



## The 49th NCACC Annual Conference in Williamsburg, VA July 31-August 5, 2022 Jim Hivner & Amy Funderburk, Hosts



LET'S JOIN FORCES IN WILLIAMSBURG!

We are looking forward to having everyone back in person at the 49th NCACC Annual Conference. The conference will be held in the conference center at the Williamsburg Woodland Hotel and Suites. Registration for the conference and information for booking your room at the hotel will be provided on our newly designed website in the next few weeks. The Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel & Suites is conveniently located in Colonial Williamsburg next to the Visitor Center where you can grab a shuttle to the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, Merchants Square for shopping and dining, and the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area. The hotel is both family and pet friendly. [Williamsburg Woodlands in Colonial Williamsburg, VA | Colonial Williamsburg Resorts \(colonialwilliamsburghotels.com\)](http://colonialwilliamsburghotels.com) Our room rate is \$118 per night and on-site parking and breakfast will be provided for you and your family. In addition, we will have discounted tickets to Colonial Williamsburg available.

Plan to join us for cocktails and our traditional auction on Sunday evening, our vendor showcase is back, and we have planned two exciting dinner events at the Jamestown Settlement Museum and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Our education sessions will be revolutionary this year!

We are still working through some last-minute details, but this conference will have something for everyone whether you need a few hours of CLE, some time to share and learn with colleagues from across the country, or just a little time to relax and explore. [Explore - Things to Do | Colonial Williamsburg Foundation](http://colonialwilliamsburgfoundation.org)

As we prepare for the 50th year of our great conference, come explore the NCACC with your fellow clerks from across the country.

Williamsburg will be historic!

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# THE DOCKET

News of the  
National Conference  
of Appellate Court Clerks

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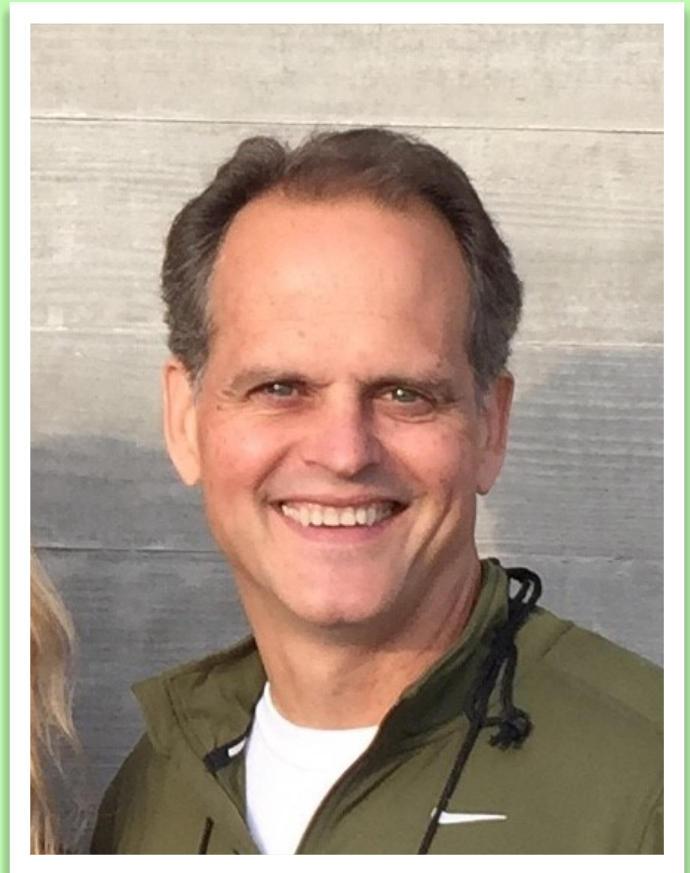
Doug Shima (KS)

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## LARRY ROYSTER (MI)

Anyone who has reached age 50 has probably felt the indignation of receiving an unsolicited membership letter from the AARP. You're like, "What the hell?!? Why am I getting this? I'm not old." You have to admire the AARP's perseverance, though. After many years and many unsuccessful attempts to get me to join the organization, I enrolled last year. It wasn't that the AARP wore me down as much as my own realization that the end of my career is no longer on the distant horizon. I have no immediate plans to retire and, barring health problems, my decision on when to do so won't be dictated by age but rather by whether I've achieved the goals I set for myself. But retirement is inevitable and I'm trying to envision what life will be like after so many decades of associating what I do with who I am. It occurs to me that the NCACC has an invaluable resource to help me and others of a similar age navigate the post-career phase of our lives: Our retired members. The NCACC is fortunate to have a very active group of retired members, as evidenced by their continued attendance at the annual conferences and participation on committees.

