A record
$30,000,000!
You made it happen.
Thank you!
But we’re not done yet.
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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DEAN

30 million connections

In this age of the never-ending pitch, leaders are expected always to be ready to rattle off their organization’s signature strengths. As dean, I am often asked to do so.

In compiling a list of the School of Law’s strengths, it is tempting to take a mental walk through the building, looking in every corner for great achievements. There is much to see, of course – in this room, great teaching; in that one, enthusiastic and engaged learning; in here, an innovative skills training program; in there, a winning competition team diligently practicing.

These are all great strengths, yet this visual tour of the premises will not lead you to what is, in my judgment, the School of Law’s greatest strength. Indeed, you could wander the building all day and never lay eyes on it. That is because UB law’s greatest strength can’t be seen. With time, it can be sensed. Later, it can be keenly felt. Eventually it can become a tool and an asset, and finally a source of sustenance and comfort.

The strength to which I refer is community. Our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends are bound to each other by powerful connections. These ties extend across time to embrace the most recent arrival and the most seasoned alum. They are forged from strong and lasting bonds of friendship, mutual respect, shared goals, and above all, the belief that the well-being of all depends on the well-being of each. It is, in short, a community whose members encourage, help and lift one other.

Nothing better exemplifies the power of this community than the School of Law’s historic $30 million fund-raising campaign, which recently surpassed its goal. The campaign was conceived and planned in a partnership of the past and present for the benefit of the future. Alumni, students, administrators and faculty all played key roles in its execution. But the real credit goes to the more than 6,000 friends and alumni who were willing to place a bet that our entire community, including present members, will be strengthened by expanding the opportunities available to those just joining or yet to join us.

That bet is already beginning to pay off. Funds available for student scholarships have more than tripled. The number of named faculty professorships has more than doubled. Support for the New York City Program, the Advocacy Institute and Discover Law has boomed. Teaching technology throughout the building has been upgraded. These improvements create a better experience for our students, help retain top faculty, and in general assist us in turning out more accomplished graduates, thereby strengthening the bar, in turn improving the quality of justice in our communities. At the end of the day, everybody benefits.

I’d like to extend my profound personal thanks to our Campaign co-chairs, to the members of the Campaign Committee, to the development staff, to our many volunteers, and above all, to the generous souls who, through gifts large and small, lifted us all. We are all more connected than we know.

With all best wishes,

Interim Dean James A. Gardner

"UB law’s greatest strength can’t be seen. With time, it can be sensed. Later, it can be keenly felt. Eventually it can become a tool and an asset, and finally a source of sustenance and comfort. The strength to which I refer is community."

– Interim Dean James A. Gardner
On the first UB School of Law paper she ever wrote, Karen O'Connor '76 remembers, she got a D. That was a new experience – she had sailed through Buffalo State College as a political science major. "No matter what I wrote, I got an A," O'Connor says. "But it was very different in the UB School of Law. You couldn't just write something and hand it in, you had to write it and rewrite it and rewrite it." So she did, and ended up earning an H – the top grade – in Professor Lester Mazor's class.

She also had to buy a new typewriter, a Smith-Corona with a correction cartridge. Rewriting meant a whole lot of retyping. Those were different days.

O'Connor has done a lot of writing since then. As the Jonathan N. Helfat Distinguished Professor of Political Science at American University, in Washington, D.C., she is well-known for her widely used textbook *American Government: Roots and Reform* and dozens of other books and articles on topics in political science and women's studies. Her teaching consists largely of courses and seminars on women and politics.

"I really had no intention of being a lawyer," O'Connor says. "I wanted to come back and work on the Hill, but I realized that as a woman I would have to have a law degree. To be taken seriously, you needed an advanced degree." So concurrently with her law courses she worked toward a Ph.D. in political science from UB, which she earned in 1979.

Now O'Connor has made a major donation to the UB School of Law to support students whose passions align with her own. Her pledge – a $25,000 gift plus a bequest of $500,000 – will establish a scholarship to benefit "deserving students, either female, or those interested in pursuing advancements for women through the law."

"My ideal person is somebody who is interested in working in a nonprofit that specializes in women and the law," she says. "Or it could be someone interested in going into family law. Women are at a real disadvantage in many divorce cases because they don't have control of the money in the household."

The scholarship will be named after her hero Ruth Bader Ginsburg, justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, whom O'Connor met during research for a book on the high court.

"I was so appreciative of the support I got from the law school during my time there," says O'Connor, who as a Baldy Fellow was able to work on her doctoral dissertation without the need to serve as a teaching assistant. She graduated debt-free. "And the quality of the faculty was fantastic. As a future teacher, I appreciated what they were doing."

Not that it was always smooth sailing. O'Connor remembers getting a call from Professor Marjorie Girth – during Christmas vacation, no less – telling her that she'd have to rewrite, and retype, a 120-page paper because she had mixed up "which" and "that." "I was furious," O'Connor says. "But I did it. And now, with my own students, I'm the crazy lady with the whiches and thats. My students compete to see who has the most purple pen on their paper. I always tell them, I am the highest-priced editor you will ever get."

No one has to retype anymore, of course. And the world has changed in other, more significant ways. O'Connor recalls the casual sexism of the '70s, when a professor writing a letter of recommendation would think nothing of commending her "great legs." Maybe that makes even sweeter the accomplishments of her students, dozens of whom have gone on to responsible positions on Capitol Hill and other arenas of political power. She's proud that 11 are working at EMILY's List, which works to help pro-choice Democrats win election.

O'Connor sees in them some of the same confidence that she felt in her very last class at the UB School of Law, a course called Implementing the Equal Rights Amendment. "My transcript," she says, "stands as a record of the optimism my generation had."
Margaret Wong ’76

Giving yet more for student support

Philanthropic giving sometimes seems ... well, faceless. But every gift makes a real difference for real students at a crucial time in their lives. For Margaret W. Wong ’76, who has endowed a named scholarship at the School of Law, that reality rings true. Her legacy of giving, including a substantial new gift this year, has helped these young lawyers – the Margaret W. Wong Scholars, past and present – beyond measure. They, and we, are deeply grateful.

