Battaglia Appointed to State’s Highest Court

In December 2000, Gov. Parris Glendening nominated U.S. Attorney Lynne A. Battaglia ’74 to the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court. Battaglia took the seat left vacant by the retirement of the Hon. Lawrence F. Rodowsky ’56. She is the third woman to serve on the court.

Elevation to the bench follows a career that has included several state and federal posts. Battaglia was appointed U.S. attorney for the District of Maryland in 1993 by President Bill Clinton. She was the first woman to serve as the highest federal prosecutor in Maryland. Prior to that appointment, she was the chief of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Maryland Attorney General’s office. Additionally, she has worked as the chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and as senior trial attorney for the Office of Special Litigation for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Her activities have not been limited to career pursuits, however. Battaglia has been an adjunct professor at the law school for more than 10 years. In addition, she has been an active member in a variety of community organizations, often in leadership capacities, including board of directors positions with both the Women’s Law Center and the Howard County Sexual Assault Center. She also is a vital contributor to the life of the law school, previously serving as president of the University of Maryland School of Law Alumni Association and currently serving her third term on the School’s Board of Visitors.

Iannucci Chosen as Secretary of Business and Economic Development

Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening has appointed David S. Iannucci ’79 to the post of secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED). In this position, Iannucci plays an integral role in directing the work of the DBED in its mission to stimulate and strengthen Maryland’s economy.

Iannucci is no stranger to either state government or the corporate community. Prior to his work in the DBED, he served as deputy chief of staff for Gov. Glendening. In that role, Iannucci had direct programmatic and administrative responsibilities over the departments of Business and Economic Development, Transportation, Housing and Community Development, and Agriculture.

In the corporate arena, he served as vice president for policy and public affairs with the Prudential Health Care Plan. Other state government positions have included service as chief legislative officer for former Gov. William Donald Schaefer as well as a number of influential positions in the Department of Legislative Reference.

During his two years in the DBED, Iannucci has been credited with helping the state attract or retain such businesses as the Marriott Corp., General Motors’ Allison Transmission Division and the ClosetMaid Corp. As Gov. Glendening said in a statement, "He has played a key role in helping Maryland change the perception of its business climate.”

Iannucci plans to position the state to take advantage of new and burgeoning industrial sectors of the economy, particularly biotechnology, fiber optics and manufacturing.

KAREN PEAIRES
1938

Isaac Hecht, treasurer and member of the Board of Directors for The National Client Protection Organization, Inc., recently was a speaker at regional workshops in Boston, Nashville, Chicago and Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The National Client Protection Organization was formed to protect clients from dishonest conduct in the practice of law. In January, Hecht presented "Responsibility for the Administration of Client Protection Programs" to the Conference of Chief Justices.


1960s

1963

Seymour B. Stern was elected chairman of The Community Foundation for Frederick County, Inc. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for Frederick Memorial Hospital.

1965

Michael G. Hendler is included in the Best Lawyers in America 2001-2002. He is a member of the firm Adelberg, Rudow, Dorf & Hendler in Baltimore. Joseph D. Montedonico was selected a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He also is past president of the D.C. chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and was included in the Best Lawyers in America 1999. Eugene Rosengarden was awarded the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive for the Year 2000. He is director of the Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements at the U.S. International Trade Commission.

1966

Gerald S. Susman announces the opening of Susman Business & Estate Strategies, Inc. in Philadelphia, offering a wide range of financial planning and business planning services.

1967

Mark D. Dopolin is chair of the Maryland State Bar Association Real Property Planning & Zoning Section. Vincent J. Pancari was reappointed a trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the educational and philanthropic arm of the state's bar association. He is a partner at Kavesh, Pancari, Tedesco & Pancari in Vineland.

1968

James Kushner was appointed the 2000-2001 Irving D. and Florence Rosenberg Professor of Law at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. His selection recognizes his outstanding service to the legal community and his commitment to the law school.

1970

Lawrence Z. Lorber joined the Washington, D.C. office of Proskauer Rose, LLP. He is a partner in the firm's labor and employment law department. Jerald J. Oppel recently was named president of the board for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Maryland chapter. He is a principal with Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver, PC, in Baltimore.

1971

Otho M. Thompson, a former city solicitor of Baltimore, has joined Venable, Baetjer & Howard, LLP, as a partner in its litigation practice group.

