

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**



FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**THE JUDICIAL BUSINESS OF THE
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

DISTRICT JUDGES

(One Vacancy)

Active Judges

Richard D. Bennett
Catherine C. Blake, Chief
James K. Breidar
Theodore D. Chuang
Paul W. Grimm
George Jarrod Hazel
Ellen L. Hollander
George L. Russell, III
Paula Xinis

Senior Judges

Deborah K. Chasanow
Marvin J. Garbis
Peter J. Messitte
J. Frederick Motz
William M. Nickerson
Roger W. Titus

MAGISTRATE JUDGES

(No Vacancies)

Full-Time

William Connelly, Chief
A. David Copperthite
J. Mark Coulson
Charles B. Day
Thomas M. DiGirolamo
Stephanie A. Gallagher
Beth P. Gesner
Timothy J. Sullivan

Part-Time

C. Bruce Anderson

Recalled

Susan K. Gauvey
Jillyn K. Schulze

BANKRUPTCY JUDGES

(No Vacancies)

Active Judges

Nancy V. Alquist, Chief
Thomas Catliota
Robert A. Gordon
Wendelin Lipp
David E. Rice
James F. Schneider
Lori S. Simpson

Recalled Judges

E. Stephen Derby
Duncan W. Keir

COURT UNIT EXECUTIVES

Felicia C. Cannon, Clerk, U.S. District Court
Mark A. Neal, Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court
William Henry, Chief, U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services

COURTHOUSES AND FACILITIES OF THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND



**Northern Division Courthouse
Baltimore, Maryland**



**Southern Division Courthouse
Greenbelt, Maryland**



**Courtroom, M.R. Toulson Federal Building
Salisbury, Maryland**

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MILESTONES

The United States District Court for the District of Maryland passed numerous milestones during the 2016 fiscal year. On October 23, 2015, the ninth biennial Bench – Bar Conference was held at the Baltimore courthouse. The conference featured two keynote speakers, William E. Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Maryland, and Taylor Branch, Pulitzer Prize winning author and historian.

On December 8, 2015, the court and the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland held a reception for the official opening of the Historical Society's exhibit entitled March on Civil Rights. The exhibit is housed on the fourth floor of the Greenbelt Courthouse. Focusing on cases that were decided in the District of Maryland, the exhibit follows challenges of unequal segregation to actions defending the freedom of African American children from bondage. Over 40 members of the Stewart family attended the reception to see the *Stewart v. The Sue* portion of the exhibit, recanting the 1880's challenge by the Stewart sisters of the segregation of African Americans aboard the steamship "Sue."

On January 20, 2016, Bankruptcy Judge Paul Mannes passed away at the age of 82. Judge Mannes was appointed to the federal bench in 1981, and served on active status until his passing. He served longer than any other Bankruptcy Judge in Maryland history and at his death was the longest-serving federal judicial officer in active status in the district. Members of the federal bench attended a celebration of the life and career of Judge Mannes on June 16, 2016.

On April 8, 2016, a reception was held in honor of Judge Jillyn K. Schulze who retired as a magistrate judge in the Southern Division on March 24, 2016. Judge Schulze continues to assist the court with settlement conferences on recalled status. On May 20, 2016, the court held an investiture ceremony for newly appointed Magistrate Judge A. David Copperthite. Judge Copperthite was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Judge Schulze's retirement.

On May 26, 2016, the Greenbelt Courthouse hosted a bench dedication ceremony in memory of LuAnn Davis, a beloved Court Operations Supervisor and Lisa Rosenthal, a former Chief Deputy Clerk. Family, friends and former employees gathered to honor the contributions these women made to the Clerk's Office during their tenure.

On June 8, 2016, Bankruptcy Judge James F. Schneider announced his intention to retire effective February 8, 2017, after 35 years on the bankruptcy court bench. A search was commenced to fill Judge Schneider's position on the bench after he retires.

On September 7, 2016, Lori S. Simpson was sworn in as a Bankruptcy Judge at an informal ceremony officiated by Chief Bankruptcy Judge Nancy V. Alquist. Judge Simpson was appointed to the Bankruptcy Court bench to replace Bankruptcy Judge Paul Mannes.

On September 23, 2016, the court held an investiture ceremony for newly appointed District Judge Paula Xinis. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski and Senator Benjamin L. Cardin attended and spoke during the ceremony. Judge Xinis was informally sworn in earlier in the year and was appointed to replace Judge Deborah K. Chasanow, who took senior status in October 2014.

COURT ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

The federal bench in Maryland has a long history of collegiality in conducting the business of the district. The district judges in both divisions maintain regular contact through weekly video-conferenced bench meetings. On the first Wednesday of each month, magistrate and bankruptcy judges, court unit executives, representatives of the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the United States Marshal Service, GSA, pro se staff attorneys, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, court reporters, and CJA Coordinating Attorney join the district judges in a consolidated bench meeting.

The court strives to focus on continuous communication and coordination of operations between its different divisions and court units. It relies on a strong committee system that actively involves judges, clerk's office personnel and members of the local bar. Frequent meetings, including those among the unit executives, are an essential part of the court's administration. The court units – the District Court, the Bankruptcy Court, and the consolidated Probation and Pretrial Services office – work closely together to manage the resources of the district. The unit executives meet formally and informally with the chief judge and each other to discuss budget and case management issues affecting the district.

In fiscal year 2016, the District Court determined that minor revisions to its Local Rules and Forms were necessary, primarily for purposes of clarity. The most recent changes to the rules became effective on July 1, 2016.

BENCH/BAR RELATIONSHIPS

Cooperative efforts among the bench and bar continue with regular committee meetings, including the Attorney Admissions Fund Committee, the Bench-Bar Liaison Committee, and the Bankruptcy Bar Association/District Court Liaison Committee. At these meetings, committee members address court business, review local rules and procedures, and plan educational programs throughout the year in which the district's judges actively participate. The court holds a Bench-Bar Conference every two years, which includes the presentation of an award recognizing an attorney, law firm, or group of attorneys for outstanding service to the court.

In recent years, the bench has worked closely with the bar to establish the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, which has, among its objectives, developed and installed creative exhibits highlighting court history.

Oral history projects and projects related to the preservation of portraits and historical documents are underway. In its work with the Historical Society, the court seeks to preserve and display the history of the federal judicial system in Maryland.

COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Several of the district's judges serve on committees governing the administration of the federal courts. In fiscal year 2016, Chief District Judge Catherine C. Blake finished her term as chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services. Chief Judge Blake also serves on the board of the Federal Judicial Center, having been appointed in March 2012. Judge Roger W. Titus entered his final term as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management in 2016. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Alquist continues to serve as the Fourth Circuit Representative Member of the Board of Governors for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and Bankruptcy Judge Thomas J. Catliota continues to serve as the Fourth Circuit Representative on the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group.

The District Court hosted educational programs for several school and university visitors throughout the year. On November 13, 2015, Judge Stephanie A. Gallagher hosted the annual Open Doors program in Baltimore. The program, which was organized and hosted by Magistrate Judge Susan K. Gauvey for over a decade, introduces students from various local high schools to the federal judiciary system, and includes mock trials and discussions with unit executives and judges.

