

PERMANENT COMMISSION ON MUNICIPAL COURTS

Chairman: Howard C. Bregel

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The Governor appointed this twenty-nine man Commission in 1959 to study the Municipal Court System of Baltimore City. The Commission, as a result of its deliberations, prepared the necessary legislation which, after many years of opposition, was finally passed as an administrative measure. In 1968, the Municipal Court, comprising sixteen full-time judges, all members of the Bar and practicing attorneys before their elevation to the Bench, occupied the new building at Guilford Avenue and Madison Street. This new courthouse and its operations are considered to be one of the most modern and efficient structures in the country.

THE PUBLIC DEFENDER SYSTEM**Board of Trustees**

Chairman: James K. Cullen, 1974

William W. Cahill, Jr., 1974; Alfred L. Scanlan, 1974.

Alan H. Murrell, The Public Defender

510 Court House, Baltimore 21202

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The Public Defender System was created by Chapter 209, Acts of 1971, to provide for the realization of the constitutional guarantees of counsel in the representation of indigents, including related necessary services and facilities, in criminal and juvenile proceedings within the State, and to assure effective assistance and continuity of counsel to indigent accused taken into custody and indigent defendants in criminal and juvenile proceedings before the Courts of the State of Maryland, and to authorize the Office of Public Defender to administer and assure enforcement of these provisions.

The Board of Trustees of the Public Defender System consists of three members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Two of the members must be active attorneys-at-law. The Board elects its own Chairman.

The Public Defender is appointed by the Board of Trustees and serves at the Board's pleasure. He must be an attorney-at-law, admitted to practice law in Maryland by the Court of Appeals, and must have engaged in the practice of law for a period of five years prior to his appointment. The Public Defender, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, appoints the Deputy Public Defender and one District Public Defender for each District of the District Court who must possess the same qualifications as the Public Defender. Assistant Public Defenders may also be appointed by the Public Defender with the advice of the District Public Defenders.

Each District has a District Advisory Board composed of five members. One member is the judge of the Circuit Court or the District Court in the district. The other four must be active attorneys-at-law and are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. The Governor designates the chairman of each board annually.

The Public Defender provides legal representation for any indigent defendant in criminal or juvenile proceedings requiring the presence of counsel before a commissioner or judge, proceedings under the Defective Delinquents laws, post-conviction proceedings, and any other proceeding where incarceration pursuant to a judicial commitment of individuals in institutions of a public or private nature may result. The law applies only to representation in or respect to the courts of