

Lawyer to be first female on panel

The Baltimore County Bar Association has elected the first female lawyer to serve on the county's Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission, which screens and recommends candidates for the bench.

From a field of 13, the lawyers elected Deborah S. Byrnes, of the firm of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston and wife of Baltimore County Circuit Judge J. Norris Byrnes; Stephen James Nolan; G. Warren Mix; and

Bar association elects Byrnes

Alfred L. Brennan Jr., son of another county judge.

The bar elections occurred under a revamped process that Gov. Parris N. Glendening said will bring more diversity to the bench.

Under the old system, the associations chose all six lawyer-members for the local commissions and for the statewide commission that screens candidates for the appeals courts. Now, the governor will choose two of the lawyers, along with the six lay people and a chairman, probably by the end of the month, said Hannah Byron, the governor's appointments secretary.