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Originally, the various courts were authorized to examine persons seeking to be admitted to the practice of law in Maryland. The examinations of attorneys remained as a function of the courts until 1898, when the State Board of Law Examiners was created (Chapter 139, Laws of 1898). The Board is presently composed of seven lawyers appointed to five-year terms by the Court of Appeals.

The Board and its administrative staff administer bar examinations twice annually during the last weeks of February and July. Each is a two-day examination of not more than twelve hours' nor less than nine hours' writing time.

Since 1972, the Board has used as part of the overall examination the Multistate Bar Examination. This is the nationally recognized law examination consisting of multiple-choice type questions and answers, prepared and graded under the direction of the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The MBE test covers six subjects: contracts, criminal law, evidence, real property, torts, and constitutional law. The MBE test is given on the second day of the examination. The first day is devoted to the traditional essay examination, prepared and graded by the Board.

Pursuant to the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar, the subjects covered by the Board's essay examination encompass, but need not include, all of the following subject areas: agency, business associations, commercial transactions, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and procedure, evidence, Maryland civil procedure, property, and torts. Single questions may encompass more than one subject area and subjects are not specifically labeled on the examination paper.

In addition to administering two regular bar examinations per year, the Board also processes applications for admission filed under Rule 14, which permits out-of-State attorneys who have at least five consecutive years' practice to apply for admission to the Maryland bar. That examination is an essay type test limited in scope and subject matter to the rules in Maryland that govern practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases and also the Code of Professional Responsibility. The test is of three hours' duration and is administered on the first day of the regularly scheduled bar examination.

The requirement that all applicants to practice law in Maryland be domiciliaries of the State by the time of their admission to the bar was abolished in 1982 (Code 1957, Art. 10, secs. 2-8).

Authorization for the Board continues until July 1, 1994 (Chapter 88, Acts of 1983).

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSIONS

APPELLATE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

Chairperson: James J. Cromwell

1st Appellate Circuit: Dorothy Startt; Peter Ayers Wimbrow III

2nd Appellate Circuit: E. Scott Moore; Harry Ratrie

3rd Appellate Circuit: Gloria Cole; James T. Wharton

4th Appellate Circuit: John M. Sine; George A. Brugger

5th Appellate Circuit: James B. Dudley; George W. Settle

6th Appellate Circuit: Flossie M. Dedmond; Kenneth C. Montague, Jr.

TRIAL COURTS JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSIONS

1st Judicial Circuit: John R. Purnell, *Chairperson*; Sally D. Adkins; Harland Cottman; Edwin L. Ellis; Harold B. Gordy, Jr.; Alexander G. Jones; Walter Jones; Richard M. Matthews; Norman Polk; Vaughn E. Richardson; Herman J. Stevens; Audrey Stewart; Henry P. Walters.

2nd Judicial Circuit: Doris P. Scott, *Chairperson*; David C. Bryan; Robert E. Bryson; Ernest S. Cookerly; Betty T. Dickinson; Frank Howard; James C. Hubbard; Christopher B. Kehoe; Grace McCool; James O. Pippin, Jr.; Frank C. Sherrard; J. Willis Wells; Philip Yost.

3rd Judicial Circuit: Monroe I. Duke, *Chairperson*; Louis Akers; Thomas G. Bodie; Eddie C. Brown; Richard F. Cadigan; Selena Gaskins; William M. Hesson, Jr.; John Bruce Kane; Thomas F. McDonough; Robert Plummer; Benedict A. Pokrywka; Sara H. Whiting; John H. Zink III.