

Mortimer Sellers Interview

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SPEAKERS

Interviewer: Elizabeth Epps

Interviewee: Mortimer Sellers

Elizabeth Epps

Hi this is Elizabeth Epps. It is March 16 2023. Today is Thursday, I am with Professor Mortimer sellers. We have been asked to call him Tim. We are joining everyone via the online zoom platform. And we're going to begin our oral history interview today. For the University of Baltimore Stories project, we're celebrating the 100th anniversary oral history project. And the purpose of the project is to celebrate the university centennial by preserving the memory of those influenced by the University of Baltimore over the years. We will be creating a digital archive and exhibit and making these recordings available online. Hi, Tim, how are you doing?

Mortimer Sellers

I'm very well, Elizabeth, it's a pleasure to be doing this with you.

Elizabeth Epps

Thank you for joining us. At the beginning of this oral history interview. I'd like to know if you can share with the listeners and researchers who will be using this material, your educational journey. Where did you begin your academic career? And how did it begin?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, I'm not sure how deep you want me to go. I grew up in Philadelphia, in a region called Germantown. I went to a Quaker school. And they had a free library there called the Friends Free Library, which was founded by Quakers in the 1830s or 40s. Most of its collection was probably from the 1890s – mostly about religion and the Greek and Latin classics. But that's where I really got started being interested in education and learning – reading old books in the Friends Free Library.

After Germantown Friends School I went on to Harvard College, where I studied history and classics. That led me on to Oxford University, with a Rhodes scholarship, to University College, where I ultimately received two degrees. One, Bachelor of Civil Law, was -- as I did it -- mostly Roman law and philosophy of law. The other – a doctorate in Literae Humaniores, combined history, philosophy, and classics. And then I went to Harvard Law School. Actually, I ended up doing all these various degrees

simultaneously. So, I was going to Oxford and Harvard at the same time and going back and forth. And during that time, I also married and I taught at Harvard College. Then I clerked for a year for a federal judge, worked briefly as a lawyer for New York and Philadelphia law firms, and came to the University of Baltimore where I've been ever since.

Elizabeth Epps

Okay, can you tell us about your law clerk experiences? And what type of work did you do before coming to the University of Baltimore?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, when I was a law clerk, I clerked for the United States Court of Appeals of the Third Circuit for Judge James Hunter. Philadelphia is where the Third Circuit gathers, but Judge Hunter's chambers were in Camden, New Jersey. And so I worked in Camden. Judge Hunter was a very practical judge, I would say. He had been one of the leading lawyers of southern New Jersey, and that's how he got to be on the bench. And he had a very straightforward conception of the law, and I think was a very good person to learn from.

Elizabeth Epps

During that experience, what type of mentoring Did you receive? What specific lessons do you believe you took with you and have carried with you throughout your life?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, there are several answers I could give to that question. Judge Hunter was a man of great personal probity, and seriousness about his work. So, he set me that example but I'll give you a graphic story by way of illustration. The first day we clerks arrived, Judge Hunter showed us a garrotte. I don't know if you know what that is, but it's a device you use for choking someone to death. And he said if we ever spoke outside the chambers about anything that happened inside the chambers, he would garrotte us. So that was a very graphic illustration of the kind of professional confidentiality we owe to our employers and to our clients. There had been some Supreme Court Clerks who had recently talked to Bob Woodward when he wrote his book about the Supreme Court. Judge Hunter and I think most judges and lawyers thought that was disgraceful. So that was his way of illustrating his strong feelings about confidentiality.

Elizabeth Epps

Okay, so that framed the experience for all of you, as you started out, what, what brought you to the University of Baltimore? And had you considered other institutions before arriving here?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, I wanted to teach. I had decided that I wanted to teach at a law school and probably at a law school in the United States of America. Narrower than that, I guess I was really only interested in going to Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Washington, maybe at that point really, probably only Philadelphia or Baltimore. And so, I had a fairly narrow area I was looking at. I love this region, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else -- and my wife works in Washington. And I have a lot of family connections in

Philadelphia, I still do. And my wife had a career for which Washington was the most suitable place. Baltimore was halfway between, so we were drawn to Baltimore.

