

## COURT OF APPEALS

Robert C. Murphy, *Chief Judge*, 2nd Appellate Circuit, 2000  
 Robert L. Karwacki, *Judge*, 1st Appellate Circuit, 2002  
 Irma S. Raker, *Judge*, 3rd Appellate Circuit, 1996  
 Howard S. Chasanow, *Judge*, 4th Appellate Circuit, 2002  
 John C. Eldridge, *Judge*, 5th Appellate Circuit, 2002  
 Lawrence F. Rodowsky, *Judge*, 6th Appellate Circuit, 2002  
 Robert M. Bell, *Judge*, 6th Appellate Circuit, 2002

Courts of Appeal Building  
 361 Rowe Blvd.  
 Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 974-3341

### BUDGET (CODE 22.01.00.01)

Funds	FY1992 (actual)	FY1993 (actual)	FY1994 (approp.)
General Funds .....	\$2,418,130	\$2,416,374	\$2,449,215
Total Funds .....	\$2,418,130	\$2,416,374	\$2,449,215
<b>Staff</b>			
Authorized Positions .....	36	36	36
Contractual Positions (FTE) .....	0	0	0
Total Staff .....	36	36	36

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

<b>COURT OF APPEALS</b>	DEPUTY CLERKS
<b>CHIEF JUDGE</b>	..... (410) 974-3341
Robert C. Murphy, <i>Chief Judge</i> (designated by Governor) .....	(410) 974-3923
<b>CLERK</b>	<b>JUDGES</b>
Alexander L. Cummings, <i>Clerk</i> (appointed by Court of Appeals) .....	Robert M. Bell, <i>Judge</i> .....
(410) 974-3341	Howard S. Chasanow, <i>Judge</i> ..
<b>CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK</b>	John C. Eldridge, <i>Judge</i> .....
Robert C. Franke .....	Robert L. Karwacki, <i>Judge</i> .....
(410) 974-3341	Irma S. Raker, <i>Judge</i> .....
	Lawrence F. Rodowsky, <i>Judge</i> ..

### ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS

Functions of the Court of Appeals began in the colonial period. Then, the Upper House of Maryland's Assembly consisted of the Governor and Council, who in 1664 first reviewed writs of error appealing judgments of the Provincial Court. In 1694, the Governor and Council were authorized by statute to consider appeals from the Provincial Court (Chapter 18, Acts of 1694). The four-member court of Governor and Council first sat in May 1695 in Annapolis.

As the highest tribunal in Maryland, the Court of Appeals was created by the Constitution of 1776 (Art. 56). The Court was to be "composed of persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, whose judgment shall be final and conclusive in all cases of appeal, from the general court, court of chancery, and court of admiralty . . ." Five judges were commissioned in 1778, and that number reduced to three in 1801. The Court was restructured in 1806 by dividing the State into six judicial districts with a chief judge and two associate judges for each district appointed by the Governor and Council. Together these six chief judges constituted the Court of Appeals which began to sit on the Eastern Shore at Easton as well as on the Western Shore at the State capital.