

SUNY BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL • THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

W I N T E R 2 0 1 2

# SUNY BUFFALO LAW PHILANTHROPY



Shhhhhhhh!!!  
(We're in our quiet phase!)



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On the cover, members of the Campaign Steering Committee:

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Opening doors for the next 125 years  
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## MESSAGE FROM DEAN MUTUA

# Investing in the next 125 years

**A**nniversaries are a great occasion to take stock, give thanks and plan for the future, and ours is no exception. This year, we celebrate the 125th anniversary of our Law School's founding – a momentous occasion that kicked off in September with a once-in-a-lifetime party at Hotel @ The Lafayette in Buffalo. Over 1,000 of our closest alumni and friends joined us to celebrate the event. The outpouring of affection for the Law School left us speechless but, above all, thankful for the wonderful community that is SUNY Buffalo Law.

Your dedication to the Law School is the hallmark that distinguishes us from other schools. Despite the downturn in the economy, so many of you have remained steadfast and loyal supporters, actually increasing your support at a time when resources are more scarce and competition for those resources has grown. Your support has enabled us to move ahead, hiring 17 new faculty members with star potential, expanding signature programs like our Legal Analysis Research and Writing (LAWR) Program, installing state-of-the-art technology in our classrooms, and providing additional scholarship funds to attract stellar students.

Again this year, we matriculated another impressive class of students, which is especially remarkable because applications are down 25 percent nationwide. This was possible thanks largely to the greater number of scholarships we were able to award – scholarships that your support made possible.

Your wonderful generosity has enabled us to reach this point in our history, and I thank all of you most sincerely for your support. As we be-



Dean Makau W. Mutua with UB President Satish K. Tripathi at the 125th anniversary celebration.

*“Your dedication to the Law School is the hallmark that distinguishes us from other schools.”*

—Dean Makau W. Mutua

gin our next 125 years, your continued support is more vital than ever. We have made great progress, to be sure. But we have further to go. Investing in our faculty, in our students, in our programs and in our facility remain our key priorities. Endowed faculty chairs and professorships, program expansion, student scholarships and excellent facilities are what we need to compete and thrive, and your generosity will continue to be crucial in helping us achieve those goals. And, to get there, we will soon be announcing our largest fundraising initiative ever, which will launch this spring.

In the coming months, you will be hearing more about our campaign and our plans for the future. There is

much momentum building and a sense of excitement as we enter this new chapter at the Law School. Your support will make the difference, and I hope each of you will remain committed, get more involved and continue your investment in our bright future.

With my gratitude and best wishes to each of you for a wonderful and joyous holiday season,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Makau Mutua".



## LEADERSHIP GIVING

# Many miles, many years

*Atlanta litigator Brent L. Wilson '76 seeks to promote his alma mater*

**B**rent Wilson was in his first year at the University of Georgia Law School when his wife, Trojanell, got a job at Xerox Corp. in Rochester. So there was a choice to be made: He could drive east every day to a private law school in Syracuse, or drive west to Buffalo and the SUNY system's only public law school.

He knew that SUNY Buffalo Law "had a stellar tradition" of educating future lawyers barred from attending law school in the segregated South, and it was clear that the school recognized the value of educating minority attorneys, so the drive west was a clear choice. He put a lot of miles on that old car, stayed over with friends sometimes when the class schedule demanded it, and graduated in 1976.

Thus began Wilson's long association with SUNY Buffalo Law School, one that has continued with his service since 2004 on the Dean's Advisory Council and now with a major gift to support diversity scholarships at the school.

"I have pride in the institution," says Wilson, who practices mostly labor and employment law litigation as a partner in the Atlanta law firm Elarbee, Thompson, Sapp & Wilson. "I wanted to become a lawyer, and Buffalo provided me with an opportunity. I received a quality education at the Law School. It allowed me to go into the profession that I desired and to do relatively well, and I felt that I owed a debt of gratitude to the institution.



*"As you grow older, you want the institutions that you are affiliated with to be appropriately recognized. The only way that happens is when alumni support those institutions."*

*— Brent Wilson '76*

"As you grow older, you want the institutions that you are affiliated with to be appropriately recognized. The only way that happens is when alumni support those institutions."

Because Wilson's \$100,000 gift is structured over a period of years, it helps to provide the Law School with a stable element in planning its scholarship budget. Brent Wilson Scholars will be chosen based on financial need

and membership in a racial or ethnic group traditionally underrepresented in the legal community.

He says he is sold on the idea that more scholarship support equals an improved student body, and thus better recognition for his alma mater.

"The dean has a vision to elevate the Law School to a more competitive position in comparison with other nationally ranked law schools in the United States," Wilson says. "In order to do that, it is necessary to attract a certain kind of student who has options to go to other institutions. If you can make it desirable for that student to attend Buffalo because you are able to provide some scholarship assistance, that helps us in attracting that student. And it helps us to change the footprint of an institution that, albeit well recognized in Western New York, is coming to be better recognized nationally and even internationally."

In addition to his work on the DAC, Wilson has spoken to SUNY Buffalo Law students in small-group and mentoring events, and knows that reputation plays a large role in how students

choose a law school. He also says he has been "just blown away by the quality of the professors who are leaving high-ranking institutions in much more desirable climate conditions to come to Buffalo and teach. It has been very rewarding and exciting to see the educational and professional backgrounds of the faculty we have been attracting."



# Investing in excellence

## *Christopher J. O'Brien's gift grows from his work in trial advocacy*

Christopher J. O'Brien has invested countless hours in the Law School's Trial Advocacy Program, which he co-directs with Judge Thomas P. Franczyk, and in the trial technique courses he has taught for 15 years. Now, with a \$100,000 gift to provide scholarships for future trial attorneys, he is investing in the strength of those programs – and the future health of the Western New York bar.

The hope, he says, is that the support will go to “a second-year student who has already competed on a couple of trial teams and who might be thinking, ‘I really have to get a job in the third year; I can’t afford to be involved in the trial program.’ Hopefully this will allow them to rethink that.”

O'Brien says the gift recognizes “the Law School administration’s focus on and dedication to training lawyers who are ready to practice the day they pass the bar. Certainly the trial program is a critical part of that.”

The gift also honors O'Brien's late father, Gerard J. O'Brien '52, who had a long and successful career as a civil trial lawyer in Western New York. “He worked his way through high school and through two years at Canisius College,” Christopher O'Brien says. “Back then you could go to law school after two years of college and get a bachelor of laws degree. Law school was a different world then. You'd start the year with 150 students, and at the end of that year 50 students would be expelled; they'd only keep the top 100.”

“Now the thinking is that if we admit you, we're making a commitment to you, and we're going to provide the



*“The only way the Law School gets better is if we have the financial means to do it.”*

– Christopher J. O'Brien

resources and assistance you need to graduate.”

O'Brien got his own legal training at Washington & Lee University School of Law, in Virginia, but he has poured himself into the work of SUNY Buffalo Law.

“I really look forward to teaching,” he says. “I get great joy out of it; it's never work for me. And it helps me do my job better, because when I've got a law student asking me why I ask a question a certain way, it makes me think about it and ask myself, what's the better way to do it?”

Consistent with his father's insistence on ethical conduct and professional collegiality, O'Brien says trial technique students get a healthy dose of ethics as part of their training.

“We teach them how to argue ethically,” he says. “There are schools we compete against that don't always follow the rules of the competition; they tend to go outside of the fact pattern and argue improperly. We teach our students that you never sink to that level – that we are SUNY Buffalo and

we are held to a higher level. My hope is that these lessons will stay with the students throughout their careers.”

O'Brien encourages lawyers in other areas of specialty to donate in support of those areas. “The only way the Law School gets better is if we have the financial means to do it,” he says. “President [Satish K.] Tripathi and Dean Mutua made a commitment to make development a priority, and the faculty have supported it. When you look at some of the endowments of the private schools, they have far more money in scholarships to distribute. President Tripathi has said we need to have a great increase in the number of endowed chairs as well, and that's something I would ask the alumni to consider.”



# Firm invests in future lawyers

## *Phillips Lytle LLP commits to additional new scholarships*

A Buffalo-based law firm that has long sponsored diversity scholarships at the Law School is adding to that support by funding a new series of merit scholarships.

