

## Marylin Pierre

[www.pierreforjudge.com](http://www.pierreforjudge.com)

I have been practicing civil and criminal law in Montgomery County for over 32 years. I am a former first lieutenant in the Military Police Corps and a former Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). I have represented numerous clients in cases across Maryland, in the District of Columbia, and in the State of New York. I have learned the practices that we need to embrace to improve our justice system and the practices that we need to abandon to make our justice system work better for all of us.

Bamigboye Olurotimi said, "Show me a youth without hope, and I will show you a youth without a future." According to the Justice Policy Institute, Maryland incarcerates a higher percentage of its young Black males than any other state in the country because of the extreme sentences that the judges give them. Extreme sentences do not reduce crime. Being fair, firm, and consistent is what reduces crime. Accountability doesn't always have to mean putting someone in jail and throwing away the key.

Restorative justice is a diversion program that has been shown to be quite effective in reducing crime and other socially undesirable behaviors. Restorative Justice emphasizes repairing the harm to the community that the unwanted behavior caused. It has been tested in some places in Maryland with great results. Restorative justice requires that the wrongdoer take responsibility for his or her actions. This has been shown to reduce crime, make the victim feel better, and save taxpayers money.

Women's voices are routinely ignored, to our detriment. We continue to use the same systems to address crime even though many of those systems do not work. Bryan Stevenson said that the criminal justice system "treats you better if you're rich and guilty than if you're poor and innocent." We incarcerate 25% more young Black males than Mississippi. If crime is going up, why continue to do the same thing? The old guard is failing to meet the challenges that the modern court system is facing.

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## Important Dates

### PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

***Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 7 am - 8 pm***

Register to Vote or Change your Name, Address or Political Party Affiliation by

***Tuesday, April 23***

### Early Voting

***Thursday, May 2 – Thursday, May 9, 7 am - 8 pm***

Submit your Application for a Mail-in Ballot by

***Tuesday, May 7***, for mail or fax delivery of your ballot,

***Friday, May 10***, for internet delivery of your ballot,

***Tuesday, May 14***, in person at the Board of Elections.

***This does not apply to those on the permanent Mail-in Ballot list.***

Mail-in Ballots due by

***8 pm, Tuesday, May 14***

Ballots must be deposited in any drop box, at an Early Voting Center or Board of Elections, or your local precinct by 8:00 pm on Election Day.

Mailed ballots must be *postmarked* no later than 8 pm, ***Tuesday, May 14.***

For more specific information, please visit  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/index2.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/index2.html)