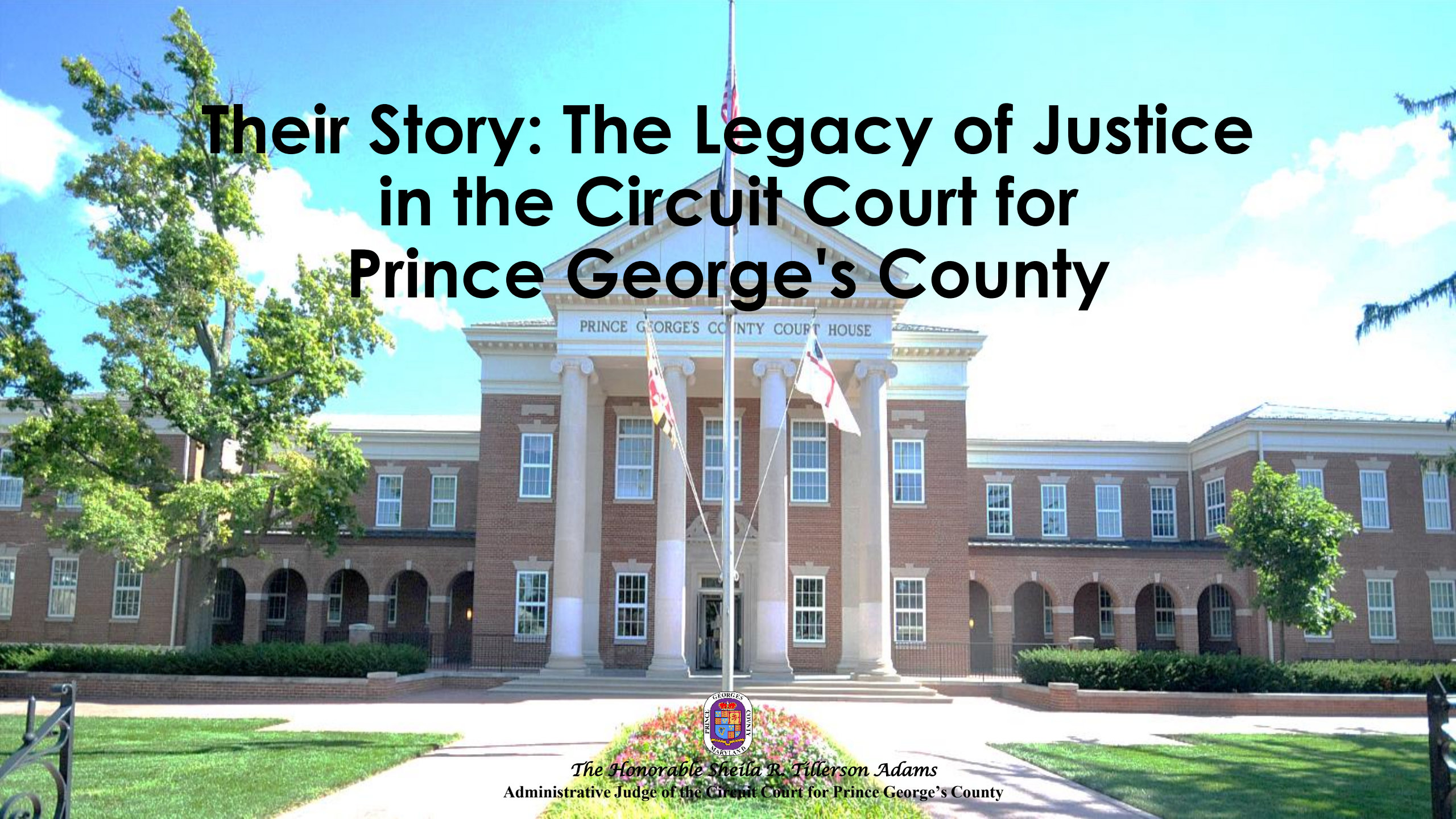


Their Story: The Legacy of Justice in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County



The Honorable Sheila R. Tillery Adams
Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County

Honorable Albert W. Northrop

Born in Illinois, the Honorable Albert W. Northrop is the son of an U.S. Air Force chaplain. As a result, he and his family moved every few years. Judge Northrop attended University of Maryland at Munich Campus, in Munich, Germany. Shortly after, Judge Northrop transferred to University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland where he received his bachelor's of arts degree in June 1969. Following, he returned to the University of Maryland School of Law and received his law degree in 1974. One year later, in 1975, he was admitted to the Maryland Bar. He entered private practice of law in February 1975.