The firm, Phillips Lytle LLP, says that its new commitment of \$90,000 is intended to help the school attract and retain the highest-quality students, who presumably also are courted by other law schools with significant endowment-based scholarships. The commitment is for two scholarships for members of the incoming

Class of 2015 and two more each for the Classes of 2016 and 2017. The firm will fund the scholarships for all three years of legal training for all recipients.

"We've always been a very community-oriented organization that is willing to sup-

port causes important to the community," says David J. McNamara, the firm's managing partner. "We are impressed by Dean Mutua's efforts to elevate the stature of the Law School and its reputation by attracting top students and faculty, and we are committed to supporting those efforts through the new Phillips Lytle Scholars program and our many other activities at the Law School."

The scholarships are funded for three years, McNamara says, not only to attract great students who will be-



David J. McNamara and Earl K. Cantwell '14

come Phillips Lytle Scholars but to discourage them from being lured with scholarships to transfer to other law schools once they've started at SUNY Buffalo.

The gift, he says, is an investment not only in the Law School itself but in the larger legal community. "If the Law School is successful in attracting the very top candidates for the school, that will inure to our benefit down the road in many ways," McNamara says. "We have many SUNY Buffalo Law alumni in our firm now. The reputation of the school and the quality of its student body is very important to them, and it's very important to the community. Anything we can do to enable the dean to further his cause of enhancing the reputation and quality of the school down the road, we would like to do."

Since the mid-1990s, Phillips Lytle has funded scholarships at the Law School designed to make the student

population more diverse. The scholarships help put a law school education within reach for students from racial and ethnic groups that traditionally have been underrepresented in the legal community.

All of this support, McNamara says, is in service to Western New York. "We need to assess the importance of the quality of the Law School not only to the legal community but to the community at large," he says. "It does the community little good to have a law school if that law school doesn't have a reputation for being an excellent law school, and that's what we're trying to further."

*"We are impressed by Dean Mutua's efforts to elevate the stature of the Law School and its reputation."*

—David J. McNamara  
Managing Partner  
Phillips Lytle LLP



# Legacy of inspiration

*Her grandmother's gentle wisdom inspires foundation's gift*

**T**he influence of a remarkable grandmother – one who believed that every person was extraordinary in some way – lives on at SUNY Buffalo Law School, thanks to a gift from the Change Create Transform Foundation.

The foundation, a philanthropic initiative created by Vikki L. Pryor '78, has established the Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize, in memory of her grandmother. The new gift will fund the award through 2020. The scholarship award, intended for a second-year law student, is part of a series of such prizes through which the foundation seeks to develop a network of scholars. Recipients are expected to mentor and develop the next generation of leaders, promote learning and scholarship, and give back to their community and school.

"We all know the importance of having a support network," says Pryor, who has years of experience as a successful single mom, lawyer, business executive and CEO. "Life can be isolating, with all the technology and busyness of our lives. This is a way of deepening the lives of the scholars who are part of the Promise Prize network."

Pryor's grandmother, Marie Nesbitt, was born in 1917 as a great-granddaughter of slaves, and though she had limited formal education, she inspired her family and friends "to reach for the stars by doing their best, to trust in God, to stand up for what they believe in, and most of all, to never give up."



*"Our institutions need our help; our young people need our help. They need to see leadership in action. They need to see our involvement in a real way."*

– Vikki L. Pryor '78

"My grandmother had an important voice, as all people do," Pryor says. "The Promise Prize scholarship is a way to help bring her voice to life. It is important that we give support to people to find their voice, in order to unleash their genius and potential. This is what education is about."

Promise Prizes are also awarded at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Bronx Community College, the University of Iowa and Project GRAD, a program in Newark, N.J., that supports public education and works to increase graduation rates. Recipients are selected on the basis of high scholastic achievement, outstanding character and exceptional promise.

In reflecting on her law school years, Pryor – who serves on the Dean's Advisory Council as well as on the steering committee of the school's current capital campaign – says, "The Law School was an important part of my life and my development. Buffalo is a very welcoming community, and

SUNY Buffalo offers a great-quality education. It's the kind of institution that ensures that people like me, with my background, can get an education that's within reach of working people and the average person."

Which is not to say that her time in Buffalo was problem-free. "We all had our ups and downs, positive things and things we didn't like about our experience," Pryor says. "But the reason we're giving is that we love the school. I would encourage alumni to look at their education in a balanced way and consider giving back because of the difference it can make in the lives of so many. Our institutions need our help; our young people need our help. They need to see leadership in action. They need to see our involvement in a real way."

# Sticking with the home team

*DAC scholar Benjamin Nelson '15 wants to impact people in Buffalo*

Members of the Law School's Dean's Advisory Council – the high-profile, high-powered alumni who work with Dean Makau W. Mutua to help set strategy for the school – come from far and wide. But this year's recipient of the scholarship they funded with their individual donations is a Western New York native who plans to use his considerable talents toward Buffalo's renaissance.

Benjamin Nelson grew up in Orchard Park and studied English literature at the University of Chicago. He comes from a family of SUNY Buffalo lawyers – his father, David Nelson '82, practices in the Wyoming County village of Attica, and his late mother, Mary Good '76, was in private practice as well. But he was in no hurry to launch into law school himself. After graduating from Chicago in 2007, he stuck around, worked in the university library and considered earning a master's in library science.

But, Nelson says, "I was looking for some sort of graduate schooling that would let me be more engaged politically and with the community. Even though I was living outside of Buffalo, I kept hearing good things about community revitalization in Buffalo and how people could come in and pretty quickly have a lot of influence on making this a better place to live."

That has shown itself already in his work with the Public Accountability Initiative on the city's West Side. The group, Nelson says, looks at how power is exercised both locally and nationally, following the money to understand the circles of influence at work, many of which operate outside of elected government. In his work with the organization, he conducted re-



*"When I get out of Law School, I want to do whatever has the most tangible impact on people in Buffalo. I'm committed to staying here and not taking it elsewhere."*

– Benjamin Nelson '15

search and wrote policy papers on such topics as the ways in which corporations reduced their tax liability.

"There are definitely a lot of people my age and younger doing cool things here," says Nelson, who lives in the Elmwood Village, "and a lot of them are Law School graduates."

At the Law School, in addition to the steep climb of required first-year classes, he is serving as outreach coordinator of the National Lawyers Guild chapter. Among the group's projects is organizing free clinics for Buffalo residents at which attorneys dispense advice and information on such topics as tenants' legal rights, the rights of immigrants and the law governing police search and seizure.

Nelson says the DAC scholarship, which is renewable for three years, will keep to a minimum the student loan

debt he will carry when he graduates in 2015.

"I'll have more options to take whatever route I want to, regardless of whether it's immediately financially rewarding, than if I were funding school entirely through loans," he says.

"The less debt I incur, the more I'm able to do some interesting and innovative things, not just take the well-worn path. The DAC scholarship contributes to that flexibility.

"I'm not in it to make a lot of money," he says. "When I get out of Law School, I want to do whatever has the most tangible impact on people in Buffalo. I'm committed to staying here and not taking it elsewhere."



