

Mary Pizzo is the Supervising Attorney for the Forensic Mental Health Division of the Office of the Public Defender, which provides consultation and assistance to OPD and panel attorneys representing clients with significant mental health issues. She has been an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender since 1993, beginning with the CINA division in the Baltimore City office as a staff attorney, then Deputy Chief Attorney, before moving to the Appellate Division. She then spent 7 years in the Howard County office, handling both misdemeanor and felony cases, before moving on to her current role in the Forensic Mental Health Division.

Prior to entering the legal profession, Mary Pizzo was a registered nurse and psychiatric clinical nurse specialist and served in that role in the division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.



PAUL DEWOLFE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

Mr. DeWolfe has practiced in the area of criminal defense since 1980. Most of his practice has been as a public defender in the State of Maryland. In 2009, Mr. DeWolfe was appointed by the Board of Trustees as the Public Defender of Maryland, the fourth attorney to hold this position in the agency's history. In this capacity, he leads an office of 570 attorneys and 344 support staff. He first joined the Montgomery County office in 1981 as an Assistant Public Defender before leaving the office for private practice in 1989. He returned to the office in a leadership role in 2000 serving as District Public Defender for Montgomery County, Maryland and overseeing a staff of 34 lawyers.

During his career, Mr. DeWolfe has tried criminal jury trials in cases ranging from misdemeanors to capital murder in both state and federal court. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers since 2005, Mr. DeWolfe formerly served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is a former President of the Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association, and a former President of the Bar Association of Montgomery County Maryland. He is the former Chair of the National Association of Public Defenders and an ex officio member of the Criminal Law Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association. Mr. DeWolfe is a 2008 recipient of the Joseph P. Curran Award for Distinguished Public Interest Lawyers from the Maryland State Bar Association. In 2019, he received the Robert Heeney Award from the Maryland State Bar Association Criminal Law Section Council.

Gene Whissel

Gene Whissel, is a solo practitioner who brings 43 years of experience to the task of representing clients in a variety of matters. After graduation from Mount St Mary's College and active duty in the United States Army his professional career began in 1972 as a Baltimore City Police Officer. While serving as a patrol officer, when he enrolled as a law student at the University of Baltimore School of Law. In the same year, he was recruited by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to serve at their national headquarters in Washington, D.C. where he worked in Criminal Investigations Division specializing in organized crime and mail fraud investigations.

In 1977, he secured a law clerk position in the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office and was sworn in as a member of the Maryland Bar and Assistant State's Attorney in 1978. In 1985 he accepted an offer to come to Anne Arundel County where he was named Principal Assistant State's Attorney by the Honorable Warren B. Duckett.

While a prosecutor, Mr. Whissel tried thousands of cases, from juvenile offenses, petty misdemeanors and motor vehicle/DUI matters to all the most serious of felonies, including: murder, sex offenses, child abuse, robbery, kidnapping, burglary and drug offenses. He was also specially assigned to serve as legal advisor to all the police departments of Prince George's County. In that role, he worked closely with homicide, sex offense, child abuse, vice and narcotics investigators to help assure the success of their investigations. As an Anne Arundel county prosecutor he supervised the investigative unit while maintaining a full criminal trial schedule. In 1997, after a 20 year career as a prosecutor, Mr. Whissel entered the private practice of law. He has appeared before the several trial and appellate courts of State of Maryland as well as the United States District Court and the United States Supreme Court.

AS A LAW PROFESSOR

Mr. Whissel has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at his Alma Mater, the University Of Baltimore School of Law and is currently a volunteer Adjunct Professor for the University of Maryland Medical School, in the forensic psychiatry program. He served as an Instructor at the Anne Arundel Community College Para Legal and Law Enforcement Program. In

addition, he has lectured at Police Academies in both Prince George's and Anne Arundel County. He also currently serves as a faculty member at the Maryland Institute of Criminal Justice where he instructs students training to become experts in the field of polygraph examinations.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Mr. Whissel is a member of the Maryland Bar Association, the Anne Arundel Bar Association, the National Criminal defense Attorney's Association and past President of the Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association. He is a former Trustee and Member Services Chair of the Anne Arundel Bar Association.

