



**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF LAW**

Celebration of Leadership: 19th Annual Honors Banquet

Thursday, April 8, 2010

6:00pm

Westminster Hall

University of Maryland School of Law

[Version 4/810, 2 pm]

Meet & Greet: 188 words, 1 minute, 34 seconds

Awards Presentation: 3,253 words; 27 minutes, 7 seconds

Closing Remarks: 304 words, 2 minutes, 32 seconds

5:55 p.m. – *Debbie Potter, Concluding Remarks to Meet & Greet (Krongard Room) (188 words; 1 minute, 34 seconds)*

DEBBIE POTTER:

- Good evening. My name is Debbie Potter, and I am the president of the University of Maryland School of Law Alumni Board. I am thrilled to see so many students, fellow graduates, and supporters of the Law School gathered here this evening to take advantage of this tremendous networking opportunity. Thank you all for coming.
- The Alumni Board & Board of Visitors' Meet and Greet with Students is about to end, so trade your final set of business cards and contact

information because we are about to begin the next portion of tonight's program in Westminster Hall.

- Before the Honors Banquet begins tonight, I'd like to ask that all members of the Alumni Board remain in the Krongard Boardroom before heading over to Westminster Hall so that we may take a group photo with Dean Haddon. For all the members of the Board of Visitors and students here tonight, feel free to mingle for an extra five or ten minutes in the Atrium.
- Thank you all again for joining us and being a part of this special evening. I'll see you in Westminster Hall!

6:40 p.m. – Debbie Potter, Welcome & Introduction of New Board Members & Dean Haddon (Westminster Hall), (737 words; 6 minutes, 9 seconds)

DEBBIE POTTER:

- Good evening. My name is Debbie Potter, I am a 1990 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law and President of the Alumni Board. Welcome to tonight's 19th Annual Honors Banquet as we celebrate the phenomenal leadership of a distinguished group of graduates of the University of Maryland School of Law, including:
 - **Paul Bekman** who we will honor for professional excellence and service to the Maryland community,

- **The Honorable Joseph F. Murphy** who will be recognized for his remarkable commitment to public service,
- and **Mary Katherine Scheeler**, whose lifetime achievements will be celebrated this evening with a special presentation of the Star Award.
- We have a very exciting but full program this evening so I would like to invite you to begin eating your salad as we proceed with the presentation of the awards.
- With us tonight are members of our Board of Visitors, who provide tremendous generosity and service to the University of Maryland School of Law as chief advisors and philanthropic supporters. We will be hearing from the Board's President, Paul Bekman, later in the evening but please join me in thanking the Board for its generosity and service to the School of Law.
[APPLAUSE]
- I want to also express my thanks to my fellow Alumni Board members, whose dedication and vision have helped shape this evening for nearly 20 years. Over this past year, the Alumni Board has done a terrific job of revamping the Board's guidelines, promoting alumni accomplishments, and planning ahead for the Alumni Board's future. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a dynamic group as Chair. Before I continue, I'd

like to ask if anyone here with us tonight has served on the Alumni Board. If so, would you please stand so we may recognize you. [APPLAUSE]

- The dedication and commitment of this Law School's Alumni Board has helped energize graduates who want to engage themselves in the great work of the University of Maryland School of Law. To make sure that our future is as successful as our past, the Alumni Board has asked a distinguished group of graduates to continue this legacy. I would like to introduce to you tonight the new members of the Alumni Board who will officially begin their term on the Board this July. Although, all of these outstanding individuals have already contributed widely within the Law School. As I call your name, please stand so we can see where you are:

- Our new President-Elect, **Ms. Elizabeth Kameen**, is a graduate of the Class of 1983 and Principal Counsel to the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.
- **Mr. Steven Adler**, Class of 2007
- **Mr. Richard Bloch**, Class of 1971
- **Mrs. Kathryn Christensen Mills**, Class of 2002
- **Mr. David Roth**, Class of 1985
- **Mr. Bryan Saxton**, Class of 2009
- **Ms. Cori Shepherd**, Class of 2008