# Dean's Leadership Donor Reception

Left to right: Tim Schulz, Ann E. Evanko '79,  
Susan I. Pleskow '89 and Stephen J. Schop '85



Left to right: Douglas S. Coppola '75,  
Maura Africano and Kenneth W. Africano '85



Left to right: UB Vice  
President Nancy Wells,  
Dennis R.  
McCoy '77  
and Dean  
Mutua



Left to right:  
Lucille A. Dadd  
'04, Thomas E.  
Black '79 and Jeff  
Piscitelli



Left to right: Professor  
Athena Mutua, Cindy  
Abbott Letro and Hon.  
Barbara Howe '80



Hon. Craig  
D. Hannah  
'95 and  
Angela R.  
Reynolds



Beth McCoy and  
Barbara J. Delgross '77



Christopher J. O'Brien and  
Anne E. Joynt '05

Francis M. Letro '79



Andrew  
Feldman  
'68 and  
Alan S.  
Carrel '67



Vice Dean  
Charles  
Patrick  
Ewing and  
Judith A.  
Shanley '92



Marion K. Henderson '65  
and Philip M. Henderson



Dana  
Lewis  
and  
Ellen S.  
Reis





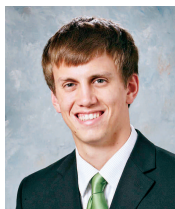
## LEADERSHIP GIVING



**Matthew Eldred '15**  
Harvey L. Kaminski  
Scholar



**Paul Bartlett '15**  
Harvey L. Kaminski  
Scholar



**Marcus Catlin '15**  
Barbara D. Klippert  
Scholar



**Michelle Yeung '15**  
Margaret W. Wong  
Scholar



**Caitlin O'Neil '15**  
Kenneth B. and  
Ellen C. Forrest  
Scholar



**Alexandra Lugo '14**  
Phyllis G. Smith  
Scholar



**Christopher A. Gibson '13**  
Brent L. Wilson  
Scholar



**Jeffrey M. Lewis '14**  
Phillips Lytle  
Scholar



**Maggie Wydysh '15**  
Phillips Lytle  
Scholar



**Cathleen Roemer '13**  
Gerard J. O'Brien  
'52 Trial Excellence  
Scholar



**Vanessa Glushefski '14**  
Marie Nesbitt  
Promise Prize  
Recipient

## Alumni scholarships fund the future

Named scholarships are one way prominent SUNY Buffalo Law School alumni and friends are investing in the future of the school and the next generation of lawyers. A roundup of this year's awardees:

**Matthew Eldred '15** and **Paul Bartlett '15** were awarded the *Harvey L. Kaminski Scholarship*. Eldred, a graduate of Alfred State College, comes to law school following seven years spent working as a land surveyor in New York and Virginia. Bartlett, with UB bachelor's degrees in political science and classics, has interned in the office of U.S. Rep. Brian Higgins.

**Marcus Catlin '15**, who received the *Barbara D. Klippert Scholarship*, studied economics and political science at UB, served in student government and owns a recycling center in Amherst.

**Michelle Yeung '15**, recipient of the *Margaret W. Wong Scholarship*,

has extensive experience as a paralegal, having earned her bachelor's degree in legal assistant studies from the New York City College of Technology, CUNY.

**Caitlin O'Neil '15**, who was awarded the *Kenneth B. and Ellen C. Forrest Scholarship*, majored in anthropology at Mount Holyoke College and, as an intern, created a tutoring program for students in a Buffalo community center.

**Alexandra Lugo '14**, who received the *Phyllis G. Smith Scholarship*, was on the dean's list throughout her undergraduate education at SUNY Fredonia, where she studied psychology and public health.

"I have a passion for both law and business," says **Christopher Gibson '13**, recipient of the *Brent L. Wilson Scholarship*. Gibson has a bachelor's degree in history from Syracuse University and was offensive captain of the Alfred State College football team.

*Phillips Lytle Scholarships* were awarded to **Jeffrey Lewis '14** and **Maggie Wydysh '15**. Lewis, who earned a degree in management from St. John Fisher College, specializes in technology-based marketing such as predictive modeling. Wydysh, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, is a talented violinist who has studied abroad in Athens and Cape Town, South Africa.

The *Gerard J. O'Brien '52 Trial Excellence Scholarship* was awarded to **Cathleen Roemer '13**. A *summa cum laude* graduate of Canisius College, she has interned as a law clerk in the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Erie County Attorney's Office.

And **Vanessa Glushefski '14** received the *Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize*. Glushefski, a Certified Public Accountant, did her undergraduate work in business administration at Baruch College of the City University of New York.



# Scholarships awarded 2011–12

## **Alden-Baldy Scholarship**

Claire H. Fortin '12  
Emily F. Janicz '12  
Michael T. Logan '12  
Cristin L. Murray '12  
Lauren M. Pienkowski '12  
Stephanie M. Poray '12  
Brent C. Seymour '12  
Allison A. Welsh '12

## **Varkis A. Baligian and Hon. Jacqueline M. Koshian Scholarship**

Emily M. Ciulla '12

## **Tom and Bridget Black Scholarship**

William S. Calleri '12  
Patricia L. Cifuentes '12  
Brian M. Eberle '12  
Andrew Kleehammer '12  
Rafael F. Pignataro '12  
Anthony R. Scalia '12

## **Henry W. Box Scholarship**

Kelly Bartley '14  
Kenton G. Cardon '14  
Andrew M. Dean '14  
Alex M. Neurohr '14  
Carla N. Perez '14  
Amanda H. Sullivan '14  
Kevin Yam '14

## **Carole E. Brevorka Scholarship**

Emily A. Dinsmore '14

## **Hon. Frank J. Clark Scholarship**

Eric T. Glynn '13

## **Harold A. Dautch Memorial Scholarship**

Lawrence K. Bice '12  
Ashley M. Fasso '13  
Caitlin M. Higgins '13  
Patrick J. Reinikainen '12  
Tamara S. Wright '12

## **J. Mason Davis Jr. Scholarship**

Rody Damis '12

## **Dean's Advisory Council Scholarship**

Caitlin E. Howe '11

## **Douglas W. Dimitroff Scholarship**

Dainia J. Jabaji '13

## **Frederick C. Ebert Scholarship**

Laurie A. Clark '12

## **Hon. John T. Elfvin Scholarship**

Stephanie M. Poray '12

## **Martin A. Feinrider Scholarship**

Leigh A. Chute '12

## **Ellen and Kenneth Forrest Scholarship**

Stephen G. H. Bennett '12  
Adam J. Dotzler '12  
Benjamin T. Hussong '12  
Jennifer L. Karnes '12  
William A. Lorenz Jr. '12  
Sarah E. Sternick '12

## **Richard E. Gottlieb Scholarship**

Caitlin M. Higgins '13

## **Garry Graber Scholarship**

Tricia M. DeFilipps '14

## **Professor William R. Greiner Scholarship**

Moiria H. Cooper '14

## **Stanley Grossman Scholarship**

Michael R. Aures-Cavalieri '14  
Melissa A. Murphy '14  
Matthew Turetsky '14

## **Charlotte Cunneen Hackett Scholarship**

Debra A. Tredo '14

## **Jacob D. Hyman Scholarship**

Kinsey A. Davidson '13  
Zongyuan Fan '12  
Shatorah N. Roberson '12

## **Harvey L. Kaminski Scholarship**

Andrew J. Spears '12

## **Barbara D. Klippert Scholarship**

Jasmine Paul '12  
Monique A. Tronchin '12

## **John F., Mary A. and Robert J. Lane Scholarship**

Melanie J. Bailey '12  
Daniel T. Hawes '12

## **Norman B. Lewis Scholarship**

Elizabeth A. Lee '14  
Alexandra E. Lugo '14

## **Lipsitz Green Scime & Cambria Scholarship**

Jennifer L. Estleford '13

## **Ira S. Meiselman Scholarship**

Amber A. Angielczyk '14  
Daniel W. DeVoe '14  
Andrew R. Eastham '14  
Christopher Maugans '14

## **Minority Bar Association of Western New York Foundation Bar Support Award**

Monique A. Trochin '12

## **Adelbert Moot Scholarship**

Craig W. Anderson '13  
Alicia M. Bender '13  
Amanda E. Dermady '13  
Frank H. Ewing '12  
Stewart E. Forbes '13  
Alissa M. Fortuna '13  
Andrew Kleehammer '12  
Reg J. Miller '13  
Tyson R. Prince '13  
Nikole M. Wynn '13

## **Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize**

Kenneth L. Bostick '13

## **William M. North and Carolyn B. North Scholarship**

Emily A. Dinsmore '14

## **Joseph P. Peperone Memorial Scholarship**

Krystle T. Bibbins '13  
Ryan P. McCarthy '12

## **Phillips Lytle Scholarship**

Alicia M. Bender '13  
Kenneth L. Bostick '13  
Rody Damis '13  
Franz M. Wright '14

