

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

**ORDER CREATING
THE CONFERENCE OF ORPHANS' COURT JUDGES**

WHEREAS, the Orphans' Court is vested with enumerated powers under Article IV of the Maryland Constitution, and as such is an important part of the Maryland Judiciary; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to formalize a representative body for purposes of consulting and advising the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in matters affecting the Orphans' Court;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Constitution, do hereby order this 18th day of November, 2003, effective immediately that:

- (A) Purpose. There is a Conference of Orphans' Court Judges, created to act as an advisory body to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in all matters relating to the Orphans' Court.
- (B) Membership. The Conference shall consist of fourteen (14) Orphans' Court Judges appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.
- (C) Terms. The term of membership shall be two years subject to reappointment except that upon the establishment of the Conference, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall appoint the initial term of two years for seven members and three years for seven members. All subsequent terms shall be for two years.
- (D) Officers. The Conference of Orphans' Court Judges shall elect a chair and vice-chair. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chair shall act as chairperson.
- (E) Quorum; Meetings; Staff. A majority of the authorized members of the Conference of Orphans' Court Judges shall constitute a quorum and shall meet at least three (3) times a year. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall serve as secretariat to the Conference.

(F) Duties. The Conference of Orphans' Court Judges shall:

- (1) exchange ideas and views on matters relating to the operation, management and leadership of the Orphans' Courts;
- (3) advise and make recommendations to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals on judiciary policy matters directly affecting the Orphans' Courts; and
- (4) consider and make recommendations to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals on legislation that may affect the operation of the Orphans' Court and the administration of justice.

/s/ Robert M. Bell
Robert M. Bell

Filed: November 18, 2003

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