Michelle Yeung ’15
Margaret W. Wong Scholar:

“UB School of Law was my top choice and I was ecstatic to be offered acceptance, but when Buffalo awarded me the Margaret Wong Scholarship I was on cloud nine. I am extremely grateful to Buffalo Law and Ms. Wong for making my dreams of pursuing a Juris Doctor possible.”
That truth has proved itself with Lawrence P. Castellani, who has lent his business savvy to the University at Buffalo in a thousand ways, notably serving terms as chair of the UB Foundation and of the UB Council.

Now Castellani and his wife, Joan, have made a $1 million gift to the University, to be apportioned between the School of Law and the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. The gift comes from the Castellani Family Foundation, and Castellani is quick to point out that it reflects the whole clan’s appreciation for UB, both in the community and in their own lives. Their daughter Julie Castellani Vardan is a 2003 graduate of the School of Law and has practiced in Turkey; their son Lawrence Jr. is a Colgate University graduate. Both are trustees of the family’s charitable foundation.

In addition to their School of Law connection, Castellani’s younger brother, Dr. Daniel A. Castellani, a neurologist, is a graduate of the School of Medicine.

So the family’s gift, Castellani says, comes in gratitude both for UB’s two professional schools, and in recognition of the University’s influence for the good in Western New York and beyond. “When I served on the Foundation and the Council,” he says, “it was a humbling experience to see the difference that UB can make in the lives of so many people. It really was a wonderful experience.”

Another great part of that experience, he says, was “getting to know Bill and Carol Greiner, both personally and in seeing the fruits of their efforts and their commitment and their dedication to making the University all it could be.”

Castellani’s service on the UB Council – the primary oversight and advisory body to the University and its senior administrators – came during Greiner’s tenure as president, and he came away with one strong impression.

“He had such a sense of humor,” Castellani says. “But more importantly, throughout his career he had an unusual ability to see life through other people’s perspectives, particularly those who disagreed with him. He had that unique ability to say, ‘Let’s not get upset that they disagree with us, let’s think this thing through and do a better job of hearing them out.’ If more people would go through life with that ability, I think we’d all be better off.”

The School of Law’s portion of the Castellanis’ gift will support the William R. Greiner scholarship fund, which endows a scholarship at the School of Law for a meritorious student who exemplifies leadership ability, dedication to public service and commitment to the Western New York community.

The designation for the School of Medicine in large measure supports the work of the Gates Vascular Institute in appreciation for the work of its board chairman, Dr. L. Nelson Hopkins, a professor of neurosurgery.

“My family wholeheartedly supports this endeavor,” Castellani says of the overall gift. “My wife and I are very pleased to see the foundation make this commitment. The entire Castellani family has had a long commitment to the community, and this is just one of the ways we show our appreciation for all that the community has done for us.”
A brother’s memory lives on

Family connections never disappear – and sometimes family connections to the School of Law are just as persistent.

The Peperone family is evidence of that. Their father, E. Joseph Peperone ’57, was a family lawyer in Williamsville for many years, and son Joseph P. Peperone was a 1981 Buffalo Law graduate.

Tragedy only cemented the bond. Joe Peperone was just 27, three years out of UB School of Law and newly married, when a rare cancer took his life.

Out of their grief came a family’s determination to make sure the bright spirit of Peperone’s life would live on. A fund they established in 1984, the year he died, continues to provide scholarship assistance to current students.

“It’s a great way to remember our brother,” says his sister Jill Giles, who lives near Memphis, Tenn., and teaches accounting at Rhodes College there. “I’m a professor myself, and education has always been important to our family. The UB School of Law has been part of our family for many, many years. This is a great way to promote education and do something for students who might not be able to afford the tuition.”

It’s a tribute as well to Peperone’s essential optimism. “He was a totally positive person, just very good-hearted and generous,” Giles says. “He had a great sense of humor and just made people smile. We want to remember him that way and by doing something that will make someone else smile, by helping them when they need some financial assistance to follow their dream. He was following his dream, and we are hoping this helps others do the same.”

Giles and her husband, Bill, have made major additions to the scholarship fund in recent years, including a gift in memory of E. Joseph Peperone at his passing in 2013. “We wanted to build it up,” she says. “We now have the means to give some money, so we want to get the fund to a point where it’s self-sustaining, and we will probably continue to give for a number of years.”

Stepping it up, paying it forward

For years Joseph G. Mari ’80 has made a gift to the Annual Fund. During the Campaign for the UB School of Law, he found the inspiration to, as the celebrity chef Emeril says, kick it up a notch.

That meant a substantial pledge that funds an admissions recruitment scholarship, a key tool in attracting the most promising potential students to Buffalo Law.

“It’s a continuation of what I was doing,” says Mari, who focuses on regulatory compliance programs as an employee of the Boston investment manager Fidelity Management & Research Co. “I just decided it was a good thing to make it a pledge for five years. I am fortunate to have the ability to make the contribution and I was happy to do it.”

In addition, he has designated the UB Foundation as a beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust he holds, a frequent vehicle for planned giving.

Though he’s not a practicing lawyer, Mari says his Buffalo Law education is useful in navigating the web of laws and regulations that govern the securities industry. He also does a lot of memo and report writing, “so that’s another area where the law degree is helpful.”

“I have a positive view of the UB School of Law,” he says, “and I would like to help it continue to develop good lawyers and to maintain the quality of its education. I like supporting my law school alma mater. I obtained an excellent education there, met fine people and had a great experience. And I like to help people where I can. To the extent that I can help students achieve a good education and a great career path, I like to do that.”