One way that I hope to tap the collective wisdom of our retired members is through a "Retired Members Forum" on the NCACC's new website (more about the



website in a minute). The forum will be a page on which retired members can share their experiences in transitioning to retirement or other work, provide news about themselves and other former members, give tips on retirement activities (e.g., traveling, gardening, skydiving, mixed martial arts), encourage community service, etc. Sort of a specialized NCACC-version of the AARP but without the wasted postage.

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## LARRY ROYSTER (MI)

Regarding the website, the NCACC signed a contract in early March with Maxcreative, a web design and digital marketing company, for the redesign project. Last week, the designer shared with me and John Tomasino (FL), the chair of the Technology Committee, a view of the pages that he has created to-date. It looks fantastic! We expect to go live with the new website in early May, in time to register for the summer conference in Williamsburg, VA. It's likely that not every page will be completed by the go-live date but they will be added as soon as they are ready. For the homepage, the designer has the wonderful idea of cycling through pictures of our courthouse buildings as background to the text. To that end, if you have a non-copyrighted, high-resolution photograph of your building that you're able to share, please email it to me at the address listed below. I will send the photos to the web designer so that he can display them on the homepage. As well, if you have ideas for the content or redesign of the website, please let me know. The web designer has also set up a YouTube channel for the NCACC that will give us more capability to display video recordings of past sessions and events, such as the recent webinar session on diffusing/de-escalating angry litigants and active shooter preparedness.

Finally, a quick update on the status of the E-filing, E-Record, and E-notification project spearheaded by Tim Gudas (NH) of the Technology Committee. We received an amazing 54 responses to the survey! Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill it out. If you haven't yet taken the survey, it is not too late. The URL for the survey is <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KB10mI1Yc8VRxhImQYqSZrAmYwIRKg5M6y1j62oty5Q>. Over the next week or two, Tim and I will reach out to clerks in the handful of courts without survey responses to see if we can get their participation. We are not above groveling if that's what it takes. For the survey responses that we have received, we are currently compiling them into a comprehensive document that, we hope, will be ready for posting on the new website when it goes live.

As always, if you have questions about the NCACC or have ideas on how to improve services to our members, please don't hesitate to contact me at [RoysterL@courts.mi.gov](mailto:RoysterL@courts.mi.gov) or (517) 373-2553.

# That the Future May Learn from the Past: Preparing for our Courts' Futures in Colonial Williamsburg

*Scott Mitchell, Clerk of the Alabama Court of Appeals*

"That the Future May Learn from the Past" is the motto that John D. Rockefeller, Jr., coined for one of his favorite projects, Colonial Williamsburg. In three months, the NCACC will gather in Williamsburg to learn about the future of our courts as we take in so much of America's past. The Program Committee has been diligently planning a robust and exciting educational program for this year's annual meeting. We are blessed to be meeting in the hometown of the National Center for State Courts, and we will be hearing from many of the NCSC's experts during our week in Williamsburg.

On Monday we will hear from this year's Opperman speaker, Jeswald Salacuse, Dean Emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and author of several books including *Leading Leaders: How to Manage Smart, Talented, Rich, and Powerful People*. Mr. Salacuse's presentation will focus on how we can be better leaders in our courts. We also look forward to a presentation by Jarrett Perlow, Chief Deputy Clerk of United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, on the procedural changes made in that court's clerk's office which reduced processing time for pleadings and documents in half and increased accuracy in how documents are submitted to the court. The American Society for Quality recently conferred its Silver Level Award on that clerk's office in recognition of those improvements.

Over the past two years much of our professional and personal time and efforts have been devoted to issues surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. Our fellow NCACC member John Doerner and NCSC Principal Court Management Consultant Nora Sydow will share with us about the Rapid Response Team created by the NCSC, CCJ, and COSCA during the pandemic and discuss some of the challenges and opportunities facing courts moving forward post-pandemic.