And I liked that the University of Baltimore has a service mission. The University of Baltimore is trying to serve the public good. It's not sectarian. It's not committed to any particular religion. And it's subsidized. Most of the people who study at the University of Baltimore -- then and now -- are young people of great seriousness, who are going to end up advancing the public life of the state of Maryland, primarily Maryland. So, I like the mission of the University of Baltimore. I like the location of the University of Baltimore. And then, fortuitously, the University had advertised for someone exactly like me. So that was the other thing. U.B. was the only place in the country that advertised for someone who wanted to do the philosophy of law. And I think, so all those factors drew me to the University of Baltimore. I knew Baltimore pretty well, before I came here, but living here, ever since, I've really come to love Baltimore, and to love this University. So, I thought I was going to like it -- and I did.

Elizabeth Epps

Natural fit. Now what year did you arrive in Baltimore, and accepted the opportunity to be with the University of Baltimore?

Mortimer Sellers

1989. So that was 34 years ago.

Elizabeth Epps

Okay. And since 1989, and can you give me a snapshot of the various roles that you've had? Because you have done a lot of great things, you're very active. And I think our listeners would enjoy hearing about the various roles that you've taken on.

Mortimer Sellers

Well, I guess you're talking primarily about roles I've taken on at the University. Yes. So, I've done almost everything. I came here primarily to teach the philosophy of law, but that's not a required course, so I was always going to have other duties. Part of the reason I was brought in, I think, was that the Law School had just joined the Association of American Law Schools, and it was trying to prove that it was seriousness, to prove it was serious as a first-rate academic institution. And philosophy of law is something a good law school should have. But I also needed to teach, or they needed me to teach, and I wanted to teach large required courses that had a lot of students.

So, I taught constitutional law and property law, as well as the philosophy of law and I taught legal history. And those are all things I love to teach. But my practice as a lawyer has been, a lot of it, transnational or international. So very early on, I started teaching the international law courses and comparative law courses as well. And those have been a great pleasure for me. So, I think everything I taught, I enjoyed teaching. And then a couple of those courses were required courses, but a lot of them were electives. But we have very bright students, we have students who are very intellectually curious. So, I have had a lot of students even in these courses that were entirely elective.

Elizabeth Epps

Can you tell me about your students' experience with regard to your teaching? Can you share with us or do you recall any specific instances where you've been given feedback from your students, or things that they say that they have carried with them, you know, as students, oftentimes professors, see, well when in a class more so than perhaps their family does during an academic semester, so you have a great impact on their daily life in shaping how they think and how they act and how they prepare for their career.

Mortimer Sellers

Well, I like them, and they like me. And that's what makes it fun. Our students are incredibly generous. Fairly early on in my career here, we started asking students to evaluate the professors. You know, they always gave them grades, but then we asked them to evaluate us too. And they would, they would rank us from one to five, and then they would tell us what they thought we could do better, or what we did well. It's very, it's actually very interesting reading these evaluations. And the thing that always struck me reading my own evaluations, and also other people's evaluations, because we evaluate each other, is how generous our students are. They're really open and kind and generous. You notice their generosity because, as a teacher, you're aware of your own failings.

The students are extremely kind because they forgive and overlook our failings. So, that's a nice aspect of teaching here – that our students approach life in such a generous way. You know, I've been teaching here, as I mentioned, for, well, considerably more than 30 years, and a very high percentage of the lawyers in the state of Maryland, were my students. So pretty much wherever I go in Maryland, I run into people who were my students, some of them 35 years ago. And very often they come and they say, "You taught me something that has changed my whole life! I always remember so well what you said." And I ask, "Well, tell me what I said." And it's always something that I didn't say or wouldn't say, but they give me the credit. I mean, they're so generous, they remember us more fondly than we deserve. This sense of community -- something nice happens.

They attribute their good fortune to you even when, in fact, it's nothing to do with you. It's very hard to know what real influence you have. But in their generosity, they remember us fondly, whether, in fact, we were any good or not. So, I guess the main thing I would say is that, by teaching at the University of Baltimore, and maybe the same is true another schools, by teaching here you become part of a community. And that's the community of lawyers in the State of Maryland -- lawyers and judges, because we have more judges, and more legislators, and more governors, who went to U.B. than anywhere else. So, the people who were in public life in Maryland, many, many of them are graduates of the University of Baltimore School of Law, and it means they know each other. And it makes me feel very fond of Maryland to see them doing so well.

