MLK DIVERSITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Recognition Awards are presented for individual and/or group achievements in the areas of diversity and inclusiveness. Each year, UMB schools and administrative units are asked to nominate individuals or groups that have played a leadership role or been an integral part of the diversity effort at the University. The recipients serve as models of the ideals epitomized by the life and work of Dr. King.

OUTSTANDING UMB STAFF AWARD

Brian Sturdivant, MSW

As director of strategic initiatives and community partnerships, Brian Sturdivant is a key contributor to programs such as CLUB UMB and the UMB CURE Scholars that leverage campus resources to benefit our neighboring communities through k-12 initiatives for West Baltimore students. A UMB alum, Sturdivant has been an integral part of its outreach efforts for 16 years.

OUTSTANDING UMB FACULTY AWARD

Tanya L. Sharpe, PhD, MSW

Tanya L. Sharpe is an associate professor at the School of Social Work (SSW). For nearly a decade she has been involved in diversity efforts at UMB. Her most recent contributions proved invaluable last April through her facilitation of group discussions and provision of "safe spaces" for distraught SSW faculty, staff, and students following the death of Freddie Gray.

OUTSTANDING UMB STUDENT AWARD

Hispanic Dental Association (HDA)

HDA students provide oral health education, screenings, and dental care to Baltimore's Hispanic community. HDA has been collaborating with the Langley Park community for the past 15 years and with Wolfe Street Academy since 2008. Their activities benefit Hispanics with limited access to dental care. Students also participate in Spanish dental terminology workshops to facilitate communication with the community they serve.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Barbara Bezdek, Douglas Colbert, Deborah Thompson Eisenberg, Barbara Gontrum, Leigh Goodmark, Michael Greenberger, Toby Guerin, Diane Hoffmann, Renee Hutchins, Sherrilyn Ifill, Susan Krinsky, Susan Leviton, Michael Pinard, Katharine Rabb, Tanya Sharpe, Maureen Sweeney, Michael Vesely, Deborah Weimer

After April's riots, Carey School of Law faculty led efforts to design an eight-week course — Freddie Gray's Baltimore: Past, Present and Moving Forward — that explored the causes of, and possible solutions for, the unrest and ways in which students could become engaged. The commitment to this course and the speed with which it came together was exemplary, attracting 70 law students, 15 social work students, and several community members last fall.

PRODUCED BY THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 2016

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COMMEMORATES

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. & BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEB. 3, 2016

NOON - 1:30 P.M.

MSTF Auditorium
685 W. Baltimore St.

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
THE FOUNDING CAMPUS

Program

Welcoming Remarks
Jay A. Perman, MD
President, University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)

"Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing"
Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy School Choir

The choir, 50-plus students from kindergarten to fifth grade, was formed five years ago when the charter school on Pennsylvania Avenue lost its music program. Led by Kristine Rose, LCSW-C, Tevin Brown, and parent directors, the choir — which raises its own funds — has performed in Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Harlem, Ontario, and at Disney World in Orlando and The Grand Ole Opry in Nashville as well as at local events.

Keynote Address
Robert M. Bell, JD
Former chief judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Recognition Awards Presentation

Musical Selections
Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy School Choir

Closing Remarks

Light refreshments served in the atrium.

ROBERT M. BELL, JD

Former chief judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland

To appreciate how far Robert M. Bell has come in his outstanding legal career, one has to go back to a day in 1960 when Bell was a senior at Dunbar High School and joined a demonstration against segregation.

After picketing at several spots, the group sat down at Hooper's restaurant and asked for service. The rest, as Bell recalls, is history. "I was arrested, tried as an adult, and convicted of trespassing," he says. "My conviction was upheld by the court that I rose to lead. It was only overturned after the U.S. Supreme Court remanded the case [*Bell v. Maryland*] back to the Maryland Court of Appeals with instructions to review it in light of the new Public Accommodations Act.

"There I was, a 16-year-old defendant in a civil disobedience case, watching a legal battle unfold between extraordinary lawyers, including future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall on my side and future chief judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, Robert Murphy, on the other side.

"No one in the room would have guessed that Robert Murphy and I would go on to sit on that same Court of Appeals together, or that one day, I would replace him as chief judge. They say that truth is stranger than fiction, and I guess they're right."

A fan of *Perry Mason* books as a youth, Bell completed his studies at Dunbar, Morgan State, and Harvard Law School, and launched his legal career as an attorney at Piper and Marbury. In 1975, he began his nearly four decades of service on the Maryland bench at the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, and the Court of Appeals of Maryland. When he was designated chief judge of the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, in 1996, Bell became the only active judge to have served at least four years on all four levels of the Maryland judiciary, and the first African-American to be named the state's chief jurist. In July 2013, Bell retired after reaching Maryland's mandatory retirement age for state judges, 70.

Bell still lectures frequently to community groups and schools, including the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), which presented him an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at commencement in 2013.

He expresses some concerns about the next generation.

"In some cases, young people have been let down by a society that has allowed them to be undereducated and lost to drug addiction, crime, and despair," Bell says. "Personally, I feel it is our duty to reach back and bring young people along, to teach them, mentor them, and assist them in getting on a path that will bring out their full potential."