Nancy Forster

ATTORNEY PROFILE

Nancy Forster is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park (B.A. 1980) and of the University of Baltimore School of Law (J.D. 1984). She is a member of the Bars of Maryland, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. Ms. Forster has handled criminal cases in both state and federal courts for the past 32 years. She has argued hundreds of cases in the Maryland Court of Special Appeals and the Maryland Court of Appeals. Additionally, Ms. Forster has argued in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit as well as in the United States Supreme Court. She has been nominated for judgeship on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals and the Maryland Court of Appeals.

She is the recipient of numerous awards including:

- “The Death Penalty Defense Award” from the Office of the Public Defender “in recognition [of] outstanding advocacy in capital litigation,” April 20, 2001.
- The Maryland Bar Foundation’s 2005 “Legal Excellence Award for the Advancement of Unpopular Causes.”
- The Daily Record’s 2005 “Top Leadership in Law Award.”
- Super Lawyers’ “Top 25 Women in Maryland Law Award”, 2006.
- 2007 “Woman of the Year Award” from the University of Baltimore School of Law Women’s Bar Association.
- “Super Lawyers” Award in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- The “Nancy Moran Community Service Award” for “unswerving efforts to protect and defend” the constitutional rights of inmates and for “efforts to prevent and reduce violent crime in Maryland.” Awarded by inmates at the Jessup Correctional Institution.

Ms. Forster began her legal career at the Office of the Public Defender’s Appellate Division working her way up to the Chief of the Division before being named the Public Defender for the State of Maryland in 2004. Ms. Forster started her firm in 2009. Ms. Forster is also the former President of the Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association and served on the esteemed Access to Justice Commission. She continues to teach as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Baltimore School of Law and frequently lectures attorneys and judges on various aspects of criminal law and

procedure. Few lawyers have argued more times than Ms. Forster before Maryland's highest court on criminal law issues.

SIGNIFICANT CASES ARGUED BY MS. FORSTER:

The following cases represent a non-exclusive list of the numerous appeals handled and argued directly by Ms. Forster.

Fourth Amendment:

- Quince v. State, 319 Md. 430 (1990)
- Simpler v. State, 318 Md. 311 (1990)
- State v. Jones, 343 Md. 448 (1996)
- Lee v. State, 311 Md. 642 (1988)
- Crosby v. State, 408 Md. 490 (2009)
- Larocca v. State, 164 Md.App. 460 (2005)
- Thanner v. State, 93 Md.App. 134 (1992)
- Russell v. State, 138 Md.App. 638 (2001)
- Whitehead v. State, 116 Md.App. 497 (1997)
- State v. Green, 375 Md. 595 (2003)
- Scott v. State, 366 Md. 121 (2001)
- Jones v. State, 407 Md. 33 (2008)
- Brown v. State, 378 Md. 355 (2003)
- Burks v. State, 96 Md.App. 173 (1993)
- Dunnuck v. State, 367 Md. 198 (2001)
- Williams v. State, 372 Md. 386 (2002)

Capital Cases:

- Ware v. State, 348 Md. 19 (1997) (conviction reversed)
- Woodson v. State, 325 Md. 251 (1992) (conviction reversed)
- Winder v. State, 362 Md. 275 (2001) (conviction reversed, confession suppressed)
- Metheny v. State, 359 Md. 576 (2000) (conviction reversed)
- Collins v. State, 318 Md. 269 (1990)
- Perry v. State, 344 Md. 204 (1996)
- Oken v. State, 327 Md. 628 (1992)
- Miles v. State, 365 Md. 488 (2001)
- Richardson v. State, 324 Md. 611 (1996) (conviction reversed)(second chair)
- Bruce v. State, 318 Md. 706 (1990) (sentence vacated)(second chair)
- Thanos v. State, 330 Md. 576 (1993)(second chair)
- Harris v. State, 312 Md. 225 (1988) (conviction reversed)(second chair)
- Williams v. State, 342 Md. 724 (1996)(conviction reversed)(second chair)

