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Notes from the Law School

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FROM THE LAW SCHOOL

Tribute To Dean Isaacson Held At The Belvedere September 23, 1981

Clinic Programs University of Baltimore



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the various Moot Court competitions.

Dean Isaacson shared the occasion with his wife and family, who were chauffeured to the Belvedere in a classic Silver Bentley limousine expressly reserved for the event. Dean Laurence M. Katz, current Dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law served as Master of Ceremonies. The overflow crowd was composed of many dignitaries and successful lawyers, all of whom counted themselves fortunate to have been students of Julius Isaacson.

If you were unable to attend this festive occasion and would like to contribute to the "Julius Isaacson Moot Court Fund"—please send your Tax Deductable Donation to:

"Julius Isaacson Moot Court Fund"
University of Baltimore
Educational Foundation
1304 Saint Paul Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

"They come out of law school with their heads full of theory, but they don't know how to find their way to the courthouse." This criticism need never apply to U of B law graduates who take advantage of the Law School's comprehensive clinical programs.

Authorized by Court of Appeals Rule 18, which permits third-year law students to appear in court, under the direct supervision of a member of the Bar, on behalf of indigent clients in civil cases, and for the State or for indigent defendants in criminal cases, increasing numbers of U of B seniors are learning litigation before they leave law school.

Offerings in U of B's newly reorganized clinical program include the Civil Practice Clinic, opened in the Fall of 1981 under the direction of Anne Pecora; the Criminal Practice Clinic, supervised by Barbara Mello since its inception of September 1979; and the Prisoners' Rights Clinic, directed by Richard Seligman, which will begin accepting students in January 1982. Coordinator of the entire program is Barbara Mello. Profs. Pecora and Mello are both U of B alumnae.

Clinical students learn professional responsibility on the firing line. Representing real clients in actual cases, they are responsible — always under the close supervision of a practicing attorney, who must be present at trial table every time a student appears in court — for all phases of case preparation, from initial client interview through appeal.

The Civil Practice Clinic, which includes a Legal Services to the Elderly

program, funded by a grant from the Area Agency on Aging, handles a broad range of cases in state and federal courts and before administrative tribunals. Examples of types of cases taken by the clinic, on behalf of its indigent or elderly clients are landlord-tenant; guardianship; divorce and custody; domestic violence; public benefit denials; rights of the institutionalized; foster care review; and civil rights. Recent clients of the clinic include a sixteen-year-old unwed mother of twins; a nine-year-old elementary school pupil who was forced to spend five days shut up in a supply closet, as part of her school's "assertive discipline" programs; and a prison inmate concerned about who should have custody of her children while she is serving her sentence. Two civil suits filed by the Clinic as part of its Nursing Home Advocacy Project have resulted in criminal indictments for theft against nursing home proprietors accused of appropriating money and property belonging to elderly patients.

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The Prisoner's Rights Clinic, a new program being organized under a federal student practice rule (Local Rule 2C) similar to the State's Rule 18, will enable students to learn federal civil litigation by appearing on behalf of inmates raising constitutional challenges to the conditions of their confinement. The clinic is funded by a grant from United Way of Central Maryland, administered through

its affiliate, Prisoners' Aid, Inc.

Clinical students' in-court experience is supplemented by classroom training in interviewing, counseling, negotiation, discovery techniques, and trial preparation and advocacy, as well as law office management and economics — all presented with a heavy emphasis on ethical considerations. Classroom sessions are primarily centered on simulated client problems, in which students are required to play the role of the attorney. Videotape is used extensively for interviewing and counseling exercises. The classroom portion of the program culminates in mock trials of problem cases. The program draws heavily on the services of visiting lawyers and judges, who observe and critique students' performances of practice exercises. A number of lawyers and judges have also cooperated in the videotaping of "model mock trials" for use in classroom training in the techniques of direct and cross examination.

