

members must be lawyers with a minimum of fifteen years of law practice, and one member must represent the public. The Commission elects its own chairperson from among its membership.

The Commission is empowered to investigate complaints, conduct hearings, or take informal action as it deems necessary provided that the judge involved has been properly notified. Its operating procedures are as follows: The Commission conducts a preliminary investigation to determine whether to initiate formal proceedings, after which a hearing may be held regarding the judge's alleged misconduct or disability. If, as a result of these hearings, the Commission by a majority vote decides that a judge should be retired, censured, or publicly reprimanded it recommends that course of action to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals may order a more severe discipline of the judge than the Commission recommends. In addition, the Commission has the power in limited situations to issue a private reprimand (Code 1957, Art. 40, sec. 45; Code Courts Article, secs. 13-401 through 13-403; Md. Rule 1227).

### THE COURT OF APPEALS STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

David Ross, *Chairperson*

Robert M. Bell, J. Louis Boublitz, Lowell R. Bowen, Robert R. Bowie, Albert D. Brault, Jerome F. Connell, Leo William Dunn, Jr., William A. Franch, Judson P. Garrett, Jr., John O. Herrmann, Frederick W. Invernizzi, Alexander G. Jones, Michael J. Kelly, James J. Lombardi, John F. McAuliffe, Paul V. Niemeyer, George A. Nilson, Anne C. Ogletree, Joseph E. Owens, Kenneth C. Proctor, Robert J. Ryan, A. James Smith, Melvin J. Sykes, Arnold M. Weiner.

Larry S. Gibson, *Reporter*

Linda M. Richards, *Assistant Reporter*

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The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, usually called the Rules Committee, was originally appointed by an order of the Court of Appeals on January 22, 1946, to succeed an ad hoc Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure appointed by the Court on March 5,

1940. Its membership comprises judges, lawyers, and a court clerk. The Rules Committee meets regularly to recommend changes in or additions to the rules of the Court of Appeals governing the practice and procedure of law and judicial administration.

### STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

*Chairperson:* Jerrold V. Powers, 1982

M. Natalie McSherry, 1980; J. Frederick Sharer, 1980; William Francis Abell, Jr., 1981; David C. Daneker, 1981; Charles H. Dorsey, Jr., 1983; William H. Price II, 1984.

John E. Boerner, *Secretary to the Board*

Joanne G. Dowgwillo, *Clerk to the Board*

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The Courts of Maryland were first authorized to examine persons seeking to practice law in 1715 (Acts 1715, Chap. 48, sec. 12). The examination of attorneys remained a function of the courts of the State until 1898, when the Legislature created the State Board of Law Examiners (Chapter 139, Acts of 1898). The Board is composed of seven members appointed by the judges of the Court of Appeals. Twice yearly, in the winter and summer, the Board conducts examinations for admission to the Bar. It also passes upon the petitions of attorneys from other states desiring admission and administers an Out-of-State Attorneys' Examination twice yearly. The Board passes upon appeals from the findings and recommendations of the Character Committees of the various circuits. Law students expecting to practice in Maryland must register their intentions with the Board. The Court of Appeals formulates the rules governing the Board, but the Board may prescribe rules for the conduct of examinations, providing such rules do not conflict with those made by the Court (Code 1957, 1976 Replacement Volume, Art. 10, secs. 2-8).

### JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSIONS

#### APPELLATE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

*Chairperson:* H. Vernon Eney

First Appellate Circuit: Dorothy Startt; John W. T. Webb