Judge Northrop was appointed to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in June 2006. Judge Northrop served as an Associate Judge of District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County from January 2003 to June 2006. Judge Northrop was sworn in as a Judge of the Orphans Court for Prince George's County in August 1986. During his time as Judge of Orphans Court, Judge Northrop co-authored, "Decedents' Estates in Maryland" published by Mitchie Law Book Publishing.

In October 2017, Judge Northrop retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

Honorable C. Philip Nichols, Jr.

A fifth generation Prince Georgian, C. Philip Nichols, Jr. graduated from Georgetown University in 1969 and received his law degree from University of Baltimore School of Law in 1973. In 2006, he received his master's degree in National Security Studies, with highest distinction, from U.S. Naval College. Judge Nichols served as a Captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was the Senior Reserve Military Judge in the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary from 1995 to 1996. Additionally, from 1996 to 2000 and 2003 to 2007, Judge Nichols served on the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals Board, the service's highest uniformed court. Judge Nichols was admitted to the Maryland State Bar in 1973. He served as President of the Prince George's County Bar Association from 1989 to 1990.

Judge Nichols served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from December 1992 to May 2016 and as Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit from May 2016 to June 2017. He presided over 650 jury trials and signed more than 18,000 search warrants. Judge Nichols twice served as the Judge-in-Charge of Juvenile Court from 2002 to 2005 and 2007 to 2010. Previously, Judge Nichols served as an Associate Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County and as an Orphans' Court Judge in Prince George's County Orphans' Court from 1977 to 1985.

In June 2017, Judge Nichols retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and began serving as a Senior Judge.

Honorable Erik H. Nyce

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable Erik H. Nyce received his bachelor's degree from Emory University in 1983 and law degree from Wake Forest Law School in 1987. Judge Nyce was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1987; District of Columbia Bar in 1990; Virginia Bar in 1997; U.S. District Court for District of Maryland Bar in 1991; District of Columbia Bar in 1998; Eastern District of Virginia Bar in 2000; U.S. District Court for Fourth Circuit Bar in 1996 and U.S. Supreme Court Bar in 2002.

Judge Nyce served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from January 2016 to December 2016. He also served as an Associate Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County from June 2012 to January 2016.

In December 2016, Judge Nyce resigned from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. He was re-appointed as an Associate Judge of the Fifth District Court of Maryland, Prince George's County in 2017.

Honorable Melanie M. Shaw Geter

A native Baltimorean, the Honorable Melanie Shaw Geter received her bachelor's degree from Howard University and law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Geter was a career prosecutor who worked in the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Maryland Attorney General's Office and the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, where she ended her career as Chief of the Homicide and Narcotics Division. In January 1996, she was appointed by then Governor Parris N. Glendening to the District Court of Maryland as an Associate Judge.

Judge Geter was elevated in June 2001 to serve as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, where she remained until 2016. During her tenure, she worked as the Court's Juvenile Judge and later, the Criminal Coordinating Judge. She initiated the Court's Juvenile Drug Court, Re-Entry Court, Bring Your Child to Work Day, Truancy Court, National Adoption Day and the Treatment for Mothers of Addicted Newborns programs.

In June 2016, Judge Geter was elevated by Governor Larry Hogan to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.

Honorable Larnzell Martin, Jr.

A native of Dallas, Texas, the Honorable Larnzell Martin, Jr. graduated magnum cum laude from Carleton College in 1972 and received his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1975. Judge Martin was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1976 and the District of Columbia Bar in 1979.

Judge Martin served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from December 1990 to September 2013 and as Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit from September 2013 to April 2016. Judge Martin served as Coordinating Judge of the Family Division from January 2000 to September 2001 and as the first lead Judge for the Circuit Court's Model Court from June 2010 to April 2016.

In May 2016, Judge Martin retired as an Active Judge from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and began serving as a Senior Judge.

Honorable Michael P. Whalen

A native of Waltham, Massachusetts, the Honorable Michael P. Whalen received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland (Munich, Germany and College Park) and his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1974.

As an Assistant State's Attorney in Prince George's County, Judge Whalen held the positions of Chief of the Major Offenders Unit and Chief of Criminal Trials before being appointed Deputy State's Attorney for Operations in 1984. He was named Maryland Prosecutor of the Year in 1981 and later served as Senior Attorney with the American Prosecutors Research Institute. From 1988 to 1995, Judge Whalen served as the County Attorney for Prince George's County. He was appointed as an Associate Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County in 1995 and the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in 1999. Additionally, Judge Whalen served as an adjunct professor at University of Maryland University College for more than 30 years.

Judge Whalen served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from November 1999 to October 2015. He served as Coordinating Judge for Criminal Operations from 2003 to 2015.

In October 2015, Judge Whalen retired as an Active Judge from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and began serving as a Senior Judge.

