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UB LAW *f*ORUM

The Magazine of the University at Buffalo School of Law The State University of New York



UB STRONG *in the Face of Change*

- The lawyer's role in moving society forward
- Forward-thinking developments at the law school
- 10 alumni lead the fight for positive change

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN AVIVA ABRAMOVSKY



**“ Real change,
enduring change,
happens one step
at a time. ”**

– Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg

We dedicate this issue to Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a crusader for justice and equity, in honor of her historic visit to our law school in August 2019.

Dear Friends,

Last year, we were inspired by the visit of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. At the time, we did not know how cherished her visit would be or how much would change in our world in the months that followed.

Since our last issue of this magazine, we have been confronted by a public health crisis that has wreaked havoc across the world. We’ve experienced the frustration of our nation as we’ve confronted ongoing issues of racism. We’ve witnessed outright attacks on our democracy. We’ve lost loved ones and icons. We’ve faced uncertainty and change.

With each of these challenges, I have reached out to you, our law school community, encouraging each of us to stay strong and continue forward. I have asked you to remain focused on our shared mission of preparing lawyers who understand their moral responsibility to protect the rule of law and to promote a society that is equitable and just. It is a mission that is more critical now than ever.

You have responded as our law school community always does, supporting our students, our programs and our law school with your time, your talent and your generosity. You have found new ways to teach, to train and to mentor. You’ve embraced the need to respond to the change around us, one step at a time.

The commitment of our law school community has moved us forward despite all that has threatened to hold us back. That commitment was clear as the law school’s faculty and staff quickly responded to COVID-19, transitioning in only a week’s time to a fully online environment last spring (pages 6–7). That commitment is at the heart of the efforts of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends who are collaborating in new ways to support our social justice and racial equity initiatives (pages 8–9). It is evident in the insightful and interdisciplinary research of our faculty (pages 18–21). It is embodied by the work of our outstanding students (pages 22–23), our responsive clinics (pages 26–28) and our innovative Advocacy Institute (pages 24–25).

This past year has shifted many of our priorities and expectations and has challenged us in ways that we may never have imagined. Let Justice Ginsburg’s words remind us: “Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”

As we continue to rise to this extraordinary moment in time and further our work toward our mission, we must remember that we are an extraordinary community, and that will never change. Stay safe and remain UB Strong.

With gratitude,

Aviva Abramovsky

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A LAWYER'S ROLE IN DRIVING CHANGE

Change, it has been said, is the only constant. But pursuing positive change in the society we share is a job for those with skill, passion and purpose – a job, that is, for lawyers.

In a year when world events have fundamentally changed the way we live, adaptability and flexibility have been the mainstays of daily life. Dean Aviva Abramovsky's words – on the persistence of hope even when democracy itself is under siege – point to an ever-present truth: that in making the world safer and more just, there's always more change to be pursued.

"As members of this legal community, we are agents for democracy and ambassadors for justice. Our legacy will be determined by what we do next. We must use this moment to



sharpen our focus, re-engage with our core values and rededicate ourselves to the preservation of the rule of law. For our students, you entered law school to become effective advocates, to provide a voice and effect change. Allow this moment to motivate you to become the best advocate possible. Use the tools you acquire throughout law school to work toward change where it is needed. Recognize the fragility of the rule of law and use your skills to honor it and protect it." – **Dean Aviva Abramovsky**, after the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol

• • •

Do lawyers have an obligation to pursue change? And what will that obligation look like as the profession continues to evolve? We asked three members of the UB Law community—student, faculty and alumnus—to reflect on the lawyer's role in moving society forward.



Rina Hernandez **2020-21 President, Student Bar Association**

"A well-functioning society depends on the proper and just administration of the law, as well as effective leaders to uphold the law and ensure its fair administration. As society changes, so can the legal profession, to preserve society's integrity. Throughout American history and especially at present, lawyers are among the most powerful agents of societal change. Lawyers are uniquely positioned to pursue societal change where they see that justice demands it. Legal advancements – from civil to environmental to criminal to immigrant rights law – bear witness to the impact lawyers have on our society and its administration of justice.

"In law school I have learned from, networked with and read many legal scholars

and lawyers who are admirable advocates for maintaining an equitable society and justice system. Many of my UB Law peers, my friends and classmates, have pursued change and demonstrated their advocacy skills through deep involvement in extracurriculars. Their work toward positive societal change has already started – through their involvement in law clinics, as teaching assistants, as student organization leaders and through their community service. As times and the profession evolve, I am confident that we have acquired the knowledge and skills to be great advocates, preservers of justice and agents of societal change in our legal careers."



