

REFLECTING ON OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY JOHN DAVIS

As I write this, our community, along with the rest of the country, continues to react to and reflect upon the horrific violence and death in Charlottesville, Virginia and the terrible devastation and loss of life from recent hurricanes. These events show our country at its worst and at its best — divisiveness and hate by neo-Nazis and white supremacists in Charlottesville to interdependence, generosity, selflessness, and love as victims deal with catastrophe.

Shortly after the events in Charlottesville, University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President Jay Perman wrote to the UMB community condemning the “hatred that led to deadly violence.” He continued, “this is easy outrage. It’s easy to condemn bigotry and stubborn ignorance ... what’s harder is the work we undertake every day in our community ... to secure equality and enact justice, to defend the principles on which this country was founded and which it struggles still to honor.”

As lawyers, we have a special opportunity to combat this hate by addressing injustice around us. We work to promote the rule of law. We have the power to work towards a more just society and to oppose policies that seek to divide us.

The response to the historic hurricane damage reveals America at its best. Residents from near and far have joined together and employed fishing boats, trucks, and even rowboats to rescue their neighbors. Individuals and corporations from across the country have financially supported relief efforts. These actions remind us that we can achieve more when we work together. Still, we know that much work remains, as residents seek to rebuild in the days, months, and years ahead.

As Dean at Maryland Carey Law, I am proud to join with our students, faculty, and staff to work every day to live our commitment to access to justice for individuals, families, and communities in Baltimore, throughout Maryland, and beyond. This year marks the 30th anniversary of what we now know as the Cardin Requirement — a requirement that makes experiential learning a key component of the curriculum and has helped to shrink the very large gap in the availability of legal services to individuals, families, and communities who otherwise would not be able to access justice. Through the Cardin Requirement, we make our commitment to justice a reality, as our students provide legal services to those in need. Our Cardin Requirement reflects our commitment to join with our neighbors and make our community a better place, and it is now more important than ever.




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