In December 2015, holiday open houses and staff holiday luncheons were held in the Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses to thank staff members of all court units and members of the bar for their commitment and dedication to the court throughout the year. In addition, the Human Resources department of the Clerk's Office coordinated and processed the paperwork for the 2014 Combined Federal Charities campaign, which provides staff the opportunity to donate to their favorite charities through payroll deduction. To help support the Combined Federal Charities Campaign even further, the Human Resources department held a sports memorabilia silent auction to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

In January 2016, Judge Catliota appeared on Eye on Bankruptcy, a series sponsored by Bloomberg News and the American Bankruptcy Institute. Also in January 2016, Judge Catliota participated in the National Conference on Consumer Finance Class Actions & Litigation in Miami, Florida. District Judge Ellen L. Hollander is on the Planning Committee for the 2017 Fourth Circuit Judges' Workshop, for which work began in the Fall of 2016. The Workshop will be held June 13-June 15, 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

In February 2016, the Curriculum Committee at the University of Maryland King Carey School of Law approved a proposal by Professor Michelle Harner to create a new course at the law school – *Consumer Bankruptcy: Legal Theory and Practice*. The new course, taught by bankruptcy practitioner David Portney, with support from Chief Bankruptcy Judge Alquist, Bankruptcy Judge Robert A. Gordon and Bankruptcy Clerk Mark A. Neal, is designed to assist low income individual debtors in various aspects of the bankruptcy process, including the preparation and filing of Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy petitions and the resolution of issues that arise in those cases. The format of the new course, which began in the Fall Semester 2016 with five students, will enable students to learn substantive law and represent debtors, under the supervision of licensed attorneys.

On February 22, 2016, Bankruptcy Judge Schneider, Bankruptcy Judge Wendelin I. Lipp, Bankruptcy Judge Caliota, Bankruptcy Judge Gordon, Bankruptcy Judge David E. Rice, and Bankruptcy Clerk Mark Neal participated in a presentation for law students at the University of Maryland King Carey School of Law entitled the “Top Ten Things That Every Lawyer (and Law Student) Should Know About Bankruptcy.”

In coordination with the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Commercial Law Development Program, on September 19-23, 2016, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Alquist, Bankruptcy Judge Rice and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland hosted four Armenian judges and a rector of the Academy of Justice of Armenia. A significant portion of the program took place at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Baltimore, Maryland. Among other things, the participants received an introduction to the U.S. bankruptcy and insolvency system; attended a bankruptcy trial and a meeting of creditors; discussed the role of the clerk, case management issues, and the use of technology; met with representatives from the U.S. Trustee and private trustees; and participated in case studies specific to Armenia’s practice.

In fiscal year 2016, several judges actively participated in programs designed to foster the education of citizens and international tribunals regarding operation of the federal judiciary. Judge Richard D. Bennett, Judge Peter J. Messitte, Judge Marvin J. Garbis, and Chief Bankruptcy Judge Alquist remain active in teaching and lecturing internationally. The Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses carried on a tradition of hosting judges, attorneys, administrators, and students from foreign countries. Judge Bennett participated in programs in Washington for visiting judicial delegations from Ukraine, Russia and Mongolia. He continued to work closely with the United States Agency of International Development (“USAID”) of the Department of State with respect to judicial reform in Ukraine, which included preparation for his visit to Kiev, Ukraine. In November 2015, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Alquist and former U.S. Trustee Clarkson McDow presented a two-day program for judges on the U.S. Trustee system in Casablanca, Morocco, and in April 2016 Chief Bankruptcy Judge Alquist and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland hosted a delegation of Moroccan judges at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Baltimore, Maryland.

In the past several years, the court has also welcomed guests from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Chile, China, Columbia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the Eastern Caribbean, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Moldova, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Judges in this district have also traveled to Argentina, China, Estonia, Iraq, Portugal, Russia and Turkey for judicial education programs.

The District Court Clerk’s Office continued to arrange for federal agencies to use courtrooms for executive branch hearings. These agencies include the United States Department of Labor, the National Transportation Safety Board, the United States Tax Court, and the United States Merit Systems Protection Board. The district also hosted several Federal Bar Association programs, the United States Attorney’s Office awards ceremony, and several Criminal Justice Act (CJA) attorney panel-training sessions.

On March 31, 2016, Magistrate Judge Beth P. Gesner presided over a special naturalization ceremony in the Baltimore courthouse and the fourth-grade class of Severn School participated. The students researched the countries represented and their own heritage and delivered speeches on the importance of the day. On April 1, 2016, Girl Scout Troop 10247 met with Judge Blake to learn about the law. On April 26, Magistrate Judge Thomas M. DiGirolamo led the Student Mock Trial Program in the Southern Division. On May 26, 2016 District Judge George L. Russell, III hosted Professor Jose Anderson and the University of Baltimore's college students who are considering applying to law school.

In April 2016, Judge Catliota participated in the Great Debate at the annual conference of the American Bankruptcy Institute in Washington, D.C. On May 4, 2016, Judge Timothy J. Sullivan participated in the GRECO Site Visit in D.C. and in September participated in the NAC Basic Criminal Trial Advocacy Seminar in Columbia, South Carolina. Judge Russell participated in the "Just the Beginning" program in Baltimore on July 19, 2016. Judge Blake met with Brightwood College students on September 19, 2016 to discuss the court. Judge Russell arranged office tours for the judicial law clerks and interns, and delivered a speech to law clerks and interns from the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office in the summer of 2016. In September 2016, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Alquist and Judge Sullivan attended a legislative reception at the Capitol in Washington D.C., co-sponsored by the Federal Judges Association and National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ). In August 2016, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Alquist and Judge Rice participated in the American Bankruptcy Institute's 12th Annual Mid-Atlantic Bankruptcy Workshop held in Cambridge, Maryland.

Since its inception in 1996, the District Court's art program at the Greenbelt courthouse has contributed greatly to our region's cultural environment. The original purpose of the program was to feature works by Maryland artists, but over the years, it has expanded to include international art as well. With exhibits in quilting, photography, sculpture, and painting, the program continues to call attention to the diverse interests and creative talents of local artists and the importance of their contributions to society. Exhibits rotate quarterly and this year included various artworks from the Hyattstown Mill Arts Project, Rockville Art League, UMUC at College Park, the Annapolis Quilts Guild and the First Lady of Maryland Art Exhibition.

On April 15, 2016, the Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association hosted the Introduction to Federal Practice program. The afternoon program was held in the Greenbelt courthouse and ended with the judges sitting *en banc* to admit the newest members of the federal bar, with a reception that followed. On April 28, 2016, the Federal Bar Association hosted a luncheon in recognition of District Judge William D. Quarles, Jr., Magistrate Judge Jillyn K. Schulze and Magistrate Judge Susan K. Gauvey's service to the court, and in honor of Magistrate Judge A. David Copperthite's recent appointment to the bench.

