

Chief judge to receive national honor for creating, leading mediation office

By a Daily Record Legal Affairs Writer

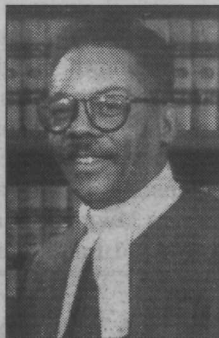
The American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section will recognize Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals this spring with its D'Alemberte/Raven Award.

Bell, the first state court judge to receive the award, is being honored for creating and leading the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO).

MACRO is recognized as a model program which promotes the use of mediation and other non-adversarial forms

of conflict resolution in the court system as well as in the wider community. It has been featured at events sponsored by the American Arbitration Association, the Council of State Governments and the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution.

MACRO's roots lie in a 40-member



BELL: ABA'S PICK

commission Bell formed in 1998 from the court system, the state government's executive and legislative branches and the mediation community, as well as from education and business and community leaders.

This commission's action plan, "Join the Resolution," advanced conflict resolution in courts, schools, neighborhoods and government agencies, criminal and juvenile justice programs and

the business community.

MACRO has helped Maryland's courts to increase and improve the available dispute resolution alternatives, as well as to support efforts to resolve disputes short of court intervention.

Bell will get the award named for former ABA presidents Talbot S. D'Alemberte and Robert D. Raven at the dispute resolution section's spring conference in San Antonio, Tex., on March 21.