1972

Jerald B. Lurie recently was elected to a variety of bar association and community positions. Members of the Bar Association of Baltimore City elected him as its vice president, as well as president of its charitable organization, the Baltimore Bar Foundation. In addition, he is vice president of the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, and vice chair of the Maryland State Bar Association's Business Law Section Council. He was reappointed to a three-year term on the inquiry panel of the Attorney Grievance Commission of the state of Maryland, and recently was appointed by Gov. Glendening to chair the Maryland State Board of Pilots. Charles E. Partridge Jr. was named principal at Semmes, Bowen & Semmes.

1973

Donald F. Burke was named principal at Semmes, Bowen & Semmes. The Women's Law Center of Maryland recently honored the Hon. Albert J. Matricciani Jr. with its annual Rosalyn B. Bell Award for outstanding contributions to the field of family law. Matricciani has served as judge-in-charge of the family division in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. He is director of the Circuit Court's Center for Business and Technology.

1975

The Hon. Sally Denison Adkins recently received the Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award from the Women's Law Center of Maryland for her contributions to women's rights. Adkins is an associate judge on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. Henry E. Schwartz joined the law firm of Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley, LLP, as a partner in the Baltimore office. His practice focuses on health care law with an emphasis on representing all types of health care providers with regulatory and reimbursement issues.

1977

Mark D. Gately, who recently was inducted as a fellow into the American College of Trial Lawyers, joined the litigation group in the Baltimore office of Hogan & Hartson, LLP.

Robert W. Hesselbacher Jr. is a partner at the firm of Wright, Constable & Skeen, LLP. He practices in the areas of professional liability defense and business litigation.

1978

Mark Frost, founder of the weekly newspaper The Chronicle, is celebrating the publication's 20th anniversary. He resides in Glens Falls, N.Y.

1979

David Franke retired from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and accepted the position of general counsel with the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, in Alexandria, Va.

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Four Join Board of Visitors

PATRICIA YOUNG

The School of Law's Board of Visitors plays a vital role in the management of the law school. A dynamic group, the Board recently welcomed four new members to its ranks. "These four bring different and diverse perspectives on a number of important issues—Bruce is a specialist in corporate and securities law, Joanne is an expert in health care law, and George Russell is a giant in the legal community," notes Dean Karen H. Rothenberg. "I am delighted that these alumni have agreed to share their time and talent on the Board."

Bruce S. Mendelsohn '77

Bruce S. Mendelsohn '77

As a member of the District of Columbia and Maryland bars, Bruce S. Mendelsohn was interested in the School of Law's initiative to expand graduates' job opportunities in the Washington area. As a partner at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP in Washington, D.C., Mendelsohn was influential in placing graduates interested in corporate finance and securities regulation in associate positions at the firm.

Mendelsohn manages the corporate and securities practice group and is co-chair of the firm's corporate finance practice group as well as a member of the technology practice group. His focus is on securities matters and mergers and acquisitions of public and private companies and related regulatory issues. He also represents clients before Congress and the executive branch on public policy issues concerning mergers and acquisitions and securities law.

Prior to joining Akin Gump in 1983, Mendelsohn held various positions at the Securities and Exchange Commission, including chief of the Office of Regulatory Policy in the Division of Investment Management, counsel to Commissioner John R. Evans, and attorney-advisor and special counsel in the Division of Corporate Finance. He has spoken on securities law issues at various professional conferences and is on the Board of Contributing Editors and Advisors of the Securities Regulation Law Journal.

"Over the years," Mendelsohn notes, "I have followed the accomplishments of the School with pride. I am honored to be given the opportunity to be a member of the Board of Visitors and assist the School in its continued success."

George F. Pappas '75

For the past 10 years, George F. Pappas has gone to the mat in a number of intellectual property law cases and has pinned his opponents. When lacrosse stick giant STX had trouble with imitators cutting into its profits, they called for Pappas. When Microsoft was sued for patent infringement, they asked for Pappas. The same for Waverly Inc. and Johnson & Johnson. As partner-in-charge of Venable, Baetjer & Howard's intellectual property litigation group, he has been or is currently lead trial counsel in more than 50 intellectual property cases for U.S. and foreign companies.

Pappas has a wellspring of litigation experience, serving as lead litigation counsel in more than 200 cases during his 24 years of practice. In addition to his recent and well-known intellectual property cases, Pappas enjoys an international practice in complex civil litigation. This civil trial background set the stage for Pappas' entry into the IP field. When Venable, Baetjer & Howard acquired a smaller legal partnership specializing in patent law, Pappas volunteered to handle a trial involving a French aeronautics firm. He won the case, defeating the charge of infringement by a competing firm.

