



**Margaret D. Rappaport, Clerk of Court
Howard County, Maryland**

[Home](#)

**(Photos: Professional portrait of Margy; Courthouse photo;
Margy interacting with citizen at customer window)**

(Testimonial as an italicized quote(s) on page)

Re-election 2010

For the past two decades, the administrative and operational functions of Howard County's Circuit Court have been steered by the capable and proficient hands of Margaret D. Rappaport. Margy –as she's known by friends, associates and those whose journey through the maze of bureaucracy has been made a little easier by her—has been a dedicated public servant whose sole mission is to make Howard County Government work more effectively for its citizens.

And the county's residents have rewarded Margy's commitment and results with five consecutive terms as Howard County's Clerk of Court. 2010 is an election year and, not surprisingly, she is seeking another term as your advocate within the Circuit Court. As she says, there's lots more work to do, and no one knows better where all the papers are filed than Margy Rappaport! She and her staff have been responsible for transitioning Howard County's public records from musty storerooms and file cabinets to the Internet, making vital information readily accessible to the public, and easier than ever to use.

The [duties of Clerk of Court](#) <link to *What is Clerk of Court?*> are numerous and often complex, requiring a seasoned veteran's experience and a forward-thinking approach as we enter this second decade of the 21st Century. Quite frankly, with 20 years on the job, coupled with her embrace of expanding technology, there simply is no one more qualified than Margy Rappaport to serve Howard County's citizens in this capacity.

In election years past, and even today, some of Margy’s opponents have advocated radical new systems and procedures to streamline the workings of the court. What they fail to understand is that while the actual individual that serves as Clerk of Court is elected by the citizens of Howard County, the position itself is a *Maryland State* post. As such, most aspects of technology implementation –both hardware and software— are dictated by the State, enabling all 23 counties in the State and the City of Baltimore to work in-concert in all aspects of communication and information sharing.

Don’t be misled by claims to the contrary. One of Margy’s greatest strengths is her ability to work within the mandates of the State, yet maximize their capabilities to best serve those of us who live and work in Howard County.

We’ve focused here on Margy Rappaport’s experience and expertise, but we’d be remiss if we didn’t underscore the *principal* trait that has made her one of Howard County’s finest public servants, and that’s her commitment to the citizens of the county. Her dedication stems from a mix of genuine affection and a solemn responsibility she holds for her neighbors and friends here in our community. A government “by the people and for the people” indeed.

We hope that when you see that familiar name, “Margaret D. Rappaport,” next to “Clerk of Court” in the voting booth this Fall, you’ll cast your vote for her once again, enabling Margy to continue to serve you here in Howard County.

(This next section should be a sidebar/box next to Margy’s picture on the homepage. Margy should feel free to edit or re-write this as she sees fit ‘til she’s comfortable with it as “her voice.”)

A Message From Margy

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Howard County's Clerk of Court these past 20 years. It has truly been a privilege to meet and assist so many of you over the last two decades. I speak for my entire staff when I say that the highlight of our efforts is when we are able to help someone access the information they need or the services that the county provides.

We are really just gatekeepers for people who need to utilize the county's resources, perhaps to buy or sell a piece of property, build a new home or maybe simply get married. The advent of the Internet and new technologies has made information so much more accessible to the general public, and much of our work goes into making that access even easier.

Still, efficient as the Web may be, nothing takes the place of good, old-fashioned human contact when you've got a problem or even a simple question. You can always [reach me](#) <link to [Contact page](#)> or a member of my staff by phone when you need some help. That's why we're here, and that's why I love my job.

And yes, once again, it's an election year—and I'd like to keep that job! That's why I'm asking that, when you go to the polls this November, you will vote once again for me, Margy Rappaport as your Clerk of Court. If you'd like to go a step further and [help out](#) <link to [Join Margy's team page](#)> with my campaign, I'd love to hear from you as well, and I promise that we'll make the experience fun and memorable.

Again, thank so much for your support and for taking the time to visit my website.

(Yet another sidebar/box, in close proximity to the previous.)

My Mission

The economic downturn in recent years has affected all of us, not only as individuals or as business owners, but via budget

cuts in governmental services as well. Nevertheless, despite any prevailing circumstances, it is my solemn promise to ensure that the Clerk's office continues:

- To provide the highest quality, courteous service to you and every citizen of Howard County;
- To ensure that the Clerk's office maintains and provides accurate information to the public; and
- To utilize and implement technology to make the information you need readily and immediately accessible.

[Margy's Bio](#)

(Photos: Margy at work; Margy at work 2; Margy and family)

(Testimonial as an italicized quote(s) on page)

A graduate of the University of Maryland, Margy Rappaport has been a resident of Howard County since 1964. Prior to being elected Clerk of the Circuit Court, Mrs. Rappaport served as a Judge of the Orphans Court in Howard County and worked as a public school teacher in both Howard and Anne Arundel Counties.

In her five terms as Clerk of Court, Margy has served on numerous Maryland Judiciary committees and is a member of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerk's Association. Mrs. Rappaport has previously served on the Compensation, Legislative, Procurement and the Professional Development Committees.

Margy maintains an open-door-policy at the Clerk's office. She is available to speak with any individual with questions regarding court procedures, forms, or related issues.

