

Justice Matters

A publication from the Maryland Judiciary

September 2002

Maryland's "Announce Clause" under scrutiny after U.S. Supreme Court decision

Historically, judges up for election in Maryland have been prohibited from stating their views on disputed legal and political views. But a decision in June by the U.S. Supreme Court has made it necessary to reexamine the so-called "announce clause," which proscribes campaign promises about specific issues, cases and legal questions by judges.

On August 1, 2002, a subcommittee of the Rules Committee voted to eliminate the announce clause from a proposed revision of the Code of Judicial Conduct and to strike a similar restriction (Rule 8.2) proposed for ethics rules that govern the actions of lawyers running for judicial office.

In September, the recommendation to strike the announce clause will be considered by the Rules Committee which, in turn, will send its complete set of recommendations regarding judicial conduct to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals establishes ethics rules for the lawyers and judges.

cont. on p. 3

New research shows mediation saves time and money

In recent years, Maryland courts have been referring increasing numbers of cases to mediation. While there has been some anecdotal evidence that mediation programs save time and money for courts and litigants, there has been little scientific evidence—until now.

A study of 400 workers' compensation cases showed that cases referred to mediation spent less time in the judicial system and that fewer notices of discovery (court filings indicating activity taken by lawyers) were filed in the mediated cases.

The study, commissioned by the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) examined appeals filed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City in 2001. On average, the mediated cases spent less time on court dockets and involved fewer hours of lawyers' time, which would translate into lower legal fees.

cont. on p. 5

In the last several months, several of our colleagues in the Judiciary have passed away while still active on the bench or in an administrative office. Because of this unusual circumstance, we have asked their friends to share their thoughts.

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Judge Albert J. Matricciani, Jr. receives Sodaro Civility Award

Judge Albert J. Matricciani, Jr., of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, has been awarded the 2002 Judge Anselm Sodaro Judicial Civility Award. The award was presented by the Maryland State Bar Association at its annual meeting in June.

The award is presented to the sitting judge who demonstrates judicial temperament, civility and courtesy to attorneys and litigants, values that Judge Sodaro brought to the courtroom during his years on the bench in Baltimore City.

Upon receiving the award, Judge Matricciani said that "it is a particular honor to receive an award for civility from the lawyers who practice before me."

Judge Matricciani has served on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City for seven years. During his term as president of the Baltimore City Bar Association (1995-96), he established a committee to suggest ways to enhance civility amongst the bar. *Judge Sodaro, who was 91, died on July 28, 2002. he retired from the bench in 1980.*



L-R: Greg Rapisarda, nephew of Judge Sodaro, Judge Matricciani

photo courtesy of MSBA

In Memoriam: Hon. C. James Sfekas

Judge Sfekas was born in Baltimore on January 31, 1953 and died on February 12, 2002. He had been on the bench since December 29, 1998.

C. James "Kit" Sfekas was the 12th judge to be appointed in the 31-year history of the District Court in Howard County, but sadly he was the first judge from this court to pass away. While on the bench, Judge Sfekas dispensed justice with a keen sense of fairness and common sense, and often displayed his playful sense of humor.

Both before and after coming to the bench, Kit was actively involved in his community, in the schools, in area youth sports, in bar association activities, and most importantly with his family. Kit never boasted about his involvement in the lives of others, and in fact, seemed to juggle his many activities effortlessly. What was clear throughout his life was that Kit's involvement in the lives of so many people was due to his genuine love for his community and for his friends, colleagues, and family.

In remembering Kit, perhaps it is best to reflect on his own words and what he asked each of us to do and remember: "Take this day and this time to reach out to your loved ones; hug them, kiss them, and tell them how much you love them."

Hon. Neil E. Axel, District Court Judge for Howard County

Announce Clause, cont. from p. 1

The revision of the Code of Judicial Conduct, a joint undertaking of the Rules and Judicial Ethics committees, was ready for final approval and submission to the Court of Appeals when the Supreme Court announced its decision.