- **Ms. Reena Shah**, Class of 2007
- **Ms. Indira Sharma**, Class of 2006, and
- **Ms. C. Diane Wallace-Booker**, Class of 1996
- Please accept my gratitude for your service and leadership to the law school community.
- Another leader that I would like to introduce this evening has been here since July. But since this is her first Honors Banquet, in some ways she's still new. Before becoming our ninth dean, **Phoebe A. Haddon** served as a distinguished faculty member at the Temple University Beasley School of Law for nearly 25 years.
- Dean Haddon is nationally recognized as an authority on critical issues shaping legal education and the legal profession. She serves on the Council of the American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar and has served in a number of leadership roles for national organizations.
- Widely known for her scholarly work on constitutional law and tort law, she has co-authored two casebooks in those fields and has written numerous scholarly articles on equal protection, jury participation, academic freedom, and diversity.

- Dean Haddon has shown remarkable leadership as the dean of this Law School, and after spending just a few, short minutes with her it is easy to observe her staunch commitment to this Law School's mission and alumni and student community as well as her vivid enthusiasm and passion for legal education.
- Please join me in welcoming Dean Haddon to the podium. [APPLAUSE]

Phoebe Haddon gives introductory remarks (896 words; 7 minutes, 28 seconds)

DEAN HADDON:

- As most of you have heard, Maryland's General Assembly has been debating budget amendments that withhold university funding unless the School of Law reports on matters actively in litigation by our Environmental Law Clinic. At issue is a Clean Water Act citizen lawsuit brought by clients of the Clinic against poultry farmers and manufacturers allegedly polluting the Chesapeake.
- Unhappy with the Clinic's actions in the matter, legislators put forward measures that would withhold up to \$750,000 in funding until the Law School reports on its clients and cases to the legislature. As an educator and lawyer, this matter touches on areas that matter deeply to me and that I have

spent most of my career studying and writing about. And it is my strong conviction that while a public law school must be accountable to the State and its citizens, such accountability must not come at the expense of professional responsibility or the rule of law.

- One Delegate said state dollars should not be used to allow clinics to take on “controversial issues.” If educational institutions aren’t supposed to take on controversial issues, I fear there will cease to be places where new ideas *from any perspective*, left, right, or center, are explored and used to test what our society is doing. Sanitizing schools so that only non-controversial issues are addressed is a mistake.
- However, I understand that our Law School is a public trust and that it is appropriate for us to report to the legislature on how we use the resources they provide us on behalf of Maryland’s citizens. What I find troubling is not the General Assembly’s oversight of this Law School, but actions – intended or not – that interfere politically with the judicial process and the rule of law. It is hard not to perceive a chilling effect when the legislature uses the power of the purse to decide which matters should be adjudicated in a court of law.
- Former Maryland Attorney General Steve Sachs wrote in the *Baltimore Sun*:
“The goal of the measures is to punish the law school and the citizen groups

it represents for seeking to enforce the law, to deter them from doing it again, and to do an end-run around the judicial process.”

- Senator Brian Frosh, Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee and a staunch advocate of the Law School, was more direct, labeling the amendments a threat: “If you guys are getting involved in issues that we don’t like, or you’re bothering people that we do like, we want you to shut up.”
- I am happy to report that it seems the amendments have been removed from this year’s Budget. Although we are still awaiting the final report of the Conference Committee, which is working to resolve differences between the bills passed by the House and Senate. It appears likely we will be required to report on the Environmental Clinic but that no funds will be withheld as a condition of our reporting.
- I want to thank the many alumni who supported us during this time. Some, like Paul Bekman, published letters to the editor of the *Washington Post*. Many more lent their counsel, used their connections on our behalf, and opened doors for us in Annapolis. Your efforts were vital in helping us change minds and votes in the Assembly, and I cannot thank you enough.
- I want to close by addressing the area that is perhaps most important of all to me – enhancing access to justice in our legal system. That is the heart of our

Law School. The Clinical Law Program is how we most clearly demonstrate our commitment to that mission. Some have portrayed the Clinic as a powerful institution intent on bankrupting a family farm through environmental litigation really aimed at Perdue. That is simply not true.

