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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To Our Readers:

The Editorial Board of the *University of Baltimore Law Forum*, Vol. 47, proudly presents the second issue of the 2016-2017 academic year. As the University of Baltimore School of Law's oldest journal, the *Law Forum* publishes scholarly articles, student comments, and recent developments concerning Maryland. This second issue reflects the *Law Forum's* continued commitment to apprising the Maryland legal community, as well as the legal community as a whole, on developments in and the status of the law in Maryland.

In this issue, we have the privilege of publishing two scholarly articles, along with the rare opportunity to publish a book review. The book review of *Divorced from Reality: Rethinking Family Dispute Resolution*, by Jane Murphy and Jana Singer, was penned by Family Magistrate Theresa Furnari, and it examines and opines on a new model recommended in adjudicating family law matters. The first scholarly article, authored by Anthony Kraus, focuses a spotlight on Maryland's free speech guarantee found in its Declaration of Rights, and how a lack of judicial attention to its scope may be deriving citizens of greater speech protections. The second scholarly article, authored by Bridget Lowrie, provides background and an overview of the Justice Reinvestment Act enacted in 2016, which reforms the sentencing, corrections, parole, and the supervision of offenders.

In addition to the scholarly pieces drafted by legal practitioners and academics, the *Law Forum* publication always includes pieces drafted by our student members. The student comment, authored by Wayne Hicks, explores the current state of drone laws at both the federal and state levels, and how citizens' privacy rights have been subordinated to the liberal laws that permit expanded use of drones. Lastly, the recent development pieces, authored by *Law Forum* staff editors, examine eight interesting cases decided over the past year by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and are intended to keep Maryland practitioners and the legal community informed on the status of the law in Maryland.

On a personal note, I have had the tremendous honor and privilege of shaping and promoting this year's publications. These issues would not have become a reality without the tireless efforts of the editorial board, who brought so much passion and energy to each issue and whose hours of reviews and edits assisted in generating a body of work that is commendable. It was such a pleasure working with this group, and I will cherish our time spent together. In addition, I must also thank the entire *Law Forum* staff for their hard work, patience, and diligence in effort to complete this issue. Our publication simply cannot be brought to fruition without the collective effort of the staff, and we were so lucky this year to have such a dedicated group of members.

On behalf of the *University of Baltimore Law Forum*, we thank the members of the Maryland legal community, our readers, for their continued support and interest in our publication.

Sincerely,

David Bronfein

Editor-in-Chief

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