

7 N. Calvert St.  
Baltimore 21202

Telephone: 528-8662

The Division of Consumer Protection was created by Chapter 338, Acts of 1967, and is headed by an Assistant Attorney General who is Chief of the Division and Director of Consumer and Investor Affairs. The Division is concerned with the control and regulation of unfair and deceptive trade practices. It is responsible for enforcement of the civil remedies provided by the Act through court litigation, administrative hearings, mediation of complaints and arbitration. The Division also is charged with the responsibility of recommending to the Governor and the General Assembly legislation to protect the public from fraudulent schemes and promotions.

In addition to undertaking its own enforcement activities, where appropriate, the Division reports information concerning violations of laws affecting consumers to other appropriate law enforcement officers. It seeks to assist, develop, and conduct programs of consumer education and information through publications and other materials prepared for the public. The Division undertakes activities to encourage business and industry to maintain high standards of honesty, fair business practices, and public responsibility in the production, promotion, and sales of consumer goods and services (Code Commercial Law Article, secs. 13-101 through 13-501).

### CONSUMER COUNCIL

*Chairperson:* A. Kimbrough Sherman, 1988

Leroy Bouldin, 1986; Sarah L. Jerkins, 1986; Barbara B. Gregg, 1988; Melvin A. Myerson, 1986; H. Clifton Grandy, 1990; Hardev Singh Palta, 1990; Mary Louise Speers, 1990.

Stephen J. Cole, *Chief, Division of Consumer Protection*

Caroline B. Stellmann, *Executive Director*

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Created in 1974 as part of the Division of Consumer Protection, the Consumer Council advises the Division on general goals, undertakes studies and reports, and fosters cooperation among federal, State, and local agencies and private groups (Chapter 609, Acts of 1974).

The Council consists of the Division Chief and nine members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. Three members represent

consumer groups or interests, three represent business groups or interests, and three represent the private sector. Members serve without compensation for staggered terms of six years. They select their own chairperson. The Council has a staff of one (Code Commercial Law Article, sec. 13-202).

Regular meetings of the Council are scheduled each month, September through July.

### DIVISION OF SECURITIES

Susan M. Rittenhouse, *Commissioner*

Clinton R. Black IV, *Franchise Director*

Jeffrey S. Chernow; Lucy A. Weisz.

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The Division of Securities was established in 1962 with the passage of the Maryland Securities Act. The principal executive officer of the Division is the Securities Commissioner, who is appointed by the Attorney General.

The Securities Commissioner and the Division are charged by statute with the administration and enforcement of four Maryland laws: the Maryland Securities Act (Code Corporations and Associations Article, secs. 11-101 through 11-805); the Corporate Take-Over Law (Code Corporations and Associations Article, secs. 11-901 through 11-908); the Franchise Registration and Disclosure Law (Code 1957, Art. 56, secs. 345-365D); and the Business Opportunities Sales Act (Code 1957, Art. 56, secs. 401-415).

Administration of these acts involves a substantive scheme of regulation imposed by statute and by rule requiring the registration of investment opportunities prior to their offer and sale to the public and, in addition, under the Securities Act there is imposed a licensing requirement on persons to be engaged in the sale of securities (subject to annual renewals). Enforcement of these acts is accomplished through a comprehensive statutory framework imposing administrative, civil, and criminal standards. Enforcement is conducted through the use of investigatory powers, administrative hearings and administrative orders, litigation in State and federal courts, and through cooperative efforts with State's Attorneys' Offices in criminal matters.

### MARYLAND BLUE SKY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Susan M. Rittenhouse, *Chairperson*