

QUALIFICATIONS OF A MARYLAND JUDGE

The qualifications of a judge falls into two quite distinct categories: (1) legal and (2) professional.

The Constitution of Maryland specifies those in the first category (Art. I, § 12; Art. IV, § 2). The legal qualifications for appointed judges are:

1. *U.S. and Maryland citizenship.*
2. *Registration to vote in State elections at the time of appointment.*
3. *Residence in the State for at least five years.*
4. *Residence, for at least six months next preceding appointment, in the geographic area where the vacancy exists.*
5. *Age of at least 30 at the time of appointment.*
6. *Membership in the Maryland Bar.*

The Constitution also speaks generally of the second category of qualifications, by providing that those selected for judgeships shall be lawyers "most distinguished for integrity, wisdom and sound legal knowledge."

The submission of this information is voluntary and will be kept confidential and used only for statistical reports.

I am a resident of _____ County/City

*Race: _____ White _____ Asian or Pacific Islander
_____ Black _____ Hispanic
_____ American Indian or Alaskan Native*

Sex: _____ Male _____ Female

*COURT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING: _____ Court of Appeals
_____ Court of Special Appeals
_____ Circuit Court
_____ District Court*

Are you currently employed, in a legal capacity, by government? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please complete the following:

_____ Federal _____ State _____ Local

_____ Full-time _____ Part-time

Agency Name: _____

***NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION
(ONLY ONE COPY OF THIS PAGE IS NECESSARY)***

CONFIDENTIAL PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE TRIAL COURTS

You are requested to provide the information called for in this questionnaire in complete detail.

The Court and the County for Which You Are Applying

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
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I would like correspondence concerning my application sent to _____ my home address _____ my work address

Are you a citizen of Maryland? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you registered to vote in state elections in Maryland? _____ Yes _____ No

What is the longest period during which you resided in Maryland continuously?

From: _____ To: _____
Month/Day/Year Month/Day/Year

Date and Place of Birth: _____
Month/Day/Year City/State/Country

Are you a member of the Maryland Bar in good standing? _____ Yes _____ No

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT

Neither a Commission nor the Secretariat (Administrative Office of the Courts) will publish the name of any individual who submits a personal data questionnaire to the Commission until after the closing date for the submission of questionnaires.

The personal data questionnaire that an applicant submits to a Commission is confidential. If you are nominated, the Secretariat (AOC) will forward a copy of your questionnaire to the Governor but (except as required by law) neither the Commission nor the Secretariat (AOC) will release the questionnaire to anyone else without your written permission. Therefore, if you wish to have your questionnaire released to a bar association or other organization, you must check the appropriate block(s) on page 3.

If the Commission considers the information about you to be incomplete or otherwise inadequate for suitable evaluation of your qualifications, the Commission may ask you to provide, either in written form or by personal appearance, the additional information that the Commission considers appropriate to allow suitable evaluation.

Statements that you make to the Commission, personally or in documents submitted to the Commission, are subject to verification by any method that the Commission considers appropriate.

Revised 1/25/21

I authorize transmittal of a copy of this questionnaire to: *(check appropriate lines).*

_____ J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association
_____ Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc. (For Appellate and Circuit Courts only)
_____ Maryland Hispanic Bar Association
_____ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Bar Association of Maryland
_____ Maryland State Bar Association
_____ Monumental City Bar Association
_____ Women's Bar Association
_____ Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland, Inc.
_____ Alliance of Black Women Attorneys of Maryland, Inc.
_____ Maryland Association for Justice, Inc.
_____ Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.
_____ Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association
_____ Maryland State's Attorneys' Association
_____ _____ City/County Bar Association
_____ Any Other _____
(See Maryland Lawyers' Manual under Local/Specialty Bar Associations – if you indicate an organization not listed in the Maryland Lawyers' Manual, please provide contact information including name and address)

* * * * *

I submit the following data to the Judicial Nominating Commission and understand that it is subject to verification by the Commission. I authorize any person or custodian of records, including, without limitation, the Commission on Judicial Disabilities, the Attorney Grievance Commission, the Clients' Protection Fund, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, to release to the Commission any and all information, including criminal history record information, that may be available concerning me.

