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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To the Maryland Legal Community:

The editorial board of Volume 38 of the *University of Baltimore Law Forum* presents our first issue of the 2007-2008 academic year. The *Law Forum*, since its inception in 1970, has strived to provide practitioners throughout the Maryland legal community with articles, comments, and recent development pieces that explore relevant, and timely, legal issues. In this issue, the editorial board and staff of the *Law Forum* worked tirelessly to continue the above tradition by presenting Maryland practitioners with what we believe are articles and recent development pieces of the highest quality and the greatest importance to the surrounding legal community.

This issue contains two articles, the first of which, written by University of Baltimore School of Law Student Amy Seigny, details the current state of the Maryland “medical hearsay exception” and the difficulty this exception presents in child sexual abuse cases. Ms. Seigny deftly uses past and present case law to illustrate the ways in which the Maryland “medical hearsay exception” should be updated.

Our second article, written by Professor Stephen Shapiro of the University of Baltimore School of Law, compares federal and Maryland law regarding the standards by which punitive damages are awarded. Professor Shapiro shrewdly suggests several changes to Maryland law and the Maryland Civil Pattern Jury Instructions on awarding punitive damages, so that the Instructions comply with the Due Process Clause.

Furthermore, our recent development pieces examine twelve of the most interesting and controversial cases decided by the Court of Appeals of Maryland and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in the past year. The twelve recent development pieces discuss cases that address emerging legal issues in numerous areas of law, including the relationship between bankruptcy law and attorney’s liens, legal issues that arise from modern reproductive technologies, and the “reasonableness” of a visual body cavity search pursuant to Fourth Amendment principles.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the 2007-2008 editorial board and staff of the *Law Forum*. Additionally, the *Law Forum* would like to welcome Phillip J. Closius, the new Dean of the University of Baltimore School of Law. Last, but certainly not least, the *Law Forum* would like to thank you, the Maryland practitioners, for your unending suggestions and support.

Sincerely,

Shannon Beamer
Editor-In-Chief

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE LAW FORUM

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