Sometimes there are also tangible rewards of giving. On at least one occasion he has received a thank-you note from the recipient of his named scholarship. “That was meaningful,” Mari says. “I think it’s nice when the recipient acknowledges the help that the scholarship was able to provide for the individual.”
Remembering a pioneer in the global practice of law

UB law students with a global perspective have Lauren D. Rachlin to thank for their expanded opportunities to work and study abroad.

Rachlin, an expert in international business law and a pioneer in international law in New York State, originated the New York State Bar Association’s internship-abroad program through its International Law Section. The program, now in its fifth year, places UB School of Law students in legal internships in such far-flung places as Thailand, South America, Prague and Vienna.

Rachlin, a partner most recently in the Buffalo law firm Barclay Damon, continued to work full time until his death on March 18. He was 87 years old.

Now a major gift from his family, led by his wife of 61 years, Jean, will ensure that Buffalo law students will continue to be exposed to international law through placements in law firms worldwide.

The $100,000 gift will endow annual fellowships to support students’ travel to these placements.

Additional contributions in honor of Rachlin are also being accepted for the fund, designated as the Lauren D. Rachlin Esq. International Fellowship Fund.

“As a family we knew that we wanted to do something in his name,” Jean Rachlin says. “He was always interested in international law and built a practice working cross-border in Canada and the United States, and he was always encouraging students to explore this as a specialty. And of course, the way to do it is to give them the opportunity to have an internship. He knew lawyers everywhere – he had connections throughout the world – and he was able to facilitate a lot of internships.”

The International Law Section held its annual meetings in conjunction with chapters all over the world, Mrs. Rachlin says, and as a couple they traveled far and wide. “You name it, we’ve probably been there over the years,” she says.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Lauren Rachlin was deeply involved in UB law over the years. He helped initiate the school’s Oral History Project, which collects interviews with alumni, faculty, administrators and friends of the school, and helped to fund the project with a gift in honor of his father, Harry A. Rachlin ’26. Also in his father’s honor, Rachlin endowed the Harry A. Rachlin Prize in Real Property Law and Real Estate Transactions, awarded each year at Commencement.

Rachlin received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the School of Law in 2013.

“He worked tirelessly and loved it,” says James Domagalski, co-managing partner in Barclay Damon’s Buffalo office. “That’s how he was wired. He just loved being a lawyer and loved the interplay between the U.S. and Canadian markets, and he was passionate in building something with us.”

For more information or to donate, visit law.buffalo.edu/giving/Rachlin.
Even after half a century, school ties run deep. Richard Jackson ’66 found that to be true when his undergraduate class at Colgate University gathered for a reunion, and translated their affection for that school into a significant class gift. Why not, he figured, do the same when it came time for the 50-year reunion of his UB School of Law class?

So, working with the school’s development team, he sent a letter talking up the reunion and proposing a Class of ’66 gift to be used for student support.

“I thought if we can get it up to the level the University needs it to be, it would be a nice remembrance of the class, and in the future if people want to give, they have a vehicle,” Jackson says. “I talked to a bunch of my friends in Buffalo, we put the letter out and we got a good response — we got some gifts right away.”

To put the gift over the top and endow a student support fund at the $25,000 level, Jackson made a significant multi-year pledge of his own. “If you’re going to go out and ask people to do it, you have to be able to do it yourself,” he says.

The fund will provide financial support for a second- or third-year student who has made a significant impact on the UB School of Law through volunteer or extracurricular activities.

Jackson’s leadership is part of a pattern. A consistent donor to the UB School of Law, he has in the past designated his gifts to support the Charles B. Sears Law Library.

That support comes even though he didn’t end up practicing law. A longtime Florida resident, he worked for M&T Bank in the trusts department and stayed in trusts throughout his career, first in administrative roles, then in management.

“In that business the J.D. was really invaluable, because I always knew what the attorneys were talking about when they were talking to a prospective client,” Jackson says. “And if they needed a little more explanation how that related to the bank, I could do that. I found it extremely helpful.”

The inaugural Class of 1966 Award was made this fall to Nicole L. Grasso, a third-year student who has made a positive impact on the School of Law through her volunteer and extracurricular activities.
Ray Deters has done a lot of things. He bought and sold real estate. He owned a large corporate travel agency. He owned stores selling luggage and leather goods. Now, with all that behind him, he and his wife, Pamela, run a Christmas tree farm in western North Carolina. Every December they ship a couple thousand trees to Tampa, Fla., and sell them there.

“I’m a Christmas nut,” he says cheerfully. “And you’d be surprised at the number of attorneys I get on that tree lot who buy trees from me.”

But there are capital gains taxes to pay on those profits, and so every two or three years, the Deterses look for a way to help the University at Buffalo, where he was a history major as an undergraduate. They’ve given to the history department; they’ve given to the athletics program. This time, they chose the UB School of Law as the beneficiary of their donation.

“We want to support UB,” Deters says. “We think they’ve done fabulous things for the community, especially the city. We want to do our giving where it has the most impact for the buck. And the law school is very important to UB. They’ve got a great, great reputation.”

It’s not often that the UB School of Law receives gifts of this size from non-alums, but Deters says, “I’ve always had an awful lot of interest in the law.” There are lawyers in the family; he has attorney friends; and “I’ve often thought if I were doing it all over again, I would have become a lawyer. I think it would have helped me in business.”

It helped, too, that UB’s development officers, including the law school’s Loraine Yates, are “just absolutely the nicest people, and that’s part of it,” he says. “It’s real easy to do business with somebody who’s so appreciative. I’ll probably be doing this stuff until I’m 95.”

Great friends and happy givers

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Smart planning pays dividends

One thing Frank Palen ’74 remembers about his law school years, partly spent at the old downtown campus, were the bomb threats. “The Attica trials were going on,” he says. “It was an interesting time.”