The Supreme Court decision declared that to prohibit judicial candidates from discussing their political or legal views violated their free speech rights under the First Amendment. The 5 to 4 decision in *Republican Party of Minnesota v. White* overturned Minnesota's canon of judicial conduct containing the announce clause.

More than 30 states provide for the election of judges. Nine, including Maryland, have incorporated the announce clause in their codes of judicial conduct.

A separate, ad hoc committee has been considering revisions to the ethics rules governing lawyers, including judicial campaign conduct. Appointed by the Court of Appeals, the Ethics 2000 Committee is patterned after the ABA's Ethics 2000 Commission and chaired by retired Court of Appeals Judge Lawrence F. Rodowsky.

Travels in Georgia



Joan Coble (center) with two Georgian clerks

The Maryland Judiciary has been lending its experience to the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, now the independent Republic of Georgia, under the auspices of the World Bank. Georgia, located between Russia and Turkey, received its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, after a difficult struggle to break free of the the USSR.

In July, Judge Diane O. Leasure traveled to Georgia as part of the Bank's three-year-old program to bring legal and judicial reforms to the new nation. A few weeks before, Joan Coble, a training specialist at the AOC Judiciary Training Center, had been in Georgia to work with court technical staff. Judge Leasure, Fifth Circuit and County Administrative Judge, trained administrative judges, discussing the duties and responsibilities of Maryland's circuit and district court administrative judges, courtroom management, and the principles of caseflow management.

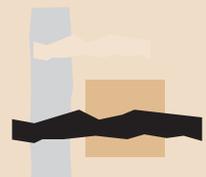
In addition to one-on-one meetings with leaders of the Georgian judiciary, the judge conducted training programs at the Judiciary Training Center in Tbilisi and the courts of Mtskheta and Rustavia. She also attended the investiture ceremony of a new appellate judge on the Tbilisi Regional Court and the opening of a new court in Telavia. Judge Leasure described her trip as "an incredible experience, where I gained as much knowledge as I hope I imparted to our Georgian colleagues."



Judge Leasure (left) at judges training in Mtskheta.

Joan Coble worked with approximately 80 staff from the Georgian Supreme Court, Appellate Court, Regional Courts and Council of Justice. The training covered three modules familiar to her Maryland colleagues—"Serving the Public," "Telephone Skills," and "Team Building."

The purpose of the training, Coble said, was to expose Georgian judiciary staff to public relations and office management issues and to identify potential trainers. "One thing is certain," she said. "Georgian court staff face the same customer service challenges that we face in Maryland."



In Memoriam: Hon. Michael L. McCampbell

Judge McCampbell was born in Detroit on January 3, 1939 and died in Phoenix, Maryland, on May 16, 2002. He became an Associate Judge on March 2, 1990 and District Administrative Judge on January 1, 1999.

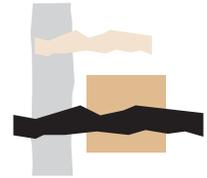
Michael L. McCampbell had a philosophy which, translated into a short sentence, was, "It is what it is." Throughout our time together it was always thus. When we would discuss a docket structure change, for example, and would analyze it for consistency and applicability, we always boiled it down to "it is what it is."

Always, always, always, Mike was the essence of cool. Long, tall and sliding through he always gave the appearance of either having just ridden in on his Harley, or having just come from a jazz session. He was always full of style and poise; knowledgeable about so many things, he always impressed me with his depth of information. Mike always had the juice, always knew his topic and always proved out. When I would wonder aloud where he got all that information, he would give a sly smile and revert to the old standby, "it is what it is."

I feel grateful and honored to have shared with Mike the things we shared. He was a rare man, was Michael McCampbell. For in moving through my life when he did, he pulled me along with him and taught me grace under pressure, strength through adversity and the value of selflessness. He taught me how to be. We miss you but we all know now that "it is what it is," and it will be all right. Be at peace.

Michael P. Vach Administrative Clerk, Baltimore County District Court

Judicial information systems



Keeping a computer system up-to-date, especially one that spans over 200 miles and serves about 4,000 users, is like building a new foundation and framework in a house that was built years ago—without disturbing the occupants. And then, a year or two later, doing the same thing over again.

