



Students Make Winning Arguments

MARCH 11 WAS A DAY DEVOTED to appellate advocacy. At noon, the final round of the 39th annual Morris Brown Myerowitz Moot Court Competition took place in the Ceremonial Courtroom, with Dana Backlund earning the nod for best oral argument from judges Diana Gribbon Motz of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Albert J. Matricciani, Jr. '73 of the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, and Phyllis D. Thompson of the D.C. Court of Appeals. In addition to finishing as a runner-up for best argument, Joey Tsu-Yi Chen was awarded the prize for best brief.

That evening, the Moot Court Board presented the dinner-discussion "Appellate Advocacy: Legal Specialty or Legal Necessity?"

Judge Matricciani, Mike Leotta of the U.S. Department of Justice, Kevin Arthur '87, Jessica V. Carter '92, and Peter Nothstein '05 offered their personal and professional insights on the changing nature of appellate advocacy and the need for the legal profession to address these changes.



2008 champion Brian Robinson presented this year's award to Dana Backlund.

Joey Tsu-Yi Chen was one of the finalists for best oral argument and won the award for best brief.

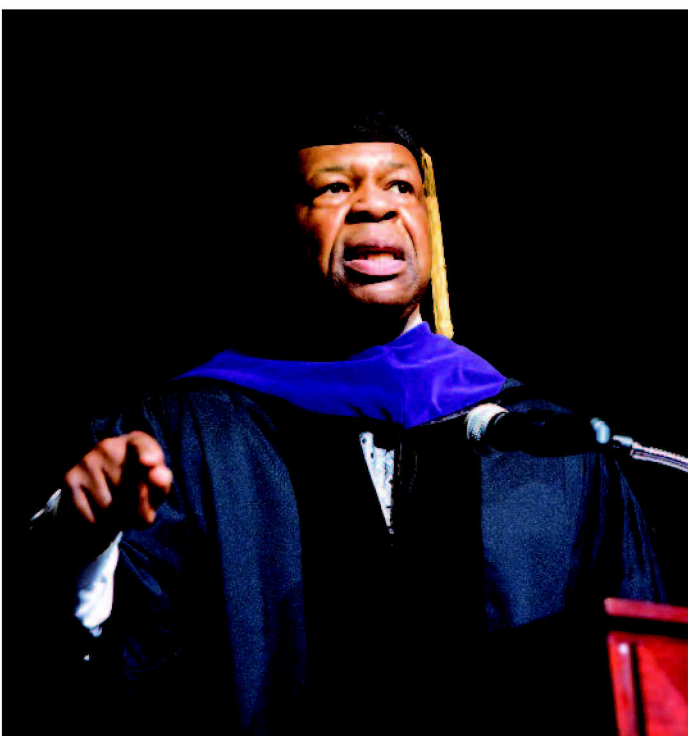
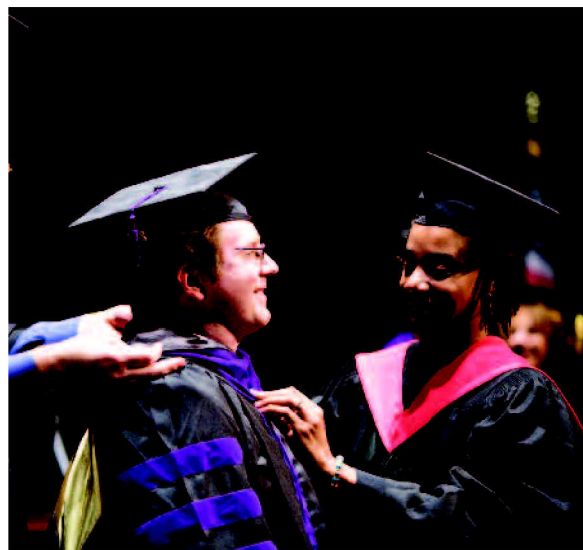
In an overflowing Courtroom, former Myerowitz champions Marc DeSimone '04 (left) and Megan Nichols '05 (right) received seats of honor in the jury box.

BLSA Celebrates Intellectual Relevance

SEVERAL HUNDRED STUDENTS, alumni, and faculty gathered February 21 for the annual Black Law Students Association Banquet, dedicated this year to the theme "Intellectual Relevance."

Julie D. Goodwin '82, Morgan State University's General Counsel, was named Practitioner of the Year. The Hon. Wanda Heard '82, Associate Judge for Baltimore City Circuit Court (pictured receiving her award from BLSA Parliamentarian Nancy Oyedele '10), was named Alumna of the Year. U.S. Representative Donna Edwards, the first African American woman to represent Maryland in Congress, delivered the keynote address. The Impact Award, given to a member of the Law School community who has contributed a significant amount of time and assistance to help in the furtherance of BLSA's programming and overall goals, was presented to the Office of Institutional Advancement as a whole.





2009 Commencement

THE SCHOOL OF LAW'S MAY 15 Hooding Ceremony was enough to stop traffic – literally. The faculty and 235 members of the Class of 2009 gathered before the ceremony in Westminster Hall, then processed together down a closed Fayette Street to the Hippodrome Theatre, where an overflow crowd of family and friends awaited.

U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings '76 delivered the keynote address and Lisa Elder and Bob Maddox, Presidents of the Day and Evening graduating class, respectively, announced that a record 96 graduates had contributed to the Class Gift. Later, graduates attended UMB's Commencement Ceremony at the 1st Mariner Arena, where the speaker was Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley '88.