Should I be favorably considered, I will accept appointment to the Court indicated.

Date of Application

Full Name of Applicant *(Signed)*

Full Name of Applicant *(Printed)*

Submission Instructions:

Please submit an original plus 17 hard copies of your Personal Data Questionnaire and two (2) writing samples. In addition, please submit an electronic copy (PDF) of your questionnaire and writing samples on a portable storage device, such as a flash drive, so that the documents may be uploaded to SharePoint for dissemination to the members of the Judicial Nominating Commission. The major portion of the writing samples and related research must be that of the applicant. If written documents are co-authored, please indicate which portion is attributable to another author. If written documents were filed in a court or administrative proceeding, please submit as filed.

Your questionnaire and writing samples will be forwarded via a portable storage device (i.e., flash drive) to each bar association selected on your Personal Data Questionnaire.

Revised 1/25/21

Please remit to:

Debra Kaminski or Ebonye Caldwell
Administrative Office of the Courts
Human Resources Department
Maryland Judicial Center
187 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Fourth Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 260-1271/(410) 260-1289
(800) 735-2258 - MD Relay Service (TT/Voice)

PERSONAL HISTORY

1. List each name that you have used previously.
2. Office Information
 - a. List your office address, including zip code. Include the name of your law firm, if you are associated with one.
 - b. List your direct telephone number, including area code.
3. Home Information
 - a. List, with inclusive dates, your home addresses, including zip code, and each other place of residence since your admission to the Maryland Bar.
 - b. List your home telephone number, including area code.
 - c. List your cell phone number, including area code.
 - d. List your email addresses.
4. Citizenship
 - a. Are you a U.S. citizen?
 - b. Are you a naturalized citizen? If so, give the date and place of naturalization.
5. Family Status:
 - a. Are you married? If so, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name, including maiden name, if any, and occupation.
 - b. Have you been divorced? If so, give the name of each former spouse.
 - c. Give the names of your children, if any, with age, address, and occupation of each.
6. Have you had any military service? If so, provide the dates of service, the branch, the highest rank attained and the form of discharge or release.
7. List any avocational interests and hobbies.
8. List any social media service with which you maintain a profile.

EDUCATION

9. For each college, graduate school, and law school you attended, list the names and addresses, the dates of attendance, and the degree awarded or, if no degree was awarded from that institution, the reason for leaving the college or school.

10. State the significant activities in which you took part during the period of your attendance at college, graduate school and law school, giving dates of these activities and any offices or leadership positions you held.
11. Briefly describe your continuing legal/judicial education during the past five years.
12. Have you taught any courses on law or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal/judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each.
13. List all published books or articles you have written, giving citations and dates of publication.

LAW PRACTICE

14. Indicate the date of your admission to the Maryland Bar (Court of Appeals) and to each other court in which you are currently admitted to practice.
15. Describe chronologically your law practice and experience after your graduation from law school, including, but not limited to, the following items:
 - a. Whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court, and the dates you were a clerk.
 - b. Whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and the dates.
 - c. The names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies, or governmental agencies with which you have been connected, and the dates and nature of your connection with each.
 - d. The reasons for termination of employment and/or practice and any other relevant details.
16. Your Practice
 - a. What has been the general character of your practice? If its character has changed over the years, divide your description into periods with dates.
 - b. Describe your typical clients, and mention the areas, if any, in which you have primarily practiced.
17. With respect to the last five years of your non-judicial legal practice:
 - a. Did you appear in court regularly, occasionally, or not at all? If the frequency of your appearances in court has varied during this period, please describe.
 - b. What percentage of your appearances were in the following courts?
 1. Federal Appellate Courts.
 2. Other Federal Courts.
 4. State Circuit Courts.
 5. The District Court of Maryland.

