

RON WATSON, PH.D  
Legislative District 23B  
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,  
Information Technology and  
Biotechnology



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 12, 2020

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0474: Court of Appeals and Court of Special Appeals –  
Renaming**

Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chair and distinguished members of the committee. I come to urge a favorable report for HB0474, which renames the Court of Appeals and Special Court of Appeals of Maryland. This is the same bill introduced last session and nothing has changed regarding the content of the bill.

The bill will be on the ballot for the November 2020 general elections, where the voters will make the determination to move forward with this measure. In addition, the bill calls for the name change of the Court of Appeals which would be named The Supreme Court of Maryland and the Maryland Appellate Court is the successor to the Court of Special Appeals.

The Courts of Special Appeals was created in 1966 and originally heard only criminal cases, however, its jurisdiction expanded so that it now can considers any reviewable judgement, decree, order or action of the circuit or orphan courts unless provided by the law. Many states across the country have their highest court named the Supreme Court and their immediate court named after the Appellate Court. Only the State of New York and Maryland have their highest courts bear the name of “Court of Appeals” rather than “Supreme Court.”

In closing, I would ask the committee to vote favorable on House Bill 0474.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron G. Watson".

Delegate Ron Watson, District 23B