

Judge Bell honored

By Tea Montier

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Hundreds of people turned out at a courthouse reception Wednesday in honor of Judge Robert M. Bell. Judge Bell was sworn in earlier that day in Annapolis to sit on the state's second highest appellate bench, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.

"I look forward to the challenge and I hope I can handle it...I know I can," said a smiling Judge Bell.

"I think it's one of the grandest things we've had," said former Senator Verda Welcome. "...I think we're honored to have him selected as Judge. He does us honor, believe me."

The chairman of the Howard Council felt similarly, "I think it's a great accomplishment on two levels," said C. Vernon Gray. "One for Judge Bell personally and also for black people in Maryland." DEC 8 1984

Judge Robert B. Watts, the oldest full time black judge in Baltimore offered an historical analysis of Bell's appointment. "I have noticed the history of the black man in this country can be demonstrated by lawyers. Bell is the epitome of the young upcoming lawyers. He's the kind of leadership we need for the eighties." AFRO-AMERICAN

Judge Bell began his judicial career ten years ago when he was first appointed to a seat on the city's district court where he served for five years. Judge Bell sat on Baltimore's Circuit Court for five years, also. DEC 8 1983

Bell, 41, is only the second black to sit on the state's Court of Special Appeals. Dave Mason, who retired last year, was the first black to hold that position. There are 13 members on the appeals bench. AFRO-AMERICAN

Judge Bell, who replaces Judge Solomon Liss will be up for reelection in 1986.



Newly appointed appellate judge Robert Bell kisses his ex-law clerk, Betty Stemley at a reception in his honor.

Said Baltimore City Police Commissioner Bishop Robinson, "There's only one word (for Bell's appointment)... fantastic... Earned the old fashioned way."