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Forum Faces: The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

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The Honorable Martha F. Rasin, the first woman to be named Chief Judge of Maryland's district court system, graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1981. On May 24, 1998 she was awarded an honorary degree at the commencement exercises of the 71st graduating class of the University of Baltimore School of Law. Her keynote address appears in this issue of the *University of Baltimore Law Forum*.

Judge Rasin began her career as an attorney with the law firm of Bereano and Resnick where she practiced as an associate for six years. Judge Rasin subsequently opened her own general practice office in Annapolis and, while she did not limit her practice to any one area of law, she especially enjoyed her criminal appellate cases. During this period, Judge Rasin also served as an adjunct professor for the University of Baltimore School of Law, teaching in the legal research and writing program.



In 1989, former Governor William Donald Schaefer appointed Judge Rasin to the position of Associate Judge for the District Court of Maryland in Annapolis where she remained for six years. Before being appointed Chief Judge for the District Court of Maryland in 1996, she served as the Administrative Judge for the District Court of Maryland in Anne Arundel County for one year.

As Chief Judge, Judge Rasin is responsible for the supervision of more than 100 judges and 1,200 other employees, and she oversees an annual budget in excess of \$73 million. At the time of her appointment as Chief Judge, Governor Parris Glendening described her as a highly qualified and skilled jurist who would bring exceptional leadership skills and a thorough understanding of the law to the position. When asked about what it takes to be an effective judge, Judge Rasin remarked, "I like to think that a judge calls the balls and strikes but not who wins. When a judge uses his or her power to achieve their own results, they stop being a public servant."

Judge Martha Rasin is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, the Anne Arundel County Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association, and the Woman's Law Center in Anne Arundel County. She is also a member of the National Association of Women Judges where she serves on the Judicial Education Committee. Judge Rasin also serves on the Criminal Process Committee for the Attorney General of Maryland and the Lieutenant Governor's Family Violence Council.

Judge Rasin currently resides in Annapolis with her husband, E. Blay Bryan, and their two daughters.