



2006

# University of Baltimore Law Forum Volume 36 Number 2 (Spring 2006) Front Matter

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# UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE LAW FORUM

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## LETTER FROM THE DEAN

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April 25, 2006

To the University of Baltimore and School of Law Community, Supporters and Friends:

After considerable private consultation, reflection, and prayer, I have decided to resign as Dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law, and have submitted my letter of resignation to President Robert Bogomolny, effective June 30, 2007.

For my nearly five years as Dean, I've felt extremely privileged and blessed to have had the opportunity to lead this great School of Law, and affect so many lives in such a positive way. While I'm equally proud of our collective accomplishments over the years, I'm especially proud of the relationship that I've been able to establish and nurture – relationships that will continue to benefit the University, the School of Law, and the students in ways, both measurable and immeasurable, for years to come.

As sure as I am about my decision, I must admit that it was made with very mixed emotions. I've come to realize that there is never a good time to leave someone or something you love. However, since I am looking for new challenges, providing this advance notice of my intentions is the best way for me to leave this job and insure a smooth transition that will allow the School of Law to continue on its upward trajectory with the momentum that we have been able to build.

To me, this is one of those rare moments in life when speaking philosophically in public is pardonable. So allow me to say that "To every thing, there is a reason." The University of Baltimore School of Law has benefited over the past twenty-five years from having the right dean at the right time in its development. Dean Emeritus Laurence Katz was the right dean to oversee the transition of the School of Law into its position as an ABA approved law school and a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Dean Emeritus John Sebert was the right dean to oversee the transition of the School of Law into an institution that valued legal scholarship and discourse as well as practical skills training. I believe that I have been the right dean to begin the process to take the School of Law from being a locally known and respected institution with a solid reputation for teaching practical legal skills and expand its national and regional reputation as an institution known for its many other positive attributes. These include first and foremost, its innovative teaching methodologies – as demonstrated by the student fellows programs, the combination of Torts and legal writing, and the expansive clinical education program; next, its commitment to student excellence – for example, the Dean's Scholar's Program, the comprehensive academic and bar support programs, and the expansion of the Baltimore Scholars Program; moreover, its commitment to public interest

law via the UBSPI activities, the Loan Repayment Assistance Program and the Public Interest Fellowship Program; and finally, highly respected legal scholars, its passionate and engaged students, and its committed alumni and friends. On the horizon is the dawning of the next season for the law school – one that will include further development of a 21<sup>st</sup> century model of legal education and a fuller realization of the school’s great potential.

The University of Baltimore School of Law’s greatness has always existed in its unique position as an urban law school; a high-minded, “structurally formal” institution built around thoughts, ideas, commitments to social justice, and intellectual discourse, that is planted firmly in a hard-scrabble, “loosely woven” city made of diverse people, striving to co-exist and develop strategies to make urban living a successful venture. When we have acted to realize the potential that this position offers, as we have with our nationally respected clinical program, we have provided the best legal education available anywhere and have been a great partner with the legal, business, social and political communities of Baltimore and Maryland. This is the continuing legacy of the School of Law and its transforming power in the future.

As much as a part of might still be motivated to continue to lead this great experiment as Dean – to continue the transformation that will create the new urban law school for the 21<sup>st</sup> century – I take tremendous satisfaction in having led the effort to this point, and having strengthened and expanded the foundations for what is to come.

As promising and fulfilling as the last five years have been in so many ways, they have also been challenging and demanding. So, after a welcome period of sabbatical and reflection, I look forward to returning to teaching, scholarship and public service for the School of Law, the national legal community, and the region I call home. In the meantime, I’m confident that with the continued support of President Bogomolny, our alumni, faculty, staff and students, we will together move through the remainder of my tenure in a spirit of good will and constructive engagement with the work that lies ahead for the University and the School of Law.

I will always treasure the continuing friendship and support of so many exceptional colleagues, students and friends at the University of Baltimore and throughout the state of Maryland. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have served as the dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Sincerely,

Gilbert A. Holmes  
*Dean and Professor of Law*

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