



University of Baltimore Law Forum

Volume 17
Number 3 *Spring, 1987*

Article 1

1987

University of Baltimore Law Forum Volume 17 Number 3 (Spring 1987) Front Matter

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Recommended Citation

(1987) "University of Baltimore Law Forum Volume 17 Number 3 (Spring 1987) Front Matter," *University of Baltimore Law Forum*: Vol. 17: No. 3, Article 1.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.law.ubalt.edu/lf/vol17/iss3/1>

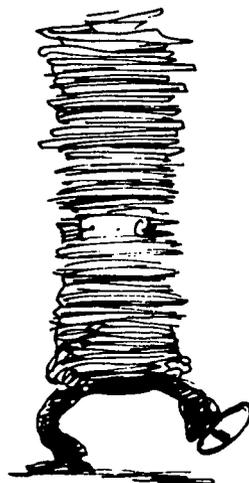
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The *Law Forum* would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the creative talents and generous donations of Michael D. Mallinoff, a third-year student at the University of Baltimore School of Law, for his photographic efforts on the back cover and page 31; Adam J. Sevel, a second-year law student at the University of Baltimore School of Law for his photographic effort on the front cover; and Stephen Fallowfield, a second-year law student at the University of Baltimore School of Law for his photographic efforts on pages 3 and 6.

FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr.

“Advice To Young Lawyers.”

Like many of you, I worked my way through law school. Balancing a full-time job and law school was difficult, but it was well worth the effort. I have been practicing law for twenty-six years and I have found law to be a challenging and rewarding career.

My career has combined the practice of law and politics. During my career I have been in solo practice, associated with another attorney, and an associate and partner in a ten attorney firm.

While practicing law, I was a delegate and later a senator from North Baltimore. While I was Lt. Governor, I had to forego my private practice of law, and I missed it. One of the reasons I chose to run for Attorney General was because it combines law and politics, which are my main interests.

I embarked upon my dual career of law and politics while still in law school. I was elected to the House of Delegates during my last year of law school. In order to balance both, I was given permission to stay in the House Chamber after session to prepare for that evening's law classes. It was quite an experience! I was fortunate to serve in the General Assembly with Joe Tydings, Charles Mac Mathias, and Harry Hughes. They were masters of the legislative process and walking encyclopedias of Maryland legislative history. For those of you interested in a career in government or public law, I highly recommend working in the General Assembly. There is no better place to learn Maryland law.

The *Law Forum* editors asked me what advice I have for young lawyers. There are several skills that are essential for successful lawyers.

The ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, is essential. I urge you to take advantage of the clinics offered at school and to clerk. Practical experience is the best teacher. Good writing skills are also very important. Developing good writing skills now will pay off in the years ahead. Fine tuned communication skills are the trademarks of a good advocate. While concentrating on how to communicate effectively with others, don't forget that a good lawyer must also be a good *listener*. Interpersonal communication skills are also essential.

In summary, the most important advice I can give to young lawyers is to be prepared. Preparation is the great equalizer in the law practice. A *well-prepared* lawyer who had average grades and LSAT scores is evenly matched with the most brilliant lawyer in any courtroom.

Best of Luck in all your future endeavors!

J. Joseph Curran, Jr.
Attorney General for the
State of Maryland