And the intellectual ferment was just as great. “The UB School of Law was doing some noteworthy things in the ’70s, and I got to hang out with some fascinating people,” he says. “I worked as a student assistant for Professor Marc Galanter on a grant to study law enforcement crackdowns, doing a series of case studies. And after graduation, I was one of the first Jaeckle Fellows, working with Professor Milton Kaplan. I wrote a history of city planning in Buffalo that still seems to be appreciated in City Hall. I came to identify myself as not just a lawyer, but also an urban planner.”

That sparked what became Palen’s long career working on land-use issues. He served in government in Palm Beach County, Florida, working to revise the county’s zoning codes, and then represented developers. Now, as a partner with the West Palm Beach firm Caldwell Pacetti Edwards Schoech & Viator, he counsels clients in land use, zoning law and special districts.

“I have a lot to be grateful for, for the education I received and the experience I had and for the people I knew at the UB School of Law,” he says. “Now Palen has translated that gratitude into a significant gift, naming the School of Law as a beneficiary – along with his undergraduate school, Allegheny College – of an annuity he holds. “It’s something I can do within my limits,” he says. “I received really good educations at both schools, and I am grateful for that. It helped set the course of my life. “And I received financial assistance from both institutions, so I wanted to give something back in return. If I were to project the actual value of what I received 40 years ago, what I’m able to do is minor by comparison.”
Insuring effective giving

Health care law was a new frontier when Ross P. Lanzafame '86 graduated from the University at Buffalo School of Law. And he wasn’t sure he wanted to be a pioneer.

Before coming to UB School of Law he had worked for four years at the University of Rochester Medical Center. It was there that he discovered that “I found the things that put the institution at risk more interesting than the day-to-day management.”

But the idea of law school seemed off-putting: “I was reluctant to go back, because I was older. I thought everybody was going to be young.” Instead he found “a great mix of people. The classes were all interesting. It made me think that it was the right thing to do. And having worked every day from 7:30 to 4:30, doing schoolwork was a joy. I loved it.”

When he graduated, though, that previous job experience made him stand out to potential employers. He had five offers waiting – all in health care. He had specified that the gift be used to be as the UB School of Law Annual Fund.

Lanzafame has spent his career with the Rochester law firm Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, where as a partner he counsels health care providers on regulatory and compliance matters. Lanzafame has been a faithful donor to the UB School of Law Annual Fund over the years. Now he has helped to put the Campaign for the UB School of Law over the top with a major planned gift, naming the school as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. It’s a strategy by Lanzafame says, including a term as national board chair of the American Lung Association. “I know that designated gifts are a great thing, but I also know that undesignated money is often the most helpful. I put no strings on it, so the school can use it however they see fit.”

The hows (and the whys) of planned giving

As a School of Law major gifts officer, Loraine Yates builds on long experience in development work, including at UB’s Office of Gift Planning. She’s an expert in planned giving, and we asked her to talk about that – and to demystify the process for our alumni.

What exactly is a planned gift?

Simply, a planned gift is a significant charitable contribution made in or beyond your lifetime. Starting with thoughtful decisions made as part of your estate planning, these kinds of gifts allow you to think big and make a larger philanthropic impact than you may have otherwise thought possible. These include bequests, or a beneficiary designation for a life insurance policy or an IRA. There are also new current ways, too, such as the IRA Charitable Rollover that allows donors 70 ½ or older to use their required minimum distribution to make a sizable tax-free gift of up to $100,000.

What kinds of goals do donors have?

Foremost, they have a desire to support their School of Law and help future law students. They’re also thinking about tax benefits, how this affects their overall estate, how it affects their preparation for retirement, as well as caring for their children or their parents.

Each person is different. Some people are worried about not having enough when they retire, so we can talk to them about a life income gift that provides fixed payments and other tax benefits. We collaborate with them and their advisers to ensure that their philanthropy not only maximizes tax benefits and income for life, but also creates a proud legacy.

Do people have some say over what happens at the school with their money?

Sure. While some people prefer to keep their gifts unrestricted, we really encourage them to be a part of what they’re trying to accomplish. That gives us the opportunity to showcase the School of Law, bring them in, meet students, and get them involved. They see the need and they see what it takes.

Loraine Yates can be reached at (716) 645-2354 or llyates@buffalo.edu.
What do you want for your birthday, dear? A BPIILP fellowship

It’s an attentive husband’s annual challenge: What to buy his wife for her birthday? Spencer Feldman ’87 thought about it. He thought about his wife, Julie Freudenheim ’88, whom he met at the School of Law. (They married soon after graduation.) And he thought about her work in combating sexual abuse and domestic violence, including many years as a prosecutor in the New York County district attorney’s office, and now as managing director of T&M Protection Resources, where she investigates allegations of sexual misconduct and bullying in schools.

Those issues “have been somewhat of a theme of our charitable giving,” Feldman says. And so the bright idea for a birthday gift was born: a donation to University at Buffalo School of Law to support a student fellowship through the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program. The Freudenheim Public Interest Fellowship will pay a stipend to a student working in this subject area in a summer posting, which typically are unpaid positions.

“It was given to honor and celebrate Julie’s profound commitment to preventing and prosecuting sexual assault and domestic violence,” says Feldman, a corporate and securities lawyer with Olshan Frome Wolosky in New York City. “We’ve contributed to this through other organizations, and at this point I felt that creating a fellowship at the UB School of Law was the right thing to do and something I wanted to do.

“I also wanted to tie the gift and the impact of the gift to Buffalo, where Julie and her family have been important members of the community,” he says. “I thought that allowing a student to spend the summer helping the victims and family members of sexual assault would be an important symbol.”

So did Freudenheim like her birthday present?

“She did,” Feldman says. “She thought it was the best gift she had ever received.”

Garry Graber ’78

Giving to promote legal access for the poor

The unfortunate reality,” says Garry Graber ’78, “is that legal services are generally available only to people who have the means to afford them, and it’s often the people who can’t that have the most acute need. And the people that have the most acute need are often the elderly and the disadvantaged. Unrepresented individuals are at much greater risk than those who have counsel with respect to the basic elements of life such as their homes, their wages, medical care, Social Security and other benefits. There is an ever-present need for legal services at the bottom end of society.”