## **Savino-Martin Scholarship**

Mengyi (Melle) Xu '13

## **Matthew J. Schnirel Scholarship**

Stephanie M. Poray '12

## **Phyllis G. Smith Scholarship**

Rebecca M. Guerra '12  
Erica C. Smith '12

## **Carmen P. Tarantino Memorial Scholarship**

Carrie A. Zimbardi '14

## **Hon. Michael A. Telesca Scholarship**

Tarunbir Singh '13

## **SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association Scholarship**

Logan C. Geen '14

## **SUNY Buffalo Law Scholarship**

Monique A. Tronchin '12

## **Vogel Book Scholarship**

Daniel S. Engle '12

## **Mark Jay Weinstein Scholarship**

Ryan P. McCarthy '12  
Karen M. Oddo '12  
Benjamin D. Ritter '12

## **Jacob Weissfeld Scholarship**

Joseph T. Twarog '12

## **Brent L. Wilson Scholarship**

Paul T. Iya '13

## **Margaret W. Wong Scholarship**

Alexander Bouganin '12  
Jonathan P. Cantil '12  
Leigh A. Chute '12  
Laura A. Groschadl '12  
Joseph L. Guza '12  
Floyd M. Huntz '12  
Christina M. Hynes '12  
Daniel P. Kelly '12  
Michael T. Logan '12  
Arthur J. Martorana '12  
Kelly A. O'Brien '12  
Marc D. Rider '12  
Shao Shuai Zheng '12

# Continuing his good work

*Annual award honors the memory of Charles E. Mann '12*



Left to right: Michael Mann '06, Lois Mann, fellowship recipient Meghan Corcoran '13 and Philip Mann

In the panoply of support offered to SUNY Buffalo Law students in their summer public-interest work, a new award perpetuates the memory of a strong BPILP supporter whose life was cut tragically short.

The Charles E. Mann Public Interest Award will be given annually in memory of Mann, a member of the Class of 2012 who died in November 2011. The award recognizes his commitment to public-interest work and his service to BPILP.

His brother, Michael Mann '06, now a litigator in the New York City office of Sidley Austin LLP, established the award through contributions from family and friends.

"BPILP was something Charles was very passionate about," Mann says of his younger brother. "He was so proud of the money he raised to help other students do public-interest work. That he had no intention of applying for a fellowship himself speaks volumes about the type of person he was."

Charles Mann was also a deeply creative person, his brother says: "He dreamed of being in the movie business;

as a producer, writer, or entertainment lawyer. He was always working on his screenplay and looking for his big Hollywood break.

After graduating from the University of Maryland—College Park with dual bachelor's degrees in finance and international business, Mann served on the *Buffalo Law Review* at SUNY Buffalo Law and served as vice president of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society.

After his death, his family also established an annual award for a graduating student with musical talent at Lawrence High School in Cedarhurst, N.Y.; Mann was a talented cellist in high school.

"We reached out to our friends and family," Michael Mann says. "Some gave to the high school,

a lot gave to the Law School, and many more generously gave to both. We were very blessed by the outpouring of love and support.

"At the Law School, we wanted to establish an award that would support outstanding law students who pursue public interest opportunities. Charles strongly believed all lawyers have an obligation to use their unique skills for the public

good. The Charles E. Mann Public Interest Award will reward a leader who not only will do a worthy summer project, but someone who has taken a leadership role in the BPILP organization, one of the most important programs in the Law School."

James R. Newton, vice dean for administration, helped the Mann family establish the award. "I like that the award is given to a person based on their commitment and service to BPILP," Newton says. "It not only provides extra funding to a person clearly committed to working in the public interest, but it also highlights the importance, both historical and continuing, of BPILP as a student-driven organization that launches many public service careers every year."

"The award will have a positive and enduring impact on aspiring public-interest lawyers here at the school. Charles was very committed to BPILP, and we are deeply grateful to his family and friends for establishing this award in his honor."

The inaugural recipient of the Mann Award was Meghan Corcoran '13, who had a chance to meet with Mann's parents and brother in May. Corcoran served as the president of BPILP last year and now serves as president of the Law School's Student Bar Association. The award helped support her unpaid summer internship at the Unemployment Division of the Volunteer Lawyers Project, in Buffalo.

Corcoran, who is from Massena, N.Y., says the award has made a tremendous difference. Last summer she had an unpaid position with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Buffalo and worked two other paid jobs to make ends meet. "The award has been really helpful," she says. "I'm living in a place where I do not have a support system, so this has made it possible to put more time and effort into my internship."

To donate to the Charles E. Mann Public Interest Award, please contact Lucy Dadd at (716) 645-2113 or [ladadd@buffalo.edu](mailto:ladadd@buffalo.edu).

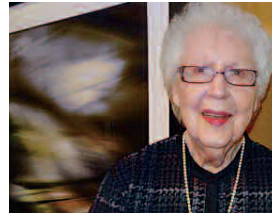


Charles E. Mann '12



# Support in perpetuity

*Have you ever considered  
establishing an endowment in  
support of the Law School?  
Hon. Mary K. Carr '52 has.*



This can be a powerful way to ensure that your support – and your legacy – live on in perpetuity.

Setting up an endowment is easy. Endowments can be funded with cash, appreciated securities and other assets, or name the Law School as beneficiary in your estate plans.

Typically only the interest is used annually. The principal remains intact and grows over time. Endowments can be used to support student scholarships, academic programs and much more. Endowments can be created in your name – or perhaps in honor or in memory of someone who played a meaningful role in your life.

For more information, contact:

Karen Kaczmariski, (716) 645-6429  
or [krkacz@buffalo.edu](mailto:krkacz@buffalo.edu).



# An enduring ethos of learning

*Richard J. Evans '72 endows a scholarship in memory of his parents*

When he was a teenager, says Richard J. Evans, his father—who had a standard high school education but a keen interest in law—would often discuss with his youngest son case decisions from the New York State courts about which he had read.

Such was the environment in which he and his two brothers grew up, says Evans, now a partner in the Rochester, N.Y., law firm Evans & Fox, LLP. From humble origins (parents Murray and Adeline Evans ran dry cleaning plants in Buffalo and Rochester), Evans recalls the singular emphasis in their family: the value of education and its promise of affording their children the means to acquire college and professional training.

To honor the memory of his parents, Evans has made a major donation of a legacy gift of \$100,000 to support scholarship aid for students in financial need.

"It felt right to make a statement to acknowledge how indebted I feel for having received my education at the Law School," Evans admits, "and to offer this gesture on behalf of my mom and dad. During the difficult adolescent years, my mother would often say to me, 'You know, Dickie, the way you're constantly arguing with me, there's only one route for you: Become a lawyer, defend your position, and prosper.'"

"My dad was a great guy," he continues. "Though he was unschooled, he was very intelligent, very clever, very quick. My parents, both from immigrant families, never had the opportunity to go on to higher education. They were children of the Depression, and in those lean years, high school was the end of the road for formal education. Married in their early 20s, they shared



*"It felt right to make a statement to acknowledge how indebted I feel for having received my education at the Law School, and to offer this gesture on behalf of my mom and dad."*

— Richard J. Evans '72

an avowed goal: to encourage their children and to dedicate their working lives to support whatever journey the kids took to achieve higher education."

Evans has indeed done well with his SUNY Buffalo Law degree, and he says he continues to learn and grow professionally. "I love the law," he says earnestly. "Not to say it's stress-free, because it certainly isn't, and not to say I haven't had dark days, because like everyone else, I have had them. But for daily mental stimulation and constant growth and development, I believe there's no career like law. Every day is different, with new developments, twists and turns." Recently he concluded training as a certified federal court mediator, and he is putting four decades' worth of skills to use in this

new approach to law in the Rochester area.

"It all adds up to 'fire in the belly,'" he says, "a quality of diligence and academic curiosity that I hope the students who benefit from my gift will demonstrate." As he reflects on the Class of '72, incidentally the last to spend three years at the Law School's old Eagle Street location, he remembers the dedicated professors who fed that passion. "Men like Adolf Hom-burger teaching civil procedure, Joseph Laufer analyzing tort principles of liability, and W. Howard Mann leading us through the maze of Constitutional law, these were the academic superstars of law tutoring, and we learned well from them," he recalls.