We also look forward to a dynamic presentation by Fred Lederer and Martin Gruen of the Center for Legal and Court Technology (formerly known as the Courtroom 21 Project) at the College of William & Mary Law School on courtroom technology. That presentation will be followed by a panel discussion led by NCACC members Jenny Kitchings, Tristen Worthen, Polly Brock, and Lauren Vint about hybrid courtroom technology that various appellate courts are using or exploring.

On Tuesday, the NCSC's Director of Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion, Edwin Bell, will lead us in a discussion on how our Courts can be more inclusive. Additionally, we look forward to the unveiling of the Court Statistics Project's new appellate interactive dashboard by Nicole Waters, the NCSC's Director of Research Services. The new dashboard promises to be an invaluable tool for not only court officials but also those wishing to learn more about our courts. We will turn our attention back to court technology on Tuesday with a session on court technology trends led by Paul Embley, Nevada Supreme Court Chief Information Officer, and Bob Rath, Chief Innovation Officer for the Indiana Office of Judicial Administration.

Wednesday will be highlighted by the vendor expo. Deana Williamson, our vendor chair, is preparing a full lineup of vendors to show us the latest in court technology. On Wednesday we will also have an in-depth session on cybersecurity led by NCSC Principal Court Management Consultant Barbara Holmes. Ms. Holmes has extensive court technology experience having served eight years as the assistant IT director with Pennsylvania's Administrative Office of Courts. Danielle Hall, executive director of the Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program, will lead a session on Wednesday afternoon about dealing with stress and facilitating workplace harmony.

Ms. Hall will present again on Thursday morning on ethics after which we will have our "What's Bugging You" session. For new members and those who may not have previously attended an annual meeting, the "What's Bugging You" session is a closed-door session where you can ask pressing questions and seek the advice of your colleagues. Begin thinking about the questions you want to ask during this session.

Thursday's awards luncheon will feature a keynote address by Mary McQueen, president of the NCSC. Ms. McQueen is an engaging speaker and is sure to send us away from Williamsburg inspired to better serve our courts.

During the week we are also looking forward to hearing from our colleague, Scott Harris, Clerk of the United States Supreme Court.

The Program Committee is excited about the education opportunities that will be presented at this year's annual meeting. It has been too long since we have gathered in person, and we look forward to learning not only from our outstanding speakers but also from the camaraderie of our wonderful colleagues.

# Process Improvement in the Clerk's Office

By Greg Pachmayr, Clerk of the Indiana Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Tax Court

In the last issue of *The Docket*, my colleague Bob Rath described his role as the Indiana Supreme Court's Chief Innovation Officer. In this issue I will give an example of how we used process improvement methods to revamp our temporary admissions (aka, *pro hac vice*) process.

To review, our Chief Innovation Officer's charge is to find and facilitate new ideas that will improve the judiciary in Indiana. Our CIO's approach is two-pronged: facilitate statewide projects through the [Innovation Initiative](#) and develop business process improvements within the Indiana Office of Judicial Administration, where the Appellate Clerk's Office resides.

Our temporary admissions process has long caused confusion. Without a systematic, cross-agency approach, previous attempts to update the temporary admissions process failed to garner the support needed to achieve full implementation. Enter swift, even flow process improvement. Swift, even flow focuses on the flow of information, or materials, through a process. "By reducing throughput time and variation, [productivity] will increase."

Our Chief Innovation Officer and Roger Schmenner, professor emeritus at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business and author of *Getting and Staying Productive: Applying Swift, Even Flow to Practice*, led a two-day workshop to review our temporary admissions process. Other participants included staffers from the Appellate Clerk's Office, the Office of Admissions and Continuing Education, as well as our technology and fiscal teams.

Our participants began our session by identifying existing issues with the current process. Much like the annual conference's "what's bugging you" sessions, different participants encounter different sticking points, and the ensuing discussions engendered a sense of community that benefitted the remainder of the sessions.

The second part of our first day was a lecture and PowerPoint from Dr. Schmenner explaining the swift, even flow process. Dr. Schmenner stressed improving productivity by focusing on where time is lost in a process and the locations of variation in quality, quantity, or timing in a process. The presentation included examples of production from history, ranging from the Arsenal in 16<sup>th</sup> Century Venice to modern-day Biomet knee replacements.