Honorable Maureen M. Lamasney

A native of New York, New York, the Honorable Maureen M. Lamasney received her bachelor's degree from Queen's College and law degree from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Judge Lamasney was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1976.

From December 1998 to August 2015, Judge Lamasney served as Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland. During her tenure, she was the Presiding Judge of the Adult Drug Court Program from 2002 to 2010 and served as a member of the Drug Treatment Court Commission from 2002 to 2010.

In August 2015, Judge Lamasney retired as an Active Judge from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and began serving as a Senior Judge.

Honorable Julia B. Weatherly

The Honorable Julia B. Weatherly received her bachelor's degree from University of Michigan and law degree from George Washington University Law School. Judge Weatherly was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar in 1978 and the Maryland Bar in 1979.

After serving as a Domestic Relations Magistrate for 13 years, Judge Weatherly was appointed to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in September 2000. Judge Weatherly has taught many classes for the Judiciary and served on numerous committees including the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, Judicial Institute Board and Family Law Committee.

In 2015, Judge Weatherly retired as an Active Judge from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and began serving as a Senior Judge.

Honorable Sherrie L. Krauser

Born in Washington, D.C., the Honorable Sherrie L. Krauser graduated cum laude from the University of Maryland in 1972 and received her law degree from Duke University Law School in 1973. Judge Krauser was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1973, Pennsylvania Bar in 1975, United States District Court for the District of Maryland Bar in 1978 and United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit Bar in 1985.

From November 1995 to September 2013, Judge Krauser served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. In this capacity, she served as the Coordinating Judge of the Family Division from 2001 to 2004 and Jury Judge from 2004 to 2007.

In September 2013, Judge Krauser retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Currently, Judge Krauser serves as an arbitrator at JAMS, the nation's premier provider of commercial dispute resolution services, where she reinforces her commitment to resolving conflicts through straightforward and respectful communication.

Honorable A. Michael Chapdelaine

The Honorable A. Michael Chapdelaine received his bachelor's degree in history from Georgetown University in 1963 and law degree from Georgetown University School of Law, L.L.B in 1966. Judge Chapdelaine was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1966.

Judge Chapdelaine served as a Family Law Magistrate from 2002 to 2007. He was appointed as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in 2007.

In September 2011, Judge Chapdelaine retired as an Active Judge from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and began serving to serve as a Senior Judge. Additionally, Judge Chapdelaine works with The McCammon Group.

Honorable Thomas P. Smith

A native of Hampton, Virginia, the Honorable Thomas P. Smith received his bachelor's degree in history from Tufts University in 1964 and law degree from The American University School of Law, L.L.B in 1967. Judge Smith was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1968.

Judge Smith served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from June 1994 to April 2011.

In 2011, Judge Smith retired as an Active Judge from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and began serving as a Senior Judge.

Honorable William D. Missouri

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable William D. Missouri attended Prince George's Community College, graduated cum laude from Bowie State University in 1975 and received his law degree from University of Maryland School of Law in 1978. Prior to matriculating, Judge Missouri served in the U.S. Air Force in 1958. Judge Missouri was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1981 and admitted to practice before the following courts: Court of Appeals of Maryland; U.S. District Court for Maryland; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the District of Columbia; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; U.S. Tax Court; U.S. Court of Military Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Missouri was appointed to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in December 1987 and was elected to a 15-year term the following year. Judge Missouri was reappointed in November 2003 and was re-elected for a second term in November 2004. Judge Missouri was named County Administrative Judge in October 1992 and was later appointed Administrative Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit in May 1997. Judge Missouri served as Administrative Judge of District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County in 1987 and as an Associate Judge of District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County from 1985 to 1987.

In September 2010, Judge Missouri retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Following, he joined JAMS, the nation's premier provider of commercial dispute resolution services. Judge Missouri passed away in November 2017.

Honorable Michele D. Hotten

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable Michele D. Hotten received her bachelor's degree from New College of Florida in 1975 and law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1979. Judge Hotten was admitted to the Maryland Bar and the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland in 1985 and the District of Columbia Bar in 1991.

Judge Hotten served as an Associate Judge of the of District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County from June 1994 to December 1995, and served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from December 1995 to August 2010. Judge Hotten was sworn in to the Court of Special Appeals, Fourth Appellate Judicial Circuit, on August 17, 2010 and served until December 22, 2015.

On December 22, 2015, Judge Hotten was sworn in to the Court of Appeals, Fourth Appellate Judicial Circuit.

