

DEAR GRADUATES AND FRIENDS,

We have been in our new home for a year now, and it is all that we hoped for and more. As this issue of

JD attests, our new law school facility has allowed us to do more on the cutting edge of legal education, scholarship and public service. We hope the many pictures of life in our new facility can convey some sense of the excitement that all of us continue to feel as we take advantage of the opportunities newly available to us.

In our first full semester in the building, the new teaching technologies were widely used. Students and faculty alike have been pleased by what is now possible for us.

Students seem to spend more time at the School of Law, and the Thurgood Marshall Law Library is a center of student activity. The increased comfort and other amenities enhance the attractiveness of the facility for students, faculty and the rest of the law school community.

The Ceremonial Courtroom off the main atrium has been called the iconographic focus of the new building, and the photographs and stories in this issue make plain why that is so. During our celebratory year, the Ceremonial Courtroom was the venue for several academic conferences on topics as varied as disability rights, human cloning, reparations and the 200th anniversary of *Marbury v. Madison*. A number of these conferences are described in the pages that follow. Many more conferences and programs are in the works, and we hope you will be able to join us for at least some of these events.

The Ceremonial Courtroom also has been the venue for actual proceedings before the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, the U.S. District Court for Maryland and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The attorneys and judges who participated in these proceedings were extraordinarily generous in the time they gave to meeting with students about the cases and the arguments, and provided an unparalleled educational opportunity. Occasions of this sort contribute enormously to the quality of our advocacy program, which you can read about in some depth in this issue.

This has been a wonderful year in the history of the

School of Law, but, as in life itself, there is constant change. Professor Alice Brumbaugh, who has taught more students per class than perhaps anyone else at the School of Law, officially retired at the end of the 2002-2003 academic year, but still continues to teach Property and Criminal Law as professor emeritus. A profile of Professor Brumbaugh appears in this issue.

Sadly, Professor John W. Ester passed away at the end of the spring semester after an extended illness. Professor Ester's career spanned nearly four decades at the law school, and he leaves behind a legacy of accomplished attorneys, judges and legislators—the former students who, along with all of us, will miss him greatly.

Finally, please join me in congratulating and wishing well Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations Shelley Gitomer and Director of Development Trishana Bowden as they pursue new opportunities. As most of you know, Shelley and Trishana were a magnificent team in making our building campaign such a success. As we go to press, we are happy to report that after a national search, we have hired Christopher H. Molloy as our new assistant dean for development and alumni relations. Molloy, an attorney, comes to us from Indianapolis and brings with him a stellar career in professional development. He joins Liz McFarlane, our director of alumni relations, whose outstanding support has allowed us to maintain our momentum during these past few months.

As alumni, I hope that you feel a great deal of pride in your law school when you read about the innovative programming and the outstanding legal educational opportunities being provided to our students. None of this would be possible without the support of our graduates. As you have heard, Maryland's higher education system has experienced a number of serious budget cuts over the past two years. The law school's partnership with its alumni is critical as we continue to maintain our momentum. Our new home is an excellent example of how alumni can make a difference and I trust that each of you will continue that tradition of supporting academic programs, scholarships and new initiatives in the future. This is only the beginning.

Best Wishes,

Karen Rothenberg

Dean and Marjorie Cook Professor of Law

