

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**



FISCAL YEAR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

**THE JUDICIAL BUSINESS OF THE
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

DISTRICT JUDGES

(One Vacancy)

Active Judges

Richard D. Bennett
Catherine C. Blake, Chief
James K. Bredar
Theodore D. Chuang
Paul W. Grimm
George Jarrod Hazel
Ellen Lipton Hollander
William D. Quarles, Jr.
George Levi Russell, III

Senior Judges

Deborah K. Chasanow
Marvin J. Garbis
Peter J. Messitte
J. Frederick Motz
William M. Nickerson
Roger W. Titus

MAGISTRATE JUDGES

(No Vacancies)

Full-Time

William Connelly, Chief
J. Mark Coulson
Charles B. Day
Thomas M. DiGirolamo
Stephanie A. Gallagher
Beth P. Gesner
Jillyn K. Schulze
Timothy J. Sullivan

Part-Time

C. Bruce Anderson

Recalled

Susan K. Gauvey

BANKRUPTCY JUDGES

(No Vacancies)

Active Judges

Nancy V. Alquist, Chief
Thomas J. Catliota
Robert A. Gordon
Wendelin I. Lipp
Paul Mannes
David E. Rice
James F. Schneider

Recalled Judges

E. Stephen Derby
Duncan W. Keir

COURT UNIT EXECUTIVES

Felicia C. Cannon, Clerk, U.S. District Court
Mark A. Neal, Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court
William Henry, Chief, U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services

COURTHOUSES AND FACILITIES OF THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND



**Northern Division Courthouse
Baltimore, Maryland**



**Southern Division Courthouse
Greenbelt, Maryland**



**Courtroom, M.R. Toulson Federal Building
Salisbury, Maryland**

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MILESTONES

The United States District Court for the District of Maryland passed a number of significant milestones in fiscal year 2015. On October 4, 2014, District Judge Catherine C. Blake became Chief Judge of the United States District Court following District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow taking senior status on October 3, 2014. Judge Chasanow served as chief judge for almost five years. In taking senior status, Judge Chasanow will continue in judicial service as a senior judge in the Greenbelt courthouse. A Chief Judge Transition Ceremony was held at the Greenbelt Courthouse on October 16, 2014, during which a portrait of Judge Chasanow was unveiled. Judge Chasanow's portrait was painted by artist Danni Dawson and now hangs in the Greenbelt ceremonial courtroom on the fourth floor.

On October 9, 2014, the Court held an investiture ceremony for newly-appointed Magistrate Judge J. Mark Coulson. Judge Coulson was sworn in as a magistrate judge at an informal ceremony earlier that year. Judge Coulson was appointed by the District Court bench to replace Magistrate Judge Susan K. Gauvey, following her retirement in July 2014.

On October 30, 2014, the Court presented the sixth biennial Judge Edward S. Northrop Lecture, with General William K. Suter, Nineteenth Clerk of the United States Supreme Court (retired), as the guest lecturer. General Suter remarked on his extensive legal career and on his time at the Supreme Court. The lecture was held in the ceremonial courtroom of the Greenbelt courthouse and was followed by a reception open to the bar and public.

On December 4, 2014, the Court and the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland held a reception recognizing the official opening of the Historical Society's exhibit on the Court and the Chesapeake Bay. This second exhibit from the Historical Society was installed on the fifth floor of the Baltimore courthouse in September 2014. The display includes touchable oyster casts, the Oyster Dredge case, a stuffed bald eagle, and a video of an eagle's nest featuring the birth of baby eaglets. The third historical exhibit – concerning the Civil Rights Era in Maryland – was installed on the fourth floor of the Greenbelt courthouse the following year.

On January 9, 2015, the Court held a ceremony to unveil the portrait of Judge Susan K. Gauvey. The portrait was painted by artist Danni Dawson and now hangs in Courtroom 7B of the Baltimore courthouse. Following approval from the Fourth Circuit Judicial Council, Judge Gauvey was recalled as magistrate judge on June 15, 2015. While on recall status, Judge Gauvey will assist with managing the civil caseload primarily by handling settlement conferences.

On January 16, 2015, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit sitting in Baltimore presided over Circuit Judge Pamela A. Harris's investiture ceremony. Judge Harris was appointed to the Fourth Circuit following the vacancy created by Circuit Judge Andre M. Davis taking senior status in February 2014.

In February 2015, several judges in Greenbelt began moving into a newly-constructed judicial suite on the fourth floor. The new chambers suite includes five private judicial chambers and shared common areas for conference rooms, file storage, judicial assistant workstations, and break space. The opening of the suite completed the first phase of a multi-year construction project in the Greenbelt courthouse, which will save up to \$100 million in taxpayer spending and provide more immediate solutions to the space limitations of the Greenbelt courthouse.

Sadly, on March 14, 2015, District Judge Joseph H. Young passed away at the age of 92. Judge Young was appointed to the federal bench in 1971 and served on active and senior status until 2002. Members of the federal bench attended memorial services at Second Presbyterian Church in Baltimore for Judge Young on March 23, 2015.

On June 11, 2015, the portrait of District Judge William D. Quarles, Jr. was unveiled during the annual law clerk admissions ceremony for law clerks of the District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. At the ceremony, Judge Quarles and Herbert Better, President of the Historical Society, delivered remarks on Judge Quarles's judicial service. The portrait artist, Edward Clay Wright, Jr., was also in attendance and offered remarks on the occasion. The portrait of Judge Quarles will hang in courtroom 7A of the Baltimore courthouse.

COURT ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

The federal bench in Maryland has a long history of collegiality in conducting the business of the district. The district judges in both divisions maintain regular contact through weekly video-conferenced bench meetings. On the first Wednesday of each month, magistrate and bankruptcy judges, court unit executives, representatives of the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the United States Marshal Service, GSA, pro se staff attorneys, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, court reporters, and CJA Coordinating Attorney join the district judges in a consolidated bench meeting.

The court strives to focus on continuous communication and coordination of operations between its different divisions and court units. It relies on a strong committee system that actively involves judges, clerk's office personnel and members of the local bar. Frequent meetings, including those among the unit executives, are an essential part of the court's administration. The court units – the District Court, the Bankruptcy Court, and the consolidated Probation and Pretrial Services office – work closely together to manage the resources of the district. The unit executives meet formally and informally with the chief judge and each other to discuss budget and case management issues affecting the district.

In fiscal year 2015, the District Court approved emergency conforming amendments to the Local Rules following amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. These amendments became effective on March 12, 2015, and will be submitted for public notice and comment during the next regular amendment cycle.

BENCH/BAR RELATIONSHIPS

Cooperative efforts among the bench and bar continue with regular committee meetings, including the Attorney Admissions Fund Committee, the Bench-Bar Liaison Committee, and the Bankruptcy Bar Association/District Court Liaison Committee. At these meetings, committee members address court business, review local rules and procedures, and plan educational programs throughout the year in which the district's judges actively participate. The court holds a Bench-Bar Conference every two years, which includes the presentation of an award recognizing an attorney, law firm, or group of attorneys for outstanding service to the court.

In recent years, the bench has worked closely with the bar to establish the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, which has, among its objectives, developed and installed creative exhibits highlighting court history.

Oral history projects and projects related to the preservation of portraits and historical documents are also underway. In its work with the Historical Society, the court seeks to preserve and display the history of the federal judicial system in Maryland.

COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Several of the district's judges serve on committees governing the administration of the federal courts. Judge Deborah K. Chasanow finished her term as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge J. Frederick Motz completed his membership as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Budget. Judge Catherine C. Blake continued her term as chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services. Judge Blake also serves on the board of the Federal Judicial Center, having been appointed in March 2012. Judge Roger W. Titus continued his term as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management. Judge James K. Bredar completed his term as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction and Judge Paul W. Grimm also completed his term as a member of the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules and chair of the Discovery Subcommittee. Bankruptcy Judge Thomas J. Catliota served as the Fourth Circuit bankruptcy judge representative on the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group. Lastly, Judge Ellen L. Hollander completed a 2-year term as treasurer of the Fourth Circuit District Judge's Association.

