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FROM THE EDITOR

As the *Maryland Law Review* publishes its annual Survey of Developments in Maryland Law, we join in honoring an individual who has had a significant impact on that law: Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy of the Court of Appeals of Maryland. 1987 marks the twentieth year of Judge Murphy's tenure as an appellate judge in this state.

A member of the University of Maryland School of Law's Class of 1951, Judge Murphy was appointed in 1967 as the first Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals. In 1972 he was elevated to the position of Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. During these years he has served as frequent spokesperson for the court. In this capacity Judge Murphy has always demonstrated an awareness of this fundamental democratic principle: that the legislative branch must serve as the primary arbiter of public policy decisions.¹ This is not to say, though, that under his stewardship the Court of Appeals has become staid or passive; rather, Judge Murphy has led the court to innovate in many areas, including those of gender equality,² the constitutional right to counsel,³ and the recognition of new, pro-

1. See, e.g., *Harrison v. Montgomery County Bd. of Educ.*, 295 Md. 442, 456 A.2d 894 (1983) (deferring to the legislature the decision whether to abrogate the doctrine of contributory negligence).

2. See, e.g., *Condore v. Prince George's County*, 289 Md. 516, 425 A.2d 1011 (1981) (holding unconstitutional under Maryland's Equal Rights Amendment the statutory and common-law doctrines of necessities, which rendered a husband, but not his wife, liable in tort for his spouse's necessary expenses).

We also applaud the recent appointment of a special task force to study the issue of gender bias in the state court system.

3. See, e.g., *Brosan v. Cochran*, 307 Md. 662, 516 A.2d 970 (1986) (holding that in drunk driving cases due process requires that attorneys be permitted to administer sobriety tests to their clients before the State administers its sobriety tests, provided the attorneys act in a timely and efficacious manner; after administering the tests, the attorneys may then counsel their clients not to submit to the State's sobriety tests.).

gressive theories of tort liability.⁴

It is, however, for his perhaps less-known role as administrator of the state's judicial system that we would like to highlight Judge Murphy's work. Considered a master of the budget process, with a keen understanding of Maryland's system of funding the courts through a peculiar combination of state and local financing, Judge Murphy is known for his solid working relationship with the legislature as well as with local leaders. In addition, under his direction there have been tremendous strides in bringing technology to the work of the state courts—*e.g.*, the use of computers in the district courts' scheduling of their heavy caseloads. Moreover, as Chief Judge he has established an effective the chain-of-command through the appointment of many outstanding individuals as administrative judges. While other state court systems have been plagued by scandal in recent years, Maryland's courts have continued to function well in the fine tradition of the Maryland bar. This is due, in no small part, to Judge Murphy's energy, dedication, and sensitivity to the men and women who serve our state court system.

Honored earlier this year by the Law School's Alumni Association as *Alumnus of the Year*, Judge Murphy has our congratulations and best wishes for his continued service to the State of Maryland.

4. *See, e.g.*, *Jones v. Malinowski*, 299 Md. 257, 473 A.2d 429 (1984) (recognizing a cause of action for "wrongful birth"); *Harris v. Jones*, 281 Md. 560, 380 A.2d 611 (1977) (recognizing a cause of action for intentional infliction of emotional harm).