

Court master named to fill circuit seat

**Governor also selects
first Hispanic for
city's District Court**

Dancy will replace Bothe

**Glendening praised
for diversity
of choices**

By KATE SHATZKIN
SUN STAFF

Gov. Parris N. Glendening yesterday named a Circuit Court master to fill the seat of Baltimore Circuit Judge Elsbeth L. Bothe, and appointed an assistant attorney general as the first Hispanic district judge in Baltimore.

Bonita J. Dancy, a master who handled domestic cases in the city for 13 years and who has been nominated for several judgeships, will take the place of Judge Bothe, whose seat came open after a city nominating commission did not find her qualified for reappointment.

Mr. Glendening also announced late yesterday that

he was filling two other Circuit Court vacancies, left by retiring Judge Hilary D. Caplan and the appointment of Judge Andre M. Davis to the federal bench, with Baltimore District Judge David W. Young and lawyer Gary I. Strausberg.

Audrey J. S. Carrion, an assistant attorney general in the correctional litigation unit, was appointed to fill the seat of retiring Baltimore District Judge Alan B. Lipson. She will be the first district judge of Hispanic descent in Baltimore, said Ray Feldmann, a spokesman for the governor.

Mr. Glendening named Charles A. Chiapparelli, chief of the child-abuse division of the Baltimore state's attorney's office, to a District Court seat being vacated by Judge Richard O. Motsay.

James R. Eyler, chairman of the Baltimore firm of Miles & Stockbridge, was tapped to succeed Court of Special Appeals Judge Paul E. Alpert, over a field that included circuit judges from Baltimore and Harford counties and three other lawyers. Three of the six candidates were women.

"While we are disappointed that the

"I think this commission has set this terrible precedent and the governor let them do it. I still know no reason at all for this," Judge Bothe said.

The judge said she still was considering running to get back on the bench next year, when the Circuit Court appointees will have to stand for election to 15-year terms. But she said yesterday she was leaning against it.

Mr. Strausberg, 48, who has specialized in medical malpractice and product liability litigation, said, "Ever since I think I was a law student, a judgeship has been something of great appeal for me."

"I'm really grateful that Gov. Glendening has a commitment to inclusiveness," said Ms. Carrion, 37, who has applied twice before for judgeships.

Other new appointees could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Feldmann said yesterday a date for swearing in the new judges had not been set.