- The Clinic rarely files lawsuits and most often works on the side of individuals and groups who are defending themselves against powerful institutions. We work with farmers on the Eastern Shore to help ensure their family farms are properly titled and documented to remain in their families for future generations. We work with public schools working to improve conflict resolution policies, families facing foreclosure or unfair debt collection practices, individuals fleeing persecution in their home countries, and families impacted by HIV. We provide legal services to start-up companies who cannot afford lawyers. And, as we near April 15, our Low Income Tax Clinic has helped more than 225 low income families recover more than \$236,000 in federal tax refunds this year alone.
- Our clinics represent people or groups that can't otherwise afford lawyers. By definition, this work often puts the clinics on the opposite side of the government or powerful interests. But if we cut back, either in the face of political pressure or reduced resources, who will take our place? The answer is: nobody. We will follow the example of leadership in service to the

community and to the profession that has been set for us by so many of our graduate and friends, particularly those we honor tonight.

- I'm so glad that all of you could be here. Thank you for joining us and for your continued support of the University of Maryland School of Law. Now, please join me in a round of applause for tonight's honorees. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

Debbie Potter: Introduction of Mary Katherine Scheeler – Star Award Recipient (312 words; 2 minutes, 36 seconds)

DEBBIE POTTER:

- Thank you, Dean Haddon.
- This year the Alumni Board received approximately 50 nominations for the awards we will present tonight. The board then carefully reviewed and voted on each recipient.
- For just the sixth time since the Law School's alumni have recognized and honored outstanding graduates for professional accomplishments and service to the community, we present the Star Award to a graduate for serving as an "unsung hero" within the Law School community, for quietly but diligently advancing the highest ideals of the legal profession.

- Prior to starting her own practice in wills and estates law, Mary Katherine Scheeler worked as a Baltimore City school teacher and was appointed by former Governor Donald Schaefer to serve on the Baltimore County Board of Education.
- Her commitment to education led her to serve on the Parent Teacher Associations of several area elementary, middle, and high schools that her children attended.
- For decades she has served on a wide array of community and civic boards, which has included serving on the Law School's Board of Visitors. She was honored for her outstanding leadership and service by Goucher College, her other alma mater, in 2004.
- The *Towson Times* says of her that “few, if any, have quietly given so much of themselves to the community and have done it with such competence and dignity.” Mary Katherine is a weekly columnist for the newspaper, where she fosters a sense of community by keeping her neighbors up-to-date on all the latest happenings and news. I hear from people who live in that part of town that her column is the first thing they turn to in the paper. And she is so committed to keeping her community informed, that even when undergoing knee surgery a few

years ago, the column didn't stop – instead she recruited her 14-year-old granddaughter, Alex, to fill in.

- Ladies and gentlemen, this year's recipient of the University of Maryland School of Law Alumni Association Star Award, from the class of 1953 – Ms. Mary Katherine Scheeler.
- [DEAN HADDON COMES TO PODIUM FOR A PHOTO WITH MARY KATHERINE AND DEBBIE].
- **Mary Katherine Scheeler speaks.**

Debbie Potter: Introduction of Judge Joseph Murphy – Benjamin L. Cardin Public Service Award Recipient (567 words; 4 minutes, 44 seconds)

DEBBIE POTTER:

- Thank you and congratulations again.
- Twenty years ago the Alumni Award created the Benjamin L. Cardin Public Service Award, named after a distinguished graduate of this law school, to honor a graduate who has significantly contributed to furthering ideals of public service in law.
- After graduating from the University of Maryland School of Law, Judge Murphy began his distinguished career as an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City, and later became a Deputy State's Attorney before serving

on the state bench. His first judicial appointment was to the Baltimore County Circuit Court. He next was appointed to the Court of Special Appeals, where he later served with distinction as Chief Judge. In 2007 Judge Murphy was named to Maryland's highest court, the Court of Appeals, where he serves today. The community that Judge Murphy has inspired and improved during his decades of service is the Maryland judiciary. Known in practice as a "lawyer's lawyer" and then as a "judge's judge" after joining the bench, Judge Murphy is regarded far and wide for his integrity, intellect, and scholarship. When the Governor was considering elevating him from the Chief Judgeship of the Court of Special Appeals to the Court of Appeals, Judge Murphy was backed for the seat by defense lawyers and plaintiffs' attorneys alike.

