

The State Reporter, appointed by the Court of Appeals, is responsible for the publication of the *Maryland Reports* and the *Maryland Appellate Reports*, which respectively contain the official opinions of the Court of Appeals (Const. 1867, Art. IV, secs. 14–18A) and Court of Special Appeals (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 13–201 through 13–204).

## COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES

*Chairperson:* Richard P. Gilbert, *Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals*, 1987

Nathan Patz, 1985; Dr. Morris E. Sumner, 1985; Wilbur D. Preston, Jr., 1987; James H. Taylor, 1987; George J. Helinski, 1988; Marshall A. Levin, 1984.

Howard E. Wallin, *Executive Secretary*

University of Baltimore  
1420 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore 21201 Telephone: 625–3086

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities was established by constitutional amendment in 1966 and strengthened in 1970; its powers were further clarified by a 1974 constitutional amendment. The Commission is empowered to investigate complaints against members of the Maryland Judiciary. It conducts hearings, or takes informal action as it deems necessary, provided that the judge involved has been properly notified.

Commission operating procedures involve a preliminary investigation to determine whether to initiate formal proceedings, after which a hearing may be held regarding the judge's alleged misconduct or disability. If, as a result of these hearings, the Commission, by majority vote, decides that a judge should be retired, removed, censured, or publicly reprimanded, it recommends that course of action to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals may also order a more severe discipline of the judge than the Commission recommends. In addition, the Commission has the power in limited situations to issue a private reprimand.

The Commission's primary function is to receive, investigate, and hear complaints against Maryland judges. Formal complaints must be in writing and notarized, but no particular form is required. Individuals also may write or call the Commission to express dissatisfaction concerning the outcome of a case or some judicial ruling.

Pursuant to a revision in Rule 1227 of the Maryland Rules, the Commission also supplies

judicial nominating commissions with confidential information concerning reprimands to or pending charges against those judges seeking nomination to judicial offices.

The Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. Members include four judges presently serving on the bench, two members of the bar for at least fifteen years, and one lay person representing the public (Code 1957, Art. 40, sec. 45; Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 13–401 through 13–403; Md. Rule 1227).

## COURT OF APPEALS STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

*Chairperson:* John F. McAuliffe

Walter M. Baker; Lowell R. Bowen; Robert R. Bowie; Albert D. Brault; James L. Bundy; William A. Franch; Larry S. Gibson; John O. Herrmann; Frederick W. Invernizzi; Alexander G. Jones; Joseph H. H. Kaplan; James J. Lombardi; David B. Mitchell; Paul V. Niemeyer; Anne C. Ogletree; Joseph E. Owens; Kenneth C. Proctor; Linda M. Richards; A. James Smith; Paul F. Strain; Melvin J. Sykes; Arnold M. Weiner.

Julia M. Freit, *Reporter*

P. O. Box 1911  
District Court Building  
Annapolis 21404 Telephone: 269–2492

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. The Committee meets regularly to recommend changes in or additions to Court of Appeals rules governing the practice and procedure of law and judicial administration. Its membership consists of lawyers, judges, and other persons competent in judicial practice, procedure, or administration (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, sec. 13–301).

## STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

*Chairperson:* Charles H. Dorsey, Jr., 1988

M. Natalie McSherry, 1985; Robert H. Reinhart, 1985; William F. Abell, Jr., 1986; David C. Daneker, 1986; John F. Mudd, 1987; John W. Souse, Jr., 1989.