For the last two years, the Judicial Information System has been rebuilding the foundation of the Judiciary's computers, replacing outmoded equipment and a hodgepodge of different systems within a carefully engineered system of standardized "local area networks (LANs)"—which, among other things, allow us to remotely upgrade software and perform routine maintenance on machines from a central location. The goal: to provide better service without driving up the cost of support.

In July, we reached an important milestone in this effort when we finished the conversion to Lotus Notes/Domino messaging software and consolidated email service in two industrial-strength servers at the JIS Data Center in Annapolis.

It took three years of planning and hard work to eliminate the old system, which had grown in size and complexity—but not necessarily compatibility—since 1993. The result: better service and a system that works 24-7, without a glitch and with virtually no down-time.



In addition to providing service that is almost flawlessly reliable, we have expanded email service across the state. As we phased out the old email system and brought Lotus Notes on-line, we increased the number of users served by 50 percent—from under 1,000 to about 1,500—as we work toward the Information Technology Oversight Board's goal of providing email to everyone in the state judiciary.

Bob Bruchalski

NOTE: Lotus Notes is more than just an attractively designed email system. It contains a powerful calendaring program (which lets you put meetings and events on multiple calendars, among other things,) a convenient and easy-to-use "to do" list, and a personal address book.

New research, cont. from p. 1

“This study confirms what we have long suspected: that courts realize cost savings by using mediation,” said Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, creator and chair of MACRO. “While cost and time savings are very important, it is also important to note that the judiciary supports the use of mediation because of the less tangible benefits that arise in appropriate cases when people are empowered to resolve their own disputes productively and creatively.”



The MACRO-sponsored research project was conducted by the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, under the guidance of Professor Marvin Mandell. The study revealed statistically significant differences between the mediation group of cases and the control group as follows:

- Approximately 24 percent of the cases in the mediation group were disposed of prior to the discovery deadline, compared with only 11 percent in the control group.
- About 42 percent of cases in the mediation group were disposed of prior to their scheduled settlement conference, compared with only 28 percent in the control group.

- Of the 197 cases scheduled for trial prior to July 1, 2001, 82 percent in the mediation group were resolved prior to trial, compared with 70 percent in the control group.

- Only 37 percent of cases in the mediation group had two or more notices of discovery, compared with 56 percent in the control group.

“Findings from this study clearly show that mediation referrals in workers’ compensation cases offer cost-saving opportunities and help conserve court resources,” said Baltimore City Administrative Judge Ellen M. Heller, who initiated the study. “While further study would be required to conclusively test whether court-related mediation programs have similar effects in other kinds of cases, because workers’ compensation cases are held *de novo*, generally as jury trials in the circuit court, there is clearly reason to suppose that the same benefits apply in other circuit court cases.”

“We are heartened by these results and we hope that they will encourage others to expand the use of mediation,” said Rachel Wohl, Executive Director of MACRO. “We applaud Judge Heller and her staff for their commitment to this project, and for providing a rare opportunity to conduct scientific research on mediation in the court.”

Lou Geiszl, MACRO

In Memoriam: Hon. George R. Zimmerman

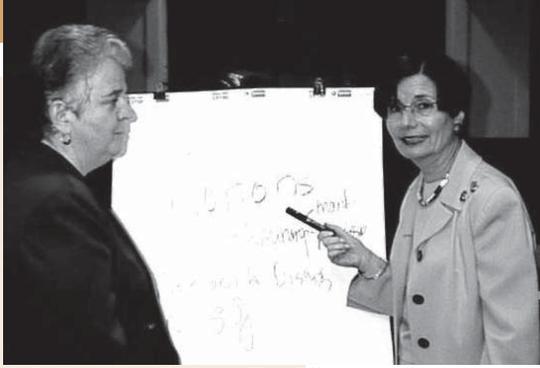
Judge Zimmerman was born in Deer Park, Maryland, on October 1, 1926 and died in Oakland, Maryland, on June 7, 2002. He was elected to Orphans’ Court in Garrett County in 1998

He was part of what we have come to think of as the “greatest generation.” They went away to war and then came home to resume their lives, working, raising families and being part of their communities. After the war—he served in the South Pacific—George Zimmerman came home to Garrett County to farm, mine coal and work construction, to raise four children, and help the people he met along the way through his volunteer work.