On July 14, 2016, many District Court judges traveled to Washington, D.C. for lunch with Maryland's congressional delegation. This luncheon has become an annual event, providing the judges with the opportunity to discuss pressing matters in the judiciary with local members of Congress. On June 9, 2016, Judge Richard D. Bennett and Judge Hollander hosted a brown bag lunch in the Baltimore Courthouse for summer interns and law clerks. This program was

repeated on June 16 with Magistrate Judge J. Mark Coulson and Judge Gesner serving as hosts, and again on July 7 with District Judge Paul W. Grimm and Judge Timothy J. Sullivan. Another annual event for judges, law clerks, and interns is the court's summer softball game, which took place in July.

During fiscal year 2016, the District Court continued its commitment to providing its law clerks with the tools they need to assist judges, to foster close relationships between the bench and its clerks, and to show its appreciation for the vital services the law clerks provide. On June 23, 2016, the bench, joined by Fourth Circuit Judge Diana Gribbon Motz, sat en banc for the annual Law Clerk Admission Ceremony. The outgoing law clerks of Fourth Circuit, district, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges based in Baltimore and Greenbelt participated in the ceremony at the Southern Division courthouse. Many of their family members were on hand to witness their admission to the bars of the District of Maryland and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

The new law clerk year began on September 26, 2016, with the annual Hargrove Breakfast for incoming law clerks. This annual tradition is hosted by the bench in memory of District Judge John R. Hargrove, Sr. who worked tirelessly to support the collegiality of the bench and the enrichment of the lives of law clerks who served this court. The breakfast was followed by both an educational program on discovery conducted by Judge Grimm and a presentation from various unit executives and the Clerk's Office.

DISTRICT COURT

General Case Statistics

During the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, 4,349 civil cases were filed as compared to 3,937 civil case filings in Fiscal Year 2015. Our criminal filings remained consistent, with 518 filings (involving 840 defendants) at the end of September 2016, compared to 499 criminal cases (involving 744 defendants) filed in Fiscal Year 2015. The judges also closed 3,898 civil and 498 criminal cases during this fiscal year. The district weighted case filing per judgeship" as of 9/30/16 was 478. As of September 30, 2016, our district weighted case filing per judgeship was 525 as compared to 474 at the end of September 2015.

Multidistrict Litigation

The following two multidistrict litigation (MDL) cases were assigned to, or remain pending with, judges of the District of Maryland:

- (1) In re KBR, Inc., Burn Pit Litigation (MDL No. 2083) was certified and transferred to the District of Maryland on October 19, 2009. This MDL is assigned to Judge Roger W. Titus and currently has 64 pending cases.
- (2) In re CTP Innovations, LLC, Patent Litigation (MDL No. 2581) was certified and transferred to the district on December 15, 2014. It is assigned to Judge Marvin J. Garbis and currently has 27 pending cases.

Intercircuit Assignments

Our district judges continued our district's longtime practice of assisting other courts by offering to serve on intercourt assignments throughout the year. During this past fiscal year, Judge Garbis presided over several hearings in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida and the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, utilizing video conferencing to save on travel expenses. In addition, Judge Garbis served as a visiting appellate Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, presiding on panels in some fifteen cases, and will sit again with the Ninth Circuit in February of 2017.

District Judge J. Frederick Motz continues to visit the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico to hear immigration cases, and will sit again in May 2017. Judge Motz will also sit in the Ninth Circuit in June 2017. Judge Titus sat with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and anticipates accepting future intercourt assignments. Judge Theodore D. Chuang and Judge George Jarrod Hazel were designated and assigned to sit on panels of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Civil Justice Reform Act Reporting

The District Court, which consistently performs well in managing its pending caseload, reported one pending motion for six months or longer on the March 31, 2016 report and three pending motions on the September 30, 2016 report. The bench also reported 54 cases pending three years or more on the March 31, 2016 report and 50 cases pending three years or more on the September 30, 2016 report.

Death Penalty Litigation

(1) Miles v. Wainwright (CCB-07-2135)
Judge Catherine C. Blake
Counsel: Robert Biddle

Because of a change in Maryland law, the death sentence imposed on Jody Lee Miles was commuted to life without parole. Related proceedings remain pending.

(2) United States v. Lighty (PJM-03-0457)
Judge Peter J. Messitte
Counsel: Seth Rosenthal and Julie Brain

The court determined to hear Petitioner's *Batson/J.E.B.* claims separately from his other claims. The parties, through counsel, consented to multiple extensions of time for the filing of briefs. Defense counsel filed a supplemental brief on May 19, 2014. A Memorandum Opinion was issued on October 30, 2014 denying Petitioner's Motion for Discovery related to *Batson/J.E.B.* claims. On March 11, 2015, the Government clarified that it will rely on their previously filed briefs, at which point the *Batson/J.E.B.* claims also became ripe for decision. On August 12, 2016, the court issued a joint Memorandum Opinion on Petitioner's *Batson/J.E.B.* claims. The court denied the Motion to Vacate as to Petitioner's *Batson/J.E.B.* claims, but

reserved for consideration other grounds of relief raised in the Petitioner’s 2255 motions.

Patent Pilot Project

The District Court continued its fifth year of participation in a ten-year national pilot program for studying patent cases. In fiscal year 2016, 17 new patent cases were filed in the district, nine of which (or approximately 53%) were either initially assigned or randomly reassigned to one of our three patent pilot judges: Judge Garbis, Judge Hazel, and Judge Titus. Additionally, Judge Garbis continued on his multi-district litigation assignment for pretrial proceedings In re CTP Innovations, MDL No. 2581.

The following chart shows the District Court’s patent case statistics for the year ending on September 30, 2016, as well as the statistics for the two prior fiscal years.

	2014	2015	2016
Patent Cases (NOS: 830)	26	22*	17*
Patent Cases Assigned or Reassigned to Patent Judges	18	13	9
Percent of Patent Cases with Patent Judges	69%	59%	53%

***Excluding multidistrict litigation assignments**

Magistrate Judge Statistics

While the district’s magistrate judges primarily sit in the Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses, they also hold hearings at off-site locations, including the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Andrews Air Force Base, the Naval Academy, Fort Ritchie/Fort Detrick, Fort Meade, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the M.R. Toulson Federal Building and Salisbury courthouse. Magistrate judges also hear dockets of cases from the United States Park Police, the National Institutes of Health and five other federal facilities. Combined, these dockets constitute the largest volume of traffic and parking violations in the country, as well as the largest miscellaneous and Class A misdemeanor dockets in the federal judiciary.

Various federal arresting agencies issued 27,358 new misdemeanor and petty offense citations in fiscal year 2016, and 13,311 of these were referred to our court. The magistrate judges presided over 3,426 mandatory appearances, and 9,885 collateral appearances. Dispositions were reached as to 32,752 citations. Of the fines issued by magistrate judges, \$2,293,554.26 has been collected.

United States Magistrate Judge Statistics

Preliminary Felony Matters FY 2016

	Detention Hearings	Arraignments	Arrest Warrants	Search & Seizure Warrants	Criminal Complaints	Initial Appearances
Northern Division	310	321	583	1010	114	606
Southern Division	107	160	636	722	222	238
TOTAL	417	481	1219	1732	336	844

The magistrate judges play an integral role in management of the civil docket of the District Court. With the consent of the parties, the magistrate judges may conduct all proceedings, including jury trials in all types of civil cases. During the past year, consents were filed in 572 cases (339 of which were Social Security Administration appeals). Magistrate judges also handled 64 referrals for discovery motions, 93 referrals for post-judgment matters, and 728 referrals for other reasons (primarily settlement conferences).

