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The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, usually called the Rules Committee, was originally appointed by an order of the Court of Appeals in 1946 to succeed an ad hoc Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure appointed by the Court in 1940. Its membership consists of "lawyers, judges, and other persons competent in judicial practice, procedure or administration." The Rules Committee meets regularly to recommend changes in or additions to the rules of the Court of Appeals governing the practice and procedure of law and judicial administration (Code Courts Article, sec. 13-301).

STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

Chairperson: Charles H. Dorsey, Jr., 1983

John F. Mudd, 1982; William H. Price II, 1984; M. Natalie McSherry, 1985; Robert H. Reinhart, 1985; William F. Abell, Jr., 1986; David C. Daneker, 1986.

John E. Boerner, *Secretary to the Board*

Joanne G. Dowgwillo, *Clerk to the Board*

Annapolis 21404

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Originally in Maryland the various courts were authorized to examine persons seeking to be admitted to the practice of law. The examinations of attorneys remained as a function of the courts until 1898, when the State Board of Law Examiners was created (Chapter 139, Laws of 1898). The Board is presently composed of seven lawyers appointed by the Court of Appeals.

The Board and its administrative staff administer bar examinations twice annually during the last weeks of February and July. Each is a two-day examination of not more than twelve hours' nor less than nine hours' writing time.

Commencing with the summer 1972 examination, pursuant to rules adopted by the Court of Appeals, the Board adopted, and has used as part of the overall examination, the Multistate Bar Examination. This is the nationally recognized law examination consisting of multiple-choice type questions and answers, prepared and graded under the direction of the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The MBE test now occupies the second day of the examination. The first day is devoted to the traditional essay examination, pre-

pared and graded by the Board.

The MBE test has been adopted and is now used in forty-eight jurisdictions. It is a six-hour test covering six subjects: contracts, criminal law, evidence, real property, torts, and constitutional law.

Pursuant to the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar, the subjects covered by the Board's essay examination shall be within, but need not include, all of the following subject areas: agency, business associations, commercial transactions, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and procedure, evidence, Maryland civil procedure, property, and torts. Single questions may encompass more than one subject area and subjects are not specifically labeled on the examination paper.

In addition to administering two regular bar examinations per year, the Board also processes applications for admission filed under Rule 14, which governs out-of-State attorney applicants who must take and pass an attorney examination. That examination is an essay type test limited in scope and subject matter to the rules in Maryland that govern practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases and also the Code of Professional Responsibility. The test is of three hours' duration and is administered on the first day of the regularly scheduled bar examination.

By Order of the Court of Appeals, dated January 22, 1982, the requirement that all applicants to practice law in Maryland be domiciliaries of the State by the time of their admission to the bar was abolished (Code 1957, 1976 Replacement Volume, Art. 10, secs. 2-8).

JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSIONS

APPELLATE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

Chairperson: James J. Cromwell

First Appellate Circuit: T. Hughlett Henry, Jr.;
Dorothy Startt

Second Appellate Circuit: E. Scott Moore; Harry
Ratrie

Third Appellate Circuit: Gloria Cole; Vincent L.
Gingerich

Fourth Appellate Circuit: A. Lee Haislip, Jr.;
John M. Sine

Fifth Appellate Circuit: James B. Dudley; George
W. Settle

Sixth Appellate Circuit: Flossie M. Dedmond;
Robert J. Thieblot