

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER AS TO AGREEMENTS  
FOR LIQUIDATION OF LAW PRACTICES

WHEREAS, A judge-designate is allowed under Maryland Code, Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, § 1-203, to enter into an agreement with a law firm or successor in practice for payment of the reasonable liquidated value of the judge-designate's or -elect's law practice as of the date of its termination; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the Court of Appeals' adoption of a new Code of Judicial Conduct, effective July 1, 2005, former Rule 16-813, per Canon 4I(2), made presumptively reasonable a five-year period for payments pursuant to such liquidated value agreements to be received by judges and former Rule 16-814, per Canon 4I(3), suggested that certain judicial appointees should file such agreements; and

WHEREAS, The Administrative Office of the Courts has recommended that the presumption be continued for guidance of new judge-designates and -elects; and

WHEREAS, There exist circumstances in which the 5-year period may need to be renewed;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, do hereby order this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007:

1. That, as to all agreements submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts on or after the date of this Order, a payment period of up to a maximum of 5 years is presumptively reasonable;

2. That the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals may renew the payment period on application documenting the need for renewal;
3. That, by October 1, 2007, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall consider, and make recommend to the Judicial Cabinet, whether:

A. This presumptive period should be made permanent by amendment of Maryland Code, Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, § 1-203 or by adoption of a rule; and

B. A provision should be adopted by rule, statute, or otherwise, for the filing of an agreement by a judicial appointee, as defined in the Terminology portion of Maryland Rule 16-814, with the Administrative Office of the Courts or, in the case of judicial appointees other than judges, the appointing court.

/s/ Robert M. Bell  
Robert M. Bell  
Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals

Filed: March 5, 2007

Alexander L. Cummings  
Alexander L. Cummings  
Clerk  
Court of Appeals of Maryland