

**SB0471 Circuit Court Clerks and Registers of Wills – Maximum Salary**  
**Judicial Proceedings – February 12, 2026**

**Sponsors: Senator William C. Smith, Jr. and Senator Michael W. McKay**

**Position: Favorable**

**Testimony of Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Prince George’s County**

Thank you, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the committee, for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 471. For the record, my name is Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George’s County. I am also representing the 24 elected Clerks of the Circuit Court.

The Circuit Court Clerks are the administrative arm of the court, but we are truly the heartbeat of the courthouse. We are often the first point of contact for the public. People cannot speak directly to judges, and usually must engage an attorney before obtaining legal advice, which often comes at a cost many cannot afford. While we cannot give legal advice, we can direct people to resources, and most importantly, we listen to their concerns and treat them with kindness and compassion as they navigate a complicated and often intimidating process.

Collectively, Clerks oversee more than 1,500 employees statewide and handle about 200,000 new case filings every year. The job we do, largely behind the scenes, impacts people’s lives. Among our many responsibilities, we make sure that millions of pages of documents related to these cases are processed in a timely and efficient manner. When a matter is before a judge, the Clerks are the ones to make sure the case is in the right place at the right time. When a judge sentences a defendant to incarceration, we ensure that sentence is properly recorded so there are no mistakes releasing someone too soon or keeping them longer than they should. We also ensure guardians are assigned to care for vulnerable individuals and process audits to make sure property is not stolen.

Beyond the courtroom, we serve as the recorder of deeds, maintaining land records that drive Maryland's economy. We record transactions worth billions and collect over 400 million dollars in land record revenues annually. Without the circuit court clerks, the real estate market stalls. We also preserve history, people come to us to look up marriage records and land titles. We timely process expungements that give individuals a second chance. In addition, we act as the "justice of the peace," issuing more than 40,000 marriage licenses annually and performing approximately 16,000 ceremonies each year, moments that matter deeply to Maryland families.

I ask for a favorable report on SB 471, and I would like to thank Chairman Smith and Senator McKay for sponsoring this bill.