

4th Judicial Circuit: William L. Wilson, *Chairperson*; Thomas N. Berry; W. Kennedy Boone III; Irving M. Einbinder; Leonard J. Eisweet; Anne L. Gormer; William L. Huff; Dorothy Lueba; Joseph H. McElwee; David H. Miller, M.D.; Lillian Tumbusch; John H. Urner; Anne Byrd Wilson.

5th Judicial Circuit: Lewis Straughn Nippard, *Chairperson*; William A. Franch; Vincent M. Guida; Shirley Hager Hobbs; Walter E. Morgan; James Patrick Nolan; George Pettigrew; Robert K. Parker; Marian Satterthwaite; Barry Silber; Ruth Uhrig; John B. Wright; Thomas M. Yeager.

6th Judicial Circuit: Devin John Doolan, *Chairperson*; Frances J. Ford; Roberta B. Hochberg; Virginia Lewis, Ph.D.; Edwin Frederick Nikirk, Sr.; Miriam S. Raff; Donald B. Rice; William J. Rowan III; Don Franklin Ryder, Jr.; Lois O. Stoner; Roger W. Titus; Charles E. Wilson, Jr.; Charles F. Wilding.

7th Judicial Circuit: Benjamin R. Wolman, *Chairperson*; Thomas Amenta; Paul J. Bailey; Warren E. Barley; Shirley E. Colleary; Annette Funn; Rev. Andrew Johnson; Thomas F. Mudd; Ralph W. Powers, Jr.; Victoria E. Selph; Thomas L. Starkey; John F. Wood, Jr..

8th Judicial Circuit: Benjamin C. Whitten, Ed.D., *Chairperson*; Peter F. Axelrad; Paul D. Bekman; Pearl Cole Brackett, Ph.D.; John B. Ferron; Marianne Githens, Ph.D.; Paula M. Junghans; Antonia Keanc; Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.; Theodore S. Miller; Mary E. Robinson; Kenneth L. Thompson; William H. C. Wilson.

The Governor by executive order established in 1970 a statewide judicial nominating commission to propose nominees for appointment to the appellate courts, and eight regional trial court nominating commissions to perform the same function for trial court vacancies. The nine commissions began operation in 1971. Each judicial vacancy filled pursuant to the Governor's appointing power must be filled from a list of nominees submitted by a nominating commission.

When a judicial vacancy occurs or is about to occur, the Administrative Office of the Courts notifies the appropriate commission and then solicits applications from interested persons through announcements in the press and by contacting interested bar associations. Applications received are distributed to the commission members.

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. The commission then prepares a list of those candidates deemed to be legally and professionally most fully qualified for judicial office. This list is prepared by secret written ballot, and 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 must make his appointment from the commission list.

Each of the nine commissions consists of six lawyer members elected by other lawyers within designated geographical areas; six lay members appointed by the Governor; and a chairperson appointed by the Governor, who may be either a lawyer or a lay person. The Administrative Office of the Courts acts as secretariat to all commissions and provides them with staff and logistical support.

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

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

James H. Norris, Jr., *Executive Secretary*

Courts of Appeal Building
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-2141

The Maryland Judicial Conference was organized in 1945, and presently operates under the provisions of Maryland Rule 1226. The Conference considers the status of judicial business in the various courts; devises means for relieving congestion of dockets; considers improvements of practice and procedure in the courts; considers and recommends legislation; discusses proposals for the improvement of the administration of justice in Maryland and the judicial system in Maryland.

The Conference consists of all judges of the four Courts of Maryland. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals serves as chairperson, and the State Court Administrator as 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. The various committees are provided staff support by personnel of the Administrative Office of the Courts.