



Supreme Court of Maryland

Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

(410) 260-3725

July 23, 2026

The Honorable Yvette M. Bryant
Chair
Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judge Bryant,

By letter dated April 11, 2024, I asked that the Rules Committee consider whether to recommend changes to the current scope of *voir dire* in the Maryland Rules. In response, in its Two Hundred and Twenty-Second Report, the Committee proposed changes to Rules 2-512 and 4-312. At the Supreme Court's open meeting to consider those recommendations, based on comments received about the proposed changes, the Court determined that it would be beneficial to obtain additional information before acting. Accordingly, the Court adopted Rule 16-310, which established a pilot program for expanded *voir dire* for the purpose of:

gathering information and experience that may be used to: (1) study the effects of expanded *voir dire* on the effectiveness and efficiency of jury selection, case management, juror satisfaction, public perception of the trial process, court operations, and related concerns; (2) develop guidance and education to assist courts, attorneys, and litigants in the implementation of expanded *voir dire* statewide; and (3) inform efforts of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure and the Supreme Court to consider whether amendments to Rules 2-512 and 4-312 are appropriate.

The pilot project was carried out during calendar year 2025 under the guidance of an Advisory Group chaired by Judge Laura Ripken, Appellate Court of Maryland. The project was staffed by the Administrative Office of the Courts' Research and Analysis

Division, which collected and analyzed a substantial volume of data during and following the active term of the project.

The Advisory Group, with the assistance of the Research and Analysis Division, has now released its report, titled Evaluating the Impact of Expanded Voir Dire: Results from Maryland's Pilot Program. A copy of the Report is enclosed with this letter. The Court requests that the Rules Committee revisit the subject of possible amendments to Rules 2-512 and 4-312 in light of the substantial body of new information collected during the pilot project and summarized in the Report. The Court requests that the Rules Committee provide an updated recommendation, which may include the same amendments as previously proposed, no amendments, different amendments, or alternatives for the Court to consider.

As always, the Court appreciates the careful and thorough consideration of the Rules Committee to this and all proposed changes.

Very truly yours,



Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

CC: Sandra F. Haines, Esq., Reporter

ENCLOSURE