Looking at the present and future, Evans is positive as well as encouraging. Having sat on the Dean's Advisory Council at the Law School, he has had the

opportunity to watch his alma mater grow. "I'm very impressed with the quality of the professors being hired at the Law School. Having built on the strong tradition I benefited from, I am impressed with the superior academic levels of the faculty. It is clear that there's an underlying effort at the Law School to engage the best and brightest talent. These are teachers who will, I am sure, encourage students to launch careers both in public service and private practice. No greater thanks can be offered than to know the next generation of outstanding legal minds will be our local and national legacy."



# Growing momentum

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that we celebrate the 2011-12 fundraising year. Thank you to our nearly 2,000 alumni, friends and supporters who made the choice to give back, making this one of our most successful years to date. Each and every gift – no matter the size – is important, and we deeply appreciate your vote of confidence in the significance and value of SUNY Buffalo Law School.

With many thanks to our loyal donors, friends and volunteers, we closed out the 2011-12 fundraising year with successes all around. Among the highlights are:

- A 137 percent increase in pledges to the Law School.
- A 20 percent increase in the number of six-figure commitments, including those from Brent L. Wilson '76, Christopher J. O'Brien, Phillips Lytle LLP, Change Create Transform Foundation and Richard J. Evans '72 profiled in this edition of *Philanthropy*;
- A fifth consecutive record-setting Annual Fund drive, which raised \$1.19 million;
- A powerful start for our new Circle of Leaders Program, with 100 charter members and over \$400,000 in annual three-year leadership pledges; and,
- A remodeled 3L class gift program with record participation – over 50 percent of the graduating class made a gift.

The impact of this level of support is tremendous. Your gifts have helped us hire amazing faculty, expand our programs, update technology throughout the building, improve the facilities and grant more scholarships – almost \$500,000 in total – to the brightest and most deserving students. We are very grateful for your support and for the positive impact it has on the lives of our students, the standard of legal education

and the future of the legal profession, not just locally but nationally and internationally as well.

Fiscal year 2012-13 is well under way, and the momentum continues to grow during this 125th anniversary year. We are on the road doing more outreach, with more contacts with our alumni and friends, seeking your participation and support. Our Annual Fund is off to a great start, led this year by Thomas F. Ferris '96 in Western New York, David K. Koehler '94 and Kristin Graham Koehler '94 in D.C. and Vikki L. Pryor '79 in New York City. This year's fund drive kicked off in September with the Leadership Letter Signing and the new GOLD Group Letter Signing, and additional regional events are planned for the spring. Last but not least, we are busy laying the groundwork for our most ambitious fundraising initiative ever, which will be launched on April 26 here in Buffalo. Stay tuned!

We recognize that none of our progress or success would be possible without you – our dedicated alumni, friends and volunteers – who made the choice to give back to the Law School. For it is your loyalty and generosity that



make the difference. And, as we enter our next 125 years, it is your support that will continue to shape our future. On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, THANK YOU most sincerely for your commitment, enthusiasm and all that you do to help continue the momentum at SUNY Buffalo Law.

Above,  
Dean Makau W.  
Mutua and Karen  
R. Kaczmarzski '89

With best regards,

*Karen*

Karen R. Kaczmarzski '89  
Associate Dean for Development/  
Director of Development  
Phone: (716) 645-6429  
E-mail: krkacz@buffalo.edu

## Your participation counts!

*Our fiscal year concludes on June 30, 2013.*

Every gift to the Law School – *no matter the size* – helps make a difference for our students and our future.

Making a donation is a vote of confidence, and sends a clear message that our alumni and friends believe in the mission of the school and all that it offers. Your support also sends a signal to others who are considering making a gift – corporations and foundations included –

letting them know that SUNY Buffalo Law is a great investment.

Be part of the future of SUNY Buffalo Law School. *Please make your gift today!*

To make a gift, please call (716) 645-2109 or go online to [www.law.buffalo.edu/giving](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/giving).  
THANK YOU!





*Let us come together as alumni and friends  
to help our Law School reach new heights.  
Help us surpass \$1.25 million in our 125th year!*

*“Private philanthropy is the foundation to SUNY Buffalo Law School’s future success. As state aid continues to decrease, our loyalty and support as alumni are more important than ever. Let us rally around our school through our financial support NOW so that our law school remains in the national discussion of great public institutions of legal education.”*

– Thomas F. Ferris ’96, Connors & Ferris LLP, Western New York



*“Now is the time to support our academic institutions and the people they are entrusted to help develop. We must give back, just as those before us invested in our future. This is a critical expression of our continuing belief in a world where peace, justice, compassion, goodwill and universal values are infinitely possible.”*

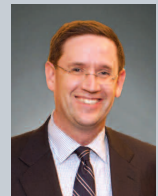
– Vikki L. Pryor ’78  
Change Create Transform  
Foundation, New York City



*“The continued value of our degree in an increasingly competitive marketplace hinges on the future success of the law school. Dean Mutua and his team are taking the Law School in the right direction. We hope you’ll join us in supporting that effort.”*

– David K. Koehler ’94,  
Federal Trade Commission

– Kristin Graham Koehler ’94,  
Sidley Austin LLP, Washington D.C.







### EDUCATE

- 17 new professors
- Enriched research and writing
- NYC Program in Finance and Law
- Clinical Legal Education
- Legal Skills Program and Moot Court
- Trial Technique

### INNOVATE

- State-of-the-art technology in classrooms
- Improved facility
- Mentoring programs
- Hands-on training
- Letro Courtroom
- Bridge courses

### Join the Circle of Leaders!

Long-term private support is key to securing our place as a world-class law school. Be a leader by making an investment now in the next 125 years of SUNY Buffalo Law School. The charter phase of the Circle of Leaders continues until June 30, 2013, so please join today!

*(Commitment to give at least \$1,000 per year for three years.)*

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Edwin & Erma Jaeckle Level  
**\$5,000+**

*(GOLD Group \$2,500+)*

John Lord O'Brien Level

**\$2,500-\$4,999**

*(GOLD Group \$1,250-\$2,499)*

Jacob D. Hyman Level

**\$1,000-\$2,499**

*(GOLD Group \$500-\$1,249)*

Dean's Club

**\$500-\$999**

*(GOLD Group \$250-\$499)*

*(GOLD Group members graduated 2003-2012)*

*To make a pledge, please contact Lucy Dadd at  
(716) 645-2113 or [ladadd@buffalo.edu](mailto:ladadd@buffalo.edu).*

# Please, Mr. Postman . . .

## *Handwritten notes from alumni bring in dollars*



James M. O'Keefe '07

Left, Anne E. Joynt '05  
Above, Teia M. Bui '08

An old-fashioned complaint – writer's cramp – joined the party at two letter-signing events in September to support the Law School's Annual Fund.

No pain, no gain. The letter-writers mailed more than 750 notes to classmates and colleagues, urging them to support the school with their time and their money.

"People like to feel connected and like to feel they are making a difference," says Lucy Dadd '04, who as assistant director of development has primary staff responsibility for the Annual Fund solicitation. "When they are involved with the Law School, they feel more of a connection and they want to give more financially because they know money makes these programs possible."

The Annual Fund has set a goal of \$1.25 million for this academic year, a stretch goal that seeks to build on the energy of the Law School's 125th anniversary celebration. And nothing works like a handwritten note, Dadd

says. In past years, more than half of those who receive such letters have donated to the Annual Fund; in some years that proportion is more than 60 percent.

At the first event, Sept. 12 at the Buffalo Club, 21 alumni who have given at the "leadership level" of \$1,000 or more combined their efforts to write 444 notes, inviting the recipients to join them at that level of giving. As one possibility, the Law School's Circle of Leaders program honors givers who contribute \$1,000 or more for three successive years.

"It's pretty wide open," says Tom Ferris '96, an Annual Fund co-chair, partner in the Rochester office of Connors & Ferris and host of the event. "We could write whatever we wanted and pick whom to send the letters to. Most people looked for people they graduated with or colleagues in their office. We want to make that personal connection with whoever we can. We reached out individually to people around that common bond, that we are alumni of SUNY Buffalo."

The second letter signing, on Sept. 14, was for members of the GOLD Group (Graduates of the Last

Decade) board of directors. Eight signers gathered at the offices of the Buffalo law firm Lipsitz & Ponterio – co-hosted by Anne E. Joynt '05, immediate past president of the GOLD Group, and current GOLD Group President James M. O'Keefe '07 – and churned out 312 notes. This was the first time the GOLD Group conducted such a letter signing.