Honorable Ronald D. Schiff

A native of Port Chester, New York, the Honorable Ronald D. Schiff received his bachelor's degree from Roanoke College in 1963 and law degree from University of Baltimore School of Law in 1971. After law school, Judge Schiff established an innovative residential treatment program for young adults which is still in operation today. Two years later, Judge Schiff went into private law practice. Judge Schiff was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1973. In 1978, he served as attorney to the Prince George's County legislative body and was general counsel to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for eight years prior to joining the bench.

Judge Schiff served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from November 1999 to April 2009. Previously, he worked as an Associate Judge at the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County from January 1996 to November 1999.

In 2009, Judge Schiff retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and did mediation for several years.

Honorable Richard H. Sothoron, Jr.

A native of Prince George's County, Maryland, the Honorable Richard H. Sothoron, Jr. received his bachelor's degree from University of Maryland in 1966 and law degree from University of Baltimore School of Law in 1969. Judge Sothoron was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1970; U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland Bar in 1974; U.S. Supreme Court Bar in 1974; U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals of the Fourth District in 1976 and District of Columbia Bar in 1980.

Judge Sothoron served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from January 1992 to January 2008.

Judge Sothoron retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in 2008. In 2013, Judge Sothoron joined Wilson & Parlett as Of Counsel.

Honorable Graydon S. McKee, III

A native of New Brighton, Pennsylvania, the Honorable Graydon S. McKee III received his bachelor's degree from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1960 and law degree from University of Maryland School of Law in 1967. Judge McKee was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1967.

Judge McKee served as a part-time Magistrate of Juvenile Causes from 1970 to 1977, an Associate Judge of District Court, District 5, from 1977 to 1978 and District Administrative Judge from 1978 to 1987. Judge McKee served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from October 1987 to November 2007, Circuit Court Administrative Judge from 1992 to 1997, Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit (Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's County) from 2003 to 2007.

In November 2007, Judge McKee retired as an Active Judge from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and began serving as a Senior Judge.

Honorable E. Allen Shepherd

A native of Bridgeport, Connecticut, the Honorable E. Allen Shepherd received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in 1960 and law degree from George Washington University School of Law in 1963. While pursuing his education, Judge Shepherd served his Country in the U.S. Naval Air Reserve from 1954 to 1962. Judge Shepherd was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1964.

He joined the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office in 1967. Later, after practicing law throughout Southern Maryland with Ben Wolman, he was named the District Public Defender for Prince George's County, where he influenced the lives of countless attorneys and citizens that he encountered.

Judge Shepherd served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from January 1995 to March 2007. Previously, Judge Shepherd served as an Associate Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County from April 1991 to January 1995.

In 2007, Judge Shepherd retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

Honorable William B. Spellbring, Jr.

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable William B. Spellbring, Jr. received his bachelor's degree from University of Scranton in 1965 and law degree from Villanova University Law School in 1968. Following, Judge Spellbring served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970. Judge Spellbring was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1971.

After being admitted to the Maryland Bar, Judge Spellbring served Prince George's County as an Assistant State's Attorney then had a very successful career in the private practice law for many years.

Judge Spellbring served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from December 1992 to January 2007.

In January 2007, Judge Spellbring retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

Honorable Steven I. Platt

Born and raised in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the Honorable Steven I. Platt received his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia in 1969 and law degree from The American University Washington College of Law in 1973. Judge Platt was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1975 and District of Columbia Bar in 1976. He was also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Platt served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from May 1990 to January 2007. During his years on the Circuit Court, he served as Coordinating Judge of every division and as chairperson of the Circuit Court's Strategic Planning Committee. Additionally, he designed and implemented the Circuit Court's Adult Drug Court. Judge Platt is the acknowledged architect of the Maryland Business Technology Case Management Program.

In 2007, Judge Platt retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. He has since consulted on judicial administrative issues in Russia, Dubai and United Arab Emirate and engaged in alternative dispute resolution.

Honorable James J. Lombardi

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Honorable James J. Lombardi grew up and attended Jesuit schools in Baltimore, Maryland. He was appointed to the bench after practicing law in Prince George's County for 33 years. Before his appointment, he served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957. In 1960, Judge Lombardi graduated from Catholic University of America and received his law degree from American University School of Law in 1963. Judge Lombardi was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1964. During his years of private practice, he also served as a part-time U.S. Federal Magistrate Judge for 14 years and a member of the Maryland General Assembly from 1971 to 1974. He also served as a member of the Maryland Standing (Rules) Committee on Practice and Procedure for 25 years.

Judge Lombardi served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from October 1997 to March 2006. During his judgeship, he served as Civil Differentiated Case Management Coordinator from 2000 to 2001.

In March 2016, Judge Lombardi retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. As of 2017, he has continued to hear cases as a Senior Judge in Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties.

Honorable Robert J. Woods

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable Robert J. Woods received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in 1956 and law degree from The Catholic University of American Columbus School of Law in 1962. Judge Woods was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1963.

