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FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Spring issue of the Law Forum features articles in the areas of recently enacted Maryland legislation, AALS membership for law schools, Statutory Construction and Administrative Regulations, Negotiable Instruments, Workers' Compensation, Legal Education and other interesting topics.

In "AALS Membership: What Does It Mean to a Law School?" Dean Walter A. Rafalko comments and explains the significance and honor associated with membership in the American Association of Law Schools.

Delegate Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. explains the new legislation recently promulgated by the 1988 Maryland General Assembly in his article entitled "A Comment on the 1988 Maryland General Assembly's Legislative Session."

Statutory Construction and its application to administrative regulations is evolving in the Maryland judicial system. Professor Byron L. Warnken reports on the latest court interpretation of state police regulations in "Statutory Construction: Maryland State Police Ordered To Obey Agency's Own Regulation."

Robert L. Kline, III, Esq. explores the interrelationship of The Uniform Commercial Code and Federal Regulation J and the impact which the two statutory schemes have on negotiable instruments and the check clearing process in "Regulation J: How It Affects The Collection of Checks and Other Negotiable Instruments."

In "Point-Counterpoint: The Workers' Compensation System — A Final Word," Alfred J. Dirska, Esq. and W. Stanwood Whiting, Esq., and Bernard J. Sevel, Esq. "square-off" for the final time to debate the merits of new amendments to Maryland's Workers' Compensation System.

"Teaching Legal Skills: The Three Year Experiment That Works," by Professors Elizabeth Samuels and Byron L. Warnken, explain why their program is successful and how it properly prepares University of Baltimore School of Law students for their legal education and the law clerking experience.

The Honorable David B. Mitchell, in "A Salute To Black Judges Of The Maryland Judiciary," explains the significance of the advancement of members of the black community within the circles of the Maryland bar and judiciary.

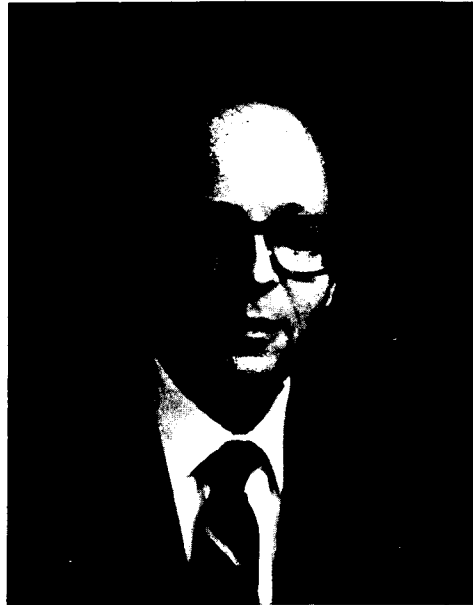
Dr. George H. Nash, in his article "Books and the Founding Fathers," explains the significance and impact of literature on America's founding fathers, most notably those who were lawyers.

Finally, Brian S. Jablon, Esq. makes a strong case for judicial clerkships for the recent law school graduate in "A Chance To View Things From The Bench."

In this issue, there is also an expanded Recent Developments section which explores through concise articles, current legal topics of interest to the legal community.

—Adam Jason Sevel
Editor-In-Chief

Letter from the Dean



Now that the School of Law has been accredited by the Association of American Law Schools, we have achieved the last of the major goals established by the faculty over a decade ago. We have in place the basic elements of a fine school. The task now is to determine where we go from here. To do this we have formed a committee comprised of a cross-section of faculty members to consider our current strengths and weaknesses, to recommend specific goals, and to support programs for achieving them.

We believe that our alumni can be helpful in this process. You have first-hand knowledge of the curriculum and opinions on how well it prepared you for the practice of law. We intend to develop a questionnaire for distribution this summer; I hope you will respond. In the meantime, please do write to me any thoughts you may have as to how we can maintain our momentum in developing a first-rate school.

In recent years we have placed considerable emphasis on training students in professional skills. We now offer eight sections of trial advocacy, courses in counseling and negotiation, clinical practice skills, litigation process, and alternative dispute resolution. A first-year course stresses research and writing, and all students are required to complete an upper-level research project. Students are encouraged to participate in one of seven sponsored moot court competitions, beyond the required first-year program, each of which is supervised by a number of the full-time faculty. In addition, students may participate in internships in a wide variety of settings including public and private law offices, the legislature or with a judge. Moreover, a civil law clinic and a criminal law clinic offer real client litigation experience.

In the coming year we intend to expand the clinical offerings. The faculty has approved the creation of three new clinics—in family law, housing law, and business law. The first two will include litigation; all are designed to offer public-interest service to indigent and low-income members of the community. The business law clinic will be operated in the evening so that clinical experience will be available to evening students as well. At the present time the faculty Appointments Committee is busy searching for two additional faculty members to lead the new litigation clinics. These additions would bring our full-time faculty number to 38, a substantial increase over the 26 members only ten years ago.

Recently, the alumni completed five intensive days at the Law School's phonathon, an annual event that has proven to be a major source of assistance. This year alone, the money raised has contributed to the purchase of eleven computers for the faculty and to the expenses of the moot court competitions. In addition, the money helps fund ten summer research fellowships for faculty. Although state support for the Law School has grown considerably over the years, it is clear that the margin of excellence must come from private support. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic and caring alumni. Your help is appreciated.

Laurence M. Katz, *Dean*
University of Baltimore
School of Law