

# Praise rings true for Judge Bell

District Court Judge Robert M. Bell was installed yesterday as an associate judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore amid laudatory remarks about the accomplishments the 36-year-old jurist has achieved in the 20 years since he was arrested during a sit-in protest at a restaurant. **EVENING SUN**

Judge Bell, who overcame the arrest and went on to graduate from Morgan State University and Harvard Law School, then worked for a prestigious Baltimore law firm before being appointed to the District Court five years ago, spoke to a packed courtroom in the Criminal Courts Building and called attention to some of his mentors.

The lawyers who defended him were Juanita Jackson Mitchell and Robert B. Watts, the latter now a colleague on the bench with Judge Bell. **JAN 23 1980**

Mrs. Mitchell, together with District Court Judge William H. Murphy Sr., the man Judge Bell credited with developing "many of my attitudes," were chosen to put the robe on the new judge and escort him to the bench. **JAN 23 1980**

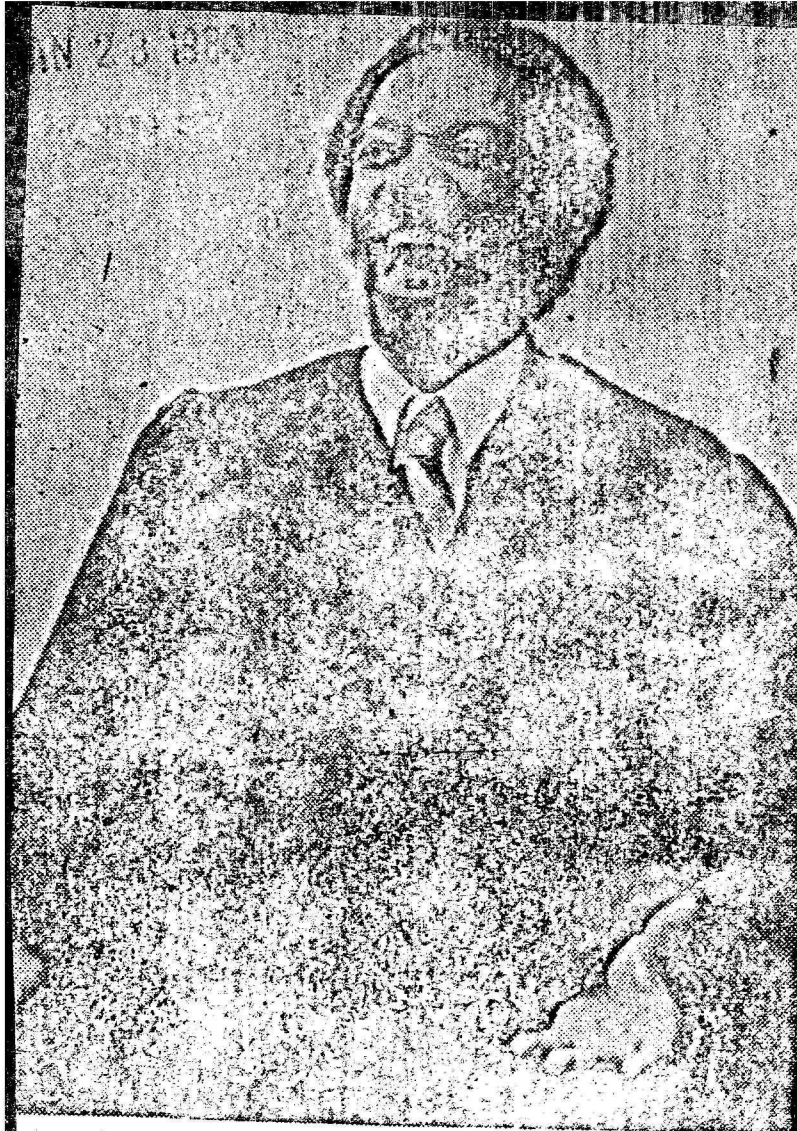
As they put the black robe on the lanky and bespectacled judge, Mrs. Mitchell and Judge Murphy embraced Judge Bell and kissed him.

Another of Judge Bell's guiding lights, Judge Joseph C. Howard, former Supreme Bench jurist now a federal judge for Maryland, served as the sponsor for the newly installed judge. **EVENING SUN**

An ironical note that went unmentioned was the presence of the man who prosecuted Judge Bell 20 years ago, James W. Murphy, who also is a judge on the Supreme Bench.

Edward Smith, president of the Monumental Bar Association, pointed out that the system that denied Judge Bell his rights at a lunch counter 20 years ago now welcomed him as an esteemed member.

Judge Bell said his most difficult job will be meeting the standards he has set for himself. He said he hoped he would never exercise an improper use of judicial power.



Evening Sun photo—Ralph L. Robinson

Robert M. Bell shows his happiness yesterday after being sworn in to Supreme Bench. He is former District Court judge.