



# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CENTER  
580 TAYLOR AVENUE  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Pamela Harris**  
State Court Administrator  
410-260-1295

November 1, 2018

Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer  
Chair, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: 2018\_p4\_JUD\_Judicial Education on Domestic Violence

Dear Chairman and Madam Chair:

Pursuant to the 2018 Joint Chairmen's Report, page 4, the Judiciary herein submits its report on Judicial Education on Domestic Violence.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelley O'Connor, Assistant Administrator, Government Relations and Public Affairs, at (410) 260-1560 or [kelley.oconnor@mdcourts.gov](mailto:kelley.oconnor@mdcourts.gov).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela Harris".

Pamela Harris  
State Court Administrator

cc: Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals  
Honorable Kathleen G. Cox, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Judges  
Honorable John P. Morrissey, Chief Judge, District Court

Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer  
Hon. Maggie McIntosh  
November 1, 2018  
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Honorable James E. DeGrange, Sr., Chairman, Public Safety, Transportation and  
Environment Subcommittee  
Honorable Keith E. Haynes, Chairman, Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee  
Kelley E. O'Connor, Assistant Administrator of Government Relations and Public  
Affairs  
Matthew Bennett, Policy Analyst  
Matthew Jackson, Policy Analyst  
Ben Wilhelm, Policy Analyst  
Sarah Albert, Mandated Reports Specialist  
[Cathy.Kramer@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:Cathy.Kramer@mlis.state.md.us)

# **Report on Judicial Education on Domestic Violence**



Administrative Office of the Courts

November 2018

## Judicial Education on Domestic Violence

Maryland judges are continually engaged in the education of others, as well as themselves. Excluding the many local and out-of-state teaching and learning opportunities, 99 percent of circuit and district court judges attended the Maryland Judicial College in 2017; and, 80 percent of senior judges attended.

The Maryland Judiciary offers various trainings and coursework through the Judicial College of Maryland in the area of domestic violence. Specific domestic violence courses are part of the Maryland Judiciary's annual continuing education requirement and can be selected by both active and retired members.

There is also dedicated domestic violence training for all newly appointed judges through the annual New Trial Judge Orientation program. Additionally, each administrative judge (circuit/district) has developed an orientation program for "on-boarding" new judges that also provides training in this area. For example, all new judges in District Court for Baltimore City have participated in a training offered by House of Ruth since 2013.

The Judiciary's Family Law University, now an annual event, has a specific domestic violence section primarily designed for circuit court judges and magistrates. All district court judges attended a session on protective/peace orders during the recent Judicial Conference. Court commissioners are provided orientation training and specific continuing education in domestic violence.

In addition to specific trainings for judicial officers, judges collaborate locally with stakeholders such as law enforcement, state's attorneys, bar associations, community groups, coalitions and health departments to both teach and participate in local domestic violence educational events.

The Administrative Office of the Courts offers opportunities for judges to attend national out-of-state domestic violence related trainings, such as is offered by the American Bar Association.

Finally, the Judicial Council's Domestic Law Committee and Domestic Violence subcommittee provide workshops, speakers, and best practices information (protective order/peace orders) to the entire judiciary. Recently, hardcopies of the revised *Maryland Judge's Domestic Violence Resource Manual* and revised bench cards, which contain best practice considerations for judges in domestic violence cases, were distributed to all district and circuit court judges, and to active senior judges.

The Maryland Judiciary is committed to ensuring that all judicial officers receive the education and resources they need to provide fair and equal access to justice for each party in all case types. The Judiciary further recognizes that interpretation of the law must be in a way that does not exacerbate risk but instead applies the law in a manner that saves lives.

The Maryland Judiciary is committed to continuing annual training at the New Trial Judges' Orientation, the Family Law University and through the Judicial College of Maryland on this

important topic for new, sitting and senior judges. The Judiciary will also continue to encourage judges to take advantage of national, state, and local training opportunities with respect to domestic violence issues as well as to offer their expertise to train others on these topics.