The District Court is divided into twelve geographical districts, each containing one or more political subdivisions, with at least one judge in each subdivision. Presently, there are 90 judges on the Court, including the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge is the administrative head of the Court and appoints administrative judges for each of the twelve districts, subject to the approval of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. A Chief Clerk of the Court is appointed by the Chief Judge. Administrative Clerks for each district are also appointed, as well as commissioners who perform such duties as issuing arrest warrants and setting bail or collateral.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

James H. Norris, Jr., *State Court Administrator*

Robert W. McKeever, *Deputy State Court Administrator*

Judith C. Levinson, *Legal Officer*

Peter J. Lally, *Assistant State Court Administrator, Research and Planning*

Michael V. O'Malley, *Assistant State Court Administrator, Special Projects*

J. Allen Hines, *Assistant State Court Administrator, Administrative Services*

Jerry A. Powell, *Assistant State Court Administrator, Judicial Information Systems*

Ernest L. Bailey, Jr., *Assistant State Court Administrator, Personnel*

Ellen Marshall, *Assistant State Court Administrator, Education and Information*

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In 1944, the people of Maryland recognized the need for providing administrative direction to the court system when they ratified what is now Article IV, Section 18(b) of the Constitution, providing that the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is "the administrative head of the Judicial system of the State." But it was not until 1955 that the General Assembly took initial steps to provide professional administrative staff to assist the Chief Judge in carrying out administrative responsibilities.

In the latter year, the General Assembly created the Administrative Office of the Courts, headed by a State Court Administrator appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The State Court Administrator and the Administrative Office provide the Chief Judge with advice, information, facilities, and staff to aid him in the performance of his administrative duties, and to implement court administrative policies established by the Chief Judge, the Court of Appeals, and the General Assembly.

These administrative tasks include planning, research, providing staff support for the education and training of judges and nonjudicial personnel, and preparation and administration of the Judiciary budget. They involve liaison with the legislative and executive branches, staff support for the Maryland Judicial Conference and the Conference of Circuit Judges, the operation of information systems, and the gathering and analysis of statistics and other management information. The Administrative Office also assists the Chief Judge in the deployment of judges to cope with temporary backlogs or to address shortages of judicial personnel (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, sec. 13–101).

The staff of the circuit administrators in the First, Second, Fourth, and Fifth Judicial Circuits are also attached to the Administrative Office.

THE STATE REPORTER

Alexander L. Cummings, *State Reporter*

Courts of Appeal Building
Annapolis 21401   Telephone: 974–3539

Appointed by the Court of Appeals, the State Reporter is responsible for the publication of the *Maryland Reports* and the *Maryland Appellate Reports*. *Maryland Reports* contains the official opinions of the Court of Appeals (Const. 1867, Art. IV, secs. 14–18A). *Maryland Appellate Reports* contains the official opinions of the Court of Special Appeals (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 13–201 through 13–204).

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES

Chairperson: Richard P. Gilbert, *Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals,* 1987

Charles O. Fisher, Sr., 1987; James H. Taylor, 1987; George J. Helinski, 1988; Marshall A. Levin, 1988; Martha Eleanor Church, Ph.D., 1989; Nathan Patz, 1989.