Juvenile Cases:

- In Re: Emileigh F., 353 Md. 30 (1999)
- In Re: Barry E., 107 Md.App. 206 (1995)
- In Re: Julianna B., 407 Md. 657 (2009)

Miscellaneous State Cases:

- State v. Flansburg, 345 Md. 694 (1997)
- Muhammad v. State, 177 Md.App. 188 (2007) (Beltway Sniper case)
- Martin v. State, 364 Md. 692 (2001) (police officer's conviction reversed)
- Jackson v. State, 364 Md. 192 (2001)

- Snyder v. State, 361 Md. 580 (2000) (murder conviction reversed)
- Jackson v. State, 358 Md. 259 (2000) (child abuse conviction reversed)
- Kelly v. State, 392 Md. 511 (2006) (attempted murder conviction reversed)
- Biglari v. State, 156 Md.App. 657 (2004) (murder conviction reversed)
- State v. Taylor, 371 Md. 617 (2002) (double jeopardy reversal)
- Kilmon v. State, 394 Md. 168 (2005) (reckless endangerment conviction reversed)
- Smith v. State, 367 Md. 348 (2001) (burglary conviction reversed)
- Hayes v. State, 355 Md. 615 (1999) (robbery conviction reversed)
- Dupree v. State, 352 Md. 314 (1998) (murder conviction reversed)
- Sheppard v. State, 344 Md. 143 (1996)

United States Court of Appeals for Fourth Circuit Cases:

- U.S. v. Williams, 170 F.3d 432 (1999)
- Smith v. Cromer, 159 F.3d 875 (1998)

U.S. v. Freeman, 741 F.3d 426 (2014)

United States Supreme Court Cases:

- Maryland v. Pringle, 540 U.S. 366 (2003)
- Maryland v. Buie, 494 U.S. 325 (1990) (second chair)
- Gray v. Maryland, 523 U.S. 185 (1998) (second chair)

Peter Ayers Wimbrow III

ATTORNEY AT LAW

"Hasta La Victoria Siempre"

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Education

Washington and Lee University School of Law, Lexington, Virginia
J.D. - 1973

East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee
B.S. - 1970

Bar Admissions

Bar Admission Maryland, 1973
U.S. Supreme Court, 1981
U.S. Tax Court, 1981
U.S. District Court District of Maryland, 1974
U.S. Court of Appeals 4th Circuit, 1979
U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit, 1985
U.S. Court of Appeals District of Columbia Circuit, 1982
U.S. Court of Federal Claims, 1996
U.S. Court of Appeals Federal Circuit, 1997

Honors

Who's Who in American Law
Who's Who in The World
Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation

Professional Associations

Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission, Past Member
American Bar Association
American Association for Justice
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Maryland State Bar Association, Member Board of Governors, Present
Maryland Criminal Defense Attorney's Association, Past President
Worcester County Bar Association, Past President
Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission, 1982 to 2002
Terrapin Club
29th Division Association
Berlin Heritage Foundation

Fraternities

Phi Alpha Delta
Lambda Chi Alpha

Representative Cases

Huemmer v. Mayor and City Council of Ocean City, 632 F.2d 371, 1980, C.A.4 (Md.), 1980141489

Widgeon v. Eastern Shore Hosp. Center, 300 Md. 520, 479 A.2d 921, 1984, Md., 1984140056

De Franks v. Mayor and City Council of Ocean City, 777 F.2d 185, 1985, C.A.4 (Md.), 1985156847

Schrimsher v. State, 325 Md. 88, 599 A.2d 444, 1991, Md., 1991205377

Davis v. Di Pino, 99 Md. App. 282, 637 A.2d, 475, 1994

Davis v. Dipino, 337 Md. 642, 655 A.2d 401, 1995, Md., 1983131687

Lee by Lee v. U.S., 124 F.3d 1291, 1997, Fed. Cir.

