

elected at each quadrennial election, and until their successors are duly chosen. The Administrative Office of the Courts is the secretariat to all commissions.

**COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES**

*Chairperson:* Theodore G. Bloom, Judge, Court of Special Appeals, 1995

*Appointed by Governor:* Martha Eleanor Church, Ph.D., 1993; Nathan Patz, Esq., 1993; Charles O. Fisher, Sr., Esq., 1995; G. R. Hovey Johnson, 1995; George J. Helinski, 1996; Barbara Kerr Howe, 1996.

Howard E. Wallin, *Executive Secretary*

University of Baltimore School of Law  
1420 North Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 837-4628

**BUDGET CODE 22.01.00.07**

	FY1992 (actual)	FY1993 (actual)	FY1994 (approp.)
<b>Funds</b>			
General	\$12,200	\$12,200	\$12,200
Total Funds	\$12,200	\$12,200	\$12,200
<b>Staff</b>			
Authorized	0	0	0
Contractual (FTE)	0	0	0
Total Staff	0	0	0

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities was established in 1966 by constitutional amendment (Chapter 773, Acts of 1965; Const., Art. IV, sec. 4A). The Commission is empowered to investigate complaints against members of the Maryland Judiciary. It conducts hearings or takes informal action as it deems necessary, provided that the judge involved has been properly notified

To determine whether to initiate formal proceedings, the Commission conducts a preliminary investigation after which a hearing may be held regarding the judge's alleged misconduct or disability. If, as a result of these hearings, the Commission, by majority vote, decides that a judge should be retired, removed, censured, or publicly reprimanded, it recommends that course of action to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals may order a more severe discipline of the judge than the Commission recommends. The Commission also has the power, in limited situations, to issue a private reprimand.

The Commission's primary function is to receive, investigate, and hear complaints against Maryland judges. Formal complaints must be in writing and notarized, but no particular form is required. Individuals also may write or call the Commission to express dissatisfaction concerning the outcome of a case or some judicial ruling.

The Commission also supplies judicial nominating commissions with confidential information con-

cerning reprimands to or pending charges against those judges seeking nomination to judicial offices (Md. Rule 1227).

The Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. Members include four judges presently serving on the bench, two members of the bar who have been engaged in legal practice for at least fifteen years, and one lay person representing the public (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 13-401 through 13-403; Md. Rule 1227).

**STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS**

Charles H. Dorsey, Jr., Esq., *Chairperson*, 1993  
Bedford T. Bentley, Jr., *Secretary*

People's Resource Center, Room 1.210  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032—2026 (410) 514-7044

**BUDGET (CODE 22.01.00.07)**

	FY1992 (actual)	FY1993 (actual)	FY1994 (approp.)
<b>Funds</b>			
General	\$469,917	\$529,386	\$601,010
Total Funds	\$469,917	\$529,386	\$601,010
<b>Staff</b>			
Authorized	5	7	5
Contractual (FTE)	0	0	0
Total Staff	5	7	5

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**COURT OF APPEALS**

**STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS**  
Charles H. Dorsey, Jr., Esq., *Chairperson*, 1993

*Appointed by Court of Appeals:* Christopher B. Kehoe, Esq., 1994; Robert H. Reinhart, Esq., 1995; Pamela J. White, Esq., 1995; William F. Abell, Jr., Esq., 1996; Jonathan A. Azrael, Esq., 1996; John F. Mudd, Esq., 1997.

**SECRETARY**

Bedford T. Bentley, Jr. . . . . (410) 514-7044

**CLERK**

Joanne G. Dowgwillo. . . . . (410) 514-7044

Originally, the various local courts were authorized to examine persons seeking to be admitted to the practice of law in Maryland. Examination of attorneys remained a function of local courts until 1898, when the State Board of Law Examiners was created (Chapter 139, Laws of 1898).

The Board and its staff administer bar examinations twice annually in February and July. Each is a two-day examination of between nine and twelve hours of writing time.

Since 1972, the Board has used the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) as part of the overall examination. The MBE is the nationally recognized law examination consisting of multiple-choice questions, prepared and graded under the direction of the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The MBE test covers six subjects: contracts, criminal