

Judges Stepler, Ciotola move up

By Jay Spry

The chief judge of Maryland's District Court system yesterday named a woman as administrative judge for the first time in Maryland and appointed a successor to Judge Edward F. Borgerding as administrative judge for the Baltimore district.

Mary Ann Stepler, a District Court judge since 1980 and a former Frederick county assistant state's attorney, will succeed Judge J. Louis Boulitz, who retires Sunday, as administrative judge for the district that includes Frederick and Washington

counties.

Judge Joseph A. Ciotola, a former president of the Baltimore Board of Elections Supervisors who has been sitting on the District Court here since 1976, succeeds Judge Borgerding, who died January 22.

Judge Stepler, 39, formerly practiced law in Frederick with her husband, Howard R. Stepler, Jr.

A native of York, Pa., Judge Stepler is a longtime resident of Frederick county. According to Chief Judge Robert F. Sweeney of the state District Court, who made the appointments, she is the first woman in

Maryland to be named as an administrative judge in either the district or circuit courts.

Judge Ciotola, 62, has been acting administrative judge in the 1st (Baltimore) District for the last three months, while Judge Borgerding was seriously ill.

Judge Ciotola spent most of his first two years on the bench in the city Housing Court. Since 1980, he has been in charge of all District Court civil operations in the city, assigning judges and scheduling cases and reporting to Judge Borgerding.