

**THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE**

Hon. ALAN M. WILNER, Chair  
Hon. ROBERT A. ZARNOCH, Vice-Chair  
SANDRA F. HAINES, Reporter  
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February 16, 2012

Henry R. Dugan, Jr., President  
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Paul V. Carlin, Esq., Executive Director  
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Paul H. Ethridge, Esq., Chair  
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Phillip Tyson Bennett, Esq., Chair  
Rules of Practice Committee, MSBA  
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Dear Mssrs. Dugan, Carlin, Ethridge, and Bennett:

For some time, the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and procedure has been working on a reorganization of the rules dealing with general court administration, attorneys, and judges. We have ready a preliminary draft of the first two segments - general court administration and attorneys.

Both of those drafts provide not only for a collection and reorganization of all of the Rules governing those subjects, but also an updating of the Rules, removal of inconsistencies, clarification of ambiguities, and, in some instances, taking some different approaches in light of problems that have surfaced with regard to the existing Rules. Most of the proposed new general

court administration Rules have already been approved by the General Court Administration Subcommittee and will be submitted to the full Rules Committee beginning in March or April. The preliminary draft of the Rules on attorneys will be submitted to the Attorneys Subcommittee in meetings scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, and May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We are e-mailing the preliminary drafts of both sets of Rules to you with the request that you inform whatever sections and committees of the Maryland State Bar Association that may have an interest in them. Meetings of the full Rules Committee are open meetings, and representatives of the MSBA are always welcome to attend and present their views. Subcommittee meetings are not subject to the open meetings law, but we do invite interested persons and groups to attend and participate, and, in that regard, we would appreciate the input of the MSBA on the attorney Rules as they are considered by the subcommittee. Please keep in mind that these are preliminary drafts that are open for full and frank discussions.

If you would like any further information regarding meeting schedules, please call Ms. Cathy Cox at (410)260-3630. I also am available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan M. Wilner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alan M. Wilner  
Chair

AMW:cdc