

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
ON PROCUREMENT BY THE JUDICIARY**

**WHEREAS**, the Maryland Judiciary is a separate branch of State government;

**WHEREAS**, as a public institution, the Judicial Branch should maintain a procurement and purchasing system of fairness, equity, economy, efficiency, and integrity;

**WHEREAS**, the State Procurement Law, set forth in Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article, does not apply to either the legislative or judicial branches; and

**WHEREAS**, an inherent power of the Judiciary is the power to procure goods and services for itself;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, Section 18 of the Constitution, do hereby order this 7th day of November, 2001, effective immediately that

(A) *Definition.* In this Order, the term "Judicial Branch" means the Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals, District Court of Maryland, Clerks of the Circuit Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts and court-related agencies.

(B) *Assignment of Responsibility.* The Procurement and Contract Administration Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall be responsible primarily for procurement and purchasing by the Judicial Branch. This responsibility may be delegated to a limited extent by the Procurement and Contract Administration Department while still maintaining superintendence for all procurements by the Judicial Branch.

(C) *Policy.* The Administrative Office of the Courts shall prepare a procurement policy for the Judicial Branch by January 1, 2002. The policy and this Order shall be posted on the Judiciary's website and attached to all subsequent procurements.

(D) *Purposes.* The purposes of the procurement policy required by this Order include:

1. Providing for increased confidence in the Judiciary's procurement;
2. Ensuring fair and equitable treatment of all persons who deal with the procurement system;
3. Providing safeguards and standards for maintaining a procurement system of quality and integrity;
4. Fostering broad-based competition among all potential contractors;

4. Encouraging Minority Business Enterprise participation from all segments of the business community;
5. Providing increased economy in the Judiciary's procurement system; and
6. Promoting development of intergovernmental purchasing and inter-branch procurement opportunities.

/s/ Robert M. Bell  
Robert M. Bell

File: November 7, 2001

/s/ Alexander L. Cummings  
Alexander L. Cummings, Clerk  
Court of Appeals of Maryland