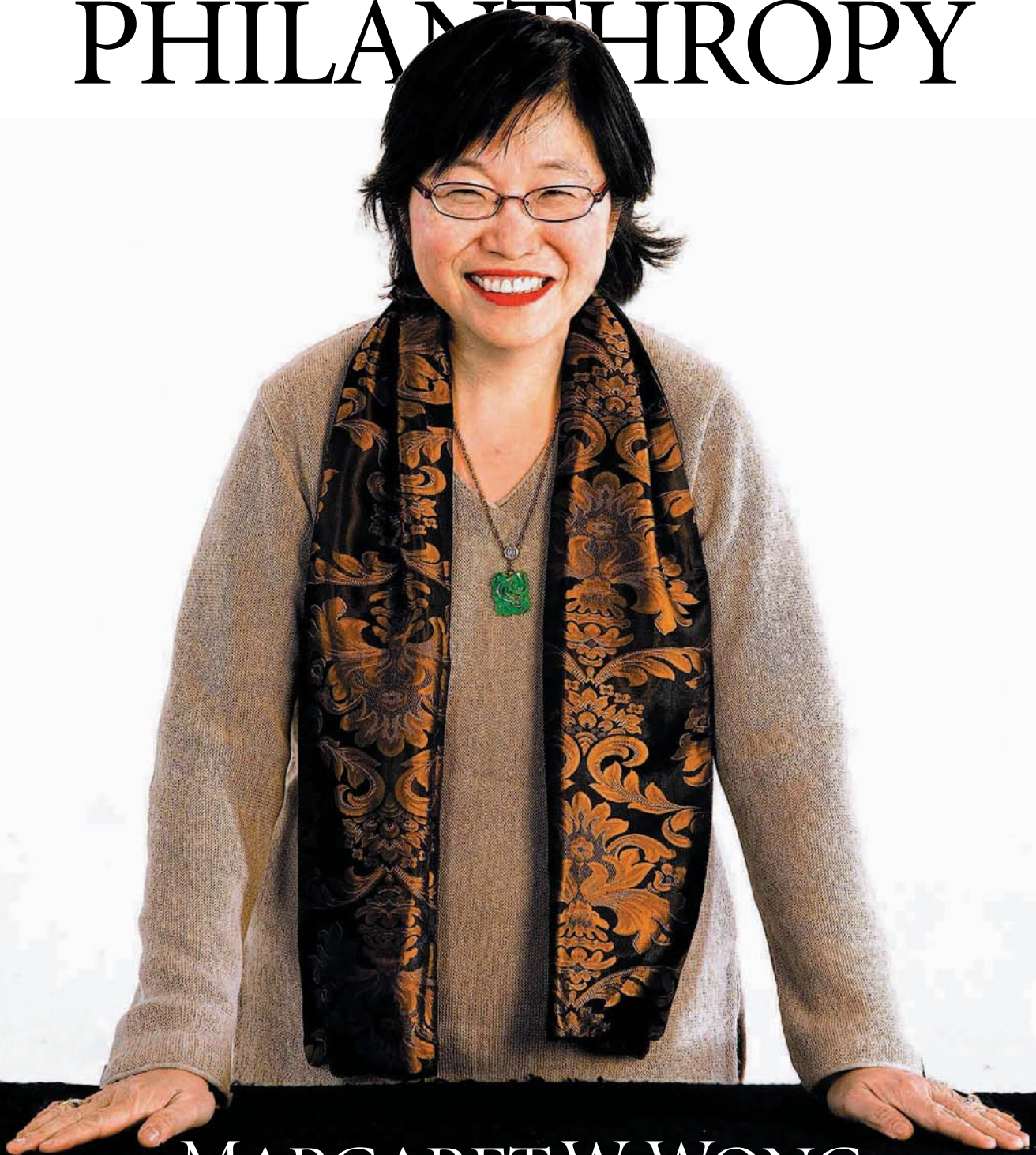


SUNY BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL • THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

# SUNY BUFFALO LAW PHILANTHROPY



MARGARET W. WONG  
INCREASES HER ENDOWMENT  
TO \$1.5 MILLION

## MESSAGE FROM DEAN MUTUA

## Investing in academic excellence

More than at any other time in the history of higher education, alumni-led philanthropy has become the cornerstone of building academic excellence. This has always been true of private universities. But now it is also true of public research universities. A contracted economy and politics hostile to funding university education through public dollars have sapped state support. Huge state deficits, including here in New York, have left the SUNY system severely underfunded. This means that to build and retain an excellent public research university, we more than ever need the generous support of our alumni and friends.

"This is already happening at the University level, where, under the leadership of our new president, Satish Tripathi, UB recently received its largest gift ever – a \$40 million anonymous gift to the School of Medicine. I am very pleased to say that the Law School – the only law school in the SUNY system – is helping lead the way. SUNY Buffalo Law has for some time now been a leader within UB in mobilizing the support of its alumni. You – our alumni and friends in the legal community – are among the most generous alums in the country. Your support and giving are consistently in the top quartile of all law schools. Thanks to you, we have been able to avoid the worst effects of state cuts and the economic downturn. In fact, we have been able to make wise investments in our academic programs during one of the most savage recessions in history. But our ambition is not simply to "hold the line" or to avoid the worst excesses of a bad economy. No – we must grow and become among the top 50 law schools in the country.

That is why we are using your support to invest in the pillars of academic excellence. In the last four years, we have hired 14 faculty with star potential. We will need resources for faculty



*"Thanks to you, we have been able to avoid the worst effects of state cuts and the economic downturn. In fact, we have been able to make wise investments in our academic programs during one of the most savage recessions in history."*

chairs, professorships and summer research support, and excellent facilities to support and retain them. We have recruited a stellar IL class. We will need more scholarships and great learning facilities to attract another impressive class next year. This is especially critical in view of a dwindling state and national pool of qualified applicants for law school. This year, applications were down by 12 percent nationwide. We have put modern technology in several of our large classrooms, and will "tech up" more classrooms this year. We have refurbished the first floor, the most lived-in space in the Law School. We must keep up these improvements.

As SUNY's only state law school, we are a crown jewel. But we want our crown to shine and light up UB. I believe this is not an idle ambition, because of the progress that we are mak-

ing. We are on the cusp of great things. Over the past two years, you have stepped up your giving to the Law School. This issue of *SUNY Buffalo Law Philanthropy* is a testament to your generosity. But we have further to go. That is why, as I thank you for all your support, I ask you to dig deeper so that together we can realize our goals.

I wish all of you a wonderful and enjoyable holiday season.

Makau Mutua  
Dean



# Sharing the fruits of a dream

It was only when she began teaching immigration law this fall as an adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve University, says Margaret W. Wong '76, that she realized what a high-wire act it is to hold your own before a classroom full of bright law students.

So Wong, who has spent a career building her Cleveland-based practice into an immigration law powerhouse, called on SUNY Buffalo Law School for advice. She e-mailed Associate Professor Rick Su, whose teaching and research includes work in immigration law, with a rookie question: "How do you talk for two hours?"

Su provided a little coaching, and now—"every Tuesday at 6 o'clock"—she finds herself imparting the lessons of her fruitful career to the next generation of would-be immigration lawyers.

Wong's personal journey is as well-known at SUNY Buffalo Law School as it is in Cleveland. Born in Hong Kong, where her parents had fled following the Communist takeover of China, she became an immigrant herself, coming to the United States on a student visa along with her younger sister, Cecilia.

Between them they had four suitcases and \$200.

Wong's bags-to-riches story began when she worked her way through college in Iowa and then Illinois as a waitress (though she lost jobs because she couldn't tell a Rob Roy from a Manhattan from a martini), and spent summers doing hotel work in New York's Catskills resorts. A full scholarship to SUNY Buffalo Law School, she says, made her dream of becoming a lawyer possible.

She passed the bar, but could not find a job in law. She worked a temporary position as a legal and financial officer for the City of Buffalo, then moved to Cleveland to become a management trainee at a bank there. After a brief stint at a Cleveland law firm, she struck out on her own, with a \$25 desk and not even a secretary. She called everyone she knew and handed out her business card on buses.

Slowly the business built up, to the point a few years ago when Wong moved it into a beautiful new building on downtown Chester Street and christened it the MWW Center. Margaret Wong & Associates now has additional offices in Chicago, New York City, Columbus, Atlanta and Detroit, serving both individual and corporate clients throughout

the United States.

She and her husband, pharmacist Kam Chan, have two children, including daughter Allison Chan, a 2011 graduate of SUNY Buffalo Law School.

"It is my firm belief that the United States is still the best country in which to live, thrive, and become somebody," she writes in her book *The Immigrant's Way*. "I am living the American dream.

... Most foreign-borns in the United States are tenacious survivors.

We work hard to save and to bring our families to America to

enjoy a better life—in living standards, personal freedoms, and environmental conditions. We also tend to be stoic, do not voice our opinions often, and are more generally accepting and accommodating to the not-so-great things that happen to us or around us, while being thankful for the good things that do happen."

Wong makes the three-hour drive from Cleveland for meetings of SUNY Buffalo Law School's Dean's Advisory Council, of which she has been a member since 2006. The Law School has recognized her extraordinary level of involvement with her *alma mater* by presenting her with the Distinguished Alumna Award for private practice in 2007, and the 2010 Dean's Medal at Commencement.

