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# UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE LAW FORUM

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To the Maryland Legal Community:

The editorial board of the *University of Baltimore Law Forum* proudly presents the first issue of the 2011-2012 academic year. Each year, the *Law Forum* staff tirelessly works to provide our readers with insightful articles and informative recent developments. This edition is no exception. I would like to congratulate and thank all the editors of *Law Forum* who labored to produce this excellent edition.

We are honored to publish The Honorable Lynne A. Battaglia's article, "'Where is Justice?' An Exploration of Beginnings." Judge Battaglia offers an insightful and important analysis of the evolution of female lawyers in the Maryland legal community. For our second article, we are pleased to publish a piece by the Maryland Access to Justice Commission titled, "Fee-Shifting to Promote the Public Interest in Maryland." The Maryland Access to Justice Commission performs a careful analysis of market incentives for legal services and recommends statutory changes to create new incentives for lawyers to take claims that may not otherwise be economically feasible. Our third article is a student written piece titled "Innocence and Incarceration: A Comprehensive Review of Maryland's Postconviction DNA Relief Statute and Suggestions for Improvement" by Nicholas Phillips. Nicholas analyzes Maryland's Postconviction DNA Relief Statute and recommends tailoring to ensure that the statute's underlying purpose is fulfilled.

Finally, we have a series of student authored Recent Development pieces. Our Recent Developments focus on Maryland Court of Special Appeals and Court of Appeals cases. Recent Developments provide the reader with an up-to-date analysis of current Maryland law. Some highlights include: *Ballard v. State* that evaluated a request for counsel during an interrogation and *Evans v. State* that held the legislature's failure to include a penalty provision in a statute prohibiting the removal of a firearm's identification caused the prohibited act to not be a crime.

I would like to thank all the members of the editorial board for their hard work, patience, and diligence. I would also like to thank Professor Richard Bourne for his guidance and advice during the making of this fall edition. Finally, I want to thank our Associate Editors and Staff Editors whose efforts shine through in the quality of this final work product.

Kind Regards,

Gary L. Stapleton, Jr.  
Editor-in-Chief  
*University of Baltimore Law Forum*

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