

Judge Bell on the Appeals court list

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Robert M. Bell, age 41 and judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City since 1980, is in line to become a judge on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals bench.

The popular jurist who was graduated from Dunbar High School in 1961, is among the six candidates named Tuesday by the Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission as eligible to fill the vacancy left by the June 13 sudden death of Judge Thomas Hunter Lowe of Easton, Md. Judge Lowe was formerly the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates. **AFRO-AMERICAN**

Judge Bell is the only black person nominated. If he is named to the vacancy, he will be the second black jurist to serve in the history of the court which dates back to 1973. Judge David Mason of Baltimore was appointed Dec. 2, 1974 and was retired Aug. 31, 1983. **JUL 28 1984**

The appointment to fill the present vacancy is to be made "at the pleasure of Gov. Harry Hughes" from the list. According to custom, the chief executive will interview each candidate. The salary is \$65,400.

In addition to Judge Bell, on the list are Judges Albert Blackwell, George W. Bowling and Stanley

B. Frosh. Also, Karl G. Feissner esq. and Norman Polovoy esq. The five others left in the "pool" who could be selected are H. Thomas Howell, Judge Robert L. Karwachi, James A. Kenny III, Edward F. Shea Jr. and Raymond G. Thieme.

The Court of Special Appeals located in Annapolis may hear any case that is appealed from a lower court whereas the Court of Appeals may select the cases it wishes to hear and reject those it does not choose to hear.

Judge Bell, born July 6, 1943 in Rocky Mount, N.C., went to Morgan State University after finishing Dunbar in 1961 as first in his class. Maintaining a high ranking average, he was No. 2 in the 1966 MSU class of 450. He served as president of the Student Government, the Dormitory Council and was named to the Promethean Kappa Tau Freshman Honor Society, the Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, the College Disciplinary Committee and the President's Academic Cabinet. **AFRO-AMERICAN**

Judge Bell entered Harvard University School of Law in 1966 and finished in 1969 with a "B" Average. **JUL 28 1984**

In 1969 he was appointed an associate member of Piper and Marbury Law Firm and remained there until he was named judge of the District Court of Maryland in January, 1975. He held that post until January, 1980 when he became the judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, his present position.

Noted for his insistence upon "sticking to the word of the law" and quoting it in his decisions "exactly as it is," Judge Bell is nevertheless regarded as a fair and square jurist. The high degree in which he is held in the community is signaled by the many activities which he is associated.

He is presently a member of the Standing Committee on Rules; chairman of the Board of Trustees of Provident Hospital; the board of the Central Maryland Committee on Sickle Cell Anemia; Board of Directors, Mental Health Association; the Commission to Revise the Annotated Code of Maryland; Board of Directors of Villa Julie College and the Board of Directors of Provident Hospital.



Robert M. Bell