That involvement has extended to substantial financial support of the Law School. This year Wong has increased her previous commitment of \$850,000 by an additional \$650,000. That \$1.5 million endowment will be divided: half for scholarships, and half to establish a professorship in immigration law.

The scholarship support, she says,



"I am living the American dream."

—Margaret W. Wong '76





is partly intended to advance the school's efforts to attract the very best students regardless of financial need. "We're trying to get really top-rate students," she says, "and it's nice to be wanted. For many of these top-tier students, three schools will accept them, and the decision comes down to which they can afford financially." The ability to offer significant scholarship money, she says, means SUNY Buffalo Law School can enroll students of the highest caliber – thereby enhancing the educational experience for all the school's stakeholders, while also helping the school's reputation and rankings.

But also, Wong says, her scholarship giving recognizes the help she herself received all those years ago. "It really did some good for me," she says of that assistance. "I went most of three years for free. I thought it would be neat to plan such a gift and see some kids enjoy it. It's a good investment."

In addition, the new gift to endow a professorship in immigration law reflects her commitment to that legal

field and her recognition that it's an uncommon specialization. "I did not realize how hard it is to recruit good teachers who care about immigration," she says. "It's such a niche practice. It includes issues of Constitutional law, human rights, international trade – we need to encourage professors to do scholarly research in that field."

She recognizes that the gift may seem showy, and that's the last thing she wants. In reality, she says, she was "a little shocked" at the amount she was asked to give. But the gift becomes manageable, she says, when paid over a number of years, and partly as a bequest – and the tax deduction, she notes, is immediate.

Wong, who marked her 61st birthday this year, turns reflective when asked about the timing of her gift. "You come to a time in your life when you ask, what impacts you the most? You want to do some good," she says. "After the kids are grown and all the tuition is paid, what do you care most about? You want to help other people, not just your immediate family and children."



Upper left, Margaret Wong '76 participating at a DAC meeting; top, surrounded by the recipients of Margaret W. Wong Scholarships in 2010; above, as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient in 2007.



## LEADERSHIP GIVING

# A great teacher's name lives on

Only later – sometimes many years later – did his students find themselves comparing memories and realizing they had come to the same conclusion: Of all their experiences in law school, the best teacher they ever had was Professor Louis A. Del Cotto '51.

Great teachers change lives. For more than 40 years, Lou Del Cotto did just that, introducing generations of students to the intricacies of the tax code, statutes and regulations, and in the process redefining the school's curriculum in tax law. Many of his students surprised themselves by choosing tax law as a career path. Others whose practices aren't based on tax nonetheless recognize the ways their time in Del Cotto's classroom shaped their skills in analytical and creative thinking.

Now a series of gifts, including a major donation by Brian Baird '83, of counsel with the Buffalo law firm Kavinoky & Cook, will establish a named professorship for Del Cotto, ensuring that his legacy will be a permanent part of the school and that the next generations of law students can wrestle with tax law and come out on top.

Baird's \$370,000 gift completes the circle in creating a named professorship, for which \$130,000 was raised among many alumni donors several years ago. He says the gifting opportunity appealed to his commitment to the Law School's educational quality as well as to his respect for Professor Del Cotto, who passed away in 2005.

"To have funds available to hire excellent professors is an important aspect of the Law School and the quality of the education the students receive there," says Baird, who has served on the Dean's Advisory Council since 2006. "Professors have an obligation to



**Professor Louis A. Del Cotto '51**

Dec. 29, 1923 – April 9, 2005

both teaching and research, and Lou did both; however, I am more focused on the quality of the teaching. To have a professorship with Lou's name would make funds available for hiring faculty to carry on his teaching and hopefully become the kind of extraordinary professor Lou was."

Baird says he was one of those who fell into tax practice – his legal practice involves tax and estate work, as well as

general business with tax implications – at least partly because of his experience in Del Cotto's courses, specifically Tax 1 and 2, and Corporate Taxation.

"When people talk about professors who had an impact on their lives, Lou is one of the people who is mentioned most," Baird says. "He was adept at teaching students how to think and how to approach tax. He was very good at focusing on concepts. He was also a very demanding teacher, but he had a good sense of humor."

"I think this is a marvelous thing they're doing," says Josephine "Bea" Del Cotto, wife of the late professor. "But I'm not surprised. Students always held Lou in very high esteem and were very happy with his teaching quality and methods. He worked very hard. All the years that he taught, he constantly attempted to refine his teaching methods, trying to make it easier for the students while still imparting knowledge to them. He was always willing to go the extra mile with students if they were having difficulty."

Mrs. Del Cotto says that SUNY Buffalo Law was "an important part of our lives. He was aware of everything that went on." But it was the students and their lives after law school that most concerned the professor.

"One of the things that was crucial to him was the success of the people he taught," she says.

"The job field was open to them. Many are doing quite well, and I know that would make him very, very proud."



*"When people talk about professors who had an impact on their lives, Lou is one of the people who is mentioned most."*

*– Brian Baird '83*

# Transition and tradition

Over the years, a lot of non-profit organizations have asked Pamela Davis Heilman '75 to serve on their boards. She has said yes, a lot, and groups from the United Way to the Shaw Festival to the University at Buffalo have claimed her as their own.

But throughout her career at the Buffalo-based law firm Hodgson Russ – where she is a lead lawyer in the firm's cross-border Canada/U.S. practice, counseling Canadian businesses and organizations considering expansion into the United States – one constant has been her unwavering support for SUNY Buffalo Law School. A member of the Dean's Advisory Council since 2004, Heilman brings her strategic and analytical skills to the Law School's mission. She sees the recent major gift of \$100,000 she made to the school with her husband, Robert, a business consultant and 1975 graduate of UB's MBA program, as one piece of the puzzle of how to make SUNY Buffalo Law the best it can be.

"I've come to recognize the need for dollars to be given to support faculty chairs and scholarship," Heilman says, "and to support scholarships for students so we will be able to attract the absolute best and brightest. Our tuition may be set lower than some, but those other schools are offering more in scholarship aid. Without scholarships, we in fact are not always the most affordable choice, and very, very good students often go elsewhere. To maintain the quality and the diversity of classes we need in order to be a great law school, we need to provide funds for student scholarships."

As a member as well of the UB Council, she recognizes that the reputation of the Law School reflects on the quality of the University at Buffalo as a whole. And, she says proudly, Hodgson Russ "employs more SUNY Buffalo Law graduates than any other



Dean Makau Mutua and Pamela Davis Heilman '75

law firm in the country. It's very important to us that the high reputation of the Law School and UB be maintained and enhanced as much as possible, because this has a direct impact on the reputation of our firm."

This also is a personal time of transition, as Heilman prepares to retire from her law practice at the end of 2011. "It has been a fabulous career at a fabulous firm," she says. "I am very, very satisfied with where I am today. I've had an extremely active and engaging and in some ways cutting-edge practice, which has been intellectually fulfilling. There is nothing else I need to do career-wise."

As she reflects on that career, Heilman says, "Much of my success is based on my Law School education at UB and the opportunity that it afforded me to join Hodgson Russ 36 years ago and then become a partner. With-

out that legal education and without UB being there for someone who did not come from wealth, it would not have happened. Affordable, high-quality public education is so important."

And on a practical level, as she rediscovers concepts like the weekend and the quiet e-mail inbox, Heilman says it has been helpful to be able to structure the couple's gift to make it affordable, structuring a payment schedule over several years and including a bequest component as well.

"Given our current transition to retirement, we appreciated the Law School's flexibility in tailoring the ability to make a gift to our particular circumstances," she says.

*"I've come to recognize the need for dollars to be given to support faculty chairs and scholarship and to support scholarships for students so we will be able to attract the absolute best and brightest."*

*— Pamela Davis Heilman '75*



# SCHOLARSHIPS: *Making a*



From left, Carrie Zimbardi '14, Logan C. Geen '14, Tricia DeFilipps '14 and Emily Dinsmore '14

# difference for our law students



“Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee,” said Ralph Waldo Emerson, and SUNY Buffalo Law School alumni whose giving supports student scholarships are true to that ideal. Scholarship giving makes all the difference for the recipients of that aid – and on a wider level, it helps to build the overall quality of each entering class of students.

“As the admissions dean, I am immensely appreciative of the generosity of our alumni to create scholarships that help us so much in our efforts to attract the best students to the Law School,” says Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, vice dean for admissions and financial aid. “In recent years, law schools across the country have significantly increased their scholarship dollars in the millions. These alumni-funded scholarships help us to compete for the best students. The students who receive the money are so grateful, and it makes a positive impact on their SUNY Buffalo Law experience.”

Meet some of the beneficiaries of alumni-supported scholarship aid – bright, motivated students whose presence lifts SUNY Buffalo Law School even as they acquire the tools of the legal trade.

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It was a very good day, says Carrie Zimbardi, when she learned she would receive the **Carmen P. Tarantino ’77 Memorial Scholarship**, which covers \$15,000 a year of her Law School expenses. The scholarship, which honors the late Buffalo litigation attorney, is offered to a student pursuing studies in litigation.

