

Four Nominated for CSA Seat

Finalist to Succeed Judge Diana G. Motz, Who Was Elevated to U.S. CA

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Four Baltimore City Circuit Court judges have been chosen as finalists for a seat on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals bench, state court administrators announced yesterday.

The finalists, one of whom will succeed Judge Diana G. Motz on the state's second-highest court, are: John C. Byrnes, Andre M. Davis, Ellen M. Heller and Ellen L. Hollander.

Byrnes, a 1966 graduate of the University of Maryland Law School, was appointed to the city's circuit court bench in 1982 after serving as a state senator since 1971. Prior to that, he was a partner at the Baltimore law firm of Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger and Hollander.

Davis, a *cum laude* graduate of UM Law School in 1978, served as president of the Legal Aid Bureau

Inc. from 1985 until 1987, when he was appointed to the city's district court bench. In 1990, he was elevated to the circuit court.

Heller, also a *cum laude* UM graduate, worked as an assistant attorney general from 1977 until 1986, when she was appointed to the circuit court bench.

Hollander earned her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1974. She has served on Baltimore's circuit court bench since 1989 and is a former partner at the now-defunct law firm of Frank, Bernstein, Conaway & Goldman. She also has worked as an as-

sistant attorney general and an assistant U.S. attorney.

The state's Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission met Wednesday and interviewed 10 applicants for the position. Besides the four finalists, the commission also considered Baltimore Circuit Judge John N. Pre-

vas, District Judge Charlotte M. Cooksey, Assistant Attorney General Risselle R. Fleisher and Baltimore attorneys Gary I. Strausberg, Susan K. Gauvey and Avery Aisenstark.

Gov. William Donald Schaefer will make the final appointment after interviewing the four finalists. There is no set timetable for the appointment.

The court opening was created earlier this year when Motz was elevated to the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, becoming the second woman on that court. The first was Karen J. Williams, from Orangeburg, S.C., who remains an active judge.

Motz, who was one of only two women in her law school class at the University of Virginia, was appointed to the CSA in 1991 when she was a partner at Frank, Bernstein. Before that job, she was chief of litigation for the Maryland Attorney General's Office.

She earned recognition during her days as a state prosecu-

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Source: Administrative
Office of the Courts

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