



Andre Davis and
Margaret Roberts

school more than a decade apart, a law school function served as the backdrop for their first meeting. Both were divorced and involved in their respective careers at that stage of their lives—he as a professor of civil and criminal procedure at the law school and she as a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland.

“I remember that she was pleasant, an interesting conversationalist,” Andre recalls. “She was working on a PhD in English literature studying African-American novelists.”

Margaret also enjoys fond memories from their first meeting. “I remember he was a gentleman. A handsome gentleman,” she adds. Margaret was serving as assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. When the couple married in 1987 and established their home in Baltimore, Margaret set her sights on a new goal.

“I had wanted to go to law school and moving to Baltimore made it easier,” she explains. “It made it more approachable.” Andre provided plenty of support during school and upon her graduation in 1992, Margaret began teaching legal writing at the District of Columbia School of Law. Andre’s legal career was also in full swing.

He served eight years presiding on the state bench when, in 1995, he received the appointment of a lifetime. Tapped by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the Senate, Andre was named to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, a job he says is everything he thought it would be and much more.

“The sheer volume of work is striking in the number of cases and the constant intake of new cases,” he notes. Each judge bears responsibility for his own docket and follows a case from beginning to end. This differs from the state’s general assignment system where another judge fills in for those who take vacation or who are called away.

“You must stay active all the time and have good time management skills,” he says. “Nothing happens while you’re away.” The judge and his wife work at spending time together when they can.

Margaret’s current position as assistant vice president for academic affairs at Morgan State University allows her the luxury of regular working hours.

“I try to make sure the positions I’m in won’t take my total time and concentration,” she explains. “Andre’s job is very strenuous and I try to support him in that.” The couple walk together every morning for exercise and try to have dinner together when their schedules permit.

“There are sacrifices,” Andre says, “although I do have enormous resources to help fulfill my responsibilities. I can’t imagine life without computers.” To relax, Andre not only works on his reading list but continues to teach at the law school and takes part in professional activities. And lately he finds his mind wandering to a simpler joy, one that would guarantee the Davises would never miss a morning walk.

“I’m thinking about getting a dog,” he laughs.

Suzanne '73 and Stuart Salsbury '71

When it came to uniting Stuart and Suzanne Salsbury, Cupid worked overtime. Their first date suffered more fits and starts than a '72 Nova. Stuart wanted to impress the young woman he’d seen wandering the halls of the law school so he decided to make dinner for her. He consulted a friend for a recipe and followed the directions to the letter, which included cooking the chicken at 250 degrees.

“Stuart kept telling me it would be a little while longer,” Suzanne recalls, since the chicken wasn’t getting cooked. “I finally asked him how he was cooking it and when he told me, I told him that was like holding a match underneath it.”

Meanwhile, Suzanne couldn’t wait to have the chicken on her plate since this so-called friend had warned her that Stuart was planning to hide something very special inside the chicken.

“I kept tearing the chicken apart trying to find whatever it was he’d hidden,” she says. Turns out their friend was quite a practical joker.

In spite of it all, the Salsburys survived their first date and were married in 1972, a year after

Stuart graduated. The wedding came off almost as smoothly as their first date.

The couple planned to marry in Suzanne's home state of New Jersey but as the day drew nearer, they realized they wouldn't have time to drive to New Jersey to obtain the required blood test and license. Stuart worked as a law clerk for a U.S. District Judge at the time so he asked for an extended lunch hour in order to be married in a civil ceremony. With a few friends from work and school, the Salsburys exchanged vows, then enjoyed lunch at Marconi's.

"Stuart went back to work and I went back to school," Suzanne relates. Later that week, they headed to New Jersey for the religious ceremony only to have Mother Nature hit them with a 28-inch snowfall.

"Lots of people didn't make it to the wedding," Suzanne says. "The February bar exam was the following week so our friends who were sitting for it didn't want to take the chance of getting stuck in New Jersey and missing the exam." In spite of these dubious beginnings, the Salsburys have enjoyed more than 25 years of wedded bliss.

