

Task Force to Study Fiduciary Adjudication in Maryland

Senator Nick Charles, Jr., Chair

Agenda

Monday, November 10, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

<https://dls.maryland.gov/policy-areas/tf-to-study-fiduciary-adjudication-in-md>

I. Opening Remarks by Chair

II. (A) Discussion Continued from Last Monday's Meeting – Workload/Caseload Data – Orphans' Courts and Register of Wills

- Byron Macfarlane, Register of Wills
- Judge Athena Malloy Groves, Orphans' Court, Prince George's County
- Judge Juliet G. Fisher, Orphans' Court, Baltimore County
- Jo Tetlow, Department of Legislative Services

(B) Materials Discussed under this Agenda Item Include

- Caseload/Workload Data/Court Schedules – Byron Macfarlane, Register of Wills
- Prince George's County Hearings/Pleadings/Workload Data – Judge Groves
- Baltimore County Petition Docket Hearings Data – Judge Fisher

III. (A) Examining the Qualifications, Selection, and Training of Judges Hearing Probate and Other Fiduciary Matters in Maryland

- (1) in orphans' court jurisdictions;
 - (2) in jurisdictions that require orphans' court judges to be attorneys – Baltimore City, Baltimore and Prince George's counties; and
 - (3) in jurisdictions where the circuit court judges sit as orphans' court judges – Harford, Howard, and Montgomery counties
- Byron Macfarlane, Register of Wills (discussing qualifications and selection of orphans' court judges and circuit court judges);
 - Mary Rolle, Register of Wills (discussing training and education of orphans' court judges);
 - Jonathan Lasley and Laura Thomas, Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) (discussing education of orphans' court judges);
 - Judge Athena Malloy Groves, Orphans' Court Judge, (discussing training and education of orphans' court judges); and

- Judge Catherine McQueen, Circuit Court Judge (discussing training and education of circuit court judges)

(B) Materials Discussed under this Agenda Item Include

- Chief Judge – Administrative Order – September 10, 2025;
- Research – Judge Groves;
- Research – Registers of Wills;
- Research – Maryland Judiciary; and
- Research – MSBA

IV. Analyzing the Effect of the Different Qualifications of Orphans’ Court Judges and Related Litigation Procedures on the Uniform Application of Justice in Maryland

Each task force member will have the opportunity to briefly address this topic. Should members choose to speak, the speaking order will be as follows.

Judge Athena Malloy Groves
 Judge Juliet G. Fisher
 Judge Catherine Huger McQueen
 Jonathan G. Lasley, Esq.
 Kelly M. Preteroti, Esq.
 Byron E. Macfarlane, Register of Wills
 Mary C. Rolle, Register of Wills
 Monica Mitchell
 Delegate Sandy J. Bartlett
 Delegate Aaron Kaufman
 Senator Chris West
 Chair Nick Charles

Each task force member will be given the opportunity to speak before any questions or discussions take place.

V. Concluding Remarks by the Chair