Davis v. Di Pino, 121 Md. App. 28, 708 A.2d, 357, 1998

DiPino vs. Davis, 354 Md. 18, 729 A.2d 354, 1999, Md., 1999118967

Seip v. State, 153 Md. App. 83, 835 A.2d 187, 2003

Weakland v. U.S., 287 F.Supp. 2nd 611, 2003, Md.

Ocean City Police Department v. Marshall, 158 Md. App. 115, 854 A.2d 299, 2004

Toth v. State, 393 Md. 318, 901 A.2d 820, 2006, Md.

Anderson v. General Casualty Insurance Company, 402 Md. 236, 935 A.2d 746, 2007

Richard A. Finci

Co-managing partner, Richard (Rick) Finci primarily handles criminal and traffic matters in the Federal and State courts of Maryland and the District of Columbia. When clients in Maryland and DC need the best criminal defense lawyer for their case, they turn time and time again to the experience of Richard A. Finci.

Rick also assists clients with [asset forfeiture](#) matters, complex civil and [personal injury cases](#), and [attorney grievances](#). He has significant experience in the Maryland appellate courts.

Rick is very active in professional and educational activities related to criminal and traffic law. He is currently serving his third consecutive term as Commissioner on the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, an advisory body, appointed by the governor, that is responsible for the Maryland sentencing guidelines. He served as President of the Maryland Criminal Defense Attorney Association, Chair of the Maryland State Bar Association Criminal Law Section and has led numerous seminars on criminal and asset forfeiture law. He has testified before the Maryland State Legislature in successful support of the repeal of the Death Penalty in Maryland, Asset Forfeiture reform and on other occasions concerning legislation being considered.

Richard Finci participates as a selected Group Co-Counsel attorney with Thomas Pavlinic and the [Premier Defense Group](#) in the Federal and State courts of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

He also served on a panel addressing witness intimidation (alongside Professor Byron Warnken, United States Attorney Rod Rosenstein (now Deputy Attorney General of the United States), Montgomery County State Attorney John McCarthy and State Public Defender Nancy Forster) and co-presented a seminar on plea bargaining and case screening at the Prince George's County State Attorney's Office with the Honorable Steven Platt.

In recognition of his accomplishments as a best criminal defense lawyer in Maryland, Rick was selected for inclusion on the Super Lawyers® list for both Maryland and the District of Columbia in 2007 – 2019.

Jason A. Shapiro

Shapiro Zwanetz & Associates

For nearly 35 years, Jason Shapiro has been a highly recognized and accomplished attorney, delivering excellent results to his clients while setting the standard for superior customer/client service. He also has been honored for over the past two decades as one of Maryland's *Superlawyers* (Top 5% of state's lawyers in a practice area) and even more significantly, by the even more exclusive and more prestigious *Best Lawyers in America*, in which Jason was given the highest distinction of *Lawyer of the Year* in 2016. In setting the bar high for not just results but representation as well, Jason has continually led his firm, Shapiro Zwanetz & Associates, to be recognized as one of the *Best Law Firms in America*.

Jason began his career first serving as an award-winning prosecutor, and then, for nearly the past 30 years, as a highly decorated criminal defense attorney. Jason has been selected to serve as the President of the *Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association* from 2010-2011 and was appointed for three terms to the highly prestigious Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission. Former Maryland Governor, Martin O'Malley appointed Jason as Chairman to this commission for an eight-year term, as well as appointed Jason to serve on the Maryland Public Defender's Advisory Board.

During his career, Jason has either prosecuted or defended a myriad of cases from Disorderly Conduct to Death Penalty/First-Degree Murder. As an Assistant State's Attorney, Jason served as the Chief of the Auto Manslaughter unit, and then as Chief of the Narcotics Prosecution Team.

Jason was born in Washington, DC, and has spent his entire life in Maryland, nearly the past 40 years residing in Howard County. He has been married 37 years, has three sons, two daughters-in-law, and in August, Jason expects to welcome his first grandchild – a baby girl! – to the world!

Jason A. Shapiro

Shapiro Zwanetz & Associates