“Honestly, I’m still in shock,” Zimbardi says. “It motivates you to want to live up to those expectations and the name of the attorney. But it also takes a humongous weight off my shoulders about all the debt I would have had after law school. It means a lot more to me, maybe, than other people, because I’m a single mom, with 2-year-old twin sons.”

Zimbardi, a West Seneca native who continues to work as a paralegal at a small Buffalo law firm, majored in legal studies as a UB undergraduate. “I was always a member of the mock trial team,” she says. “I ran the undergraduate team here at UB for four years, and we traveled to Yale, Cornell, all the big-name schools.” And she did well, regularly winning honors as best attorney in the competitions. “Ever since then,” she says, “hearing feedback from the attorneys who serve as judges, I knew that I wanted to be in court. I feel like

that’s what I’m meant to do. I want to be in the heart of it.”

She had offers from other law schools, including a major offer from Ohio Northern University. But, she says, “I’ve always wanted to stay local. Everybody I’ve ever known lives here in Buffalo.”

Now her leap of faith in choosing SUNY Buffalo Law is paying off – even though, like all first-year law students, she is learning that the time demands of legal education are “huge.”

“In undergraduate school you go to class, but you can get by without too much extra studying and time. It’s totally different from that in law school,” she says. “You have to put the time in and do all the readings. I do feel like I have a little leg up because I’ve worked in the law and know civil procedure.”

Balancing that first-year work with her personal and work responsibilities, she acknowledges, is “a huge juggling act,” but one she’s negotiating with the help of a supportive family. “When I had my twins,” she says, “I hadn’t gotten accepted to law school, and a lot of people assumed I wasn’t going to go. I never wanted to think like that. Having them was not a deterrent to going to law

*Continued on page 8*



# Scholarships:

## Continued

school. It lit more of a fire underneath me. I want to show them that you can pursue your dreams no matter what. I'm just so grateful that I'm able to pursue my dream."

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It was never a given that Emily Dinsmore would end up in O'Brian Hall – in fact, she says, "the joke is that I avoided law school as long as I could."

After earning a biology degree at Cornell University, Dinsmore worked for eight years and continues as a paralegal for Simpson & Simpson, a Buffalo intellectual property firm. "I just really like that area of the law," she says. "We actually have clients who are individuals rather than corporate clients. It's really interesting – a lot of good ideas come from people who have some experience in an industry or just see something and say, 'I think this should be done better,' and they come up with something."

At the small firm, she says, "I took to the work right away. I'm definitely a detail-oriented person, and it's nice to be in a place where that is rewarded. There's a lot of writing, preparing correspondence and keeping files in order, and probably the biggest part of my job is tracking deadlines, because IP practice is very deadline-driven. I also did a couple of special projects, preparing reports for some big clients on the state of their trademark files in other countries." As well, she says, working in a law firm helps her keep perspec-

tive, knowing that there's light at the end of the three-year tunnel. "As law students, we can be really hard on ourselves," she says. "This helps me to keep the goal in mind."

As a first-year SUNY Buffalo Law student benefitting from the **Carole E. Brevorka Scholarship**, Dinsmore says, "It's a really exciting time to be at SUNY Buffalo Law. And the scholarship was part of the reason I decided to go to UB. I was weighing UB against a number of highly ranked law schools. But with the way the economy is and the amazing burden of debt so many young graduates are faced with, I chose UB because of its value. The scholarship allows me to not worry as much about my debt load, which will give me more options when I graduate. I am absolutely certain that I made the right choice to go to UB. Law school is challenging, but the incredible faculty and supportive student body make this school a special place. I can't imagine being anywhere else. My family is here, my life is here, I love Buffalo; this is where I want to be."

In addition, she says, because the scholarship aid has allowed her to cut back on her work hours as a paralegal, she can devote more time to the panoply of experiences SUNY Buffalo Law offers, such as working on the Buffalo Journal of Gender, Law & Social Policy. "I really want to have the full Law School experience," she says. "The scholarship is allowing me to pursue those opportunities."

• • •

Tricia DeFilipps, who is benefitting from the **Garry Graber '78 Scholarship**, will be the first person in her family to become a lawyer. A native of the village of

Holley, northwest of Rochester, she was a psychology and political science major at UB, graduating in 2009. Since then, she has worked as a server at an Olive Garden restaurant, paying down her undergraduate loans so she could enter law school in a good position.

"Law school is something I've always thought about," DeFilipps says. "Originally I had wanted to do a Ph.D. program in social psychology, but I decided I wanted something more applicable to people's daily lives than strictly academic research."

She says her interest is drawn to work in the public interest, a signature strength of SUNY Buffalo Law. "Who knows what I'll end up doing at the end of three years?" she says. "I would love to be able to use my degree to help those less fortunate." For example, she says, she's interested in the work of the Law School's Affordable Housing Clinic, knowing that the skills she could acquire there would be marketable in Western New York and she would be able to live and work close to her hometown.

Of the scholarship she says: "I'm taking out loans to pay for everything, because I want to focus on getting the best grades I can. A lot of people I talk to are continuing to work 20 hours a week. I have chosen not to go that route. So to not have to take out that extra money in loans, that really helps."

As for the transition from UB undergraduate to Law School student, she has found one challenge: She's so used to studying in the University's main Lockwood Library, she says, that it's difficult to concentrate in the Law Library. She finds herself walking down the campus spine to get her work done.

• • •

The new University at Buffalo Law Alumni Scholar – funded by continu-



*"It's an exciting time to be at SUNY Buffalo Law School. And the scholarship was part of the reason I decided to go here." – Emily Dinsmore*

# Newest recipient of Bill Greiner's legacy

ing gifts from the **SUNY Law Alumni Association** – carpools to the Law School from his hometown Spencerport with two other Rochester-area law students.

Logan C. Geen is a business management graduate of Roberts Wesleyan College and earned a master's degree in health administration at Cornell University. He followed that with an administrative internship in the nursing administration office of Duke University Medical Center, where, he says, "I found out that I didn't like working with spreadsheets."

But he had taken some law courses at Cornell, and after an internship with a Rochester law firm, he decided that law, not hospital administration, was the best fit for him. "I continue to have a really strong interest in health care," Geen says. "But I'm probably not going to study it too much here. I want to get a cross-section of different substantive areas, and then I hope to go into practice somewhere in the health or life sciences fields. I want to stay in upstate New York, preferably Rochester."

The annual merit scholarship, he says, "made a fairly considerable difference for me. I chose UB mainly because of the price, which was extremely reasonable. With the scholarship I did not have to get a private loan; I can use Stafford loans to cover pretty much my entire bill, and money from the scholarship helps to cover gas and my other expenses." He also can pick up some per diem administrative work in the radiology department of the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Even as a commuter, Geen says, he's trying to get involved with lots of Law School activities, joining a student health law organization and trying out for the *Law Review*. He's also serving as a student ambassador for the school's admissions office – introducing potential members of the next generation of SUNY Buffalo Law students to his adopted school.

Sometimes life comes full circle. That's how it has been for first-year SUNY Buffalo Law student Moira Cooper, newest recipient of the **Professor William R. Greiner Scholarship**. The scholarship, endowed by contributions in honor of the late Law School professor and the University at Buffalo's 13th president, provides \$15,000 a year in assistance for three years.

Cooper is a local product – she grew up in the Lake Erie shoreline town of Derby, and she comes from a family of lawyers that includes six SUNY Law alumni. One of them is her father, Timothy J. Cooper '80, a Family Court judge in Niagara Falls and Evans town justice. And as an undergraduate political science major at UB, she took an honors seminar on Constitutional law with Bill Greiner.

"I have so much respect for him," Cooper says. "His dedication to his subject was just contagious. It was probably the toughest course I took as an undergraduate, but he was so intelligent and so fascinating to have as a professor. I loved that class."

Now, as the Law School's latest Greiner Scholar, she says the financial assistance is making it more possible to achieve a dream she has held since the second grade. "It's so helpful," says Cooper, who waits tables at a Cheesecake Factory restaurant to help pay her way through law school. "Knowing I have that extra financial support is wonderful. It's tough to go to work after class, so now I've been able to cut back on the hours I'm working and to focus more on school, which makes it so much easier."

As an undergraduate, she says, she was very interested in politics, even serving internships with U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer and Rep. Brian Higgins. But she has since been drawn especially to health law, a specialization that offers plenty of opportunities in Western New York.

And she does want to stay close to home.

"I love the area," Cooper says. "I really have such a strong passion for it. I want to practice here, and that's what I wrote my whole personal statement about in the admissions application."

It was the SUNY Buffalo Law graduates in her family – besides her father, they include four uncles and an aunt – who encouraged her to choose Buffalo when it was time

for her legal education, and UB was the only law school to which she applied. "They all had a great experience in the Law School," she says. "That was a big driving force. I also got the warnings, like to be prepared to read five hours a day, all the hard-work warnings. And it is tough. It's more work than I have ever done. Every day is like studying for an exam in undergraduate school. But it's also really interesting, reading the cases."