- His commitment to improving the judiciary is demonstrated in numerous ways: his longstanding chairmanship of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, his authorship of the Maryland Evidence Handbook, which he updates annually, his service on the Maryland Judicial Institute's Board, and much more.
- One attorney has said that sometimes when a judge in court doesn't know the answer to a question, they say they're going to research a legal issue. And then later, you find out all they did was call Judge Murphy.

- Judge Joseph Murphy has reached the lives of hundreds -- if not thousands -- of students at this Law School, having taught trial practice over the last 29 years. He is known as a companion of many faculty at this Law School and a terrific person to argue a case in front of because he is well prepared, smart, and does not take fools gladly. Last month, he served as a judge for the School of Law's annual Myerowitz Competition.
- In addition to instructing and providing mentorship to students at the School of Law, he serves on the Maryland State Bar Association's Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee, as well as its Criminal Law and Practice Section Council and Committee on Laws.
- He has received many other honors including the MSBA's Criminal Law Section's Robert C. Heeney Memorial Award, the Maryland Bar Foundation's Award for Professional Excellence in the Advancement of Legal Competence, the Maryland Champion for Victims Award from the Maryland Crime Victim's Resource Center, among many others.
- Typical of his modesty, Judge Murphy's first reaction upon learning that he would receive the Benjamin L. Cardin Public Service Award was to credit the Cardin family for instilling a commitment to public service in his career -- including Howard Cardin, a 1965 graduate of this Law School, who is with us tonight.

- Ladies and gentleman, I am delighted to present to you this year's recipient of the University of Maryland School of Law Benjamin L. Cardin Public Service Award, from the class of 1969 – the Honorable Joseph F. Murphy, Jr.
- [DEAN HADDON COMES TO PODIUM FOR A PHOTO WITH JUDGE MURPHY AND DEBBIE].
- **Judge Murphy speaks.**

Debbie Potter: Introduction of Paul Bekman– Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient (635 words; 5 minutes, 18 seconds)

DEBBIE POTTER:

- Congratulations again, Judge Murphy. Thank you.
- The next award represents not only the best and brightest among University of Maryland School of Law alumni, but also the best and brightest in the legal profession. The School of Law's Distinguished Graduate Award is a distinct honor that is bestowed on graduates of this Law School and it is with great honor that I now introduce the 2010 Distinguished Graduate of the Year.

- Since graduating from the University of Maryland School of Law, Mr. Bekman has distinguished himself as one of the most respected trial attorneys in the country. And today he is a leader in the legal profession, in the community and at the Law School.
- He started his legal career at Kaplan, Heyman, Greenberg, Engelman & Belgrad, moving up from associate to partner before starting Salsbury, Clements, Bekman, Marder & Adkins, LLC, which he leads with distinction today. He has been listed in *Best Lawyers* in America for more than 20 years for his expertise in five different categories including personal injury litigation, medical malpractice law, product liability litigation, maritime law and alternative dispute resolution. *Best Lawyers* has also recognized Mr. Bekman as Lawyer of the Year in 2009 for medical malpractice and, again, in 2010 for personal injury litigation.
- Having served as president of the Maryland State Bar Association, the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association, and the Bar Association of Baltimore City, and as Regent of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he has served for nearly 20 professional and community boards throughout his career. Of the many organizations that he has been a part, he is the Chair of the Board of Visitors, who serve as some of the law school's most devoted advocates and most generous philanthropic supporters. His support in navigating issues

this semester has been invaluable in safeguarding the stature and resources of this Law School.