The focus, Dadd says, was to encourage people to "get involved in the future of the Law School," not just financially but also as student mentors and by attending events at the school.

"Having a personal touch in those letters can really do a lot," Joynt says. "It just serves to remind people what they liked about the Law School and their classmates. It's our attempt to get people from the last decade more involved in the Law School."

And the writer's cramp? "It's surprisingly difficult to write that much," Joynt laughs. "Those pens were not particularly ergonomic."



# A healthy collaboration

## *A grant from the Community Foundation helps improve housing*

A grant from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo is making possible a new kind of service learning for SUNY Buffalo Law students – and making life better for city residents who live in unhealthy housing.

The \$22,000 grant is funding a two-semester Healthy Homes Legal Practicum, which began this fall. Eight students each semester will advocate in many ways, from research to drafting proposed ordinances to working on Housing Court cases, on behalf of citizens at risk from such dangers as lead, asbestos and mold, typically in rented apartments.

The practicum also provides legal support to the National Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, which has chosen Buffalo as one of 17 pilot cities for its work in promoting safer housing.

Professor Kim Diana Connolly, who directs the Law School's clinical program and is one of three instructors in the practicum, says the partnership with the Community Foundation is about more than financial support. "The grant is essential in funding things that we wouldn't

otherwise be able to pay for," Connolly says. "But when we work with sources like this, we also gain connections to a network of like-minded people who are doing community-based work and who are looking for the types of assistance that law students can provide. It puts us in touch with stakeholders who are working on these issues in downtown Buffalo and connects us to other sources of funding to expand this work."

Connolly's co-instructors in the practicum are lecturer Nan L. Haynes '92, an expert in lead paint litigation, and Grace Andriette '87, supervising attorney of the Housing Unit at Neighborhood Legal Services. Their students are assessing existing ordinances and case law around home health risks, working on drafting ordinances, looking at ways to help property owners with the costs of remediation, and mapping the incidence of lead poisoning in Buffalo.

Home-based health hazards are a significant problem in Buffalo and disproportionately affect people of color and the poor. Lead poisoning, Connolly notes, can cause neurological damage, developmen-

tal delays, learning disabilities, memory loss, attention deficit, hyperactivity, behavioral disorders and intellectual impairment. Asthma rates as well are closely linked to substandard housing, especially in the city with its aging housing stock.

The practicum students, most of them third-year students, are also writing substantive research papers on such topics as whether Housing Court is an effective way to address these problems, how to deal with the improper application of pesticides, how to help refugees with unhealthy-housing issues, and the problems facing those who buy homes where methamphetamine had been produced.

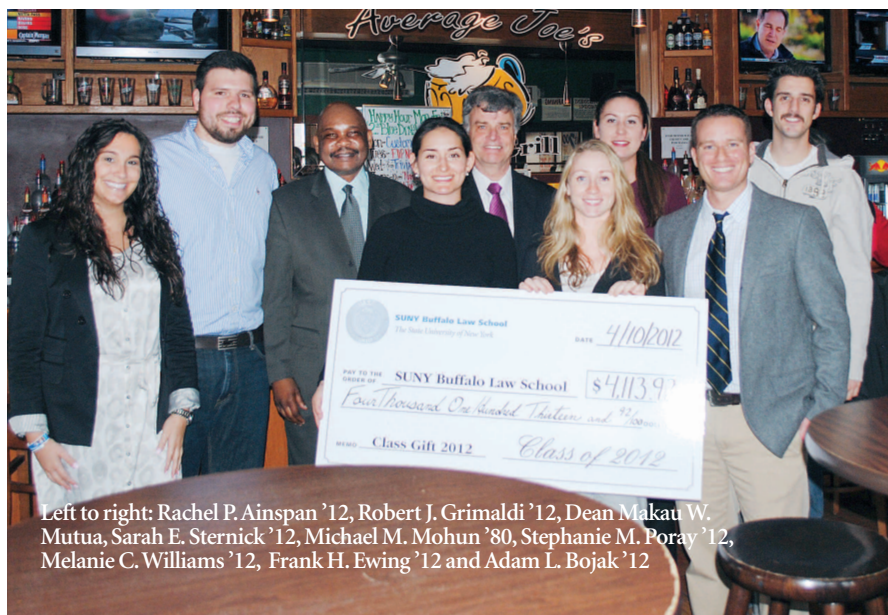
Says student Nicole Intschert '13: "I don't have a lot of non-traditional classes under my belt, but this course is great for providing students the chance to tackle real-world problem solving, opening our eyes to very real issues afflicting our local community, and allowing us to make tangible, positive changes, all while providing us with a reality check about what efforts and resources go into creating and teaching this kind of class."

## *Class of 2012 leaves with a flourish*

Members of the Class of 2012 gift committee presented a check for \$4,134 as their parting gift to the Law School. Third-year classes have been fund-raising for a class gift since the Class of 2002, but this year's gift was the most successful to date in terms of participation. Fifty-three percent of the graduating class, or 117 students, pitched in for the gift, which will go to fund a scholarship for a current student and sponsor a bench in the Law School's newly renovated first-floor lobby.

Committee members, chaired by Robert Grimaldi '12, solicited their classmates by e-mail, in face-to-face conversations and by staffing "table days," says Jill M. Domagala, assistant director of development programs, who worked with the committee on the gift. The number of students who responded, she says, is "really remarkable."

The gift was augmented by a generous donation from Michael M. Mohun '80, who made a matching contribution as a challenge for the class to meet its participation goal.



Left to right: Rachel P. Ainspan '12, Robert J. Grimaldi '12, Dean Makau W. Mutua, Sarah E. Sternick '12, Michael M. Mohun '80, Stephanie M. Poray '12, Melanie C. Williams '12, Frank H. Ewing '12 and Adam L. Bojak '12

# Thank you to our fundraising volunteers

*You make a difference!*

All of us at SUNY Buffalo Law School would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our many friends and alumni who so generously give their time and resources to help us achieve our goal of providing excellent legal education to the best, brightest and most deserving students. The volunteers listed below are the foundation for creating wonderful things at the Law School in the next 125 years. The work that is done now will surely be felt by future generations of law students. For that we thank you!

The 2011-12 Annual Fund, co-chaired by Michael Battle '81 (New York City), Diane Bosse '76 (Buffalo) and Richard Gottlieb '85 (Chicago and Los Angeles), surpassed its goal and brought in over \$1.19 million. This is the fifth consecutive \$1 million-plus Annual Fund year. Thank you Michael, Diane and Richard for your leadership in setting a new Annual Fund record!

This year, the Annual Fund is led by Vikki Pryor '78 (New York City), David Koehler '94 and Kristin Graham Koehler '94 (Washington, D.C.) and Thomas Ferris '96 (Western New York). We thank them for spearheading this campaign in the 125th year. We know they are the leaders that will help us reach our goal of \$1.25 million in honor of the 125th anniversary of the Law School.

The 2011-12 Leadership Letter Signing and the GOLD group letter signing were huge successes and we are very grateful for our volunteers' time and the notes they signed. Please see the article on Page 34. Also, our 125th anniversary celebration was an amazing event with over 1,000 attendees. The event was rich in history and gave us motivation for the next 125 years with the marching band cheering us on. Thank you to all who attended and made it a hit!



Chris G. Trapp '81 and  
Kenneth W. Africano '85

There are so many who help in so many ways. We appreciate the efforts of everyone involved at the Law School and are certain that SUNY Buffalo Law School is going to be better than it has ever been thanks to the leadership and dedication of our loyal alumni and friends who support the future of the Law School.

A special thanks to the volunteers listed here. The gifts of your time, talent and resources positively impact SUNY Buffalo Law School and the students of today and the future.