One of the primary responsibilities of magistrate judges is holding settlement conferences. In fiscal year 2016, the magistrate judges conducted 716 Settlement/Mediation conferences. This program has been very successful because the magistrate judges devote the time necessary to master the record and explore settlement in depth with the parties and counsel. The court frequently receives letters from counsel expressing gratitude for the assistance of magistrate judges in resolving seemingly intractable cases.

Clerk's Office

In fiscal year 2016, the District Court Clerk's Office was allotted 115.1 positions, including court reporters and pro se staff attorneys. This year's budget allowed the Clerk's Office to continue to fill additional vacancies, many created by retirements at the end of the 2015 fiscal year, as well as increase staffing in areas to support a solid distribution of work. The Clerk's Office increased on-board staffing from 87 positions in fiscal year 2015 to 92 positions in fiscal year 2016. The office also utilized two paid interns this year to assist in legal and specialized areas. Although the Clerk's Office continued filling vacancies, the office continues to adjust job responsibilities and examine workflow prior to making any hiring decisions.

This year the District of Maryland lost almost 70 years of government service to retirement. Senior District Judge William D. Quarles retired on February 1, 2016 after serving almost 13 years on the bench. Magistrate Judge Jillyn K. Schulze retired on March 24, 2016 after serving 21 years on the bench and was immediately recalled to service on March 25, 2016. Jo Wright, her Judicial Assistant, retired on March 31, 2016. Diana Schwarzmann, Procurement Specialist, also retired on September 30, 2016. Our retirees were honored and acknowledged by certificates from U.S. Senators Cardin and Mikulski and the Administrative Office during

ceremonies attended by courthouse staff.

During fiscal year 2016, seven District Court employees left the court to pursue other opportunities: Kylie Alexander and Karri Becker, law clerks to Judge Quarles, Brian Crook, law clerk to Judge Schulze, Meghan Howland, Courtroom Deputy Clerk, Karen Fish, Judicial Assistant to Judge Sullivan, and Brenda Jackson, Procurement Specialist. This year the court mourned the loss of Courtroom Deputy Clerk, Mary Russell, who passed away on February 18, 2016.

Fiscal year 2016 brought many new faces to the District Court. In 2016, we welcomed two Judges and their chambers to the District of Maryland. Judge Paula Xinis was confirmed on May 16, 2016 and sworn in on May 18, 2016. She brought with her Tasha Brown as a Judicial Assistant and law clerks Kyle Virtue and Jaimie McFarland. Magistrate Judge A. David Copperthite was sworn in on March 28, 2016. His law clerk, Jonathan Tsuei, started alongside him.

Finance

The finance office managed the deposit fund of \$5,709,416.10 and registry funds with a balance of \$13,003,119.00 as of September 30, 2016. The District Court continued to maintain a non-appropriated attorney admissions fund and the balance on this account was \$318,327.13 as of the end of September 2016.

The District Court completely implemented Rest Assured due to a successful collaboration between Finance and the courtroom deputies. Additionally, the court implemented a new accounting system JIFMS. Finance staff also revisited old unclaimed files and disbursed approximately 50 restitution payments to the rightful payees.

Information Technology

During fiscal year 2016, the District of Maryland continued to improve technology services within the courtrooms. The main project during this time was the infrastructure, cabling, and equipment install for the new Greenbelt CVB courtroom. This is the first courtroom in the judiciary to use video over IP. With the completion of digital video, the court began a multi-year plan for upgrading courtroom audio from analog to digital. The court also integrated the courtroom presentation and video feed into the U.S. Marshals' holding area. If a defendant becomes disruptive in any courtroom, they can be removed and housed in the Marshal's area while being able to participate, see and hear the proceeding.

The CM/ECF administrator assisted with the upgrade to Appear 5.0, a program used by the jury department to automate juror contacts, and the conversion from FAS4T to JIFMS. While there were no major software releases for CM/ECF and the court has not scheduled the migration to NextGen, the CM/ECF committee remained busy with local updates. Several new dictionary events were created to better integrate U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services work into CM/ECF and to continue to assist with the Johnson resentencing. The CM/ECF administrator also focused on adding and modifying WikiClerk's CM/ECF procedural information.

During the reporting period, IT team members collaborated with operations team members to implement a new calendaring system, EMS. The programmer/analyst was responsible for software installation, server configuration, documentation and programming changes needed to provide integration to existing interfaces. The Baltimore kiosk was rewritten utilizing a web-based solution that incorporated data feeds to update directory records. The Greenbelt kiosk will be completed by the next reporting period.

The District Court IT help desk continued to provide day-to-day support to meet the mission of the court, implemented new equipment and worked on increasing security by removing local administrator privileges from court users. The NSS team transitioned the District and Bankruptcy courts to the National Wireless Solution by reconfiguring wireless access points and court-issued mobile devices. The court also implemented two-factor authentication for remote access to the DCN. The court moved to JICS, the national inventory program. A local JICS server was implemented and FileTrail data was converted and imported into a new JICS database. In addition, the JIFMS to JICS interface was configured and tested. The IT Team continues to provide support for investitures, various ceremonies, and FBA events.

Interpreter Statistics

Language	Event(s)	Cost
Arabic	3	\$678
Albanian	4	\$2,976
Farsi	1	\$226
Hebrew	1	\$226
Hindi	1	\$226
Korean	1	\$462
Mandarin	5	\$2,804
Nepali	1	\$350
Portuguese	1	\$505
Russian	11	\$3,784
Sign (American)	2	\$789
Spanish	350	\$104,972
Tagalog	8	\$3,202
Vietnamese	6	\$2,864
TOTAL	395	\$124,064.00

Jury

Petit Jury

Trial jurors for our district are summoned to serve for a one-month or one trial term of service. 10,849 jurors were summoned for jury service in fiscal year 2016. A total of 3,408 trial jurors reported to the court for participation in 73 jury trials. 45 jury trials were held in criminal cases, and 28 were held in civil cases. Below is a comparison of the last three years.

FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
2,578 jurors reported 62 jury trials (34cr/28cv) 12,236 jurors summoned	3,491 jurors reported 80 jury trials (47cr/33cv) 11,935 jurors summoned	3,408 jurors reported 73 jury trials (45cr/28 cv) 10,849 jurors summoned

Grand Jury

The District of Maryland has five active grand juries, two sitting in Greenbelt and three sitting in Baltimore. 4003 grand jurors spent 1,123 hours in session, convening 196 times during the fiscal year. Below is a comparison of the last three years.

FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
3,794 grand jurors convened on 195 days, spending 1,051 hours in session	3,789 grand jurors convened on 181 days, spending 989 hours in session	4003 grand jurors convened on 196 days, spending 1,123 hours in session

Three new grand juries were selected during fiscal year 2016, one in Greenbelt and two in Baltimore. Each of the three departing grand juries were given an appreciation luncheon, hosted by the court's Jury Committee. The luncheon provides a platform for grand jurors to express themselves and gives them an opportunity to discuss their experiences serving on the grand jury.

