Here is where we launch great legal careers.
Message from our new dean
Aviva Abramovsky

Becoming a lawyer is not easy. Choosing a law school can be hard. But you’ll know in your heart when you’ve found the right fit. I have found it here in Buffalo. I have recently been appointed the University at Buffalo School of Law’s 19th dean. While I have only been in Buffalo for a short time, I have already experienced the rich sense of community and genuine camaraderie that makes up the fabric of Western New York.

There is no better environment to pursue your legal education than at UB School of Law. Whether you plan to conquer the courtroom, close major real estate deals or advocate for low-income clients, here you will learn to be a skilled litigator, a strong negotiator and a champion for justice.

You will be a part of a diverse and vibrant campus where all students are encouraged to think big, to express themselves creatively, and to pursue their education with purpose and with passion, knowing that they can affect the world around them.

I am honored to be a part of this dynamic environment, and as I begin my journey as dean of this law school, I invite you to join me.

Sincerely,

Aviva Abramovsky
From the start, you will acquire the skills you’ll need in a profession like no other

You stand at the threshold of a life-changing experience that will transform your thinking and open new worlds of opportunity.


Don’t worry – we’ve got you covered.

You’ll find here a collegial environment that brings out the best in you and those on the journey with you. Many students make lifelong friendships here that nourish their careers as well. Your professors and the law school staff make it their mission to help you succeed, whether it’s wrestling after class with a difficult point or helping to set up your daily schedule.

In your first year at UB School of Law, you will start to think like a lawyer, with small classes and one-on-one coaching through our Legal Analysis, Writing and Research (LAWR) program. And you’ll be challenged by world-class legal training in doctrinal courses that continually evolve to stay relevant to what lawyers actually do in practice.

Here you will also gain the global perspective that’s increasingly vital in today’s legal world. UB School of Law
is well-known for faculty who bring their expertise in other academic disciplines – from anthropology to zoology – to the study of law, giving you an interdisciplinary as well as an international and multicultural lens for understanding the way law works in the real world.

And even in the first year, you’ll find opportunities to go boldly into this new future by being part of student organizations as diverse as our student body. You will also begin to meet and network with our highly engaged alumni who will help you gain a foothold in the legal community.

Like all important work, that first year is a challenging one. But you’ll come out of it with the confidence that you’re on your way to making a difference in the community, the nation and the world.
As the law school’s vice dean for academic affairs, Professor S. Todd Brown does a lot of deep thinking about top-quality legal education.

“The law and the legal profession are ever-changing,” he says, “and UB’s curriculum reflects those changes.”

But it’s not all about what’s on the course schedule. It’s also about making your first year the best it can be. That’s why the faculty have taken a series of steps to make sure that you succeed from Day One.

It starts with our cutting-edge Legal Analysis, Writing and Research program, two semesters of intensive instruction in the tools that lawyers use every day. An emphasis on the basics early in the first year – organizing your thoughts, crafting a killer argument, writing clearly and persuasively – means that you can build on those skills faster in every course you take.

In doctrinal courses like torts and contracts, first-year students are guaranteed at least one small class section of around 25 – 30 students. That, Brown says, means “a pretty intensive amount of one-on-one work” and plenty of direct feedback to guide your way and answer your questions. “Students tend to come out of those classes feeling better about what they’ve learned, and appreciating what they need to work on,” Brown says.

Two initiatives also provide plenty of hands-on help. Teaching assistants are assigned to classes – typically students who already excelled in the class and are ready to share their knowledge.

The other is a student advisement program. You’ll be assigned a faculty adviser with whom you’ll meet at least four times over the year, checking in on how it’s going, helping to plan your classes, and guiding you as you look to your future as a legal professional.

Says Brown, “In Buffalo, we don’t leave you on your own.”

Here is how you’ll SUCCEED FROM DAY ONE
DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Juris Doctor Degree
The Juris Doctor is the basic U.S. law degree, and is held by the vast majority of practicing U.S. lawyers, as well as business people, policy makers, academics and people in other walks of life. A comprehensive range of optional programs and concentrations will distinguish you in the global marketplace.