Judge Woods served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1976 to 2003. During his tenure, from 1995 to 2003, Judge Woods served as Chief Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. From 1971 to 1976, Judge Woods served as an Associate Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County and an Assistant State's Attorney for Prince George's County from 1966 to 1969.

In February 2003, Judge Woods retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Judge Woods passed away in October 2017.

Honorable Joseph S. Casula

A native of Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, the Honorable Joseph S. Casula received his bachelor's degree from Mount St. Mary's University in 1955 and law degree from Catholic University Law School, L.L.B in 1959. Judge Casula served in the U.S. Army from 1959-1961. Later, in 1962, he was admitted to the Maryland Bar.

Judge Casula served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from May 1985 to October 2001. From 1980 to 1985, he served as an Associate Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County. By all accounts, Judge Casula possessed the temperament that every Judge wanted to emulate. Whether you agreed with him or not, everyone left his courtroom feeling like they had been treated fair.

Prior to being appointed to the Bench Judge Casula served Prince George's County as the County Attorney.

In October 2001, Judge Casula retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Judge Casula passed in November 2014.

Honorable Theresa A. Nolan

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable Theresa A. Nolan received her bachelor's degree from University of Baltimore in 1972 and law degree from University of Baltimore School of Law in 1975. Judge Nolan was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1976.

Judge Nolan served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from June 1997 to July 2000. From 1985 to 1997, Judge Nolan served as an Associate Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County, making her the second woman to be appointed to the bench. Prior to her District Court service she was a Domestic Master (now Magistrate) having been appointed by the Circuit Court Judges.

Judge Nolan was the first woman to serve as President of the Prince George's County Bar Association and will always be remembered for the "Follies Productions" that she coordinated each year for the Prince George's County Bar Association.

Judge Nolan is the mother of 11 children and the proud grandmother to many more. In July 2000, Judge Nolan retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

Honorable G.R. Hovey Johnson

A native of Richmond, Virginia, the Honorable G.R. Hovey Johnson received his bachelor's degree in 1951 from Prairie View A&M College. In 1974, after serving 23 years in the U.S. Army, he retired as a colonel. In 1974, Judge Johnson received his master's degree from George Washington University and later in 1977, obtained his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. In 1978, Judge Johnson was admitted to the Maryland Bar and was hired as an Assistant Public Defender for Prince George's County where he distinguished himself as an outstanding trial lawyer.

Judge Johnson was appointed to the bench in 1982 and served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County until 2000. He had a commanding presence in the courtroom unlike no one before or since him. Order, rules and fairness were his guiding principles.

In 2000, Judge Johnson retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Judge Johnson passed away in November 2006.

Honorable Darlene G. Perry

The Honorable Darlene G. Perry received her bachelor's degree from Eastern College of Commerce and law degree from University of Baltimore School of Law in 1972. Judge Perry was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1972.

Judge Perry served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from November 1985 to January 1999. Judge Perry was highly regarded for effectively and quickly moving a heavy docket.

In January 1999, Judge Perry retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. She went on to pursue art and write books for children.

Honorable Robert H. Mason

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable Robert H. Mason served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1955 to 1959. He received his bachelor's degree from University of Maryland in 1963 and law degree from University of Maryland School of Law in 1969. Judge Mason was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1969.

Judge Mason served as a Juvenile Magistrate for the Circuit Court of Maryland from 1970 to 1975. In 1975, Judge Mason served as a Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County George's, and in 1976, he was cross designated to sit in both the District Court and the Seventh Circuit Courts of Maryland. In 1977, Judge Mason was appointed to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County where he served as an Associate Judge until his retirement in 2000.

In retirement, Judge Mason served as a Senior Judge and honored to be appointed to sit as needed in the District Court of Maryland, the Fifth and Seventh Circuit Courts of Maryland and the Court of Special Appeals Mediation Project.

Honorable Arthur M. Ahalt

College Park lawyer Arthur M. Monty Ahalt was appointed on February 9, 1982 by Governor Harry R. Hughes as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. His appointment was confirmed by election in 1984. At the age of 39, Judge Ahalt was one of the youngest lawyers appointed to the court. At the end of his term, in 1999, Judge Ahalt continued to serve as a Senior Judge in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. Judge Ahalt presided over 1,000 jury trials.

Judge Ahalt served as chairperson of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County Building Committee, which planned and designed the Bourne and Marbury additions to the Courthouse. In 1996, as chairperson of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County Court Technology Committee, he conducted Justice LINK, the first national pilot of electronic filing of court documents. Additionally, he served as Civil Supervising Judge and conducted more than 30,000 settlement conferences. He was frequently called upon by the parties and Judges to mediate the most challenging judicial controversies involving post trial and appellate issues. His efforts of tracking, analyzing and publishing jury verdicts provided litigants with real life examples of risk application. In 2001, Judge Ahalt founded VirtualCourthouse.com, a leading provider of online dispute resolution (ODR) technologies.