So when he decided to run for Judge of Orphans’ Court in 1998, at the age of 72, he was already well-known in his native Garrett County. He campaigned hard to win a seat on the Courty—wanting to give a little bit more to his community. In office, Judge Zimmerman took the once-a-week job seriously, rarely missing a meeting. He had filed to run for a second term this November.

He was a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and part of the honor guard that provided military funerals for other veterans. At Judge Zimmerman’s funeral, military honors were accorded by his fellow veterans.

Joseph F. DiSimone, Register of Wills, Garrett County



L-R: Hon. Carol E. Smith, Hon. Ellen M. Heller

New training program follows the life of a civil case

Collaboration between Baltimore City Circuit Court judges and the Clerk's Office has resulted in a series of training sessions aimed at helping court employees better understand the civil process. The Civil Training Program is a six-session course that explores the life cycle of a civil case.

"The program is a 'how to process' for filings in the Civil Division," said Frank M. Conaway, Circuit Court Clerk for Baltimore City. "We hope that by the end of the program, the Clerk's Office will be operating at a greater level of efficiency."

Conaway was part of an ad-hoc committee that addressed the need for more experience in the Clerk's Office. The committee, consisting of judges, attorneys and members of the Clerk's Office, created a program that covers the filing of various motions, administrative case orders, judgments and post-judgments, and appeals.

The training sessions have been conducted by Hon. Ellen M. Heller, Baltimore City Administrative Judge; Hon. Carol E. Smith, Judge-In-Charge of Civil; Hon. Kaye Allison, Discovery Judge; Hon. David Ross, Judge Emeritus; and Julia Andrew, Esq., Assistant Attorney General to the Clerk's Office.

To aid in the presentations, a training manual was developed that outlined major issues taught in the course. The manual explains civil filing requirements of the Clerk's Office, and includes a flow chart depicting the various avenues that a civil case could take.

The training sessions have attracted 75 to 100 attendees—mostly staff from the Civil Division, but also employees from other divisions, as well as attorneys and judges. Sessions have been videotaped and will be used during orientation for future prospective court employees. Judge Heller said both the presentations and the manual could be standardized for use throughout the State of Maryland.

Lavina Alexander

In Memoriam: Alicia Mendenilla

On May 8, 2002, the Administrative Office of the Courts lost a jewel — Alicia Mendenilla. Alicia epitomized all that is good in this world. During her 13 years with the Judiciary, she touched people in ways she will never know. She always was there to lend a helping hand, whisper a word of comfort, speak a mountain of praise, or uplift a down spirit with her unique brand of laughter. Alicia was the mother of the office, always nurturing and protecting whether with treats on a rainy day or aspirin during a stressful period.

Alicia was one of those employees every manager hopes for. She always gave 110 percent to whatever task she was assigned. During the last months of her life when her illness had consumed her body, she refused to give up. She came to work every day, if only for a couple of hours. Alicia, body racked with pain, would trudge up the hill to the Maryland Judicial Center, stopping periodically to catch her breath. Yet, she never complained. Instead, she would, with a sense of pride, perform her duties and responsibilities at the highest level. Alicia personified the model employee. More important, she was the model person.

Alicia so touched the hearts of the Administrative Office of the Courts that, on June 17, 2002, the employees gathered for a memorial service to honor her memory. The staff was joined by Alicia's husband, three daughters and son-in-law. Frank Broccolina dedicated a picture of Alicia and two plants, to signify her love of gardening, as a lasting memorial to the person she was and the contributions she made to the Administrative Office of the Courts. She will be greatly missed.