In the third section of our first day, we outlined the existing temporary admissions process, highlighting sources of variation. Our rules required attorneys seeking temporary admission to first send us their payment and a copy of the petition they intended to file with the trial court. In return, we issued a temporary admission attorney number. The attorney would then submit their petition to the court in which they intended to appear. That court would then issue an order granting or denying the request. The attorney was then required to submit this order to us within thirty days or they would be suspended. If the petition was denied, we would have to issue a refund of the registration fee. If a case continued past the calendar year, the attorney would then pay a renewal fee or face suspension.

If the judge hadn't ruled on the petition by the end of the calendar year, the attorney's payment of the petition fee would roll over to the new year, requiring the Roll of Attorneys administrator to apply manual adjustments to the invoices. Clearly, there is significant variation and long throughput times under this procedure.

Three weeks later we convened for our second session. After spending time reflecting on our initial session, we went about collectively brainstorming "grand ideas" that could increase speed and decrease variability in the process. The second part of this session included using a white board to outline a new "should be" temporary admission process.

After our second session I set out to draft a rule change proposal. The proposal removed the requirement that attorneys return the court order to the Roll of Attorneys. By shifting the submission of the certificate of good standing to the initial contact with the Roll of Attorneys, we eliminated unnecessary exclusions and their associated inefficiencies. Our proposal replaced annual fees and applicable exclusion-related fees with a single, non-refundable fee per case. By limiting the number of interactions out-of-state attorneys have with the Roll of Attorneys, we increased efficiency, clarity, and customer service.

I presented the rule change proposal to the Indiana Supreme Court in their administrative conference. The swift, even flow process improvement sessions generated a solution to a long-standing impediment to customer service while still protecting legal consumers. The Justices agreed and on January 1, 2022, the new temporary admissions rule went into effect.

## Scholarship Assistance Deadline Extended to June 1

The application may be accessed via the link below.

Scholarship criteria may be found in the NCACC directory under the Committee Operation Guidelines/ NCACC Scholarship Committee.

Please submit your application electronically to the National Center for State Courts by June 1, 2022 via the following link:

[https://ncsc2.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dh8PkJU0hsuJpmC](https://ncsc2.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dh8PkJU0hsuJpmC)

For more information contact: Lonn Weissblum (FL), Scholarship Committee Chair

# Mid-Year Virtual Conference Recap

By Mary Beth Kuenzel, Clerk of the Second District Court of Appeal, FL

## SAFETY FIRST!

NCACC President Larry Royster hosted a mid-year educational program on topics that are always timely but seem more so as we encounter tempers frayed by pandemic-related isolation and restrictions. Thomas R. Mynsberge with Critical Incident Management first discussed strategies to diffuse tense encounters before they escalate.

As we know, people want to be taken seriously and treated with respect. Mr. Mynsberge also explained that people often want immediate action, compensation or restitution, and to have a wrong fixed or a person held responsible. With this in mind, he advocated for talking through a person's concerns. If you allow someone to talk long enough, even an aggressive person may begin to calm down. But we should be aware of the nonverbal indications of a potential problem. Watch for someone who conspicuously ignores you, someone who is excessively emotional, who has exaggerated movements or stops all movement, someone in a boxer's stance, or who is staring past you or making repetitious statements. His advice is that you do not argue with their reality but that you do increase the physical distance between you and the speaker.

It may not be possible to reason with an angry person, but some may respond better if they feel like they are being heard. Mynsberge suggested ways to be an active listener by following up with questions and summarizing what the person is saying. Avoid rushing or interrupting and engage by nodding your head and using verbal prompts like *Really; I see; Tell me the whole story; and This seems important to you.*

In part 2, Mynsberge talked through response scenarios involving active shooters and bomb threats. To stay safe, the speaker advised that we should always be aware of our surroundings and know our escape routes, no matter where we are.

Instead of the run--hide--fight formula for active shooters, Mynsberge said we should live by the SEA:

**S**--Seek secured shelter in a location where you can lock the door or use wedges to barricade it. Keep out of sight, keep quiet, and silence cellphones.

**E**--Escape if the room is compromised. Know escape routes and leave all belongings behind. Once you are out, keep your hands up and open and follow all orders of the first responders.

**A**--Attack with a vengeance if there is no other option. Be aggressive and attack repeatedly even if the shooter gets knocked down.

