Editors’ Note:

In response to the article by Sue Bentch entitled A History of the Law Clinics at St. Mary’s University School of Law, 46 St. Mary’s L.J. 285 (2015), the editors of the St. Mary’s Law Journal received an e-mail from Professor Bill Piatt, who served as dean of St. Mary's University School of Law from 1998 to 2007. Professor Piatt stated in relevant part:

[O]n pages 303 and 304 the article states, "After 1998 and a change in the law school's administration, funding and support for the clinics were constricted." That is not accurate. The budgets for those years will reflect that there was no reduction in the budgets of the clinics. None. The article states on page 304 that the "Soros Grant...was not renewed...." That is not accurate if the implication is that the funder decided not to renew the grant. The University made the determination to withdraw for a number of reasons, not the least of which were that the University could not identify a sufficient educational nor service component, and the grant required extensive commitment of University resources, in effect, from the University to the grantor. No clinics were “closed”—the article accurately reflects that there was a consolidation for administrative reasons, all as determined by the University.

Other comments received by the Journal indicate that persons involved with the operation of the clinical programs during the period in question hold differing views on budgetary matters, such as how grants, faculty salaries, and other expenses should be counted. The editors of the St. Mary’s Law Journal do not have access to the underlying data.

We believe that it is appropriate to note Professor Piatt’s concerns, but remain steadfast in our belief that the Bentch article makes a major contribution to documenting the history of St. Mary’s University School of Law.