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**UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
LAW FORUM**

VOLUME 30

ISSUE No. 2

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ISSUE No. 2

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Dean's Forum

The University of Baltimore School of Law (UBSL) was recently "ranked" in the top half of ABA law schools by an organization that did not take funding into account. The reasons are clear. UBSL continues to contribute to the development of competent legal professionals who serve the State of Maryland and the region through the private bar, business organizations, and legislative, judicial and executive branches of government. Over 140 UBSL graduates passed the July 2000 Maryland bar examination. Ninety percent of UBSL graduates were employed within nine months of graduation. Over three-quarters of the class obtained full time legal employment and approximately twenty percent held prestigious judicial clerkships.

UBSL legal clinics have been rated 18th in the U.S. for the practice oriented educational program they offer. The Appellate Practice Clinic develops student's advocacy skills and the Internship program puts students in public and private sector settings including all levels of government. In addition our numerous clinics serve the less affluent citizens of our community directly in many ways through the Civil Clinic, the Community Development Clinic, the Criminal Practice Clinic, the Disability Law Clinic, and the Family Law Clinic. In the last two years UBSL has developed a Tax Clinic to represent financially qualified citizens in tax disputes under a grant provided by the Internal Revenue Service.

UBSL has developed three research centers that will enhance the University's public service role. The Center for International and Comparative Law (CICL) was founded in 1994 and, funded by grant money, has developed programs for training federal judges in Brazil and helped to develop law schools in Kiev, Ukraine, Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Shandong, China. The CICL has brought the name of the University of Baltimore and the State of Maryland to the attention of many foreign governments and U.S. governmental agencies with which it has worked.

UBSL is presently in the process of forming a Center for Children, Families and the Courts with the ABA to centralize efforts throughout the U.S. for family court reform and unification. This will continue the law reform work of UBSL faculty for the establishment of family courts in Maryland. Additionally, with the generous donation of one of its graduates, UBSL will soon announce the opening of the Stephen L. Snyder Center for Litigation Skills. This Center's goal fits well within the mission of the law school to provide its graduates with "the latest skills and techniques for productive careers in the public and private sector.

All of these programs require a skilled and dedicated teaching faculty. Although UBSL is known for the quality of its legal education, it has also emerged as a major contributor to the search for solutions to social problems. The faculty have been extensively engaged in legal reform at the state, national and international levels. From 1996 through 1998 the UBSL faculty produced 12 books, 17 book chapters and supplements, 49 law review articles and 19 articles in practice journals. The faculty has also recently added a concentration in E-Commerce to its curriculum so that its students will continue to have the skills to serve the needs of this community.

This is a commendable record for a law school that is "ranked" at the bottom of all ABA law schools when it comes to funding. This year we are making every effort to increase state funding and we are hopeful that our alumni and friends add the private support that is necessary.

We thank the editors of Volume 30 of the Law Forum for their work and welcome the new editorial board headed by Brian Kelly.

Eric C. Schneider
Interim Dean and Professor of Law

The University of Baltimore Law Forum has now completed over thirty years of existence and has continued to inform the Maryland practitioner of recent developments in Maryland law. The Forum Faces section features one of the newest members to the Court of Special Appeals, the Honorable Peter B. Krauser. The final issue of the Volume 30 editorial board also features articles by two former members of the Law Forum and recent University of Baltimore School of Law graduates.

In his article, *Judges and Statutory Construction: Judicial Zombism or Contextual Activism*, author Theo Ogune closely examines the principles of statutory construction and addresses the issue of whether courts should limit the consideration of a statute to the statute's text, or employ such sources as the statute's legislative history, purpose, and structure. The article also provides an insightful view of statutory construction policies employed by both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals of Maryland. This article is a must read after the historical 2000 Presidential election.

Holly Currier, a former Assistant Articles Editor, explores the application of the reasonable accommodations requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act as applied to university students with learning disabilities. The author details problems that students and universities face in fashioning accommodation policies and procedures and suggests workable solutions that address the student's needs while preserving the fundamental aspects of the education program.

The members of the Law Forum editorial board deserve acknowledgement for the countless hours of work that have gone into another fine edition. Bryson Filbert, as the Recent Developments Editor and Anne Bodnar, Assistant Recent Developments Editor, made sure the recent developments continued to highlight the new trends in Maryland law. Cathy Bowers, the Business Editor, efficiently and effectively managed the Law Forum's finances. Josh Tearnan as Assistant Articles Editor helped choose and edit the Law Forum's articles. John Muckelbauer, the Managing Editor, kept the staff and editorial board focused on our goals.

A few members of the Editorial Board whom I worked especially close with during the course of this last year were Anna Benshoof, Cheryl Matricciani, and Stacey Burnett. Anna as the Manuscripts Editor spent countless hours laying out the journal, as well as doing last minute editing in order to get the journal ready for publishing. Cheryl as the Articles Editor was the Law Forum contact with the outside world and was a trusted advisor on many important Law Forum decisions. Through Cheryl's hard work, the Law Forum has once again published very informative and interesting articles for the Maryland legal community. Stacey Burnett, as the Production Editor kept the journal moving on time. Stacey deserves a special thank you for putting up with me throughout my tenure as Editor-In-Chief and for recently becoming Mrs. Walter W. Green.

As always, the University of Baltimore School of Law Administration has supported the Law Forum in its efforts to continue to improve the publication and to promote the University of Baltimore School of Law. In particular, the Director of Finance and Administration Nikhil M. Divecha and Faculty Advisor Robert Lande have supported and encouraged the Law Forum staff to achieve its goals.

I would also like to thank my parents, Carlton and Marion Green, for all of their love and support, and for encouraging and advising me through law school.

Finally, I wish my successor Brian Kelly the best of luck in the upcoming year as Editor-In-Chief. I know that he has the determination and dedication needed to continue the tradition of the Law Forum as an invaluable tool for the Maryland practitioner.

Walter W. Green

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