

During the past several months, I have come to appreciate the breadth of the School of Law's leadership role. So much of what happens here will affect the quality of justice in the years to come. As this issue of *JD* illustrates, leadership continues to be an integral part of our mission.

This is an exciting time for the University of Maryland School of Law, filled with challenges and



opportunities. Big news, of course, is progress on the new building, where the leaders of tomorrow will be educated. While we view the razing of the old building with mixed emotions, we look forward to what will soon rise to take its place. It will be a state-of-the-art law school building, designed for a new world of legal education. The future of legal academia is tied to new technologies, but also depends upon the relationship between student and

teacher. Thus, the new building includes access from virtually anywhere in the building to the law school's own computer network as well as the Internet. In addition, there are many smaller spaces, formal and informal, for students and teachers to engage each other in small groups. It will be a home worthy of its mission.

Our mission continues through our graduates. You are the best evidence of our success in furnishing the leaders of the community. We include the profile of Judge Ellen Heller '77, leader of Baltimore's Circuit Court and an article on George Russell '54, known to many as the "Dean of the Baltimore Bar," and the recipient of our Distinguished Graduate Award. We also highlight Martin O'Malley '88, Baltimore's new mayor. These graduates demonstrate yet again that the University of Maryland School of Law has a tradition of educating tomorrow's leaders.

Similarly, Stephen Nolan '76, the recipient of the

Cardin Pro Bono Service Award, exemplifies our role in educating lawyers with a public calling. This ongoing commitment is further demonstrated by the Civil Justice Program, our sponsorship of the annual conference of the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL), and our donation of more than 1,000 volumes to five African university law libraries, all of which are described in the following pages.

I know you will enjoy learning more about the academic leadership of one of our distinguished faculty members, Professor Taunya Banks. She is a leader both within the faculty and in the wider world of legal education and scholarship. The School of Law is proud to promote a new scholarly journal, *MARGINS*, which strengthens our continuing commitment to new perspectives in interdisciplinary discourse. We are also pleased with the success of a new merit-scholarship program designed to attract future generations of outstanding leaders. This program speaks volumes to a community of potential law students about our commitment to educating the best and the brightest.

None of this success would be possible without the encouragement and support of our graduates and friends. You are among the School of Law's most valuable resources—to the community as well as the student body. I am pleased to announce two new members of the Board of Visitors, Ava E. Lias-Booker '86 and Stephen A. Burch. Ava, one of my first law students, is a leader in the legal community, especially in financial services and government relations, while Steve is an accomplished executive in the business world specializing in technology.

For me, one of the most rewarding aspects of the past few months has been the opportunity to connect or reconnect with so many of you. The faculty and staff recognize the extent to which the alumni enrich the educational experience of our students. You enhance the connection between legal theory and practice. Your involvement can make a significant difference in achieving our mission of outstanding leadership in legal education.

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