Faye Gaskin

News from the bench



Baltimore City

Two new judges have joined the Baltimore City Circuit Court. **Lynn K. Stewart** was an Assistant State's Attorney in Baltimore City from 1990 to 2002. She replaces Judge Mitchell, who resigned. **Shirley M. Watts** was Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Social Security Administration from 1999 to 2002, and was a federal administrative law judge from 1997 to 1999. Judge Watts replaces Judge Friedman, who retired.

Allegany County

W. Timothy Finan, who has served as a District Court Judge since 1987, was elevated to Judge of the Circuit Court in Allegany County, filling the vacancy created when Judge J. Frederick Sharer joined the Court of Special Appeals. With a background in private practice and as an Assistant Attorney General, Judge Finan served in the House of Delegates from 1982 to 1986.

Anne Arundel County

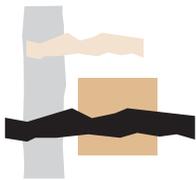
There are four new judges on the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court. Judge **Paul A. Hackner** and **Judge David S. Bruce** were elevated from District Court, and **Michelle D. Jaklitsch** and **Rodney C. Warren** were appointed to the Court. They replace Judges Heller, Lerner, and Cawood, who retired, and Judge Greene, who was appointed to the Court of Special Appeals.

Judge Jaklitsch was with the Arundel County Office of Law from 1987 until she was appointed to the bench. She became Senior Assistant County Attorney in 1996.

Judge Warren was Assistant Public Defender for the Office of the Public Defender from 1990 to 1999, when he joined the Baltimore law firm of Schulman, Treem, Kaminkov, Gildeen & Ravenell.

Departures

Two members of the Maryland Judiciary passed away in recent months—Judge McCampbell of Baltimore County and Judge Sfekas of Howard County [both of whom are remembered by colleagues in this issue] and nine jurists retired. Retiring from District Court is Hon. Teatette S. Price (Baltimore City). Retiring from Circuit Court are Hon. John Carroll Byrnes and Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman from Baltimore City, Hon. Robert E. Cahill, Sr. and William J. Hinkel from Baltimore County, Hon. Edward D. E. Rollins, Jr., (Cecil), Hon. Robert H. Heller, Jr. (Anne Arundel), Hon. Richard J. Clark (Charles), and Hon. John H. Briscoe (St. Mary's).



Congratulations to:

- Hon. Diane Leasure, who was appointed administrative judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit and administrative judge for Howard County.
- Hon. Gary G. Leasure for his appointment as administrative judge for Allegany County Circuit Court.
- Hon. William D. Missouri, who received two awards: the Maryland State Bar Association's Maryland Pro Bono Service Award and a Meritorious Service Award presented by D.C.-radio personality Tom Joyner, for "Hardest Working Judge."
- Hon. Joseph P. Manck, who was named administrative judge for Anne Arundel County.
- Hon. Alexandra N. Williams, who was appointed administrative judge for Baltimore County District Court.

Employees on the move

AOC

Welcome Linda Chafin, Garry Fleming, Priscilla Gray, Karen Hoang, Franklin Lhotsky, II, and Jennifer Logan. Congratulations on your promotion Faye Gaskin. Best wishes with your retirement Nancy Johnson.

Court of Appeals

Welcome Jeffrey Welsh.

Court of Special Appeals

Welcome Debra Blank and Brooke Davies. Best wishes with your retirement Mary Thompson.



Judicial Information Systems

Welcome Kisha Smallwood. Congratulations on your promotion Charles Douglas.

Court-Related Agencies

Welcome Denise Waters. Best wishes with your retirement Joanne Dowgwillo.

Circuit Court

Allegany County

Welcome Richard Maslow and Armand Pannone, Jr. Congratulations on your promotion Wayne George.

Anne Arundel County

Welcome Janice Greene, Kathleen Kerney, Maria McCrackin, Susanna-Mic Russell, and Danielle Tolliver.

Baltimore County

Welcome Barbara Brice, Carrie Collins, Dana Krause, Christine Mathews, and Evelyn Sholansky.

