

**BUDGET (CODE CA0007, formerly 22.01.00.07)**

Funds	FY1994 (actual)	FY1995 (actual)	FY1996 (approp.)
General	\$11,208	\$17,207	\$14,150
Total Funds	\$11,208	\$17,207	\$14,150
<b>Staff</b>			
Authorized	0	0	0
Contractual (FTE)	0	0	0
Total Staff	0	0	0

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES**  
Glenn T. Harrell, *Chair*, 1999

*Appointed by Governor:* William M. Ferris, Esq., 1997; Sandra T. Gray, 1997; DeLawrence Beard, 1999; Wilbur D. Preston, Jr., Esq., 1999; Marjorie L. Claggett, 2000; Teateta S. Price, 2000.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Amy S. Sherr . . . . . (410) 974-2177

In 1966, the Commission on Judicial Disabilities was established by constitutional amendment (Chapter 773, Acts of 1965, ratified Nov. 8, 1966; Const., Art. IV, sec. 4A).

The Commission is empowered to investigate complaints against Maryland judges. The Commission receives, investigates, and hears these complaints. 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.

The Commission conducts hearings or takes informal action as it deems necessary, provided that the judge involved has been properly notified. To determine whether to initiate formal proceedings, the Commission conducts a preliminary investigation after which a hearing may be held regarding a 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 order a more severe discipline of the judge than the Commission recommends. In limited situations, the Commission has the power to issue a private reprimand. The Commission also supplies judicial nominating commissions with confidential information on reprimands to or charges pending against judges seeking nomination to judicial offices (Md. Rule 1227).

The Commission's seven members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 13-401 through 13-403; Md. Rule 1227).

**STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS**

Jonathan A. Azrael, Esq., *Chair*  
Bedford T. Bentley, Jr., *Secretary*

People's Resource Center, Room 1.210  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032—2026 (410) 514-7044

**BUDGET (CODE CA0007, formerly 22.01.00.07)**

Funds	FY1994 (actual)	FY1995 (actual)	FY1996 (approp.)
General	\$576,560	\$709,321	\$669,694
Total Funds	\$576,560	\$709,321	\$669,694
<b>Staff</b>			
Authorized	6	7	7
Contractual (FTE)	0	0	0
Total Staff	6	7	7

**HISTORICAL EVOLUTION**

Functions of the State Board of Law Examiners were first the responsibility of County Courts, 1776-1851, & then of Circuit Courts, 1851-1898. State Board of Law Examiners, 1898—

**MANDATED REPORTS**

None

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**COURT OF APPEALS**

**STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS**  
Jonathan A. Azrael, Esq., *Chair*, 1996

*Appointed by Court of Appeals:* Patricia M. Goldberg, Esq., 1996; John E. Mudd, Esq., 1997; Robert L. Bloom, 1998; Christopher B. Kehoe, Esq., 1999; Robert H. Reinhart, Esq., 2000; Maureen E. Webb, 2000.

**SECRETARY**

Bedford T. Bentley, Jr. . . . . (410) 514-7044

**CLERK**

Joanne G. Dowgwillo . . . . . (410) 514-7044

Originally, the various local courts were authorized to examine persons seeking to be admitted to the practice of law in Maryland. Examination of attorneys remained a function of local courts until 1898, when the State Board of Law Examiners was created (Chapter 139, Laws of 1898).

The Board and its staff administer bar examinations twice annually in February and July. Each is a two-day examination of between nine and twelve hours of writing time.

Since 1972, the Board has used the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) as part of the overall examination. The MBE is the nationally recognized law examination consisting of multiple-choice questions, prepared and graded under the direction of the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The MBE covers six subjects: contracts, criminal law, evidence, real property, torts, and constitutional law. Usually, the MBE is given on the second day of the overall examination. The first day normally