Welcome to *Making an Impact*, a section of the Law School’s alumni magazine with news about the progress of Maryland Law’s $50 million capital campaign. Each issue will spotlight key individuals and important accomplishments supporting the campaign’s goals, along with opportunities for your participation in this historic initiative.

UMDlaw. What a Law School Should Be.

UMDLaw is recognized nationwide as a leader and innovator in legal education.

We set the standard for graduating students ready to make a difference. Our commitment to advancing justice extends around the world. Our faculty is comprised of influential thinkers, whose scholarship is helping improve law while bringing cutting-edge legal issues into our classrooms.

None of this could have been achieved without the financial support of our graduates and friends. On the pages that follow, it is our privilege to recognize those generous supporters and share just a few examples of the breakthrough achievements their gifts make possible.

THANK YOU.

From the Classroom to the Courtroom

*Michele Bradley, Class of 2010*

In the first case she ever argued, Michele Bradley ’10 convinced Maryland’s interim appellate court to reverse her client’s conviction on charges of attempted robbery and assault. Not bad for a second-year law student.

As a student attorney in the Appellate and Post-Conviction Advocacy Clinic, Bradley represented a client in a direct appeal before the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. After interviewing clients, reading trial transcripts (and other parts of the criminal case record), and conducting legal research, she argued her client’s conviction should be reversed on three claims. The Court of Special Appeals ruled in her favor on the first two and reserved judgment on the third.

“Michelle drafted two well-written appellate briefs, and presented one of the best appellate arguments I have seen a student present in my years of teaching,” said Professor Renee Hutchins.

Bradley attended UMDLaw as the inaugural recipient of the William H. and Madeline W. Murphy Scholarship, which was created by William H. Murphy, Jr. ’69, and his son William “Hassan” Murphy, a member of the Law School’s Board of Visitors, to provide scholarships for students who exhibit academic excellence and leadership.

Bradley, who also was a member of UMDLaw’s nationally ranked Trial Team, which relies upon alumni gifts to fund its participation in competitions, recently began her career as an associate in the New York office of Jones Day.

“I definitely plan to put my Law School experience to work as a litigator,” she says.
Professors Michelle Harner and Robert Rhee are out to prove that, in the business world, possessing a JD degree doesn’t limit graduates to doing just legal work. In fact, the problem-solving skills that students hone in law school make them good candidates for a variety of executive jobs, including those at the highest levels of business. Harner and Rhee are the new co-directors of UMDLaw’s Business Law Program. They have set out to fortify the Law School’s business law curriculum and build the program’s strengths in areas including transactions, regulation, and intellectual property. But they also want to expand the hands-on experiences available to business law students, making better use of UMDLaw graduates to help with the students’ professional development. Support from sources like the Miles & Stockbridge Fund for Excellence in Business Law and the Norman P. Ramsey Business Law Fund enable the Program to host annual conferences that bring top executives and counsel from Fortune 500 companies to share their insights on the latest developments in business.

Envisioning JDs as CEOs
Professors Michelle Harner and Robert Rhee

“Lawyers are trained to do things that help businesses,” says Harner. “Identify problems and opportunities, know what rules and tools they can utilize, and come up with creative solutions.” Rhee, a former investment banker with a Wharton MBA in addition to a JD, has taught at the School since 2007. Harner, who in private practice specialized in business bankruptcy and related transactional fields, joined the faculty in 2009.

In Mexico, they counseled migrant workers, who were afraid to complain about crippling fees charged by job headhunters or U.S. employers who paid below minimum wage and housed them in squalid conditions.

In China, they helped rural entrepreneurs explore their borrowing rights in a society evolving so rapidly from communism to the free market that no one knows all the rules.

In Namibia, six students took on a variety of projects, supporting claims for access to drinking water, and working to enhance the legal infrastructure of a country with fewer than 500 lawyers for a population of more than 2 million.

“You could have the most progressive constitution in the world, and Namibia has one of them, but when you go into the countryside people don’t know their rights,” says Emily Siedell ’11.