The Greiner Scholarship is one of several legacies that pay tribute to the professor, whose

career at UB began and ended in the Law School. Another is Greiner Hall, a state-of-the-art residence hall accommodating 600 students on the North Campus. The residence hall, which was dedicated this summer, blends residential, recreational and academic spaces to create a vibrant living and learning environment in an arrangement known as the "learning landscape."

"Bill was a visionary and an achiever who loved people and loved UB," says Law School Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel '67. "He was charismatic and genuine, delegated extensively and never micromanaged. He never lost his temper and raised his voice only when cheering for the Bulls. ... I was in awe of his gift for tackling and resolving the most contentious and difficult problems with ease and grace. His patience, wisdom, kindness and values put him in a class by himself. He taught me that students come first, and that compassion, sincerity and persistence can move mountains."



Moira Cooper '14



## LEADERSHIP GIVING

Scholarships awarded  
2010-11**Alden-Baldy Scholarship**

Katelyn E. Dieffenderfer '11  
Frank H. Ewing '12  
Melissa C. George '11  
Francis K. Graham '11  
Leah M. Hardy '11  
Manuel P. Karam '11  
Regina S. Malta '11  
Lawrence P. Mancuso '11  
John A. Mosychuck '11  
Brian Roy '11  
Leia D. Schmidt '12  
Kimberly M. Thrun '11  
Zachary J. Woods '11

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

Ryan R. Seher '11

**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**

Andrew R. Borelli '13  
Kinsey A. Davidson '13  
Galena D. Duba '13  
Tyler M. Ellis '13  
Nicole K. Intschert '13

**Hon. Frank J. Clark Scholarship**

Eric T. Glynn '13

**Harold A. Dautch Memorial Scholarship**

Kristen L. Grabowski '11  
Jennifer L. Hilburger '11  
Shayna A. Hutchins '11  
Anant Kishore '11  
Michael J. Yonkovig '11

**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

**Diversity Scholarship**

Shatorah N. Roberson '12

**Frederick C. Ebert Scholarship**

Floyd M. Huntz '12

**Martin A. Feinrider Scholarship**

Kathleen J. Gabel '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

**Stanley Grossman Scholarship**

Sarah A. Bertozzi '13  
Janet E. Curry '13  
Adam J. Penna '13

**Charlotte Cunneen Hackett Scholarship**

Leigh A. Jones '13  
Frances H. Stephenson '13

**Jacob D. Hyman Scholarship**

Adam G. Giangreco '11  
Rachelle M. Hoeffschweiger '11  
Laurie A. Murphy '12  
William G. Sacks '11  
Brent C. Seymour '12

**Harvey L. Kaminski Scholarship**

Luke I. DeBruin '12  
Paul D. Shapiro '12  
Andrew J. Spears '12

**Barbara D. Klippert Scholarship**

Jasmine Paul '12  
Monique A. Tronchin '12

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

Emily G. Catalano '11  
Rita N. Georges '11

**Norman B. Lewis Scholarship**

Jennifer L. Estleford '13  
Ashley M. Fasso '13  
Caitlin M. Higgins '13  
Emery T. Lewis '13  
Brittany A. Nasradinaj '13

**Lipsitz Green Scime & Cambria Scholarship**

Mitsie Smith '11

**James M. McMahon Scholarship**

Nicole D. Harris '11  
Joseph A. Petti '11

**Ira S. Meiselman Scholarship**

Michael S. Das '13  
Tyson R. Prince '13  
Kimberly A. Rowles '13  
Michael A. Turbush '13

**Adelbert Moot Scholarship**

Daniel F. Brennan '12  
Kathleen A. Ellis '11  
Caitlin A. English '12  
Lynn M. King '12  
Andrew Kleehammer '12  
Michael T. Logan '12  
Mary-Ellen E. Stockwell '11  
Monique A. Tronchin '12

**Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize**

Duwayne T. Bascoe '12

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

Kimberly A. Worling '13

**Joseph P. Peperone Memorial Scholarship**

Garrett T. Lyons '12

**Phillips Lytle Scholarship**

Kenneth L. Bostick '13  
Rody Damis '12  
Anika H. Patterson '13  
Shatorah N. Roberson '12

**Savino-Martin Scholarship**

Mengyi (Melle) Xu '13

**Matthew J. Schnirel Scholarship**

Melissa L. Overbeck '11

**Phyllis G. Smith Scholarship**

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

**Hon. Michael A. Telesca Scholarship**

Letecia N. Whetstone '12

**SUNY Buffalo Law Scholarship**

John P. Fenski '11  
Daniel T. Hawes '12  
Harminder Khosa '12  
Parker R. MacKay '12

**Vogel Book Scholarship**

Christopher J. Tyrpak '11

**Mark Jay Weinstein Scholarship**

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

**Jacob Weissfeld Scholarship**

Patrick J. Reinikainen '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

# ‘No time like now’



*“The school needs to be able to have scholarships that help to bring in talented students, and it’s just the right thing to do. I hope that my classmates and other alums will help out as well.”*

—Mark K. Suzumoto '82

Sometimes serendipity makes all the difference – but sometimes it needs a little help. So it was for Mark K. Suzumoto '82, who burned the midnight oil and then some to get into SUNY Buffalo Law School.

A native Californian, he was living in Rochester and engaged to his future wife, Sonia, a native of the Finger Lakes city of Canandaigua. They had met in the Midwest as volunteers with Volunteers in Service to America, and she had returned to Rochester to teach. Suzumoto, who had been recruiting SUNY Buffalo Law students to work on VISTA projects, had already been accepted at another law school when Alan S. Carrel '67, now vice dean, took him to lunch and made a pitch for SUNY Buffalo Law.

It sounded good, but there was a hitch: It was May, and the application deadline was two months past. If you really want to be considered, Carrel said, your application has to be done first thing tomorrow morning.

So Suzumoto picked up an application, drove back to his VISTA/Peace Corps office in Rochester, typed until 1 a.m. on an IBM Selectric typewriter, drove back to Buffalo with the completed application, and was back at his desk in time for work at 9 a.m.

He got in – and that long night became the seed for a long and supportive relationship between Suzumoto and his law school alma mater. A longtime donor, recent co-chair of the Annual Fund campaign, a member of the Dean's Advisory Council since 2004 and one of the hardest-working lawyers you'll ever meet, Suzumoto has further cemented his ties to SUNY Buffalo Law with an unrestricted \$100,000 gift.

“There’s no time like now,” he says of that decision. “The school needs to be able to have scholarships that help to bring in talented students, and it’s

just the right thing to do. I hope that my classmates and other alums will help out as well. I still have such respect for the Law School.”

His own experience at the school, Suzumoto says, was leavened with both academically enriching pursuits and a healthy dose of fun. He served on the Buffalo Moot Court Board, and went with his team to the regionals of the National Trial Competition, in Syracuse. He worked on a short-lived consumer mediation board, in which students helped consumers with such matters as negotiating warranty coverage for products. But he also played intramural softball; his coed team had some success against men’s teams, he says, partly because “we had a couple of women ringers who had played in high school.” Then there was the law student-produced play.

Now, as a business lawyer and civil litigator, he draws on the lessons of SUNY Buffalo Law in his practice, which focuses on consumer product counseling and regulatory compliance, including business and litigation advice on intellectual property, products liability and trade regulation issues. His new firm, formed just a couple of years ago, is Van Etten Suzumoto & Sipprelle, with offices in Westlake Village, Calif., and Los Angeles.

“I am exceptionally proud of my association with UB and would recommend the school to any student who believes that he or she has the capacity to grow,” Suzumoto has said.

Mark and Sonia Suzumoto have three sons – all of them Eagle Scouts, and one a UB undergraduate.



# Gift reflects his gratitude

**U**B Law School was a very different place when Robert M. Kornreich '67 began his legal education. For one thing, it was still located at 77 W. Eagle St. in downtown Buffalo, a brisk walk away from the city's courtrooms. "The school was tiny – the class was much smaller than it is now – but it had a very high-quality faculty," Kornreich says. "And it had an excellent reputation, not just in Buffalo but generally, and it aspired to be a national law school."

After graduation, Kornreich took the train back to his native New York City and built a premier securities fraud practice with the firm Wolf Popper, where he now is a senior partner. A specialist in securities class and derivative litigation in federal and state courts, he is a member of the firm's Executive Committee and co-chairs its Litigation Department.

But he had little occasion ever to be in Western New York, and it was only when his class's 40th anniversary approached that he reacquainted himself with SUNY Buffalo Law – and was surprised at what he found.

"I hadn't been there in 30 years or more," he says. "But having personal contact with the school, meeting some of the professors, the dean, some of the students, and hearing what was going on, that made me feel I had a genuine interest in the school."

Responding to an invitation last year to join the Dean's Advisory Council, he says that service on the DAC has further impressed upon him the progress SUNY Buffalo Law has made and the necessity for alumni support for its mission.



*"When the school called me, I thought I should show my appreciation for having received such a good education that launched my career."*

– Robert M. Kornreich '67

"Until I became a member of the DAC," he says, "I didn't have a full appreciation of the Law School's problems and the constructive ways they are dealing with them. I find it extremely exciting to see what's being done to develop the faculty, improve the infrastructure, and increase the school's ability to fund-raise. ... It has opened my eyes to all that is going on at the Law School. Because I was a DAC member I felt I could play more of a role – that I had some input into what was going to happen."

