

After the filing deadline for the particular vacancy has passed, the commission meets and considers the applications and other relevant information, such as recommendations from bar associations or individual citizens. Each candidate is interviewed either by the full commission or by commission panels. After discussion of the candidates, the commission compares a list of those it deems to be "legally and professionally most fully qualified" for judicial office. This list is prepared by secret written ballot. A vote may not be taken unless at least nine of the thirteen commission members are present, and the name of no applicant may be included on the list unless that applicant has the affirmative vote of not less than seven members of the commission. The list is forwarded to the Governor, who is bound by the Executive Order to make his appointment from the commission list.

THE MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

Chairperson: Robert C. Murphy, *Chief Judge, Court of Appeals*

Vacancy, Executive Secretary

Courts of Appeal Building
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-2141

The Maryland Judicial Conference was organized in 1945. It presently exists by virtue of the provisions of Maryland Rule 1226, which direct it "to consider the status of judicial business in the various courts, to devise means for relieving congestion of dockets where it may be necessary, to consider improvements of practice and procedure in the courts, to consider and recommend legislation, and to exchange ideas with respect to the improvement of the administration of justice in Maryland and the judicial system in Maryland."

The Conference consists of the 211 judges of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the circuit courts for the counties and Baltimore City, and the District Court of Maryland. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is its chairperson; the State Court Administrator is its executive secretary. The Conference meets annually in plenary session. Between these sessions, its work is conducted by an Executive Committee and by a number of other committees, as established by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Chief Judge. In general, the chairpersons and members of these committees are appointed by the chairperson of the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Chief Judge. The various committees are provided staff sup-

port by personnel of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION

Chairperson: M. Peter Moser, 1986

David B. Mitchell, 1983; Charles H. Reed, 1983; Elizabeth Tennery, 1983; Howard Wood III, 1984; Theodore G. Bloom, 1985; Florence Udel, 1985; William Walsh, 1985; Bertha W. Emory, 1986; David A. McNamee, 1986.

Melvin Hirshman, *Bar Counsel*

District Court Building
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-2791

By Rule of the Court of Appeals the Attorney Grievance Commission was created in 1975 to supervise and administer the discipline and inactive status of lawyers. The Commission consists of eight lawyers and two lay persons appointed by the Court of Appeals for four-year terms. No member is eligible for reappointment for a term immediately following the expiration of the member's service for one full term of four years. The chairperson of the Commission is designated by the Court. The Commission appoints, subject to approval of the Court of Appeals, a lawyer to serve as bar counsel and principal executive officer of the disciplinary system. Duties of the bar counsel and his staff include investigation of all matters involving possible misconduct, prosecution of disciplinary proceedings, and investigation of petitions for reinstatement.

By the same Rule of Court, the Court of Appeals also established a disciplinary fund to cover expenses of the Commission and provided for an Inquiry Committee and a Review Board to act upon disciplinary cases. The Fund is composed of annual assessments upon members of the bar as a condition precedent to the practice of law. The Review Board consists of eighteen persons. There are fifteen attorney members and three lay members from the State at large. Members serve three-year terms. Judges are not permitted as members of the board. The Inquiry Committee consists of both attorney and lay members (Rule 1100, Chap. BV).

MARYLAND STATE LAW LIBRARY

Library Committee

Chairperson: Robert C. Murphy, *Chief Judge, Court of Appeals*