Graber, a partner with Hodgson Russ LLP in Buffalo, has a long history of continued involvement with the School of Law, including 25 years of service as an adjunct professor and on the Dean’s Advisory Council. With a new philanthropic gift, he has now funded a fellowship that supports the work of a student at the Center for Elder Law and Justice (f/k/a Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled and Disadvantaged of Western New York), where he is also a board member.

“There is no such thing as an easy contested case,” he says, “and if a well-heeled party, including the government, has counsel, it’s important that there also be counsel on the other side – not for the purpose of allowing him/her to get away with something, but to put the parties on an equal legal footing.”

The inaugural Garry Graber Fellow is Jacob Sikora ’18. His summer posting was at Legal Services for the Elderly’s foreclosure prevention project.

“We’ve had some really memorable cases, some awesome victories,” Sikora reports. “Any client who comes to us, we have a 72 percent outcome of being able to keep the client in their home and avoiding foreclosure.

“The No. 1 thing a lot of people say is it’s pretty black and white: These people defaulted on their mortgage and there are consequences. But everyone has their own story,” Sikora says. “When people are defaulting, it’s usually due to a hardship like loss of employment or somebody gets severely ill. You can relate to it because it could happen to anybody.”
**Class of ’80 gift: targeted for good**

Good dinner, great idea. It happened last year when members of the School of Law’s Class of 1980 had gathered for their 35th reunion. Over dinner, the conversation centered on what today’s law students need most: practical training, mentorship, a way to get a foothold in the profession.

As Mary Joanne Dowd ’80 remembers, they thought about how they could make their giving to the school serve that end. Maybe they could pool their money and make a gift that they could earmark that gift to fund an intern at the Western New York Law Center – where their classmate Joseph Keleman is executive director.

“Just felt it would be nicer to do this than to give a generic gift,” Dowd says. “We felt good about the benefit staying in Buffalo, and we felt comfortable with Joe.” Four classmates chipped in: Dowd, Hon. Michael M. Mohun ’80, Robert S. LaRussa ’80 and Wayne M. Lopkin ’80.

The result is the Western New York Law Center Fellowship, and its first recipient – Noreena Chaudari ’17 – worked at the nonprofit law firm this summer.

The organization provides free assistance and representation primarily to low-income people in civil cases. Chaudari worked with the Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office, better known as CLARO Buffalo, helping people who were being sued by debt collectors.

“A lot of the visitors had a default judgment entered against them,” she says. “We could draft an order to show cause to vacate the default judgment, and under a student practice order I could argue the motions to vacate in Buffalo City Court.”

Often, she said, the lawsuits are brought by debt buyers, who pay pennies on the dollar for debt obligations and then try to collect the face value. “There is no real proof that this money is owed,” Chaudari says. “A lot of people we saw are people who can’t afford to have their wages garnished. The ones I worked with were extremely happy to have this taken care of and to be free and clear. It was really satisfying.”

**Summer 2016 Student Fellows**

**NAMED FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS:**

- **Julie Freudenheim Fellow**
  - Kayla Drickel ’17 – Erie County District Attorney’s Office – Buffalo

- **Garry Graber Fellow**
  - Jacob Sikora ’18 – Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled and Disadvantaged of WNY – Buffalo

- **Kaplan & Reynolds Fellows**
  - Sarah Hicks ’17 – Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled and Disadvantaged of WNY – Buffalo
  - Karen Zacarias ’18 – Neighborhood Legal Services – Buffalo

- **Martha Krisel Fellow**
  - Maria Apruzzese ’17 – Erie County District Attorney’s Office – Buffalo

**BPLP FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS:**

- **Charles E. Mann Public Interest Award Recipient**
  - Christine McClellan ’17 – Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice – Staten Island, NY

- **Dean’s Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellow**
  - Jason Gunning ’18 – Federal Defender’s Office for the Western District of New York – Buffalo

- **UB Law Alumni Association’s BPLP Fellow**
  - Sean Rheinheimer ’18 – Hon. Jeremiah J. McCarthy, US District Court, WDNY – Buffalo

- **BPLP Fellows**
  - Andrew Plewinski ’18 – Hon. Richard J. Arcara, US District Court, WDNY – Buffalo
  - Ryan Sollenne ’18 – Legal Assistance of Western New York – LawNY – Geneva, NY

**BUFFALO PUBLIC INTEREST LAW PROGRAM GRANTEES:**

- **Alyssa Erazo ’17 – Journey’s End Refugee Services, Inc. – Buffalo
  - Allyson Kehl ’18 – Neighborhood Legal Services – Buffalo

**Catalyst Public Service Fellows**

- **Jessica Neubauer’18 – Journey’s End Refugee Services, Inc. – Buffalo
  - Emily Stoufer Quinn ’18 – Legal Assistance of Western New York – LawNY – Buffalo

- **BPLP Program Grantees**
  - **Jessica Gill’18 – West Coast Prison Justice Society – Vancouver, British Columbia
  - **Jayne O’Connor’18 – Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York – Buffalo
  - **Emily Stoufer Quinn’18 – Legal Assistance of Western New York – LawNY – Geneva, NY

**ADDITIONAL FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS:**

- **BHR Human Rights Fellows**
  - **Jessica Gill’18 – West Coast Prison Justice Society – Vancouver, British Columbia
  - **Jayne O’Connor’18 – Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York – Buffalo
  - **Sebastian Sekhon’18 – West Coast Prison Justice Society – Vancouver, British Columbia
  - **Astrid Zulch’17 – Church World Services, Nairobi, Kenya
  - **Jessica Neubauer’18 – Journey’s End Refugee Services, Inc. – Buffalo

**NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION TRUSTS AND ESTATES LAW SECTION FELLOWS**

- **Matthew Eaves’17 – Hon. John M. Owens, Monroe County Surrogate’s Court – Rochester, NY**
Setbacks are a fact of life in legal practice, and lawyers need the strength of character to weather them gracefully.