That involvement now has translated into a major gift of \$100,000 in support of the school's mission, a gift that Kornreich says reflects his gratitude for the three years that launched his legal career.

"I have reached the point in my career where I feel grateful that I pursued law as a profession," he says. "When the school called me, I thought I should show my appreciation for having received such a good education that launched my career. It was a combination of guilt, the feeling that I should give back, plus the fact that this was a good time to get inter-

ested in what's going on at the Law School."

He says he is impressed with Dean Makau Mutua's ambitions for the school's national standing. "The dean has set the goal at a much higher level," Kornreich says, "and it's always good to have a goal that's substantially above where you are, because that makes you reach for it."

In addition, he says, the school – though substantially larger than it was when he was sitting in torts class and working on the *Law Review* – is still a small enough organization that his gifts of time and resources can make a difference. "I felt I had a more personal contact to the recipients of my donation," he says. "With some large charities, your donation gets lost. And where the state has historically been supportive of the University and still is, it can't make the same level of contribution it previously did."

"The Law School needs the alumni now more than ever."

# A growing connection

**T**he resume of Barbara Klippert, a member of the Law School's Class of 1975, lists a Seven Sisters college where she did some of her undergraduate work and a well-known Manhattan university where she earned a masters of tax law degree. But neither of those institutions, she says, holds the same kind of emotional attachment for her that SUNY Buffalo Law School does.

She says her continuing involvement with the school – she has served on the Dean's Advisory Council since 2004 and teaches a class in the school's New York City Program in Finance and Law – has grown that sense of attachment. “The more involved I've become,” she says, “the more connected I feel to what's going on in the school.”

That involvement has extended to generous financial support, recently including a gift of \$145,000 – part multiyear donation, part bequest – to be used in large part to support scholarship aid for deserving students and the New York City Program.

Klippert practices ERISA law in the New York office of the Boston-based law firm Bingham McCutchen LLP.

“It would have been virtually impossible for me to go to law school if I wasn't able to go to SUNY Buffalo with the tuition it had,” she says. “In addition, I got an incredible education there. I didn't have any idea what I wanted to do after law school, and then I discovered tax in Lou Del Cotto's class. It was so engaging to me that I decided to become a tax lawyer. I really owe the success I've achieved in life to my ability to go to UB and the education I received. It is very impor-



*“It would have been virtually impossible for me to go to law school if I wasn't able to go to SUNY Buffalo with the tuition it had. I got an incredible education there.”*

*– Barbara Klippert '75*

tant to me to give back to the Law School and to try to help students who are in the same position that I was.”

Klippert's class was one of the first to use the newly constructed O'Brian Hall, moving from the Law School's previous location in downtown Buffalo. “It was not what we expected, but it was what happened,” she says of that move to what was then the only building on the new Amherst campus. But, she says, it was a small class, and “the people were very close.” She also served as case and comment edi-

tor of the *Buffalo Law Review*.

And in another accident of timing, Congress passed the Employee Retirement Income Security Act – what would become Klippert's area of specialization – in the fall of 1974, just months before her Law School graduation. Similar to tax law, she says, ERISA is “like doing a puzzle. You have to be comfortable with codes and very abstract analysis, because there are no answers. You have to be able to live in gray.”

As she thought about making a significant gift to the Law School, Klippert says, she was able to structure the gift to make it feasible financially. “You try to give as much as you feel comfortable giving on a current basis,” she says. “It would be a normal thing for me to think in terms of a bequest, which doesn't immediately come out of my pocket. But you also need to be willing to commit certain funds on an ongoing basis, even though in some years it may be more of a stretch than others. It's much more helpful to the Law School to have that money now.”

Her work with the Dean's Advisory Council, she says, has shown her that she's not alone in her enthusiasm for the Law School's prospects.

“These are people who are very committed to the Law School, continuing its legacy, increasing its reputation and making things good for its students and graduates,” she says. “They feel pretty passionately about the school. I am pleased to be part of that.”



# Conference center named for Cellino & Barnes

Two well-known alumni returned to O'Brian Hall on May 26 as the school's elegant fifth-floor conference center was officially named in their honor. The Cellino & Barnes Conference Center was dedicated to recognize a major gift to the school by Ross M. Cellino Jr. '82 and Stephen E. Barnes '83. They are shareholders in the personal injury law firm Cellino & Barnes, with 42 attorneys in six offices across New York State.

From left to right, Stephen E. Barnes '83, UB President Satish K. Tripathi, Dean Makau Mutua and Ross M. Cellino Jr. '82.



Below, from left to right, Stephen E. Barnes '83, UB President Satish K. Tripathi and Ross M. Cellino Jr. '82



Left to right, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Charles Patrick Ewing, Jeanna Cellino '12 and Ross M. Cellino Jr. '82



Left to right, Annmarie Cellino '14, Anna Marie Cellino '81, Ross M. Cellino Jr. '82, Jeanna Cellino '12 and Brigitte Cellino

Left to right, Ross M. Cellino Jr. '82, and parents Jeanette Cellino and Ross M. Cellino Sr. '56



Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel '67.

Stephen E. Barnes '83, center, with parents John "Jack" and Marian Barnes



Far right, Stephen E. Barnes '83 and Ellen B. Sturm '01



Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann, UB President Satish K. Tripathi and Kamlish Tripathi

## DEVELOPMENT REPORT

## The momentum continues

**W**ith many thanks to our loyal donors and volunteers, SUNY Buffalo Law School closed out the 2010-11 fundraising year with successes all around. Overall commitments and gifts increased over last year, as did the Law School's endowment. And for a fourth year in a row, SUNY Law's Annual Fund raised more than \$1 million – another milestone year. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication and loyalty of the over 2,000 alumni and friends who express their belief in the importance and value of SUNY Buffalo Law School through their investment of time, talent and resources. Thank you so very much.

Highlights from the 2010-11 fiscal year include:

- A 46 percent increase in pledges to the Law School.
- A significant increase in the number of six- and seven-figure commitments, including those from Margaret Wong '76, Brian Baird '83, Pamela Davis Heilman '75, Mark Suzumoto '82, Robert Kornreich '67 and Barbara Klipfert '75 profiled in this edition of *SUNY Buffalo Law Philanthropy*.
- An 18 percent increase in the Law School's endowment.
- A 9 percent increase in total contributions to SUNY Buffalo Law.
- A record-setting Annual Fund drive, raising a total of \$1,180,985.
- Over 1,500 meaningful contacts by the development team with prospects and donors to cultivate support for the Law School.

Two talented development professionals also became part of our team: Jeff Piscitelli, who joined us as development officer in February, and Lucy Dadd '04, the new Annual Fund director, who joined us in May. Jeff and Lucy have brought energy, enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the development program, and we are already seeing the results of their efforts through the new Circle of

Next time you're in John Lord O'Brian Hall, take a look at SUNY Buffalo Law's new Leadership Donor Wall, recently unveiled on the first floor. The installation, which will be updated periodically, recognizes and honors donors whose giving to the Law School over a lifetime totals at least \$100,000.



Associate Dean Karen Kaczmarzki '89 with Dean Makau Mutua

Leaders program, a remodeled 3L class gift program and reinvigorated reunion giving.

Fiscal year 2011-12 is well under way, and we have ramped up our fundraising efforts on all fronts. The development team is focused on more outreach and more contacts with our alumni and friends in an effort to cultivate greater support for the Law School. Our Annual

generosity and for all that you do to help continue the momentum at SUNY Law.

*Karen*

Karen R. Kaczmarzki,  
Associate Dean for Development  
Phone: (716) 645-6429  
E-mail: krkacz@buffalo.edu





# A new standard of giving

**H**ow difficult would it be for your family to plan its budget if you didn't have a ballpark idea of what your income will be from year to year? Starting with good information is half the battle, and that's true for SUNY Buffalo Law School as well.

The need for solid planning is at the center of Circle of Leaders, a new pledge-based way to give to the Law School. Charter members are now being accepted; all you have to do is commit to three years of leadership giving and you're in the Circle!


Circle of Leaders members pledge a minimum of \$1,000 for each year of their three-year commitment. Givers can choose to give at the Jacob D. Hyman level, \$1,000 to \$2,499 annually; the John Lord O'Brian level, \$2,500 to \$4,999 annually; or the Edwin & Erma Jaeckle level, \$5,000 or more annually. Members of the GOLD Group, graduates from 2002 to 2011, can join the Circle of Leaders with a minimum gift of \$500 per year.

All members receive a charter member certificate, suitable for framing, and a Circle of Leaders lapel pin.

"By serving as a focal point for Law School philanthropy, the Circle of Leaders helps the Law School plan, as well as connect with more alumni and friends who would like to be involved with the future of SUNY Buffalo Law. It is a positive program all the way around," says Lucy Dadd '04, assistant director of development, who oversees the program. "The Circle of Leaders helps secure the Law School's place

Introducing

THE CIRCLE OF LEADERS



*A new standard of giving from our most loyal donors. Join a new generation of leaders.*

Become a charter member of UB Law School's Circle of Leaders by committing to *three years* of leadership giving – at the Jacob D. Hyman level, the John Lord O'Brian level or the Edwin & Erma Jaeckle level.