Michael Boucai

Professor of Law

“There’s a tension in the two messages I try to convey to students regarding the relationship between law and social change. My first message is one of empowerment. As I’ve learned from eight years on UB Law’s Admissions Committee, many of our students enroll with the notion that a legal education will specially prepare them to improve the community or the country or indeed the world – and they’re absolutely right. There are opportunities to effect significant change in every corner of our profession – from major legislative reforms to creative extensions of legal precedent; from the clients one chooses to

represent to the associates one chooses to hire.

“My second message, however, is humility. At the same time as I embolden students to perceive themselves as agents of change, I seek to disabuse them of any faith in law’s omnipotence. This means emphasizing the myriad discontinuities between law and social practice. Legal and social change aren’t synonymous; you can have one without the other. And even when society and law evolve in the same direction, they never move in lockstep. Law can’t seamlessly reflect social change any more than it can perfectly impose it.”



Christopher A. Wightman '99

Chair, Dean's Advisory Council and Partner, PJT Camberview

“Aspiring law students often happily enter the grind of law school motivated by an altruistic desire to drive social change, a noble reason for undertaking the effort and joining the profession (and not necessarily at odds with advocating for their clients’ interests). As we live through global pandemic and political turmoil, our culture and society are experiencing tremendous social change, and lawyers (including hundreds of UB Law students and alumni) are driving this change through both public and private channels. With their training and professional experience, lawyers can be excellent advocates for social change.

“American lawyers operate in a constitutionally based system designed to both provide for our government and protect our individual rights. Throughout the country’s history, our society has continually evolved and

lawyers have been at the heart of creating, interpreting and litigating the laws needed to ensure our individual rights remain protected.

“Today the pace of change seems to be moving at a particularly fast rate, raising new challenges in areas from basic human rights to fair immigration to access to medical care to free communication across social media platforms. Each of these areas of change, and many others, will require the skillful and committed work of passionate lawyers who are dedicated to driving societal change while ensuring our legal and political systems evolve along with that changing society – an endless and often daunting lawyer’s obligation – and a challenge that a UB School of Law graduate is well-suited to address.”

CHANGE IN ACTION

Working for change is a hallmark of our law school. It can be seen in our expanding programs, and in the efforts of our faculty, students and alumni. And when those forces come together, the wider society reaps the benefits. Here are just a few of the most recent examples.

A doctor in the house

Introducing our new doctorate program

As the law school continues to expand its academic footprint, it's now offering ambitious students the opportunity to earn a Doctor of Juridical Science degree.

The JSD program, anticipated to start this fall, comes in addition to the school's JD and master of laws programs and its undergraduate major in law. It's intended for students who are driven to make original contributions to legal scholarship.

Professor **Mateo Taussig-Rubbo** directs the JSD program, which includes a year of coursework in residence plus a doctoral dissertation, typically a two-year project. The degree prepares students for careers as law professors, judicial and other public offices, as



well as high-level policy positions in international organizations.

In addition to U.S. students, the program will provide scholarly training for foreign students, many of whom are required to earn a PhD or JSD before they become university professors or judges.

“Over the past few years, the law school has undergone a fundamental transformation, establishing UB Law as a hub for legal education at all levels. We are very pleased to now offer a pathway to cultivate legal scholars at the doctoral level.”

— Dean
Aviva Abramovsky

Moving the needle on civil rights

Prof. Athena Mutua appointed to advisory committee for U.S. Commission on Civil Rights



“There are a lot of different voices at the table, and that's a good thing. One would argue that the promotion and preservation of civil rights is a non-partisan issue.”

— Professor Athena Mutua, Floyd H. & Hilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar

Education funding. Voting issues. Policing practices. The criminal justice system.

All of these are high on the docket for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Now Professor **Athena Mutua** has added her voice to their work, as a recently appointed member of the federal commission's New York State Advisory Committee.

Mutua counts among her academic interests the fraught intersection of race, class and the law. “This is something I've been engaged in all my life,” she says.

The state committee members investigate allegations of civil rights violations, and conduct enterprise projects on civil rights issues.

For example, the New York committee last year released a major report on school funding. It argued that students of color are being deprived of the right to participate in civil society because they lack access to fundamental good-quality education, simply based on their poverty level or their color.



“I want to make it my life’s mission to increase health access and decrease health disparities and inequities for people who have been pretty consistently left behind.”

