

# **Task Force to Study Fiduciary Adjudication in Maryland**

*Senator Nick Charles, Jr., Chair*

## **Agenda**

**Monday, November 17, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

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

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### **I. Opening Remarks by Chair**

### **II. Questions and Discussion – Circuit Court Judges That Sit as Orphans’ Court Judges in Harford, Howard, and Montgomery Counties**

- Judge Paul Ishak, Associate Judge for Harford County
- Judge William Tucker, County Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Howard County
- Judge Louis M. Leibowitz, Associate Judge, Montgomery County Circuit Court

### **III. Questions and Discussion with Orphans’ Court Lay Judge from Charles and Wicomico Counties**

- Judge Russell Yates, Charles County Orphans’ Court Judge, President of the Maryland Association of the Judges of the Orphans’ Courts
- Judge Melissa Bright, Chief Judge, Orphans’ Court, Wicomico County

### **IV. Continued from Last Monday’s Meeting – Workload Orphans’ Courts**

- Judge Athena Malloy Groves, Orphans’ Court Judge, Prince George’s County
- See under task force materials – [Orphans’ Court Workload - Judge Groves](#)

### **V. Continued from Last Monday’s Meeting – Duties and Workload Registers of Wills**

- Mary C. Rolle, Register of Wills, Frederick County
- Byron E. Macfarlane, Register of Wills, Howard County
- See under task force materials – [Orphans’ Court – Extent of Supervisory Power of Court over the Register of Wills](#)

## **VI. Analyze 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 be given the opportunity to briefly address this topic before any questions or discussions take place. The speaking order will be as follows, should members choose to speak and present any materials:

Judge Athena Malloy Groves  
Judge Juliet G. Fisher  
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

## **VII. Concluding Remarks by the Chair**