The Advanced Standing Two-Year J.D. for Internationally Trained Lawyers
This innovative program is intended for students who already hold a law degree from a jurisdiction outside the United States, who would like to earn a Juris Doctor degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law, and who want to seek admission to the New York State Bar. You will be a part of the J.D. class but with advanced standing so that you can finish your J.D. degree in just two years.

The General LL.M. Program
The General LL.M. Program allows lawyers who have demonstrated success in their legal education, their practice, or both, to create individualized programs designed to take their careers to the next level. Many General LL.M. students use the degree to satisfy jurisdictional requirements for the admission of foreign-trained lawyers to practice law, including those of the New York Board of Law Examiners and the National Committee on Accreditation in Canada.

The Criminal Law LL.M. Program
Building on our strength in the interdisciplinary study of criminal law, we offer one of the only post-professional programs in the United States devoted exclusively to the study of criminal law. Our Criminal Law LL.M. Program has attracted lawyers from all over the world who intend to teach, do policy work, or work as prosecutors or judges in their home jurisdictions.

The Cross-Border Legal Studies LL.M. Program
The Cross-Border Legal Studies LL.M. Program recognizes the global nature of legal practice and the increasing relevance of skilled attorneys who can guide clients through cross-border interactions. Located just 20 minutes from Canada, the US’s largest trading partner, we are uniquely situated to provide students with exposure to cross-border legal issues both inside and outside the classroom. A strong network of alumni on both sides of the border serve as community partners in the program and informal mentors to our LL.M. students.

The Environmental Law LL.M. Program
Recognizing the increased need for lawyers skilled and knowledgeable in the application of legal principles and techniques to environmental and natural resource problems, we offer a new Environmental Law LL.M. Program. The program is designed to prepare the next generation of global leaders in environmental scholarship, research and public policy through traditional classroom study, experiential learning opportunities, and one-on-one academic advising.
“I always had a passion for the law,” Dwight Jackson says, “and I always knew I wanted to go to law school.”

Making the leap from dream to actuality, though, isn’t always easy.

That’s why Jackson took part in Discover Law, UB School of Law’s intensive four-week summer experience that introduces promising undergraduates to the possibilities of a legal career and gives them a taste of law school life.

For Jackson, who was a rising sophomore and a business administration major at Buffalo State College when he joined the program, that meant soaking up a lot of practical tips on getting into (and succeeding in) law school.

“I grew up watching *Law & Order*, and it was just so interesting to me,” he says. “But Discover Law gave me a broader idea of what law is and what avenues you can pursue with a J.D. Going into the program, I thought it was all about litigation and being in the courtroom. But we met lawyers who were social activists, who worked overseas or in banks – they did so many different things with their legal education. I saw that I can use my business degree and my law degree together.”

It was a jampacked four weeks – they took classes on property law, legal analysis and research; they delivered their best oral arguments at a mock trial competition; they visited courthouses and talked with judges and attorneys.

And it paid off – now Jackson is a member of the School of Law’s Class of 2020, digging into the rigorous first-year curriculum and looking ahead to the school’s New York City Program in Finance and Law.

He’s where he always wanted to be. “Overall, I felt both confident and excited going into law school,” Jackson says. “It’s an unbelievable feeling. I’ve talked about this for a long time, and now it’s really happening.”
$25,410
In-state tuition for 2017

$29,500
Out-of-state tuition for 2017

80%
Incoming students receiving scholarships
Second- and Third-Year Experiences

You’ll finish strong, building a knowledge base that will last your whole life

In your second and third years at UB School of Law, it all comes together. You know how to think like a lawyer. Research like a lawyer. Write like a lawyer. Now it’s time to engage the world of law with all your passion.

That means taking advantage of some of the ways you can build your skills in specialized areas. Like the New York City Program on Finance and Law, in which you spend an intensive semester in the Big Apple learning the high-stakes world of finance from practitioners on the front lines. Like the Advocacy Institute, which focuses instruction in the skills of oral and written advocacy and mediation invaluable for legal practice in any professional situation. Like our Innocence Project, moot court and trial team competitions, externships and clerkships – which enable you to put your newly developed skills into practice. Clinics and other service learning options help real people with their pressing legal needs and provide you with valuable legal experience.