During Mrs. Rappaport's tenure as Clerk of Court, she has implemented numerous procedures to improve accessibility of court records and the legal system to all Howard County citizens, including:

- **Training and oversight of a staff of 40 state employees working in six key areas of the Court including: Criminal, Civil, Family & Juvenile Departments, Land Records, License Department, and the Courtroom Clerks;**
- **Managing an annual budget of \$2.9 million;**
- **Collection and distribution of more than \$36 million from the recording of land records, criminal bonds and fines, license fees, and filing fees in civil and other departments;**
- **Performing, on average, more than 700 marriages per year;**
- **Migrating traditional files and records to the Web, creating an online database, enabling Internet searches of land and case records;**
- **Increasing office and facility space to provide greater accessibility and efficiency;**
- **Implementation of a program that was a precursor to www.MDLandRec.Net, the digital image retrieval system for land records in Maryland—a service that is provided to citizens at no charge; and**
- **Helping to institute a new statewide marriage, record-keeping program.**

Public service has been, and remains, a hallmark of the Rappaport Family. Margy's late husband, Paul H. Rappaport was an admired and respected attorney and administrator, began his career in the Maryland State Police and retired from the department as a Major and then he served eight years as Howard County's Chief of Police. Margy and Paul's son, Glen, is a retired Army Lt. Colonel. Daughter Amy, like her mother before her, is a teacher in the Howard County Public School System, and daughter Leslie is Marketing Director for a local real estate company. Her granddaughter, Sarah, will be a freshman at the University of Delaware in the fall.

When Margy is not attending to her duties of the Court and assisting Howard County's citizens, she volunteers for charties

including Blossoms of Hope and for the Howard County Hospital Foundation.

What Is Clerk of Court?

(Photos: Margy at work; Generic photo of clerk staff; Margy at work 2)

(Testimonial as an italicized quote(s) on page)

The Office of Clerk of the Circuit Court is one of the oldest public institutions in the State of Maryland. Since 1658, the Office of Clerk of the Court has provided the citizens of Maryland with a variety of essential services. The Clerk of the Court is a locally elected state official who occupies an essential management position within the judicial branch of government. The duties and responsibilities of the Clerk of Court are established and regulated by Maryland law, Section 2-201, Courts & Judicial Proceedings, Annotated Code of Maryland. These include:

- Recording and maintaining books, records, and papers of the Court and its offices pertaining to civil, criminal and juvenile actions; land deeds, mortgages, plats, conveyances and other matters;
- Issuance of business licenses and marriage licenses;
- Performing civil marriage ceremonies;
- Making proper legible entries of all proceedings of the court and keep them in permanent form;
- When requested in writing to do so, recording any paper filed with the Court office, and required by law to be recorded in the appropriate place, whether or not the title to land is involved;
- Unless prohibited by law or order of the court, provide copies of records or papers in the Clerk's custody to a person requesting a copy, under the seal of the court if required;
- Issuance of all writs that may legally be issued from the court;

- **Delivering a full statement of the costs of a suit to a party requesting a copy;**
- **Receiving all books, documents, public letters, and packages sent to the Court office pursuant to law, and carefully dispose of them as the law requires;**
- **Administering the Oaths of Office to elected officials, judges, county police officers, sheriff officers, special police officers, notaries, assistant and deputy state's attorneys, fire department members, and gubernatorial appointees.**
- **Maintenance of all court records and documents, including their transfer to new and improved means of storage and conveyance, such as computerization and enhanced accessibility via the Internet;**
- **In conjunction with the Motor Vehicle Administrator, establishing uniform procedures for reporting both traffic cases and criminal cases involving a motor vehicle in the Circuit Court to the Motor Vehicle Administration; and**
- **Performing any other duty required by law or rule.**

[News & Events](#)

(Photos: Margy at work; Generic photo of clerk staff)

(Amy & Margy, during the re-election campaign, you should be posting any sort of fundraising, awareness-raising type of activities here on a regular and timely basis. Afterwards, periodically post County/Court news, initiatives, et. al, that would be of interest or concern to citizens.)

[Join Margy's Team](#)

(Photos: Margy w/volunteers; Volunteer on phone; Volunteer posting a Rappaport yard sign)

Margy Rappaport may have held the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for five consecutive terms, but she never takes her long tenure for granted. Like all elected public officials, she

knows that serves upon the mandate of the voters of Howard County.

2010 is an election year, and despite her unprecedented experience as Clerk, she's campaigning with the vigor of a first-time candidate. If you would like to help her with her campaign, she'd be delighted and grateful for your participation.

Whether you're a businessperson, a stay-at-home mom, or a teenager that likes to aid a worthy cause, there are a number of things you can do to help in a big way that may only require a minimal amount and effort. Please **contact us** [<link to email>](#) **via email** or call **xxx-xxx-xxxx** and we'll put you to work! Thank you very much.

[A Message From Margy](#)

<Join Margy's team> Link back to the sidebar/box on the Homepage. After the election, Margy should post a generic message and/or periodically use a Content Management System to update her message.

[Contact](#)

(Photos: Margy at work on phone)

If you have legal matters that need to be addressed or have questions for the Clerk of Court, please go to the Howard County website:

<http://www.courts.state.md.us/clerks/howard/index.html> and you will find the contact info you need there.

If your message is related to Margy Rappaport's 2010 re-election campaign, click **here**. *<Link to Join Margy's team page>*