**Elena Spence '19**, the newest recipient of the Dean’s Advisory Council Scholarship, has learned hard lessons in that kind of resilience. It will serve her well as she follows her passion for social change in the School of Law’s joint program in law and social work.

“I am very, very passionate about social justice issues,” Spence says. “Where that will take me, I don’t know. A lot of very unexpected things have happened at different points in my life that changed my trajectory. The opportunities that are available are rearranging themselves every day, and I want to impact the world in a way that is consistent with my values. I’m hoping my education will help me do that.”

Spence’s life was marked by tragedy in 2007 when her husband, Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Spence, was killed in the crash of a Black Hawk helicopter in northern Italy. She returned home to give birth to their son, Mark, who’s now a bright second-grader (and, his mother adds, a terrific chess player).

Spence completed her undergraduate degree through Boston University, graduating cum laude. Now in the second year of the J.D./MSW program, she drew on her experience as part of a military family in a social work internship at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo. There she worked with veterans, active-duty military and their families in the organization’s civil unit, on issues including child support and Veterans Court cases.

The DAC Scholarship, which continues through graduation, is the equivalent of full tuition – welcome support as Spence manages the many demands of both school and parenthood. It also recognizes academic merit, and she says, “I was happy for that recognition.”

The future is always unknown, but Spence anticipates using her legal training on a policy level. “I’m definitely drawn to macro social work,” she says. “Policy is something I can see myself doing … As long as you’re doing the best you can and making the best decisions based on what’s facing you today, it will work out the best that it can.”
Donors making it happen for D.C. exposure

There’s nothing like being there. That’s the premise behind the New York City Program on Law and Finance, which is celebrating its 10th year of putting School of Law students in touch with high-level practitioners in the heart of Manhattan.

This year, 18 New York City Program students enjoyed a further enrichment experience with a jam-packed trip to visit with financial regulators in Washington, D.C. The two-day trip, which began with a 5:30 a.m. train departure from New York, was made possible by generous gifts from 12 School of Law donors.

“We’re just so thankful for the support by alumni and friends of the program for our current and future students. It just means so much to our students,” says Lucy Dadd ’04, a major gifts officer in the school’s development office. She said the gifts, amounting to $300 per student participant, came in the context of the program’s 10th anniversary celebration Sept. 29 at the New York City offices of Hodgson Russ LLP.

The goal of the Oct. 26-27 D.C. trip, says program director Lauren Breen, was to “connect with regulators in the world of finance.” Toward that end, she scheduled visits at the Securities and Exchange Commission, hosted by Celeste Murphy ’97; the U.S. Treasury, hosted by Nate Yohannes ’12; the Federal Trade Commission, with Teresa Chen Kosmidis ’06 and Kenneth Libby ’85; the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, hosted by Lynn Bulan ’89; the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority; with Racquel Russell ’01; and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Students also networked at an evening social with UB School of Law alumni working in the D.C. area.

Our deep thanks to the following donors who generously sponsored the 18 current students to take a two day “D.C. field trip” exploring the financial institutions and governmental agencies in our nation’s capital.

Anonymous
Alexander Bouganim ’12
Gerard S. Citera ’80
Laura M. Esposito ’13
James W. Everett Jr. ’83
Mary and David E. Fransasiak ’78
Justin M. Greatorex ’11
Newman J. Hoffman ’12
Joseph A. Kresse ’95
Lewis M. Rose ’81
Mark J. Weinstein ’81
Annual Fund co-chairs step up their support

Practitioners in three areas where there are large concentrations of UB School of Law alumni – Buffalo, New York City and Washington, D.C. – are leading the charge for this year’s Annual Fund campaign.

The Annual Fund, which has raised at least $1 million for scholarships and programming in each of the last nine years, is the School of Law’s broadest-based fundraising effort. It attracts thousands of gifts annually from graduates and other friends of the school.

The co-chairs are Chris Trapp and Josephine Greco of the Class of 1981, based in Buffalo; Robert Gutowski ’99 in New York; and Mason Ashe ’89 in D.C.

“We are fortunate to have such great supporters among our alumni like Chris, Josanne, Rob and Mason,” says Vice Dean Karen Kaczmarski ’89. “Their dedication and passion for the law school is inspiring to all of us and will ensure the success of our Annual Fund.”

Trapp and Greco are married and practice together in the Buffalo firm named, logically enough, Greco Trapp. “We both believe strongly in Buffalo and the UB School of Law,” they say. “We also want to assist the new students to make sure that they have the same opportunities to learn and experience the law and legal profession as we did 35 years ago.”

Their memories of the UB Law experience are undimmed by those years. Greco recalls Professor Joseph Laufer, teaching first-year torts, and Professor Louis Del Cotto, in a taxation course, as early influences. “It was through the eyes of these professors, and so many others, that I came to understand that the law is ever-changing and to be a good lawyer, you had to be able to think outside of the box,” she says.

For his part, Trapp says, “I remember the camaraderie with not only our class, but also the personal relationships with the professors. In our ever-competitive profession, it’s important that new lawyers learn that collegiality is still important.”

In New York, Gutowski serves as managing director and deputy general counsel at MSCI Inc., a financial services company. He also is the immediate past chair of the Law Alumni Association’s New York City chapter, which has thrived with new programming and networking opportunities. “Co-chairing the Annual Fund is an exciting opportunity to increase alumni participation in another way – through increased financial support of the law school,” he says.

