

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 9

RESOLUTION NO. 118 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Reappointment – James Bell – Advisory Board on Consumer Protection

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the reappointment of James Bell to the Advisory Board on Consumer Protection.

Introduced and read first time on July 6, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on July 20, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on Sept 8, 2026.

Certified by Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

July 29, 2026 ~~Tabled~~ Michelle Harrod

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6.317 and 17.402 of the Howard County Code provide for an Advisory Board on Consumer Protection in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the reappointment of James Bell as a member of the Advisory Board on Consumer Protection; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 8 day of September, 2026 that the following person is reappointed as a member of the Advisory Board on Consumer Protection to serve from the passage of this Resolution to September 8, 2029 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

James Bell
Ellicott City, Maryland

JAMES G BELL

Ellicott City, MD 21042

BAR ADMISSION

MARYLAND 12/15/2015

Federal Admission for Maryland Federal Courts

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW, Baltimore, MD

Juris Doctor, May 2015

cum laude, GPA: 3.407, class rank: 81/275

Trial Team – ABA Employment and Labor Law

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY, Bowie, MD

Bachelor of Science Elementary Education, December 2008

summa cum laude, GPA: 3.92

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Maryland Legal Aid,

Baltimore, MD

November 2021 - current

Staff Attorney

Member of the Eviction Rapid Response Team. As the first attorney hired onto this team, I built the team structure as it currently exists based upon the parameters of the grant. I provided “day of hearing” representation for Tenants in Landlord Tenant disputes.

In July 2022 I transferred to the Baltimore County as a staff attorney under the ACE grant. In that position, I have worked with our partner organization to maximize coverage in both more complex eviction related litigation and day of representation. My core duties involve complex eviction and habitability cases as they are assigned and providing day of representation at the landlord/tenant special proceedings docket. The special proceedings docket includes; Tenant Holding over, Breach of Lease, Wrongful Detainer and Rent Escrow cases.

Sanchez Garrison

Baltimore, MD

July 2021 - November 2021

Bankruptcy Associate

Managed all aspects of Bankruptcy including all necessary motions in a large chapter 13 and chapter 7 case load.

THE LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD ROSENBLATT Rockville, MD

Jan. 2019 - July 2021

Head of Bankruptcy

Managed all aspects of Bankruptcy including all necessary motions in a large chapter 13 and chapter 7 case load.

BWW LAW GROUP

Rockville, MD

April 2016 - Dec 2018

Bankruptcy Attorney

Maintained a the largest caseload in the Bankruptcy department(5 attorneys). Resolved matters for a creditor rights firm including chapter 7, 11 and 13 matters. Regularly attended hearings on bankruptcy matters including motions for relief, plan objections, lien strips, 'cram downs', Proof of Claim objections and other matters as they arose. Trained new attorneys through their ability to handle a complete caseload. Handled client based audits from large clients for the department.

V-M PROPERTIES

Suitland, MD

Oct.2015- April 2016

Law Clerk

Drafted commercial lease agreements. Interviewed, drafted and executed estate planning documents with clients under supervision of a managing lawyer. Documents include trusts, wills, power of attorney, advance medical directives and codicils. Managed bookkeeping and accounts for the roughly forty properties.

MARYLAND STATE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE Annapolis, MD

January 2015-April 2015

Legal Intern

Researched and analyzed issues to create documents provided to the members of the Judiciary Committee in order to provide complete information on an issue. Provided research on bills on the following areas of law: Criminal, Civil, Evidence, Victim Rights, Banking regulation, Garnishment, and DUI.

COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS, THE HON. JAMES KENNEY Leonardtown, MD July 2014-Sept. 2014

Summer Clerkship

Harmonized and synthesized opposing appellate arguments into comprehensive, succinct bench memorandum, which also included suggestions on which party prevailed on each issue as well as possible questions to ask during oral arguments. Drafted unpublished opinions on criminal, civil and land use cases.

MARYLAND STATE ETHICS COMMISSION Annapolis, MD

July 2013- Sept 2013

Intern

Researched and drafted succinct inter office memorandum comparing Maryland and other states Ethics laws. Participated in depositions related to an ongoing instigation. Drafted interrogatories for an ongoing investigation.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Upper Marlboro, MD

Feb 2009-Feb 2012

General Education Teacher August 2009—Feb 2012

Taught classes of up to 30 students in the 4th and 5th grades with a MSA passage rate of 89.7% for math, and 92.3% for reading. The district wide the passage rates were 83.4% and 79% for the last academic year I taught. Acted as the Teacher representative with the Parent Teacher Organization.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2018 FORTH QUARTER ATTORNEY OF EXCELLENCE, BWW LAW GROUP

2020 PANELIST, BANKRUPTCY SPRING BREAK