

# Hot Topics Newsletter



## JUDICIAL TRAINING

To ensure all Judiciary personnel are in compliance with legislation and Judiciary requirements, multiple trainings have been implemented. These trainings include Judicial Ethics, JIS Security, and Preventing Sexual Harassment, and are to be completed by a stated due date. The Senior Judge's Committee is having discussions about the quality of trainings and whether the timing of some of the trainings can be synchronized. Below is important information on each training.

*Judicial Ethics for Judges and Magistrates.* The Judicial Council approved this eight-module online course at its May 29, 2019, meeting to ensure Maryland Judges and Magistrates are in good standing with the ethics rules. The Judicial College, in July 2021, launched the training, which will span two years and be offered every five years. Judges and magistrates who do not complete the training by the due date are reported as non-compliant. District Court Judges are reported to the Chief Judge of the District Court, Court of Special Appeals Judges to the Chief Judge of that court; Court of Appeals Judges to the Chief Judge of that court; Circuit Court Judges and Magistrates to the judge's Administrative Judge; Senior Judges to the Chair of the Senior Judges Committee; and Orphan's Court Judges to the staff of the Conference of Orphans' Court Judges.

Module 4 is due for completion in June, and Module 5 will be available in July 2022. Please reach out to the Judicial College Registrar via email at [educationregistrar@mdcourts.gov](mailto:educationregistrar@mdcourts.gov) or phone (410) 260-3573 if you have any questions.

*JIS Security Education and Awareness Training.* The Judicial Council's Court Technology Committee introduced this quarterly training at the Council's November 16, 2016, meeting, and it was implemented in early 2018. Failure to complete the

training will result in a loss of access to open non-business-related websites while on the Judiciary's private network. Please note that a business need website is any site provided by JIS and sites like Westlaw and LexisNexis. The training must be completed to remove the restriction.

The second quarter training is online now and must be completed by June 24 at 11:59 p.m. The security training user guide and FAQs can be found on CourtNet using this link: <https://courtnet.courts.state.md.us/informationsecurity/index.html#>. For quick access, JIS recommends bookmarking the training link, <https://training.knowbe4.com/ui/login>, in your Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge browser.

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*Preventing Sexual Harassment.* State Personnel and Pensions §2.203.1 mandates this training (HB1423 (2018)), and requires all State personnel to complete two hours of interactive training on sexual harassment within six months of hiring and every two years after that. Personnel who do not complete training are non-compliant with the statute.

Please complete this training if you have not already done so. The next training is scheduled for 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Fair Practices at [fairpractices@mdcourts.gov](mailto:fairpractices@mdcourts.gov) or 410-260-3679.

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### **MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)**

On June 23, 2021, the use of MFA was required to access Office365 (including your mdcourts.gov email account) when you are not connected to the Judiciary private network and to access VDI.

**If you have not registered for MFA, you no longer have access to Office365 while off the network or VDI while on or off the network and must register before you can gain access.**

Registration for MFA is a one-time event and must be completed while on the Judiciary network. To assist you with the set-up process, JIS has partnered with the Judicial College, Technology Education, to create a Quick Reference Guide (QRG) that can be found on CourtNet using this link: <https://courtnet.courts.state.md.us/technologyeducation/pdf/mfaqrg.pdf>. Please note to access this link, you must be connected to the Judiciary network. For courts with a JIS regional support technician, you can work directly with your technician if you need assistance with registration. Please contact the JIS help desk at 410-260-1114.

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### **EVERBRIDGE – TEXT ALERT MESSAGING**

This is a friendly reminder that all Judiciary staff, including Senior Judges, should have a text alert phone number listed in Connect to ensure they will receive emergency notifications. Emergency notifications are sent by email, automated phone call, and text. The Connect records indicate that several senior judges do not have a text alert number set up. Please see the tip sheet included in the June 1, 2022 email from the Chief of Security, Sean Wolcuff, for assistance with entering and verifying your text alert number in Connect.

All Senior Judges will receive the emergency notifications for the Courts of Appeal building. But because Senior Judges may work at multiple locations, they can also elect to receive emergency notifications from other locations by completing the form at <https://forms.office.com/g/H0eKPhWvsg>. The form is first broken down by circuit and district courts, and then by jurisdiction. You do not need to complete the form if you only wish to receive emergency notifications for the Courts of Appeal building.

Please contact Mr. Wolcuff at 410-260-1776 or [sean.wolcuff@mdcourts.gov](mailto:sean.wolcuff@mdcourts.gov) if you have any questions.

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### **RETIREE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT UPDATE – FITCH V. STATE OF MARYLAND**

The *Fitch* litigation remains stayed and the injunction remains in effect. One of the individual plaintiffs appealed Judge Peter J. Messitte's December 30, 2021 order to the Fourth Circuit, and the Fourth Circuit dismissed the appeal as not taken from a final judgment. The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), another plaintiff, however, obtained an order from Judge Messitte authorizing an interlocutory appeal and noted an appeal to the Fourth Circuit. The appeal remains pending, and Judge Messitte has suspended proceedings before him until that appeal is decided. The State of Maryland also filed a motion for an interlocutory appeal, which was denied by Judge Messitte without a hearing citing that the motion did not meet the three prongs that must be satisfied to certify an appeal.

A bill, SB0578 – State Prescription Drug Benefits – Retirees, introduced in the 2022 legislative session, sought to codify a finding in *Fitch* that judicial employees retiring prior to June 30, 2011, were entitled to prescription drug benefits. After the appeal in *Fitch* was filed, the bill was withdrawn.

## A PURSUIT OF JUSTICE BLOG

During this time of year, graduation celebrations are happening in an abundance with families and friends coming together to acknowledge the milestone event. One of our own, the Honorable Steven I. Platt, has written an article about a few of his favorite graduation speeches which is posted on his *A Pursuit of Justice* blog, titled, "[Graduation Speeches to Live By.](#)"



# Save the Date!

## April 26-28, 2023

*The Judicial Conference for 2022  
has been entirely cancelled*

Judicial College of Maryland, Judicial Education

### Judicial Conference

at the  
Hyatt Regency  
Cambridge, MD

#### MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Contact: Theresa Coffey  
Judicial Education Event Coordinator  
Phone #: 410-260-3601  
Email: [Kathleen.Coffey@mdcourts.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Coffey@mdcourts.gov)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

- On April 11, 2022 at midnight, sine die occurred. To date, a number of bills have been enacted and vetoed. Check out the current list of [legislative actions](#).
- For all COVID-19 updates, please visit [mdcourts.gov](http://mdcourts.gov) and click on the red banner labeled COVID-19 UPDATE at the top of the page.
- For the latest news, updates, payroll info, Hot Topics and more, check out the Senior Judge webpage, <https://mdcourts.gov/hr/seniorjudges>. Don't forget to save the link so you can refer to it at any time.
- Have something about yourself that you want to share? Please contact Eliana Pangelinan at [Eliana.pangelinan@mdcourts.gov](mailto:Eliana.pangelinan@mdcourts.gov) to be featured in an issue of the Hot Topics Newsletter.

## UPCOMING ADVANCED PAYROLLS FOR SENIOR JUDGES

**08/17/22 – 08/30/22.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, August 29th and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

**10/26/22 – 11/08/22.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, November 7th and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

**11/9/22 – 11/22/22.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, November 21st and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

**12/07/22 – 12/20/22.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, December 19th and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

**02/1/23 – 02/14/23.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, February 13th and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

**05/10/23 – 05/23/23.** Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, May 22nd and managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

## IN MEMORIAM

Hon. D. Warren Donohue  
Circuit Court for Montgomery County

Hon. William S. Horne  
Circuit Court for Talbot County

Hon. Thomas R. Simpson  
Circuit Court for Charles County

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**THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S SENIOR JUDGES COMMITTEE**


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Hon. James A. Kenney III, Chair, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Deborah Sweet Eyler, Vice Chair, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Jean Baron, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Lynne A. Battaglia, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Paul M. Bowman, Senior Judge  
 Carole Burkhart, District Court Headquarters  
 Hon. Lawrence R. Daniels, Senior Judge

Hon. Steven I. Platt, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Irma S. Raker, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Gale E. Rasin, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Nancy B. Shuger, Senior Judge  
 Hon. Dennis M. Sweeney, Senior Judge  
 Eliana Pangelinan, Staff

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**RETIREMENT SERVICES CONTACT LIST**
**Maryland State Retirement and Pension System**

1-800-492-5909

Gwendolyn Mulcahy  
[gmulcahy@sra.state.md.us](mailto:gmulcahy@sra.state.md.us)  
 410-625-5516

**Social Security Administration (SSA)**

1-800-772-1213

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid**

1-800-633-4227

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**Maryland Supplement Retirement Plan (MSRP)**

1-800-545-4730

Angela Anderson  
[angela.anderson@maryland.gov](mailto:angela.anderson@maryland.gov)  
 443-305-9055

**Department of Budget & Management, Employee Benefits Division**

410-767-4775

Cheryl Hill  
[cheryl.hill@maryland.gov](mailto:cheryl.hill@maryland.gov)  
 410-767-4798

**Maryland Judiciary: Human Resources**

410-260-1731

Ebonye Caldwell, Deputy Director  
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 410-260-1289

**Office of Employment Services**

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 410-260-1275

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410-260-1735

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 410-260-1286

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Any questions regarding this issue, please contact Eliana Pangelinan at [eliana.pangelinan@mdcourts.gov](mailto:eliana.pangelinan@mdcourts.gov)