Naturalizations Services

Naturalization ceremonies are held in both Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses. In Baltimore, the ceremonies are scheduled twice a month, in Greenbelt once a month. A combined total of 31 ceremonies were held in FY 2016.

1011 applicants in Baltimore and 394 in Greenbelt were sworn in as new citizens, making a total of 1,405 for the year, below is a three-year comparison.

FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
1,378 citizens naturalized 30 ceremonies	1,323 citizens naturalized 26 ceremonies	1,405 citizens naturalized 31 ceremonies

On March 31, 2016, the Honorable Beth P. Gesner presided over a special ceremony in the Baltimore courthouse. The fourth-grade class of Severn School participated. The students researched the countries represented and their own heritage and delivered speeches on the importance of the day.

On April 14, 2014, second grade students from Gilman School participated in the naturalization ceremony presided by the Honorable Stephanie A. Gallagher. In February 2016, The League of Women Voters of Maryland began participating during the Baltimore post

naturalization receptions hosted by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Their role is to assist new citizens with registering to vote.

Space & Facilities

In 2016, the Space and Facilities Department committed to several projects in both the Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses. Baltimore projects began with a plan to provide cyclical maintenance and a limited departmental reconfiguration of our 4th floor clerk's office. The 8th floor gym was relocated to the clerk's office to make better use of existing space. The computer-training suite located in the clerk's office was moved to the 8th floor. That empty space was then converted into two supervisor offices. Additional funding was provided for cyclical maintenance and kitchen renovation in chambers 3A, 3B, 3C, 7B, 7C, 8A, and 8C.

Greenbelt projects began with cyclical maintenance and construction to chambers 335A, and kitchen renovation to chambers 475A. Funding was provided to install an additional judge's elevator as the original building was designed to provide. The ongoing five-phase construction project beginning in 2014 has only a few items remaining.

Human Resources

Increased budget stability allowed for the hire of Joe James as the Deputy in Charge of the Southern Division, Kiara Snipes as a CJA Technician, Kelly Saah, Megan Howland and Grace Morris as Courtroom Deputy Clerks, Nushrat Uddin as an Administrative Support Specialist, Jackie McFarland as the Judicial Assistant to Judge Sullivan, Maria Diaz as an Intake Clerk and Brenda Jackson and Reggie Jackson as Procurement Specialists.

To maintain conservative staffing numbers, the District Court continued to examine workflows to determine the feasibility of adjusting current employee responsibilities prior to making any new hiring decisions. In chambers, Nora Taylor transferred into the Chambers of Judge Copperthite as his Judicial Assistant. The following position changes took place in the Clerk's Office during fiscal year 2016: Nicole Dupree transferred from a Case Administrator to an IT Technician, Janet Fletcher was promoted from an Intake Clerk to Case Administrator and Brian Ulander was promoted from a Case Administrator to Courtroom Deputy Clerk.

On May 23, 2016, Clerk's Office staff traveled to Savage Mill to participate in an all-day training event led by AO Trainer, Lou Gill. The topics of the training included myths and realities of teamwork, civility in the workplace and the six parts of personality. The training included breakfast and lunch.

Additionally, the Clerk's Office is responsible for the entrance and exit of all term law clerks for the District Court, as well as the law clerks for the Fourth Circuit based in the Baltimore courthouse. In fiscal year 2016, human resources staff prepared exit paperwork and conducted individual exit interviews for 27 law clerks leaving the court. During the same period, entrance paperwork, form processing, orientations, and individual meetings were prepared and conducted for 26 incoming District Court law clerks and 9 Fourth Circuit clerks.

BANKRUPTCY COURT

The Bankruptcy Court continued to be staffed by seven active judges and two recalled judges in fiscal year 2016. The Honorable S. Martin Teel, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Columbia, was again designated to serve as a bankruptcy judge in the District of Maryland to assist during Judge Paul Mannes's extended medical absence and ultimate passing. Judge Rice (through February 2016) and Judge Catliota (beginning March 2016) were also cross-designated to sit in the District of Columbia to provide coverage when Bankruptcy Judge Teel was unavailable to adjudicate matters in the district.

Throughout fiscal year 2016, the judges of the court as well as the Clerk actively participated in events sponsored by the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of Maryland (BBA). The judges and the Clerk participated at the BBA's annual Spring Break continuing legal education seminar held in Annapolis in May. In September, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Alquist and the Clerk addressed the BBA's Baltimore chapter about the state of the court. Judge Catliota, Judge Lipp, Judge Simpson and the Clerk made a similar presentation in September to the BBA's Greenbelt chapter. Several of the judges and the Clerk also attended the Maryland State Bar Association Consumer Bankruptcy Section's Spring Banquet held in June.

The Bankruptcy Court continues to enjoy a collegial relationship with the District Court. The Bankruptcy Court collaborates with the District Court on matters of mutual interest through several committees that meet regularly throughout the year, including Budget, Attorney Admission Fund, Bankruptcy Bar Association/U.S. District Court Liaison, Disciplinary & Admissions, IT, Security and Related Facilities.

Bankruptcy Case Statistics

In fiscal year 2016, bankruptcy case filings in the district continued to be robust with 17,477 new cases and 653 new adversary proceedings filed. Nevertheless, the court, like most bankruptcy courts across the nation, experienced a decline in total filings over fiscal year 2015. The overall decrease in new case filings from fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2016 was 4.15%, with a 9.08% decrease in the number of new Chapter 7 filings and a decrease of 22.54% in new Chapter 11 filings. Notably, Chapter 13 filings increased by 7.78%, with a total of 5,706 filings in fiscal year 2016 compared to a total of 5,262 filings in fiscal year 2015.

In addition to administering new filings annually, the district's bankruptcy judges and staff continue to spend a significant amount of time managing a great number of cases with self-represented debtors, which often require as much, or more attention and time as complex Chapter 11 cases. The overall rate of self-represented filings in the district in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 cases has risen sharply and steadily in a short period from 11.1% in 2011 to 20.8% in 2015. At the end of fiscal year 2016, the self-represented filing rate for Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 cases remained at the very high rate of 21.5%, the fourth highest percentage filing rate nationally among all bankruptcy courts.

Bankruptcy Clerk's Office

The court held its fifth annual Community Service Day on May 13, 2016. Numerous staff members volunteered at the following: Rawlings Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, Meals on Wheels Baltimore, Greenbelt Park and Largo-Kettering Branch Library.

Throughout the year, the court's Strategic Training Committee provided staff members with opportunities to enhance professional development. For example, the committee offered training on Preventing Workplace Harassment and Code of Conduct (in conjunction with trainers from the Federal Judicial Center (FJC)) and CPR Training in the Greenbelt Division. Kelly Grant, a member of the committee, participated in the FJC's Workshop for New Court Trainers, which focused on the knowledge, and skills court staff needs to develop and deliver internal training programs specific to the needs of a court unit. The Strategic Training Committee also continues to provide information and plan activities related to heritage celebrations, holidays and nationally recognized awareness months. For example, the committee organized a trip to the Reginald Lewis Museum in celebration of Black History Month in February, and sponsored a Nutrition Information Session facilitated by a licensed dietician in March in recognition of National Nutrition Month. Other training opportunities provided by the committee-included presentations on neck and back disorders resulting from sitting on the job and a solar panel information session.