Baltimore City

Welcome Shanelle Bethea, Patricia Brown, Glendora Gray, Linda Koban, Zakia Mahasa, Sean McDonough, Gregory Sampson, and Brooke Wyatt. Congratulations on your promotion Tanya Holt. Best wishes with your retirement Laura Chadwick, Shirley

Jackson, Brenda McWilliams, and William Withers.

Calvert County

Welcome Erin Seger and Edward Wells.

Carroll County

Best wishes with your retirement Loretta Bush and Barbara Miller.

Cecil County

Welcome Carrie Smith. Congratulations on your promotion Candice Vennell.

Charles County

Welcome Amy Bragunier, Helen Harrington, Stacy Sanders, and Kimberly Shearod-Corsey.

Frederick County

Welcome Teresa Buckley, Garrett Hale, and Mari Lee. Best wishes with your retirement David Schultz.

Garrett County

Welcome Daryl Walters.

Harford County

Welcome Jeanne Delp, Frederick Hatem, Jr., and Cornelius Helfrich.

Howard County

Welcome Karen Dalton, Mary Flanary, Molly Grace, and Ann Marie Mathurine.

Montgomery County

Welcome Thomas Bushell, Raynu Clark, Katherine Herman, Howard Neugebauer, III, Sean Stark, Teresa Stokes and John Warnick, Jr. Best wishes with your retirement Alice Stanton.

Prince George's County

Welcome Roosevelt Gentry, Malcom Greene, Rashurn Harrison, Gerald Hodges, Rebekah Kenny and Jamal McCray. Best wishes with your retirement Dorothy Baker and Hugo Black.

Saint Mary's County

Welcome Karen Bowling and Francis Harris.

Talbot County

Welcome JoAnn Murry.

District Court

Headquarters

Welcome Daanen Strachan and Brenda Stansbury.

Anne Arundel County

Welcome Kendall Lomax and Brenda Ricks. Best wishes with your retirement Janet Williams.

Baltimore County

Welcome Joyce Redman.

Baltimore City

Welcome Toya Holdclaw.

Carroll County

Welcome Mary Beth Motter.

Howard County

Welcome Victoria Roache and Latonia McKnight.

Montgomery County

Welcome Alberto Donarye and Rita James.

Prince George's County

Welcome Vivan Lewis, Alice Hayes, Willie Johnson, Calvin Lyles, Frank Terrell, Cornell Yates, Wardell Holland, Danielle Mackall, and Sabrena Fadayomi. Congratulations on your promotion Christopher Wilde.

St. Mary's County

Welcome Michelle Schmidt and John Hopf.

Washington County

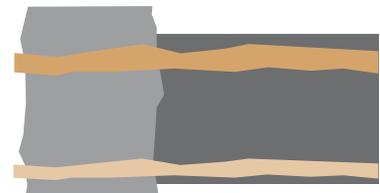
Congratulations on your promotion Kathy Salters.

Wicomico County

Welcome Robyn Taylor.

Worcester County

Welcome Jaclyn Penner. Congratulations on your promotion Jennifer Raymond.





Judiciary staff profile

Meet our auditor, Rhea Reed

Rhea Reed, the Judiciary's chief auditor, has been made painfully aware of her duties of late. Newspaper headlines, columns and editorials the past few months have been saturated with reports of deceitful accounting practices among large businesses.

"Where," everyone wants to know, "were the auditors?"

"My objective is to ensure that our leadership in the Judiciary never has to say, 'Where were the auditors,'" said Reed, who was named AOC Director of Internal Auditing (DIA) last summer. "I never want to see them get blasted for some issue that our department should have identified."

Reed's has audited for the National Security Agency, the Maryland Department of Budget and Management, GTE and Westinghouse Electric. A graduate of the University of Maryland Law School, she also taught accounting and business law at Houghton College, her *alma mater*.

While auditors rarely win popularity contests, recent events have shown the true value of auditors: to protect an organization from faulty accounting and to promote efficiency. And Rhea Reed is striving to make the auditing experience a positive one.

"Obviously, there's a natural resistance when an auditor shows up," said Reed. But she wants other departments to recognize that they and the auditors are part of the same organization and share the same goals.

