

Educational Background of Orphans' Court Judges by County
Updated by Laura Thomas
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Yellow Highlighted Judge means Juris Doctorate
Green Highlighted Judge means Not Listed/Unknown

Total Judges: 63

Total Judges with confirmed J.D.: 19

Total Judges with No Listed Education: 17

Total Judges with varying degrees of education: 27

Year listed is year first elected. Range of years are prior terms.

County	Chief Judge	Assoc. Judge	Assoc. Judge
Allegany County	Edward C. Crossland, A.A., B.S., J.D. 2014	Craig W. Alexander, A.A., B.S. 2022	Penny Lyn Walker, H.S. 2022
Anne Arundel County	Vickie Gipson, B.A., J.D., LLM 2018	Stacey-Ann T. Scott, B.S., J.D. 2025	Marc Knapp, B.A., M.B.A., J.D. 2022
*Baltimore City	Lewyn Scott Garrett, B.A., M.A., J.D. 1995	Charles Bernstein, A.B., J.D. 2014	Michele Loewenthal, B.A., J.D. 2011
*Baltimore County	Arthur M. Frank, B.A., J.D. 2014	Juliet G. Fisher, B.A., J.D. 2014	Michelle Arvin-Greer, B.A., J.D. 2024
Calvert County	Leslie M. Down, Some college 2002	Theodore P. LeBlanc, B.A., J.D. 2014	Thomas M. Pelgatti, B.A., J.D. 1998-2002, 2010
Caroline County	Ron Fearins, H.S. 2014	John Ellery Adams, Not listed 2014	Jeffrey Porter, Not listed 2018
Carroll County	Charles M. Coles, Jr., Some college 2016	Margaret R. Bair, A.A. 2017	LaRue G. Lennon, B.A., M.Ed., J.D. 2022
Cecil County	Carolyn Crouch, H.S. 2006	William Harris, B.A. 2018	Travis B. Ward, B.A. 2022
Charles County	Darlene Breck, Not listed 2014	Peter Murphy, B.S., M.S., Ed.S. 2022	Russell Yates, B.S., CPA 2022
Dorchester County	George R. Ames, Jr., A.A., B.A., M.A. 1994	Bernard Dryden, Not listed 2022	Rick Price, A.A., B.A. 2022
Frederick County	Michael A. Powell, J.D. (Retired) 2022	Bonnie L. Nicholson, H.S. 2018	Susan W. Wilson, B.S., M.L.S. 2022

Garrett County	Jeffrey D. Murphy, <u>Not listed</u> 2022	Michael B. Beard, <u>Unknown</u> 2025	Mary Jo Wolters, <u>H.S.</u> 2023
Harford County	Rotating Circuit Court Judges		
Howard County	Rotating Circuit Court Judges		
Kent County	Elroy G. Boyer, Jr., <u>Not listed</u> 1990	Susan Pritchett, <u>Some college</u> 2021-2022, 2024	Allan W. Schaubert, <u>H.S.</u> 2022
Montgomery County	Rotating Circuit Court Judges		
*Prince George's County	Wendy A. Cartwright, <u>B.A., J.D.</u> 2001	Jason A. DeLoach, <u>B.A., J.D.</u> 2022	Athena Malloy Groves, <u>B.A., J.D.</u> 2006
Queen Anne's County	Kimberly J. Cascia, <u>Not listed</u> 2010	Thomas M. Walsh, <u>B.S., M.D.</u> 2014, 2018	Eric S. Wargotz, <u>B.S., M.D.</u> 2014
St. Mary's County	Michael R. White, <u>Not listed</u> 2014	Albert R. Babcock, <u>Not listed</u> 2014	William Mattingly, <u>Not listed</u> 2012-2014, 2018
Somerset County	Kathleen L. Crossan, <u>H.S.</u> 2016	Elizabeth M. Hall, <u>Not listed</u> 2014	Stephen S. Willing, <u>Not listed</u> 2022
Talbot County	Paul S. Carroll, <u>Some college</u> 2014	Philip Carey Foster, <u>B.A., J.D.</u> 2023	David J. Wheeler, <u>B.A.</u> 2018
Washington County	Paul D. Banister, <u>B.S.</u> 2018	Debra A. Breeding, <u>B.S.</u> 2022	James Nipps, <u>A.B., R.B.A.</u> 2020-2022, 2024
Wicomico County	Melissa Pollitt Bright, <u>Not listed</u> 1994	John H. Sharpe, <u>Not listed</u> 2023	Jim Jester, <u>Not listed</u> 2022
Worcester County	Michael T. Diffendal, <u>B.S.</u> 2016	Linda M. Hess, <u>Not listed</u> 2006	Cheryl Jacobs, <u>B.A., J.D.</u> 2018

*** Requires judges to be attorneys and barred in State of Maryland.**

Judges' Names acquired at:

<https://www.courts.state.md.us/sites/default/files/import/orphanscourt/pdfs/ocjudgesregisters.pdf?e=20251014> on October 23, 2025