

# Eldridge to be acting chief judge of appeals court

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Judge John C. Eldridge has agreed to serve as acting chief judge of Maryland's Court of Appeals, the state's highest court.

Gov. Parris Glendening is in the process of finding a permanent successor to Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy, who's retiring.

Judge Eldridge, an Annapolis-area resident, is the senior member of the seven-member Court of Appeals, having served on that court since 1974.

Mr. Glendening received the names of candidates for chief judge from the Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission on Sept. 27 and completed interviewing candidates on Oct. 4.

Mr. Glendening also met with the sitting judges on the Maryland Court of Appeals.

"I am very cognizant of the tremendous importance and significance of this appointment," Mr. Glendening said.

"Judge Murphy set a standard of excellence during his distinguished career as Maryland's leading jurist, and I am committed to selecting the most highly qualified individual to serve as chief judge and continue that legacy."

Mr. Glendening said he's also talking with legislative leaders and leaders in the legal community to help find the most qualified person for the job.

Appointed to represent the 5th Circuit, Judge Eldridge was the chief legislative officer for former governor Marvin Mandel from 1969 to 1974.