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Friday, September 16, 2011



Four nominated for St. Mary's judgeship

Governor to appoint new member of court

By John Wharton, Staff Writer

A Southern Maryland judicial nominating commission gave the state's governor a choice this week among a St. Mary's deputy prosecutor, former county administrator and two private practice attorneys as he appoints a successor to a county circuit judge who retired earlier this year.

The nominees are David W. Densford, Bryan T. Dugan, Alfred A. Lacer and Theodore P. Weiner, The 13-member nominating commission consisting of lawyers and other people from St. Mary's and Calvert counties sent the four names up to Annapolis after meeting Tuesday with seven applicants for the judgeship. The applicants whose names were not forwarded to Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) were private-practice attorney A. Shane Mattingly, assistant prosecutor Joseph M. Stanalonis and former prosecutor James L. Tanavage.

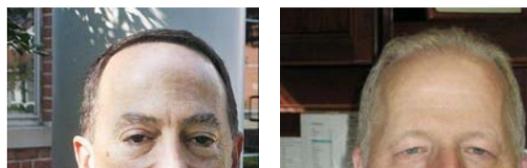
Densford is a 59-year-old private practice lawyer living in California who previously worked as a public defender. He previously applied and was nominated for a district court judgeship.

"I've enjoyed interviewing with different bar associations around the state," Densford said this week. "I appreciate the commission's confidence in sending up my name, and I look forward to interviewing with the governor."

Dugan, 57, of Hollywood is the lead partner of a law firm in



Weiner



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Lexington Park. He now has applied for three judgeships, received his second nomination this week and once was a candidate for a contested circuit court judgeship.

"I would want the governor to know that besides being an active experienced litigator throughout Southern Maryland, that I and my partners have been actively involved in our community," Dugan said, "and I would bring a broad range of experience to the job if I were appointed."

Lacer, 59, of Park Hall is a former county government attorney who later served as the county government's administrator. He has applied for three circuit court vacancies and now been nominated for two of them.

"I would like the governor to know I have served my community not only as an attorney in private practice, with a very broad practice experience, but also in a number of other capacities," Lacer said, "as an attorney and a leader in a number of core institutions in our community, [including government], education, health care and other community services."

Weiner, 58, of Leonardtown is the county's deputy state's attorney, and previously served as the attorney for county government. This is his fourth application for a judgeship, and his third nomination.

"I'm still the frontrunner," he said this week outside the courthouse. "I'm ready, willing and able to serve [with] a broad range of experience."

O'Malley (D) will appoint the new judge to replace Circuit Judge C. Clarke Raley, who retired last spring. The judgeship



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will be on next year's election ballot, and any lawyer can run for the 15-year term. The filing deadline is next January for the April primaries.

The county has two other resident circuit court judges, Karen H. Abrams and Michael J. Stamm, and dockets sometimes are also handled by visiting judges. Abrams and Stamm both won full terms in contested elections after their appointment to the bench.

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