Elizabeth Epps

How has the University of Baltimore's Law School evolved over time since you've been with us? What changes? Have you seen and talked about the changes that that brings to the roles that you've held, your teaching? And also, to how students are perceiving the world? Can you share any of that with us?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, I guess the first thing I would say just about the students is that they are what they always were. You know, they are mostly from Maryland, or from this region, sometimes a little older than students would be at other law schools. They are very serious about their career and serious about being at the university. We get a higher percentage of people who have come out of some other career, people who were policemen or nurses or, you know, serving the public in some way, and then realized that they wanted to be more serious about it and came to law school. So that's the type of person we have. I mean, there have been changes in American education. And mostly for worse, I would say. So, people come here, less well prepared than they used to be. But that's true everywhere.

I know it is true everywhere because from time to time, while I've been at U.B., I have gone somewhere else for a year or two. We have a nice arrangement in law schools where you can go visit somewhere else for a year, if you want to. And I've done this a number of times, and I've done it at every type of law school. And all of them have the same experience, that students today just know much, much less when they arrive, and have much less experience writing than they would have had 20 or 30 years ago. But they are just as smart.

They're just as dedicated. But I would say they have not on the whole been as well prepared as they would have been twenty years ago. And that's not just here, that's Georgetown, Harvard everywhere I've taught has that same problem. And this change just slightly alters our role, because I spend a lot more time helping people to write better. In the past, I think I would have assumed that they knew how to write when they got here. I spend a lot more time teaching people how to take exams and how to be serious about that kind of thing, because they just don't get it in secondary school anymore and less than you would have expected in colleges. So that's a change.

The other change, I guess, is that we have vastly expanded our clinical law offerings. So, when I first came here, there was very little in the way of law clinics, I think what happened in part was we had less support for Public Interest Law outside the academy, and so it sort of got brought into the academy. So, a lot of the public interest law work that's done in the state of Maryland is done by the clinics at the University of Baltimore, or the clinics at the University of Maryland. And as a result our law clinics are much bigger. And that changes the nature of the scholarship that our faculty writes. Here at the University of Baltimore we made law clinicians into full professors who are expected to write like all the other professors, but they have a different set of interests, and they tend to write in a different way more advocacy, I would guess, for law reform. So that's a huge change, actually.

Elizabeth Epps

Okay. You have served a number of different roles on various university committees. You're a regent with the University System of Maryland, an Elkins professor, for the University of Maryland, Professor of Law, past president of the International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy, director of the University of Baltimore Center for International and Comparative law. Can you tell us about your work on some of the committees that you've served, and any specific achievements or changes that you were a part of?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, a great thing about law faculties, is how incredibly broad they are. Everything in the world falls under law, ultimately. So, there's a very, very wide range of things that one can do as a law professor, and have it be accepted by one's employer and one's colleagues. And therefore, a wonderful thing about being a law professor is you can do -- as I have done -- quite a lot of different things without people thinking that it's improper. I've always been very interested in the philosophy of law and in the history of law and justice. And I guess I should go back and say that, you know, the reason I did a doctorate at the same time I was doing law degrees is I'm very, very interested in history and philosophy as well as in law. And in fact, I don't think you can do constitutional law or public international law unless you have a very good grasp first, of what we're trying to achieve through law, which is really a question of philosophy, and second, what has been done in the past, which is history.

So, these three disciplines really go well together. And as well as being very active in the Association of American Law Schools, and various legal groups, have also been active in the professional groups for historians and philosophers, and particularly philosophers. So, I guess that's been a large part of what I did here. When I first got here, I was the Director of Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics. And one of the characteristics of the University of Baltimore that I liked and tried to promote and I think it's still true, is that we really focus on what it is to be a professional. In other words, the fact that we as lawyers have duties to the public and that we are trying to improve the world. We have a duty to the common good. That has to be built in to what it is to be a lawyer.

And I think our Hoffberger Center here, which is which spans the whole university, keeps that reality in front of us. Most of the students at the University of Baltimore -- not just the law school, but in the University as a whole -- most are professionals or seeking to become professionals and are seeking to serve the public. And that is a central characteristic of the University of Baltimore. And because I started out at the Hoffberger Center, I have I think more perhaps than other members of the law faculty also been very close to all the other faculties, not just the Law School. I did and do a lot with other parts of the University.

I work a lot with our philosophy faculty, our history faculty, and always have done and that's perhaps why I enjoyed being president of the University Faculty Senate, for example, because I was working with people in other parts of the University. Actually, some of my former students are now teaching at the University of Baltimore, so that's awesome. And not just in the Law School. So that's another link not just with the public but with the other parts of the University. I feel very close to the rest of the University and to all my colleagues at the University of Baltimore.