“Exciting things are happening at the law school, and alumni contributions are an essential component to funding many important initiatives,” Gutowski says. “I have personally been involved with the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program and the Law and Finance Program in New York City, both of which could not exist.”
Mitchell Lecture
Advocacy Institute
Clinical Legal Education
Social Justice Initiatives
Discover Law Program
Mentoring Programs
Generous Scholarships

We Innovate
We Advocate
We Include

NYC Program
Ken Joyce Excellence in Teaching Fund
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Advocacy Institute
Clinical Legal Education
Social Justice Initiatives
Discover Law Program
Mentoring Programs
Generous Scholarships

For more information or to donate, visit law.buffalo.edu/giving
Your support powers their education ... Thank you!

Recent recipients of generous scholarship aid include ...

S
ome give generously in support of awards that bear their name. Some give in the name of a loved one. Individual alumni give; organizations give. Their motivations are as varied as they are, but for those who fund named scholarships, one thing is constant: Their essential participation in the training of the next generation of University at Buffalo School of Law attorneys. Thank you!

Scholarships awarded 2015-16

Alden-Baldy Scholarship
Lauren M. Adornetto ‘17
Elizabeth C. Dolata ‘17
Erin K. Rozewicz ‘17
Robert M. Zielinski ‘16

Varkis A. Baligian & Hon. Jacqueline M. Koshian Scholarship
Farina Mendelson ‘17

Henry W. Box Scholarship
Allyson L. Kehl ‘18
Andrew B. Plewinski ‘18
Gabrielle K. Walter ‘18

The Alan Carrel Award
Erica L. Pandolfo ‘16

Ross M. and Jeanette E. Cellino Scholarship
Shazia Khan ‘18

Charlotte Cuneen-Hackett Scholarship
Matthew J. Deierlein ‘17

Harold A. Dautch Memorial Scholarship
Alison K. Haseley ‘17
Meaghan P. Kelsey ‘16
Andrew R. Mark ‘17

Diversity Scholarship
Ninteretse Jean Pierre ‘16

Frederick C. Ebert Scholarship
Michelle L. Cappellucci ‘17

Hon. John T. Elfvin Scholarship
John R. Ewell ‘16

Richard J. Evans Scholarship in Memory of Morris and Adeline Evans
Charlotte E. Werner-Kohler ‘18

Martin A. Feinrider Scholarship
Catherine J. McCulle ‘16

Robert J. Feldman Scholarship
Catherine C. Pulvirenti ‘17

Ellen and Kenneth Forrest Scholarship
Brendan F. Conley ‘18
Jacob R. Sikora ‘18

Richard E. Gottlieb Scholarship
James J. Dawson ‘18

Thora Knight ‘17

Graduating Class Gift Scholarship
Courtney D. Morphet ‘17
Stephanie Rivas ‘16
Andrew S. Tabashneck ‘16

Hon. Samuel L. Green ‘67 Award
Ariana L. Hoo ‘16

Professor William R. Greiner Scholarship
Kerry Q. Battenfeld ‘17

Stanley Grossman Scholarship
Devon E. Gawley ‘18

Pamela and Robert Heilman Scholarship
Jairo E. Holguin ‘18
Kayla E. Leonard ‘18

Jacob D. Hyman Scholarship
Kristen M. Dombroski ‘17
Taylor D. Golba ‘17
Patrick D. Leavy ‘16
Christopher J. Sasiadek ‘16

Korniczy Intellectual Property Law Scholarship
Daniel R. Carosa ‘16

John F. Mary A. and Robert J. Lane Scholarship
Umberto N. Angilletta ‘16

Norman B. Lewis Scholarship
Kevin Brown ‘18
Brendan F. McLaughlin ‘18

Lipsitz Green Scime & Cambria Scholarship
Noreena K. Chaudari ‘17

Joseph G. Mari Scholarship
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James M. McMahon Memorial Scholarship
Nico L. Grasso ‘17

Ira S. Meiselman Scholarship
Michael Bombard ‘18
Martha M. Pigott ‘18
Adelbert Moot Scholarship
Ashley A. Czechowski ’17
Matthew J. Eaves ’17
Megan C. McGuiggen ’17
Justina L. Sailor ’16
Albert Eli Moss Scholarship
George P. Brown ’17
Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize in Law
Khadijat A. Olagoke ’17
William M. and Carolyn B. North Scholarship
Kaitlynn E. Walker ’17
Gerard J. O’Brien ’52 Trial Excellence Scholarship
Samuel M. Benatovich ’16
Joseph P. Peperone Memorial Scholarship
Sarah M. Draper ’16
Mary K. Smith ’16
Phillips Lytle Diversity Scholarship
Andria R. Adigwe ’17
Samuel S. Borbor-Sawyer ’17
Jairo E. Holguin ’18
Phillips Lytle Scholarship
Todd J. Aldinger ’16
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Melanie J. Prasad ’17
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Amanda G. Brennan ’17
Jessica A. Diaz ’16
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University at Buffalo Law Alumni Scholarship
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Tylena K. Venable ’18
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Carmen P. Tarantino Memorial Scholarship
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Hon. Michael A. Telesca Scholarship
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Candace and James Vogel Book Scholarship
Robert M. Zielsinski ’16
Jacob Weissfeld Scholarship
Megan R. Hartl ’16
Lawrence H. Wagner Scholarship
Kaileen M. Balzano ’16
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Donell L. Gibson ’18
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Margaret W. Wong Scholarship
Christopher R. Bitar ’18
Yik Cheng ’18
YOU MADE IT HAPPEN!

Contributors to UB School of Law
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

Our Time is Now – to CELEBRATE! Thanks to YOU – our generous donors – we’ve reached the goal in our most ambitious fundraising effort ever – the $30 Million Campaign for the UB School of Law. The mission of this seven-year effort: to transform fundraising at the School of Law and reach even greater heights. And, with your help, we have – tripling the amount of scholarships for our students, doubling our endowment, doubling the number of endowed faculty positions, raising over a million dollars for signature programs like Discover Law, the Advocacy Institute and the NYC Program on Finance and Law – and so much more. And, we’re not done yet – we’ll keep counting through Dec. 31, 2016. So stay tuned for the final Campaign total and honor roll next year.

