

DISTRICT 6: MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Chairperson: DeLawrence Beard
Charles F. Chester; Paul F. Kemp; Alan
L. Tanenbaum; Maria Vacchio.

DISTRICT 7: ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY
Chairperson: Bruce C. Williams
Judith Billage; William A. Franch;
Mettie M. Smith; Edwin A. Lechowicz.

DISTRICT 8: BALTIMORE COUNTY
Chairperson: Gerard W. Wittstadt
Michael J. Lambros; C. Victor
McFarland; Raymond E. Pryor; one
vacancy.

DISTRICT 9: HARFORD COUNTY
Chairperson: Edwin H. W. Harlan, Jr.
Judith C. H. Cline; Stanley Getz; John
S. Karas; Michael E. Leaf.

DISTRICT 10: HOWARD & CARROLL
COUNTIES
Chairperson: Diane Gail Schulte
Charles O. Fisher, Jr.; Nathan Greene;
Marker J. Lovell; William R.
MacDonald.

DISTRICT 11: FREDERICK &
WASHINGTON COUNTIES
Chairperson: Frederick C. Wright III
Edward L. Kuczynski; Lewis C.
Metzner; Glenn C. Michel; Robert S.
Rothenhoefer.

DISTRICT 12: ALLEGANY &
GARRETT COUNTIES
Chairperson: Paul J. Stakem
Thomas B. Dabney, Jr.; Donald W.
Mason; William H. Rudd; William
Walsh.

Within the Office of the Public Defender are the Mental Health Division, the Appellate Division, and the Inmate Services Division.

The Mental Health Division furnishes counsel to all persons involuntarily committed to facilities under the jurisdiction of or licensed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Appellate Division processes all appeals to the appellate courts. The Inmate Services Division offers legal assistance to all indigent inmates who have legal problems concerning their incarceration. Office services apply only to representation in or with respect to the courts of Maryland.

The Board of Trustees of the Public Defender system consists of three members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Two members must be active attorneys-at-law.

Appointed by the Board of Trustees, the Public Defender must be an attorney-at-law, who has been admitted to practice law in Maryland by the Court of Appeals and engaged in the practice of law for a period of five years prior to appointment. The Public Defender, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, appoints the Deputy Public Defender and, for each district of the District Court, appoints one District Public Defender who must possess the same qualifications as the Public Defender. Assistant Public Defenders also may be appointed by the Public Defender with the advice of the District Public Defenders. The Public Defender must submit a report annually to the Board of Trustees, the Governor, and General Assembly (Code 1957, Art. 27A).

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER SYSTEM

Each District Advisory Board for the Public Defender system studies and observes the operation of its district public defender office. The Board advises the Public Defender and its district public defender with respect to panels of attorneys, fees, and other matters pertaining to the operation of the district public defender office and the Public Defender system.

Twelve District Advisory Boards serve the Public Defender system. Composed of five members, each Board represents a district of the District Court. One member is the judge of the Circuit Court or the District Court in the district. Four members must be active attorneys-at-law; they are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Annually, the Governor designates the chairperson of each board (Code 1957, Art. 27A, sec. 10).

The Office of Public Defender was created in 1971 (Chapter 209, Acts of 1971). In criminal and juvenile proceedings within the State, the Office provides indigent persons with counsel, and related necessary services and facilities. The Office assures effective assistance and continuity of counsel to accused indigent persons in custody and to indigent defendants in criminal and juvenile proceedings before the courts of the State. The Office of the Public Defender administers and assures enforcement of these provisions.

The Public Defender provides legal representation for indigent defendants in criminal or juvenile proceedings that require the presence of counsel before a commissioner or judge, in post-conviction proceedings, and in any other proceeding where incarceration may result pursuant to a judicial commitment of individuals to public or private institutions.