Reed's first order of business as DIA was to consolidate the Internal Audit Divisions of AOC and the District Court, units that had worked together only infrequently, and hire new auditors, most of whom are certified public accountants (CPAs). Her expectation: better communication, improved knowledge transfer and increased efficiencies.

"We now have auditors with deep judiciary experience, complemented by CPAs who can provide an outside perspective," said Reed. "I hope we can really do some positive things judiciary-wide."

Her next priority is a judiciary-wide review of audit issues. One of her main objectives is to implement value-added auditing. Value-added auditing means that auditors will serve two primary customers—Chief Judge Robert M. Bell as well as the managers whose departments are being audited, she said.

"Value-added auditing involves making recommendations to managers to increase efficiency of operations," said Reed. "We want to create an environment where the auditors and the people being audited work together to become more efficient."

Here is how value-added auditing typically works: Throughout the various stages of an audit, progress meetings are held with the manager of the Judiciary unit being audited to promote discussion on both sides.

The auditors report on their findings, explain the impact of the condition, point out the ramifications if the situation is not corrected, and offer recommendations. The managers provide feedback on the auditor's findings and their recommendations. From there, an agreed-upon path is taken.

"In short, value-added auditing is a tool for management that requires participation with and from line management, and produces a product—recommendations—that management can use to improve performance," said Reed. "We want to partner with managers to improve performance and compliance, and to keep the lines of communication open."



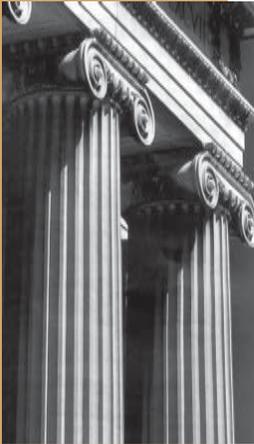
photo by F Todd Silver

www.courts.state.md.us

2003 conference

The 2003 Judicial Conference will be held May 7 - 9 at Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina in Cambridge, MD.

Client Security Trust Fund becomes Client Protection Fund

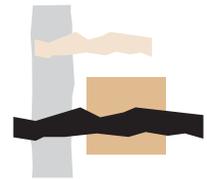


The Client Security Trust Fund (CSTF), which serves the public by reimbursing clients whose attorneys were found to have taken funds from them, is now the Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland. The name was changed so that it more accurately reflects the organization's purpose.

"The name change to the Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland is in keeping with the national trend in the client protection sector to become more accessible to those the organization serves," said Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell. "It is imperative that this important public resource is brought to the public's attention." The Fund was created in 1965 for the purpose of maintaining the integrity and protecting the name of the legal profession. The Fund reimburses clients for losses caused by misappropriation of funds by members of the Maryland Bar, acting either as attorneys or as fiduciaries.

Since its creation, the Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland has been recognized by the American Bar Association's Client Protection Fund Committee and by the National Client Protection Organization, Inc. as one of the best such funds in the nation—handling close to 1,500 claims and paying out nearly six million dollars in compensation.

Unfortunately, the Client Protection Fund is a widely unknown, and therefore underutilized, public resource. The nine Trustees appointed by the Court of Appeals to oversee and maintain the Fund concluded that the original name did not reflect the main purpose of the organization—to protect attorney clients. Changing the name to more accurately reflect its mission helps to increase its public visibility.



2002 Service awards



photo by Judge Eldridge



photo by Diane Pawlowicz

The 2002 Service Awards brought a flurry of recognition and celebration for Judicial staffers. Picnics, parties, breakfasts and other ceremonies honored the hard-working and dedicated employees of Maryland's courthouses and judicial agencies. For a list of staffers receiving awards for time-in-service, check out the insert in this issue.

Cecil County launches summer intern program

Following the lead of a successful program created in the Circuit Courts for Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Counties last summer, the Cecil County Circuit Court recently launched its own summer internship program. In addition to providing court staff with some much-needed assistance, it provides the youngsters—all high school students—with a unique, inside look at the court system.

