

## A Proud Maryland Law Review Alumnus Looks Back

Richard D. Bennett

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# Foreword

## A PROUD MARYLAND LAW REVIEW ALUMNUS LOOKS BACK

JUDGE RICHARD D. BENNETT\*

“Was it really that important for you to be selected to join the Maryland Law Review?” My wife asked me that one summer evening many years ago as we celebrated my selection. I explained the importance of the recognition and the increased employment opportunities that might await me. However, I knew that there was something more.

As a native Marylander intent on practicing law in my home state, I had been advised by a prominent Maryland lawyer and family friend to come home to law school. It was excellent advice. It was also quite humbling. Having graduated from an Ivy League university and taken a break from academics for military active duty, I arrived at the University of Maryland Law School with, perhaps, a little too much confidence. That first semester, I was stunned by the intellectual caliber of my first year classmates. I quickly realized that I was going to be challenged every day to be prepared and intent on my studies. My selection to the Maryland Law Review validated my commitment, and it is an honor to write this Foreword to the *Law Review* at the conclusion of its seventy-fifth year.

The emphasis upon strong, concise legal writing by my Law Review editors had a significant impact on my academic performance over the next two years.<sup>1</sup> The skills I developed led to an Asper internship<sup>2</sup> during my third

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1. However, my *Law Review* case note, Self-incrimination: *Choosing a Constitutional Immunity Standard*—*Kastigar v. United States*, 32 MD. L. REV. 289 (1972), has seldom been cited.

2. The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Asper Judicial Fellowship Program offers opportunities for law students to obtain credit for supervised law-related work with state and federal judges. See *Asper Fellowships*, UNIV. OF MARYLAND FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW, <http://www.law.umaryland.edu/academics/practice/asper/> (last visited Sept. 22, 2016). Asper Judicial Fellowships are one of many types of externships offered by the Carey School of Law. Asper Fellowships are named in memory of the late Professor Lewis D. Asper and are intended to expose students to the practical workings of the legal system and to help students

year at the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, giving rise to my keen interest in the federal court system. I have no doubt that the progression of my career from Assistant U.S. Attorney to U.S. Attorney, to active federal trial lawyer, to U.S. District Judge was the result of my participation on the Maryland Law Review and selection to the Asper program.

The opportunities to develop strong legal writing skills have greatly expanded since my time at Maryland Law School. *The Journal of Business & Technology Law*, *Journal of Health Care Law & Policy*, *Maryland International Law Journal*, and *University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class* all provide increased opportunities for intellectual growth. These programs accompany the school's intensive mentoring of first year law students in legal writing. The result is strong skill sets exhibited by all Maryland Law graduates.

My chambers at the U.S. Courthouse has benefitted greatly from a close connection to the University of Maryland Law School. Every Fall and Spring semester, two Asper interns work in my chambers and receive academic credit for their efforts. They attend trials and hearings, and work with my law clerks on drafting memorandum opinions. In short, they serve as assistant law clerks, and many of them have gone on to serve as clerks both in my chambers and with other U.S. District and Circuit Court Judges. Seven of my sixteen law clerks have been graduates of the law school, and another will arrive in my chambers at the conclusion of this academic year.<sup>3</sup> The performance of these Maryland Law School alumni has been more than equal to that of many of my other law clerks from other highly ranked law schools.

The intellectual strength of Maryland Law graduates is the result of a mosaic of positive factors. The smaller class sizes permit closer interaction with professors. The school's clinical law programs provide critical practical experience to students. Indeed, Maryland Law School's nationally recognized Environmental Law Clinic produced two of my former law clerks who have gone on to work in significant positions at the Department of Justice in Washington. The three health law clinics have also received national recognition, attributable in part to their coordination with Baltimore's leading medical institutions.<sup>4</sup> Other clinical programs have benefitted from the law school's proximity to Washington. The Maryland

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develop insights into the process of judicial decision-making. Students participating in the Asper Program are required to enroll in the related Asper Judicial Fellowship Workshop.

3. These law clerks are Tonya Kelly '02, Brian T. Tucker '03, Erica M. Zilioli '06, David I. Sharfstein '07, Justin A. Redd '12, Thomas P. Kolkin '13, Michael B. Brown '15, and Annie M. McGuire, Class of 2017.

4. Health Care Delivery and HIV/AIDS Clinic, Public Health Law Clinic, and Drug Policy and Public Health Strategies Clinic.

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Law National Trial Team has excelled in national competitions, and several team members have either interned or clerked in my chambers.

I have recognized in all of these Maryland Law students a definite drive and curiosity. They are the product of academic competition which fosters intellectual discipline. The Maryland Law Review has symbolized this academic intensity for many years.

As a proud Maryland Law Review alumnus, I salute the Maryland Law Review on the past seventy-five years.