

INTERNATIONAL FIGHT

Law School network combats domestic violence worldwide

Two UB Law professors have taken steps to make the school a world-renowned center for confronting what they call the epidemic of domestic violence crimes, locally and internationally. The professors, **Isabel S. Marcus** and **Suzanne E. Tomkins**, have used their teaching positions to coordinate a network of domestic violence advocacy that reaches from the classrooms of UB's O'Brian Hall to at least two other continents.

They have organized a network within the Law School of professors who share their passion for training professionals to address domestic abuse, cultivate advocacy for victims, improve the legal system's response to domestic violence and support research on related subjects, such as women prisoners returning to society.

"The issue of domestic violence is a very compelling one, and it has international as well as national and local dimensions," says Marcus, who previously chaired UB's Department of Women's Studies and recently was named director of international programs at the Law School. "If you start thinking about it as a framing category for work and for thinking about the world, then you can find people who suddenly say, 'That is a topic I should include in my studies.'

"Our work and advocacy are from the ground up," she adds. "We're all grass-roots people, so we

all believe you do not take the structure from the top and then say, 'How does everybody fit in?'"

The informal group is called "Domestic Violence: Different Voices." Marcus and Tomkins said it is an extension of an overlapping domestic violence advocacy network – at UB, in Western New York and at the national and international levels.

"We're growing our program at the Law School to include not only more U.S. lawyers, but also young attorneys from around the world interested in violence-against-women issues. We work with our colleagues from other countries and share ideas. In that process, our law students are exposed to issues and solutions from other parts of the world," says Tomkins, who directs UB Law's Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic.

"What we hope to accomplish

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