Staff members were also able to avail themselves of the training and professional development opportunities at both the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks and Federal Court Clerks Association (NCBC/FCCA) joint annual conference held in Washington, DC in August 2016, and the Operations Forum held in Orlando, Florida in September 2016. This year the Operations Forum included several training modules on CM/ECF's Next Gen. In addition, several court personnel attended training in Washington, DC in preparation for the May 2016 implementation of the new JIFMS accounting system, and the 2016 Financial Forum in Dallas, Texas in April 2016 focusing on financial management, accounting, and budgeting. Also in April 2016, the Clerk and Chief Deputy Clerk attended the Fourth, Fifth, and DC Circuits Clerk's Conference at Annapolis, Maryland, organized and hosted by the District Court with support from the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office. The Clerk also attended the FJC National Conference for Court Unit Executives in Portland, Oregon in July 2016, and the Clerk and Chief Deputy Clerk attended the Service Validation Initiative – National Joint Training Program for GSA Region 3 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in September 2016. A court representative also attended the Administrative Office's statistical training in Dallas, Texas in August 2016.

In April 2016, the Bankruptcy Court recognized the hard work and dedication of its staff members at its Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony held in Arundel Mills, Maryland. At the event, employees were presented with various awards, including length of service, team of the year, and employee of the year. Special recognition awards were presented to staff that performed exceptional service to chambers and the public.

A reorganization of the Clerk's Office 8th floor operations space in Baltimore was undertaken, starting with a preliminary meeting with a Judiciary architect who toured the space and presented ideas for consideration. To minimize costs while addressing the specific needs of

the Clerk's Office, ultimately the reorganization focused on redesigning parts of the space to maximize efficiency and work flow, along with procurement of new furnishings for the area, replacing the current aging systems furniture in place and improving collaboration, sound attenuation, and lighting.

For the Bankruptcy Court's Executive Management Team, fiscal year 2016 was a year of significant change. In April 2015, the Chief Deputy Clerk, David Smith, accepted the position of Clerk for the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, Georgia. After an extensive recruitment effort, on May 16, 2016, Thomas C. Kearns joined the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office as its new Chief Deputy Clerk. Mr. Kearns previously clerked for the Honorable E. Stephen Derby (2004-2006), and was most recently the Assistant Director for Planning and Evaluation with the Executive Office for U.S. Trustees in Washington, DC. In addition, on May 27, 2016, the court's long-serving Operations Division Manager in Baltimore, Ken Ridgeway, retired after many years of service. Betty Giddings, Division Manager in Greenbelt, stepped in to manage both divisions, with the goal of eventually permanently consolidating Division management into a single position. Further, in June 2016 Baltimore Assistant Division Manager Christina McInnes accepted a yearlong TDY to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to assist with the nationwide rollout of CM/ECF Next Gen, and Case Administrator Kelly Grant was promoted to Acting Assistant Division Manager for Baltimore. Finally, Phaedra Neal was promoted from Case Administrator to Administrative Analyst on June 28, 2016. The Clerk's Office also saw staffing changes with the departure of a Case Administrator and the hiring of Calton Brown as a Case Administrator I in May 2016.

On December 1, 2015, numerous bankruptcy Official Forms were significantly revised. This extensive revision of the Official Forms included a new numbering system and use of more simplistic and descriptive language aimed at making the forms easier to understand. To assist bankruptcy practitioners with this major transition, in November 2015 the Bankruptcy Bar Association and Maryland State Bar Association Consumer Bankruptcy Section conducted joint training on the new forms for its members. Over 200 participants attended the training, held at the Greenbelt courthouse. In addition, the Clerk's Office provided joint overview sessions for the bench and all staff to review the Official Forms revisions.

In January – March 2016, the IT staff hosted Computer Networking Academy classes, featuring interactive sessions, hands-on labs, and team exercises. The classes took place in both Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses and were full with 48 registered participants from District Court and Bankruptcy Court including several judges. Due to the Academy's success, new Computer Cybersecurity sessions were scheduled for early fiscal year 2017.

Migration to the Bankruptcy Court's new collaborative content management platform, Embark 2.0, was completed in May 2016. Notable Embark 2.0 features include private and shared calendars, document versioning and sharing, and inter-office communication. A cross-organizational Embark 3.0 upgrade, with SharePoint integration and many multimedia enhancements, is planned for implementation in second quarter of fiscal year 2017.

IT staff actively participated in the August 2016 NCBC/FCCA conference in Washington, DC. Operations and IT team members displayed the Embark 2.0 platform during

InfoShare sessions. Many district and bankruptcy courts expressed interest in the collaborative solution, and IT Staff is currently in touch with at least two other courts and the AO, discussing further development and adaptation. IT leadership prepared and presented two breakout sessions entitled ‘Past, Present, and Future of Cloud Computing.’ Over 100 conference participants attended, including the Clerk and Chief Deputy Clerk.

In collaboration with the District Court, the IT staff assumed a leadership role in designing and deploying attorney WiFi services in both courthouses. The technical and budgetary proposal was completed and approved by the District’s IT committee. The solution deployment is currently underway in Greenbelt, and will be followed by deployment in Baltimore.

The IT staff worked on enhancing performance, response time, and reliability of the court’s virtual desktops. This effort is aimed to result in faster web browsing, smoother image rendering, and improved overall end user experience. In fiscal year 2017, as part of the network sharing services (NSS) agreement, virtual desktop technology will be implemented for the District Court, first with a pilot project and then, if the pilot results support it, with a comprehensive enterprise rollout. The virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) provides greater support for remote access, improved availability and maintainability, enhanced security and information assurance, and long term strategic cost savings.

The IT staff is also undertaking a comprehensive infrastructure refresh project. The local area network (LAN) components, the server farms, and the backup topology will be upgraded in fiscal year 2017. Additionally, the District and the Bankruptcy Courts worked with the Administrative Office on funding and procurement of new core switches. LAN migrations and the backup solution implementation are underway, with other phases of the project still in development stages.

As noted, the court continued its long-standing tradition of sharing administrative services where doing so will increase efficiencies and reduce costs for the judiciary. Toward that end, the Bankruptcy Court continued sharing agreements with the District Court for network support and shared server rooms as well as with the Probation and Pretrial Service Office for procurement services. The Bankruptcy Court also collaborated with other bankruptcy courts extending services for support activities and various projects. Such activities included providing CM/ECF server and database support to the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and supporting numerous custom CM/ECF modules deployed in the judiciary. Finally, a member of the Clerk's Office IT staff continued a work share agreement with the AO assisting with programming and analysis for the CM/ECF Next Gen. Evidencing his continued value to the AO on this project, the programmer was asked to renew the TDY for another year.

Sadly, on February 25, 2016, long time Chapter 13 Trustee Ellen Cosby passed away at the age of 64. A memorial service for Ms. Cosby, attended by much of the bankruptcy bench, was held on February 29, 2016.

