

Judge Robert Bell,

youngest in history

Chris-Anne Decker

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Robert Mack Bell, named judge of the District Court of Maryland by Gov. Mandel, is the youngest to sit on the bench in the history of the state.

Judge Bell, age 31, has been appointed to sit in the First District in Baltimore and will be sworn in and begin duties sometime in the first week in January.

A Morgan State College and Harvard University Law School honor graduate, he is a member of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers board of directors and chief attorney of the Piper and Marbury Law Firm's branch office.

Judge Robert Sweeney, chief of the Maryland District Court System says of young Bell, "An attorney of such high academic standing and such fine standing in the community, will indeed be a great asset to the BARBERIAN."

Judge Sweeney said he and Judge Bell have scheduled a meeting Friday to determine how quickly he can go on the bench and set the exact date. DEC 10 1974

Judge Bell succeeds Judge Mary Arabian who has been elevated from the District Court to the Supreme Bench of the City of Baltimore.

When interviewed by the AFRO Sunday, Judge Bell said he is gratified by having been named by the governor to the post, he considers one of great opportunity and honor.

He stated, "This appointment represents for me an opportunity to make some contribution to the judicial system which I consider to be the most important as-

pect of our whole democratic system.

"It also represents a challenge since it is important that a judge do justice and at the same time impart to the affected person the fact that he has been dealt with fairly." DEC 10 1974

"For me the District Court is the most important level of our judicial court system.

"AFRO-AMERICAN" the greatest number of people and determines the way in which other levels are viewed, it is most important that the best people serve at this level.

"I hope that I will be a credit to that system."

Judge Bell, a resident of Baltimore, is the son of Mrs. Rosa Lee and Thomas Bell of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Reared in East Baltimore he finished Dunbar High School in 1961 a highest ranking in a class of 196. At Morgan, he finished in 1966 as second in a class of 450 in history and political science. DEC 10 1974

He was president of Student Government, Faculty-Student Disciplinary Council; Federation of Presidents and chief justice of the Dormitory Court.

A member of the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, the Prometheus Kappa Tau Honor Society, the Phi Alpha Theta Historical Honor Society, he is in Who's Who Among Students and won the President's Second Mile Award in 1966. DEC 10 1974

At Harvard he was active in the Community Legal Services, the Sutherland Club and the Black Law Students Association.

Associated with Piper and Marbury since graduation from Howard in 1969.

he is a member of the American Bar Association; Junior Bar Association 1971-72; Maryland State Bar Association executive chairman and membership committee chairman, 1973-74 and Echo House Foundation Panel attorney. DEC 10 1974

He is engaged in the practice of law in the fields of banking and finance; municipal and state law; land development, new towns and criminal and pro bono law.

His brothers, both of Baltimore, are Joe Louis Bell, owner of a store at Eden and Monument Sts. and Ellison Bell, owner of a store at Luzerne and Chase Sts.



JUDGE ROBERT MACK BELL
youngest on the bench