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February 19, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Members, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, Committee
Maryland State Senate
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 214041

Re: Letter in Support of Senate Bill 435

Senator Pinsky, Senator Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

This letter comes in support of Senate Bill 435 - Legal Education Success Collaborative – Established, which was introduced by Senators McCray and Sydnor. This Bill would require the Governor to appropriate funds aimed at increasing diversity among the legal profession.

I have taken interest in SB 435 as I am a direct product and success story of the efforts taken by the University of Baltimore School of Law in this area. On February 12, 2020, you all may recall Professor Michael Meyerson discussing the Fannie Angelos Program for Academic Excellence, which provides a pipeline from Maryland's four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) into the legal field. I was a 2011 scholar, back when the program was named the Baltimore Scholars Program.

I am a 2012 graduate of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. I always had an interest in the legal field, but had no idea how to get into law school, or the funds to pay for it. I came from a single-parent household and had no attorneys in my family. I applied for the Baltimore Scholars Program and received the full award. The University of Baltimore School of Law indoctrinated me and the seven other scholars into the field of law. As a junior at UMES, I took law classes for two weeks, met Judge Robert M. Bell (Ret.), visited law firms, and took legal writing classes. The program also paid for my LSAT course and the LSAT exam – worth around \$2,000 at the time. My LSAT score and credentials led to three full ride offers, and I elected to attend the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, where I graduated in 2015.

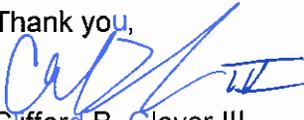
I am now a litigation and employment law associate at McNamee Hosea in Greenbelt, Maryland. I enjoy my work and am lucky to be here. I can definitively say that without the foresight of Professors Meyerson, Higgenbotham, and others in starting the Baltimore Scholars Program, I would not be where I am today. The program provided by the University of Baltimore School of Law provides invaluable opportunities to those who would otherwise not have an opportunity to attend law school and contribute to Maryland's legal field.

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SB 435 would continue the progress that the University of Baltimore School of Law University of Maryland Carey School of Law has achieved. I am excited to see what's in store in the years to come as diversity initiatives expand at both institutions.

For the above reasons, I state my support for SC 435 and urge the Committee to approve it for full passage.

Thank you,



Clifford B. Glover III

cc: Professor Michael Meyerson
Senator Cory McCray
Senator Charles E. Sydnor III