Following a project undertaken by the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of Maryland (BBA) and the Consumer Bankruptcy Section of the Maryland State Bar Association

(MSBA), the BBA and MSBA jointly proposed certain amendments to the Local Bankruptcy Rules, which were reviewed, analyzed and revised by the Bankruptcy Court, published for public comment, further revised and approved by the Bankruptcy Court, with an effective date of August 1, 2016.

PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES

Probation and pretrial services functions in the District of Maryland are consolidated under the leadership of William Henry. The office is organized into three departments: (i) the Pretrial Services Department, which has 19 employees; (ii) the Presentence Investigation Department, which has 18 employees; and (iii) the Supervision Department, which has 73 employees. Additionally, there are 34 employees that directly support the work of the officers in all departments. Over the past fiscal year, the office supervised approximately 3,793 individuals and conducted approximately 1,413 pretrial and presentence investigations. Presentence investigators completed 190 drug amendment investigations resulting from the U.S. Sentencing Commission's Amendment 782 to the Drug Quantity Table.

Pretrial Investigators prepare reports for the court that thoroughly, but succinctly, describe a defendant's background, identify risk factors, and recommend appropriate release conditions, or detention as warranted. Our detention rate continues to be well below the national average. Pretrial collaborated with the court, the Marshal's Service, and the U.S. Attorney's Office to efficiently manage a large-scale takedown consisting of approximately 40 defendants. All the defendants were interviewed and made their Rule 5 appearance, and most of them were released and installed on pretrial supervision on the same date. Pretrial supervision officers assist defendants to comply with court ordered conditions, support positive change, and provide access to services that will help them be successful on supervision and beyond.

The presentence department continued to work closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Office of the Federal Public Defender, and the court in regards to Amendment 782, which is applicable to the Drug Quantity Table. The Supervision Department continued its efforts to assist offenders in obtaining job training, as well as meaningful employment. We continued our collaboration with other agencies to provide offenders assistance with obtaining identification, GED preparation and testing, resume preparation, individualized employment plans, job search strategies and techniques, and referrals to outside training programs. We began utilizing the national forms to complete violation notices to the court.

All officers obtained access to Secure Case Search, which is a non-public view of the Maryland Case Search system. This database provides officers with access to information regarding active warrants, victim witnesses, juvenile delinquency records, and shielded cases (cases where some or all the information is inaccessible to the public).

Officers participated in multiple training programs aimed at further developing and expanding their knowledge and skills. Much of the training attended by officers focused on substance abuse and mental health, including an in-house program on Mental Health and Crisis Intervention, the Tuerk Conference on Substance Abuse and Mental Health, the Harford County Drug Symposium, Eating Disorders, Problem Gambling, Domestic Violence, and the National

Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability. Other significant conferences and training programs included Dealing with Difficult Situations (for managers); the National Pretrial Conference; the United States Sentencing Commission’s Sentencing Guidelines Conference, Financial Investigations training, Location Monitoring training, Third Party Risk training, and Computer Monitoring Training. All officers participated in mandatory safety training. All staff participated in IT Security Awareness Training. Those attending the Annual Employee Recognition Awards Program participated in a program featuring a renowned motivational speaker whose presentation was entitled, “Building an Epic Organization.”

ATTORNEY ADMISSIONS

As of October 1, 2016, the District Court bar had 12,392 active members. The court holds monthly admissions ceremonies in both courthouses and averages 37 new admitted bar members each month. On April 15, 2016, the court held a special admission ceremony as part of the Federal Bar Association’s Introduction to Federal Practice in the Greenbelt courthouse. Below is a comparison of the last three years.

	2014	2015	2016
New Admissions	509	489	449
Renewed Members	1443	1364	1409
Reactivated and Reinstatement Members	177	226	182
Admissions Pro Hac Vice	1051	856	1022

COOP AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

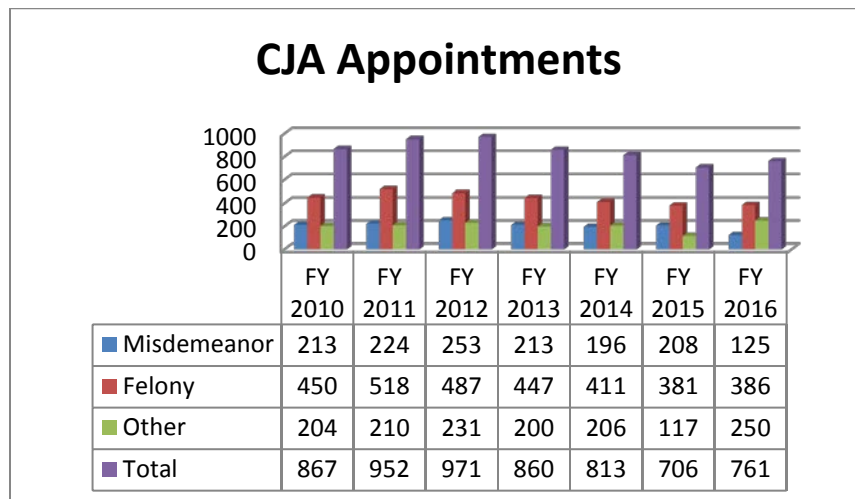
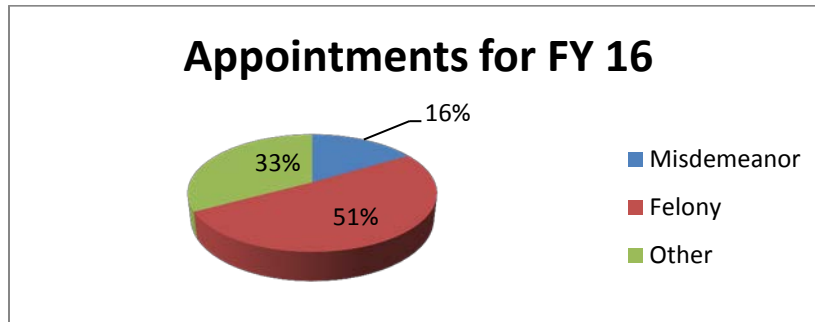
The district has become involved in the city and state emergency preparedness plans because the Northern Division courthouse is in a major downtown area. In the event of an attack requiring the dispensing of medicine, the federal building across the street from the Baltimore Courthouse will become a dispensing site and certain identified federal employees will serve as form reviewers and medicine dispensers. In consultation with the United States Marshals Service, the district continues to conduct annual training on building evacuations and other emergency responses.

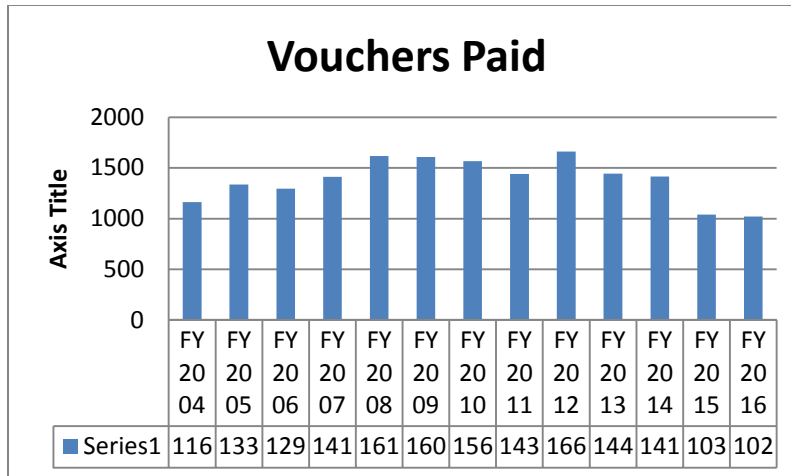
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT (CJA) COORDINATING ATTORNEY

CJA Coordinating Attorney, Maureen Essex, continues to act as a liaison between the court and the CJA felony and misdemeanor panel attorneys. Ms. Essex works closely with the United States Attorney’s Office and Pretrial Services to ensure that attorneys are appointed to represent defendants at the earliest stage of criminal proceedings. Her office coordinates appointments of counsel and maintains conflict lists in multiple defendant cases.