Mynsberge explained that the first 45 minutes are the most crucial in a hostage situation because the suspect is in fight-or-flight mode. He suggested that you should not speak unless spoken to and keep it short. Try to rest. And when rescue comes, hit the deck and take cover.

When you have to call 911 in such situations, stay on the line and explain the extent of violence, the number and location of suspects, and a safe arrival point for responders; if possible, give continuous updates.

The educational program was a great benefit for NCACC members and for our guests from the National Association for Court Management. A serious topic was explored in depth, and we can only hope that it is knowledge we will never need to put into practice.



# Welcome New Members!

*Introduced by Doug Shima (KS)*

## Michigan - South Carolina - Virginia



Gary Chambon has been a Lansing District Clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals for 2 years. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1991 with a B.A. in political science and in 1994 with his juris doctorate. His past experience includes clerking for both the Michigan Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court. Gary enjoys his coworkers but despairs at the unreasonable conduct by some attorneys and self-represented litigants. Gary is a trivia nut and regularly competes in pub trivia nights with his friends. He watches a lot of Jeopardy and Michigan football games. Gary dreams of one day watching the Detroit Lions in the Super Bowl, and he has reserved the tickets already. Not holding my breath on the Lions quite yet.



Angela DiSessa has been a District Clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals since 2002. WOW, that's 20 years of experience! Angela joined the NCACC to learn about how other appellate courts function and to bring back some of the best practices to the Michigan Court of Appeals. As with most of us, Angela loves helping attorneys and parties navigate the appellate system to bring a resolution to their case. Angela loves Larry Bird for his work ethic and the Beatles for their incredible music. Angela's bucket list includes an African safari, a trip to Istanbul, and a hot air balloon ride. If Angela could eat one meal every day for the rest of her life, it would be lasagna. Garfield the Cat would agree.



# New Members, continued



Tricia Howard serves as Clerk of Court of the Supreme Court of South Carolina, assuming the role on July 19, 2021, upon the retirement of Dan Shearouse. Tricia graduated from the South Carolina School of Law in 2004. After a clerkship in the South Carolina Court of Appeals, Tricia practiced law in Columbia. Tricia had been the Chief Staff Attorney for the South Carolina Court of Appeals for 10 years before assuming her role as Clerk of Court. Tricia says that building renovations have caused her quite a few headaches since she became clerk. Tricia loves traveling with her husband and three boys. Tricia says that her parents took her to a James Taylor concert when she was young, but that she will admit the first concert she can remember attending was the New Kids on the Block. Tricia says the best part of being Clerk is that each day brings something new and that she is honored to work with great justices, appellate practitioners, young and enthusiastic law clerks, and a wonderful staff. Cheers to a great staff!



Patricia Murray has been a District Clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals for the past 6 years. Patricia has a B.A. from Illinois Benedictine College and a J.D. from Wayne State University. She has spent her career with the Michigan Court of Appeals as a Prehearing Attorney, Law Clerk, Senior Research Attorney, and Prehearing Supervisor. Patricia is preaching to the choir when she notes that she gets the most headaches at work from attorneys who do not read or understand the Court rules and want to debate them instead of following them. If Patricia could choose anyone as a mentor, it would be Mahatma Gandhi for his absolute conviction to ideals of equality, nonviolence, and freedom from colonial rule. Patricia loves Indian food and Barry's Irish tea bags. In her retirement, we will probably find Patricia at a beach house after checking off two other bucket list items of visiting the Egyptian pyramids and watching a Liverpool F.C. football (soccer) game at Anfield Stadium. Game on!



# New Members, continued.



Muriel-Theresa Pitney has been the Clerk of the Virginia Supreme Court for about 6 months. Muriel was born and raised in Virginia and she married her law school sweetheart. Gotta love those dueling attorney couples! Muriel loved being a trial attorney both as a public defender and in her own private practice. But once she started her appellate career with the Virginia Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, she realized her true passion for appellate work. Muriel found two of the best mentors one could have in Trish Harrington and the late Doug Robelen. Fun facts are that Muriel loves to sing, she played in bands through college and law school, and she still sings with her husband and musician friends when they have time. Muriel is planning a trip to Alaska to watch bears catching salmon (I'm sure Meredith Montgomery can help with that). Muriel loves her purple ink pens and her mom's Puerto Rican stuffing. Sounds delicious!



