

The Sun

Two statewide organizations endorse sitting judges Hill Staton and Leasure

by Shanon D. Murray SUN STAFF The Baltimore Sun

October 23, 1996 Page(s): 4B
Edition: HOWARD SUN
Section: METRO
Length: 251 words
Record Number: BSUN478038

Two statewide organizations endorsed sitting Circuit Judges Donna Hill Staton and Diane O. Leasure yesterday in their bids to retain their seats in the Nov. 5 judicial election.

Members of the Maryland State Bar Association and the Maryland chapter of Women Veterans of America said they chose the sitting judges over their challengers -- District Judge Lenore R. Gelfman and Jonathan Scott Smith -- because of their judicial temperament and experience.

The state bar group's announcement was actually a "reinforcement" of its earlier endorsement of Hill Staton and Leasure in last spring's primary and its opposition to contested judicial elections, said spokeswoman Janet Eveleth.

The group endorsed all sitting judges across the state who are running in the general election, she said.

"We do not support contested elections. Judges shouldn't have to be put in the position to campaign," Eveleth added.

Meanwhile, the 57-member state women veterans group has entered the electoral fray for the first time.

"The sitting judges have demonstrated judicial temperament, strength in sentencing violent perpetrators, and compassion for the victims," said Loretta M. Jacoby, the state commander of the veterans group.

Pub Date: 10/23/96

Copyright 1996 The Baltimore Sun Company