His litigation expertise and creativity extends to the classroom: Pappas is the originator and co-chair, with U.S. District Judge Marvin J. Garbis, of a national ALI-ABA program, Trial of a Patent Case. The program, which is a permanent course offering, features actual trial demonstrations with federal circuit and district court judges commenting on performances.

Pappas explains, "I agreed to "Bruce is a specialist in corporate and securities law, George Pappas focuses on intellectual property law, Joanne is an expert in health care law, and George Russell is a giant in the legal community."
Joanne E. Pollak '76

The year 2000 is the third consecutive year that Joanne E. Pollak has been named one of the "Maryland's Top 100 Women." The recipients are chosen for their excellence at work, their involvement in the community and their mentoring of the younger generation. These qualities also are held in high esteem by the School of Law, as it is the School's goal to instill in its students and graduates these attributes.

As vice president and general counsel for The Johns Hopkins Health System Corp. and The Johns Hopkins Hospital, and general counsel for Johns Hopkins Medicine, Pollak works with the leadership of these three entities on major joint initiatives.

Pollak comments, "The University of Maryland law school was ahead of its time in the mid '70s, offering cutting-edge health law courses as the field was emerging. I benefited from the School's foresight by being one of the first health care lawyers to enter the field in Maryland. The law school continues to offer innovative programs and foster a strong bar in Maryland, and I welcome the opportunity to play a part in maintaining that strength in the future."

Previously, she worked for Piper & Marbury, a stint spanning 18 years, as the head of the health care group representing hospitals, nursing homes, physician groups and emerging alternative delivery systems in corporate finance and regulatory matters.

Through various board appointments Pollak strives to recommend and sponsor individuals for the Leadership Class for The Greater Baltimore Committee. Her experience in 1986 with the Leadership Class made her realize how important networking is in making a difference. She serves on the boards of the Mid-Atlantic Affiliate Board of the American Heart Association; the Charlestown Community, the nation's largest continuing care facility located in Catonsville, Md.; the Blue Ridge Health Alliance and QualChoice of Virginia Health Plan, two alternative health care companies.

Russell Jr. is a history-making man of firsts. His list of accomplishments include his tenure as the first African-American judge to sit on the Circuit Court of Baltimore City, the first to sit on a Maryland appellate court in 1967, Baltimore's first African-American city solicitor, and, among others, the first African-American president of the Baltimore Bar.

He was honored in April 2000 by the law school with the Distinguished Graduate Award. A fitting award for this 70-year-old who made news headlines at the turn of the century as he left Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe to join the Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos.

In 1986, he merged his law firm with Piper & Marbury, another move that ranks among firsts. The merger propelled African-American attorneys to the top of Baltimore's power structure. Now, nearly 15 years later, Russell will be a formidable figure in helping litigate some of Angelos' high-profile cases.

As a board member, Russell promises to help in furthering support for the Building Campaign and securing scholarships for the law school through his many relationships. "The appointment enables me to give back to the law school that trained me and allowed me become successful," Russell explains. "I would never be able to repay the law school for what they've given me."

Russell is an active member on numerous corporate and community boards and a fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation, a member of the ABA, and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

George L. Russell Jr. '54

George L. Russell Jr. '54

With nearly a half-century career under his belt, the "Dean of the Maryland Bar" George L.
Alumni Gather at Reception in Boston

(At left) Maggie Begley '92 reminisces with classmate Carol Iancu '92 at a reception held in Boston in October 2000. The event was hosted by Dean Karen H. Rothenberg and Professor Robert Percival, while he was on sabbatical at Harvard University.

So You Wanna Be.....a Corporate Lawyer?

Hugely popular with students, the So You Wanna Be.....Series features alumni panelists speaking about a particular area of the law. In October, four corporate attorneys talked about their career experiences. They are pictured with Dean Karen H. Rothenberg (center), (from left) Maureen Dry '96, Ava Lias-Booker '86, Alison Asti '79 and Bruce Mendelsohn '77.

1986

Charles E. Brodsky left his position as in-house counsel at Rite Aid Corp., in January 2000 to launch a solo practice specializing in commercial real estate transactions. His practice is in Princeton Junction, N.J. Bruce L. Richardson is managing associate at the Baltimore firm of Weinstock, Friedman & Friedman, PA, formerly Weinstock, Stevan, Harris & Friedman, PA.

