

Kathleen Sweeney to fill District Court judgeship

By M. Dion Thompson

The niece of Judge Robert F. Sweeney, chief judge of Maryland's District Courts, has been appointed to fill a vacancy in Baltimore District Court.

Kathleen Marie Sweeney, a 38-year-old assistant attorney general and counsel to the Maryland insurance commissioner, was appointed yesterday by Gov. William Donald Schaefer. Ms. Sweeney will fill the District Court judgeship that became vacant when Judge John C. Themelis was appointed to the Baltimore Circuit Court last year. District Court

Ms. Sweeney was one of nine candidates.

judges serve terms of 10 years.

Ms. Sweeney is a 1975 graduate of the University of Baltimore Law School. After her graduation, she served as a law clerk for then Chief Judge Charles E. Orth Jr. of the Court of Special Appeals. In December 1976, then Attorney General Francis B. Burch appointed her an assistant attorney general in the office's Criminal Division.

Ms. Sweeney left the attorney

general's office in 1980 for a stint in private practice, which ended when she returned there in 1984.

Governor Schaefer selected Ms. Sweeney from a list of nine candidates submitted to him by the Judicial Nominating Commission for Baltimore. The other candidates were Baltimore lawyers Gilbert Rosenthal, Lee N. Sachs and Stephen J. Sfekas and Gail E. Rasin Caplan; Baltimore Assistant State's Attorney

Edwin O. Wenck; Edward B. Rybczynski, a former assistant attorney general and former Orphans' Court judge; Baltimore Circuit Court Juvenile Master C. Yvonne Holt-Store, who was supported by the General Assembly's Legislative Black Caucus; and Baltimore Circuit Court Juvenile Master Tevette Shelton Price.

Baltimore's nominating commission, one of nine in the state, has 13 members: six lawyers, six non-lawyers and a chairperson appointed by the governor. Its list of potential judges is prepared by a secret written ballot and the list is then sent to the governor.