Kenneth W. Africano '85  
Thomas C. Bailey '74  
Barbara Baird  
Brian D. Baird '83  
Michael A. Battle '81  
Richard S. Binko '82  
Thomas E. Black Jr. '79  
Laurie Styka Bloom '83  
Jill M. Bond '85  
Diane F. Bosse '76  
Daniel E. Brick '69  
Marc W. Brown '99  
Teia M. Bui '08  
Lawrence F. Cataldi '76  
Robert B. Conklin '68  
Barbara J. Delgross '77  
Joshua E. Dubs '08  
Ann E. Evanko '79  
Frank H. Ewing '12  
John P. Feroletto '82  
Thomas F. Ferris '96  
Robert J. Feldman '76  
Cheryl S. Fisher '76  
Ellen Katz Forrest '76  
Kenneth B. Forrest '76  
Sue S. Gardner '76  
Lynn D. Gates '76  
William A. Gersten '76  
Richard E. Gottlieb '85  
Josephine A. Greco '81  
Gordon R. Gross '55  
Michael J. Hecker '09  
Pamela D. Heilman '75  
Marion K. Henderson '65  
Judith B. Ittig '71

Anne E. Joynt '05  
Harvey L. Kaminski '77  
David K. Koehler '94  
Kristin Graham Koehler '94  
Barbara D. Klippert '75  
Robert M. Kornreich '67  
Karen B. Leeds '76  
Francis M. Letro '79  
Mia McFarlane Markello '99  
William E. Mathias II '71  
Joseph A. Matteliano '76  
Carol M. Matorin '76  
Dennis R. McCoy '77  
Paige Rizzo Mecca '99  
Brian M. Melber '96  
Christopher J. O'Brien  
James M. O'Keefe '07  
Jean C. Powers '79  
Vikki L. Pryor '78  
Michael E. Reyen '09  
Howard S. Rosenhoch '76  
Elizabeth M. Savino '92  
William F. Savino '75  
Barbara L. Schifeling '84  
Robert C. Schwenkel '82  
David F. Smith '78  
Mark K. Suzumoto '82  
Chris G. Trapp '81  
Kevin G. Van Allen '06  
Brent L. Wilson '76  
Margaret W. Wong '96  
Stephen L. Yonaty '94  
Bruce S. ZefTel '77



## Clinic fundraising initiative to honor Tomkins and Cerulli



Clinical Professor  
Suzanne E. Tomkins '92

Dr. Catherine Cerulli '92

A \$100,000 fundraising initiative will support two awards to further the mission of SUNY Buffalo Law School's Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic, and honor the two women who started the clinical program. The initiative was announced Oct. 19 at a clinic-sponsored conference on intimate partner violence.

The awards honor Clinical Professor Suzanne E. Tomkins '92, who co-directs the Program for Excellence in Family Law, and Dr. Catherine Cerulli '92, director of the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women's Leadership at the University of Rochester. Tomkins and Cerulli co-founded the clinic, then known as the Family Violence Clinic, in 1992.

The awards are intended to support student work in the area of intimate partner violence.

The Suzanne E. Tomkins Women, Children, and Social Justice Advocacy Fellowship will fund work by a law student during the summer or the academic year on a specialized project to advocate on issues of intimate partner violence. The Catherine Cerulli Women, Children, and Social Justice Research Award will help fund student research relating to intimate partner violence and assist in the presentation of that research at a conference or in a publication.

Tomkins has spent much of her Law School career creating, imple-

menting and evaluating multidisciplinary responses to violence between intimates. She has developed countywide protocols throughout the region and has helped create a similar response in Ukraine through Project Harmony, a program funded by the U.S. Department of State. She recently presented the keynote address at the International Domestic Violence Conference in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Tomkins also serves as faculty adviser to the Law School's Domestic Violence Task Force, a volunteer student group.

Cerulli has been working on issues surrounding domestic violence and child abuse for over 20 years. She earned a Ph.D. in criminal justice from the University at Albany, where her doctoral dissertation addressed intimate partner homicide. Cerulli was formerly an assistant district attorney in Monroe County, N.Y., where she created a special misdemeanor domestic violence unit.

"Both Sue Tomkins and Kate Cerulli are visionaries," said Professor Susan V. Mangold, co-director of the Program for Excellence in Family Law, in announcing the establishment of the awards. "They predict the issues that are coming down the pike and help our community develop a response that becomes a model for the state. They've brought those models to Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and other parts of the world. We wanted to make a fitting tribute to Sue and Kate's work, to honor them, to honor their work and to honor the ongoing work of the students under their mentorship."

The Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic works to prevent domestic violence and promote the legal rights of targets of domestic abuse and intimate partner violence, including women, children, elderly persons and same-sex partners. Students and faculty of the clinic seek justice and provide legal resources for people on the margins of our society: the homeless, the impoverished and economically disadvantaged, immigrants and the disabled.

For information about how to donate to support these awards, please contact Lucy Dadd at (716) 645-2113 or [ladadd@buffalo.edu](mailto:ladadd@buffalo.edu).

# One helluva party!

*Our quasiquicentennial kickoff bash at Hotel @ The Lafayette*



For party videos, go to  
[www.law.buffalo.edu/125.asp](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/125.asp)





10

Party photos by  
Rob McElroy and  
James P. McCoy



11

1. SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus Kenneth F. Joyce and Susan Bring Tobe '74

2. The party overflows into a second ballroom.

3. Left to right: Richard E. Clark '74 and James E. S. Brown '73

4. Left to right: Dannielle C. O'Toole '14, Christina L. Saccocio '14, Alyssa L. Jordan '14 and Alison J. Kelly '14 don the masks of our early deans

5. Entranceway to the party.

6. Left to right: Hon. Barbara Howe '80, Francis M. Letro '79 and Cindy Abbott Letro

7. Left to right: Dean and SUNY Distinguished Professor Makau Mutua and Mark G. Pearce '78

8. Thomas E. Black, Jr. '79 and Congresswoman Kathleen C. Hochul

9. Left to right: Dean Makau Mutua, Hon. Mark G. Farrell '72 and Richard F. DiGiacomo '76

10. Festivities fill the main ballroom at the Lafayette.

11. Pamela D. Heilman '75 leads the Happy Birthday Song.

12. Guests capture the fun in a portable photo booth.

13. Left to right: Brian D. Baird '83, Barbara Baird and William F. Savino '75

14. Left to right: Frederick B. Cohen '69, Maura Cohen and Terrence M. Gilbride '88



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8



13



9



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# 125TH ANNIVERSARY



For party videos, go to  
[www.law.buffalo.edu/125.asp](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/125.asp)



*Continued from Page 39*

**15.** Left to right: Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann and Diane F. Bosse '76

**16.** Left to right: Dean Makau Mutua and Former Dean and Professor R. Nils Olsen

**17.** Left to right: Hon. Rose H. Sconiers '73, James E.S. Brown '73 and Lester G. Sconiers '74

**18.** Jay A. Organek '14 and Megan Furrer '14 admire a display of "Then & Now" posters.

**19.** Left to right: James M. O'Keefe '07, Anthony G. Marecki '03 and Reg J. Miller '13

**20.** Left to right: Tasha E. Moore '98 and Hon. Lenora B. Foote-Beavers '97

**21.** Left to right: Courtland R. LaVallee '66, James W. Grable '96 and James W. Grable, Sr. '66

**22.** UB's marching band, "The Thunder of the East," joins the party and surprises the guests.

**23.** Judith Oakley shields her ears from "The Thunder."

**24.** Left to right: Clinical Professor Thomas F. Disare, Melinda G. Disare, Michael A. Piette '80 and Dawn M. Piette

**25.** Sean S. Carberry '15 and Jaclyn F. Silver '15

**26.** Left to right: John P. Feroletto '82, Hon. Paula L. Feroletto '82 and Kathleen T. Feroletto '11

**27.** Left to right: Sue Carrel, Michael H. Rickert, Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin '83, Samuel L. Shapiro '65 and Toby Shapiro

**28.** Left to right: Susan Ferris, Thomas F. Ferris '96 and Robert W. Clark '10

**29.** Left to right: Amy Hayes Atkinson and Patricia L. Warrington

**30.** A commemorative anniversary video highlights the Law School's 125-year history.

**31.** Law Alumni Association President Brian M. Melber '96 welcomes the party guests.

**32.** Left to right: Mary T. Sullivan '84, James R. Halter, Hon. Kathleen C. Hochul and Hon. William J. Hochul, Jr. '84

*Continued on Page 43*



For party videos, go to  
[www.law.buffalo.edu/125.asp](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/125.asp)