In fiscal year 2015, several judges actively participated in programs designed to foster the education of citizens and international tribunals regarding operation of the federal judiciary. On July 20, 2015 Judge Richard D. Bennett represented the International Judicial Relations Committee of the U.S. Judicial Conference at a two day symposium held at the Central and East European Law Initiative ("CEELI") in Prague, Czech Republic. The symposium was partially sponsored by the United States Department of State and addressed corruption issues in Eastern Europe. Judge Bennett completed his 6 years of service on the International Judicial Relations Committee on October 1, 2015. Judge Bennett, Judge Peter J. Messitte, Judge Marvin J. Garbis, and Bankruptcy Chief Judge Nancy V. Alquist remain active in teaching and lecturing internationally. The Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses carried on a tradition of hosting judges, attorneys, administrators, and students from foreign countries. During fiscal year 2015,

the District Court hosted international guests from Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Panama, and Ukraine, as well as multi-national delegations from Africa, Latin America, and a Department of State coordinated program on the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction. Of particular note, Judge Messitte hosted Minister Francisco Falcão, President of Brazil's Superior Tribunal of Justice (Brazil's highest infra-constitutional appeals court) and a delegation from Brazil's National Council of Justice. In the past several years, the court has also welcomed guests from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Chile, China, Columbia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the Eastern Caribbean, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Moldova, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Judges in this District have also traveled to Argentina, China, Estonia, Iraq, Portugal, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine for judicial education programs.

The District Court Clerk's Office continued to arrange for federal agencies to use courtrooms for executive branch hearings. These agencies include the United States Department of Labor, the National Transportation Safety Board, the United States Tax Court, and the United States Merit Systems Protection Board. The District also hosted several Federal Bar Association programs, the United States Attorney's Office awards ceremony, and several Criminal Justice Act (CJA) attorney panel training sessions.

The District Court hosted educational programs for several school and university visitors throughout the year, including students from the Freedom School (Charlotte, NC), Parkdale High School (Riverdale, MD), Ripon College (Ripon, WI), Severn School (Severna Park, MD), Gilman School (Baltimore, MD) and the American University Washington College of Law (Washington, DC). On March 5, 2015, Judge Beth P. Gesner presided over a special naturalization ceremony in the Baltimore courthouse and the fourth grade class of Severn School participated. The students researched the countries represented and their own heritage and delivered speeches on the importance of the day. On April 16, 2015, second grade students from Gilman School participated in the naturalization ceremony presided over by Judge Stephanie A. Gallagher. On May 1, 2015, Judge Grimm and Judge Hazel participated with local students in the Prince George's County States Attorney's Office's annual Law Day program at the Greenbelt courthouse. On June 24, 2015, Judge Chasanow and Judge Hazel welcomed the American Bar Association and Federal Judicial Center's Summer Institute for Teachers to Greenbelt. Their program for high school and middle school history and government teachers is designed to aid the teachers in incorporating the history of the federal courts into their lesson plans.

Since its inception in 1996, the District Court's art program at the Greenbelt courthouse has contributed greatly to our region's cultural environment. The original purpose of the program was to feature works by Maryland artists, but over the years it has expanded to include international art as well. With exhibits in quilting, photography, sculpture, and painting, the program continues to call attention to the diverse interests and creative talents of local artists and the importance of their contributions to society. Exhibits rotate quarterly and this year included silks by Diane Tuckman, paintings by Werner Drewes, quilts from the Annapolis Quilts Guild, paintings from students at the University of Maryland University College, and various artwork from the Hyattstown Mill Arts Project.

On October 28, 2014, Bankruptcy Judge James F. Schneider spoke at the 30th Anniversary of the Museum of Baltimore Legal History. On November 7, 2014, Magistrate Judge Stephanie A. Gallagher hosted the annual Open Doors program in Baltimore. The program, which was organized and hosted by Magistrate Judge Susan K. Gauvey for over a decade, introduces students from various local high schools to the federal judiciary system, and includes mock trials and discussions with unit executives and judges.

On December 3, 2014, Judge Schneider facilitated, organized and spoke at the Portrait Ceremony and memorial for the Honorable Paul Dorf. Judge Dorf served on the Baltimore City Circuit Court and also was a former State Senator. On December 9 and 10, 2014, Chief Judge Alquist led a workshop in Casablanca, Morocco. The workshop was entitled “Best Practices in the Management of Insolvency Cases in Morocco: The U.S. Example.”

On December 15, 2014, at the headquarters of the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) in Alexandria, Virginia, Bankruptcy Judge Wendelin I. Lipp and Judge Catliota recorded the six hour Fundamentals of Consumer and Business Bankruptcy videos. The ABI uses the videos as its basic bankruptcy educational tools.

In December 2014, holiday open houses and staff holiday luncheons were held in the Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses to thank staff members of all court units and members of the bar for their commitment and dedication to the court throughout the year. Also, the Human Resources department of the Clerk’s Office coordinated and processed all of the paperwork for the 2014 Combined Federal Charities campaign which provides staff the opportunity to donate to their favorite charities through payroll deduction. To help support the Combined Federal Charities Campaign even further, the Human Resources department held a sports memorabilia silent auction to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

On February 12, 2015, the Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association presented Let Freedom Ring, a play depicting the early days of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his rise as a civil rights leader, in the ceremonial courtroom in Baltimore. District Judges George L. Russell, III and George J. Hazel joined several Maryland state judges in presenting the program.

On March 6, 2015, the Federal Bar Association hosted a luncheon in honor of Judge Catherine C. Blake’s transition to chief judge; Judge Deborah K. Chasanow’s tenure as chief judge and transition to senior status; the recent appointments of District Judge Theodore D. Chuang, District Judge George Jarrod Hazel, and Magistrate Judge J. Mark Coulson to the bench; the transition of Circuit Judge Andre M. Davis to senior status; and the appointment of Circuit Judge Pamela A. Harris to the Fourth Circuit bench.

On March 9, 2015, Judge Catliota served as a judge at the 23rd Annual Conrad Duberstein National Moot Court Competition. The competition is one of the nation’s most prestigious moot court competitions and is sponsored by the ABI and St. John’s University School of Law.

On March 10, 2015, Chief Judge Alquist and Bankruptcy Clerk of Court Mark Neal hosted Judge Diasuke Takahara of the Supreme Court of Japan, Judge Noboru Nakayama of the

Tokyo District Court, and Norimasa Matsubara, Judicial Attaché of the Embassy of Japan for a “Dialogue on the Operation of Asbestos Trusts in U.S. Bankruptcy Cases.”

On April 3, 2015, the Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association hosted the Introduction to Federal Practice program. The afternoon program was held in the Baltimore courthouse and ended with the judges sitting en banc to admit the newest members of the federal bar, with a reception that followed. The Maryland Chapter held additional programs at the courthouses this year, including a joint program with the Maryland State Bar Association on appellate practice in November; a joint program with the Maryland State Bar Association and the American Bar Association on litigation, featuring Judge Marvin J. Garbis, in November; a seminar on appellate practice in May, featuring Fourth Circuit Judges Diana Gribbon Motz, Andre M. Davis, and Pamela A. Harris; and a program on highlights from the recent Supreme Court term in July, featuring retired District Judge Benson E. Legg.

In April and May 2015, District Judge Marvin Garbis and Bankruptcy Chief Judge Alquist led workshops on Registration, Bankruptcy and Liquidation, and Intellectual Property Considerations in Bankruptcy Proceedings in Banja Luka, Republika Srpska, and Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and also in Yerevan, Armenia and Tbilisi, Georgia.

On June 2, 2015, the Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association presented the program, Maryland’s Legendary Criminal Cases, which featured remarks from retired District Judge Benson E. Legg and District Judge Richard D. Bennett.

On June 4, Magistrate Judges Beth P. Gesner and J. Mark Coulson hosted a brown bag lunch in the Baltimore Courthouse for summer interns and law clerks. This program was repeated on July 18, with District Judges Catherine C. Blake and J. Frederick Motz serving as hosts, and again on June 25 with District Judges Richard D. Bennett and Ellen Lipton Hollander hosting. Another annual event for judges, law clerks, and interns is the court’s summer softball game, of which two were held this year at Centennial Park in Columbia in May and in July. Also, on July 16, 2015, Judge Catliota hosted a brown bag lunch in Greenbelt. The lunch was on the topic of bankruptcy and was for summer interns and law clerks.