I think we have a common mission and that's part of what's been fun for me about the University of Baltimore. Being a Regents professor was a great honor. And I was delighted when that happened. Because it does technically mean that I'm, in theory, a professor in every institution in the University System of Maryland. So, I do go and give lectures at other places in our U.M. System. And both the Hoffberger Center and the Center for International Comparative Law are really system-wide Centers. In other words, both serve the whole System. The Center for International Comparative Law where I am sitting as I speak with you -- we're the place in the U.M. System that does international comparative law. And so anyone in the System of Maryland who's interested in international law coordinates with us, and so, so that means that I have a very wide range of people I talk to in different parts of the state.

And that's that, that's been great. And then the work we're doing is global. So here, at the Center for International and Comparative Law, I edit the book series for the American Society of Comparative Law. I edit two book series for the American Society of International Law and the American Society of Comparative Law – and we have three book series of our own. We have published almost 200 books in one way or another. So, we are making a real contribution to global scholarship and people throughout the world have heard of the University of Baltimore and are impressed by what we're doing. I have some excellent colleagues at the Law School Nienke Grossman, whom I mentioned to you before. Immediately following our conversation, I am going to go listen to her lecture on Women and International Law. She's editing the Oxford volume on the women on Women and International Law. So, we really do have a high level of scholarship here, and I have some, some really impressive colleagues.

In fact, I would say that every part of my career has been a pleasure. We have these international links. We have national links. We have statewide links. And we have a very, very nice local community here at the University of Baltimore.

Elizabeth Epps

Thank you for that summary. When you talk about the community here at the University of Baltimore, and it is a community that is vast, and that has grown over time. It's gone back in time, and we're celebrating a very big anniversary. Can you tell me a little bit about what your first experiences were when you came to Baltimore and how it became so meaningful for you also outside of the university system. So, Baltimore as a city, what endeared the city to you?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, there are lots of things I love about the city of Baltimore, but I guess the first thing that's coming to my mind is its size. I come from Philadelphia, and I'm still very involved in Philadelphia and in Washington. But Baltimore is a little bit smaller.

Like Baltimore, Philadelphia is made up of all sorts of different ethnic communities that are to some extent, self-contained. There's a Jewish Philadelphia. There's a Wasp Philadelphia. There's a black Philadelphia. There's an Italian Philadelphia. There's a Polish Philadelphia, and they have their own little communities, and they interact some, but not a lot. Baltimore has the same thing to some extent, but the difference is that here each of those communities is small enough, so that they also all know each other. So, I feel that I know, personally, pretty much everyone in Baltimore that is doing anything in the public sphere. That's obviously an exaggeration, because there are 600,000 people in Baltimore, but I'm constantly encountering people I know.

And I don't feel that there are any people in the city or the state who, who I wouldn't feel comfortable talking to. I think that might be less true in Philadelphia or Pennsylvania. So, there's something very sweet about the size of Baltimore. Now, you know, Baltimore is a very poor city compared to other cities. We are not wealthy. And there are a lot of unfortunate aspects to that. But a fortunate aspect of that is that it pulls people together and everyone is trying to solve the city's problems together.

Poverty may be a uniting force. And a side effect of our poverty may actually have been the preservation of an older Baltimore. There are still a lot of beautiful old buildings here. A lot of nice neighborhoods. that maybe aren't wealthy but the people stick together. And another thing that I've really enjoyed is something that is not true I think of any other East Coast City, which is that if you go north out of Baltimore, it ends -- and you're in the country. So, sitting here, as I am right now, at my desk in the University of Baltimore, in 20 minutes, I could be in open fields with horses, if I just drove straight north. And I get a lot of pleasure from that.

My wife rides horses, and she has a lot of fun in Baltimore County with people up there who are mostly farmers. And it's just very unusual in America, I think, at least the East Coast of America, to be able to get from the center of the city to outside the city in a way that you can in Baltimore. So, the city is connected, or at least my life in the city is connected to the surrounding countryside in a way that I think would be much more difficult than any other American East Coast City.

Elizabeth Epps

Can you tell us about any of your hobbies, the things that you enjoy when you've stepped outside of the university, and you've taken a moment to breathe deeply and invest in yourself for just a moment because as a professor, we know that you're deeply invested in your students, in your position, and that takes up a great deal of your time. But when you need to recharge, and inspire yourself or be inspired, what would you do to get those batteries going again?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, if I were frank, I would have to admit that my work is also my hobby. Because I do, that's pretty much what I do - all the time I don't spend at the University, I pretty much spend writing, which I really love to do. There are all these things I want to write about. And I'm constantly trying to find time to do it. But my wife and I do also havehave a foot in the Pennsylvania farmland where my family comes from. I still own what was my family farm in Pennsylvania. And so I also spend a lot of time maintaining a plot of land, which is, in fact, not productive at all as a farm that hasn't been economically viable for 100 years. But, which nevertheless, has a lot of meaning for me, because it's connected with my family.