You might find your passion in one of our seven dual degree programs, such as Law and Management, or Law and Social Work, building your expertise and your marketability at the same time. Or maybe you will find yourself drawn to cross-border and international law, another strength of UB School of Law with our unique location on an international border. Our extensive and flexible curriculum makes it easy to craft a course of

187+ Classroom courses beyond the first year
study that’s yours alone. And our diverse faculty and student body makes for a lively exchange of ideas, from class discussions to informal debates in the student lounge.

Underlying all of these options is a commitment we all share: to make the law work for those who need it most, and to work for social justice. The American ideal of equal justice under the law, and equal access to that justice for everyone, is present in everything we do. If you’re committed to that noble ideal, we are right there with you.

10,000+
Hours of non-credit pro bono service provided by our students in 2016–17
When it’s all over, Leighann Ramirez will graduate from the University at Buffalo School of Law with not one degree, but two.

As part of the school’s joint J.D./MSW program, Ramirez is earning both a master’s degree in social work (in conjunction with UB’s well-regarded School of Social Work) and her law degree.

It’s the perfect mix for Ramirez, who was drawn to the law initially by her interest in immigration issues, but now finds herself increasingly involved in working with people troubled by family violence.

“I realized I was passionate about people who are survivors of domestic violence,” says Ramirez, who earned her undergraduate degree in criminal justice in her native New York City. Another motivator: As an intern at a legal resources center, she realized how important it is for attorneys to treat their clients with respect and empathy. She’s also interested in doing social work at a policy level – advocating for change as only lawyers can.

Ramirez spent the summer after her first year of law school working in Washington, D.C., as a legal intern with Ayuda, which provides support services for immigrants, both naturalized and undocumented. There she worked with attorneys on a wide range of legal services related to domestic violence and sexual assault – “lots of protective orders,” she says, as well as matters related to divorce, child custody and other aspects of family law. While there, she also made valuable contacts with members of the law school’s D.C. Alumni Chapter.

She’s looking ahead to the law school’s Pro Bono Scholars program, in which students take the bar exam early and spend what would otherwise be their final semester of law school doing legal work in a non-profit organization.

Why UB School of Law? “Go to a law school that wants you,” Ramirez advises. “You’re going to be there for three intense years – you want to be in a place where you feel comfortable.”

“The Second and Third Years

“Go to a law school that wants you. You’re going to be there for three intense years – you want to be in a place where you feel comfortable.”

58% Women in incoming class

25 Average age of incoming class

21% Ethnic diversity across all programs
In real-world cases, doing real good

Her commitment to human rights convinced Jessica Gill that she needed to become a lawyer. But working on behalf of real people in need – that’s where lofty ideals make a real difference.

Gill is in her second semester as a student attorney with UB School of Law’s Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic. The clinic – a course that offers opportunities for hands-on legal service – defends individuals’ civil rights and presses for greater transparency in government.

It’s where Gill, who also serves as editor in chief of the Buffalo Human Rights Law Review, has hit her stride as an advocate.

“I’ve become much more confident in my own abilities through the clinic,” says Gill, a native of Vancouver, British Columbia. “We are the lawyers on the case. The professor helps when we get stuck, but we’re doing the work.”

That work includes representing a local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America. They’re suing to restrict access to a Department of Defense website that makes it easy to obtain the service records of military veterans – information that scam artists have used to defraud them.

“This is private, privileged information that’s available to everyone,” Gill says, “and these veterans feel threatened. They already have done so much for this country, and this is another thing they have to deal with, the possibility that people will steal their private information and try to take them for all they are worth.”

It’s important work – and rewarding for the camaraderie as well. “They’ve become my second family,” Gill says. “And you develop a unique relationship with your professors. They can provide you with pinpoint feedback because they know you and your abilities. It’s not a cookie cutter process – you actually have someone listening to you and tailoring the course to you.”

“I’ve become much more confident in my own abilities through the clinic. We are the lawyers on the case. The professor helps when we get stuck, but we’re doing the work.”
The Second and Third Years

How to distinguish yourself in the marketplace –
BY DIGGING DEEPER

Selecting one of seven optional curricular concentrations and programs will deepen your understanding of the work lawyers do and train you how to approach complex legal problems. You will be equipped to work on major problems and transactions from the start of your legal career.

