

Emory A. Plitt, Jr.
Circuit Judge
Third Judicial Circuit
Harford County Courthouse
Bel Air, MD 21014

Judge Plitt received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Baltimore in 1967. He did his undergraduate work in Public Administration and Government at the University of Maryland. He is a member of the bars of the State of Maryland, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the United States District Court, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

From 1968 through 1971, Judge Plitt engaged in the private practice of law in Baltimore, Maryland. He specialized in the defense of tort litigation and employment cases including negligence, false arrest, malicious prosecution, and workers compensation.

Effective January 1, 1972, he was appointed an Assistant Attorney General of the State of Maryland and assigned to the Criminal Division where he handled criminal prosecution, criminal appeals, post-conviction and habeas corpus, and Federal civil rights litigation.

On August 1, 1973, he was promoted and assigned as the first full-time counsel to the Maryland State Police. His duties included defense of civil litigation, employee discipline, personnel and equal employment matters, and providing advice and counsel to the Superintendent and staff.

On May 1, 1980, Mr. Plitt was promoted and reassigned as General Counsel for Public Safety and Corrections. He was in charge of all legal affairs including litigation for the State Police, Corrections, Fire Marshal, Parole and Probation Services, Civil Defense and Emergency Services, Police and Correctional Training, and all other state level public safety and corrections services. He also had responsibility for all the legal affairs and litigation for all Sheriff's Departments. In July 1983, he was again promoted and designated as Principal Counsel for Public Safety and Correctional Affairs. He assumed other duties including liaison and advice and representation to local governments and public safety agencies. He served as lead counsel in many corrections cases including overcrowding, use of force, discipline, and medical conditions.

Judge Plitt has lectured for AELE since 1974. He is a former member of the AELE Board of Consultants, Board of Trustees, and the Amicus Advisory Committee. For many years he served as an adjunct trainer and lecturer for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and is a former Officer-At-Large and Chairman of the Legal Officers Section of the IACP. He is also the former Chair of the IACP Legislative Committee.

He has taught at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, the University of Texas at Dallas, and Sam Houston State University. He is a Professor of Law at a local college in Baltimore where he teaches torts and Civil Litigation.

He was appointed County Attorney for Harford County in February, 1991 and served in that position until he was appointed a District Court judge by the Governor of Maryland in December 1991. On April 1, 1995, he was appointed Administrative Judge of the Court.

He served as counsel to the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the State Sheriff's Association. He is the former Chair of the Chiefs Joint Legislative Committee. He has been a consultant to the National Institute of Corrections and the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the United States Department of Justice and an appointed member of the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions. He is a former member of the Markel-IACP National Advisory Committee on Police Professional Liability Insurance.

A recipient of numerous awards during his career, Judge Plitt has been a speaker and lecturer at public safety and criminal justice programs and organizations in over 20 states. He is the author of three studies and over 30 articles on police and correctional law and litigation. He assembles, coordinates, and partially writes the workbooks used in AELE seminars.

On October 14, 1999, the Governor of Maryland appointed Judge Plitt a judge of the Circuit Court.