

# Profiles of the six candidates for judgeships on the Supreme Bench

When city voters go to the polls Tuesday, they will elect five persons to 15-year terms as judges on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore. Four incumbent judges and two challengers are in the race. Here are brief profiles of the six candidates.

## Robert M. Bell

At 37, Judge Robert M. Bell is the youngest of the 23 judges on the Supreme Bench. He is considered by many lawyers to be one of the Supreme Bench's more liberal members and a great believer in personal freedom. The last four digits of his office telephone are a reminder: 1776.

Because of his somewhat flamboyant style of dress and outgoing personality, Judge Bell has been called eccentric by some. But he has also earned a reputation as a hard worker who spends much of his spare time doing court-related work.

He also is noted for his patient and courteous treatment of accused people. Such treatment of the accused—and the victims—should be part of the job, he says.

"Besides the educational and legal background and some experience as an attorney, this job requires some sensitivity, otherwise known as judicial temperament," he said.

Judge Bell now is assigned to arraignment court, where accused people hear the charges against them and choose whether they wish to face a jury trial or have the case argued before a judge alone.

During a recent session, a defendant mistakenly thought that by agreeing with the course of action recommended by his attorney, a public defender, he would receive probation. The attorney stated the conditions several times and asked the defendant if he would settle for a judge's ruling, which could have resulted in a life sentence if he were found guilty. Each time the young man said yes, but appeared confused after hearing the sentence he might face.

Judge Bell interrupted the attorney and painstakingly explained to the defendant that if he chose a jury trial he could change his mind later, but that choosing the ruling procedure was final. The defendant chose a jury trial.

Judge Bell says that such confusion on the part of defendants is common.

"But it's part of the court's job to make sure the accused understands the charges against them," he added.

Judge Bell is a graduate of Morgan State University and received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1969. He was an attorney for a private firm until he was appointed to the District Court. He served five years before being appointed to the Supreme Bench by Governor Hughes last January.

He is a volunteer member of the board of directors of Provident Hospital and Villa Julie College.

## Elsbeth Levy Bothe

Judge Elsbeth Levy Bothe, 53, is one of two women on the Supreme Bench. As a trial lawyer of 27 years, she specialized in constitutional and criminal law, and has done extensive work in the area of civil liberties. She was one of the attorneys most active in civil rights work in Mississippi during the mid-Sixties and is a past president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland.

A graduate of the University of Chicago and the University of Maryland School of Law, Judge Bothe was a delegate to the Maryland Constitutional Convention in 1967-1968 and was an assistant public defender for six years until being appointed to the Supreme Bench two years ago.

She appears friendly, yet tough. That personality reflects her reputation for giving stiff sentences more often than not, despite her liberal background.

"I understand the dangers of letting certain types of individuals stay on the street despite my liberal leanings," she said.

Judge Bothe has been particularly effective in tailoring her campaign as the need arises. She is quick-witted and occasionally spices her comments with an impromptu joke.

Her husband is an official with the United Auto Workers union. At one union rally she said, "I go to bed with labor and I wake up with labor," prompting laughter from the audience.

In a speech before a group of senior citizens Judge Bothe began by asking, "How many of you have been affected by crime or know someone who has been affected by it?"

Six of 17 persons present raised their hands.

"Our biggest problem is youth," Judge Bothe continued as members of the audience nodded in agreement, "because most of our serious crimes are committed by

persons between the ages of 16 and 23."

She said that earlier in the day she had sentenced two 17-year-olds to eight years in prison.

"I hated to do it," she said, "and the mothers were there in the courtroom. But both of them had been in juvenile institutions and on probation a number of times, and it was clear to me that more of that was not going to do them or society any good."

## J. Harold Grady

The head of the Supreme Bench is Chief Judge J. Harold Grady, an 18-year veteran who is seeking another term.

If reelected, Judge Grady, 63, will be able to serve only another six years because of a law requiring mandatory retirement for judges at age 70.

Judge Grady is regarded as a quiet, low-key person whose fairness and intelligence have earned him the respect of his peers and helped him rise to become head of the bench.

He has a long and varied public background, including experience in law enforcement and politics.

An honor graduate of Loyola College who received his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law, Judge Grady was an FBI agent for four years before becoming deputy and assistant state's attorney in 1946. He became state's attorney in 1956. Three years later he was elected mayor of Baltimore and served until 1962, when he was appointed to the bench.

Judge Grady has campaigned in the same quiet manner in which he conducts his court. But he says he found out when he ran for mayor that he doesn't care for running for office.

"There really isn't much that a judge can say," he said. "Attempting to make some broad or specific statement of how you're going to do your work is unrealistic, and when the chips fall you just can't do it."

"Each case is a one-shot deal. The job requires very careful attention to every case and to bring to each case all of your legal and practical experience—and the best of your ability."

## William H. Murphy, Jr.

William H. Murphy, Jr., 37, a challenger in the campaign, is considered one of the most skilled criminal defense attor-

neys in the Baltimore area. In a decade of private practice he has handled several major criminal cases and has posted an impressive record of victories.

He also is a member of one of Baltimore's most influential political families, the Murphys, who own the *Afro-American* newspaper. He is well educated in city politics and is an adept campaigner who uses oratorical and debating skills honed by courtroom experience.

