



PHOTO BY STEVE SPARTANA

## MICHAEL MILLEMANN

### Putting Maryland's Legal Clinics on the Map

BY CHRISTINE STUTZ

Michael Millemann's decision last fall to step down from his position as Co-Director of the Clinical Law Program might have surprised many, but no one disputed his assertion that he needed a break from the hectic pace he was keeping.

Jokes about frequent all-nighters on his office couch were becoming less and less funny as months wore on. He's now enjoying his first real sabbatical in 24 years of teaching, spending time with his wife, Sally, and their 8-year-old son, Matthew, and beginning several writing projects.

When he returns to the law school in January 2000, he will resume classroom teaching—probably contracts and constitutional law, he says. But he intends to take a break from clinical teaching for a few years.

"Mike Millemann has been the key to the clinic's sustained national excellence," says Professor Stanley Herr, a clinical faculty member since 1983. "He's been distinguished for his entrepreneurial flair. This has expressed itself in the broadening of specialties, extension to evening students and a sense of dynamism. We are on the map of clinical legal education, and his vision and energy have helped place us there."

"Mike's also distinguished for his legendary energy and work ethic," Herr continues. "We are a collection of workaholics, but Mike is first among us in that regard. Yet he also finds time for an encouraging word for a law student, clinic staff member or colleague. His spirit runs through the fabric of the clinic and the unique place that we are."

According to Dean Gifford, "Perhaps no other member of the University of Maryland School of Law faculty has had as great an impact on our educational program as Mike Millemann." Student enrollment in the clinical program has more than doubled from 70

students in 1994 to 160 currently. The size of the clinic faculty has increased significantly. A 1993 self-study among clinical faculty members reported low morale. According to Millemann, this was primarily because the salaries of several clinical teachers relied on precarious grant monies. With the support of Dean Donald Gifford and the faculty, according to Millemann, clinic resources were expanded.

More than anything else, Millemann is a creative, entrepreneurial and intensely driven developer of new programs. Consider just a few of his accomplishments:

#### **Transactional and Community Development Clinics**

Traditionally, most clinical programs at Maryland and elsewhere focused on litigation on behalf of individual indigent litigants. However important such matters are to these clients, they do not expose clinical students to the wide array of practice situations experienced by lawyers, nor do they exhaust the opportunities for law reform. Working with Dean Gifford, Millemann has been a leader in developing and expanding so called "transactional" clinics, in which the students' experiences focus on transactional matters, as opposed to litigation. In 1994, the Clinical Law Program, together with the Community Law Center, helped to develop a community-based practice in the Park Heights section of northwest Baltimore, focusing on economic and community development. In 1995, the Empowerment Legal Services Program was created to provide legal services to communities in the federally created Empowerment Zone. Professors Brenda Bratton Blom and Jeanette Stokley were hired last year to teach in these clinics. They join Professor Barbara Bezdek, a member of the faculty since 1988, in these efforts.

#### **Combining Public Interest and Private Practice**

One of Millemann's goals has been to provide, in his words, a "law practice model that allows students to make a living, pay loans and do good." In 1994, the

school joined with the Maryland State Bar Association and the University of Baltimore Law School to form the Access to Justice Task Force to evaluate the need for legal services among the working poor and others of modest income, and offer solutions for these unmet legal needs. Millemann served as reporter and the driving force behind this project.

In July 1998, Millemann was again the driving force behind a proposal to the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation, which resulted in \$350,000 coming to Civil Justice Inc., a Baltimore non-profit corporation, which will operate a demonstration law office in the Park Heights neighborhood. University of Maryland law students, under the supervision of David Walsh-Little, will work as a part of this project in the area of consumer law.

The University of Maryland School of Law is one of only four law schools receiving funding from the Soros Foundation to address how private attorneys can deliver cost-effective legal services to those with modest means and to incorporate such ideas into the basic law school curriculum.

### **Law-Related Clinical Education for High School Students**

Perhaps no single program at the University of Maryland School of Law has received as much attention as Millemann's Community Law In Action Project in which law students teach and supervise Northwestern High School students in community development practice classes and other projects. Terry Hickey '98 helped develop the project as a student and now is an adjunct clinical teacher supervising the project.

### **Clinical Opportunities for Evening Students**

Because courts and other lawyers are often not available in the evening, it is somewhat difficult to provide clinical opportunities for evening division students. Yet when Millemann became clinic Director, he and Dean Gifford agreed that this was something that needed to change. Millemann created an Appellate Advocacy Clinic for evening students, taught by Adjunct Professor George Burns. Other opportunities for evening division students are now available in the Mediation Clinic taught by Professor Roger Wolf.

### **Criminal Justice Clinics**

Under Millemann's leadership, clinical offerings in the criminal defender area have expanded dramatically to meet student demand. Since Millemann became the clinical program Director, the School has hired

Professors Doug Colbert, Jerry Deise and Surell Brady to develop criminal justice clinical courses. The clinic now has one of the most extensive criminal defense practices of any clinical program in the country, according to Millemann.

### **Immigration Clinic**

Clinic students have played a tremendous role in developing the Immigration Clinic, Millemann says. Adjunct Professor Mark Horak teaches and supervises the students, who have saved several clients from deportation with asylum defenses.

### **Pro Se Family Law Clinic**

In 1994, the Chief Judge of Maryland's Court of Appeals and Millemann took the lead in establishing the Assisted Pro Se Family Law Clinic. University of Maryland law school students operated for three years in several Maryland court buildings, assisting family law clients who wanted to represent themselves in court. Clinic students provided information to more than 5,000 unrepresented litigants in domestic cases.

The Clinical Law Program's operation is now so smooth, Millemann feels comfortable leaving it in other hands. He also believes it's a good time for leadership to take a different direction.

The leadership of the program is now in the hands of Roger Wolf, an Associate Professor, teaching at the law school since 1982. He was the reporter for the Special Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution of the Maryland State Bar Association and has Co-Chaired the committee since 1988.

After his sabbatical, Millemann will return to full-time classroom teaching and will continue to be involved with the Demonstration Law Office in the Park Heights community.

Dean Gifford remembers a time several years ago when his last appointment before the winter holiday, at 3 p.m. on Dec. 23, was with Mike Millemann. Millemann kept telling Gifford that he was going to have a memo in advance of that meeting. At exactly 2:55 p.m., Millemann's secretary delivered to the dean a 50-page single-spaced memo with 17 new proposals. As Gifford tells it, he marched up to Millemann's office, displayed a white flag, and told the clinic director that these things would have to wait until after the holidays. Looking back, several years later, Gifford now knows that many of those proposals have been implemented.

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*Stanley Herr*