

October 28, 2007

The Honorable Wayne Brooks  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
11101 Gilroy Road  
Hunt Valley, MD 21031

Dear Judge Brooks:

On October 22, 2007, the Judicial Merit Selection Committee met to interview 9 (nine) judicial candidates for the Circuit Court vacancy created with the retirement of Judge Sweeney. The members of the committee who were present and voted were: Clarke F. Ahlers, Betty S. Adams, Ann M. Balcerzak, Fred L. Coover, III, Stacy A. Mayer, Mary J. Pizzo, Doris G. Walker, Patrick J. O'Guinn, Carol Saffran-Brinks and myself.

Each member reviewed the applicants' Personal Data Questionnaires and familiarized himself/herself with the By-Laws pertaining to this committee and process prior to the interviews. During the interviews, the candidates were questioned upon the content of the questionnaire in addition to their respective temperaments and practices of law. Afterwards, the Committee discussed the qualifications of each candidate, in compliance with Section 9 (d) of Article VI of the By-Laws of the Bar Association.

Our By-Laws permit you to advise the Trial Court's Judicial Nominating Commission for Howard County and the Governor that in its opinion an applicant for judicial appointment is highly recommended, recommended, not recommended, and not recommended at this time. We ask that you advise the Trial Court's Judicial Nominating Commission and the Governor of the contents of this correspondence.

Based on the Personal Data Questionnaire, the personal knowledge of the Committee members and the personal interviews conducted of each applicant, the Committee finds that the following individuals are "qualified" for the office of Judge of the Circuit Court for Howard County:

Mary Murphy  
Timothy J. McCrone  
Robert N. Keehner  
Ricardo Zwaig  
Elaine Patrick  
Paul Vettori  
William Tucker

On behalf of the Committee I express to you and other members of the Howard County Bar Association that we followed this process in accordance with the By-Laws and the interviews were conducted in a professional, efficacious and positive manner.

Respectfully,  
JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMITTEE

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael A. Weal, Chairperson