- In addition to the guidance and counsel he has provided as Chair of the Board of Visitors, as Past Co-Chair of the University of Maryland School of Law Building Campaign he enthusiastically championed the campaign to raise the funds needed to build the magnificent Law School facility adjacent to Westminster Hall. His vital leadership in seeing this effort through has been nothing short of transformative for the Law School. Mr. Bekman has also been a leader in generosity, establishing the Bekman Leadership Scholarships. Two Bekman Scholars have already graduated from this law school, and there are two others currently working toward their degrees.
- The scholarship's inaugural recipient – Aaron Merki who graduated in 2008 – is here with us tonight. Caroline Farrell – a current Bekman Scholar – is also here. She credits Mr. Bekman's generosity for enabling her to pursue a career in government and public interest work after she graduates from law school next month. While she's been here, she's spent her time outside of class leading other students in organizations and activities including community service trips to the Gulf Coast. She has also worked for federal and state court judges, clerked for the United States Attorney's Office, and assisted a public interest food safety and nutrition policy public interest

organization. Mr. Bekman's leadership carries through a new generation of leaders at this Law School. He has also personally mentored each of his scholars, providing advice in shaping their legal education and careers.

When it came time to select this year's honorees, I think it came as great surprise to many to realize that we hadn't yet honored Paul because it's hard to imagine anyone who could have done more in service to the School of Law. Ladies and Gentlemen, with great pleasure I present to you this year's recipient of the University of Maryland School of Law Distinguished Graduate Award, from the class of 1971 – Mr. Paul D. Bekman.

- [DEAN HADDON COMES TO PODIUM FOR A PHOTO WITH PAUL AND DEBBIE].
- **Paul Bekman speaks.**

7:40 p.m. -- Debbie Potter Transitions to Dinner (106 words; 54 seconds)

DEBBIE POTTER:

- Thank you and again, congratulations. Will everyone join me in a final round of applause to honor all of the 2010 University of Maryland School of Law Alumni Award recipients. [APPLAUSE]

- This concludes the first portion of our program this evening. At this time, I ask that dinner be served and we will commence with the second half of the program when dinner concludes.
- As we share our meal together this evening, the Law School's *a capella choir*, Legally Sound, made up entirely of law students, will perform two songs for us. They will be here in 20 minutes.
- Please enjoy your meal.

DINNER IS SERVED, LEGALLY SOUND PERFORMS, DESSERT IS SERVED DURING PERFORMANCE.

PERFORMANCE ENDS.

8:20 p.m. -- *Dean Haddon – Closing Remarks & Presentation of Special Awards* (304 words; 2 minutes, 27 seconds)

DEAN HADDON:

- I would like to thank members of our Alumni Board for all the hard work and effort that they put into planning tonight's celebration. We really appreciate the time that you take out of your very busy schedules to provide leadership to the School of Law.
- I would like to also present a special gift to Debbie Potter on behalf of the University of Maryland School of Law community for the remarkable

leadership that she has given to the Alumni Board this year. As President of the Alumni Board, Ms. Potter has significantly helped increase exposure for the Board and transformed the Board's processes and procedures in providing the group with a more firm structure. She also worked to revamp the Board's guidelines, helped promote alumni accomplishments, and built a stronger relationship between the Alumni Board and the Board of Visitors.

- We really appreciate your support. Please join me in recognizing Ms. Potter.

[APPLAUSE, HAND HER FRAMED CERTIFICATE.]

- I would also like to take this opportunity to present a special gift to honor outgoing members of our Alumni Board who are with us tonight. We really appreciate the support, loyalty, passion, and ideas that you have shared throughout the years. As I call your name, please come to join me at the podium:

- Emerson Dorsey, for 10 years of outstanding service
- Maura DeMouy, who has graciously served on the board for 6 years,
and
- Jim Archibald, who has provided the Law School with leadership on the Alumni Board for 7 years.

[HAND CERTIFICATES TO EMERSON, MAURA, AND JIM.]

- We will miss having you on the board tremendously, but hope that you continue to stay involved in other alumni activities at this Law School.
- Thank you again for being here. This concludes our program for tonight.
Thank you.