



STATE OF MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

GOVERNOR GLENDENING APPOINTS FIVE JUDGES TO THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

ANNAPOLIS, MD (February 7, 2002)- Governor Parris N. Glendening today announced the elevations of Judge Katherine D. Savage, Judge Dennis M. McHugh, and Judge Marielsa A. Bernard, the appointment of Joseph A. Dugan, Jr. and the reappointment of Judge DeLawrence Beard to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Three vacancies were created by legislation transferring the Juvenile Court to the Circuit Court and one vacancy was created by the death of Judge James Chapin.

"It is with great pride that I am able to appoint a group of candidates that not only have the respect of the Montgomery County bench and bar, but even more significantly, they have the respect of the community as a whole," said Governor Glendening. "Each judge has distinguished themselves as dedicated jurists who have earned reputations for high standards of professionalism and dedication to the community. Joe Dugan has had broad exposure to all areas of the law and has the keen intellect and conscientious demeanor of a first class judge. There is no doubt that each of these judges are committed to the people of Montgomery County and will serve with distinction."

"I am absolutely delighted with the Governor's decision to reappoint Judge Beard, and to elevate Judge Savage, Judge McHugh, and Judge Bernard, to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County," said Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell. "All have made outstanding contributions to the Judiciary on and off the bench. By all accounts, Joseph Dugan's temperament and legal expertise show that he has the skills to be an outstanding jurist, and will contribute to the hard-working Montgomery County bench."

The Hon. Katherine D. Savage Appointed to Circuit Court

Judge Savage was appointed to the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County in 1997 by Governor Glendening. While on the Court, she has presided over civil, criminal, domestic violence, Children In Need of Assistance (CINA), juvenile and traffic cases. Prior to her appointment, Judge Savage was a prosecutor with the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office for nearly nine years. While at the State's Attorney's Office, Judge Savage became the supervisor of the District Court team. She began her legal career as an associate with the law firm Catterton, Kemp, and Mason, practicing in the areas of medical and dental malpractice, domestic matters and criminal law.

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Judge Savage is currently the President of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Women's Bar Association and has served on several committees of the Montgomery County Bar Association. She serves on the District Court Judicial Education Committee as well as the Maryland Judicial Conference and the Committees on Juvenile and Family Law. Judge Savage was a member of the Lt. Governor's Task Force for Juvenile Justice Reform and has lectured extensively on juvenile issues across the State. Judge Savage is currently an Advisory Committee member of the Montgomery County Teen Project and continues to volunteer with many charitable organizations, including the St. Rose of Lima Church, which provides meals to sheltered women.

Judge Savage graduated magna cum laude from Seton Hall University in 1967 with a B.S. in nursing. After several years as a medical surgical specialty nurse, in 1977 she received a M.A. in U.S. History from Rutgers University, graduating magna cum laude. In 1986, Judge Savage graduated cum laude and earned her law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law, where she won American Jurisprudence Awards in criminal and administrative law. She is 56 years old and lives in Rockville with her husband, James C. Savage. They have four children.

The Hon. Dennis M. McHugh Appointed to Circuit Court

Judge McHugh was appointed to the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County in 1991. Since 1996, he has presided almost exclusively over juvenile cases and was the judge-in-charge of the Juvenile Division of the District Court. Judge McHugh was in his second stint as a solo practitioner before his appointment to the District Court and his practice consisted of divorce, criminal, real estate settlement, wills, and tax litigation cases. Prior to that, he was a partner with the law firm Chen, Walsh & Tecler from 1983 until 1988. Before joining that firm, Judge McHugh was a sole practitioner for three years after serving as an associate, first with the law firm of Simpson and Simpson and then with the Law Office of Ferdinand J. Mack. He began his legal career as a law clerk for Judge Kenneth Proctor on the Circuit Court for Baltimore County and then as an attorney for the D.C. Corporation Counsel's Law Enforcement and Taxation Divisions.

Judge McHugh is a member of the Montgomery County Bar Association and has served as Vice-Chair and Acting Chair for the Juvenile Justice Jurisdiction Commission. He has given numerous lectures regarding juvenile law issues at bar association and law school seminars. He has served on the Montgomery County Executive's Task Force on Juvenile Justice and the Child Welfare League Protective Processes Panel. Judge McHugh was appointed and currently serves on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, a group that meets with the Maryland Secretary of Juvenile Justice for the purpose of discussing the aftercare of juveniles placed outside their homes.

Judge McHugh received his B.S. in History from the University of Scranton (PA) in 1965 and earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law School in 1968. He attended Naval Officer Candidate School in 1968, was commissioned in 1969, and remained on active duty until 1971. He was a member of the reserves for the next 22 years. Judge McHugh is 58 years old, lives in Rockville and is married to Claire M. McKenna. They have two sons.

The Hon. Marielsa A. Bernard Appointed to Circuit Court