*See you in Williamsburg!*

**Tell us about your Courthouse...**

**This is a new feature—we want to learn about each other's workplaces—what you love and what you love to hate.**

If you want to tell us about your courthouse, please reach out to a member of the Communications Committee.

This edition is courtesy of Greg Hilton (*MD*) and features the:

## *Maryland Court of Special Appeals*

The history of the Courts of Appeal in Maryland is written in its courthouses.

The roots of Maryland's Court of Appeals, its supreme court (more about this later), traces itself to the colonial era when the Court, the legislature, and what passed as an executive were, for most purposes, the same. A while after the coalescing of the United States into a going concern, while the Court had become a body distinct from the legislature, it remained in the State House on its second floor.



The Court of Appeals' Courtroom on the second floor of the State House.

This little State House has provided a home to great events in the founding era. For a time, it served as the Capitol of the United States and was the site of George Washington's resignation as the leader of the Continental Army so that he could take up a new role as the first President of the United States. Set in a Georgian architectural style, the State House is the oldest and largest wooden-domed building in the United States.

The Court of Appeals remained at the State House until 1903 when it moved into a nearby purpose-built structure. This building housed the Court, its judges, the State Library, and a couple of other state agencies. At that time the State Library was, as its name suggests, a library cataloging items of interest about the state. Later, it would change into "just" a law library, but it retained many materials from its collection detailing the history of Maryland and its peoples. Photographs of the library in this new building reflect that it was a grand place with tiered stacks in dark wood and research space decked out with large, chunky, solid-wood furnishings. In 2021, the State Law Library was renamed the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library to honor the great Supreme Court Justice. Preparing for the renaming ceremony, the State Law Librarian, after digging through its historic holdings, found a visitor's log from the 1930s bearing the signature of the young lawyer, Thurgood Marshall.



The 1903 Courthouse.

The furnishings of the 1903 version of the courtroom included some features from the courtroom in the State House and included dark paneling, no windows, but a beautiful skylight.



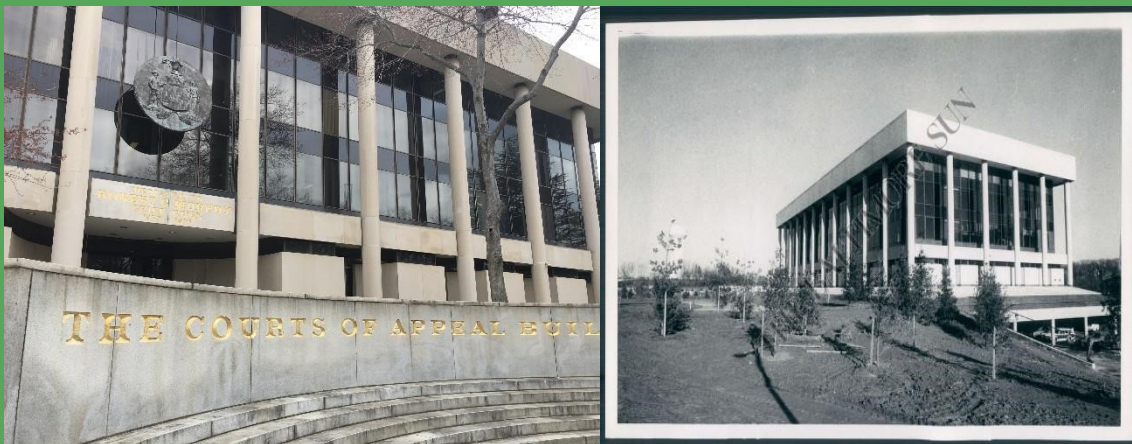
The Maryland Court of Appeals courtroom in the 1903 courthouse.

And there the Court of Appeals resided until the social and political earthquakes of the late sixties. The Court had begun to outgrow its' skin and had outgrown its capacity to handle its burgeoning docket, occasioned in no small measure by the developing constitutional jurisprudence around the rights of criminal defendants. After more than a decade of discussion and study, the Maryland legislature approved a constitutional amendment, later confirmed in a ballot referendum, permitting the creation of an intermediate appellate court. As it happened, nearly simultaneously with the passage of the constitutional amendment, the legislature approved the creation of a special appellate court with jurisdiction limited to criminal matters. That court is the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. While its jurisdiction was special at the beginning, it isn't so special anymore as, over time, it has become a court of general appellate jurisdiction hearing all manner of cases from almost every field of law.

