

# Cole Named First Black On Appeals Court



**JUDGE HARRY A. COLE**

... to state's high court

—File Photo

News American Bureau

**ANNAPOLIS** — Baltimore Supreme Bench Judge Harry A. Cole has been named to the Court of Appeals, the first Black appointed to the state's highest court.

Gov. Blair Lee III announced Cole's appointment Thursday and also moved to integrate the state's all-white Cabinet.

Lee said he has offered the post of secretary of economic and community development to Henry G. Parks Jr., a respected Black Baltimore businessman and former member of the City Council.

Parks and Lee have discussed the \$40,000-plus yearly Cabinet job, but Lee explained that Parks has not accepted because of possible conflict of interests.

The wealthy Parks — who recently sold his interest in Parks Sausage — still has interests in many national blue-chip firms, which might constitute a conflict with his official duties if he accepted the

job as economy-booster, Lee said, adding:

"I would think if he were to come in here tomorrow and say, 'Yes, I'll take it and do a good job for you,' I would appoint him."

Cole, 56, a city judge for the past 10 years, was a fellow legislator with Lee in the General Assembly from 1954 to 1958.

Lee said his choice of Cole was influenced, but not controlled, by the fact Cole is Black and Lee thought that Blacks — who comprise perhaps 20 percent of the state population — should have representation on its highest court.

Lee also termed Cole "a fine guy, level-headed."

But Lee did not have the chance to name to the job the Black he most wanted to see there, Supreme Bench Judge Joseph Howard.

Howard's name was not chosen for nomination by a judicial selection committee, and Lee angrily charged the

committee was trying to blind his hands in filling the judgeship.

He also thought perhaps Howard became unattractive to many in the legal community when he knocked a sitting judge off the Supreme Bench in an election fight 10 years ago.

The failure to give the high court seat to Howard also has drawn harsh criticism from Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-7th.

In other topics at his news conference Thursday, Lee:

- Named Arnold J. Hopkins, 41, as director of parole and probation.

Hopkins, of Ellicott City, holds a University of Maryland law degree and is associate director to the American Bar Association's commission on correction facilities and services.

- Said he will extend an executive order to impose ethics code standards on some top elected officials in Maryland, including such posts as comptroller and treasurer.