On June 5, 2015, the Federal Bar Association hosted a luncheon at which it honored Judge Schneider. The association presented Judge Schneider with its President’s Award for his distinguished service as a historian of the courts and for his exemplary leadership in directing The Treason Trial of John Hodges in September 2014. On June 24, 2015, Judge Schneider participated in the 175th Anniversary Celebration event for the Bar Library of Baltimore City.

During fiscal year 2015, the District Court continued its commitment to providing its law clerks with the tools they need to assist judges, to foster close relationships between the bench and its clerks, and to show its appreciation for the vital services the law clerks provide. On June 11, 2015, the bench, joined by Fourth Circuit Judge Diana Gribbon Motz, sat en banc for the annual Law Clerk Admission Ceremony. The outgoing law clerks of Fourth Circuit, district, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges based in Baltimore and Greenbelt participated in the ceremony at the southern division courthouse. Many of their family members were on hand to witness their admission to the bars of the District of Maryland and the United States Court of

Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association presented the Peter A. DiRito award to Judge J. Frederick Motz during the annual law clerk Admissions Ceremony. This award, named for a distinguished past president of the Maryland Chapter of the FBA, is presented annually to honor outstanding and dedicated service to the court and the local bar.

The new law clerk year began on September 29, 2015, with the annual Hargrove Breakfast for incoming law clerks. This annual tradition is hosted by the bench in memory of District Judge John R. Hargrove, Sr. who worked tirelessly to support the collegiality of the bench and the enrichment of the lives of law clerks who served this court. The breakfast was followed by both an educational program on discovery conducted by District Judge Paul W. Grimm and a presentation from various unit executives and the Clerk's Office.

On July 15, 2015, many District Court judges traveled to Washington, D.C. for lunch with Maryland's congressional delegation. This luncheon has become an annual event, providing the judges with the opportunity to discuss pressing matters in the judiciary with local members of Congress. Also, District Judge George Hazel and Bankruptcy Judge Robert A. Gordon participated with Circuit Judge Andre Davis as panelists for the Just The Beginning Foundation's "Pathways to the Bench" Summer Legal Institute program. The program was held in the Baltimore courthouse.

From August 10 through 14, 2015, Chief Judge Alquist was a member of a five person U.S. Commerce Department delegation to India. The delegation met with the Indian Bankruptcy Law Reform Committee, Supreme Court Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri and various Ministries in New Delhi, India to advance the strategic and commercial dialogue between the United States and India.

The fiscal year ended with Judge Mark A. Barnett ending his designation as a visiting judge in the Greenbelt courthouse. Judge Barnett, a judge on the Court of International Trade, was designated to sit on the district bench in Maryland beginning in August 2013, while his caseload on the Court of International Trade was established. Since the start of his designation, Judge Barnett has managed a docket of commercial-related civil cases; he will conclude the cases already assigned to him under the visiting designation. The District Court notes its appreciation to Judge Barnett for the assistance he has provided over the past two years.

DISTRICT COURT

General Case Statistics

During the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, 3,937 civil cases were filed as compared to 4,144 civil case filings in Fiscal Year 2014. Our criminal filings remained fairly consistent, with 499 filings (involving 744 defendants) at the end of September 2015, compared to 522 criminal cases (involving 778 defendants) filed in Fiscal Year 2014. The judges also closed 4,105 civil and 502 criminal cases during this fiscal year. As of September 30, 2015, our district weighted case filing per judgeship was 525 as compared to 533 at the end of September 2014.

Multidistrict Litigation

The following six multidistrict litigation (MDL) cases were assigned to, or remain pending with, judges of the District of Maryland:

- (1) In re KBR, Inc., Burn Pit Litigation (MDL No. 2083) was certified and transferred to the District of Maryland on October 19, 2009. This MDL is assigned to Judge Roger W. Titus and currently has 58 pending cases.
- (2) In re CTP Innovations, LLC, Patent Litigation (MDL No. 2581) was certified and transferred to the district on December 15, 2014. It is assigned to Judge Marvin J. Garbis and currently has 25 pending cases.
- (3) GNC Corp. TriFlex Products Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation (MDL No. 2491) were certified and transferred to the District of Maryland on January 2, 2014. This MDL is assigned to Judge J. Frederick Motz and currently has one pending case.
- (4) Nutramax Cosamine Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation (MDL No. 2498) was certified and transferred to the District of Maryland on January 13, 2014. This MDL is assigned to Judge J. Frederick Motz and currently has four pending cases.
- (5) Natrol, Inc., Glucosamine/Chondroitin Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation (MDL No. 2528) was certified and transferred to the District of Maryland on June 10, 2014. This MDL is assigned to Judge J. Frederick Motz and currently has three pending cases.
- (6) Webvention LLC Patent Litigation (MDL No. 2294) was certified and transferred to the District of Maryland on December 15, 2011. This MDL was assigned to Judge Catherine C. Blake and was concluded on June 22, 2015.

Intercircuit Assignments

Our district judges continued our district's longtime practice of assisting other courts by offering to serve on intercircuit assignments throughout the year. Judge Marvin J. Garbis was designated and assigned to perform judicial duties in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the U.S. District Courts for the Central District of California, and the Middle District of Florida. Judge J. Frederick Motz was designated and assigned to perform judicial duties in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico. Judge Theodore D. Chuang, Judge George Jarrod Hazel, and Judge George L. Russell, III, were designated and assigned to sit on panels of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Civil Justice Reform Act Reporting

The District Court, which consistently performs well in managing its pending caseload, reported 19 motions pending for six months or longer on the March 31, 2015 report and four pending motions on the September 30, 2015 report. The bench also reported 53 cases pending three years or more on the March 31, 2015 report and 51 cases pending three years or more on the September 30, 2015 report.

Death Penalty Litigation

(1) Miles v. Wainwright (CCB-07-2135)
Judge Catherine C. Blake
Counsel: Robert Biddle

Because of a change in Maryland law, the death sentence imposed on Jody Lee Miles was commuted to life without parole. Related proceedings remain pending.

(2) United States v. Lighty (PJM-03-0457)
Judge Peter J. Messitte
Counsel: Seth Rosenthal and Julie Brain

The Court determined to hear Petitioner's *Batson/J.E.B.* claims separately from his other claims. The parties, through counsel, consented to multiple extensions of time for the filing of briefs. A supplemental brief was filed by defense counsel on May 19, 2014. A Memorandum Opinion was issued on October 30, 2014 denying Petitioner's Motion for Discovery related to *Batson/J.E.B.* claims. On March 11, 2015, the Government clarified that it will rely on their previously filed briefs, at which point the *Batson/J.E.B.* claims also is pending decision. Petitioner's Motion for Discovery related to other claims is currently ripe for decision.

Patent Pilot Project

The District Court continued its fourth year of participation in a ten-year national pilot program for studying patent cases. In fiscal year 2015, 22 new patent cases were filed in the district, 13 of which (or approximately 59%) were either initially assigned or randomly reassigned to one of our four patent pilot judges: Judge Marvin J. Garbis, Judge George J. Hazel, Judge William D. Quarles, Jr., and Judge Roger W. Titus. Additionally, one multi district litigation patent case, *In re CTP Innovations*, MDL No. 2581, was assigned to Judge Garbis for pretrial proceedings. The district judges participating as patent pilot judges changed during this year; Judge Hazel became a patent pilot judge on February 1, 2015, and Judge Quarles ended his participation in the pilot program on April 2, 2015, in advance of his scheduled retirement in February 2016.

The following chart shows the District Court’s patent case statistics for the year ending on September 30, 2015, as well as the statistics for the two prior fiscal years.

	2013	2014	2015
Patent Cases (NOS: 830)	17	26	22*
Patent Cases Assigned or Reassigned to Patent Judges	14	18	13
Percent of Patent Cases with Patent Judges	82%	69%	59%

*Excluding multidistrict litigation assignments.

Magistrate Judge Statistics

While the district’s magistrate judges primarily sit in the Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses, they also hold hearings at off-site locations, including the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Andrews Air Force Base, the Naval Academy, Fort Ritchie/Fort Detrick, Fort Meade, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the M.R. Toulson Federal Building and Salisbury courthouse. Magistrate judges also hear dockets of cases from the United States Park Police, the National Institutes of Health and five other federal facilities. Combined, these dockets constitute the largest volume of traffic and parking violations in the country, as well as the largest miscellaneous and Class A misdemeanor dockets in the federal judiciary.

