

Three New City Judges to Don Robes

Appointments Named Speedily to Ease Baltimore Court's Caseload

BY ALEXIS ARIANO

Daily Record Business Writer

In response to an overloaded Baltimore court docket, Gov. Parris Glendening yesterday bettered his record in appointing minorities to state judgeships.

The governor filled three empty spots on the circuit court bench after interviewing a group of 10 finalists last Tuesday.

Alfred Nance of Alfred Nance & Associates, Marcela Holland, a prosecutor for the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, and M. Brooke Murdock, a principal of Ferguson, Schetelich, Hefernan & Murdock, will join the bench in early October.

The appointments bring to 22 the number of women who Glendening has appointed. He's also handed gavels to 14 African-Americans.

While Holland and Murdock will fill two new positions created by the 1996 General Assembly, Nance fills a vacancy opened by the retirement of Judge Thomas Ward in February.



MARCELLA HOLLAND

"There's a backlog in the areas of civil cases and misdemeanors," said Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan, administrative judge for the Baltimore City Circuit Court. Kaplan expressed relief that the new judges would help his overworked court.

"This will allow

us to cover some of the cases we would have had to double-up to cover otherwise," Kaplan said. "Right now we have judges sitting on two dockets and we have retired judges coming into work three or four days a week."

Based on the speedy appointment decisions, even some of the candidates noticed the need for new bodies on Baltimore's bench.

"My impression is that the Circuit Court has a need of getting the judges on board quickly because of an overloaded docket," said Murdock, who will handle misdemeanors in one of the newly created positions.



ALFRED NANCE

Murdock, 48, is a graduate of the University of Baltimore law school. Her experience includes serving as an investigative attorney for the U.S. International Trade Commission, an assistant state's attorney for Baltimore City and an assistant public defender.

Holland was appointed to handle domestic cases. She has served as a state prosecutor since 1984, investigating

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major thefts, fraud, arson and arson homicide cases.

A graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, she has served on the Maryland Bar, the National Bar and the National Black Prosecutors Association.

Involved in public service for almost 14 years, Holland, 49, said the appointment will allow her to give back to the community, and "to bring more diversity to the bench."

Holland and Murdock bring the number of women judgeships appointed under Glendening to 22 out of 62 appointments in the last two years. Nance and Holland bring the number of African Americans appointed under Glendening to 14.

"This is a great step for an increase in the number of minorities and women to serve," said Nance, former Legal Aid Attorney and in the Office of the Public Defender prior to entering private practice.

A 1976 graduate of University of Mary-

land School of Law, Nance founded his own general practice in 1987.

His affiliations include the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the Maryland State Bar and chairman of the Judicial Selections Committee of the Monumental City Bar Association.

Glendening also appointed James J. Lombardi to the Prince George's County Circuit Court to fill the vacancy created by the June death of Judge Sylvania Woods.



M. BROOKE MURDOCK

Lombardi, 61, a partner in the law firm of Lombardi, Powers, and Amster since 1970, was a Maryland State Delegate from Prince George's County from 1971 to 1974. During his stint in the legislature, he served on the House Judiciary Committee.

A 1963 graduate of Washington College of Law at The American University, Lombardi joined the firm of Duley and Conroy in Upper Marlboro in 1964 before entering his own practice in 1970.

He has worked part-time as an associate county attorney, orphan's court judge, and federal magistrate.

A fellow of the Maryland and Prince George's County Bar Associations, Lombardi serves on the County's Foster Care Review Board.