*Continued from Page 41*

**33.** Left to right: Mark K. Suzumoto '82, Sherwin A. Suss '82 and Robert K. Miller '82

**34.** Left to right: Ben Upshaw and Hon. Craig D. Hannah '95

**35.** Nancy Whitcher, Michael J. Whitcher '85, Steven M. Zweig '85 and B. Diane Vance '84

**36.** Left to right: Hon. William J. Hochul, Jr. '84, Robert B. Conklin '68, Robert J. Lane Jr. '83 and Jodyann Galvin '98

**37.** Left to right: Tedros Teklzghi, Minia Berhe, Lisa Wischerath, Jim Gesel and Anita Mazurek

**38.** Left to right: Leah Calnek and Assistant Dean Lisa M. Mueller '93

**39.** Mengyi Melle Xu '13

**40.** Left to right: SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus Kenneth F. Joyce and Professor Emerita Majorie L. Girth

**41.** SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and Vice Dean Charles P. Ewing and Dr. Charles L. Miller II '02

**42.** Left to right: Andrew Emerson, Lucy A. Dadd '04, Hon. Mark H. Dadd and Margaret Dadd

**43.** Left to right: Edythe Paul '14 and Jacqueline D. Serrano '14

**44.** Left to right: Ellen S. Becker '93 and Scott C. Becker '93

**45.** Left to right: Vice Dean and Professor Kim D. Connolly and Associate Professor Stuart G. Lazar

**46.** Left to right: Nicole M. Komin '15, Michele Rossi, Karalyn M. Rossi '13 and Shannon B. Howley '15

**47.** Teia M. Bui '08 and Nicholas J. Ingrassia '13

**48.** Party guests fill the hallways.

**49.** We look back at the great minds that led the Law School.

**50.** Smiles today, memories tomorrow!

**51.** A tower of cupcakes celebrate our milestone.

**52.** Strike up the band!

**53.** Seated, Left to right: Jennifer K. Meldrum '10, Lorisa D. LaRocca '02

Back row, Left to right: Wende J. Knapp '10, Joby Knapp and Michael J. Mettelle '10





*"These documents are gems that deserve to be cherished and preserved."*

—Elizabeth Adelman  
Director of the Charles B.  
Sears Law Library

## A gift of history

### *Law School's founding documents make their way home*

Two unique documents – the earliest in the Law School's history – have been added to the school's archives, the gift of an anonymous donor. The items were purchased from a private collector and then donated to the Law School's Charles B. Sears Law Library. The gift is intended to make the documents available to scholars and others interested in the history of Buffalo's law school.

The collector had purchased the documents from the estate of Hon. James Sheldon, a former chief judge of the Superior Court of Buffalo and one of the 12 men who are regarded as the founders of the Buffalo Law School. The purchase and subsequent gift comes in two parts: a typewritten letter dated March 25, 1887, on his legal stationery, from Charles P. Norton to Judge Sheldon, proposing establishment of the Law School; and the

original articles of incorporation establishing the school as a department of Niagara University. Norton would go on to teach at the Law School and become University of Buffalo chancellor. The gift comes as the Law School celebrates the 125th anniversary of its founding.

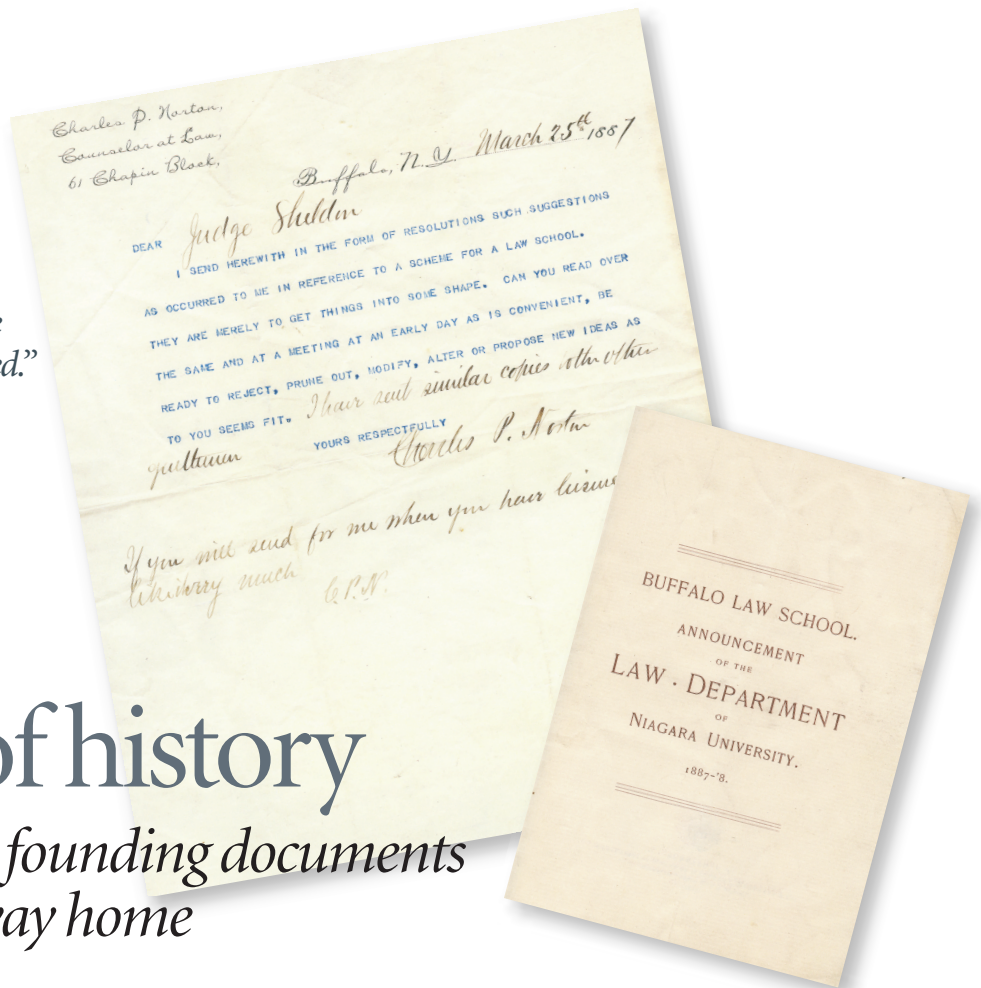
"These documents are gems that deserve to be cherished and preserved," says Elizabeth Adelman, vice dean for legal information services and director of the Law Library. "It is a very generous gift, and we're very appreciative."

Adelman said the documents will be housed as part of the Law School archives in a special collections area on the second floor of O'Brian Hall. That collection also includes faculty publications, class schedules, event posters, yearbooks, the papers of John Lord O'Brian, copies of the *Buffalo Law Review* and other elements of the

Law School's history. She said the documents likely will become part of a historical display at some point during this anniversary year, and will be digitized for use on Web sites and other electronic exhibits.

That special collection is open only by appointment, she said, but those curious about the Law School's history are invited to access electronic resources at <http://law.lib.buffalo.edu/collections/special-collections.asp>

"This law school in particular has been very interested in its own history," Adelman says. "There has always been a real sense of pride in the Law School history, and the archives keeps within that tradition. These documents only add to the richness we're able to preserve."





*Please join us to honor*  
*Margaret M. Wong '76*  
*with the*  
*2013 Edwin F. Jaeckle*  
*Award*

*– the highest honor the  
SUNY Buffalo Law School  
and the Law Alumni  
Association can bestow.*

*Friday, Jan. 25, 2013  
Noon to 2 p.m.  
The Union League Club  
38 E. 37th St.  
New York City*



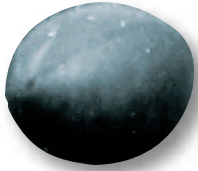
**125**  
YEARS OF  
INNOVATION IN  
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*[www.law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent.asp](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent.asp)*

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We're only quiet  
until April 26.  
Then we start  
to make a lot  
of noise at our  
**CAMPAIGN  
KICKOFF!**

Friday, April 26, 6 p.m.  
Kleinhans Music Hall  
Buffalo

*Be true to your school!*