Stuart's career took off with a position in a small firm doing civil trial work with an emphasis on medical malpractice. He explains that in the early '70s, there weren't many malpractice cases because of strict locality laws and the code of silence among doctors who wouldn't testify against each other. As the number of cases grew, Stuart discovered an unlikely ally in his father-in-law, who is a physician.

"He was a family practitioner who educated me in many aspects of the cases I was working on," he

explains, "from anatomy to blood tests, x-rays and other standards of care. He and I would go fishing almost every weekend and he'd fill me in on the various cases I was working on."

Suzanne worked full time as well as an assistant state's attorney starting in 1974. After the births of their two children, the couple found it more and more difficult to find personal time. In 1984, Suzanne and another attorney in her office began job sharing, an arrangement that suits her well.

"It totally turned my life around," Suzanne says. "The arrangement allowed me to do certain things I wouldn't have been able to do if I worked full time." She and Stuart always planned for Suzanne to have a less stressful job and assume more responsibilities for running the household.

"Her practice is good because she doesn't take work home," Stuart notes.

Suzanne enforces child support obligations and Stuart notes that "if you don't pay child support you have to face Suzanne." And for someone whose first date was almost derailed by a practical joker and whose wedding was buried by a blizzard, he warned that Suzanne never gives up.

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Suzanne, daughter Jessica and Stuart Salsbury

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BETTY LYNNE LEARY

Law & Marriage

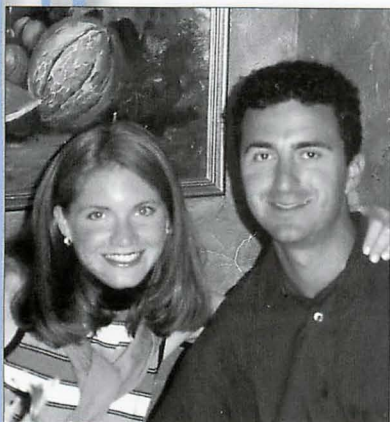
While the primary reason to attend law school may be to further your education, enhance your career or fulfill a dream of practicing law, there are certainly byproducts. Marriage, for one. This once-phenomenon is now not so uncommon as the number of women enrolling in law school has increased over the years. Today, the law school boasts a near 50-50 ratio of men to women students. The unions forged here number in the hundreds. Following is a sampling through the decades of those students who, between classes on torts and evidence, study sessions in civil and criminal litigation and late night cramming for the bar exam, stumbled upon the unexpected—love and a lifetime commitment.

Allison '97 and Asher Rubin '95

Allison Rubin recalls the first time she met her future husband.

"We met when I first started law school and we were introduced by mutual friends," she says. Husband Asher pipes in with more vivid details. "We met in front of the law school on Labor Day weekend," he says, "and I remember what she was wearing. I was sitting on a bench with a friend and his sister introduced us."

The Rubins see their chance meeting at the law school as fate. The two grew up within ten minutes of each other in Baltimore and their families shared mutual friends, yet the two never met. When they finally met, Asher was immersed in his third-year studies and was a member of the national moot court team. He did manage to find time for Allison, who had just begun her law school career.



Allison and Asher Rubin

"We were both in the day program and Asher would recommend classes along the way," she says. "He helped me graduate with honors."

When Asher graduated in 1995, he explored litigation work, yet today he is heavily involved in mergers and acquisitions. The couple tied the knot in 1996 in Pikesville, between Allison's second and third year of school. Following her graduation, Allison completed a one-year clerkship in Baltimore County before beginning a litigation practice downtown.

Two budding legal careers leave little time for leisure. Allison describes her working hours as regular while "Asher's hours are regularly long," she laughs. However, with their lives uncomplicated by children at the moment, the Rubins eat dinner together every night, visit the gym regularly, and, as Asher explains, they recently took up golf.

"That way we can spend four somewhat-happy hours together every weekend," he says chuckling.



Rebecca and Robert Bracknell

Rebecca '98 and Robert Bracknell '99

Captain Robert Bracknell, United States Marine Corps, was in his first week of law school when he saw Rebecca.

