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# University of Baltimore Law Forum Volume 31 Number 1 (Summer/Fall 2000) Front Matter

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As the new dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law, it is my pleasure to introduce volume 31 of the University of Baltimore Law Forum. The thirty-year history of the Law Forum mirrors the history and impact of the University of Baltimore Law School. Starting as a newspaper reporting on recent legal events, the Law Forum has developed into a well-respected periodical that provides an important stage for scholarly discussions and where practitioners can enhance their knowledge and understanding of the law.

Similarly, the University of Baltimore Law School started as a part-time legal education opportunity, providing access to individuals who might otherwise not have been able to enter into the legal profession. The law school has evolved into a significant regional and national institution, still providing access and at the same time offering a quality and diverse legal education that produces excellent practitioners, judges, public officials and scholars. The school that the University of Baltimore Law School has become as well as the potential legal institutional giant it can be, are among the reasons that I became attracted to and sought the position of dean.

Potential can be one of the greatest and most challenging compliments an individual or institution can have. If an institution is viewed as having great potential, it will attract individuals, resources and attention that can assist in achieving that potential. However, if the institution does not achieve its perceived potential, it will be viewed with a level of disdain that can interfere with its ability to achieve its greatness. I believe that this law school has great potential. It provides an excellent legal education and produces well-trained lawyers; it has cutting edge programs and has had significant impact and influence in the local, state, regional, national and world communities; and it is a place where diversity, intellect, ethics and commitment are respected. I will be working very hard to facilitate the law school's continuing progress towards reaching its potential. I will be seeking individuals to partner with me in this adventure, and opportunities to forward the students, alumni, faculty, programs, and reputation of the law school.

I welcome and applaud to contributions of the editorial board of the University of Baltimore Law Forum to our collective efforts in furthering the law school on its journey towards greatness. I look forward to the continuing growth and development of the Forum as I look forward to the growth and development of the law school.

Gilbert A. Holmes  
Incoming Dean and Professor of Law

The editorial board and staff of the *University of Baltimore Law Forum* have worked hard to ensure that Volume 31.1 continues to be both interesting and insightful as well as informative. In addition to highlighting the recent cases that will shape the landscape of the Maryland legal community, this issue also highlights several “hot-button” cases handed down by the Supreme Court that will undoubtedly evoke debate and discussion for many years to come. I, along with the Editorial Board, am extremely satisfied about the combination and variety of these cases covering both the state and federal level, providing the Maryland practitioner with an excellent tool with which to act quickly and decisively.

Particularly, Christopher Mason did an excellent job explaining the rationale behind the *Dickerson v. United States* decision, which upheld the *Miranda* decision requiring a suspect to be read his rights prior to police questioning. Furthermore, Traci Gladstone Corcoran succinctly analyzed the *Troxel v. Granville* decision, where the Supreme Court upheld a mother’s fundamental right to parent.

Our Articles section contains an exhaustive analysis by Professor Lynn McLain as to whether Maryland Rule 5-404(b) and how the Court of Appeals of Maryland has complicated the already difficult ‘maze’ of character evidence. In “*Other Acts*” *Evidence: Recent Decisions by the Court of Appeals Undermine the Efficacy of Maryland Rule 5-404(b)*, Professor McLain challenges our state’s high judiciary to resolve the inherent conflicts regarding the use of Rule 5-404(b) as seen in several recent opinions discussing the issue. In *Pittman v. Atlantic Realty: Affidavits and the Search for the Genuine Dispute of Material Fact*, Gwen B. Tromley, an Assistant Solicitor in the Baltimore City Department of Law and a former University of Baltimore School of Law alumnus, discusses the procedural difficulties in litigation when the traditional paradigm of scheduling orders, discovery and summary judgment, namely when the summary judgment phase of litigation is entered into prior to full discovery of all the facts, as well as the sham affidavit rule.

In this issue, I am also very pleased to welcome our new Dean, Gilbert Holmes, to the University of Baltimore School of Law. As you can tell from *Forum Faces*, Dean Holmes has a superb background in both the practice of law and in the academic administration of a law school. This, combined with a fresh perspective on the challenges that face the Law School in the twenty-first century, allows Dean Holmes to provide the leadership that will facilitate the law school’s reputation for its academic service and professionalism in the years to come.

On the technology frontier, the editorial board is working on a revised web site that will provide more access to our current issues, while having the capabilities to be used as a research tool for past issues. Look for this and other changes to the web site in the near future.

Finally, I would like to thank my editorial board for their significant contributions to the publication of this issue, especially Managing Editor Kristin Blumer and Manuscripts Editor Valerie Esch, whose countless hours never went unnoticed. Other people who went out of their way to ensure the *Law Forum* was successful include Nikhil Divecha and Professor Robert Lande, whose support and counseling helped the journal staff continue on the right course toward our goals. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank my fiancée, Amy Gallizzo, for her constant support and guidance throughout this entire publication process.

Brian J. Kelly  
Editor-in-Chief

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