1987

Regina Hollis Lewis joined Nexsen Pruet as special counsel in its Columbia, S.C. office. Her major area of practice is employment and labor litigation. The new position follows several positions in academic, government and nonprofit organizations.

1988


1989

Mary E. Goulet just completed a musical score for a theater production. She practices patent law at McGuire Woods, LLP in McLean, VA.

1990

Steven J. Poliakoff, a physician-attorney, is an assistant U.S. attorney in San Diego. In 1999, he received the John R. Neece Award for "diligence, excellence and integrity as a civil assistant U.S. attorney."

Richard B. Stofberg, formerly of the Law Offices of Arthur L. Drager, LLC, announces the formation of Durkee, Rosofsky & Stofberg, LLC, in Baltimore.

1991

Richard E. Blankenship recently joined Grenadier, Howard & Associates, PA, as a tax manager in its Jacksonville, Fla. office. He specializes in federal and state tax compliance, research and planning matters. In early 2000, Bro. Frank O'Donnell, SM, began work as the legislative aide for Del. Kenneth Montague, who represents the 43rd District of Baltimore City.

1992

Kenneth B. Abel, a principal at Ober Kaler Grimes & Shriver, PC, was elected chairman of the board of the Baltimore Junior Association of Commerce for the 2000-2001 term. Jon M. Laria is a partner at Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP. He continues to practice in real estate finance, acquisition, development and leasing law.
Mentor Program Supports First-Year Students

An enriching experience for everyone involved, the Alumni Association's Mentor Program pairs alumni with law students in relationships designed to support students during their first year. Meeting and interacting with practitioners in the community helps students figure out what kind of work they may want to pursue after graduation and keeps alumni informed about law school today. We are grateful to alumni who volunteer for this program. The participants in the 2000-2001 Mentor Program are listed below.

Wesley Blakeslee '76
Lynn Bristol '96
Andrea Chambless '86
Barbara Fuller '96
Ned Himmelrich '86
Rebecca Hirshorn '98
Ann Hoffman '72
Robin Schoeps Lewis '97
Robert Lorenzo '90
Jay Madden '95
Gary Madison '85
Zakia Mahasa '86
Joseph Mariano '83
Damian Mark '99
Ray Marshall '97
Susan Marzetta '85
Dini McCullough '98
William McDonald '66
Patricia McGowan '98
Michael McKeehan '99
Eric McLaughlin '95
Sherae McNeal '91
Natalie McSherry '74
Maxine Mead '97
Suvita Melehy '95
Stephen Miles '69
Jeff Miller '99
William Missouri '78
Jonathan Monheit '96
K. C. Murphy '94
Marc Nachman '81
Michael Nagle '79
John Nason '71
Kip Naugle '74
Stephen Nolan '76
Uzoma Obi '98
Kevin O'Connor '98
John O'Meally '97
Renee Orleans '93
Matt Paavola '79
Ryan Palmer '98
Charles Partridge '72
Beth Pepper '83
Vicki Pepper '93
Brian Perlberg '97
William Pietmattei '99
Daryl Plevy '80
Alex Podberesky '96
Suellen Poland '88
Norman Polovoy '53
Darlene Wright Powell '85
Nicholas Rattal '86
Meghan Reinhart '99
Peter Rheinstein '73
Lynn Ricciardella '97
James Richardson '73
Lisa Ridge '94
Ruth Riley '90
Lena Robins '95
Christopher Rolle '88
Bryan Roslund '94
Michael Rothman '99
Maureen Rowland '88
Jonathan Ruckdeschel '97
Andrew Saindon '96
John Sandbower '60
Jane Santoni '86
Sedica Sawze '99
Lori Schectel '99
Jason Scherr '98
Diane Schulte '70
Donald Speidel '95
Jason St. John '00
Deborah St. Lawrence '97
Charles Stark '75
Wayne Steedman '91
Erica Steinacker '96
James Temple '85
Darlene Townsend '92
Michael Travieso '75
Gerry Uehlinger '75
Lawrence Wachtel '76
J. C. Walker '95
Harold Walter '82
Barry Watson '86
Thomas Waxer '62
Trish Weaver '91
Noreen O'Hara Welch '99
Charles Wellington '87
Robert Welteck '80

First-year student and class president David Booth with mentor Stephen L. Miles '69