"To be honest," he laughs, "I was interested in the way she looked." But a friend told him Rebecca was seeing someone else so Robert let his interest drop. After all, the Marine Corps sent him to law school to study and earn a degree. "I was not supposed to be having fun," he recalls.

Rebecca had distractions as well as an active member of the moot court team and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. A chance meeting when Robert asked for some class outlines sparked a friendship that eventually grew into something more.

"She used my computer to send out some resumes and cover letters to firms," Robert remembers. "We also hung out a lot together at the first-year social functions."

An elaborate marriage proposal sent Rebecca on a scavenger hunt through Fell's Point and ended at Ft. McHenry where Robert waited patiently with the ring. The Bracknells were married in Rebecca's hometown of Catonsville shortly before Christmas 1997.

Graduating five months later, Rebecca prepared for the bar exam and accepted a position with the honors program of the IRS. She practices in the general litigation department providing litigation support for field offices across the country.

"It hasn't hit me yet," Rebecca admits, on being a military wife. "The hardest thing is when I'm looking for a job, not knowing where we'll be. I would love to go overseas although the employment opportunities aren't that great for me there." While their near future may hold exciting ports of call, the couple plans to return eventually to the East Coast and leave city life behind. They dream of living on a farm, perhaps in Robert's native North Carolina. For now, Robert and Rebecca find that every minute is accounted for in their busy lives.

"Everything is tied to school, the Marines or the house we're buying in Columbia," Robert says. The newest member of the family—a three-year-old Rottweiler named Major—also commands attention.

Meanwhile Robert continues in his final year of school, happily married to a fellow attorney, with a dog that outranks him. He will attend the Naval Justice School before being reassigned late next year to practice within the military justice system.

Anne '87 and Jeffrey Laynor '87

A pick-up game of football, arranged between small sections on a Sunday afternoon, brought Anne and Jeffrey Laynor together in 1984. Both were in their first year of law school and the competition on the field soon carried over into their studies.

"I played a lot of sports in school—basketball, volleyball, softball, football—and I still do today," Jeffrey explains. "I'm a pretty competitive person." Anne agrees, noting that "it wasn't always a good thing when we took classes together."

The early days of their relationship survived law school although their dates often included stacks of study materials. Anne worked as a legal secretary for two years before making the commitment to earn a law degree.

"I was ready to get back to the intellectual challenge of school," she says. "I really liked being in law school." Anne served as president of her class during her second year and as treasurer during her third year.

The couple graduated together in 1987 and, once again, hit the books together to prepare for the bar exam.

Three years later they exchanged vows and today, two girls, ages 2 and 4, complete the Laynor family portrait. Jeffrey acknowledges that life can be hectic.

"Two lawyers with two small children, yes, you make sacrifices in terms of family life," he admits. An Ellicott City native, Jeffrey enjoys a worker's compensation practice representing insurance companies and employers. Anne, originally from Allentown, Pa., picks up more of the family responsibilities by working four days a week in general civil litigation. Her practice allows free evenings and weekends unless she's in trial.

"The girls keep us busy and we're consumed with child care at this point," she remarks. "I have a wonderful employer who permits me to be flexible with my schedule."

Anne also finds time to serve as president of the law school's alumni association, providing support to students with mock interviews, coffee and donuts during exams, and networking opportunities with lawyers from the community. As an ambassador for the school, Anne also meets with alumni from across the country spreading the word about changes at the school and helping raise funds for the new building.

"The University of Maryland is enjoying a great reputation in the community right now," she declares. "Part of the job (as president of the alumni association) is telling alumni how great the school is and that their support will make it even better."

Margaret Roberts '92 and Andre Davis '78

To free his mind from the daily pressures of the District Court, Judge Andre Davis searches for non-legal literature to read. More often than not, however, he finds himself drawn to murder mysteries and legal non-fiction. He recently finished *Closed Chambers*, an expose on the Rehnquist Court written by a Supreme Court clerk. Wife Margaret suggests titles influenced by her background in English language and literature, though she admits she also enjoys a good crime story.

Although Margaret and Andre attended the law