– Peter J. Farruggia '21

Influencing public health by degree

Student leader receives presidential fellowship

It’s all coming together for **Peter J. Farruggia '21**. He’ll leave UB with a JD and master’s degrees in both business administration and public health – a one-person exemplar of the interprofessional collaboration that’s increasingly important in health care.

And he’s taking a giant step into the world of public health policy. He was recently named a Class of 2021 Presidential Management Fellow. The highly competitive program, administered by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, is the federal government’s premier leadership training program for promising recent graduates.

After graduation, Farruggia will begin a two-year assignment in a federal agency, further developing his leadership skills and giving him the opportunity to leverage his knowledge of health policy and health administration in the policy-making arena.

It’s all a giant step toward his ultimate goal: a career dedicated to public service, especially in health and health care, and perhaps with an international focus.

Leveraging her gift for the good

Alumni support expands justice and equity initiatives

Margaret W. Wong '76 has shared her story often: how she immigrated from Hong Kong in the late 1960s, got a shot at a better life from UB School of Law, and built her thriving national immigration practice from the ground up.

Now Wong is looking to the next generation, with a \$500,000 gift to help establish the school’s new **Social Justice and Racial Equity Fund**, expanding the law school’s capacity to nurture promising students of color and respond to critical issues of justice and equity. The fund seeks to “promote inclusive excellence and to remove barriers to access and advancement on the basis of ... race, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, disability or veteran status for students, faculty and staff at the law school and in the legal profession.”

The initiative will enable new investments in diversity scholarships and fellowships, bar exam support for students of color, the Discover Law program for underrepresented students considering law school, and training and programming on racial justice topics.



“I love that society is questioning past practices and striving to improve inclusion and racial equity. The law school must be at the forefront of these efforts to maintain its leadership in legal education.”

– Margaret W. Wong '76



Read our
Q&A with
Margaret
Wong

To support our diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, including our Social Justice and Racial Equity Fund, contact:

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Being Careful in the Classroom: Professor Mark Bartholomew teaches a socially distant, reduced capacity class.

When COVID hit, the law school hit back

As the world scrambled in 2020 to regain its footing after the disruption of a pandemic, UB School of Law drew on reserves of talent and creativity – and its mission of legal education didn't skip a beat.

Students, faculty and staff all found ways to continue their work while keeping themselves and each other healthy. That included the enormous task of transitioning all spring-semester classes to a virtual platform, and carefully implementing a hybrid plan – with some in-person classes, some online, and some a combination of both – in the fall.

For an institution as large and complex as the law school, that was no small achievement. It meant working with faculty

and adjunct instructors to revise their syllabi and equip them with the tools for teaching online; figuring out how clinics could best serve their clients remotely; conducting mock trial and moot court competitions online; and incorporating the social and legal impact of the COVID crisis into the content of the courses themselves.



"Our faculty really dove into this," says Professor **S. Todd Brown**, vice dean for academic affairs. "Even some who don't normally lean on technology really threw themselves into understanding what the technology can do, and how they could use it to offset the fact they wouldn't be able to meet in class."

In large part, he says, that's a credit to the law school's information technology department, which designed and conducted a blitz of training early in the spring. For instructors – full-time faculty and adjuncts alike – who were used to

standing an arm's reach from their students, that meant getting up to speed with Zoom and the course management software UB Learns. Then they had to communicate clearly to students on the new expectations for courses already in progress.

"It really began with our IT team," Brown says, "not just the training, but having immediate access to them if you had questions. I think there were six different ways to contact them, and they always had someone there."

Planning for the fall semester, he says, was complicated by the many unknowns about the virus and its risks. Over the summer, academics who typically spend those months on their scholarship, participated in numerous planning sessions by Zoom. The fall course schedule was entirely reworked, another major undertaking.

The situation has offered some benefits, Brown says, in that adjuncts who are far from Buffalo can teach specialized courses that would otherwise be unavailable. Nevertheless, he says, the faculty are "really eager to get back in the physical classroom. You can't replace the rapid fire that happens in a classroom. Zoom isn't really designed to accommodate that."

The school also took pains to provide online services for its students and potential students. For example, newly admitted applicants – who typically are invited to campus to cement their bond with UB Law – got the whirlwind tour online. The Career Services Office similarly moved to a virtual platform, and student externships were reimaged to work remotely.

And a full range of services and outreach lent a supportive hand to current students who were dealing with disruption in their lives as well as in their legal education. For one, they were reminded that the school's Emergency Student Assistance Fund stands ready to fill gaps in their budget due to unexpected issues such as loss of income or a family health emergency.



