Mathias J. DeVito '56

and

Richard O. Berndt '67

received awards during the

Fifth Annual Alumni Association Honors Banquet on

April 17, 1996

at Westminster Hall.

The Benjamin L. Cardin Pro Bono Service Award is presented annually to a graduate who has demonstrated significant and substantial contributions to furthering pro bono ideals in the state of Maryland.

Through the work of Baltimorean Richard O. Berndt '67, Gallagher, Evelius & Jones has become the outstanding pro bono firm in this state and among the finest in the region. Employed there since 1968 and managing partner for two decades, he and the firm work with the St. Ambrose Housing Law Center in representing low-income elderly clients.

The lawyers at Gallagher, Evelius & Jones assist the elderly poor who are the victims of home-repair scams. The firm’s involvement in the Public Justice Center includes work in the tenant advocacy project which recruits and trains non-lawyers in attorney-supervised court proceedings of tenant-landlord disputes. Gallagher attorneys worked with the Citizens Planning and Housing Association on Baltimore’s ban on cigarette and alcohol billboards in residential neighborhoods. In 1987, Berndt served as vice chair of the state task force that found that Maryland’s poor were receiving little legal assistance and led the state to double its legal services to low-income residents.

He is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland System, the Cardinal Sheehan Center, Inc., the Baltimore Development Corporation, and the Financial Administration Board of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore, Mercy Medical Center and the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies. Berndt also serves on the boards of the Baltimore Equitable Insurance Company, the Shelter Development Corporation and Allegis Health Services. He served on the campaigns for Senators Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski, Congressmen Ben Cardin and former Governor William Donald Schaefer. In 1976, he chaired Citizens for Harborplace, the referendum that renewed downtown Baltimore. Among Berndt’s many accolades are two Papal Medals, “Knight Commander of the Knights of St. Gregory,” and “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” from Pope John Paul II, presented in 1994 and 1990. He also received the 1978 Greater Baltimore Community Award for Outstanding Community Service and the 1989 Frances Morton Froelicher Civic Statesmanship Award from the Citizens Planning and House Association.