Judge Ahalt served as president of the Prince George's County Bar Association in 1979.

Honorable Sylvania W. Woods

A native of Fort Gaines, Georgia, the Honorable Sylvania W. Woods served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1945. Judge Woods received his bachelor's degree from Morris Brown College in 1949 and law degree from American University Washington College of Law in 1960. In 1969, Judge Woods was admitted to the Maryland Bar.

Judge Woods served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from February 1994 to June 1997. From 1976 to 1994, Judge Woods served as an Associate Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County. In honor of the late judge, in 1997, American University Washington College of Law renamed its annual African Americans and the Law Conference to Sylvania Woods Conference on African Americans and the Law. Additionally, Judge Sylvania W. Woods Elementary School located in Glenarden, Maryland was named after the beloved judge.

In June 1997, Judge Woods passed away.

Honorable Vincent J. Femia

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Honorable Vincent J. Femia served in the U.S. Air Force. He received his bachelor's degree in accounting from George Washington University in 1959 and law degree from George Washington University Law School in 1961. In 1961, he received his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license in Maryland. In 1962, Judge Femia was admitted to the Maryland Bar and District of Columbia Bar in 1962. He was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar in 1964.

Judge Femia served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1977 to 1996. From 1972 to 1977, Judge Femia served as an Associate Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County.

In 1996, Judge Femia retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and began serving as a Senior Judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Judge Femia lived in Prince George's County with his wife, the former Elizabeth Ward Bell, since they married in June 1957. He has three adult children and six grandchildren.

Honorable Audrey E. Melbourne

A native of Chicago, Illinois, the Honorable Audrey E. Melbourne received her bachelor's degree from George Washington University in 1955 and law degree from University of Maryland School of Law in 1962. She was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1962.

Judge Melbourne served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1978 to 1997. During her tenure, Judge Melbourne was a member of the Maryland State and Prince George's County Bar Associations.

In May 1997, Judge Melbourne retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Judge Melbourne passed away in June 2000.

Honorable William H. McCullough

A long-time resident of Prince George's County, Maryland, the Honorable William H. McCullough, after service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, received his bachelor's degree from George Washington University and law degree from George Washington University Law School in 1950. Judge McCullough was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1951. He then went into private practice with his father in the Mount Rainier law firm, McCullough, Pace and McCullough. Judge McCullough was instrumental in the formation of the Prince George's Legal Aid Society and represented the Prince George's County Liquor Board.

Judge McCullough was appointed as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in November 1969. He was later elected to the bench in 1970 and re-elected in 1986. During his judgeship, he served as County Administrative Judge from 1975 to 1992. He was also Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Judge McCullough served on the panel of Judges that disbarred former vice president Spiro T. Agnew in 1974, after a plea of no contest to a charge of evading federal income taxes.

In 1995, Judge McCullough retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

Honorable James P. Salmon

A native of Easton, Maryland the Honorable James P. Salmon received his bachelor's degree from St. Vincent's College in 1962 and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1965 with a law degree. Judge Salmon was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1965.

Judge Salmon served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1988 to 1994. Judge Salmon was a member of various committees such as Maryland Judicial Conference Executive Committee (1999 to 2000), Criminal Law and Procedure Committee (2001 to 2003), Legislative Committee (2005 to 2009) and a member of the Court Commission of Professionalism (2004 to 2006).

In December 1994, Judge Salmon was appointed to the Court of Special Appeals. He retired in February 2010. Since 2010, he has served on the Court of Special Appeals as a Senior Judge.

Honorable David Gray Ross

The Honorable David Gray Ross was born in Quanah, Texas. He received his bachelor's degree in 1960 and law degree in 1964, both from American University. Judge Ross served in the Army during the Berlin Crisis of 1961 and remained in the Army National Guard until retiring at the rank of colonel in 1982. His military decorations included the Meritorious Service Medal.

Judge Ross served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1978 to 1993. He was named Family Court Judge of the Nation in 1989 by The National Child Support Enforcement Association and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Department of Health and Human Services in 2000.

After his retirement, Judge Ross taught courses at the University of Central Florida's until 2011. He also served on President Obama's transition team for the Department of Health and Human Services in the late 2000s. Judge Ross passed away in June 2013.

