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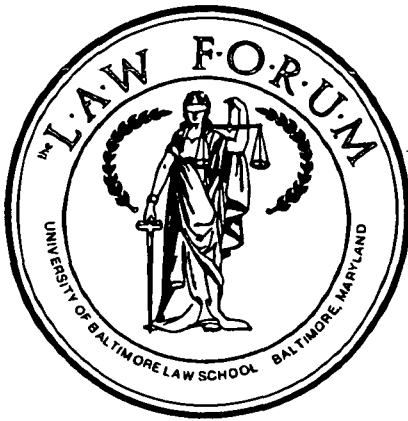
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University of Baltimore School of Law

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As I begin my term as Dean of the School of Law, one of my strongest impressions is that we are blessed with a large group of very loyal and committed alumni who care very much about the Law School and who are very well informed about us. Moreover, our alumni are extensively involved in activities at the school, particularly in mentoring our first year students, working with the Career Services Office, and occasionally serving as adjunct faculty. Having an informed and involved alumni group is extremely important to me and to the faculty and students of the Law School. I will be letting our alumni know about developments and activities at the Law School through a variety of methods, including periodic columns by me or Associate Dean Michele Gilligan in *The Law Forum*.



While the limitations of space do not permit a full report on the state of the Law School, I must say that I believe the school has weathered the fiscal crises of recent years quite well. We have built an excellent faculty, continue to attract a strong and diverse student body, and provide what I believe (and what I hear from our alumni) is an excellent legal education. We have just welcomed a new class of highly qualified and motivated students, and the new academic year is off to an excellent start. Moreover, we are actively planning for further improvements at the school and in our programs.

Another strong impression that I have had in my first weeks is of a very active and involved student body. Many of our students manage to find time in their busy lives to participate creatively and constructively in a wide range of student activities. Those students contribute significantly to the quality of life and of the educational experience at the Law School, and we greatly appreciate their efforts. The staff of *The Law Forum* deserves particular credit for their extensive and successful efforts to complete a number of issues in a short period of time.

It is a pleasure and an honor for me to serve as Dean of the Law School. I look forward to working closely with the faculty, students, administration and alumni over the next few years to help provide an even better legal education at the School of Law, and to contribute to improvements in the legal profession and to progress for the community, state and region that we serve.

John A. Sebert
Dean

Greetings alumni and friends,

Thank you for your continued support of *The Law Forum* publication. We are dedicated to providing a reliable, timely, and informative legal journal. On that note, we are extremely proud of our successful completion and distribution of Volume 23, thus maintaining a timely schedule for publishing and distributing Volume 24.

Additionally, *The Law Forum* has received a cosmetic change, however, the content and purpose has remained the same. We continue to maintain various articles and legal commentary on topical issues, providing the law practitioner with accurate and timely information which affect Maryland and federal laws. Furthermore, we have included a legislative column to focus on pending state laws.

Two topical articles relating to tax and gender laws are featured in this issue. *Soliman v. Commissioner: The Latest Word on the Home Office Deduction*, interprets the recent Supreme Court decision regarding the application of home office deductions for individuals who operate a business from their homes. This article, written by third year law student Robin Clark, provides a narrative analysis of the I.R.C. § 280A and its application by the United States Supreme Court. The second article, *The Exclusion of Women From Combat: Is There a Legal Justification?*, challenges gender law issues that invoke thought-provoking solutions and concerns regarding a woman's right to participate in military combat. Although the article focuses primarily on military combat inclusion of women, the general theme addresses underlying legal issues regarding gender based discrimination.

Finally, the legal commentary provided by the Honorable Thomas Noel analyzes the potential impact of having anonymous jurors for criminal trials in state courts.

We hope that you find the articles and recent development annotations beneficial. Please send us your comments and recommendations, they help us determine our success with each publication. In addition, we are always seeking topical articles to publish. Please forward one copy of your article to the Articles Editor; the article will be promptly reviewed and considered. Thank you.

Karl L. Chen
Editor-In-Chief

