industries, or other fields considered by the Governor to bring special competence to the Commission's membership. The Governor designates the chairperson and vice-chairperson (Code Education Article, secs. 24–201 through 24–206).

OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER

Board of Trustees

Chairperson: William W. Cahill, Jr., 1989

M. Albert Figinski, 1989; Larnzell Martin, Jr., 1989.

Alan H. Murrell, Public Defender

Alfred J. O'Ferrall III, Deputy Public Defender

312 N. Eutaw St. Baltimore 21201

Telephone: 333-4830

The Office of Public Defender was created in 1971 (Chapter 209, Acts of 1971). It provides counsel for indigents, including related necessary services and facilities, in criminal and juvenile proceedings within the State. The Office assures effective assistance and continuity of counsel to accused indigents in custody and to indigent defendants in criminal and juvenile proceedings before the courts of the State. The Office of the Public Defender administers and assures enforcement of these provisions.

The Public Defender provides legal representation for indigent defendants in criminal or juvenile proceedings that require the presence of counsel before a commissioner or judge, in post-conviction proceedings, and in any other proceeding where incarceration may result pursuant to a judicial commitment of individuals to public or private institutions.

Within the Office of the Public Defender are three divisions: Mental Health, Appellate, and Inmate Services. The Mental Health Division furnishes counsel to all persons involuntarily committed to facilities under the jurisdiction of or licensed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Appellate Division processes all appeals to the Appellate Courts. The Inmate Services Division offers legal assistance to all indigent inmates who have legal problems concerning their incarceration. The law applies only to representation in or with respect to the courts of Maryland.

The Board of Trustees of the Public Defender system consists of three members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Two members must be active attorneys-at-law.

The Public Defender is appointed by the Board of Trustees and serves at the Board's pleasure. He must be an attorney-at-law, admitted to practice law in Maryland by the Court of Appeals, and must have engaged in the practice of law for a period of five years prior to appointment. With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Public Defender appoints the Deputy Public Defender and, for each District of the District Court, appoints one District Public Defender who must possess the same qualifications as the Public Defender. Assistant Public Defenders also may be appointed by the Public Defender with the advice of the District Public Defenders. The Public Defender must submit a report annually to the Board of Trustees, the Governor, and General Assembly (Code 1957, Art. 27A).

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T. Myron Loyd, District Public Defender