

## *Judicial Branch*

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE

#### SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS\*

1. The Chief Justice's time at the moment is divided evenly between administrative and judicial duties. I would say, however, that with a system as large as ours or Maryland's it might be necessary that the Chief Justice spend as much as eighty or ninety per cent of his time off the bench in the beginning.
2. At the present time a great portion of the duties of the Chief Justice is performed by his Administrative Assistant, a post of considerable importance in a state-wide trial court.
3. The Chief Justice is appointed by the Governor for life and is re-movable on proceedings by impeachment or address failing good behavior.
4. Whether it is desirable to have the Chief Justice selected from among the Associate Justices is, I think, entirely dependent upon the existing situation. My immediate predecessor as Chief Justice came from outside the Court, as I did. Before him all of the Chief Justices had been appointed, on my current memory, from the Associates. It is hard to tell . . . what would be best for Maryland without knowing quite intimately what the situation was on the Court.

### ASSUMPTIONS CONCERNING THE POWER OF APPELLATE COURTS TO ISSUE ORIGINAL WRITS<sup>1</sup>

Assume the following factors:

1. The constitution will provide for courts which are intended to be appellate courts, but the constitution will not

limit the jurisdiction of these courts to appellate cases.

\* Letter from Paul C. Reardon, Associate Justice, Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, to John C. Brooks, Executive Director, Constitutional Convention Commission of Maryland, August 17, 1966.

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