And, you know, it's an area where I'm related to everybody. So we do spend time on weekends, in the Pennsylvania countryside. Clearing fields, cutting down trees, digging ditches. There's a lot of physical work that I do -- when I can on the weekend -- that I like doing, and that makes me feel that I am connected to a piece of land and with people I love who are no longer alive. And now that I'm getting older, to the next generation and the generation after that, because I have grandchildren who now work with me up there. I guess that's a source of pleasure for me.

Elizabeth Epps

I'm going to take advantage of this moment and transition to the Friends of Sellers Hall, and give you an opportunity to talk to us about that. And its importance to you and your family, and the legacy that you believe you'll be leaving to your grandchildren who are now helping you.

Mortimer Sellers

Well, I think a full life operates at several different levels. So just as I was saying that, that, you know, my career has been local, statewide and international. So too is my life like that. It is very nice to really come from somewhere. But I think it's also nice to be connected with a whole lot of different places. Both my mother's and my father's family came to Pennsylvania with William Penn in the 1680s, in 1682. And have stayed in the same area ever since, intermarried with each other a lot. So, the house that my father's ancestor built when he first arrived in Pennsylvania was completed in 1684. It's still there. And that's true also of my mother's family house, actually.

Sellers Hall is my father's family house. The two young men who came over here -- brothers -- they were very young, and they were very eager to get married. So, they put more effort into building a beautiful house than anyone else would have done, because they were highly motivated on the theory that young women would be more interested in marrying them if they had a nice house. So, the house was finished very early in the history of Pennsylvania. And now it is in what has become a somewhat rundown, suburban area outside Philadelphia. And the people who live in that neighborhood came to me about 20 years ago, more than 20 years ago and said, this old house is falling down, can you help us save it. So, that has become a project for me to pursue.

We have a committee that has been gradually restoring this old house that was built in 1684. And it has an interesting history because that the family that lived there was very involved in helping in the anti-slavery movement and in helping people to escape slavery in the South. And so, it was part of a network, a family network that smuggled people out of, mainly out of Maryland, through Pennsylvania, and then further north. And so that's also a reason why people remain interested in this old house.

The same is true, actually, of the Newlin Foundation, which owns my mother's original family house. So, I am still very connected to that part of Pennsylvania. But both families also intermarried with people from Maryland. So, when I came to Maryland, in the 1980s, right away I knew a lot of Maryland people to whom I was already related. In the same way that I'm helping to preserve Sellers Hall up in Pennsylvania, I become very involved with the Peale Museum here in Baltimore, which was also founded by a family member and also needs fixing. This deepens my feeling that I really belong to this city. These connections, these really deep connections to place, add something valuable, I think.

And that's one of the reasons when I was looking for a job, I wanted to be in Philadelphia or Baltimore, and really, not anywhere else. Because I think that being in a place where your family has done good work in the past -- or even if they haven't done good work -- It gives you a commitment to that place and a commitment to making it better and a feeling of being part of a long-term project that I think can inspire you to be a better person and to do better work. So, there's a feeling of depth I have in this area. And that's I think part of the reason I love it here.

Elizabeth Epps

That is beautiful. Can you tell us about anything that we haven't specifically asked you about that you would like for people to know or that you think people would find interesting or engaging? Either about your experience here at the University of Baltimore, or your experience in the region?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, it's hard to know what people will find engaging. But I guess one of the things I think about a lot and one of the purposes, maybe, of this oral history, is to think about the University of Baltimore in the same way that I was just speaking about the cities, Philadelphia and Baltimore. In other words, the University of Baltimore has a character or should have a character or should try to cultivate a character, and try to remember who we are or who we hope to be. And I think one of the continuities in my time here, has been trying to define and articulate and defend a theory of what the University is or what the University of Baltimore ought to be.

And recently there's been a lot of turnover in presidents and deans and provosts, even in faculty. And sometimes, that turnover can lead to discontinuity. You know, it's very important that living institutions keep doing new things and changing direction, but it's also important that they have a sense of who they are and what their mission is. And I think at the University of Baltimore, our mission is to the people of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, who want to be professionals in a noble way. In other words, we're training people who are going to be the leaders in the professions in Maryland and in Baltimore and in the world.

