

13A AUCTION SALES

3B BANKRUPTCIES

12A CALENDAR

30C CLASSIFIEDS

1B COURT PROCEEDINGS

29C SEALED PROPOSALS

2B WORKERS' COMP

# THE DAILY RECORD

NEW

Serving the public  
daily since 1888

BYLAND'S BUSINESS & LEGAL NEWS

## ■ LAW

# Glendening Taps Two for CSA Vacancies

*Whiteford, Taylor & Preston Litigation Partner to Fill One Slot; St. Mary's County's Kenney Is Court's First Southern Marylander*

BY CATHERINE M. BRENNAN

*Daily Record Legal Affairs Writer*

Maryland's intermediate appellate court is now operating with a full complement of judges, as Gov. Parris N. Glendening yesterday appointed two new judges to fill spots left vacant by departures from that bench.

Elevated to the Court of Special Appeals were Deborah Sweet Byrnes, a litigation partner in the Towson office of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, and James A. Kenney III, an attorney with a private practice in St. Mary's County.

Kenney's appointment represents a milestone — he's the first person appointed to the court who hails from Southern Maryland.

Byrnes fills the vacancy created by the March retirement of Judge Robert F. Fischer, while Kenney's appointment fills the vacancy created on the court when Glendening elevated Judge Alan M. Wilner to the Court of Appeals.

"Deborah Byrnes will make an excellent Court of Special Appeals judge because of her keen legal mind and su-

SEE NEW JUDGES PAGE 10A

# New Judges

*Continued from page 1A*

perior intellect, combined with her unwavering dedication to fairness and impartiality," Glendening said.

Of Kenney, the governor said the new judge's commitment to public service in Southern Maryland exemplifies the expression "giving something back to the community."

"James Kenney is a highly qualified attorney who, in addition to his outstanding legal career, has been dedicated to a variety of community endeavors," affecting education and housing, Glendening said.

High marks for both new judges came quickly from Maryland's legal and political community.

Calling Byrnes a "dedicated and diligent professional," Baltimore City Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke praised her intelligence, legal acumen and solid judgment.

"Debby possesses the ability to sort through complicated and difficult legal issues and to apply common sense in resolving them," he added.

Byrnes, who represented the city and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City in a controversial class action racial discrimination lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union over segregation in public housing, also

earned positive reviews from Baltimore County Executive Charles A. Ruppertsberger, who had criticized parts of the suit's settlement.

"By her outstanding performance as a trial lawyer, Debby has demonstrated the quality of service that she will contribute to the Court of Special Appeals," Ruppertsberger said.

Kenney, a partner for the last 31 years with the Leonardtown firm of Kenney, Lacer, Sparling, Densford & Reynolds, also earned high regard for his ability.

"I have personally known Jim Kenney for 20 years, and I cannot think of anyone more qualified for this judgeship," said U.S. Rep. Steny H. Hoyer. "He is a person of integrity, honesty, fairness, judicial temperament, and an unquestionable commitment to the practice of law and to his community.

"He will make Southern Maryland proud," he added.

A Visiting Professor of Law at St. Mary's College since 1964, Kenney is president of the St. Mary's College Foundation and a member of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center's Board of Governors.

With yesterday's appointments, Glendening is meeting his pledge to fill vacant judgeships at various levels throughout the state. Last week, the governor appointed judges in Anne Arundel, Howard and Prince George's Counties.



BYRNES: NEW TO CSA