**Concentrations** consist of a sequence of required and elective courses selected from a substantial menu of course offerings in the chosen field. **Programs** are designated in fields in which the law faculty offers an exceptional degree of strength and expertise and a rich variety of courses. Programs culminate in a small, intensive capstone or senior colloquium course designed to pull together students’ knowledge and experience.

Completion of the requirements of a concentration or program distinguishes the graduate as someone with an unusual level of knowledge and mastery in the field.

**CURRICULAR CONCENTRATIONS**

**Criminal Law**

With a blend of lecture courses, seminars, practice and simulations, students acquire a wide variety of skills in the practical and theoretical aspects of modern criminal law.

**Cross-Border Legal Studies**

This concentration capitalizes on our border location to provide students with classroom and on-the-ground exposure to a wide range of cross-border legal issues including those relating to international business transactions, immigration, international trade and tax. Students choose four courses from a wide variety of offerings, and also complete a capstone experiential course which pairs them with local alumni to gain experience in cross-border legal work.

**Family Law**

The concentration in family law introduces students to the breadth of family law with three required courses: Family Law, Domestic Violence Law, and Children and the Law. Through additional elective courses and practice experiences, students round out their education in the family law area. The final writing project provides students with an opportunity to explore more deeply an issue in family law under the guidance of faculty.

**Intellectual Property Law**

The law is evolving to address rapid changes in technology, from computers and e-commerce to copyright, trademark and patents. In this concentration, students examine issues of ownership, use and control of technological innovations, information and knowledge.

**International Law**

Lawyers must understand and interpret events in countries that may have different legal systems. This concentration prepares students for careers in private or public international law. Traveling seminars offer students the opportunity to observe foreign legal systems in their native setting under expert faculty guidance. International externships are also available.
How to learn from EXPERIENCE

The Advocacy Institute and our extensive Clinical Legal Education Program will give you an opportunity to develop and sharpen your practical legal skills through the guidance of distinguished members of the local bar and bench.

ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

In popular Trial Advocacy technique classes, students prepare and try a civil or criminal case under the tutelage of highly experienced trial lawyers. For the Appellate Advocacy segment, all students begin their training during the Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Program. After extensive preparation, they make a formal appellate argument before a panel of judges.

UB School of Law runs three national moot court competitions – the Buffalo Niagara Mock Trial Competition, one of the largest in the nation; the Herbert J. Wechsler National Criminal Moot Court Competition; and the Albert R. Mugel National Tax Moot Court Competition – as well as the intramural Charles S. Desmond Moot Court Competition. Students also compete in Alternative Dispute Resolution competitions, in the increasingly important areas of mediation and arbitration, as well as on teams that compete in national mediation competitions, and in an annual in-house mediation competition.

In the Innocence and Justice Project, second- and third-year students identify cases in which there is a strong evidence of miscarriage of justice and press the case for redress.

CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our clinics offer diverse and sophisticated practice opportunities to upper-class and LL.M. students working closely with skilled supervising attorneys. Our clinical offerings involve cutting-edge issues and complex matters in which creativity and innovation play key roles in serving clients effectively.

Choose from:

• Animal Law
• Civil Liberties and Transparency
• Community Justice
• Environmental Advocacy
• Family Violence & Women’s Rights
• Health Justice Law & Policy
• Mediation
**PRACTICA**

Students may enroll in a practicum course, in which they combine study of a substantive area under a full-time professor with service learning alongside practicing lawyers.

**EXTERNSHIPS AND JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS**

Law students work for academic credit in a variety of government and nonprofit organizations. Options include dozens of possible judicial clerkships, legislative externships, and other non-profit and government work. Most are in Western New York, but the option to arrange summer externships means students have worked in Rochester, Philadelphia, New York City, Chicago, Seattle and overseas.

**PRO BONO SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Students are required to perform 50 hours of pro bono legal service as a prerequisite to admission to the New York State bar. Our highly competitive Pro Bono Scholars Program gives select third-year law students the opportunity to take the New York State Bar Exam in February before they graduate. They then work full time in a pro bono placement during their final semester of law school, where they explore access to justice issues while developing their lawyering skills and fulfilling their service requirement.

**DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Many of our students simultaneously pursue both the J.D. degree and a Ph.D or master’s degree. There are several advantages. First is the opportunity to acquire a broad understanding of the functions of law in society by integrating different disciplinary perspectives. Second, students can count some courses toward both programs and reduce the total time required to earn both degrees by up to a year.

