

# Governor Appoints Four, Including Shore's First Woman, to Judiciary

BY CATHERINE M. BRENNAN

*Daily Record Legal Affairs Writer*

Gov. Parris Glendening yesterday appointed the Eastern Shore's first woman judge, continuing in his quest for a Maryland court bench that more accurately reflects the state's population.

Sally D. Adkins, a partner with the Salisbury firm of Adkins and Allen, was given the nod to serve on the Wicomico County Circuit Court; she will be the first female judge to ever sit on any Eastern Shore District or Circuit court.

"The appointment of a woman to the bench in the county and in that region of the state is certainly long overdue, and I am proud to have made history through her selection," the governor said yesterday.

A University of Maryland School of Law graduate, Adkins was rated "highly qualified" by the Maryland State Bar Association, the Dorchester County Bar Association, the Wicomico County Bar Association, the Worcester County Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association.

But in making one pioneering move, the governor also maintained the status quo by naming three more men, all in private practice, to the benches of Baltimore City and Harford County.

John Philip Miller, a partner at Wright, Constable and Skeen since 1993, fills the vacancy left by Baltimore City District Court Judge David W. Young.

Miller, a 1973 graduate of the Washing-

ton & Lee University School of Law in Virginia, currently serves as chair of the committee on law practice quality for the MSBA.

Glendening also appointed former state legislator Thomas Waxter, a partner at Semmes, Bowen & Semmes for 34 years, to a seat on the Baltimore City Circuit Court bench.

Waxter, who served in the House of Delegates from 1966 to 1970, fills a position left vacant when Judge David Ross retired last year.

Harford County also gained a judge, as Glendening appointed Victor K. Butanis to fill a vacancy on the county's district court created by the resignation of Judge John S. Landbeck Jr.

Butanis, a full-time sole practitioner in Bel Air, also serves as part-time counsel to the Harford County Council.

All four appointees were rated as "highly qualified" to serve as judges by the Judicial Nominating Commissions for the counties in which they will serve. Additionally, members of the legal community welcomed Adkins' appointment as a positive move toward diversity in the judiciary.

"The Women's Law Center is certainly very pleased with the governor's appointment and we applaud the selection of a highly qualified and competent woman to this position," said Christyne Neff, president of the center. "We are very pleased with the steps that Gov. Glendening has taken in his appointments of women to the bench."



JOHN PHILIP MILLER