Honorable James Magruder Rea

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable James Magruder Rea received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland at College Park and law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law. Judge Rea was admitted to the Maryland Bar and the District of Columbia in 1951. He served as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Judge Rea served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from January 1980 to 1993. In July 1971, he was appointed as Administrative Judge of the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County in which he served for nine years. In September 1969, Judge Rea was appointed as Judge of the People's Court for Prince George's County.

In 1993, Judge Rea retired. He passed away in January 2004.

Honorable Ernest A. Loveless, Jr.

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable Ernest A. Loveless, Jr. graduated from the University of Maryland in 1943. Afterwards, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He served under Captain Newton White during World War II. He left the navy as a Lieutenant. In 1947, he graduated from George Washington University Law School, where he received his master's degree in 1948. Judge Loveless was admitted to the Maryland Bar and the District of Columbia Bar in 1948.

While in private practice in the Clinton area, he served as attorney to the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners. He was elected to the Maryland General Assembly in 1952 and served there until his appointment to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. He was a life member of the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department.

Judge Loveless served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1960 to 1974. He served as the longtime Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County Juvenile Court. Additionally, he was the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1974 to 1976, Circuit Administrative Judge and Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit from 1976 to 1992. He was elected the chairperson of the statewide, Conference of Circuit Court Judges. He championed the modernization of the courts and was the first in the country to put a psychologist on staff and installed a comprehensive computer program that linked all partnering agencies in the justice system. He began the study of what is now known as case flow management before it was given a name by professionals in the field.

Judge Loveless retired in 1992. He passed away in August 2007.

Honorable Jacob S. Levin

A native of the Washington, D.C., the Honorable Jacob S. Levin graduated from American University in 1947 and received his law degree from George Washington University School of Law in 1949. Judge Levin was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar in 1949 and the Maryland Bar in 1957.

Judge Levin served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1975 to 1990. During his tenure, Judge Levin served over 15 years on the executive board of the Prince George's County Bar Association and as president of that Association in 1974. Additionally, he served as president of the George Washington Law Association of the George Washington University and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Maryland State Bar Association in 1975.

In 1990, Judge Levin retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

Honorable Howard S. Chasanow

The Honorable Howard Chasanow grew up in Greenbelt, Maryland. He received his bachelor's degree from University of Maryland in 1958 and graduated with honors from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1961. He earned a master's degree in law from Harvard Law School in 1962. He served in the United States Air Force in Japan and Korea.

Howard Chasanow served as an Assistant and Deputy State's Attorney from 1963 to 1969. He served as a Substitute Judge on the People's Court from 1970 to 1971 and as an Associate Judge on the District Court from 1971 to 1977. Judge Chasanow served on the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1977 to 1990. In January 1990, Judge Chasanow was appointed to the Court of Appeals, where he served for nine years before retiring.

Following retirement from the bench, Judge Chasanow spent the next 15 years as one of Maryland's leading mediators, helping resolve many complex civil disputes. He also lectured widely including at the University of Maryland Law School and the National Judicial College. He served on many committees charged with modernizing the criminal law, reforming sentencing and updating the rules of evidence.

Honorable Albert T. Blackwell, Jr.

The Honorable Albert T. Blackwell, Jr. was born June 27, 1925. He received his law degree from George Washington University in 1950 and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1951. He practiced, primarily civil work, for more than 25 years.

On November 7, 1975, Judge Albert T. Blackwell, Jr. was appointed to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County to fill the tenth seat on the Court added by the Maryland Legislature. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1987 where he served until his retirement in 1990.

Judge Blackwell was a director of the Maryland State Bar Foundation, Upper Marlboro Development Committee and the Advisory Board of the University of Baltimore Law School. He served as director for the Prince George's County Bar Association. He was a member of the Board of Governors for the Maryland State Bar Association. He has been active in his community's Boys Club, Citizens Association, Democratic and Optimist Clubs. Additionally, he served on the Official Board of his church.

He served as an arbitrator for civil cases until 2008.

Honorable James H. Taylor

A lifelong Marylander, the Honorable James H. Taylor was a courageous trailblazer, skilled attorney, compassionate jurist and quintessential gentleman whose legal career encompassed the public and private sectors in Prince George's County. Judge Taylor served his country in the U.S. Army Air Forces and later graduated from Howard University in 1950. Three years later, he became the earliest known African American graduate of American University's Washington College of Law and was thereafter admitted to the Maryland Bar. He established a successful private law practice in Seat Pleasant and his beloved Fairmount Heights and in 1956 became one of the first African American members of the Prince George's County Bar Association.

