

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON
THE CONFERENCE OF ORPHANS' COURT JUDGES

WHEREAS, The Orphans' Courts are vested with enumerated powers under Article IV, § 40 of the Maryland Constitution; and

WHEREAS, A Conference of Orphans' Court Judges has existed since November 2003, whose purpose is to provide a forum for policy discussion, information exchange, professional development, and to assist and advise, as needed, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Judicial Council, the Conference of Circuit Judges, and the Administrative Office of the Courts; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to harmonize the structure of the Conference of Orphans' Court Judges within the governance structure adopted by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Constitution, do hereby order this 28th day of September 2015, effective immediately, that:

- (A) Membership. The Conference shall consist of fourteen Orphans' Court Judges appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.
- (B) Terms. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall appoint, effective January 1, 2016, seven members to an initial term of one year and the remaining members to a term of two years, subject to reappointment. All subsequent terms for all members shall be two years. Effective January 1, 2016, no member may serve more than two consecutive terms of two years.

(C) Officers.

- (1) The Conference of Orphans' Court Judges shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.
- (2) In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair.

(D) Quorum; Meetings; Staff.

- (1) A majority of the Conference members constitutes a quorum.
- (2) The Conference shall meet at least four times a year, in Annapolis, at the times the Conference determines.
- (3) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall serve as secretariat to the Conference.

(E) Functions. The Conference shall:

- (1) Exchange ideas and views on matters relating to the operation, management, and leadership of the Orphans' Courts;
- (2) Consider and make recommendations to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Judicial Council, the Conference of Circuit Judges, and the State Court Administrator regarding legislation and policies affecting the operation of the Orphans' Courts;
- (3) Provide advice on such other matters as the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Conference of Circuit Judges, or the State Court Administrator may request from time to time;
- (4) Consider and make recommendations to the Education Committee of the Judicial Council regarding the professional development of Orphans Court Judges; and
- (5) Provide a forum for mentoring of Orphans Court Judges.

(F) The previous Administrative Order Creating the Conference of Orphans' Court Judges, filed November 18, 2003, shall be and hereby is rescinded.

/s/ Mary Ellen Barbera
Mary Ellen Barbera
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Filed: September 28, 2015

/s/ Bessie M. Decker
Bessie M. Decker
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland