

**The Sun**

**Attorney general picks former judge as 1 of his deputies**

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Spurned by voters in last fall's divisive Howard County Circuit Court general election, Donna Hill Staton will return to the public legal sector -- this time as a deputy attorney general for Maryland.

Attorney General J. Joseph Curran Jr. will announce today his appointment of Hill Staton to be one of his two deputies, he said yesterday. The other is Carmen Shepherd.

Hill Staton will be the first black woman to serve in that position when she starts in April. Her predecessor and the first African-American in the position, Norman E. Parker Jr., left in December to work for a private law firm.

As Howard County's first black judge, Hill Staton lost her seat in a four-way race a year after Gov. Parris N. Glendening appointed her and Diane O. Leasure to the court. Leasure was elected, but Howard County District Judge Lenore R. Gelfman -- one of two challengers -- beat Hill Staton.

In her new job, Hill Staton will oversee the office's work in advising state agencies on transactions and business matters, including bond issues and real estate and economic development matters, Curran said. She will also handle some litigation and help train attorneys on staff.

"This will round out an already pretty diverse legal career. I couldn't be happier," Hill Staton said.

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Caption:  
PHOTO

Caption: Hill Staton

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