Ms. Essex is assisted by Kiara Snipes, CJA Technician, whose support is invaluable. Ms. Snipes carefully audits each voucher for mathematical accuracy and compliance with CJA Guidelines. Once a thorough review of the submitted vouchers has been completed, Ms. Snipes forwards them to Ms. Essex for a reasonableness review and approval if the voucher is below the case compensation maximum. If the voucher exceeds the case compensation maximum, Ms. Essex prepares a memorandum or letter as appropriate to support the claim for the presiding judicial officer.

In fiscal year 2016, Ms. Essex’s office made 761 CJA appointments, representing an increase as compared to fiscal year 2015. Capital cases were not a significant cost factor this fiscal year because none of the cases eligible for the death penalty were authorized by the Department of Justice.





Ms. Essex reviews all requests for expert funding. If the amount of funding requested is less than the statutory maximum and the requested funding is appropriate, she approves the request. If the requested funding level exceeds the statutory maximum of \$2,500.00, she reviews the request, makes a recommendation, and then prepares a draft confidential memorandum to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge Roger L. Gregory for the presiding judicial officer’s review. Ms. Essex maintains a directory of experts and often attempts to negotiate a reduction in the requested hourly rate.

Ms. Essex attends the court’s CJA Committee meetings. She reviews and makes recommendations on all applications for the felony panel to the CJA Committee. She also prepares the CJA Committee meeting agenda and minutes.

In September 2014, at the request of Judge Thomas M. Hardiman, Chair of the Committee on Information Technology of the Judicial Conference, the District of Maryland agreed to serve as the mentor court for the Fourth Circuit for the implementation of the national electronic CJA vouchering system, eVoucher. The District of Maryland went live on eVoucher on March 1, 2015 with the processing of felony panel member vouchers. On April 25, 2016, the CJA Office began processing misdemeanor panel member vouchers in eVoucher. On April 26, 2016, the financial interface of eVoucher was implemented in the district.

DEBTOR ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Debtor Assistance Project (DAP), a collaborative effort between the court and its partner agencies, continued in fiscal year 2016 to provide services to individuals who filed bankruptcy petitions without an attorney, or were considering filing for bankruptcy and planned to be self-represented. The program, which is overseen and managed by Bankruptcy Judge Gordon, provides the services and expertise of volunteer bankruptcy attorneys to these debtors or potential debtors and operates in the Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses, as well as on the Eastern Shore in Kent and Talbot Counties. Construction of the new DAP office in the Greenbelt courthouse was completed in December 2015. Due primarily to scheduling and other administrative support from Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Services and Mid-Shore Pro Bono, two of the court’s DAP partners, the DAP and its volunteers provided 318 DAP consultations in

fiscal year 2016.

PRO SE STAFF ATTORNEYS

In fiscal year 2016 cases filed by self-represented prisoner litigants accounted for 27% of all civil filings in this district, an increase of more than 7% from 2015. The spike in prisoner filings does not reflect a continuing trend, but is due to an increase in self-represented motions to vacate, an anomaly in response to the Johnson and Welch decisions. When adjusted to exclude filings under Johnson/Welch, this year's figures are more consistent with case filings in prior years. Civil rights and habeas filings were almost equal, a definite shift from previous years and likely driven by Johnson/Welch.

The court continues to see an increase in the number of motions filed in closed criminal cases, particularly motions filed under Fed. R. Civ. P. 60, Fed. R. Crim. P. 35, and 18 U.S.C. §3582. Often, these motions must be re-characterized as motions to vacate under 28 U.S.C. §2255. The staff attorneys assist Clerk's Office personnel in identifying and interpreting these motions and requests, while the staff attorneys' administrative assistant responds to the bulk of other correspondence generated by inquiries from state and federal prisoners.

Actions regarding allegations of assault at the hands of correctional personnel remain steady. Litigation directed at the state prison health care system, including mental health services, reflect the often-urgent needs of a population that previously lacked such care, and is further fueled by the aging prison population. Appointment of counsel is needed with greater frequency as it becomes increasingly difficult to resolve these cases on summary judgment. Further, fewer habeas corpus cases are dismissed in the early stages on procedural grounds. Resolving substantive habeas issues on the merits is increasingly time-consuming, and appointment of counsel has occurred with greater frequency in these cases as well.

Cases filed by self-represented non-prisoners comprised an additional 8.5% of the civil docket, a decrease of more than four percent. Increasingly, self-represented non-prisoner litigants seek removal of state court foreclosure actions. While portions of the actions may be remanded to state court, these actions often contain federal causes of action under the Truth in Lending Act ("TILA"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 1601 et seq., the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act ("RESPA"), 12 U.S.C. 2601 et seq., and the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, ("FDCPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. Early dismissal is often inappropriate due to the federal claims raised. Further, several non-prisoner litigants have engaged in vexatious filings, which, although dismissed on initial review, are time-consuming. For the eighth consecutive fiscal year, cases filed by self-represented prisoner and non-prisoner litigants accounted for one-third or more of all civil filings in this district.

PRETRIAL DETENTION

In February 2011, the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center – the state’s former “Super Max” facility – became solely dedicated to federal pretrial detainees through a new memorandum of understanding between the state and federal authorities. The facility is now known as the Chesapeake Detention Facility. Although not the ideal solution to our lack of a federal pretrial detention facility, the procurement of a secure facility dedicated to federal prisoners was a significant achievement for the district. The court has cooperated with the Marshal’s Service, the Office of the Detention Trustee, and the State of Maryland in setting up the facility. Other contract facilities are utilized by the Marshal’s Service for detention of other prisoners – particularly, those in the Southern Division – some of which are a six-hour roundtrip drive from the district’s two courthouses. The need for CJA panel attorneys to travel to these outlying facilities significantly increases the cost of representations.

The court remains committed to working with the Marshal’s Service in providing a secure environment for federal prisoners with adequate medical care; an effective and efficient visitation system for counsel and family members; and educational, counseling, and recreational opportunities. Some progress has been made in providing these services – particularly at Chesapeake – but so long as the Marshals Service is forced to rely on contract beds from local detention facilities, it will continue to be difficult to provide consistent standards.

CONCLUSION

The bench wishes to thank our visiting judge David A. Faber of the Southern District of West Virginia, (*Wright v. United States*) and the employees of the District and Bankruptcy Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services, and those of related agencies, for their continued hard work and dedication this year.