*"The Circle of Leaders helps the Law School plan, as well as connect with more alumni and friends who would like to be involved with the future of*

*SUNY Buffalo Law."*

*– Lucy Dadd '04, assistant director of development*

on a national stage of ideas and actions – a place where our past is remembered and our future is played out with energy, intellect and passion."

In addition, by enabling the Law School to plan three years out and count on these pledged resources, the school is able to progress more efficiently and effectively in the areas of student scholarships, academic programs, faculty hiring and facility improvement. Long-term private support is key to securing SUNY Buffalo Law's place as a world-class law school.

Although undesignated gifts give the school the most flexibility in ad-

ressing areas of critical need, you can designate your gift to any area of the Law School. Circle of Leaders members do not receive phone solicitations – their pledges serve as their Annual Fund commitment.

For information on joining the Circle of Leaders, contact Lucy Dadd at (716) 645-2113 or [ladadd@buffalo.edu](mailto:ladadd@buffalo.edu).



Professor Philip Halpern, center, with students in the New York City Program in Finance and Law

## Alumni giving powers NYC program

Unique among SUNY Buffalo Law School's diverse program offerings, the school's New York City Program in Finance and Law is funded entirely by alumni donations – a prime example of what focused alumni giving can accomplish.

The New York City program is an immersive experience in which a select group of students spend a semester of their second or third year in Manhattan, learning from their professors and from cutting-edge practitioners.

"The program doesn't work without these alumni who contribute their expertise and their time and their money, and some people do all three," says Professor Philip Halpern, who heads the program for the Law School. "The ones who give the most in terms of their time and teaching are usually the ones who give the most money as well. There's a strong sense of wanting to give back."

Because SUNY Buffalo Law's affordable tuition draws many students from modest family backgrounds, he says, "sometimes it's a bit of a social and cultural leap" to imagine themselves in the high-stakes world of law and finance. "So it's very important," he says, "for our students to go and listen to UB graduates who are at the pinnacle of the profession, and have the sense that they too can go there if they're willing to harness their energies. It expands the horizons of our students."

Programs like this, Halpern notes, are increasingly important as law firms, squeezed economically like many other businesses, are doing less training of their first- and second-year associates. "That puts pressure on law schools to do more for students than to simply teach them to think like a lawyer," he says.

But Halpern emphasizes that the program is about much more than skills training – it's about the context of practice. "There's a lot of contextual under-

standing that goes into the practice of law," he says, "whether it's a global context, understanding a bureaucracy, representing someone before one agency as opposed to another, understanding the context of the political economy. That's an amazing opportunity for the students."

David E. Franasia '78, a principal in the government affairs law firm Williams & Jensen, is one of the prime movers of the New York City program in financial support and academic instruction. "You can't pay back the people who helped you," Franasia says in reflecting on his contributions. "What I can do is do what they did for me – help young people get to their next step. That's where the passion comes from."

The program is a distinctive attribute of SUNY Buffalo Law, one that attracts high-quality students with interest in finance and one that takes advantage of the Law School's geographical location as well. "This has always been a core competency of the school," Franasia says. "SUNY Buffalo Law is the SUNY system's only public law school, and because we're in New York, it seems like a no-brainer to have a program that focuses on New York City and its cottage industry, financial services."

He also notes that the program provides an entrée for students to the somewhat insular world of high finance: "There's a big world out there, and for people who want to take a chance and relocate and get involved in financial services, this is a tremendous gateway."

Andrew Devine '11 spent his final Law School semester in Manhattan and found the program eye-opening and productive. "The program was a major reason I came to UB, and I learned a ton of new information," Devine says. "Different speakers came in that put on a weeklong course in capital markets, bankruptcy, commercial lending – they really gave us an opportunity to learn."



# The GOLD standard



Anne Joynt '05 and Annual Fund Director Lucy Dadd '04

**T**he post-law school years, newly minted lawyers say, aren't the easiest in one's life. There's the hurdle of the bar exam, of course, and the uncertain legal employment market to negotiate, and the fiscal reality of beginning to repay student loans stretching back to the first years of college.

But for a solid contingent of SUNY Buffalo Law graduates in their first decade out of law school, those life complications don't get in the way of their continuing engagement, both financial and energetic, with the school and its mission. Sure, the checkbook can be a challenge—but, they say, the Law School has been too important in their lives to set it aside.

"For people my age who have graduated more recently, it's about wanting to honor what UB gave us," says Anne Joynt '05, who heads the Law School's GOLD group for graduates of the last

decade. "There's a real acceptance that we had so many opportunities in school that alumni support has made possible."

Joynt, who practices in the area of toxic torts, particularly asbestos litigation, with the Buffalo law firm Lipsitz & Ponterio, says she finds about a 50-50

split in the group: "Some people are naturally really interested in giving back, others not yet. When you leave law school many thousands of dollars in debt, it may feel good to put the school behind you."

But, she says, in her own giving she recognizes the formative impact that

three years in O'Brian Hall has had on her life. "I loved my Law School experience," she says. "But also, I really do feel I owe my career to SUNY Buffalo Law. I was recommended for the job I currently have by a research and writing professor—it was an unadvertised position. I honestly feel that, absent that, I

probably wouldn't be here. And I'm grateful for that."

Jim and Christy Lilley, both members of the Class of 2004, have an emotional attachment as well—they met at the Law School, where she earned the J.D. and he completed the joint J.D./MBA program. They were married a month after the bar exam; wedding planning, he says, was a welcome break from the stress of the bar review grind.

The Lileys, natives of Western New York, moved first to Pittsburgh, where she did merger and acquisitions work with a large law firm and he worked as a financial planning adviser to high-level corporate executives. They now live in Charlotte, N.C., where Jim works for Wells Fargo in financial planning, estate planning and income tax consulting; Christy serves as assistant general counsel for Corning Cable Systems in nearby Hickory, N.C. They are the parents of two small children: James, 2, and Diana, born this past July.

"I always knew I wasn't going to practice law," Jim Lilley says. "I was one of those who said, 'I don't know what I want to be, but I know this will help me get where I want to go.'" And that has proved true, he says: "Being introduced as an attorney creates instant credibility."

They, too, have been giving at a leadership level to SUNY Buffalo Law School—not that it's effortless, given that both still carry student loan debt, mostly from their undergraduate universities. "We were lucky enough to graduate in a very-low-interest-rate environment," he says, "and carrying loan debt should not prohibit us from giving back to the school. We've been successful, relatively speaking, in our jobs, and to not give something back to the university would be a mistake. On top of that, it's like a 401(k) match—our gifts are matched by Wells Fargo, and to not give a dollar here means we would not give the dollar from the company."



Jim '04 and Christy Lilley '04 with children James and Diana

# Help continue the momentum!



*Your support of the 2011-12 Annual Fund will help make the difference, building on UB Law's successes in the following key areas.*

## The numbers are up!

- Thomson Reuters, the largest legal publisher in the United States, ranks **SUNY Buffalo Law 48th nationwide and No. 1 in upstate New York** for the number of Super Lawyer graduates.
- **We ranked 40th** under a new methodology created by Malcolm Gladwell in the *New Yorker* magazine and implemented by Paul Caron of TaxProf Blog – based on value, LSAT scores and faculty publishing.
- **Up 19 spots** in *U.S. News & World Report* to No. 84, compared to 190 other ABA law schools.

## Extensive opportunities abound

- Over \$1 million awarded in **scholarships to students** in the 2011-12 academic year.
- Over \$275,000 will be awarded for **student fellowships** in 2011-12.
- **Alumni mentoring** matches each member of the first-year class with one of more than 200 mentors, in Buffalo and elsewhere, who share their experiences in the legal world.
- **Career development alumni programs** such as Network the Nation, D.C. Day, Rochester Day and Judicial Career Panels provide our students

with insights from UB Law graduates on career choices and opportunities.

- **LAWR (Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Program)**, recently extended to three semesters, includes analysis and writing at every level of a case, and incorporates moot court, trial technique, law journals, professional development initiatives and legal externships.
- **New York City Program in Finance and Law**, a one-of-a-kind 12-week program, allows students to live in New York City, work with top practitioners, gain exposure to financial institutions and courts, and combine technical expertise with contextual understandings.
- **Clinical Legal Education Program** utilizes a law firm model. Students receive hands-on, everyday practical experiences in eight specialized areas and learn the basics of legal practice down to time sheets and billable hours.
- **Trial Advocacy Program** is directed by two respected legal talents, Hon. Thomas P. Franczyk and attorney Christopher J. O'Brien. Our students compete in seven moot courts across the country, gaining valuable courtroom experience.
- **Moot Court Program** headed by Professor George Kannar gives future lawyers the experience of preparing for and arguing the "big case" in front of esteemed members of the judiciary, and competing with their colleagues.
- **Bridge Courses**, accelerated one-credit courses during winter break, focus on practical skills and an inside view of the lawyer's world.
- **Externships and Judicial Clerkships** in 2011 provided over 140 placements and invaluable opportunities to help our students prepare for legal careers.