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A Profile Of The Fall 1981 Entering Class



The Law Admissions office has just completed a statistical analysis of the 1981 Law School entering class and the data produced provides an interesting profile of the new class that we would like to share with the entire law school community.

Overall applications were up this year by approximately 150, with 1,335 applications received. We expect this increase to continue as the news of our full accreditation by the American Bar Association becomes known. Of the 1,335 applications received, 586 admission offers were made, with 318 finally enrolling. Thirteen per cent of that group are non-residents of Maryland, 40 per cent are registered in the evening division, 34 per cent are female, 28 per cent are married, and 6 per cent are minority students. The average age for day students is 23, while for the evening it is 28. The median LSAT score for the day stands at 578, while it is 568 for the evening. The median undergraduate grade point average for the day is 3.14, while for the evening it is 3.02.

There are 60 different majors represented in this entering class with Political Science having the greatest number with 68; followed by History and English. Among the other majors were Accounting, Classics, Economics, Modern Languages, Psychology and Zoology.

Ninety-nine undergraduate schools were represented in the entering class. Of the 197 students who attended 20 Maryland colleges, the largest number of students (66) graduated from the

Also joining the Law School faculty this year is Associate Professor Alfred A. Porro, Jr. Mr. Porro joins the faculty after two years as a lecturer at Temple University where he received the distinguished Honorable Abraham L. Freedman Fellowship. Mr. Porro teaches Legal Skills, Professional Responsibility and Trial Advocacy. He has served on the Adjunct Faculty at Rutgers University at Newark, Brisbane Law School in Australia, and has presented seminars at Columbia University and Delaware University graduate schools. Mr. Porro spent twenty-one years as a general practitioner and has served as special counsel to numerous governmental agencies. He has also published extensively. Professor Porro received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from the Rutgers University and has an LL.M. from Temple University School of Law.

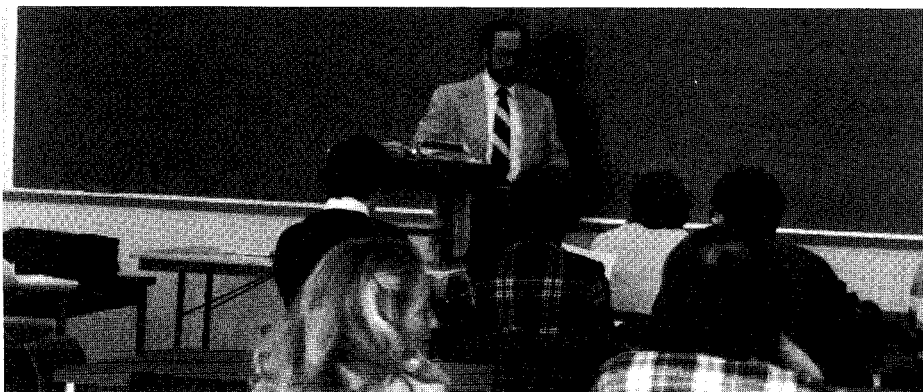
UofB

University of Maryland at College Park. Following UMCP were Towson, UMBC, Loyola, and Frostburg, respectively. One hundred twenty-one students attended 79 out-of-state undergraduate colleges including state and private schools in 21 states. Pennsylvania with 18 schools and New York with 10 schools have the greatest representation; followed by Massachusetts with 6, and North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. each with 5 schools represented.

There are 276 Maryland residents in this year's class with Baltimore County and Baltimore City having the greatest representation. They are followed by Montgomery, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel counties, each having more than 24 students in the first year class. Overall, 21 counties and Baltimore City are represented in this entering class.

The 42 non-resident students came from 11 states and Puerto Rico, with New York and Pennsylvania each having 11 students; followed by Virginia and Washington, D.C. Other students come from California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and South Carolina.

Overall the data produced by our analysis indicates that this new class is highly qualified to pursue their education at the University of Baltimore, and represents a diversity of geographical, educational backgrounds and experiences. Much success to all of you from the Law School faculty and administration.





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