Various federal arresting agencies issued 26,133 new misdemeanor and petty offense citations in fiscal year 2015, and 18,717 of these were referred to our court. The magistrate judges presided over 5,724 mandatory appearances, and 12,993 collateral appearances. Dispositions were reached as to 32,473 citations. Of the fines issued by magistrate judges, \$2,166,168.43 has been collected.

The work of the court’s magistrate judges also included presiding over preliminary proceedings in felony criminal cases. During fiscal year 2015, magistrate judges held 942 initial appearances (compared to 1,035 in fiscal year 2014), 469 detention hearings, and 590 arraignments. The magistrate judges also regularly reviewed proposed criminal complaints, arrest warrants, search warrants, pen registers, and applications for other investigative materials. The magistrate judges saw a decrease in search and seizure warrants – 1,695, compared to 1,774 in fiscal year 2014. Arrest warrants increased to 1,326, as compared to 1,263 the previous fiscal year.

United States Magistrate Judge Statistics Preliminary Felony Matters FY 2015

	Initial Appearances	Detention Hearings	Arraignments	Arrest Warrants	Search & Seizure Warrants	Criminal Complaints
Northern Division	650	336	376	711	991	178
Southern Division	292	133	214	615	704	149
TOTAL	942	469	590	1326	1695	327

The magistrate judges play an integral role in management of the civil docket of the District Court. With the consent of the parties, the magistrate judges may conduct all proceedings, including jury trials in all types of civil cases. During the past year, consents were filed in 421 cases (221 of which were Social Security Administration appeals). Magistrate judges also handled 83 referrals for discovery motions, 90 referrals for post-judgment matters, and 679 referrals for other reasons (primarily settlement conferences).

One of the primary responsibilities of magistrate judges is holding settlement conferences. In fiscal year 2015, the magistrate judges conducted 669 Settlement/Mediation conferences. This program has been very successful because the magistrate judges devote the time necessary to master the record and explore settlement in depth with the parties and counsel. The court frequently receives letters from counsel expressing gratitude for the assistance of magistrate judges in resolving seemingly intractable cases.

Clerk's Office

In fiscal year 2015, the District Court Clerk's Office was allotted 118.4 positions, including court reporters and pro se staff attorneys. After very low staffing numbers in previous years, this budget allowed the Clerk's Office to continue to fill additional vacancies in order to decrease workloads and reduce stress levels for onboard staff that have had to shoulder increased job responsibilities. The Clerk's Office increased on-board staffing from 83 positions in fiscal year 2014 to 87 positions in fiscal year 2015. The office also utilized two paid student interns this year to provide assistance in legal and specialized areas. Although the Clerk's Office was able to fill more vacancies than in recent fiscal years, the office continues to adjust job responsibilities and to examine work flow prior to making any new hiring decisions.

Fiscal year 2015 brought many staffing changes to the District Court. This year the District of Maryland lost almost 200 years of government service to retirement. Gail Simpkins, Official Court Reporter, retired on January 30, 2015; Evelyn Mann, Executive Assistant to the Clerk of Court, retired on June 28, 2015; Hannah Merez, Courtroom Deputy Clerk, retired on July 31, 2015; Luis Rivera, IT Support Specialist, retired on August 31; and on September 30, 2015, Patricia Fosbrook, Deputy in Charge, Valerie Sutton, Space & Facilities Specialist, and Loretta Washington, Jury and Naturalizations Clerk, all retired. Each retiree was honored and acknowledged by certificates from U.S. Senators Cardin and Mikulski and the Administrative Office during ceremonies attended by courthouse staff.

On March 13, 2015, the position of Clerical Assistant was eliminated by the Administrative Office leading to the termination of five employees in five District Judges' Chambers: Ruby Devine, Mary Patterson, Lisa Qi, Beth Thomas and Flora Young. Additionally, five District Court employees left the court to pursue other opportunities.

Fiscal year 2015 brought about new hires to the District Court. Increased budget stability allowed for the addition of Sierra Dennison and Jacob Harner as Interns, Beth Desmond as a part-time Staff Attorney, Nicole Dupree and Kendra West as Case Administrators, Nichole Hall as a Courtroom Deputy Clerk, Andrew Hood and Nigel Roberts as Information Technology Specialists, Evelyn Mann as the Executive Assistant to the Clerk of Court, Tonia Moorehead as a

Financial Technician, Kiara Snipes as CJA Technician, LaKeisha Lynch as a Procurement Specialist, Katie Ridegway as an Intake Clerk, Diana Schwarzmann as a Procurement Specialist, and Douglas Zweizig as an Official Court Reporter.

In order to maintain conservative staffing numbers, the District Court continued to examine work flows to determine the feasibility of making adjustments to current employee responsibilities prior to making any new hiring decisions. The following position changes took place in fiscal year 2015: Mary Russell was transferred from Operations Specialist to Courtroom Deputy Clerk, Nicole Bierman was transferred from CJA Specialist to Jury and Naturalizations Clerk, Jacob Harner was promoted from Intern to Administrative Specialist, Andrew Hood was promoted from Information Technology Specialist to Network Administrator, Bill Jackson transferred from a Procurement Specialist to Jury and Naturalizations Clerk, Amanda Otto was promoted from Case Administrator to Case Administration Supervisor, Katina Tyson was promoted from Courtroom Deputy Clerk to Courtroom Deputy Supervisor, and Kathleen Vockroth was promoted from Jury and Naturalizations Clerk to Courtroom Deputy Clerk.

Additionally, the Clerk's Office is responsible for the entrance and exit of all term law clerks for the District Court, as well as the law clerks for the Fourth Circuit based in the northern Baltimore courthouse. In fiscal year 2015, human resources staff prepared exit paperwork and conducted individual exit interviews for 28 law clerks leaving the court. During the same time frame, entrance paperwork, form processing, orientations, and individual meetings were prepared and conducted for 28 incoming District Court law clerks and ten Fourth Circuit clerks.

Finance

During fiscal year 2015, the Clerk's Office receipted 13,945 financial transactions for funds totaling \$149,666,715.89 on behalf of the district and disbursed 13,127 checks totaling \$23,210,024.50. The finance office also managed the deposit fund of \$6,843,246.88 and registry funds with a balance of \$7,064,644.64 as of September 30, 2015. The District Court continued to maintain a non-appropriated attorney admissions fund and the balance on this account was \$341,813.10 as of the end of September 2015.

The District Court started using Rest Assured – a finance application developed by the Northern District of Texas – for some financial transactions to assist with the administrative burdens of processing criminal debt collection and disbursement. Additionally, the Administrative Office implemented a new monthly reconciliation tool named CARS (Central Accounting Reporting System). Our district also went through a cyclical audit in June 2015.

The finance office lost long-time member Somaly Pal, who transferred to the federal court in San Francisco. Tonia Moorehead was subsequently hired to fill the vacancy.

Information Technology

During fiscal year 2015, the District Court continued to improve technology services within the courtrooms. Previously contracted digital upgrades were completed in the remaining built-in technology courtrooms. Infrastructure and technology designs were completed for the magistrate judge courtrooms and the ceremonial courtroom in the Greenbelt courthouse. Our courtroom technology specialist, Michael Garces, continued shared-services with the

Administrative Office (AO) working on testing new technologies for courtrooms and updating contracting documents such as Schedule B for the Courtroom Technology BPA. He also redesigned the grand jury rooms in both divisions to provide better electronic presentation display and audio capture. In order to assist with recording of in-chambers conferences, stand-alone FTR recording stations were designed and implemented in both clerk's offices. The majority of the equipment for both of these projects was repurposed from recent courtroom renovations.

National applications upgrades, including Informix 11.70, JMS 9.09, and eJuror 2.15, were completed during the fiscal year. The CM/ECF administrator, Mary Doughney, assisted with the configurations for eVoucher, Rest Assured and Jedi. Additionally, Websense servers were updated to the latest version and migrated to the AO hosting center.

Local programming efforts continued to focus on enhancing administrative attorney functions including automating CM/ECF account creation for the attorney registration system (ABAM), automating the CM/ECF registration process, creating a system for notifying and updating attorney pro bono statuses and profile information in CM/ECF, and completing enhancements to the attorney renewal process. Application and data servers were migrated to new Windows 2008R2 virtual platform servers.

The local internet server was updated to Windows 2008R2, duplicated to create a robust Continuity of Operations server, and migrated to the AO hosted data centers enhancing our internet services during local system outages. Content and management pages for the internet were updated including the CJA and Find My Case Administrator website pages and the management pages for judicial biographies. Also, all new employees attended an IT security training before they were issued District Court computer credentials.

Interpreter Statistics

Language	Events	Cost
Arabic	3	\$905
CART	1	\$937
Foochow	1	\$665
French	2	\$248
Hindi	1	\$495
Japanese	4	\$2,029
Korean	1	\$483
Mandarin	4	\$1,748
Nepali	1	\$453
Russian	14	\$5,214
Sign (American)	7	\$3,221
Spanish	250	\$83,062
Tagalog	3	\$1,437
Tamil	1	\$528
Urdu	3	\$1,526
Vietnamese	3	\$1,211
Yoruba	1	\$340
Totals	300	\$104,502

Jury and Naturalizations Services

Petit Jury

Trial jurors for our district are summoned to serve for a one-month or one-trial term of service. 11,935 jurors were summoned for jury service in fiscal year 2015. A total of 3,491 trial jurors reported to the court for participation in 80 jury trials. 47 jury trials were held in criminal cases, and 33 were held in civil cases. Below is a comparison of the last three fiscal years.

2013	2014	2015
4,113 trial jurors reported 94 jury trials (56cr/38cv) with 13, 665 jurors summoned	2,578 jurors reported 62 jury trials (34cr/28cv) with 12,236 jurors summoned	3,491 jurors reported 80 jury trials (47cr/33cv) with 11,935 jurors summoned

Grand Jury

The District Court has five active grand juries, two sitting in Greenbelt and three sitting in Baltimore. A total of 3,013 grand jurors spent 924 hours in session, convening 152 times during the fiscal year.

Below is a comparison of the last three years.

2013	2014	2015
3,794 grand jurors convened on 195 days, spending 1,051 hours in session	3,789 grand jurors convened on 181 days, spending 989 hours in session	3,013 grand jurors convened on 152 days, spending 924 hours in session

Five new grand juries were selected during this year: two in Greenbelt and three in Baltimore. Each of the five departing grand juries were given an appreciation luncheon at the end of their terms of service, hosted by the court's Jury Committee. The luncheons provide a platform for grand jurors to provide feedback on the experience of serving on the grand jury.

New Employees

Kathleen Vockroth was promoted to Courtroom Deputy after serving the Jury Department for eight years both in Greenbelt and Baltimore. This vacancy was filled by William Jackson in June 2015, after he was promoted from the position of Procurement Specialist. After 25 years as a Jury and Naturalization Clerk, Loretta Washington retired on September 29, 2015. Loretta's vacancy was filled on August 2015 by Nicole Bierman, who was promoted from the position of CJA Specialist.

Naturalizations

Naturalization ceremonies are scheduled twice a month in Baltimore and once a month in Greenbelt. A combined total of 26 ceremonies were held. This year, 921 applicants in

Baltimore and 402 in Greenbelt were sworn in as new citizens, making a total of 1,323 for the year. Below is a three year comparison.

2013	2014	2015
1,549 citizens naturalized 34 ceremonies	1,378 citizens naturalized 30 ceremonies	1,323 citizens naturalized 26 ceremonies

Several special naturalization ceremonies were held in Baltimore this year. On March 5, 2015, Magistrate Judge Beth P. Gesner presided over a special ceremony in the Baltimore courthouse. The fourth grade class of Severn School participated. The students researched the countries represented and their own heritage and delivered speeches on the importance of the day.

On April 16, 2015, second grade students from Gilman School participated in the naturalization ceremony presided over by Magistrate Judge Stephanie A. Gallagher.

On September, 17, 2015, a special ceremony was held at the War Memorial building in Baltimore. Judge Gesner presided over the ceremony where 233 applicants were naturalized as new citizens.

In March 2015, The League of Women Voters of Maryland began participating during the Greenbelt post-naturalization receptions hosted by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Their role is to assist new citizens with registering to vote.

Space & Facilities

In 2015, the space and facilities department was able to commit to a number of projects in both the Baltimore and Greenbelt courthouses. Baltimore projects began with a design to completely renovate and install digital AV systems in courtrooms 7B and 7C. Additional funding and design work were provided for an eighth floor visiting judge office and CJA shared space. The District Court funded several cyclical maintenance and construction projects in 2015, such as the carpet replacement in chambers 5D, carpet replacement and kitchen renovation in chambers 7D, and carpet, paint, and kitchen renovations in chambers 5A. We provided funding for our eighth floor grand jury suite. The funding for this project included new paint and new carpet for the entire suite to include the installation of an AV system. Funding was also provided to re-carpet four secure chamber hallways.

Greenbelt projects began with cyclical maintenance and digital AV upgrades to courtrooms 3A, 3B, and our Ceremonial Courtroom. The grand jury room received new paint and carpet as well as the installation of a completely updated AV system. Funding was also provided to repaint and replace worn carpeting in all three chambers secure hallways. Progress continued on the ongoing five-phase construction project carried over from 2014. The Greenbelt courthouse also provided space to install the Historical Society's new Civil Rights exhibit in the public space on the fourth floor.

Human Resources

With a better budget situation this fiscal year, we were able to offer additional local training opportunities to staff. In March 2015, staff members were able to attend the Annual Federal Women's Training and Awards Program sponsored by the Federal Executive Board. The training program included a variety of workshops that the employees could choose from to develop specific skills.

In June 2015, the Clerk's Office took advantage of an off-site, all-day judicial training. Since we have had a large number of employees start in the last few years, we coordinated with the Federal Judiciary Center for trainers to present on the Code of Conduct and Preventing Workplace Harassment and did our own presentation on IT security.

In anticipation of the changes surrounding the implementation of a new performance management program, every effort was made to provide training to all supervisors via WebEx programs and one-on-one training sessions. In April 2015, supervisors attended the FJC's new program Managing Organizational Transition at a local off-site location. Aware of the difficulties of change, the goal was to provide supervisors with tools available to them to assist staff through the change in process. In June 2015, the supervisors also participated in a two-day customized performance management training again at a local off-site location. This training was designed to provide the supervisors with the tools to successfully write performance appraisals, have performance meetings with staff and provide training and development to staff through the performance appraisal process.

In addition to the office-wide training sessions, the human resources staff has taken every opportunity available to stay current on the benefits that affect staff specifically in the areas of health insurance, retirement and the Thrift Savings Program (TSP). During fiscal year 2015, Tracee Jones, Human Resources Specialist, attended a three-day retirement seminar, a full-day TSP session and participated in numerous WebEx programs related to the influx of changes for the upcoming benefits open season. The information learned at these sessions has helped to provide increased support to the staff in the area of benefits. Tina Stavrou, Human Resources Administrator, attended the Human Resources forum sponsored by the Bankruptcy Court of the Western District of Tennessee, as well as attended various WebEx programs on a variety of human resources topics and policies.

Tina Stavrou continued her two-year term as a member of the Administrative Office's HRSAG committee. This committee is comprised of employees from various departments of the Administrative Office and one human resources representative per circuit. Human Resource Systems Analysis Circuit representatives solicit questions, problems and/or concerns from their circuit and present them to the committee for discussion. The goal of this committee is to identify issues and concerns as it pertains to systems and processes and then work with the Administrative Office to find ways to correct these issues. Tina also participated in a working group to provide feedback on the new J-Net careers page.

Additionally, Jarrett Perlow, Chief Deputy Clerk, continued his three-year term as a member of the Administrative Office's Human Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC), which

provides advice to the Administrative Office on the needs and views of the court concerning judiciary-wide human resources matters including operational personnel management, core and supplemental benefits administration, training, work measurement, employee relations, fair employment practices, and statistics.