## 2010-11 Annual Fund National Co-Chairs



Michael A. Battle '81  
National Co-Chair,  
Annual Fund  
Senior Partner  
Schlam Stone &  
Dolan LLP  
New York City



Diane F. Bosse '76  
National Co-Chair,  
Annual Fund  
Of Counsel  
Hurwitz & Fine, PC  
Buffalo



Richard E. Gottlieb '85  
National Co-Chair,  
Annual Fund  
Member, Dykema  
Gossett PLLC  
Chicago and  
Los Angeles



## *Plaque dedicated for Matt Schnirel '11*

### **Outstanding faculty**

- **Professors Guyora Binder** and **James Gardner** joined Dean Makau Mutua in being named SUNY Distinguished Professors, the highest academic rank in the SUNY system.
- **Four new faculty hires** with practice backgrounds will teach in the key curricular areas of civil procedure, civil litigation, criminal law and procedure, Constitutional law and labor law. We welcome Professors Matthew Steilen, Anthony O'Rourke, Samantha Barbas and Matthew Dimick.
- **Two new LAWYER instructors** with exceptional analysis, research and writing credentials and experience were hired this year, Monica Wallace and Bernadette Klor, expanding the number of instructors in the department to nine.

### **Improved facility creates the right first impression**

- **Renovations** on the first floor create a sense of professionalism and prestige upon entering O'Brian Hall. A staffed information area will provide details to students and visitors about events and programs at the Law School.
- **Technology improvements** through a new student information portal will gather all student e-mails and calendars in one place. Flat-screen televisions provide daily updates on the Law School to students and faculty.
- **A newly refurbished student lounge** offers hard-working law students an area that is comfortable and pleasing to regroup, share information with their colleagues and prepare for their upcoming tasks.

To make a gift to the Annual Fund, please contact Lucy Dadd '04 at (716) 645-2113 or [ladadd@buffalo.edu](mailto:ladadd@buffalo.edu). Or go online to [www.law.buffalo.edu/giving](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/giving) to make your gift there.



Melissa Overbeck '11, right, first recipient of the Matthew J. Schnirel Memorial Scholarship, joins Kevin Schnirel, his father, and Lauren Schilling, Matt's girlfriend, at the unveiling of a plaque in Matt Schnirel's memory at O'Brian Hall.

Schnirel, who was practicing with the small Buffalo law firm Doran & Murphy, was killed along with Michael Doran '82 in the crash of their small plane in Ohio during a business trip in 2009. Schnirel's family and friends established the scholarship in his honor.

The eldest of four children, Schnirel earned his undergraduate degree from the University at Albany. He worked his way through SUNY Buffalo Law as a law clerk at Doran & Murphy, graduating in 2008, and was hired there as an associate after graduation, practicing civil litigation.

# Our loyal volunteers

## *Thank you – we could not do it without you!*

SUNY Buffalo Law School extends its warmest thanks to the many alumni and friends who volunteer to help the school achieve its No. 1 goal of providing an excellent legal education to the best and most deserving students. Our volunteers' participation and tireless efforts make the difference, and we are very grateful to them for all that they do to help the Law School. Thank you!

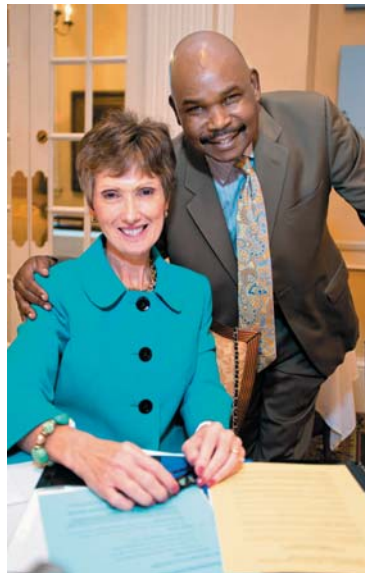
A very special thanks to our 2010-11 Annual Fund national co-chairs – Douglas W. Dimitroff '89 (Buffalo), Mary Joanne Dowd '80 (Washington, D.C.) and Mark Suzumoto '82 (Los Angeles) – for leading the campaign upward to new heights. Under their leadership, the 2010-11 Annual Fund was the most successful to date – over \$1.18 million in gifts – and the fourth consecutive million-dollar-plus year. They have set the bar high for this year's national co-chairs!

This year, the Annual Fund is led by Michael Battle '81 (New York City), Diane Bosse '76 (Buffalo) and Richard Gottlieb '85 (Chicago/Los Angeles). We thank them for serving as our 2011-12 national co-chairs, and for investing their energies and resources in this leadership role. We know we will have another successful year with them leading the way.

Our Annual Fund kickoff event – the Leadership Letter Signing – was a great success thanks to those who volunteered to write personal notes to friends, former classmates and colleagues, encouraging leadership giving. Our volunteers' notes truly make a difference – last year, more than 60 percent of those who received a note made a gift. And we are already seeing an increase in donations this year due to these notes, including many Circle of Leaders pledges.

We also wish to express our appreciation to our reunion class gift volunteers for their loyalty, enthusiasm and encouragement of their classmates. This year, the Class of '76 led the way with the largest reunion class gift – over \$247,000! Many thanks to the devoted members of the reunion gift committees, and thanks to all who contributed.

Last but not least, thank you to those who serve on our development



Annual Fund National co-chair Diane Bosse '76 and Dean Makau Mutua

committee, providing advice and support of our long-term fundraising efforts. These individuals have dedicated their time to help lead the way forward, prepare for the future and ensure that goals are met. We are so grateful to have this group involved in building upon SUNY Buffalo Law's extraordinary foundation.

Our deepest thanks to all of the volunteers listed at right. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure positively impact the Law School, and the students of today and the future. We could not do it without you!

Kenneth W. Africano '85  
Thomas C. Bailey '74  
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  
Lawrence F. Cataldi '76  
Robert B. Conklin '68  
Barbara J. Delgross '77  
Douglas W. Dimitroff '89  
Mary Joanne Dowd '80  
Ann E. Evanko '79  
Robert J. Feldman '76  
John P. Feroletto '82  
Cheryl S. Fisher '76  
Ellen Katz Forrest '76  
Kenneth B. Forrest '76  
Lynn D. Gates '76  
William A. Gersten '76  
Richard E. Gottlieb '85  
Garry Graber '78  
Richard F. Griffin '57  
Gordon R. Gross '55  
Brian D. Gwitt '98  
Pamela D. Heilman '75  
Judith B. Ittig '71  
Anne E. Joynt '05  
Harvey L. Kaminski '77  
Barbara D. Klippert '75  
Robert M. Kornreich '67  
Karen B. Leeds '76  
Francis M. Letro '79  
William E. Mathias II '71  
Carol M. Matorin '76  
Joseph A. Matteliano '76  
Dennis R. McCoy '77  
Jean Carol Powers '79

Vikki L. Pryor '78  
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 Suzumoto '82  
Jeffrey L. Tanenbaum '76  
Kevin G. Van Allen '06  
Brent L. Wilson '76  
Margaret W. Wong '76  
Stephen L. Yonaty '94  
Bruce S. Zefitel '77



# When SUNY Buffalo Law calls

"What courses are you taking?"

That, says Jasmine Paul, student supervisor of SUNY Buffalo Law School's Student Call Program, is the No. 1 question that student callers hear when they reach out to alumni during the academic year. The Student Call Program is all about connection – renewing ties with the school's alumni, keeping them informed about developments at the school, reconnecting with the energy of eager law students, and finding opportunities to participate financially in the life of the school.

"The Student Call Program allows us to connect with a large number of our alumni – over 3,200 contacts made last year by students," says Jill M. Domagala, who as assistant director of development programs oversees the initiative. "It's not only an important piece of our Annual Fund, but it's also a way to keep in touch with alumni. Spending just a few minutes talking with one of our students is a great way to hear about what's new and exciting at the Law School."

That sense of connection, Paul says, is what makes the program rewarding on both ends of the phone line. From wide-eyed first-year students to seasoned 3Ls, student callers gather in a fifth-floor conference room in the evenings, 10 students a night, Monday through Thursday. When they reach an alumnus on their list, they update contact information and ask what's new in the alum's professional life. Often, Paul says, the conversation is rewardingly detailed, with the alumni relishing the chance to give career guidance to their student callers, and the students sharing news from O'Brian Hall.

"A lot of alums want to talk to us," Paul says. "They ask about our experience and tell us about theirs. I've had some really good experiences doing this. Someone asked me to send him my resume, and one judge I spoke with over the phone, I actually ended up working with over the summer. So it's a good networking opportunity



Jasmine Paul

for us, too."

Paul notes that for the student callers, the experience also develops their oral advocacy skills. "This is really helping me talk to a variety of different personalities," she says. "We have definitely had some interesting

phone calls. We are talking to a wide range of people with many different experiences. People who graduated a ways back, even in the '40s, they're always interesting. And then there are the newer grads, who give advice about our upcoming years."

Participants in the Student Call Program are looking to build on last year's successful campaign, which brought over \$164,000 in more than 1,300 pledges, exceeding its dollar goal.

"We did amazing last year, but we would really like it to be more," Paul says. "We are working harder to make that happen this year. Participation is key. Every pledge – no matter the size – counts. As long as they're pledging something, it also benefits them through improving the school's reputation and rankings."



