

Don Dwyer Timeline (Impeachment of Circuit Court Judge)

- 1972: Maryland ratifies the Federal Equal Rights Amendment and adds Article 46, an equal rights clause, to its Declaration of Rights. J. Joseph Curran is the Judiciary Committee Chairman at the time and presides over testimony on the bill.
- 1973: Family Law 2-201 SSB 112 passes, stating that, “Marriage is between one man and one woman.” Again, J. Joseph Curran presides over testimony on the bill.
- 1996 – 2004: Bills are introduced every year to clarify and/or strengthen Maryland’s current definition of marriage. All fail.
- July 7, 2004: The ACLU files lawsuit against Maryland’s Clerks of the Court (Deane v. Conway) claiming that Maryland’s marriage law is unconstitutional. Several Clerks publicly state that they agree with the ACLU. J. Joseph Curran, the Attorney General, (in the news and in preliminary hearings) focuses his defense on the statute with which he is so familiar and disregards constitutional protections, which concerns Dwyer.
- July 27, 2004: Robert Duckworth, a Circuit Court Clerk who is not named in the lawsuit, but stands firmly against gay marriage, files a Motion to Intervene (Duckworth v. Deane).
- September 7, 2004: Delegate Don Dwyer, Jr. (R), who is a constitutional teacher, and other members of the General Assembly file a Motion to Intervene due to concern (which is later vindicated) that the Attorney General would not use MD’s Declaration of Rights Article 5(a) in his arguments.
- September 17, 2004: Both Interventions are denied.
- October 15, 2004: Both are appealed.
- December 17, 2004: Court of Appeals takes Intervention case (Duckworth v. Deane) from Circuit Court
- January – April 2005: Delegate Dwyer fights hard for constitutional amendment to protect marriage. The amendment is kept “in the drawer” in committee. Dwyer amends the language onto seven other bills, which are all then withdrawn by their sponsors. Dwyer holds two marriage rallies, which the Lt. Gov and other VIPs attend.
- March 10, 2005: Intervention (Duckworth v. Deane) arguments are heard in Court of Appeals

- March 11, 2005: Interventions are denied for the final time.
- June 14, 2005: The first memo for the defendants (Deane v. Conaway), which includes arguments in defense of marriage, is filed. Many of the arguments in this document, titled “Memorandum In Support Of Defendants’ Motion For Summary Judgment”, were ignored in Judge Murdock’s opinion.
- August 30, 2005: Circuit Court hears gay marriage case (Deane v. Conaway).
- January 11, 2006: Delegate Dwyer introduces a bill to protect marriage, HB 48, Maryland’s Marriage Protection Act.
- January 2006: Delegate Dwyer begins circulating a petition that would circumvent the committee system and force the entire House to vote on HB 48. He needs the signatures of four Democrats. The Speaker openly campaigns against the petition. Democrats refuse to sign.
- January 20, 2006: Judge M. Brooke Murdock issues decision that the marriage law is unconstitutional (Deane v. Conaway) because it violates Article 46 of the Declaration of Rights. Decision is stayed. Attorney General Curran appeals.
- January, 2006: In various news interviews, Delegate Dwyer reveals that, for months, he has been working on impeachment charges to file against any judge that would overturn Maryland’s marriage law.
- January 26, 2006: Speaker of the House changes House Rules to avoid Dwyer from amending his marriage language onto other bills. It’s secretly called “the Dwyer rule.”
- February 2, 2006: The petition has all the necessary signatures. The Speaker of the House, upon realizing that the petition is coming, immediately cancels Session and runs to his office. News Cameras are present; reporters interview everyone.
- February 2, 2006: The bill is amended in committee into a civil unions bill, giving full marriage rights to gay couples. Every committee member votes against it, including the delegate that introduced the amendment. The bill is killed.
- February 3, 2006: In a clever cover-up attempt, Speaker of the House orchestrates a Motion to Substitute Favorable Report for Unfavorable Report on HB 48, which allows conservative Democrats to appear as if they are voting in favor of traditional marriage. Dwyer thwarts cover-up efforts by spending the entire day on talk radio and news shows exposing the truth.
- February 9, 2006: Another constitutional amendment to protect marriage is introduced to the Senate.