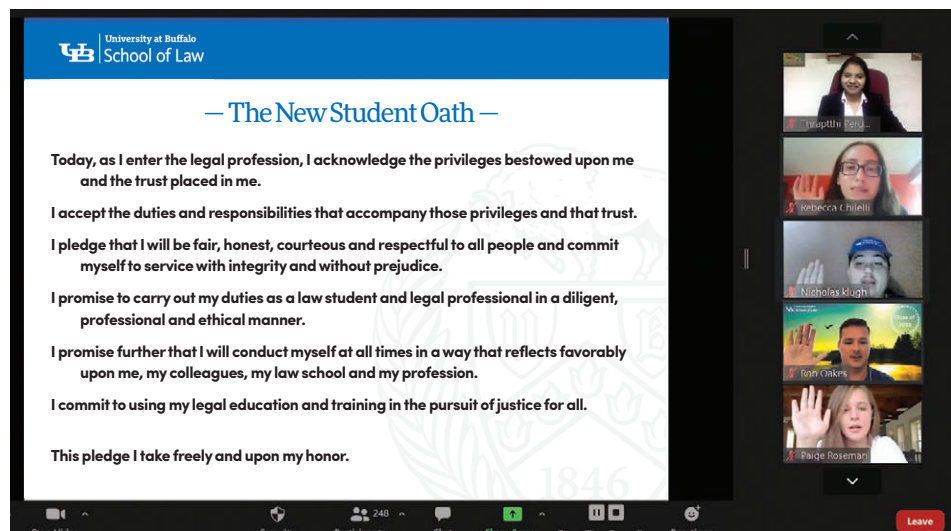
"It's been a difficult time," acknowledges **Bernadette Gargano**, vice dean for student affairs. "Our students have faced unprecedented challenges since the start of the pandemic – many of the same challenges we're all facing, in addition to the rigors of law school."

It's been particularly hard, she says, on the first-years, who've had to get their academic bearings with less opportunity to build supportive in-person relationships with classmates. To help, the law school created a COVID-19 online toolbox to

supplement the University's dashboard, providing a one-stop shop to connect with tech support, emergency aid and counseling.

Student organizations and the Student Bar Association have also worked to build community online with social gatherings and programming. And the attention of their professors, help from teaching assistants, the friendly ear of alumni mentors, and a new program of peer-to-peer advocates have helped students to know that coping is a group effort.

"Even as we continue to face challenges," Gargano says, "our students are keeping on with their studies and showing their dedication to their future profession. They've risen to the opportunity to make their law school community even stronger, by supporting each other and being innovative."



Members of the Class of 2023 take the New Student Oath during the law school's Fall 2020 Virtual Orientation.



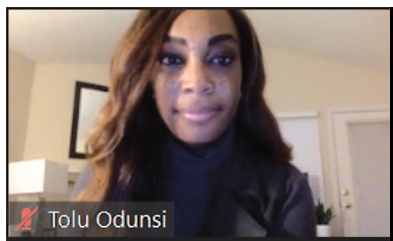
To support the Emergency Student Assistance Fund, visit our law school website:

law.buffalo.edu



TAKING ACTION, DEMANDING CHANGE

In many ways, 2020 was a pivotal year for racial justice. Consistent with a swelling intolerance for racial inequities in our society, the School of Law has redoubled its efforts toward diversity, equity and inclusion – and harnessed the passion of students, staff and faculty toward that important end.



“Everyone is feeling the emotional toll of this,” says **Tolulope Odunsi**, assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion. “But it has had a greater impact on our students of color, because of their personal experiences with racism. It’s important for

all of us to deal with our emotions, but it’s also inspiring to see people not give up on doing this work and continuing to advocate for racial justice.”

As demonstrators voiced their anger nationwide, the law school responded with a range of initiatives. Most broadly, the school is working on a strategic plan that will, among other things, revamp academic programming to include courses on the legal and historical context for racial inequality and provide additional training for faculty and



Professors Luis Chiesa, Anthony O'Rourke and Athena Mutua lead a conversation on George Floyd, race and policing.



Photo: Douglas Levere

Outside the Student Union on the North Campus is the “Paint-a-Bull” statue that members of the UB community can paint any time.

staff to further their understanding of these issues and promote cultural competency.