“The program provides a wonderful benefit for us, and great experience for our interns.”

-Judge Lidums

Applications for the summer internship were made available to all interested high school juniors in the county. After a thorough screening and interview process, Chrissy McKinney (North East), Jeff

Holter (North East), and David Reeves (Elkton) were selected for the six-week program. The interns will assist court staff in all phases of court activities, from helping courtroom clerks in the reception and marking of evidence, marshalling witnesses to appropriate locations and assisting the bailiff in jury selection and deliberations to directing attorneys and clients to courtrooms in docket sequence.



Judge Lidums and interns.

“The opportunity to be exposed to, and to participate in, a ‘real world’ setting will be invaluable to the students thinking of pursuing a law-related education and career,” said Judge O. Robert Lidums, Circuit Court for Cecil County, who initiated the program in Cecil County. “They will be able to observe actual cases of all types, they will be privy to negotiations and discussions of attorneys and they will learn the functioning of the State’s Attorney’s Office and the role of the Public Defender and private defense attorneys.”

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

Seeking to improve children’s lives

In September 2000, Chief Judge Robert M. Bell and Bishop L. Robinson, Secretary, Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice, invited major Juvenile Justice stakeholders to participate as members of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. In addition to Chief Judge Bell and Secretary Robinson, the members are:

Hon. Martin P. Welch, Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Hon. Dennis M. McHugh, Circuit Court for Montgomery County; Edward Kilcullen, State Director of Maryland CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Association; Calvin Street, Deputy Secretary Dept. of Human Resources; David Fishkin, Esq., Chief, Juvenile Division of the Public Defender’s Office, Baltimore City; Bart LuBow, Annie E. Casey Foundation; Ara M. Crowe, Jr., Esq., Executive Director MD State’s Attorney’s Assoc.; Joanne L. Carter, Asst. State Su-



perintendent, MD Dept. of Education; Albert Zachik, M.D., Asst. Director for Children and Adolescent Services, DMH; Kenneth Krouse, President, MD Chiefs of Police Association; William L. Howard, Ed.D., AOC, staff

The collaborative body of stakeholders is committed to child-centered service planning/delivery to improve the lives of children and families who appear, in whatever capacity, before Maryland Juvenile Courts. Its goal is to enhance communication, collaboration and cooperation among the stakeholders promptly and fairly to resolve juvenile justice issues, and bring relief, resolution and stability to the lives of affected children and families.

Issues discussed at Council meetings were: proposed CINS legislation, DJJ Confinement Review Unit proposal, DJJ Detention and Shelter Care Policy, Alternative Education Programs, and mental health issues.

William L. Howard

Court Information Office

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

September

- 6 Law Clerk Orientation, 9-4; reception to follow until 6:00, Judiciary Training Center
- 14 Dedication of Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center
- 19 Post-Sentencing Matters, 9-12*
Evidence Update, 9-12*
Impact Decisions, 1-4:30*
District Court Admin. Clerks Meeting
- 20 Murder and Manslaughter, 9-4:30*
Civil Law Tradition, 1-4:30*
Computers 102, 9-12*
- 23 Conference of Circuit Judges Meeting, 9:30, Judiciary Training Center
- 24 Conference of Circuit Clerks' Meeting, 10:00, Judiciary Training Center



* Judicial Institute of Maryland programs, open to judges and masters.

October

- 7 Fifth Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference
- 9 Maryland Joint Child Support Conference
- 17 Humanities, 9-4:30*
Landlord-Tenant Law, 9-12*
Case Management Tips, 9-12*
Dealing with Media, 1-4:30*
- 18 Judicial Review of Admin. Decisions, 9-4:30*
Tort-Law Negligence, 9-4:30*
Maryland Legal History, 9-4:30*
- 22 District Court Commissioners Academy

November

- 14 District Court Admin Judges Committee
- 18 Conference of Circuit Judges' Meeting, 9:30, Judiciary Training Center
- 19 Conference of Circuit Clerks' Meeting, 10:00, Judiciary Training Center