



# DEAN TOBIN TO STEP DOWN, JOIN FACULTY

**D**ONALD B. TOBIN, WHO HAS served as dean of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law since 2014, announced his decision to step down at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 academic year and return to full-time teaching as a member of the Maryland Carey Law faculty.

“Serving as dean of Maryland Carey Law has been the greatest honor of my life,” says Tobin. “I will be forever grateful to this wonderful community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who entrusted me with leading this fantastic law school over the past eight years.”

Beginning his tenure as dean in the wake of the Great Recession, Tobin is credited with uniting the law school community to achieve a full financial recovery while simultaneously expanding student opportunities and community engagement.

During Tobin’s tenure, Maryland Carey Law launched several initiatives that have significantly increased the school’s community impact, including the Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice, the Levitas Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention, and the Rebuild Overcome and Rise Center. Moreover, under Tobin’s leadership, Maryland Carey Law expanded its top-ranked Clinical Law Program to include the Criminal Defense Clinic, the Justice for Victims of Crime Clinic, and a reimagined Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic.

Academic programs also multiplied since 2014 with the introduction of the Master of Science in Law program, JD tracks in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Intellectual Property, and a JD certificate in Cybersecurity.

Recognizing that the future success of the law school depends on recruiting and retaining excellent faculty, Tobin is particularly proud of the talented and



thoughtful faculty who joined Maryland Carey Law in his time as dean. Through these hires, the law school has achieved a valuable mix of innovative new faculty and highly accomplished academic veterans, all of whom are enriching the student experience with their scholarly output, dynamic teaching, and community engagement.

With a passion for empowering students to succeed, Tobin oversaw the doubling of scholarship spending and backed forward-leaning programs, including the Diversity Scholars Initiative and the Business Fellows Program, which offer participants special professional development opportunities and financial support. He also invested resources in bar exam preparation and expanded career development programs, yielding a dramatic increase in bar passage and employment.

Since the beginning of 2020, Tobin has deftly led Maryland Carey Law through one of the most challenging times in its history—the COVID-19

pandemic. On his watch, the law school successfully shifted to an online learning environment for the 2020-2021 academic year and returned to the building for the fall 2021 semester. Throughout the public health crisis, the law school not only continued providing an excellent legal education for students but also continued promoting access to justice through its clinics and centers, whose operations never ceased. In spite of the uncertainty the pandemic has brought, applications to Maryland Carey Law for the last admissions cycle were up 37%.

A national search is underway to identify the next dean of Maryland Carey Law. ■