Mr. Murphy says he is running for a seat on the Supreme Bench primarily because he feels more blacks should be on it. The process of state commissions recommending candidates for judgeships does not consider such concerns and is too political, he says.

"Since most of the people appearing before the court and serving as witnesses are black, shouldn't we have a greater role in the system?" he asked a campaign audience, most of whom were black. "Aren't we capable of making these decisions?"

Mr. Murphy has been criticized for running a campaign based on race, but he defends his position, saying it is only a variation on a theme espoused by other candidates.

"Calling me racist because I say we need more blacks on the bench is like calling Judge Bothe sexist because she says there are too few women on the bench. It's ridiculous," he said.

He adds that he believes he is qualified enough to contribute to the character of the bench. **NOV 2 1980**

"I think we need to have judges of quality who have the intellect, depth of knowledge and experience that would make them outstanding reflections of society instead of mediocre compromises who come to us essentially from political clubs and orthodox politics."

Mr. Murphy left Poly before graduation for early entrance into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received an electrical engineering degree in 1965. After a brief stint as an engineer with the company now known as Martin-Marietta, he enrolled at the University of Maryland School of Law, where he became a member of the law review. He received his degree in 1969. **SUN**

Mr. Murphy then served as a law clerk for Judge Robert Murphy, then chief of the Court of Special Appeals, and in 1970 entered into private practice.

### Joseph I. Pines

Judge Joseph I. Pines, 58, is one of the most experienced members of the bench in terms of practice as a trial lawyer. A graduate of the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Baltimore Law School, he practiced law for 35 years before being appointed to the bench earlier this year. **NOV 2 1980**

His experience and knowledge of the law have earned him the respect of his peers and most of the legal community.

He is well known for his work with civic, cultural and professional organizations. He is a past president of the Baltimore Urban League, Anti-Defamation League and the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association.

Judge Pines acknowledged that he considers that record of other activities one of his greatest assets as a judge.

"One of the main things I bring to this job, besides the necessary skills, is the respect I have in all areas of the community. I'm known and respected, and I'm proud of that," he said. **NOV 2 1980**

Like Judge Grady, Judge Pines is soft-spoken and dislikes having to participate in political campaigning. **SUN**

"A lawyer was in my court the other day wearing a 'Support The Sitting Judges' button," in an apparent attempt to win his favor, Judge Pines said.

In another instance, Judge Pines was questioning prospective jurors and was unaware that someone had placed a sticker advocating election of the sitting judges on the side of a court clerk's desk. During a recess in the questioning, several reporters pointed the sticker out to one of Judge Pines's aides, who quickly removed it.

"Judges shouldn't be exposed to that," but should run on their qualifications, the judge said.

Judge Pines is a military veteran, having served three years during World War II in the Army air force in the South Pacific.

### Thomas Ward

Thomas Ward, 53, is a former city councilman and an attorney with 27 years of experience, mostly in civil law involving real estate and equity cases. He is making his third attempt to be elected to the Supreme Bench.

A graduate of the Georgetown School of Foreign Service and the University of Maryland School of Law, he is president of the Mount Royal Democratic Club. He is active in neighborhood conservation efforts, particularly in the Bolton Hill area.

Just as with neighborhoods, Mr. Ward practices conservatism in his politics. If elected, he says he will be a strict judge, but a fair one. His law-and-order campaign theme has been well received by both conservatives and some liberals who feel that his message is right for the times. **SUN**

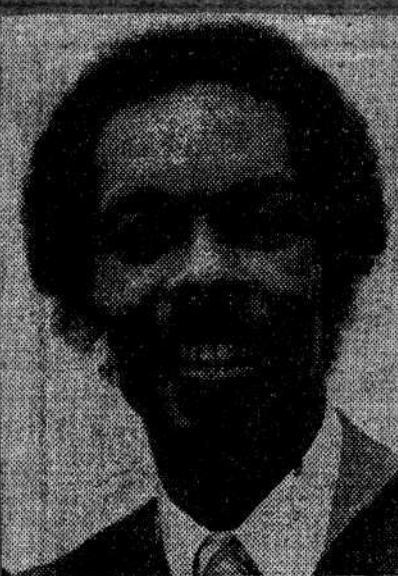
"I don't think most of the judges address the problems," he said. "They don't face the fact that crime is on the rise partly because of lenient sentencing. Criminals get off because the judges get highly technical on search and seizure warrants. Everything is being plea-bargained away." **NOV 2 1980**

Mr. Ward added, however, that he would not be too rigid in handling criminal cases if he is elected.

"Sometimes innocent people are charged with crimes and they should be treated fairly. I just don't believe in letting people walk away without examining the cases closely," he said.

He has also won a good bit of support based on his friendships in the community. Despite his hard-line-on-crime theme, he is a soft-spoken and affable person. His campaign has been a very personal one in which he distributes pamphlets door-to-door in residential areas, shakes hands at shopping centers and makes speeches at neighborhood bars.

In addition to his four-year stint on the City Council, Mr. Ward, a parachute infantry veteran, has been a member of the Architectural and Historical Commission and of the Metropolitan Transit Authority.



ROBERT M. BELL



ELSBETH LEVY



WILLIAM H. MURPHY, JR.



JOSEPH I. PINES



J. HAROLD GRADY



THOMAS WARD