- Law and Management Program (J.D./MBA)
- Law and Social Work Program (J.D./MSW)
- Law and Applied Economics Program (J.D./MA)
- Law and Ph.D Program
- Law and Doctor of Pharmacy Program (J.D./PharmD)
- Law and Urban Planning Program (J.D./MUP)
- Law and Legal Information Management and Analysis Program (J.D./MS)

**CENTERS**

**Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy**

Established in 1978, the Baldy Center serves as a focal point for interdisciplinary research and teaching. Although the center primarily supports interdisciplinary research by faculty in law and the social sciences, some activities are aimed at UB School of Law students. These activities include public lectures and events on topics ranging from regulatory policy, technology and comparative or international issues to family law, gender and social policy, and law and religion.

The Center also offers popular interdisciplinary seminars that cross the traditional boundaries between law and economics, literature, political science, anthropology, sociology and religion.

Baldy fellowships bring scholars from around the world to develop their ideas and research in dialogue with our faculty and students.
**Buddhism Law and Society Center**
The Buddhism Law and Society Center facilitates the study of Buddhism and its many social and legal manifestations. It also publishes *Buddhism, Law & Society*, the first interdisciplinary academic journal to focus on Buddhist law and the relationship between Buddhism, law and society.

**Buffalo Criminal Law Center**
The Buffalo Criminal Law Center provides students and scholars with a one-of-a-kind platform for in-depth study of domestic, international and comparative criminal law. The center organizes important academic events, hosts visiting scholars and promotes the convergence of common law and civil law approaches to criminal justice.

**Buffalo Human Rights Center**
The Buffalo Human Rights Center fosters coursework, research and scholarship in human rights. It maintains cooperative links worldwide with human rights organizations, human rights programs in other universities, think tanks, and governmental and quasi-governmental agencies interested in human rights. The center organizes speaker series, conferences and symposia with leading scholars and practitioners of human rights from around the world. It also arranges student internships with leading human rights organizations in this country and abroad.

**Cross-Border Legal Studies Center**
The center takes educational advantage of Buffalo’s location on the Canadian border to provide opportunities for learning about cross-border legal practice. It works closely with our alumni to introduce students to a range of practice opportunities including international commercial transactions, immigration, tax and international trade.

**Economic Justice Studies Project**
The Economic Justice Studies Project provides opportunities for scholars and students of law, economics and other disciplines to come together with policy makers and advocates to explore and confront contemporary challenges of law, economics and policy, including inequality, instability, environmental sustainability and economic development.

**Edwin F. Jaeckle Center for Law, Democracy and Governance**
The Jaeckle Center focuses on the ways in which law, politics and principles of democratic self-governance intersect at the state and local levels. The center takes on pressing contemporary questions relating to the distribution of power between public and private stakeholders; the structure and operation of democratic institutions and processes at the subnational level; the relationships among place, citizenship and identity; and regional questions of distribitional justice.

**EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS**
Our diverse clubs, associations, societies, boards and activities provide students an opportunity to contribute time and talent in ways that are both personally and professionally gratifying. Participation becomes a vital avenue of self-expression and socializing.

**Here are some of the ways ...**
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Buffalo Environmental Law Society
- Buffalo Moot Court Board
- Buffalo Public Interest Law Program
- Buffalo Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Domestic Violence Task Force
- Family and Children’s Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Finance and Law Society
- Frederick Douglass Moot Court Board
- Future Advocates in Training
- Holistic Law Group
- International Law Students Association
- Jessup International Moot Court Board
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Latin American Law Students Association
- National Lawyers Guild
- Native American Law Students Association
- OUTLaw
- Phi Alpha Delta
- Philosophy and Law Society
- Student Bar Association
- Trial Advocacy Group
- Women of UB School of Law
A winding path to the courtroom

Jake Eckenrode never thought he’d become a lawyer. He didn’t want to sit behind a desk.

As an undergraduate, he studied kinesiology, but eventually he decided against going to chiropractic school. He spent a couple of years teaching Krav Maga, a martial arts discipline developed by the Israeli military, but found that he really needed more intellectual challenge.

