

Task Force to Study Fiduciary Adjudication in Maryland

Senator Nick Charles, Jr., Chair

Agenda

Monday, November 24, 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. Definition of “Cases” for Purposes of the Report and Recommendations (5 minutes)

- (1) The task force first took up this issue at the November 3 meeting and it has been discussed at meetings since November 3
 - (2) See under November 3 task force materials – [Contested and Uncontested Estates in Maryland](#)
 - (3) Charge (3) of [CH 220 of 2025](#) states – Analyze the efficiency of the procedures for adjudicating fiduciary contested and uncontested matters in the orphans’ courts and circuit courts
 - (4) The task force has numbers for “Contested/uncontested cases” versus “total number of cases”
 - (5) The task force will vote on definition of “Cases” for purposes of the report and recommendations
- Chair Nick Charles, Jr.
 - Jo Tetlow, Department of Legislative Services (DLS)

III. Maryland Judiciary Data (5 minutes)

- Jo Tetlow (DLS)
- See under task force materials – [Orphans' Court Appeals to Circuit Court \(FY2019-FY2024\)](#), [Guardianship of the Minor and Trustee Cases \(Circuit Court\) \(FY2021-FY2024\)](#)

IV. Continued from Last Monday’s Meeting – Duties and Workload Registers of Wills (10 minutes)

- Byron E. Macfarlane, Register of Wills, Howard County
- Mary C. Rolle, Register of Wills, Frederick County
- See under task force materials – [Orphans’ Court - Extent of Supervisory Power of Court over the Register of Wills \(98 Md. Op. Att’y Gen. 23 2013\)](#)

V. Continued from Last Monday's Meeting – Workload Orphans' Courts (10 minutes)

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

VI. Proposals and Possible Recommendations – Working Document (5 minutes)

- Holly Vandegrift (DLS)
- See under task force materials – [Proposals Working Document](#)
- Please email Holly Vandegrift at holly.vandegrift@mga.maryland.gov any possible recommendations you may propose at the December 8 meeting of the task force, and they will be added to this document

VII. Analyze the Preliminary Fiscal Information of Fiduciary Adjudication Scenarios Related to “Structural” Changes in the Current Court System

- Jo Tetlow (DLS)
- Jonathan Lasley, Maryland State Bar Association
- Monica Mitchell, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies – National

VIII. Concluding Remarks by the Chair

- Next meeting of the task force is the [public hearing on December 1, 2025](#)
- The information on how to sign-up to speak and submit testimony is on the task force's webpage under December 1 meeting materials
- To participate in the public hearing, you must sign-up by **November 28, 5:00 p.m.**
- After November 28, 5:00 p.m., the public may no longer sign-up to speak but may submit written testimony for the task force to review