First-year student Raymond Liu and mentor Gary Madison '85

Jack Shapiro '70
Norma Sharara '94
Brian Shefferman '84
Nancy Shugert '74
Richard Sigler '81
Michael Simpson '98
M. Christine Sinelli '95
Jane Sopher '93
Deborah Williams '98
Alan Wilner '62
Cassandra Wood '91
Benjamin Woolery '88
John Woolums '95
Ingrid Wu '95
William Young '65
Jim Zimmerly '69
Discussion Focuses on Role of Maryland Law Review

In November 2000, School of Law alumni and former editors of the Maryland Law Review attended a round table discussion, "The Maryland Law Review: Its Role in the Legal Community and in the Careers of Members." Six alumni participated in the discussion about the benefits of participating on the editorial board of the Maryland Law Review: The Hon. John C. Eldridge ’59, Marion K. Goldberg ’95, Veronica P. Jones ’95, Mary H. Keyes ’97, Linda M. Thomas ’91 and Robert D. Wing ’94. The discussion was lead by the current faculty advisor, Professor Greg Young.

The graduates agreed that their experiences on the editorial board of the student-edited journal had a profound influence on their professional lives. Young commented, "I believe that the students were able to connect their current experience on the Review with a long and rich tradition of excellence. This was made more real by the stories of former editors, whose collective service spanned nearly all the years of the Review's existence as a student-edited journal."

In addition, this event commemorated the retirement of the Hon. Lawrence F. Rodowsky ’56 from the Court of Appeals of Maryland. Rodowsky served in the state's top court for almost 21 years, having been appointed by Gov. Harry Hughes.

Sandra A. Manocchio and Dana M. S. Wilson became members of Shapiro, Sher & Guinot, PA, formerly Shapiro & Olander. Manocchio practices bankruptcy law and Wilson practices municipal and commercial litigation.

1993
John F. Lessner joined the health law group at Ober Kaler Grimes & Shriver, PC. His practice focuses on issues of long-term care and assisted living facilities. Jeffrey M. Lippman is a partner at the Baltimore firm of Weinstock, Friedman & Friedman, PA, formerly Weinstock, Stevan, Harris & Friedman, PA.

1994
After working as an associate in a Seattle law firm for four years, Tim Dole is a law clerk to Washington state Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge. He intends to move back to Maryland this year. Lauri McEntire Moylan and Christopher Moylan announce the birth of their second child, Lucy Birgitta Moylan, born on Oct. 16, 2000. Cheryl L. Slay opened the Law Offices of Cheryl L. Slay. Her practice focuses on trademark and copyright law, with a general emphasis on art and entertainment matters.

1995
Craig Thompson received the 2001 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award given by the University System of Maryland.

This prestigious award is presented to an alumnus graduating in the last 10 years who has distinguished himself both personally and professionally. He practices at the Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos in Baltimore.

1996
Matthew G. Hjortsberg joined Bowie & Jensen, LLC, as an associate. He is part of the firm's litigation department. Doug Levy has joined the San Francisco office of Fleishman-Hillard public relations firm as vice president.

1997
Gina A. DellaVecchia joined the firm of Bregman, Berbert & Schwartz, LLC, as an associate. Her practice concentrates on real estate transactions, commercial leasing, business and corporate matters. Eric Veit joined the white collar crime group of Ober Kaler Grimes & Shriver, PC, as an associate.

1998
Jordan C. Frame joined Ober Kaler Grimes & Shriver, PC, as an associate in the banking and commercial finance practice group. He represents venture capital firms and emerging companies in private placement transactions.

2000
Both Jana Artnak and Carla Bailey joined the law firm of Ober Kaler Grimes & Shriver, PC, as associates. Artnak practices in the health law department and Bailey in the litigation department.
Dean Rothenberg Hosts Alumni Reception

(From left) Jessica Colwell '99, Kelly Reeves '99, Carla Bailey '00 and Mike Imber '99 attended a reception hosted by Dean Rothenberg at her home on Dec. 6, 2000. The event reunited the dean with former students from her 17 years of teaching at the law school.

Class of 1997 graduates Judy Richter, Elana Cohen and Jana Leslie-Miller reconnected with the dean and each other at the dean's December reception.

Alumni Share South Africa Externship Experiences

On Nov. 8, 2000, the School of Law presented a panel discussion on the School's South Africa Externship Program. The program was established to provide for an exchange of ideas in implementing the legal reforms accompanying the end of apartheid. The centerpiece of the program is externships that place students in public interest law firms and legal clinics in South Africa to contribute to a wide range of reform initiatives.

