

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES

Chairman: William J. O'Donnell, Associate Judge,
Eighth Judicial Circuit, 1976

Walter Sondheim, Jr., 1973; Carroll W. Royston, Attorney at Law, 1974; James H. Taylor, Associate Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit, 1975; William L. Marbury, Attorney at Law, 1975; Richard P. Gilbert, Associate Judge, Court of Special Appeals, 1975; Charles E. Edmondson, District Court, Second District, 1976.

Laurence M. Katz, Executive Secretary

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The *Commission on Judicial Disabilities*, originally created by Chapter 773, Acts of 1965, had its powers redefined by Chapter 506, Acts of 1967. The Act of 1965 was ratified on November 8, 1966, as an amendment to the Constitution (Const. 1867, Art. IV, secs. 4A and 4B). Originally, the Commission consisted of five members. Three of the members had to be judges either of the Court of Appeals, the Circuit Courts or the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. One member had to be a lawyer with a minimum of fifteen years of law practice. One member represented the general public. Chapter 789, Acts of 1969 increased the membership of the Commission to seven members by adding an additional lawyer member and a member representing the District Courts. Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor and serve four-year terms. Members must be citizens and residents of the State. Four members are appointed from among the Judges of the Appellate Courts, the Circuit Courts for the Counties, the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City and the District Court. Two members must be lawyers, with a minimum of fifteen years of law practice, and one member must represent the public.

The Commission is to meet for the purpose of investigation or proceedings under Art. IV, sec. 4B of the Constitution. It will hold a hearing, if charges have been presented, and if after good cause finds it necessary, it will recommend to the Court of Appeals that a Judge be either removed or retired. All Judges including Judges of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the Circuit Courts, the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City and the Orphans' Court and any others who may be elected or subject to election and those appointed for a full term if it is not less than four years are subject to the provisions of the Act. Powers of the Commission and the General Assembly in administering oaths and issuing and enforcing process are provided for in the implementing legislation (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 40, sec. 45; Courts Article, sec. 13-401 to 13-403).