Kudos to YOU for also making this past year another record year for our Annual Fund – our ninth consecutive million-dollar Annual Fund. This is a remarkable achievement and a huge part of the success of our Campaign, since every dollar given to the Annual Fund counts toward our overall Campaign goal. All thanks to your support.

No fundraising effort would be successful without our many volunteers who give tirelessly of their time, energy and resources to help the cause. From our Campaign Steering Committee to our Annual Fund National Co-Chairs to specific fundraising initiatives, our volunteers go the extra mile to ensure that Buffalo Law will continue to grow and excel. We gratefully acknowledge each of our volunteers (see Page 34) and all they do to help the School of Law.

Our most sincere appreciation is extended to the alumni, friends, law firms and other organizations recognized below who made a gift to the School of Law during the last fiscal year: July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. (Donations made after June 30, 2016, will be included in the report for the current fiscal year that will be published next year.) Gifts of all types are reported below, including those to the Annual Fund, specific programs, endowment funds, capital funds, gifts of cash, in-kind donations and appreciated stock, and are acknowledged with our deepest thanks.

Every effort has been made to ensure our Honor Roll’s accuracy, and we apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions. If you have any questions, corrections or comments, please contact: Karen Kaczmarski ’89, Vice Dean for Philanthropy, 408 O’Brien Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260-1100. Phone: (716) 645-6429. Fax (716) 645-3646. Email: kkrkacz@buffalo.edu. THANK YOU!
School of Law Legacy Society

Benefiting the law school through planned gifts

The School of Law Legacy Society has been formed, in cooperation with the University at Buffalo’s General Edmund Hayes Society, to honor an extraordinary group of alumni and friends who have made the School of Law a beneficiary of a bequest, trust or other planned gift. We extend our deepest appreciation to the following alumni and friends who have included the School of Law in their estate plans.

Anonynous (S)
Thomas L. Bantle ’85
Bridget Black
Thomas E. Black Jr. ’79
Hon. Frank B. Borowiec ’49
Hilary P. Bradford ’53
Hon. Mary K. Carr ’52
Jeanette E. Cellino
Ross M. Cellino Sr. ’56
Elizabeth G. Clark ’84
Lynn A. Clarke ’83
Richard J. Evans ’72
Mary K. Foster
Sue S. Gardner ’76
Carol A. Greiner
Gordon R. Gross ’55
Gretchen S. Gross
Howard J. Grossman ’80
Susan E. Hanifin ’92
Pamela D. Heilman ’75
Robert D. Heilman
Erma R. Hallett-Jaekle ’36 *
Harvey L. Kaminski ’77
Barbara D. Klippert ’75
Ross P. Lanzafame ’86
Cindy Abbott Letro
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Richard Lipsitz ’43
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Dr. Nancy S. Newlin
Dr. Karen P. O’Connor ’77
Frank S. Palen ’74
Penelope D. Ploughman ’89,
PhD, JD, Esq.
Jean C. Powers ’79
Kevin B. Powers
Ellen S. Reis
Professor Robert L. Reis
Terry M. Richman ’86
Arthur A. Russ Jr. ’67
Barbara L. Schifeling ’84
Belle F. Theobald ’44
Jean M. Valvo
George B. Weires ’68
Sandra Weires
Brent L. Wilson ’76
Hon. Robert L. Wolfe ’54
Margaret W. Wong ’76

* deceased

Membership in the School of Law Legacy Society is open to anyone who has made such a future commitment, regardless of the donor’s age or the amount of the gift. If you have already provided for the School of Law in this way, you automatically qualify for membership. Please inform us of your intentions by contacting:

Karen R.
Kaczmarski ’89
Vice Dean for Development
University at Buffalo
School of Law
408 O’Brian Hall
Buffalo, NY 14260-1100
(716) 645-6429
krkacz@buffalo.edu

PLEASE NOTE: When including the School of Law in your will, the beneficiary should be the University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the School of Law.

Showing appreciation

“I made a bequest to the School of Law because I’m grateful that there is a first-rate law school in Buffalo that has always accepted non-traditional students, especially women, and supported my dream of becoming a lawyer.”
— Sue S. Gardner ’76

“UB School of Law’s willingness to admit a 45-year-old woman, with a background in elementary education and selling real estate, has made the whole rest of my life possible. I’m so incredibly thankful.”
— Elizabeth G. Clark ’84
FREEZE FRAME
Alumni and students in action

1. Daniel M. Baich ’00 and Christopher A. Wightman ’99 at the Annual Fund event in New York City
2. Dennis C. Vacco ’78 and Carmela M. Colucci at the Dean’s Reception in Buffalo
3. Helen Root Scalia ’11 at the newly admitted attorney event in Rochester, N.Y.
4. Joseph A. Kresse ’95 at the Annual Fund event in Washington, D.C.
5. Paul R. Comeau ‘73 at the Annual Fund event in New York City
6. Douglas W. Dimitroff ’89, David F. Smith ’78 and Lucy Smith at the Dean’s Reception in Buffalo
7. Timothy J. Sheehan ’84, Hon. Kathy J. King ’84 and Hon. Judith J. Gische ’80 at the Annual Fund event in New York City
8. Michelle A. Daubert ’07 and Laura Godly ’18 at the newly admitted attorneys event in Rochester
9. Marion K. Henderson ’65 and Philip M. Henderson at the Law Alumni Association’s Annual Dinner in Buffalo
Please join us to honor
James A. Gardner
with the
2017 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award,
the highest honor the
University at Buffalo
School of Law and the
UB Law Alumni Association
can bestow.
Friday, Jan. 27, 2017
Noon to 2 p.m.
The Union League Club
38 E. 37th St.
New York City

For registration information, visit
law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent
or call the Alumni Office at (716) 645-2107