



Dear Graduates and Friends,

Assessing the responsibilities of citizenship, President Theodore Roosevelt reserved his highest praise for those “in the arena,” participants in public life “who strive valiantly, . . . who spend themselves for a worthy cause, . . . who, at the best know the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if they fail, at least fail while daring greatly.”

As this issue of *JD* makes clear, the University of Maryland School of Law plays a vital role “in the arena.” The graduates, faculty, and students that comprise our community exemplify Roosevelt’s ideal of engaged leadership as they use the law to explore, put forward, and strive to implement viable solutions to pressing societal issues.

Our alumni, regardless of political affiliation, are framing the public policy debate in Maryland and beyond. Most visible are those elected officials who have extended the law school’s historic legacy of educating the state’s political leaders. But equally significant are our graduates making major contributions to shaping policy in human and civil rights, health care, and countless other fields.

The scholarship of our faculty shapes new legislation and policy initiatives. Their work fosters a vision of the ways legal research can transform law and society. And their profound influence on generations of students will inform policy decisions for years and decades to come as today’s graduates go on to careers as problem-solvers in the larger community.

The demonstrated leadership of our graduates and faculty is helping the School of Law attract an increasing number of outstanding students interested in learning how the law can shape emerging public policy. From their accomplishments in the wide array of experiential learning opportunities we offer, to their success in public interest and volunteer undertakings, these students already have made clear their commitment to service.

It is gratifying to consider how many of our graduates have devoted themselves to the pursuit of Roosevelt’s “worthy causes,” either through careers in public service or through pro bono work and private sector contributions to shaping policy. In meeting and working with so many of you in all your diverse walks of life, I am inspired by your shared commitment to improving our society. Your example will help us inspire our students to lives of leadership.

Best wishes,

Karen H. Rothenberg
Dean and Marjorie Cook Professor of Law