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## REGIONAL DIGEST

## In Maryland

## Chief judge wins award for helping legal services

Maryland Chief Judge Robert M. Bell has received the American Bar Association's award for improving legal services in the state.

In ceremonies in Dallas this month, the national lawyers' association gave Bell the Louis M.

Brown Legal Access Award.

The organization noted several initiatives that have taken place, including creation of family law courts, expansion of out-of-court settlement of disputes, and work by several commissions aimed at making the courts more accessible for jurors, people without attorneys and low-income residents.