Serendipity can be magic. Through his classes he met a number of attorneys; they got to talking, and he discovered that there’s more than one way to be a lawyer.

Trial work, for one—and trial lawyers get out from behind the desk sometimes. “You get activity and communication in there along with research and learning,” Eckenrode says. “I realized I wanted that challenge.”

Now, as a UB School of Law student, Eckenrode has thrown himself into learning the intricacies of trial advocacy. Through the school’s Advocacy Institute, which comprises trial, appellate and mediation courses and competitions, he tried out for and won a place on the law school’s Trial Team, where students represent the school in competitions nationwide.

“There are a lot of different paths that you can take at UB,” he says, “and there is a lot of support for people interested in trial work.”

Eckenrode followed that passion into his first year summer job, interning with Erie County Court Judge Thomas P. “Tim” Franczyk, co-director of the School of Law’s trial advocacy programs. “I learned so much,” he says, “watching courtroom procedure, the ways the lawyers interact with each other and with the judge, how they approach the case.”

A Western New York native, Eckenrode also knows that the collegiality of the local bar is something special—and it’s reflected in the UB School of Law experience.

“The community is a big reason to go to UB,” he says. “You hear a lot of horror stories about competition in law school and how cutthroat it is. But it’s not like that at all at UB—it’s a welcoming community. It feels like we’re all in it to get each other where we want to be.”
With alumni connections and new-found confidence, you’re poised to be the best

Your connection with the University at Buffalo School of Law doesn’t end at graduation. Our alumni are fiercely loyal to their alma mater, and they want to stay connected – both to the law school and to new alums making their way in the legal world.

That means you can expect guidance, mentorship and connection with some of the best lawyers you could ever hope to meet. They will help you find your place, whether it’s in the Western New York legal community, in New York City, Washington, D.C., or abroad, and whether your passion is for non-profits, for corporate work or for the courtroom.

We are proud of our extraordinary alumni, who are thought leaders in so many areas of public concern, as well as prominent leaders in the area and state legal communities. Our Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Group takes a special interest in our newly minted alumni, helping you to bridge the gap between school and practice. Once you’re established, school-sponsored Continuing Legal Education seminars help keep your skills up to date in a rapidly changing profession.

Make no mistake: our extensive alumni network and exceptional value will give you every advantage in beginning your career. We’re proud that our relatively low tuition and generous scholarship support mean...
that you will graduate without crippling law school debt. That makes it possible to pursue your passion – you won’t be boxed into chasing lucrative corporate positions because of those monthly payments that amount to a mortgage, but without the house.

A life in the law can be immensely gratifying. Lawyers earn a good living and they have career flexibility, including the freedom to serve their community in volunteer positions. And increasingly, the legal profession is recognizing the need for a healthy balance between work and family.

Just maybe that life is for you.

250+
Alumni who are members of the judiciary
Graduation and Beyond

‘I love seeing those moments of success’

“I’m exactly where I was hoping to be,” says Karen M. Andolina Scott.

Who could ask for anything more?

Scott, a 2009 graduate of the School of Law’s joint program in law and social work, is executive director of Journey’s End Refugee Services, in Buffalo, which each year serves as many as 500 refugees seeking to make their home in the United States. Scott practiced immigration law in a firm and with Journey’s End, serving as managing attorney, before she accepted the top job. Now she oversees administration, programs and the agency’s strategic plan, and is the public face of Journey’s End to the community.

The Journey’s End legal services department has six staff attorneys, supplemented with School of Law externs and a few volunteer lawyers. They serve low-income clients who are applying for permanent residency and naturalization, or fighting deportation.

Her legal training still pays off, Scott says, “in thinking about ways to approach a problem, I make sure I look at every possible outcome. In advocating for our clients and agency staff, it’s certainly useful to know to put your strongest argument first, and to look at counterarguments and be prepared for those.”

It can be difficult work, she acknowledges; refugees and other immigrants often come with tragic personal stories that need to be documented. But the impact of the work is its own reward.

