A Legacy of Teaching, Scholarship, and Service

With a combined sixty-nine years of service, Professors Edward Tomlinson and Abraham Dash represent a remarkable legacy. Their promotion to emeritus status upon their respective retirements this year is a reflection of the remarkable contributions they have made to the life of the School of Law, to the academy and to the bench and the bar.

Many students first encounter Professor Tomlinson as a careful critic of their legal writing assignments. As a tireless teacher of legal writing and analysis, Professor Tomlinson parsed the sentences of a generation of lawyers, teaching them not just to construct a sentence but to reason more clearly. Other students met him in contracts, criminal procedure, or in an advanced seminar in comparative law. Professor Tomlinson is the author of a score of articles, and he translated the French Penal Code of 1994 with a scholarly introduction. His articles have been cited in the work of the American Law Institute for their informative comparative analysis.

Professor Tomlinson's service to the school and to the larger community is extraordinary. He shaped the development of the school's educational program for years as chairman of the Curriculum Committee. His public service in Maryland includes the Governor's Death Penalty Advisory Committee. On the national level, he has been a director of the American Society of Comparative Law, and internationally, he is the American representative of the Association Henri Capitant des Amis de la Culture Juridique Francaise. Professor Tomlinson received his BA from Princeton in 1961, his MA from the University of Washington in 1962 and his LLB in 1965 from Harvard University. He joined the University of Maryland School of Law faculty in 1965, and was promoted to professor of law in 1971.

Students are most likely to meet Professor Dash in a large upper-level lecture course on legal profession, criminal procedure, or administrative law. He has received awards for his teaching, and has served as a positive role model for countless graduates of the law school now serving as lawyers and judges. Professor Dash has provided extraordinary service to the school as a member of the Administrative Committee, advisor to the Moot Court Board, and founder of the school's highly successful Trial Advocacy Team. Professor Dash has published several books and articles, principally for practicing lawyers and judges, and he has continued to update many of those books (the judges' bench books specifically) over the years.

Professor Dash's public service has also been extraordinary. He helped start the Law Related Education Program of the Maryland State Bar Association, which provides education to public school teachers on the legal system. Professor Dash is a member of several bars including, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C., the District of Columbia, and the Court of Military Appeals. Over the years, he has served as a consultant to several American Bar Association and Maryland Bar committees on criminal procedure and administrative law and to a national task force on organized crime.

Both professor Tomlinson and professor Dash will be the subject of tributes in upcoming issues of the Maryland Law Review.