3. State Appellate Courts.
 6. Other (Specify).
 - c. What percentage of your cases were:
 1. Civil
 2. Criminal
 - d. State the number of your cases that were tried to verdict or judgment and indicate whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.
 - e. What percentage of these trials were:
 1. Jury
 2. Non-jury
 - f. In approximately what percentage of your cases were you successful in resolving them short of filing suit or trial?
 - g. If you were engaged in a non-litigation practice in whole or in part, what percentage of your time was in the following areas?
 1. General business
 2. Commercial
 3. Estates and Trusts
 4. Real Estate
 5. Administrative
 6. Domestic Relations
 7. Juvenile Matters
 8. Other (Specify)
18. Indicate as to the last five years of your non-judicial legal practice:
 - a. Whether your appearances in court were more or less frequent than during the prior five-year period.
 - b. Any significant changes in the percentages stated in answer to question 17 b, c, e, f, and g.
 - c. Any significant changes in the number of cases you tried to verdict or judgment as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.
 - d. Any significant increase in the percentage of matters you have referred for alternative dispute resolution ("ADR"), including mediation and arbitration, or that you have settled short of trial or of filing suit.
19. Identify three of the most significant cases you have ever handled that went to trial, identifying the judge who tried the case, opposing counsel, the place where it was tried, the major points at issue in the litigation, and the result, and describe your participation in the case.
20. List all memberships in bar associations of any type or jurisdiction, including dates of membership, offices or positions held, dates of participation, and any other details you consider to be of particular significance.
21. List all professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition that you have received.

BUSINESS AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

22. Have you ever engaged in any business or profession other than the practice of law? If yes, state the name of the business or employer and the dates of service and briefly describe the nature of the business or profession and the reason for leaving.
23. Are you now an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? If so, provide details as to the nature of the business, the nature of your duties and the term of your service. Is it your intention to resign these positions and withdraw from participation in the management of these enterprises if you are appointed? If not, explain.
24. Have you ever held a judicial or quasi-judicial office? If yes, please provide the names of the courts and the periods of service.
25. List all non-judicial public offices, elected or appointed, you now hold or have held in the past. If currently held, would you be willing to resign from these positions? If not, explain.
26. List all civic activities in which you have taken part, giving the dates of participation and any offices or leadership positions you have held.
27. List all other charitable, educational, fraternal or sororal, recreational, or religious organizations, trade groups, professional societies (other than bar associations), and similar groups for which you now are or have ever been a member and give the dates of membership and the titles of the offices, if any, that you held.
28. List all awards or recognition you have received that are not listed elsewhere.

CONDUCT

29. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so, provide details. DO NOT include motor vehicle offenses for which a fine of \$200 or less was imposed.
30. Provide details of any legal case, including divorce, bankruptcy, or insolvency, in which you personally are now or previously have been a party. For each, list the court or tribunal in which the case occurred, identifying case number, date range during which you were a party, the names of the other parties, and a complete description of the matter.
31. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by, or the subject of such a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group, including without limitation, the Commission on Judicial Disabilities, the Attorney Grievance Commission, or the Clients' Protection Fund? If so, provide all relevant details, including final disposition of the matter.
32. Has a complaint or claim ever been made against you alleging bullying or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability? If so, please explain.

33. Is there any other information about you that might be considered detrimental or that otherwise should be taken into consideration by the Commission in evaluating your application? If so, provide all relevant details, including a description of each incident with pertinent dates, names, and addresses.

GENERAL

34. List the names, business addresses, and business telephone numbers of at least three individuals who are familiar with your professional qualifications and who have known you for longer than the last five years. (*NOTE: AN APPLICANT SHOULD NOT USE THE NAME OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AS A REFERENCE.*)
35. Is this the first time you have applied for a judicial vacancy? If not, for each of your prior applications state the dates, the judicial offices, and whether you were nominated, appointed, not nominated, or not appointed.
36. Have you filed all federal and state tax returns that are now due or overdue, and are all payments thereon up to date? If not, explain. Have federal, state, or local authorities ever instituted a lien or other collection procedure against you? If so, explain.
37. Do you have a professional, business, consanguineous, or personal relationship with any member of the Judicial Nominating Commission that may interview you for this vacancy? If so, provide dates and a description of this relationship.
38. During the preceding five years, have you belonged to a club or organization (other than a religious organization) that discriminates against or excludes persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability? If so, please explain.
39. What motivates your interest in being a judge?
40. Why do you believe you would be a good judge?
41. Is there anything additional in your background that the Commission should consider in evaluating your qualifications to be nominated for this vacancy?