

Bell named to special appeals court

Ten years in the life of Robert L. Bell have been phenomenal.

At 31 years old, he was appointed to a seat on the city's District Court. There he sat for five years.

Then, he was named to a seat on the city's Supreme Bench (now known officially as the Circuit Court for Baltimore City). There he has been for almost five years.

Now, this week, he has been

named by Gov. Hughes to fill a vacancy on the state's second highest appellate bench, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.

Judge Bell will be replacing Judge Solomon Liss. He must stand for election in 1986 and must run on his record for a "yes or no" vote. Normally, such appointments are for a 10 - year period.

Among the cases he will hear are practically all cases appeal-

ing to a state appellate judge, except the death penalty cases which are automatically referred to Maryland's highest appellate bench, the Court of Appeals.

Thirteen members comprise this new bench to which Judge Bell has been named. He must be sworn in within 30 days, although no decision has been reached on the date.

News of his selection came from the governor himself Thurs-

day afternoon. Though Mr. Hughes was assisted in the selection by an Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission which has a diversified statewide composition and includes two blacks, Dr. Flossie Dedmond and Kenneth Montague.

Among the three names on a list in addition to Judge Bell, were two white nominees.

No other blacks presently sit on the bench, Judge Bell said.



Robert L. Bell