 1971 and by other 1971 legislation.

The new court commenced operation on July 5, 1971 and functions on a state wide basis in every county in the State and Baltimore City. The District Court is part of the State's Judicial system, is a court of record and replaces entirely the theretofore existing justices of the peace, the county trial magistrates, the People's Courts in certain counties, the People's Court of Baltimore City and the Municipal Court of Baltimore City. It has uniform jurisdiction throughout the State and, in Montgomery County only, it has also been given juvenile court jurisdiction as existed prior thereto in the People's Court for that county. Although the District Court is a court of limited jurisdiction, it has been given expanded jurisdiction over the prior existing lower court systems.

By statute, the State is divided into twelve districts. A Chief Judge for the entire system has been appointed. Seventy-nine judges have been allocated among the Districts. Some thirty-six of the full time People's Court judges in certain counties and Baltimore City, along with judges of the Municipal Court of Baltimore City, were carried over into the new court system to serve for the remainder of their then existing terms. Thereafter, they will be reappointed by the Governor for ten year terms subject to age provisions and Senate confirmation. The remaining judges, and all in the future, are appointed by the Governor for ten year terms subject to Senate confirmation and are chosen from lists of nominees selected and submitted by the Judicial Nominating Commissions. Each Judge must meet certain constitutional qualifications applicable to the judiciary of the appellate courts and trial courts of general jurisdiction, must devote full time to his judicial duties and is strictly prohibited from practicing law.

Within the District Court system there is a Chief Clerk appointed by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge also designates from among the judges an Administrative Judge for each district. Each district also has a chief administrative clerk. In addition, a District Court Clerk for each county within a district and all other necessary court employees have also been chosen. Further, commissioners will be appointed by the administrative judge of the district with the approval of the Chief Judge to function in each county and in Baltimore City as may be needed. The commissioners will perform functions similar to the old Committing Magistrates with respect to issuance of arrest warrants, setting bail or collateral, or other terms of pre-trial release pending a hearing or incarceration prior to hearing.