## Members of The University Pillars Society

The University Pillars recognition society was created by the University to honor individuals who have given \$1 million or more to the University over a lifetime. The names of University Pillars whose gifts have benefited the Law School are listed below.

Gretchen S. Gross  
Gordon R. Gross '55  
Cindy Abbott Letro  
Francis M. Letro '79  
Gerald S. Lippes '64

## Members of The University Founders Society

The University Founders recognition society was created by the University in 1994 to honor individuals who have given at least \$50,000 to the University over a lifetime. The names of University Founders whose gifts have benefited the Law School are listed below.

Anonymous	Roger J. Jones '83
Hon. Michael A. Amico '58	Harvey L. Kaminski '77
Laura Aswad	Barbara D. Klippert '75
Brian D. Baird '83	Hilda S. Koren
Stephen E. Barnes '83	Erik D. Lindauer '81
Thomas R. Beecher Jr. '59	Lisa D. Lindauer
Joseph W. Belluck '94	James L. Magavern '59
Bridget Black	William J. Magavern II '62
Thomas E. Black Jr. '79	William E. Mathias II '71
Hilary P. Bradford '53	Carol M. Matorin '76
Thomas R. Bremer '79	Reginald B. Newman II
Peter J. Brevorka '68	William A. Niese '61
Kevin J. Brinkworth '66	Dr. Sandra H. Olsen
David Brown	Professor R. Nils Olsen Jr.
Joan J. Castellani	Vikki L. Pryor '78
Lawrence P. Castellani	Jean K. Rachlin
Jeanette E. Cellino	Lauren D. Rachlin
Ross M. Cellino Jr. '82	Ellen S. Reis
Ross M. Cellino Sr. '56	Professor Robert I. Reis
Terrence M. Connors '71	Arthur A. Russ Jr. '67
Gary Alan DeWaal '80	Robert C. Schwenkel '82
Nina A. Doren	Charles Shabsels '70
Robert K. Doren	Susan Shabsels
Ellen Katz Forrest '76	David F. Smith '78
Kenneth B. Forrest '76	Lucy Smith
David E. Franasia '78	Orin C. Smith
Mary P. Franasia	Mark K. Suzumoto '82
Carol A. Greiner	Barbara Wolfe
Pamela D. Heilman '75	Thomas F. Wolfe '61
Robert D. Heilman	Margaret W. Wong '76
Erma R. Hallett Jaeckle '36	
Karen Jones	

# Counting people, matching dollars

**T**hey've been writing tuition checks for nearly three years. Now the Law School's Class of 2012 – mere months from their graduation day – is working to make one more contribution to the school's economic health.

In a tradition that's as much about building the habit of philanthropy as it is about the dollars raised, members of the current third-year class are digging deep to collaborate on a farewell gift to SUNY Buffalo Law School.

"We're trying to get at least 50 percent of our class to participate," says Robert Grimaldi, who chairs the seven-member Class of 2012 Class Gift Committee. He said past third-year gift campaigns have recorded from 33 to 46 percent participation by class members, but "we're looking to exceed prior levels of participation and, in doing so, make an initial contact with future alumni and build on that."

The committee is planning a kickoff social event and repeated opportunities for students to pitch in for the gift.

Grimaldi, who has worked in the Law School's Development Office, acknowledges that these are difficult times economically for many young people beginning their careers, including notoriously cash-poor graduate students. (Though SUNY Buffalo Law graduates leave with much less debt than those of many other law schools.) But, he says "we're making an appeal to our fellow 3Ls, stressing that we've all received an exceptional education here at UB, and at the close of these three years, we can come together and give back, leaving a lasting impression on the Law School."



Robert Grimaldi, chair of the Class of 2012 Class Gift Committee, with Michael Mohun '80, right

The goal, he says, is to raise at least \$2,500 – or about \$20.12 from at least half of the class's approximately 220 students.

That total figure is important because, for the first time, an alumnus has offered to match the class's gift up to that amount. Michael Mohun '80, a criminal defense attorney in practice in Cowlesville, N.Y., and a longtime financial supporter of the Law School, said he offered to make this challenge gift because "the Law School has been good to me and I thought it was appropriate. The Law School needs private support as the state's support for the school diminishes. It's necessary for the private sector to step up to the plate and help the school so that others will have the opportunity for a public-school legal education like we did."

*"It's necessary for the private sector to step up to the plate and help the school so that others will have the opportunity for a public-school legal education like we did."*

*– Michael Mohun '80*



## ALUMNI DONORS

Dean's leadership  
donor reception

Members of the Jaeckle, O'Brian and Hyman giving societies enjoy themselves at the June 14 reception, hosted by Dean Mutua at the Mansion in Buffalo.

Hon. H. Kenneth Schroeder '61  
and Carol White Gibson '74



Thomas Doran, Associate  
Dean Karen Kaczmarski '89  
and Julia Doran



Frank Longo '97 and Katherine Gorham '97



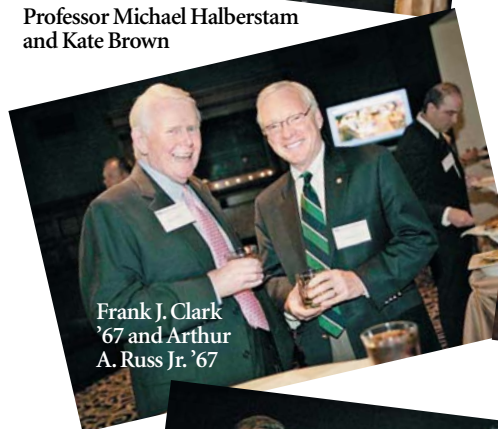
Professor Michael Halberstam  
and Kate Brown



Allan Lewis  
'69 and  
Dana Lewis



Dean Makau Mutua  
and Robert P. Fine '68



Frank J. Clark  
'67 and Arthur  
A. Russ Jr. '67

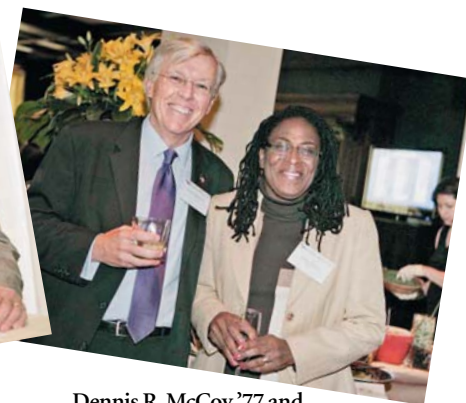


Carol Greiner and  
Hon. Ann T. Mikoll '54

Peter  
Marlette,  
Rogan  
Morton '97  
and Joseph  
Cardinal



Kay Brick and Daniel  
E. Brick '69

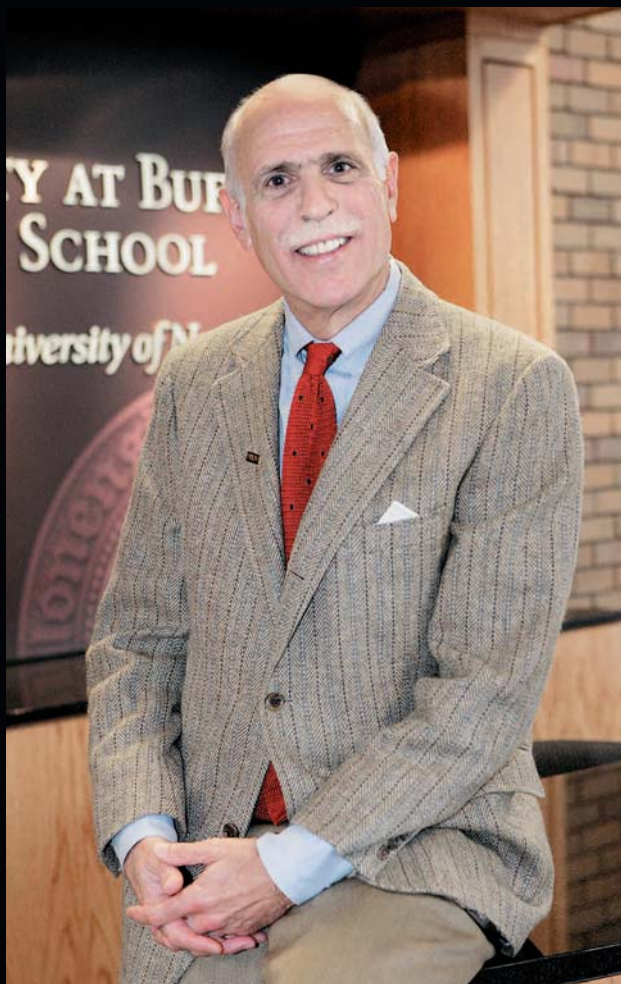


Dennis R. McCoy '77 and  
Professor Athena Mutua

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*Please join us to honor  
**Francis M. Letro '79**  
with the  
**2012 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award**  
the highest honor the  
SUNY Buffalo Law School and the  
Law Alumni Association  
can bestow.*

*Friday, Jan. 27, 2012  
Noon to 2 p.m.  
The Union League Club  
38 E. 37th St.  
New York City*

*For registration information visit  
[www.law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent.asp](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent.asp)*

