

**FREDERICK COUNTY**

W. Milnor Roberts, *Associate Judge*, 2001  
 Frederick, MD 21701—5548 . . . . (301) 694-2005

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Ralph H. France II, *Associate Judge*, 2005  
 R. Noel Spence, *Associate Judge*, 2003  
 Hagerstown, MD 21740—4867 . . . (301) 791-4740

**DISTRICT COURT—DISTRICT 12**

(Allegany & Garrett Counties: 3 Judges)  
 Paul J. Stakem, *District Administrative Judge*, Allegany  
 County, 2001  
 Cumberland, MD 21505—3045 (301) 777-2105

**ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK**

Kathleen M. Stafford . . . . . (301) 777-2105

**DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONERS**

Alan A. Dougherty, *Supervising Commissioner*  
 . . . . . (301) 777-2112

**ALLEGANY COUNTY**

W. Timothy Finan, *Associate Judge*, 1997  
 Cumberland, MD 21502—3045 . . (301) 777-2105

**GARRETT COUNTY**

Ralph M. Burnett, *Associate Judge*, 2003  
 Oakland, MD 21550—1526 . . . . (301) 334-8164

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**ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS**


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The District Court of Maryland was created by constitutional amendment ratified in 1970 (Chapter 789, Acts of 1969; Const., Art. IV, secs. 41A through 41-I). The Court began operating in July 1971 as a court of record. With statewide jurisdiction, the Court functions in every county and Baltimore City. It replaced 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.

The District Court has jurisdiction in both criminal (including motor vehicle) and civil areas. It has little equity jurisdiction and has jurisdiction over juvenile cases only in Montgomery County. The exclusive jurisdiction of the District Court generally includes all landlord/tenant cases; replevin actions; motor vehicle violations; criminal cases if the penalty is less than three years imprisonment or does not exceed a fine of \$2,500, or both; and civil cases involving amounts not exceeding \$2,500. It has concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts in civil cases over \$2,500 (but not exceeding \$10,000) and concurrent jurisdiction in misdemeanors and certain enumerated felonies. Since the District Court provides no juries, a person entitled to and electing a jury trial must proceed to the circuit court (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 586, 594D, 616 1/2, 643A; Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 1-601 through 1-608, 2-601 through 2-607, 4-101 through 4-405, 6-403, 7-301, 7-302, 9-201, 11-402, 11-701 through 11-703, 12-401 through 12-404; Code Family Law Article, secs. 4-501 through 4-510).

The District Court is divided into twelve geographical districts, each containing one or more political subdivisions, with at least one judge in each subdivision.

*District 1:* Baltimore City.

*District 2:* Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

*District 3:* Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties.

*District 4:* Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties.

*District 5:* Prince George's County.

*District 6:* Montgomery County.

*District 7:* Anne Arundel County.

*District 8:* Baltimore County.

*District 9:* Harford County.

*District 10:* Carroll and Howard counties

*District 11:* Frederick and Washington counties.

*District 12:* Allegany and Garrett counties.

The District Court of Maryland is administered centrally and is funded totally by the State. Presently, there are 98 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 as are administrative clerks for each district, and district commissioners who issue arrest warrants and set bail or collateral.

District Court judges are appointed by the Governor to ten-year terms, subject to Senate confirmation. They do not stand for election. The Chief Judge is appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.