In its first years as a court, the Court of Special Appeals, like a vagabond, resided in temporary lodgings in a state building on Francis Street a block down from the State House. The original members of the Court cobbled together furnishings from where it could and set to work on its ready-made docket of some 400 pending appeals handed to it by the Court of Appeals. It remained in those lodgings until a "new" Courts of Appeal building, just up Rowe Boulevard from the State House, was completed in 1972. In the destruction of the old appellate court building, the Maryland Senate purloined a Tiffany glass skylight that adorned the old courthouse.

To this day, this new building houses both appellate courts in a “modern” building that appended some barely recognizable classical architecture themes on a truly modern architectural building. What was named the Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building, after the then Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, was “bigger” than the old buildings, had “modern” office layouts, and was conducive to the free-flowing style of the era. As one walks the now 50-year-old halls, one can almost hear the click-clack of the word processors of that era – typewriters - emanating from “secretarial” offices.

The Murphy Building was plopped onto a corner of Rowe and Taylor Avenue, on a bit of dry land surrounded by College Creek and not too far from the shores of the Severn River. As a reflection of the growing state government, the construction included a cluster of buildings housing the appellate courts and the Department of Natural Resources. The complex surrounds a wholly artificial homage to the varied landscapes of Maryland’s natural history, from the sea, to tidal wetlands, to the high peaks (they aren’t that high) of Western Maryland.



The 1972 Courts of Appeals building as completed and under construction.

When the Murphy Building was built and the old courthouse was demolished, the paneling and furnishings of the 1903 courtroom were painstakingly removed from their old home and incongruously installed into the decidedly modern Murphy Building. Having no prior courtroom of significance, the Court of Special Appeals, reflecting the modernism of the time, had slab paneling and a somewhat utilitarian looking bench.



Workers removing the paneling from the 1903 courtroom.

As time went on, the special court's jurisdiction became more and more un-special and its size grew along with it. It rapidly tacked on new judges to the end of its bench, starting at 5 and reaching 13 in the following 17 years. Already, the new building was fighting a losing battle with utility. Caseloads increased, and time and history started taking a toll on the courts' home. Today, it barely contains the Clerk's Office staff of each appellate court, staff attorneys, the Court of Special Appeals' ADR Division, and judges' chambers. The building's mechanical systems and skin fail regularly. Its electrical systems and IT infrastructure are woefully insufficient for a modern court.

So, as we come to the end of this reflection on Maryland's appellate courthouses, Maryland is concluding a seemingly endless process of "planning" a new building and beginning the process of actually building it. The new building promises to have room for the courts to grow, provide new and pleasant spaces for their employees to work, account for modern energy efficiency and technology, and frame the entrance to the greatest little capital city in the United States. In a through line of history, the Court of Appeals' historic courtroom paneling and furnishings will again be removed and moved to the new Courts of Appeals building. Further, some internal columns from the 1903 courthouse, which pre-date its construction, will be repurposed into the newest appellate courthouse. Presently, the columns stand exposed to the elements on Rowe Boulevard adjacent to where the new courthouse will stand.

As a further sign of changing times, it is likely that by the end of the year Maryland's appellate courts will be renamed to finally recognize that the Court of Appeals is, in fact, the supreme court of Maryland and that the Court of Special Appeals, while truly special in our own minds, no longer has the limited jurisdiction of its founding. In 2021, after a couple of years' political jockeying, the legislature approved changing the name of the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Maryland, changing the references to its judges from "judges" to "justices," and renaming the Court of Special Appeals to the Maryland Appellate Court (to avoid confusion with the memory of the Court of Appeals). This leaves only New York with its highest court being named the Court of Appeals. New York will have a much harder time altering its Court of Appeals to the supreme court as its general trial court is the "supreme court." The renaming of the Courts of Appeal in Maryland is subject to a ballot referendum this fall.

This article could not have been written without the assistance of The Honorable Joseph M. Getty, the now retired Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Getty served in all three branches of the Maryland Government before his retirement and seems to know everything about the political and social history of Maryland. <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/29ap/html/msa12229.html>.

