



## ALEXIS BURRELL-ROHDE

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The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Support (FAV) – SB 116 – Orphans’ Court Judges – Restrictions on Practicing Law**

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

My name is Alexis Burrell-Rohde. I am the Register of Wills for Baltimore County and testifying in favor of Senate Bill 116. I am not representing the views of the Registers of Wills Association or of any other Register of Wills.

Under current law, in most jurisdictions in Maryland, the Judges of the Orphans’ Court do not need to be attorneys. Also, in most jurisdictions, attorneys would need to give up their law practice should they want to serve as an Orphans’ Court judge. This means that very few attorneys serve as Orphans’ Court judges. Being an attorney is a great advantage when being a judge. SB 116 would enable more attorneys to serve as Orphans’ Court judges and would professionalize the Orphans’ Court leading to more efficient hearings and better outcomes for the people of Maryland.

I respectfully recommend a favorable report on Senate Bill 116 and appreciate the Committee’s thoughtful attention.

Best regards,

  
Alexis Burrell Rohde

Register of Wills  
Baltimore County