Bankruptcy Court

The Bankruptcy Court continued to be staffed by seven active judges and two recalled judges in fiscal year 2015. In April 2015, the Honorable S. Martin Teel, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Columbia was designated to serve as a bankruptcy judge in the District of Maryland to provide assistance during Judge Paul Mannes's extended medical absence. Also in April 2015, Judge David E. Rice was cross-designated to sit in the District of Columbia to provide coverage when Judge Teel was unavailable to adjudicate matters in the district. Additionally, Chief Judge Alquist served as the Fourth Circuit Representative Member of the Board of Governors for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) during fiscal year 2015.

Throughout fiscal year 2015, the judges of the court as well as the Clerk actively participated in events sponsored by the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of Maryland (BBA). The judges and the Clerk participated at the association's annual Spring Break continuing legal education seminar held in Annapolis in May. In September, Chief Judge Alquist and the Clerk addressed the BBA's Baltimore chapter about the state of the court. Judge Catliota, Judge Lipp, and the Clerk made a similar presentation in September to the BBA's Greenbelt chapter. In addition, the judges of the court participated throughout the year in numerous continuing legal education programs sponsored by the American Bankruptcy Institute and other organizations.

The Bankruptcy Court continues to enjoy a collegial relationship with the District Court. The Bankruptcy Court collaborates with the District Court on matters of mutual interest through a number of committees that meet regularly throughout the year, including Budget, Attorney Admission Fund, Bankruptcy Bar Association/U.S. District Court Liaison, Disciplinary & Admissions, IT, Security and Related Facilities.

The Bankruptcy Court convened a number of special bench meetings during fiscal year 2015 to consider extensive changes to its Local Rules as suggested by a joint committee from the BBA and the Consumer Bankruptcy Section of the Maryland State Bar Association.

Bankruptcy Case Statistics

In fiscal year 2015, bankruptcy case filings in the district continued to be robust with 18,235 new cases and 546 new adversary proceedings filed. Nevertheless, the court, like most bankruptcy courts across the nation, experienced a decline in total filings over fiscal year 2014. The overall decrease in new case filings from fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2015 was 13.2%, with a 16.1% decrease in the number of new Chapter 7 filings and a decrease of 6.3% in new Chapter 13 filings. However, Chapter 11 filings increased by 21.8% with a total of 173 filings in fiscal year 2015 compared to a total of 142 filings in fiscal year 2014.

In addition to administering a large number of new filings annually, the district's bankruptcy judges and staff must now spend a significant amount of time managing a great number of cases with self-represented debtors, which often require as much or more attention and time as complex Chapter 11 cases. The overall rate of self-represented filings in the district in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 cases has risen sharply and steadily in a short period of time from 11.1% in 2011, to 13.3% in 2012, 16.4% in 2013, and 20.8% in 2014. At the end of fiscal year 2015, the self-represented filing rate for Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 cases remained at the high rate of 20.8%, the fifth highest percentage filing rate nationally among all bankruptcy courts.

Bankruptcy Clerk's Office

The court held its fourth annual Community Service Day on May 2, 2015. Twenty-five staff members volunteered at three charities: the Maryland Food Bank, Second Chance, and Clagett Farm.

Throughout the year, the court's Strategic Training Committee provided staff members with a number of opportunities to enhance professional development. For example, the committee offered training on Making Yourself Indispensable at Work, M.E.E.T. on Common Ground, EARTH-The Operators Manual and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. The Strategic Training Committee continues to provide information to all staff as well as plan activities regarding heritage celebrations and holidays such as Black History Month, Maryland Day and Veterans' Day throughout the year. For example, the committee sponsored an after-hours event to see the movie *Selma* in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Staff members were also able to avail themselves of the training and professional development opportunities at both the District/Bankruptcy CM/ECF NextGen Forum in Dallas, Texas on May 19-20, 2015, and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks' annual conference held in Atlanta, Georgia from August 10 through August 13, 2015. Additionally, Ken Ridgeway, the Baltimore Division Manager (a certified Federal Judicial Center (FJC) Trainer) completed additional Personality Temperament Instrument (PTI) training. In February 2015, he conducted PTI training on behalf of the FJC for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico in San Juan. In June 2015, Mr. Ridgeway co-facilitated training on behalf of the FJC for the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Moreover, the Clerk and Chief Deputy Clerk attended the annual Conference of Clerks and Chief Deputies of the Fourth, Fifth, and DC Circuits in Oxford, Mississippi in August 2015.

In May 2015, the Bankruptcy Court recognized the hard work and dedication of its staff members at its Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony held in Baltimore. At the event, employees were presented with various awards, including length of service, team of the year, and employee of the year. Special recognition awards were presented to staff that performed exceptional service to chambers and the public.

The Clerk's administrative offices were relocated to space that had been utilized for storage. The reconfiguration of this space allowed the court to release approximately 5,000 square feet of office space to the General Services Administration and realize a significant rent

reduction. Additionally, working with an architect/project manager from the U.S. Probation Office for the Western District of Virginia, the Clerk has begun an analysis of how the Baltimore Division Operations space may be reorganized to meet current needs as well as offer flexibility for future changes.

For the Bankruptcy Court's IT team, fiscal year 2015 was a year of significant change. On August 20, 2015, the court's long-term IT manager, Rick Thompson, transferred to another court unit outside the District. After an extensive recruitment effort, on September 21, 2015, Peter Smolianski joined the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office as its Director of IT. Mr. Smolianski continued the strategic effort to consolidate, modernize and upgrade systems infrastructure, software applications and IT support services. He also continued the Bankruptcy Court's long-term collaboration with the District Court on a number of IT initiatives to the benefit to both courts.

The CM/ECF production and test database and application environments were moved from the local server room to the enterprise data center hosted by the Administrative Office (AO) Department of Technology Services. In addition to the tangible benefits of economies of scale and explicit centralization incentives, this strategic move prepared the court for future national projects implementations and improves high availability and disaster recovery of the mission critical systems and data.

Additional AO-backed implementations included deployment and proliferation of national wireless service, migration to the centralized web monitoring and filtering platform, and WAN diversity implementation. Bankruptcy Court staff worked with District Court IT staff on all these projects as part of a shared service agreement.

The 2015 software modernization efforts consisted of selection and design of the court's enterprise content management and collaboration system, database applications and business workflow development platform, and conversion and CM/ECF integration of approximately 120 forms. On the infrastructure end, the Bankruptcy and District Court IT teams deployed Power over Ethernet (PoE) switches throughout the enterprise in support of a national Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) project, installed Wireless Access Points (WAPs) and corresponding cabling to enable national wireless services in all court locations, and procured a new fully-integrated Storage Area Network (SAN) and Network Attached Storage (NAS), hosting all local files and databases.

Throughout the year, server and desktop virtualization was a major undertaking. Additional Bankruptcy and District Court servers were moved to a virtualized environment, a new virtualized environment backup technology was deployed, and preparations were made to implement a virtualized AO-backed Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) environment.

Additional Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) modules were deployed to Bankruptcy and District Court server rooms, and network closet UPSs were upgraded. A contract consolidation effort for all UPS devices and services throughout the enterprise was initiated.

In September 2015, the first IT Security Assessment of the Bankruptcy and District Court

was completed. The AO assessment team evaluated the security of management, operational, and technical IT safeguards at the courts. Overall, both courts demonstrated that security has been incorporated into their culture and that it has been integrated into the IT systems management practices. Additional recommended best practices were identified and are currently being implemented.

As noted, the Bankruptcy Court continued its long-standing tradition of sharing administrative services where doing so will increase efficiencies and reduce costs for the judiciary. Towards that end, the Court continued sharing agreements with the District Court for network support and shared server rooms as well as with the Probation and Pretrial Service Office for procurement services. The Court also collaborated with a number of other bankruptcy courts on various projects. Such projects included the District of Delaware providing a financial assessment of the court to meet internal auditing requirements, the development of a content management platform with the Northern District of Iowa, and the sharing of information technology consulting services with the District of South Carolina. Additionally, a member of the Clerk's Office IT staff continued a work share agreement with the AO assisting with programming and analysis for the Next Generation of CM/ECF. Evidencing his continued value to the AO on this project, the programmer was asked to renew the TDY for calendar year 2016.

Probation and Pretrial Services

Probation and pretrial services functions in the District of Maryland are consolidated under the leadership of William Henry. The office is organized into three departments: (i) the Pretrial Services Department, which has 19 employees; (ii) the Presentence Investigation Department, which has 19 employees; and (iii) the Supervision Department, which has 71 employees. Additionally, there are 35 employees that directly support the work of the officers in all departments. Over the past fiscal year, the office supervised approximately 3,850 individuals and conducted approximately 2,000 pretrial and presentence investigations. Presentence investigators completed 697 drug amendment investigations resulting from the U.S. Sentencing Commission's Amendment 782 to the Drug Quantity Table.

Pretrial Investigators prepare reports for the Court that thoroughly, but succinctly, describe a defendant's background, identify risk factors, and recommend appropriate release conditions, or detention as warranted. Our detention rate continues to be well below the national average. Pretrial supervision officers assist defendants to comply with court ordered conditions, support positive change, and provide access to services that will help them be successful on supervision and beyond.

We fully implemented the Presentence Module of PACTS/PSX. This module has streamlined the report writing process, increased the consistency and uniformity of reports, and follows the format recommended by the Administrative Office. The Supervision Department continued its efforts to assist offenders in obtaining job training, as well as meaningful employment. We continued our collaboration with the Maryland Department of Labor and One Stop Career Centers, to provide offenders assistance with obtaining identification, GED

preparation and testing, resume preparation, individualized employment plans, job search strategies and techniques, and referrals to outside training programs. Two supervisors and two deputy chiefs attended a national conference hosted by the Federal Judicial Center which focused on preparing for the challenge of numerous offenders being released early due to the amendments to the drug quantity table.

Officers participated in multiple training programs aimed at further developing and expanding their knowledge and skills. Much of the training attended by officers focused on substance abuse and mental health, including the Tuerk Conference on Substance Abuse and Mental Health, the annual Maryland Social Work Conference, Recognizing the Impact of Gambling on Recovery, the Harford County Drug Symposium, and the Governor’s Conference on Human Trafficking/Substance Relationships. Other significant conferences and training programs included the National Location Monitoring Conference, the National Pretrial Services Conference, the USSC Sentencing Guidelines Conference, Pharmacology training, Resources for Veterans, the Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association Conference, financial training in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney’s Office Financial Litigation Unit, and the Fourth Circuit and DC Circuit Gang Conference. All officers participated in mandatory safety training and officers were recertified in defensive driving. Many support staff and officers attended Verbal Judo training (remaining centered and focused during challenging verbal exchanges) as well. Those attending the Annual Employee Recognition Awards Program participated in a program featuring a motivational speaker whose presentation focused on improving communication.

ATTORNEY ADMISSIONS

As of October 1, 2015, the District Court bar had 12,574 active members. The court holds monthly admissions ceremonies in both courthouses and averages 41 new admitted bar members each month. On April 3, 2015, the court held a special admission ceremony as part of the Federal Bar Association’s Introduction to Federal Practice in the Baltimore courthouse. Below is a comparison of the last three years.

	2013	2014	2015
New Admissions	475	509	489
Renewed Members	1519	1443	1364
Reactivated and Reinstatement Members	197	177	226
Admissions Pro Hac Vice	946	1051	856

Continuing efforts begun three years ago to reduce expenses and increase the quality of service available to the bar, the Clerk’s Office completed its project to automatically generate new CM/ECF credentials to attorneys upon their admission to the bar, which eliminated the need for attorneys to register separately for CM/ECF access after admission. These upgrades to the Clerk’s Office’s electronic bar application system, Attorney Bar Admission Management (ABAM), were presented by Michael Davis and Kenneth Sheain at the 2015 District/Bankruptcy CM/ECF NextGen Forum in Dallas, Texas. ABAM was developed in conjunction with the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California and went live in our district in August 2013.

COOP AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

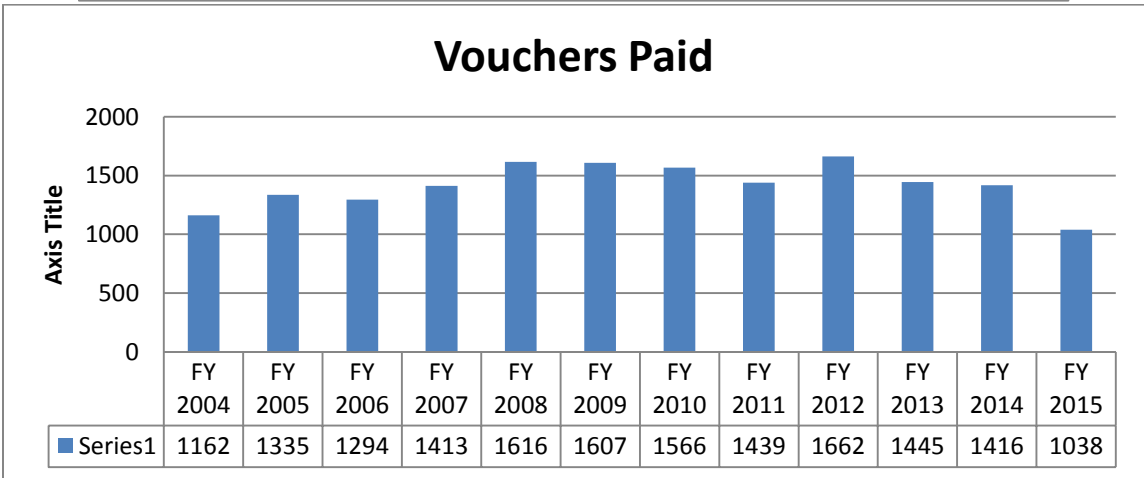
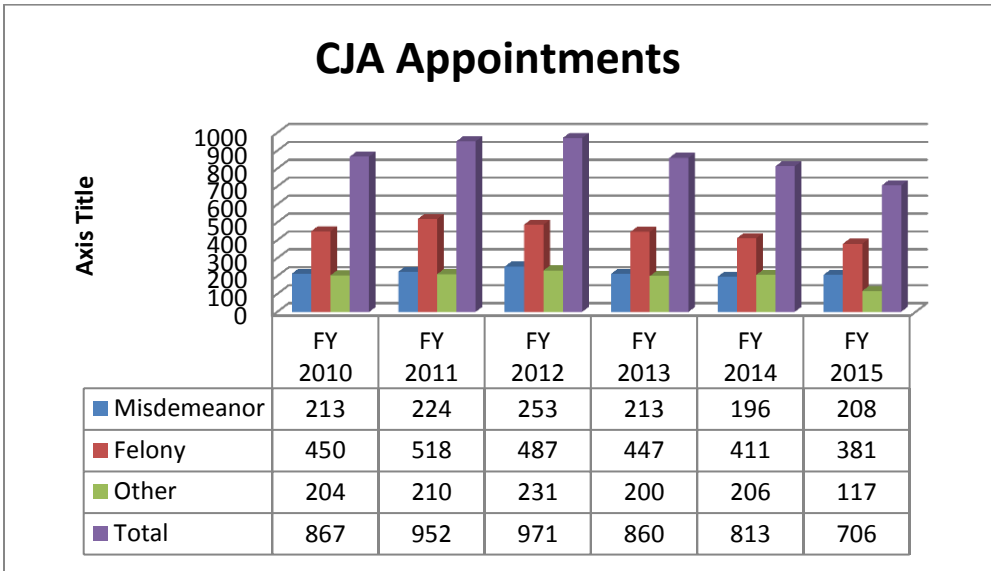
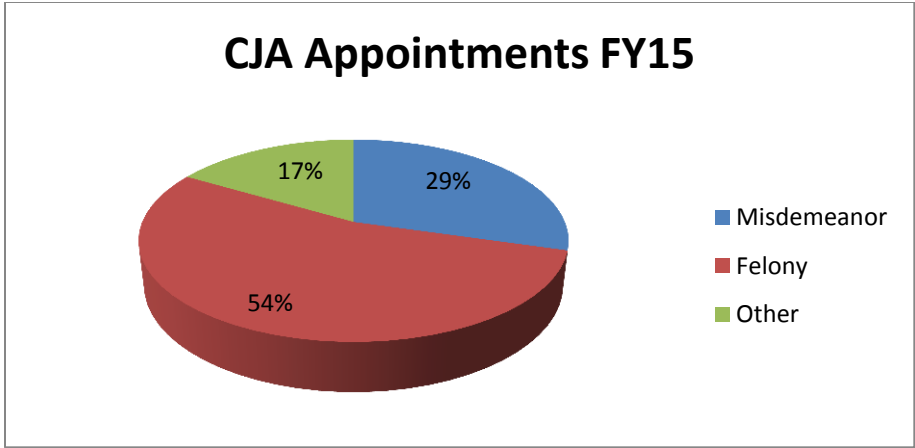
The District has become involved in the city and state emergency preparedness plans because the northern division courthouse is located in a major downtown area. In the event of an attack requiring the dispensing of medicine, the federal building across the street from the Baltimore Courthouse will become a dispensing site and certain identified federal employees will serve as form reviewers and medicine dispensers. In September 2015, Tina Stavrou participated in the Closed Point of Dispensing Site Annual Drill, where they reviewed the procedures on how to determine the type of medicine to be given, how to dispense the medicine and how to handle individuals during this type of crisis. In consultation with the United States Marshals Service, the District continues to conduct annual training on building evacuations and other emergency responses.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT (CJA) COORDINATING ATTORNEY

