



**GEORGE W. LIEBMANN**, is a Baltimore lawyer and native New Yorker. He attended a variety of schools, public and private, concluding at the Riverdale Country School in New York. He then went to Dartmouth, graduating with high distinction in government, and then to the University of Chicago Law School, where he was a Managing Editor of the Law Review. He then moved to Baltimore to be Law Clerk to the then Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, Frederick W. Brune (best known as the author of the 1958 Report of the Council of Chief Justices criticizing several Warren Court Supreme Court decisions). After brief service

as an enlisted reservist in the Army and as an inactive law officer in Navy JAG, he joined a Baltimore law firm.

During the period 1968-1972, he was involved in four major national political controversies. He was the organizer and secretary of the Coalition Against the Supersonic Transport, which was successful in its purpose. As an Assistant Attorney General of Maryland and counsel to its Department of Social Services, he successfully argued in the Supreme Court the case of *Dandridge v. Williams*, which effectively brought an end to efforts to constitutionalize welfare rights. He organized the defense by State Attorneys General of cases attacking the constitutionality of school financing systems; his brief on behalf of 34 state governments was cited in both the majority and dissenting opinions in *San Antonio v. Rodriguez* in which the Supreme Court warded off federal constitutional attacks on such systems. Shortly thereafter, he wrote a series of influential articles in the *American Bar Association Journal*, the *Business Lawyer* and other publications opposing extensive expansions of the federal criminal code proposed by both the Johnson and Nixon administrations; these opposition efforts were ultimately successful.

His private practice at various times involved constitutional and appellate litigation, private antitrust litigation, and real estate, environmental and bankruptcy law.

In 1980-81, he served as Executive Assistant to Governor Harry Hughes of Maryland and was the principal draftsman of legislation regulating land use around the Chesapeake Bay.

In 1981, he started his own law practice, Liebmann and Shively, P.A. He served as Chairman of Governor's Commissions on Medical Malpractice and on Local Government Antitrust Liability and wrote extensively on land use and local government issues. In 1993, he was a Simon Industrial and Professional Fellow at the University of Manchester, and in 1996 first became a Visiting Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge, to which he has frequently returned.

He is the author of a trilogy of books on sub-local governments and their potential, including *The Little Platoons* (Praeger 1995); *The Gallows in the Grove* (Praeger 1997) and *Solving Problems Without Large Government* (Praeger 2000), reprinted as *Neighborhood Futures*

(Transaction Books, 2002). He is also the author of three books of biographical sketches, *Six Lost Leaders* (Lexington Books, 2002); *The Common Law Tradition: A Collective Portrait of Five Legal Scholars* (Transaction Books, 2004); and *Diplomacy Between the Wars: Five Diplomats and the Shaping of the Modern World* (I.B.Tauris and Palgrave Macmillan, 2007); as well as of *The Last American Diplomat: John D. Negroponte and His Times, 1960-2010* (I.B.Tauris and Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), *The Fall of the House of Speyer: The Story of a Banking Dynasty* (I.B.Tauris, 2015); *America's Political Inventors: The Lost Art of Legislation* (Bloomsbury 2019); and *Vox Clamantis In Deserto: An Iconoclast Looks At Four Failed Administrations* (Amazon 2021).

Since 2001 he has been the volunteer executive director of the Calvert Institute for Policy Research, a state-level think tank, and editor of a compendium of its papers, *The Trimmer's Almanac: Ten Years of the Calvert Institute* (2007). He is President of the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, a Life Member of the American Law Institute, and a Permanent Member of the Federal Judicial Conference for the Fourth Circuit.