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THE LAW FORUM
University of Baltimore School of Law

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From Volume 23 Editor-In-Chief Mike Muldowney:

This issue rounds out the second combined issue my dedicated staff has produced. The "light at the end of the tunnel," i. e., being back on schedule, is now apparent. I extend my appreciation to Judge Steinberg for his patience and to Linda Googins for gracing us with a top notch article on a topic which will inevitably affect the Port of Baltimore and the Technology Corridors along I-270 and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

The production of Issue 23.2 began in the Fall of 1992 when the search for a new dean for the law school began. University President Meb Turner was forced to answer questions with respect to the University's dedication to the law school and its success. The 1992 graduates awaited the results from the July Bar Exam and continued the dreadful process of finding employment, a task that has now become prolonged and painful. These three realities are milestones in the history of legal education at the University of Baltimore which could be disturbing in light of the saturated job markets and the continuous pleading from the UM Chancellor to find alternative sources of funding for the survival of the University of Baltimore and its fellow members of the UM System. The looming question becomes, "how valuable is a law degree nowadays?" As individuals pursuing a J.D. or hanging proof thereof on the office wall, it may be time to assess which places in society, besides the courtroom, we can use our legal educations. Linda Googins' article is a good example of alternative arenas in which a law school graduate can identify and analyze significant international issues and provide the leadership to creating solutions.

Very much in contrast to the slant of Ms. Googins' article is the slant of Judge Steinberg's examination of the various degrees with which a judge and/or jury bears the burden of settling civil disputes and determining the guilt of criminal defendants. Whether one discusses the Rodney King beating verdict or the preposterous outcome of a slip-and-fall trial, the hierarchy of burdens and their appropriate application to a given action become the obscure center of attention. I appreciate Judge Steinberg's effort to analyze the burdens in the Baltimore City Circuit. I hope you enjoy it.

In addition to pieces like Judge Steinberg's effort which ventures into the intangibles of deciding cases in the Baltimore City Circuit, the Law Forum would gladly consider any articles, somewhat like Ms. Googins' piece, which will advocate expanding the uses of the law degree beyond traditional notions in which many young J.D. holders feel they are captive.