

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CREATING
THE CONFERENCE OF MARYLAND COURT LAW LIBRARY DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, Law Libraries supported with professional Law Librarians have been an integral part of Maryland Courts for more than 100 years in some jurisdictions, by providing legal information and research support to the bench, bar and citizens of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2001 report of the Maryland Circuit Court Library Study Committee to the Hon. Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge, Maryland Court of Appeals, recommendations for funding, standards and technology were made, and these and other areas of concern to law libraries and their courts are ongoing; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to formalize a representative body for purposes of consulting and advising the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Judicial Cabinet, the Maryland Judicial Council, the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Circuit and County Administrative Judges, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks and the Conference of Circuit Court Administrators in matters affecting court libraries;

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 Constitution, do hereby order this 21st day of February, 2008, effective immediately that:

(A) Purpose. There is a Conference of Court Law Library Directors, whose purpose, *inter alia*, is to provide a forum for policy discussion, information exchange and professional development and to assist and act as an advisory body to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Judicial Cabinet, the

Maryland Judicial Council, the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Circuit and County Administrative Judges, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks and the Conference of Circuit Court Administrators.

(B) Definitions.

(1) In general. In this Order, the following words and phrases have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Court Law Library Director” means a professional law librarian whose primary responsibility is that of the head librarian charged with the administration of a court library for Baltimore City or any other county or judicial circuit in Maryland.

(3) “Conference” means the Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors.

(C) Membership. The Conference shall consist of each Court Law Library Director, the Director of the Maryland State Law Library, the Outreach Services Librarian of the Maryland State Law Library, who will act as a representative for those libraries without a professional law library director, and, *ex officio*, the Law Librarian of the Office of the Attorney General.

(D) Quorums; Meetings; Officers.

(1) A majority of the authorized members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

(2) The conference shall meet at least three (3) times a year and at least one of these meetings shall be held in Annapolis and at least one of these meetings will include a program for all who staff Maryland State Court Law Libraries.

(3) The Conference shall select a chairperson and vice-chairperson every two years. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall act as the chairperson during the term.

(E) Duties. The Conference shall meet to:

(1) Exchange ideas and views on matters relating to the operation, management and leadership of the court libraries including, but not limited to: court library standards, coordination of collection development in acquisitions, retention and disposal of library resources, library funding, service to the public, and libraries as partners with the courts in providing access to justice through education and the provision of legal information;

(2) Provide advice and make recommendations to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Judicial Cabinet, the Maryland Judicial Council, the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Circuit and County Administrative Judges and the Conference of Circuit Court Administrators, as to legislation, rules or policies intended for the improvement of the overall administration of court law libraries; and

(3) Provide a forum for professional development and mentoring of court library staff members.

/s/ Robert M. Bell

Robert M. Bell

Filed: February 21, 2008

/s/ Alexander L. Cummings

Alexander L. Cummings

Clerk

Court of Appeals of Maryland