“I hope to be able to educate people on what the refugee process is, who refugees are, how they benefit our community, and show that refugees want to work, want to bring their families here, want to become citizens,” Scott says. “For the clients themselves, I love seeing those moments of success when we have been able to reunite families, or watch clients or staff members become citizens and now feel that they are a part of something again. It’s truly remarkable work.”
‘The NYC Program on Finance and Law is the best tool that UB offers’

Wall Street. If you’re drawn to the glamour, and the pressure, of working in the nation’s financial capital, those two words ring with excitement and possibility.

But how to get a foot in the door?

For Michael Aures-Cavalieri, who graduated from the School of Law in 2014, the key was the school’s New York City Program on Finance and Law. It introduced him to the rarefied world of high finance and taught him skills he uses every day as a derivatives attorney and assistant vice president of global equities at the global investment bank Deutsche Bank Securities.

Ever since, he's bullish on this intensive semester-long experience, which is unique to UB School of Law.

“Finance is a broad category,” Cavalieri says. “It includes any type of legal work that involves secured transactions, corporate work, mergers and acquisitions, and compliance or regulatory work, among other things. The program allows you to learn about transactions and interact with documents, but it also gives you a full view and broader perspective on the markets in which these transactions operate. Instead of being buried in textbooks for the semester, you’ll be taught by practitioners from some of the biggest and most prestigious investment firms in the country – people who really live in the financial law sector every day.

That experience alone was much more valuable to me than anything I've ever read in a casebook.

“But the program is also ideal for anyone interested in working in New York after graduation – you don’t need to have a finance background to derive value from it. It’s really good for anyone who wants to get hands-on project experience with big firms and big companies. There is a very successful group of UB alumni working in New York, and this program is the best tool that UB offers for growing your professional network there.

“And hey, if none of that appeals to you, at least you get to spend a semester hanging out in Manhattan, which is really fun, too!”
Graduation and Beyond

How to earn a J.D. with more ROI and less IOU

CAREER PLACEMENT

Our graduates are practicing in the most prominent law firms and public interest settings across the nation and around the world, as well as holding leadership positions in all levels of government.

Transitioning to practice: Career guidance services include resume and interview workshops, practice interviews, teleconferencing and career panels.

Mentoring programs: Our wide-ranging mentoring program has drawn national attention in National Jurist magazine. Each member of the J.D. first-year class is matched with one of more than 200 mentors who are practicing lawyers or judges, and the relationship is expected to continue throughout their law school years. The National Career Network Program gives second- and third-year students access to an extensive national and international network of alumni geared toward career development.

A focus on public interest: As part of a public law school, our faculty and students value government and public interest work. Each year, our graduates are employed in public interest and government organizations at a rate that is two to three times the national average. Each summer UB School of Law’s Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, along with other organizations and sponsors, provides substantial stipends to exceptionally qualified and committed students who will intern at highly regarded organizations in the public sector.

82%

Employed within 10 months after graduation
GUIDANCE FOR GETTING IN

Our admission process is selective and is based on both quantitative and qualitative criteria. The qualitative criteria we use are:

• Achievements or activities that indicate a high probability of scholastic excellence and intellectual contributions in law school.

• Achievements or activities arising from work, life experience or community service that indicate a potential for contributing to the enrichment of the School of Law.

• Special factors in your background that may have impeded your educational opportunities, including discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability or national origin; and special economic or social impediments.

UB School of Law is committed to a non-discriminatory admission policy and philosophy. We welcome applications from all persons, without regard to age, gender, race, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, military status or disability.

The Admissions Committee uses a rolling admission process.

Application files are reviewed as soon as they are complete. Initial admission decisions are communicated to applicants throughout the fall and spring semesters depending on the degree program.

Early Decision for the 3 Year J.D. Program

Applicants who are interested in Early Decision must submit a complete application by Nov. 15. The School of Law will complete the review process by Dec. 15.

Successful Early Decision candidates may not initiate any new law school applications, must decline any acceptances they may have received prior to admission to UB School of Law and must immediately withdraw other applications once notified of their UB School of Law acceptance in December. Failure to honor these commitments will result in UB School of Law revoking its offer of admission.

All Early Decision applicants will receive a decision by Dec. 15. If an applicant is denied during the Early Decision process, his or her application will not be reconsidered during the regular admission cycle.

2nd out of all 15 law schools in New York State for lowest average debt per graduate
At Buffalo, you’ll learn well, earn well and live well

Studying at the University at Buffalo School of Law, you will not only have a top-quality education, you will have a top-quality life.

