FAMILY, friends, and the graduates of the Class of 2013 gathered at the Hippodrome Theatre in downtown Baltimore for the UM Carey Law Hooding Ceremony on Friday, May 17.

Graduates listened to remarks from Josh Lowery, president of the evening class; Anna Maria Hadjitheodosiou, president of the day class; and U.S. Senator Ben Cardin ’67, the event’s keynote speaker. Senator Cardin is a long-time legislator who began his career in the Maryland House of Delegates, where he served as speaker, before his election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986 and then to the U.S. Senate in 2006.
A Legend’s Legacy

 AFTER serving for 17 years as Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals—the first African-American to hold that position and one of the few judges to have served at all four levels of the Maryland judiciary during his 38-year career—Robert Mack Bell retired from the bench in June.

 In recognition of his contributions to the Maryland legal community, the University of Maryland, Baltimore awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws at its commencement ceremony on May 17.

 “Judge Bell has made exceptional contributions to the development of law in Maryland, has acquired national eminence as a leader of the judiciary, and has a distinguished record of public service,” said Dean Phoebe Haddon. “He has been a wonderful friend to the law school, and a role model to generations of young lawyers.”

 It was not unusual to see Judge Bell, Chief Judge of Maryland’s highest court, at Maryland Carey Law. He recently delivered the law school’s annual Thurgood Marshall Lecture, is a frequent presenter at the annual Black Law Student Association banquet, and has served for more than a decade on the school’s Board of Visitors. In fact, at his suggestion, the Board welcomed its first student representative in April 2013, when the newly elected president of the Student Bar Association added Board membership to his portfolio of SBA responsibilities.

 During his tenure, Judge Bell worked hard to demystify the court system and educate the public about its functions and procedures. He promoted mediation, negotiation, and other types of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and established an Access to Justice Commission to identify barriers to justice and strategies for addressing them.