CJA Coordinating Attorney, Maureen Essex, continues to act as a liaison between the Court and the CJA felony and misdemeanor panel attorneys. Ms. Essex works closely with the United States Attorney's Office and Pretrial Services to ensure that attorneys are appointed to represent defendants at the earliest stage of criminal proceedings. Her office coordinates appointments of counsel and maintains conflict lists in multiple defendant cases.

Ms. Essex is assisted by a CJA Specialist, whose support is invaluable. The CJA Specialist carefully audits each voucher for mathematical accuracy and compliance with CJA Guidelines. Once a thorough review of the submitted vouchers has been completed, the CJA Specialist forwards them to Ms. Essex for a reasonableness review and approval if the voucher is below the case compensation maximum. If the voucher exceeds the case compensation maximum, Ms. Essex prepares a memorandum or letter as appropriate to support the claim for the presiding judicial officer. In August 2015, Nicole Bierman transferred to Jury and Naturalization Services, completing nearly ten years of exceptional service with the CJA Office. Later that year, Kiara Snipes joined the CJA office.

In fiscal year 2015, Ms. Essex's office made 706 CJA appointments, representing a decrease as compared to fiscal year 2014. Capital cases were not a significant cost factor this fiscal year because none of the cases eligible for the death penalty were authorized by the Department of Justice.



Ms. Essex reviews all requests for expert funding. If the amount of funding requested is less than the statutory maximum and the requested funding is appropriate, she approves the request. If the requested funding level exceeds the statutory maximum of \$2,500.00, she reviews

the request, makes a recommendation, and then prepares a draft confidential memorandum to Chief Judge Traxler for the presiding judicial officer's review. Ms. Essex maintains a directory of experts and often attempts to negotiate a reduction in the requested hourly rate.

Ms. Essex attends the Court's CJA Committee meetings. She reviews and makes recommendations on all applications for the felony panel to the CJA Committee. She also prepares the CJA Committee meeting agenda and minutes.

In September 2014, at the request of Judge Thomas M. Hardiman, Chair of the Committee on Information Technology of the Judicial Conference, the District of Maryland agreed to serve as the mentor court for the Fourth Circuit for the implementation of the national electronic CJA vouchering system, eVoucher. The District of Maryland went live on eVoucher on March 1, 2015.

DEBTOR ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Debtor Assistance Project (DAP), a collaborative effort between the court and its partner agencies, continued to provide services to individuals who filed bankruptcy petitions without an attorney, or were considering filing for bankruptcy and planned to be self-represented during fiscal year 2015. The program, which is overseen and managed by Judge Gordon, provides the services and expertise of volunteer bankruptcy attorneys to these debtors or potential debtors and operates in the Baltimore and Greenbelt federal courthouses, as well as on the Eastern Shore in Kent and Talbot Counties. Due primarily to scheduling and other administrative support from Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Services and Mid-Shore Pro Bono, two of the court's DAP partners, the DAP and its volunteers were able to provide 345 DAP consultations this year.

PRO SE STAFF ATTORNEYS

In fiscal year 2015, cases filed by self-represented prisoner litigants accounted for 20.8% of all civil filings in this district, a decrease of 4.1% from 2014. This decrease in prisoner filings does not appear to reflect a trend; the high number of civil rights filings during the previous year appears to be an outlier, in large part due to the year-long "lock-down" at Maryland's maximum security prison. Among prisoner cases, civil rights and habeas filings were almost equal, a definite shift from previous years. State habeas petitions, motions to vacate, and "other" habeas matters were filed in roughly the same proportion. Cases filed by self-represented non-prisoners comprised an additional 12.9% of the civil docket, an increase of three percent. For the seventh consecutive fiscal year, cases filed by self-represented prisoner and non-prisoner litigants accounted for one-third or more of all civil filings in the District of Maryland.

Following the Supreme Court decision in *Johnson v. United States*, prisoner inquiries regarding re-sentencing have begun. Responses to federal prisoner correspondence regarding copy work and requests for docket sheets – a responsibility assigned to the staff attorneys and their administrative assistant due to the sensitive nature of the material requested – have

increased more than 15% over the previous fiscal year to nearly 500. The court continues to see an increase in the number of motions filed in closed criminal cases, particularly motions filed under Fed. R. Civ. P. 60, Fed. R. Crim. P. 35, and 18 U.S.C. § 3582. Often, these motions must be re-characterized as motions to vacate under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The staff attorneys assist Clerk's Office personnel in identifying and interpreting these motions and requests. Additionally, the staff attorneys' administrative assistant responds to the bulk of other correspondence generated by inquiries from state prisoners.

Prisoner civil rights filings alleging gang-related violence in state prisons remain high, and prison transfer requests due to concerns for personal safety in light of gang violence continue to generate many civil rights challenges. Actions regarding allegations of assault at the hands of correctional personnel also remain steady, and state prisoners increasingly are challenging the services provided through the prison mental health care system. The state prison health care system remains in flux – a merger of health care providers has occurred, several new law firms are involved in representing various medical providers, and locating former health care providers to obtain service of process on medical defendants has become more time-consuming. Appointment of counsel is needed with greater frequency as it becomes increasingly difficult to resolve these cases on summary judgment. Further, fewer habeas corpus cases are dismissed in the early stages on procedural grounds, and appointment of counsel has occurred with greater frequency in these cases as well.

PRETRIAL DETENTION

In February 2011, the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center – the state's former "Super Max" facility – became solely dedicated to federal pretrial detainees through a new memorandum of understanding between the state and federal authorities. The facility is now known as the Chesapeake Detention Facility. Although not the ideal solution to our lack of a federal pretrial detention facility, the procurement of a secure facility dedicated to federal prisoners was a significant achievement for the district. The court has cooperated with the Marshal's Service, the Office of the Detention Trustee, and the State of Maryland in setting up the facility. Other contract facilities are utilized by the Marshal's Service for detention of other prisoners – particularly, those in the southern division – some of which are a six-hour roundtrip drive from the district's two courthouses. The need for CJA panel attorneys to travel to these outlying facilities significantly increases the cost of representations.

The court remains committed to working with the Marshal's Service in providing a secure environment for federal prisoners with adequate medical care; an effective and efficient visitation system for counsel and family members; and educational, counseling, and recreational opportunities. Some progress has been made in providing these services – particularly at Chesapeake – but as long as the Marshals Service is forced to rely on contract beds from local detention facilities, it will continue to be difficult to provide consistent standards.

CONCLUSION

The bench wishes to thank our visiting judges who handled several cases this year: Judge T.S. Ellis of the Eastern District of Virginia (Wikimedia Foundation et al. v. National Security Agency/Central Security Service); Judge David A. Faber of the Southern District of West Virginia (Butler v. United States, Wright v. United States, and Bond v. Hughes); Judge Joseph R. Goodwin of the Southern District of West Virginia (Sumner v. Maryland Judiciary/District Court of Maryland); and Judge Robert J. Conrad, Jr. of the Western District of North Carolina (National Association for the Advancement of Multijurisdiction Practice v. Holder). The bench also thanks the employees of the District and Bankruptcy Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services, and those of related agencies, for their continued hard work and dedication this year.