And we want them to feel that they have a commitment to public service, to the public good. And I think that is the history here. Actually, at this moment, there may be some question about our purpose and our future. And I think what I would say is, we should cling to what has been our mission, which is to have excellent high-level, upper-level and graduate studies for serious people who are going to serve the public good.

So, when I came here, we had no freshmen and sophomores at all. We added them at a period when the system thought that maybe we would become a more typical type of university. But it's become clear to me that our mission is for the serious students who are committed to professionalism. And I think that's what I would want to cling to. If you look at all the judges, all the people in the Senate General Assembly, here in Maryland, who went to the University of Baltimore. I want to turn out people like that -- people like that who are really strongly committed to the public good. And that's what I think the University of Baltimore is, what it should aspire to be. And I think it's important that we don't lose track of that.

Elizabeth Epps

You have a great grasp of history, personal sense of history, on both sides of your family, and things that you've studied over time. As well as philosophy. Who stands out to you today, in this moment, as a figure of history, or philosophy that you feel you strongly identify with? And can you tell me why?

Mortimer Sellers

Well, I think it would be presumptuous for me to identify with anybody at all. But it is interesting to consider -- maybe too revealing to say, who one identifies with. But there are people whom I write about and admire. I have written a lot about Republicanism. Republicanism is the philosophy of the public good, asking: how do we create a state? How do we create laws that will serve everybody, and not just the elite or not just a special group, but actually serve everybody. The people who, who had the most influence in that -- there are a lot of people who did -- but in terms of sort of global history, Marcus Tullius Cicero. He was a lawyer, a Roman lawyer, who also wrote philosophical works, that were

extremely influential in the history of the world, moving people towards this idea of the common good. And then, in the United States, President Abraham Lincoln embraced and understood pretty well this conception of the Republic, and this idea that nobody should be left out. For example, slavery existed in the United States, and Lincoln always perceived as an evil. The fact that there were different classes and castes of Americans and that citizens were treated differently based on their race was something he knew was wrong. He changed the world. So those two people come to mind, mainly because I've written a lot about them. But I think that they are good examples for the rest of us, too.

Elizabeth Epps

Thank you so much for that. Before we close today's session, is there anything that you would like to say, that you hope speaks to your legacy as a professor and as an administrator, and as a parent, and a grandfather to the future generation, so we'll be researching you and finding your story and your path. An interesting one, and reading your books and your publications and your publications yet to come. Any final words or thoughts?

Mortimer Sellers

I think if you look at the history of the United States or the history of the world, you see things getting better, sometimes, and you see them getting worse sometimes. And in the United States right now, we're at a slightly difficult moment. And I notice that many of my students are dispirited, have been dispirited by some of the things that have happened in politics, some of the things that are happening in the United States. And the thing I, I remember, and the thing I think is important, and I try to remind my students is, it has always been thus.

There always has been selfishness and the corruption, but there has also always been nobility and hope for the common good. The best you can do is to choose to be on the right side. So, if you choose to work for the public welfare, perhaps you are never going to win. But you also never entirely lose. You can fight to keep things moving as much as possible in the right direction. And that to me is comforting. The thought that you can choose to be on the right side. And I think that our students do that. And that's what they commit themselves to at Law School, or most of them do. And I, I hope they all do.

And working here, I just constantly run into people who are so generous and thoughtful and trying to do things that are for the benefit of everybody. So, I'll conclude by saying, thank you very much, Elizabeth. And thank you very much Fatemeh for, for undertaking this project, for having the patience to go out and find colleagues and interview them. You're doing something that is very worthwhile and interesting, and you're promoting our long-term sense of community. I am grateful for that. And I think there are people all through the University and all through our State, who have this approach -- the majority of our colleagues. And so that is what makes me happy and grateful to have spent all these years working at the University of Baltimore.

Elizabeth Epps

We certainly celebrate you. I want to thank you for joining us today, but also for your time and your service and your commitment to the University of Baltimore, the city of Baltimore, the state of Maryland, the state of Pennsylvania. And I also would like to close with what I thought was a very important quote of yours from this interview, that a full life operates at several different levels. That's a positive thought,

among the many that you've shared with us today. And as we close I want to say thank you to Mr. Sellers, this concludes our interview today. Thursday, March 16 2023, at 11:45am. Thank you.

Mortimer Sellers

A pleasure to talk with you both.

Elizabeth Epps

Take care. Thank you.