

Sitting judges hold 'team' fundraiser

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Deputy Managing Editor

The seven sitting judges on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City up for reelection in 1986 received a spirited send-off Monday evening. Over 1,200 lawyers, elected officials, friends and supporters gathered at Martin's West in Baltimore County in the first major event of the judges' election campaign.

At \$50 a person, the judges added at least \$63,000 to their treasury, for a campaign still without any announced opposition. Committee organizers, however, said they expect that figure to increase considerably when sales from persons who bought tickets, but did not attend, are included in the final tally. Last month, campaign organizers said they hoped to raise close to \$200,000 from the sale of 4,000 tickets.

With the primary election now finally less than a year away, the judges Monday evening also released their first official campaign literature. The two-sided bright orange glossy paper, as well as Monday evening's speeches, clearly state the theme the judges intend to focus on in their campaign.

A bold banner on the campaign literature, for example, states: "Retain Our Circuit Court Judges." Under the banner, the seven judges are pictured together. This is in sharp contrast with political material from past circuit court campaigns, both inside and outside of Baltimore, where individual photographs of the judges have been used.

The campaign ticket is unique in another respect. It is composed of five men and two women, three blacks and four whites — probably the most racially and sexually diverse ticket the Baltimore court has ever seen.

And to try and ensure that all of the



Up for election in 1986 are these Circuit Court judges in Baltimore City (L to R): Hilary D. Caplan, Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman, Clifton Gordy, Mabel Houze Hubbard, David B. Mitchell, David Ross and Marvin B. Steinberg. The photograph is from their campaign literature.

judges win 15-year terms of office, the judges will run as a united slate.

These judges "are running as a team," explained Baltimore attorney George L. Russell, Jr., the judges' fund-raising chairman.

"We will [campaign] everywhere together," said Judge Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman, one of the seven sitting judges. "This is one campaign. We're all for one, and one for all," she added. Otherwise, Friedman explained, our "vulnerability [to a challenger] would be greater. We would be like sitting ducks."

Besides the strong turnout of Baltimore City lawyers, several prominent public officials were also in attendance, obviously cued in advance to the theme of the evening.

"I'm glad to see [a ticket] . . . with a Republican [Hilary Caplan], Democrats, blacks, whites, males, females . . . [some with] street savvy, [others true] legal scholars," Democratic Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski told the crowd during a brief speech from a

crowded podium. "This is an American team," she added.

Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer, expected to raise approximately \$1 million at his own political gala on Thursday, followed Mikulski to the podium and told the crowd, "It is important to vote for the sitting judges. . . . I can tell you that some of . . . [them] . . . have had an important part in the progress of the city — and whenever I have asked them to help, within the limits of the law they have been absolutely cooperative."

Stepping to the microphone next, Republican Congresswoman Helen Bentley pointed out that the judges' campaign is truly a partisan one, because "they even introduced the Republican," she said, perhaps half-jokingly.

The ticket

• Judge Hilary D. Caplan graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law and worked both in

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private practice, and as Chief of the Juvenile Trial Division of the Baltimore State's Attorneys Office. He was appointed to the District Court of Maryland in 1976, and the Circuit Court in 1984.

• **Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman** served as a teacher and social worker before graduating from the University of Maryland's law school. Prior to joining the bench earlier this year, she had served as Managing Attorney for the Domestic Law Unit of the Legal Aid Bureau, and had her own private practice.

• **Clifton Gordy** began practicing law with the Baltimore City State's Attorneys Office after graduating from the University of Maryland School of Law. Besides a brief stint in private practice, Gordy remained with the prosecutor's office, throughout his pre-judicial legal career, and rose to be the Chief of the Trial Division. He was appointed to the bench this summer.

• **Mabel Houze Hubbard** graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law. Before joining the Circuit Court earlier this year, she served as a public school teacher, an Assistant

Baltimore City Solicitor, and a District Court judge.

• **David B. Mitchell** received his law degree from Columbia University, and practiced law both as a state prosecutor and public defender, before co-founding Mitchell & Lee. He was appointed to the bench in 1984.

• **David Ross** graduated from the University of Maryland Law School and held a Court of Appeals clerkship before joining Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver. He was first appointed to the bench in 1968, and won election to a full 15-year term of office in 1970.

• **Marvin B. Steinberg** graduated from the University of Baltimore before beginning a 33-year career in private practice, most recently in Steinberg, Schlachman, Potler, Belsky & Weiner. Among his many community activities, Steinberg chaired the panel of the Health Claims Arbitration Office.

Also lending their support to the ticket with appearances Monday were former Governor Marvin Mandel; current Lt. Gov. J. Joseph Curran, and his two fellow opponents in the 1986 Democratic primary for attorney general, Baltimore attorney Russell "Tim" Baker, and Deputy Attorney General Eleanor Carey; Maryland Senate President Melvin Steinberg; Maryland

House Speaker Benjamin Cardin; Baltimore City State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke; and others.

Earlier this summer, Baltimore District Court Judge Robert J. Gerstung said that he was considering the circuit court race, but he has made no formal announcement of candidacy.

Four other Baltimore area judges will be on the 1986 ballot, and were in attendance Monday evening: Court of Special Appeals Judge Robert Bell, appointed to the Maryland intermediate

appellate court by Governor Hughes in November 1984; Orphans' Court Chief Judge Michael W. Lee, a member of the court since 1983, and Chief Judge since November 1984; and fellow Orphans' Court Judges Howard I. Golden, and David B. Allen, both appointed to that bench in late 1984.

Bell is seeking a 10-year term of office, "on his record." The three Orphans' Court judges are running for four-year terms of office, and could have opposition.