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University of Baltimore Law Forum Volume 27 Number 2 (Spring 1997) Front Matter

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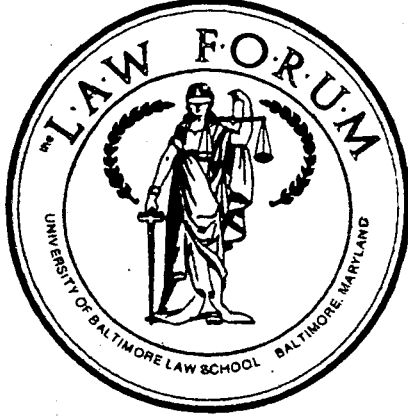
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University of Baltimore School of Law

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Celebrating Baltimore's Bicentennial 1797 to 1997

VOLUME 27
ISSUE No. 2

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or staff, or the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Congratulations are in order to the editors of *The Law Forum* for their successful efforts over this academic year and for again publishing an informative and useful current issue. While all of the articles featured in this volume will be of great interest to *Law Forum* readers, I note in particular the contributions by Frank Gorman and Judge Gossart, both members of the adjunct faculty at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Their contributions to this volume continue a strong tradition of involvement by the bench and bar in the curriculum and other programs of the School of Law. I am particularly reminded of this contribution at this time because Frank Gorman was recently recognized at our yearly Awards Ceremony as the recipient, selected by a committee of students and faculty, of the Judge Dana Levitz Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award for academic year 1996-97.



I am also happy to report that University of Baltimore law students did exceptionally well on the most recent Maryland bar examination. First-time takers of the bar examination from University of Baltimore passed at a rate of 84% compared to 79% for all first-time takers. The news for University of Baltimore law graduates taking the bar examination for a second time was in some respects even better. Although pass rates for second time takers of the bar examination are usually lower, University of Baltimore law graduates taking the bar for a second time passed at a rate of 81% compared to a 70% passage rate for all those taking the examination for the second time.

On May 20, the University and the School of Law sponsored a wonderful reception at the Lyric Opera House to honor Judge Basil A. Thomas. Numerous dignitaries (including Helen Bentley and Peter Angelos) spoke in praise of Judge Thomas, his outstanding service to the University, the School of Law and the community, and particularly his vision and commitment in establishing a decade ago and generously supporting the endowment for the Thomas International Law Library. The event demonstrated the depth of friendship and support in the community both for Judge Thomas and for the excellent legal education provided at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Thanks to the generosity of those attending the reception, we also achieved a significant increase in the endowment for the Judge Basil A. Thomas International Law Library.

As always, the faculty and I greatly appreciate your continued interest in and support of the School of Law. Thanks for all that you do for us.

John A. Sebert
Dean and Professor of Law

Letter From The Editor-In-Chief

This final issue of Volume 27 marks the end of my tenure as Editor-In-Chief. As I reflect on this past school year, I think of all that the board and staff editors have accomplished and cannot help but feel a deep sense of pride and satisfaction in knowing that I was part of such an enterprise. I truly believe that the *Law Forum* is a quality publication that provides a unique service to students, the legal community, and our alumni. In this upcoming school year, there are still plenty of new ideas to implement and new hurdles to tackle in order to continue the yearly practice of improving the *Law Forum*. I am confident that the members of the new Editorial Board, under the leadership of Reginald Smith, will continue the *Law Forum's* excellent tradition.

A special note of appreciation is due to the Senior Editorial Board Members who made my job a memorable and rewarding experience. Thank you: Michele Knorr, for your organization and commitment to keeping the new office space a safe and efficient environment; Orhan Omer, for your quality work on the Recent Developments and your sense of humor; Natalie Drinkard, for your attention to detail and your article input; Andrea Galante, for your editing skills, your willingness to take on any task, and your valuable input; Rosemary Bourne, for spending many extra hours in the office keeping the journal on track and providing last minute editing, but most importantly thank you for your friendship and support — good luck in Virginia; Meg Oliver, Meg there are no words to adequately describe your contributions, thanks for being the *Law Forum's* “miracle worker;” Kathy Maynard, not only for your solid commitment to improving the Recent Developments but also for spending dozens of extra hours preparing, editing, and corresponding with Judge Byrnes on his article — it could not have been published without you; Paul Wilson, (where do I begin) for your excellent writing and editing ability, for bringing the *Law Forum* into the technology age, for your patience, and for spending many hours with me in putting the issues together — I just cannot say enough.

A very special thank you is also extended to the Associate Editors who often went that extra length to edit the RD's, edit articles, check footnotes, and complete numerous other tasks. So, to Cindy Maskol, Niki Zell, Kevin Barth, Jenn and Gab Terrasa, and Kevin Barner, thanks for your dedication.

A variety of topics are covered by the written works in this issue. First, the article sponsored by Judge John Carroll Byrnes entitled “Commemorative Histories of the Bench and Bar,” provides an informative look on some of Maryland's legal history. Publication of this article was inspired by the celebration of Baltimore's bicentennial. Our readers will note the unique role the University of Baltimore School of Law played in shaping much of our community's legal history. The *Law Forum* thanks Judge Brynes for his cooperation and his support.

The second article was written by the Honorable John F. Gossart, Jr., a United States Immigration Judge. Judge Gossart, who is featured in the *Forum Faces* section, graduated from the University of Baltimore School of law in 1974. His article highlights some of the major changes that resulted from the new immigration laws that took effect this past April. The third article is written by one of our own staff editors — Marshall Perkins. It provides an interesting perspective on the role victim impact statements should (or rather should not) play on sentencing procedures. The commentary in this issue is written by Francis J. Gorman, this year's recipient of the Judge Dana Levitz Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award, and it relates his experience of successfully opposing the petition to exhume the remains of John Wilkes Booth — the assassin of President Lincoln. This case had both historical and legal relevance. Lastly, the Recent Developments provide an excellent overview of many recent cases including *Maryland v. Wilson*, which was argued before the United States Supreme Court by Professor Byron L. Warnken against two noteworthy opponents — United States Attorney General Janet Reno and Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr.

Many people contribute to the success of the *Law Forum*. Although I cannot thank them all by name, I would like note my sincere appreciation to Professor Lynn McLain who has contributed to the success of the *Law Forum* for years — this year being no exception. My appreciation also goes out to Nik Divecha and Professor Lande for their guidance, and to Bob Greenlee, our new Maryland printer, for a job well done.

It has been a pleasure to attend the University of Baltimore School of Law and an honor to serve on the *Law Forum*. My best wishes to all.

Pinelopi Makrodimitris



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