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FROM THE EDITOR

Each year the University of Maryland School of Law presents the Joseph Bernstein Award to the graduating law student who has contributed the most significant article accepted for publication in the *Maryland Law Review*. The award was created by the friends and partners of Joseph Bernstein on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday on January 23, 1972. Joseph Bernstein began his legal career upon graduation from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1918 and was elected president of both the Maryland State Bar Association and the Baltimore City Bar Association.

This annual competition is always hotly contested, as the quality of writing and scholarship displayed by the student notes submitted for publication is generally excellent. This year was no exception. The *Maryland Law Review* was the fortunate beneficiary of a fine selection of student work that was easily the equal of many articles submitted by practicing attorneys of many years' experience. Choosing the few articles we were able to publish was a difficult task indeed, but far more difficult was choosing which among those accepted was the "most significant." The final selection was announced at the graduation ceremonies for the class of 1988.

In this, the final issue of volume 47, the *Maryland Law Review* is proud to present the 1988 recipient of the Joseph Bernstein Award, a comment entitled *Comparable Worth and the Maryland ERA*, authored by Awilda Marquez. A penetrating analysis of an important area of Maryland law, Ms. Marquez's comment represents a significant contribution to the fields of constitutional law and civil rights. The *Maryland Law Review* extends its congratulations for a job well done.

As always, we at the *Maryland Law Review* attempt to present topics of national as well as local interest. This issue focuses on the law's constant struggle to keep pace with the swiftly advancing tide of scientific and technological advances and consequent economic competition. The lead articles address two compelling questions

posed by this modern scenario. Professor Robert P. Merges, a scholar in the field of law and biotechnology, provides a fascinating discussion of *Intellectual Property in Higher Life Forms: The Patent System and Controversial Technologies*. Professors Don Wiesner and Anita Cava discuss *Stealing Trade Secrets Ethically*, offering a compelling insight into the legal and ethical problems of modern trade competition.

Also featured in this issue are two other fine student pieces. In an area related to the subject of Ms. Marquez's comment, Michael Gentile analyzes a recent decision of the Maryland Court of Appeals in *Burning Tree v. Bainum—State Action, Strict Scrutiny, and the "New Judicial Federalism."* Wendy Kronmiller addresses highly controversial medical, legal, and ethical issues in *A Necessary Compromise: The Right to Forego Artificial Nutrition and Hydration Under Maryland's Life-Sustaining Procedures Act*.

As volume 47 draws to a close, we hope you find this last installment of interest and assistance.