LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Baltimore Scholars Program represents a revolutionary approach to increasing diversity in legal education. The University of Baltimore School of Law has partnered with Maryland’s four historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to address the lack of diversity in the greater legal community. The heart of the program consists of School of Law faculty working with undergraduates in their junior year at these historically black institutions to prepare them for law school. To the best of our knowledge, the University of Baltimore School of Law is the first law school in the country with such a program.

The goal is an ambitious one: not merely to create more diversity at law schools, but to prepare Baltimore Scholars to excel once they begin their formal legal education. The Program’s success, however, will not be measured merely by the numbers of students who go on to study law. The program teaches critical reading and writing skills, as well as logical reasoning—all abilities that will help these students in whatever careers they eventually choose. The Scholars are constantly reminded that, while law school is within reach for those willing to work diligently, one does not need to be a lawyer to be successful. Rather, Scholars should feel confident enough to be able to pursue and succeed in whatever field they desire.

Michael I. Meyerson
Director, Baltimore Scholars Program

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

The School of Law is committed to the traditional values of community involvement, public interest, access and diversity. The Baltimore Scholars Program, an exciting partnership among the University of Baltimore School of Law and Maryland’s four historically black colleges and universities, creates opportunity for all of its participating students and institutions. Together, we can achieve the twin goals of diversity and excellence.

Phillip J. Closius
Dean and Professor of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law

This program is sponsored by the University of Baltimore School of Law in collaboration with Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

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IN THE WORDS OF PAST SCHOLARS

“The Baltimore Scholars Program has been a blessing by encouraging, motivating and helping students achieve success in law school.”

“I am learning to follow directions precisely. I am writing more clearly and saying more with fewer words.”

“The program has helped me prepare for the LSAT and has helped me write better for my other courses.”

“It has put it all within reach. I feel as though I am competent enough to try.”

“The Baltimore Scholars professors and law students have explained law school in a way that has made my goal achievable. Before I met my mentors, people often told me that law school is difficult, which made me think that I should not even attempt it. However, those preconceived notions changed when I met the University of Baltimore staff.”

THE MISSION

The Baltimore Scholars Program is a unique collaboration among the University of Baltimore School of Law and Maryland’s four historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs): Bowie State University; Coppin State University; Morgan State University; and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The program’s purpose is to increase diversity in the legal profession, allowing college students to explore and develop their interest in studying the law while improving their analytical and writing skills. The program’s goal is to prepare Scholars to perform better in college, score higher on the LSAT, and be well-prepared for a successful law school experience.

THE PROGRAM

Baltimore Scholars are selected for this prestigious program during their junior year of college. Scholars attend a two-week “boot camp” in January at the School of Law. The Scholars attend classes, read cases, and write assignments that they review with full-time faculty members. They also meet with law students, visit law firms, and talk with lawyers both to learn how to succeed in law school and to become acquainted with the wide variety of career opportunities available to those with a law degree.

After they leave “boot camp,” Scholars enroll in a comprehensive semester-long LSAT preparation class. Each Scholar is assigned an individual mentor from the University of Baltimore School of Law faculty, who monitors their progress on a weekly basis. Scholars take the June LSAT. When they are finished, Scholars work with their faculty mentors to write an op-ed suitable for publication.

Any Baltimore Scholar who completes the program successfully and is accepted to the University of Baltimore School of Law will receive a scholarship upon enrollment at the School of Law. Those Scholars selected for the January 2009 “boot camp” who complete the program successfully, maintain a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.25 (out of 4.0), attain a score of 152 or higher on the LSAT, and otherwise qualify for admission to the School of Law will receive a full tuition scholarship upon enrollment.