Faculty on the Rise

In addition to its solid core of innovative scholars, the School of Law continues to attract strong legal minds to its ranks, both as regular faculty and Distinguished Visitors. Emerging and nationally known stars enhance the school's already strong reputation.

Promotions
A number of faculty were recognized for their contributions to the law school with promotion to Professor of Law. A member of the faculty since 1988, Barbara Bezdek combines her interest in the legal foundations of social change with her flair for helping students put theory into practice. In her clinical seminar, Legal Theory and Practice: Community Development, students assist clients in low-income communities by developing legal strategies that support the community's own revitalization objectives. Bezdek is founder and chairperson of the Faith Fund, Inc., a community development loan fund that lends in the Baltimore area in innovative ways to generate fair and inclusive housing and economic opportunity. Her recent publications include "To Attain the Just Rewards of So Much Struggle: Local Resident Equity Participation in Urban Redevelopment," in Hofstra Law Review and "To Forge New Hammers of Justice: Deep-Six the Doing-Teaching Dichotomy and Embrace the Dialectic of "Doing Theory" in the University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class.

Sherrilyn Ifill is nationally recognized as an advocate in the areas of civil rights, voting rights, judicial diversity, and judicial decision-making, and this year published On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching in the 21st Century (see story, pg. 6). Prior to joining the faculty in 1993, Professor Ifill served as an assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. in New York, where she litigated voting rights cases, including Houston Lawyers' Association v. Texas, in which the Supreme Court held that judicial elections are subject to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act. During her tenure at Maryland

New Faculty
The addition of outstanding teachers with extensive scholarly accomplishments in areas ranging from business to environmental law and intellectual property continues to strengthen the law school's faculty ranks.

Martha Ertman
Professor of Law Martha Ertman joins Maryland from the University of Utah law school, where she taught contracts and commercial law, as well as a seminar on commodification theory, since 2002. Before entering academia, Ertman clerked for the Hon. Peter H. Beer, a U.S. judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and practiced law in Denver and Seattle. She holds a BA from Wellesley College and a JD from Northwestern University. Ertman's writing bridges contracts and intimate affiliation, suggesting ways that commercial models can improve family law. Recent publications include Rethinking Commodification: Cases and Readings in Law and Culture (with Joan Williams, NYU Press 2005). She is currently writing articles exploring feminist perspectives on contract law. Prior to joining the Utah law faculty, she was an associate professor at the University of Denver, and has been a visiting professor at the universities of Michigan, Connecticut, and Oregon.

Shruti Rana
Assistant professor of law Shruti Rana graduated from the University of California, Berkeley (with honors), and the London School of Economics (with distinction). She received her JD from Columbia Law School, where she was editor-in-chief of the Columbia Journal of Gender & Law, a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and an AAUW Selected Professions Fellow. She served as a judicial law clerk to the Hon. James R. Browning at U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and as a judicial extern to the Hon. Jack B. Weinstein, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Prior to coming to the School of Law, Rana was in private practice. She has worked for Williams & Connolly LLP in Washington, D.C., and Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges LLP in San Francisco, practicing primarily in the areas of commercial and administrative law. She has also researched and written on issues involving corporate accountability, business and technology, and international human rights.
Distinguished Visitors

The Distinguished Visitors Program invites leading scholars, legal practitioners, and jurists to join the School of Law for both short and long-term academic appointments.

Stephen Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR), is visiting the law school during the fall 2007 semester. A public interest institute based in Atlanta, the SCHR provides legal representation to individuals facing unconstitutional conditions in prisons and jails throughout the United States. In spring 2008, Sonia Picado and Jeremy Horder will visit the law school. Picado is chair of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights' board of directors and was the Costa Rican ambassador to the United States from 1994 to 1998. Horder is a professor of criminal law at Oxford University, where he has been chair of the law faculty, and a member of the Law Reform Commission for England.