Maryland Carey Law Observed

EARLY my first year, before classes had started, I was walking through the student lounge when a play of light from the courtyard fountain caught my eye. The courtyard was empty, and the afternoon sun sparkled off the clear water like light through a gem. It was a remarkable moment of beauty and serenity, and it drew me outside. Only then did I see the words engraved on the fountain’s face:

*Let justice roll down like waters.*

Those are the words of the ancient prophet Amos, but also of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “We are not satisfied,” he said from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, “and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

Our fountain gives us a place to rest and to think, but it also reminds us of our calling: we must not be satisfied until justice rolls down and surrounds us, flowing through our lives and our world.

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