Deborah Fleischaker '98, Gregory Bedward '99, Lisa Voso '00 and Booth Ripke '98 shared their externship experiences with an audience of alumni and current law students who were considering adding this academic experience to their legal education. The panel was moderated by Professor Surell Brady. Frequently asked questions regarding externship assignments, safety and living costs were addressed. Overall, the participants agreed that the benefits of the program far outweighed the challenges they faced.

Students Meet Local Corporate Counsel

Thanks to Maureen R. Dry '96, general counsel at Vertis, Inc. and president of the Baltimore chapter of the American Corporate Counsel Association (ACCA), law students had an opportunity to meet with area corporate counsel at a social event at Victor's Café on Nov. 9, 2000. An alumna who wasn't sure she liked the traditional practice of law in a firm, Dry found her niche as an assistant general counsel for Vertis, Inc., a leading provider of integrated advertising and marketing solutions. "Working in-house has been very rewarding for me. Regular hours, serving one client, and exposure to different aspects of the law from copyrights to contracts to personnel issues make this the perfect fit." In her role with ACCA, she is working to create partnerships with the School of Law and the University of Baltimore law school, their students and the business community.
Reunion 2000 Highlights

Class of 1950

Enjoying their 50th reunion are William Higgins, Claude Callegary and Gilbert Benson.

Classes of ’55, ’60, ’65, ’70, ’75, ’80 & ’85

Members of the Class of 1970 came out in droves for their reunion, setting a record for class participation!

Classes of ’90, ’95 & ’99

Jessica (’95) and Gary Daigle celebrated her five-year reunion.

Ayo Stevens ’95, Stephanie Rawlings Blake ’95, and Steve Norman ’95 made Reunion 2001 a stop on their evening tour.
Remembering the Honorable Robert C. Murphy '51

Robert Charles Murphy was both a great public servant and a good man. He was known to come down from his bench after a day in court to return phone calls from concerned citizens, noting “if it was important enough for someone to call me, it was important enough for me to call them back.”

Born in Baltimore in 1926, he was raised in Pimlico and graduated from Forest Park High School. He earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Maryland. Law became of interest to him through his favorite pastime: reading. As a youth, Murphy worked at Lake Roland selling fishing licenses and renting rowboats. He arrived at work with a stack of books to read while business was slow. His fascination with the murder trial of Clyde Griffith in Theodore Dreiser’s An American Tragedy, presumably, tipped the scales of interest (and justice) in Murphy’s favor.

Before his admission to the Maryland Bar in 1952, he was a law clerk in the U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals in Washington, D.C. He then served as counsel for the University of Maryland Hospital. Two years later, he joined the staff of the attorney general’s office, where he spent a decade as special assistant attorney general, assistant attorney general and deputy attorney general. In 1966, he was appointed attorney general of Maryland by Gov. J. Millard Tawes.

Three months later, in 1967, Murphy was appointed by Gov. Tawes as chief judge of the Court of Special Appeals, Maryland’s second-highest court. Murphy was appointed by Gov. Marvin Mandel as chief process, and the annual “State of the Judiciary” message delivered to the General Assembly.

Four months prior to his retirement, he was honored by having the building in Annapolis that houses Maryland’s two appellate courts and the law library, renamed the Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building.

He left the court Oct. 9, 1996, his 70th birthday, the state constitution’s mandatory retirement age for judges—which he unsuccessfully tried to raise to 75.

What he did do successfully, however, is best expressed by Bell, “He brought our judiciary from the dark ages into the modern era. He built a most credible and respected judiciary. He was the right person at the right time.”

Robert Charles Murphy is survived by his wife of 46 years, the former Helen T. Klopatch; a son, Thomas M. Murphy; two daughters, Kathy M. Blue and Karen A. Murphy Jensen; and six grandchildren.

In Memoriam
John Charles Evelius ’54
Fabian H. Kolker ’39
Louis S. Lear ’50
Francis L. Schauble ’32
The Hon. Claud L. Tease ’54
Robert A. Waidner ’36

Patricia Young

Four years ago he was honored by his peers, 700 lawyers attending the Baltimore County Bar Association’s annual dinner, for a career dominated by reform and public service—primarily as Maryland’s Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. On the eve of his retirement from his 24-year appointment, this type of applause was expected.


Robert Charles Murphy was both a great public servant and a good man. He was known to come down from his bench after a day in court to return phone calls from concerned citizens, noting “if it was important enough for someone to call me, it was important enough for me to call them back.”