



## **MISSION**

Founded in 1925, the University of Baltimore School of Law has served the State of Maryland by contributing to the betterment of the state's legal system and the quality of its citizens' lives, and by preparing its graduates for their roles as advisers, advocates, and leaders in private enterprise and public service. The School of Law will continue this tradition by seeking excellence in its educational program, its contribution to discourse about the law, and its partnerships with the communities of which it is a part, and by providing access to legal education, all of which promote achieving justice. In all of these efforts, the goal is to draw together students and faculty from diverse backgrounds to join in a common search for knowledge and understanding. The School of Law is committed to fostering the environment of honesty, free and open discourse, and respect for every person that is essential to intellectual inquiry and the academic enterprise.

## INTRODUCTION

The University of Baltimore School of Law has a strong foundation to build on to reach the goals outlined and commitments made in the new Strategic Plan. In developing the plan, faculty, staff, students and alumni began by identifying the school's major strengths:

- **Engaged students and alumni:** The School of Law enjoys a diverse student body and successful students who become active alumni. Our students historically perform well on the Maryland bar examination, routinely exceeding the overall state passage rate, and our alumni are found throughout the Baltimore, Maryland and District of Columbia legal communities in all areas of practice. Many alumni maintain close ties to the school, coming back to teach, speak or coach moot court teams and providing students with valuable externships, clerkships and other employment opportunities.
- **Multiple curricular strengths:** A number of current programs provide a springboard for the curricular innovations related to the plan's goals. These include the Introduction to Lawyering Skills program; the Experience in Legal Organizations program, which allows students to put their theoretical knowledge of the law into practice in a range of externship opportunities after their first year; and the school's clinical program, in which students provide legal services to the community's most vulnerable.
- **Outstanding faculty:** Professors at the School of Law are known for their strong commitment to classroom teaching, which they complement with outstanding scholarly contributions in a wide array of fields and with active service in the University and in local, state and national law-related organizations. Faculty members also direct and participate in the school's five centers.
- **Highly effective career services:** The School of Law's commitment to career services is borne out by its impressive employment outcomes, which compare favorably to those of other law schools in the region. Nine months after graduation, 86.7 percent of students in the Class of 2012 (the most recent year for which statistics are available) were employed, almost all in positions for which the employer required bar passage or preferred a law degree. Nearly 18 percent of graduating students secured a judicial clerkship with a state trial, state appellate or federal court judge, almost double the national average.
- **Support from the University of Baltimore and the broader legal community:** The School of Law collaborates with the University's three other colleges and benefits from university-wide initiatives that promote excellence in teaching and fund activities to enhance students' learning. Through its network of active alumni, the school also stays connected to the local, national and international legal communities, while the its academic centers partner with scholars and policymakers in the United States and around the world. In addition, the faculty's pro bono activities connect the school with organizations that work on a wide variety of pressing legal issues.

### FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

#### Goal 1

**Attract a talented, diverse and engaged student body with excellent prospects for academic and career success.**

##### *Objectives:*

- 1.1 Attract highly talented J.D. students capable of success in the School of Law
- 1.2 Enhance diversity in the student body
- 1.3 Promote affordability of and access to legal education

#### Goal 2

**Expand student career opportunities.**

##### *Objectives:*

- 2.1 Promote students' development of their professional identities
- 2.2 Strengthen professional networks of students and alumni
- 2.3 Expand opportunities for students to pursue a variety of fulfilling career paths in alternative and emerging as well as traditional areas of law

#### Goal 3

**Prepare students in a dynamic academic environment for a changing legal profession.**

##### *Objectives:*

- 3.1 Offer a curriculum that meets the demands of a changing legal profession and ensures that students attain the core competencies essential for the effective and ethical practice of law

**3.2 Support teaching excellence and innovation that prepare students to be effective and ethical lawyers**

#### Goal 4

**Encourage a vibrant intellectual community of scholars.**

##### *Objectives:*

- 4.1 Foster the production of high-quality scholarship that reaches a wide audience and promotes the public good
- 4.2 Position the School of Law at the forefront of changes in the form, content, dissemination and funding of legal scholarship

#### Goal 5

**Support academic achievement for all students, including at-risk students.**

##### *Objectives:*

- 5.1 Expand general academic support and writing instruction resources
- 5.2 Offer academic support to a broader cross-section of students

#### Goal 6

**Advance justice and the public good in the local, national and international community.**

##### *Objectives:*

- 6.1 Commit students and faculty to advancing justice and the public good through learning, service and community engagement
- 6.2 Use the Angelos Law Center building to maximize service to the community