

The Sun

**REGIONAL DIGEST**  
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**In Baltimore City**  
**Judge tells graduates to hold onto beliefs at start of law careers**

Chief Judge Martha F. Rasin of the District Court of Maryland tossed boxes of raisins and urged graduates to be true to themselves during yesterday's commencement of the University of Baltimore's School of Law.

The 317 graduates and 2,200 spectators at the Lyric Theater in Baltimore gave a standing ovation to the University of Baltimore alumna.

Rasin advised the budding lawyers to follow their inner compasses in choosing their law careers, whether they decide to focus on community service or to work for prestigious firms. "The person you are when you are passed the baton [juris doctor degree] is the same person who came through the doors three years ago," said Rasin.

**In Montgomery County**  
**Aron's retrial date remains July 6, with new lawyers**  
**ROCKVILLE**  
**ROCKVILLE** -- Ruthann Aron's retrial date on murder-for-hire charges remains July 6, even though the former U.S. Senate candidate changed her defense teams recently.

The former Potomac developer fired her lawyers after rejecting their advice that she plead guilty. She hired Charles M. Cookorill of Rockville and Harry J. Trainor of Largo, a decision that was approved Thursday by Montgomery Circuit Judge Paul McGuckian.

Aron, 55, is accused of taking out contracts on her husband and another man. Her first trial, which lasted four weeks, ended March 30 in a hung jury.

**In Maryland**  
**Kaiser Permanente donates \$50,000 to health care group**

Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States, a health maintenance organization, has donated \$50,000 in seed money to the Maryland Health Care Foundation, a charitable, nonprofit organization established to expand health care services for uninsured residents.

The foundation was created by the General Assembly in 1997, and its 19-member board of trustees held its first meeting last month.

There are 715,000 children and adults in Maryland without insurance, roughly 13.5 percent of the state's population, according to the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

**Task force planned for filing Holocaust insurance claims**

The Maryland Insurance Administration will set up a task force to help victims of the Holocaust, or their survivors, collect on insurance policies.

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The task force will help Marylanders file claims against European insurance companies through an international commission that is being established. Most of the claims would be for life insurance, although some would be for lost property.

Steven B. Larsen, state insurance commissioner, said his agency will announce in coming weeks how people can get information about pressing claims.

Md. police union backs Glendening for governor

Capitalizing on his support for collective bargaining, Gov. Parris N. Glendening has picked up the endorsement of the statewide Fraternal Order of Police.

The board of the Maryland state lodge of the FOP, an umbrella group with 56 local unions and some 15,000 members, voted 27-3 last week to support Glendening in this year's election, said Bill Bates, the lodge president.

Bates said a key factor for the board was Glendening's support for safeguarding and possibly expanding collective bargaining for local police forces. FOP leaders also noted the governor's support of the death penalty and of the purchase by the state of body armor for local police.

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