

NEW DEAN BRINGS CREATIVE THINKING TO A COMPLEX PROFESSION

BY CARRIE OLEJNIK

In 2007, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching published a highly influential report, “Educating Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law.” The report has reshaped thinking about legal education, leading law schools to increase their focus on developing students’ ethical judgment and commitment to justice.

Groundbreaking as it was, the Carnegie report was echoing a call issued almost 15 years earlier by Phoebe A. Haddon, JD, LL.M., the University of Maryland School of Law’s new dean.

In “Education for a Public Calling in the Twenty-First Century,” published in the *Washington Law Review* in 1994, Haddon wrote that law schools “have an opportunity to define good lawyering ... as a public calling which emphasizes a professional obligation to promote equality in the legal system ... to clarify the values important to the practice of law in contemplation of a more proactive public role.”

Haddon, a nationally recognized authority on critical issues shaping education and the legal profession, became the ninth dean in the 185-year history of the University of Maryland School of Law on July 1. A distinguished, longtime faculty member of the Temple University Beasley School of Law, Haddon is an accomplished scholar on constitutional law and tort law. She is the co-author of several casebooks in those fields and has written numerous scholarly articles on equal protection, jury participation, academic freedom, and diversity.

“Phoebe Haddon is passionate about legal education, about the essential role of innovative and influential scholarship in the continued development of our faculty, and about the School of Law’s vital public service mission,” says University President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil.

Haddon earned an LL.M. from Yale Law School and a JD from Duquesne University School of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Duquesne Law Review*. She received a bachelor’s degree from Smith College and served as vice chair of the Smith College Board of Trustees until her appointment as dean.



“Dean Haddon has been recognized as a national leader for years,” says Judith Wegner, co-author of the Carnegie report, and former dean of the University of North Carolina School of Law. “The University of Maryland School of Law’s unique strengths provide a perfect opportunity for Phoebe to employ her experience and vision for improving legal education in a way that will position the School even more prominently within the legal profession and the legal academy.”

Haddon already has begun to engage the School of Law community in developing a strategic plan for the institution. She emphasizes the value of expressing a vision shared by faculty, students, and alumni alike, but makes it clear that the law school’s future direction will be shaped by strengthening its connection with the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus and the city of Baltimore.

“The law school is uniquely situated on a professional campus, which provides many opportunities to think and teach creatively, to collectively engage in thoughtful, imaginative reflection, and to pursue innovative opportunities,” she says.

“Our location provides a tremendous opportunity to be part of not only a metropolitan statewide conversation, but of a national and global conversation. We can help define what justice is, and solve problems in ways that recognize the complexity of today’s society. And we can be leaders in thinking creatively about the roles of teachers and scholars, of students, and the legal profession in today’s world.”