And Buffalo is the good life. Western New York has some of the best quality of life you’ll find anywhere. It is a place with a blue-collar work ethic but a 21st century sensibility. A place where folks debate where to go for the best chicken wings, and get some on their way to a world-class art gallery. A place with a vibrant music scene, whether your taste runs to the latest indie artists or the renowned Buffalo Philharmonic. A place with incredible architecture, history, parks, recreation, restaurants and nightlife. Not to mention college (go Bulls!) and pro (go Bills! Go Sabres!) sports.

And by the way, it’s a four-season climate with an average of 155 sunny days a year and a recent history of beautifully mild winters.

Buffalo is also New York State’s second-largest city, and that means opportunities to witness and even work with federal and state courts and agencies, all within a 20-minute drive (or a quick bus or Uber ride) from campus. The School of Law prides itself on its closeness with the local legal community, affording unparalleled opportunities for you to build relationships and see the law in action.
The University at Buffalo, part of the well-regarded State University of New York system, is a major public research university. That puts amazing resources, including extensive libraries and faculty in a wide range of disciplines, within reach as you explore the intellectual underpinnings of law.

And we’re proud of the long and distinguished tradition that our law school represents. For 130 years, we’ve trained new lawyers who have both effective practical skills and a deep understanding of the social and political forces that make the law what it is today.

At Buffalo, you’ll learn well, earn well and live well.
The Buffalo Community

A fiercely loyal alumni network

After three intense years of law school, you might think the last thing you’d want to do is look back.

But like most UB School of Law alumni, Anne Joynt ’05 not only looks back a lot – she reaches back. One of many alumni who keep in close touch with current students, Joynt has been president of the Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Group, which helps new grads bridge the gap between school and legal practice. Now she’s vice president of the UB Law Alumni Association, connecting thousands of alums worldwide, in addition to her community service as president of the Western New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York.

In part that’s how she nurtures the lifelong friendships from her time on campus. And, she says, the UB connection pays off: It was a professor who recommended her to the Buffalo law firm Lipsitz & Ponterio, where she is now a junior partner and a rising star in the legal community.

“There are so many things a new lawyer needs to know,” says Joynt, who also serves as a professional mentor to UB School of Law students. “Being a young female associate, especially, is a unique role, so I try to address that with my mentees.

“The UB alumni network is such a strong one, and I still interact regularly with people I went to law school with. Sometimes I oppose them in cases, sometimes we’re on the same side. I see them in board meetings or around the community. As a graduate of the School of Law, you instantly make lifelong connections.”

Buffalo is close to where you want to go

By bus, train, car or air, you’re less than 90 minutes from some of North America’s most exciting cities, including Toronto, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

“650+ Alumni named “Super Lawyers”
OUR LOCATION

We are located on the State University of New York at Buffalo’s North Campus, approximately 11 miles northeast of downtown Buffalo and 19 miles southeast of Niagara Falls, on 1,192 acres of land in suburban Amherst, N.Y. Within a 500-mile radius of Niagara Falls reside 55 percent of the population of the United States and 62 percent of the population of Canada. Within this area you will find many of the two nations’ major metropolitan areas, among them Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New York City and Boston.

UB School of Law is unique as a premier public law school because it is situated on the campus of a world-class research-intensive public university in a city densely packed with legal institutions. Within downtown Buffalo you will find United States District Court, United States Immigration Court, Buffalo City Court, United States Bankruptcy Court, New York State Supreme Court, Erie County Court, Buffalo City Court, Family Court and Integrated Domestic Violence Court. We are committed to helping you forge relationships not only with professors, but also with private practitioners, public officials at the local, county, state and federal levels, and advocates working in numerous non-governmental organizations in the Buffalo Niagara region and across the state.

Internationally renowned speakers offer their perspectives

Recently, our university has hosted U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Antonin Scalia, President Barack Obama, former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga, former Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan, the Dalai Lama, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, as well as former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter, George Bush and Bill Clinton, all spoke to our students. Former Secretary General of Amnesty International Irene Khan taught international human rights for a semester.

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Come see UB School of Law for yourself. Please contact the Office of Admissions for details about applying, our academic offerings and facilities, or to schedule a tour.

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