

## TRIAL COURTS JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSIONS

### First Judicial Circuit:

John R. Purnell, *Chairperson*

Lionel Bennett, Harland Cottman, Calvin S. Dean, Harold B. Gordy, Jr., Charles E. Hearne, Jr., Walter Jones, Richard M. Matthews, Norman Polk, Vaughan E. Richardson, Herman J. Stevens, Audrey Stewart, Henry P. Walters.

### Second Judicial Circuit:

Doris P. Scott, *Chairperson*

J. Howard Anthony, David C. Bryan, Robert E. Bryson, Ernest S. Cookerly, L. Clark Ewing, Edwin B. Fockler III, Hugh M. Gordy, Roland C. Kent, James O. Pippin, Jr., Grace McCool, Frank C. Sherrard, J. Willis Wells.

### Third Judicial Circuit:

James H. Cook, *Chairperson*

Louis Akers, Thomas G. Bodie, Alfred L. Brennan, Eddie C. Brown, Selena Gaskins, Francis N. Iglehart, Jr., J. Earle Plumhoff, Robert Plummer, Benedict A. Pokrywka, Richard A. Reid, Donald G. Smith, Sarah Whiting.

### Fourth Judicial Circuit:

F. Perry Smith, Jr., *Chairperson*

Thomas N. Berry, W. Kennedy Boone III, Irving M. Einbinder, Anne L. Gorner, William L. Huff, Dorothy Lueba, Joseph H. McElwee, Hugh A. McMullen, David H. Miller, M.D., W. Dwight Stover, Lillian Tumbusch, John H. Urner.

### Fifth Judicial Circuit:

Lewis Straughn Nippard, *Chairperson*

James K. Carmody, William B. Dulany, Thomas A. Garland, Shirley Hager Hobbs, Martin B. Lessans, Michael E. Loney, Walter E. Morgan, George Pettigrew, Marion Satterthwaite, Ruth Uhrig, John B. Wright, Thomas Yeager.

### Sixth Judicial Circuit:

Joseph P. Burke, *Chairperson*

Albert D. Brault, Joseph P. Burke, William M. Canby, Thomas L. Craven, Diane G. Kirchenbauer, Virginia Lewis, Miriam S. Raff, Donald B. Rice, Herbert L. Rollins, Roger W. Titus, James T. Wharton, Charles F. Wilding.

### Seventh Judicial Circuit:

James C. Chapin, *Chairperson*

Thomas Amenta, Paul J. Bailey, Warren E. Barley, Shirley E. Colleary, Annette Funn, Rev. Andrew Johnson, Thomas F. Mudd, Ralph W. Powers, Jr., Thomas L. Starkey, Richard H. Sothoron, Jr., Benjamin R. Wolman, John F. Wood, Jr.

### Eighth Judicial Circuit:

Shale D. Stiller, *Chairperson*

Dr. Pearl Cole Brackett, John B. Ferron, Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman, Andrew Jay Graham, Antonia Keane, L. Paige Marvel, Theodore S. Miller, Leroy W. Preston, George L. Russell, Jr., Walter Vickers, Jr., William H. C. Wilson, Dr. M. Gordon Wolman.

Before 1971, Maryland governors exercised their power to appoint judges subject only to such advice as a particular governor might wish to obtain from bar associations, legislators, lawyers, politicians, or others. Because of dissatisfaction with this process, as well as concern with other aspects of judicial selection and retention procedures in Maryland, the Maryland State Bar Association for many years pressed for the adoption of some form of what is generally known as "merit selection" procedures.

These efforts bore fruit in 1970 when by executive order a statewide judicial nominating commission was established to propose nominees for appointment to the appellate courts, and eight regional trial court nominating commissions were instituted to perform the same function with respect to vacancies on the trial courts. These nine commissions began operation in 1971, and since then each judicial vacancy filled pursuant to the Governor's appointing power has been filled from a list of nominees submitted by a nominating commission.

As presently structured under an executive order issued in 1982, each of the nine commissions consists of six lawyer members elected by other lawyers within designated geographical areas; six lay members appointed by the Governor; and a chairperson, who may be either a lawyer or a lay person, appointed by the Governor. The Administrative Office of the Courts acts as secretariat to all commissions and provides them with staff and logistical support.

When a judicial vacancy occurs or is about to occur, the Administrative Office of the Courts notifies the appropriate commission and then solicits applications from interested persons through announcements in the press and by contacting interested bar associations. Applications received are distributed to the commission members.