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University of Baltimore Law Forum Volume 25 Number 2 (Fall 1994) Front Matter

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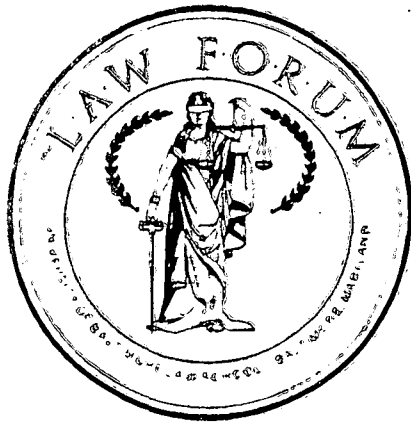
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University of Baltimore School of Law

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As the fall semester of 1994 ends, I would like to report on past activities and those planned for the spring.

During the fall semester, the first edition of the School of Law Annual Report was issued. The Annual Report is intended to inform the leaders of the bar and judiciary and all friends of the University of Baltimore School of Law about our strong program of legal education and its continued development. This publication and a number of alumni receptions and reunions have helped to create a feeling of community effort.

The law faculty, through its committees, has been busy during the fall semester developing initiatives which will soon contribute to the strength of the educational program. This semester a plan for an International and Comparative Law Center was approved by the Law Faculty Council and the University. With the efforts of federal and state governments to strengthen commercial and cultural ties to other nations, this focus on international law will put the University of Baltimore School of Law in a position to play a key role in the development of lawyers able to practice and function in an increasingly transnational environment.

In line with the MacCrate Report's recommendation that legal education include more skills training, the Faculty Council has approved a new Clinical Fellows Program which will allow the clinics to offer actual client practice courses to more students. Under a grant made available from the state judiciary, the Law School's Family Law Clinic and the University of Maryland's Legal Clinic have begun a program to assist *pro se* litigants in domestic law cases. Members of the Law School administration and faculty are also involved with the formation of a task force whose aim will be to determine how lawyers and legal education can better meet the needs of middle income persons.

The Curriculum Committee at the Law School is presently in the process of curricular reform aimed at more sequenced and practice oriented courses. Such a curriculum would allow students to concentrate on particular areas of law while still getting the type of general legal education that has contributed to our students' continued high bar exam passage rates and success in practice.

The spring semester will provide our students with the exciting opportunity to study under our first distinguished visiting professor, Dean Betsy Levin, former executive director of the Association of American Law Schools and Dean of the University of Colorado Law School. The Law School will also host United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia at its annual Liss Memorial Lecture on April 12, 1995 at 4:30 p.m., and outgoing Senate Majority Leader, George Mitchell, has agreed to deliver the commencement address.

The strengthening of our educational program and its increased ability to serve the community has continued to improve the reputation of the Law School, thereby enhancing career opportunities for its students and graduates. We will continue to keep you informed about the University of Baltimore School of Law and we look forward to your continued support.

Eric Schneider
Associate Dean

Once again, on behalf of the Volume 25 Editorial Board, it gives me great pleasure to present Issue Number Two in the *Law Forum's* Silver Anniversary year. With the addition of thirteen new members to our staff, the *Law Forum* continues to enjoy the success that hard work and dedication brings.

The *Law Forum's* mission of providing a vehicle for all informed members of the legal community to voice their concerns upon topics of importance to us all is in large measure dependent upon the support and participation of that community. As always, we strongly encourage judges, professors, attorneys, and students alike to submit articles and comments to be considered for publication.

Maryland has become one of the first states to enact a comprehensive body of law addressing the compensation of, and liability for, injuries caused by lead paint ingestion. The *Law Forum* is fortunate and extremely grateful to have the contribution of four Maryland attorneys in this area. In *Getting the Lead Out*, both the impact of the new lead paint laws on a property owner's liability as well as the impact of the Court of Appeals of Maryland's anxiously awaited decision addressing a landlord's common law duties with respect to lead based paint are examined in detail.

In *Maryland Discovery Rules*, Professor John Lynch comments upon the recent amendments to the Maryland Discovery Rules. In his analysis, Professor Lynch discusses the changes and, perhaps more importantly, the lack of changes to the Rules.

Two thought-provoking pieces come to us from University of Baltimore School of Law students. Our own Ruth Allen, in *Pre-Trial Publicity: Can there be a Fair Trial when the Prosecutor and Press Join Hands?*, addresses the conflict between a criminal attorney's right to free speech and the criminal defendant's right to a fair trial. Likewise, Paul Gillan provides an insightful analysis of the theories underlying criminal sanctions. *An Eye for a Wetland* analyzes sentencing in the context of environmental crimes, offering a penetrating discussion of society's attitudes on crime and punishment.

The completion of issue 25.2 of the *Law Forum* coincides with the conclusion of a politically chaotic year. Maryland had the closest governor's race in one hundred years and the Democratic Party suffered defeat in both houses of Congress. The implications are far from clear. Whether the changes are the result of rising intolerance to big government and moral decay, or of the public's perception that their government represents interests other than their own, or because voters are tired of business-as-usual, change is coming, like it or not.

Although change produces conflict and uncertainty, it produces opportunity as well. When society is in flux, it allows us to reflect upon who we are as a nation and state, and what direction we should choose to follow. Resisting extremes is difficult. Bright lines are easy to draw, but easier to criticize. Finding answers to all the difficult questions our complex society raises is an immense task. However, thousands of years of human history has shown that the mean has served us well. A swinging pendulum is dangerous indeed. Push it too hard in one direction, and it is bound to come racing back.

Robert Schulte