

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CHANGING THE NAME OF THE COURT INFORMATION
OFFICE

WHEREAS, The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, on June 11, 1997, established the Court Information Office, to conduct the Judiciary's public affairs program, with a focus on planning, designing and executing programs to communicate with Judiciary employees and the public, including the media, government officials, and community groups, about the Judiciary's services, activities and outreach efforts, while providing mechanisms for public feedback; and

WHEREAS, The Court Information Office began, among other things: a formal government relations program, along with the preparation of legislative reports; a Judiciary orientation program for new journalists; expansion of the Judiciary's presence on the Internet; a Speakers Bureau; efforts to clarify the policies on public access to court records; the provision of support to the Racial/Ethnic Bias Commission; production and distribution of the Judiciary's Annual Report highlights; development of public education programs; Judiciary newsletters and courthouse visitor brochures; and the production of videos and audio-visual materials; and

WHEREAS, The Court Information Office is currently undergoing a major structural reorganization, with a mission to direct and oversee a number of Judiciary public relations activities, marketing and branding initiatives, enhanced strategic internal and external communications, and expanded community outreach, designed to increase the public's understanding of the Judiciary; and

WHEREAS, The name, “Court Information Office,” no longer accurately reflects the expanded role of the Office or describes, to the public and Judiciary employees, its numerous and varied functions;

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 10th day of March, 2009, that:

1. The Court Information Office will change its name to the “Office of Communications and Public Affairs.”

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

Filed: March 10, 2009

/s/ Bessie M. Decker
Bessie M. Decker
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland