

The Appellate Judicial Selection Commission is composed of thirteen members, six of whom are lawyers, and six are laymen with one member, elected and appointed from each of the six Appellate Judicial Circuits. The chairman is appointed from the State at large.

There are eight Trial Court Judicial Selection Commissions, one for each of the eight Judicial Circuits in the State. Each of the Trial Court Commissions is composed of eleven members, five of whom are lawyers and five are laymen. The five lawyer members are elected from the particular Judicial Circuit in which they maintain a principal office pursuant to rules governing the elections promulgated by the Court of Appeals of Maryland. The five appointed lay members from each Judicial Circuit must be residents and registered voters of that circuit and there must be at least one representative from each county where the Judicial Circuit is composed of more than one county. The chairman of each commission is appointed from the Judicial Circuit in which he resides and is a registered voter and may be either a lawyer or layman.

The terms of the members of the Appellate Commission and the Trial Court Commissions are for four years. The terms of the present members expire in January, 1975.

The function of the Appellate Selection Commission and the Trial Court Selection Commissions is to consider and pass upon the qualifications of proposed appointees and to suggest to the Governor certain ones for vacant judicial offices to be filled by him on the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the County Circuit Courts, the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City and the newly established District Court.

Pursuant to the Governor's two Executive Orders, the Court of Appeals on October 19, 1970 approved certain regulations governing the procedure to be followed by the Administrative Office of the Courts in the conduct of the election of the lawyer members of the Judicial Commissions. The elections were conducted by the Administrative Office in November and December, 1970 and the results with the names of the successful candidates were certified by the Director to the Governor. Early in 1971, the Governor appointed the chairman and the non-lawyer members to each of the commissions.