In 1963, Judge Taylor was named the first African American Assistant State's Attorney in Prince George's County and later became the first full time Master of Juvenile Causes in the County. In 1969, he once again made history as the first African American Judge in Prince George's County upon his appointment to the Circuit Court. He served in this capacity for eighteen years, primarily presiding over family and juvenile matters. He retired from the Court in 1987 and resumed his private law practice. Throughout his life, Judge Taylor served as a mentor and role model to countless young attorneys until he passed away in 2012 at the age of 86,

Honorable Samuel W. H. Meloy

A native of Washington, D.C., the Honorable Samuel W.H. Meloy graduated from the University of Maryland in 1936 and received his law degree from George Washington University in 1936. Judge Meloy was admitted to Maryland Bar in 1939. Judge Meloy served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, after being discharged in 1946, he was appointed a U.S. Magistrate for Maryland.

Judge Meloy served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 1965 to 1981.

Judge Meloy retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in 1981. After his retirement, he led the Federal Land Commission.

Honorable William B. Bowie

A native of Largo, Maryland, the Honorable William B. Bowie graduated from Charlotte Hall Military Academy in Maryland and the University of Maryland. He received his law degree from Georgetown University Law in 1939. Judge Bowie served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II.

Judge Bowie served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from January 1961 to November 1977. Judge Bowie served as president of the Prince George's County Bar Association, vice president of the Maryland Bar Association and chairperson of the Prince George's County Property Review Board.

In 1977, Judge Bowie retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Judge Bowie passed away in August 2001.

Honorable James F. Couch, Jr.

Born in Des Moines, Iowa and a resident of Adelphi, Maryland, the Honorable James F. Couch, Jr. attended George Washington University and received a law degree from American University Washington College of Law in 1941. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army.

In 1971, Judge Couch was appointed to the Maryland District Court. From 1972 to 1977, Judge Couch served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court which included Prince George's County and Southern Maryland. For five years, from 1977 to 1982, he served on Maryland's Court of Special Appeals and served on the Court of Appeals from 1982 until he retired in 1987. At that time, he was the only judge to have served at all four levels of Maryland's courts.

In 1967 and 1968, Judge Couch was president of the Prince George's Bar Association and was a member of the Maryland State Bar Association.

In 1987, Judge Couch retired from Maryland Court of Appeals. He passed away March 4, 1990.

Honorable Ralph W. Powers

The Honorable Ralph W. Powers was born in Texas and moved to Prince George's County, Maryland as a child. He attended University of Maryland and received a law degree from George Washington University Law School.

In 1960, Judge Powers began serving as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Previously, Judge Powers practiced law in Prince George's County for 27 years. From 1949 to 1950, he served as president of the Prince George's County Bar Association.

Judge Powers retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in 1976. He passed away in January 1996.

Honorable Robert B. Mathias

A native of Sheperdstown, West Virginia, the Honorable Robert B. Mathias attended University of Maryland and received his law degree from George Washington University Law School.

Judge Mathias served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from July 1965 to June 1976. Previously, he served five years as counsel to the county commissioners of Prince George's County. Judge Mathias' legal career was interrupted by two periods of military service.

He also had many other interest. Before his legal career, he was in the farm system for the Washington Senators, Washington's baseball team before the Nationals. He was later traded to the New York Yankees farm team. He remained active in sports and the community and along with others founded the Boys and Girls Club of Prince George's County.

Judge Mathias retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in 1976. In September 2001, Judge Mathias passed away.

Honorable Roscoe H. Parker

A native of Danville, Virginia, the Honorable Roscoe H. Parker received his law degree from George Washington University Law School.

Judge Parker served as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from December 1960 to March 1975. During Judge Parker's time on the bench, he handled several high profile cases with the Honorable Ralph W. Powers. The judges handled the cases with no error by the Circuit Court and so expeditiously that they could have been models for handling a high profile case.

Judge Parker retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in 1976.

Honorable Samuel J. DeBlasis

Judge Samuel J. DeBlasis was born on March 20, 1920 in Bellaire, Ohio to Italian immigrant parents. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he settled in Washington D.C. Judge DeBlasis received his undergraduate and law degree from George Washington University. In 1950, he was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar and Maryland Bar in 1951.

Judge DeBlasis' legal career in Maryland and the District of Columbia was based exclusively out of offices in Prince George's County concentrating in criminal defense, real estate transactions and zoning. He was the founding partner of the law firm of DeBlasis, Kahler, Shipley & O'Malley and was instrumental in the development of county projects such as Iverson Mall and the Capital Center. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, Judge DeBlasis was a politically prominent figure in local and state politics. He was a member of the Prince George's County Bar Association for nearly four decades and served as president of the Prince George's County Bar Association from 1962 to 1963. He was appointed an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County in 1969.

Judge DeBlasis retired from the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. He continued practicing law in Prince George's County until 1986 however he continued his study of the law until his death in 1996.