

**Task Force to Study Fiduciary Adjudication in Maryland**  
*Senator Nick Charles, Jr., Chair*

**Monday, June 29, 2026**

**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. Recommendation to Modify Final Report – Byron Macfarlane and Mary Rolle, Registers of Wills**

- (1) add the final recommendations submitted by the Registers of Wills for the May 13, 2026 meeting to task force report as an appendix.

**II. Recommendations to Modify Final Report – Jonathan Lasley, Esquire**

- (1) remove Appendix 12 containing the Opinion of the Attorney General regarding the supervisory power of the orphans’ court over the register of wills;
- (2) modify the last sentence in the first paragraph on page 13 as follows: “These issues and other that may result from a structural change – including the role, funding, and duties of the Registers of Wills –warrant continued study and consideration by a new task force”; and
- (3) stylistic changes indicated in “red” in attached draft of final report.

**III. Recommendations to Modify Final Report – Judge Fisher and Judge Groves**

- (1) **Typos**
  - (a) modify “cours” to “courts” in title of Appendix 8, on page vi; and
  - (b) modify “Estate and Trust Law Section” to “Estates and Trusts Law Section” in third paragraph on page 4.
- (2) **Recent Developments**
  - (a) remove Administrative Order – Conference of Orphans’ Court Judges and Education for Orphans’ Court Judges (Appendix 3) and explanation of this order under “Recent Developments” on page 4; and

- (b) remove discussion of removal of orphans' court judge in Anne Arundel County under "Recent Developments" in the second paragraph on page 4.

(3) **Data**

- (a) remove reference to data presented by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) about "appeals from the orphans' courts to the circuit courts for fiscal 2021 through 2025" in fourth paragraph on page 5;
- (b) remove or alter the sentence that "the registers of wills also presented fiscal 2025 data on contested and uncontested matters handled by the orphans' courts, which was disputed by the orphans' court judges on the task force" in fourth paragraph on page 5; and
- (c) recommend that the new task force use data about the number of cases removed from lay-judge orphans' courts to the circuit courts and the number of jury trial requests to the circuit courts as indicators about whether lay or attorney judges are necessary in smaller jurisdictions.

(4) **Miscellaneous**

- (a) include the orphans' court judge for Baltimore City in the list of stakeholders in paragraph three on page 5; and
- (b) modify the header "Cases Heard by Attorney-Judges" to "Cases Heard by Lay-Judges" in third paragraph on page 11.