A series of new programming made for rich discussion in 2020:

- An academic panel, “George Floyd, Policing and Race,” drew over 150 participants in a Zoom discussion of the ways in which law, policing and race intersect. The webinar featured Professors **Luis Chiesa**, **Athena Mutua** and **Anthony O’Rourke**.
- “Defunding the Police: A Conversation” brought together academic experts from law schools across the country to examine the hot-button issue of defunding police departments.
- Journalist Gilbert King made a guest appearance in a Legal Analysis, Writing and Research class to discuss his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Devil in the Grove*, about a 1949 criminal case against four wrongly accused Black defendants. All incoming 1L students were asked to read the book over the summer.
- Zoom listening sessions have provided students the opportunity to voice their concerns, seek assistance, and offer suggestions on how the school can best support its students.
- A new faculty-led Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is developing initiatives such as academic and professional programming, curriculum planning, student support, recruitment and retention, community

outreach, and faculty and staff recruiting. The committee was chaired by Professor **Michael Boucai** throughout the fall semester. It is chaired by Professors **Christine Bartholomew** and **Luis Chiesa** this spring. In addition, the UB Law Alumni Association has formed a Social Justice and Racial Equity Committee to create additional programming with community partners.

- Odunsi presented trainings on building an anti-racist culture to the Dean’s Advisory Council, the boards of the Law Alumni Association and its GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group and the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department.

This energy has also looked outward to the wider community. Members of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) connected with the office of Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, which has solicited input on policing reforms. **Aldiana Anthony ’21**, BLSA’s 2020–21 president, is working with members of her executive board on legal research to help inform decision-making on policy.

“Our goal is to research laws that could help the Black community, specifically on the use of deadly force by police, as well as collective bargaining laws,” Anthony says. “Combining the community-based approach by our activists, with utilizing our legal background as law students, can bring about the effective change that our society needs.”



The CHANGEMAKERS

If you don't embrace change, you're probably living in the wrong chapter of history. There's a difference, though, between coping with a changing world and working for change where it needs to be made.

Everyone is subject to the great tides of history. But it takes a special kind of person to step back, see where our world needs improvement, and then invest heart and soul in making that change happen.

Lawyers, trained to analyze and advocate, are uniquely positioned to do this work – and UB Law alumni are at the forefront of the charge. Whether they devote themselves to the

growth of their community, to government service, to the mission of their organization or to the health of the legal profession, UB-trained lawyers are fighting the good fight in places where the world needs it most.

They are many, but let's meet a few – 10 of our passionately committed alumni who are making the fight for change central to their lives and their work.



**Thomas
Beecher
Jr. '59**

**Elizabeth
Kim '94**

**Catherine
Cerulli '92**

**Daniel
Lukasik '88**

**Jonathan
Beane '98**

Tanya Hughes '87

**Hon. Lisa Bloch
Rodwin '85**

**J. Mason
Davis Jr. '59**

**Barbra
Kavanaugh '83**

**Talia
Rodriguez '15**



Jonathan Beane: *Remaking the NFL's game plan*

In many respects, says **Jonathan S. Beane '98**, the National Football League is like any other business, marketing a product and growing the brand. But it's also a uniquely American institution – with 180 million passionate football fans, its customers are more than half the nation.

Because of that, he says, “a lot is expected of the league. The level of scrutiny is something you’ll never see anywhere else.”

Beane is the league’s newly hired senior vice president and chief diversity and inclusion officer and the first to hold that position. He is responsible for advancing a diverse and welcoming internal and public-facing culture.

“We’re simply a microcosm of American society,” says Beane, who has worked full time in this space since 2007, in several industries. **“The same challenges American society has, we’re grappling with ourselves. When it comes to social justice, when it comes to equality, when it comes to welcoming expression, we want to lead.”**

As a member of the NFL’s senior leadership team, Beane works with both the league’s own staff and the 32 teams, each of which is creating its own diversity action plan. “My job is to make sure they’re aligned with our overall D&I strategy,” he says.

Beane says the NFL expects a broad focus to these efforts, including diversity around race, gender, sexual orientation and age. He says his legal education has prepared him to work toward positive change in these areas: “It allows you to disrupt and really challenge your organization and make sure you’re taking action both legally and with integrity.”

**Read
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Photo: Vincent Lopez/Holy Cross Magazine

Thomas Beecher: *A heart for the city*

As the eldest of nine children, **Thomas R. Beecher Jr. '59** learned quickly to negotiate. And steeped in Jesuit education, he took as an article of faith that, **“You’re not here for yourself, you’re here for others, so do something about it.”**

That led to a successful professional double life: building his law practice, and becoming a changemaker in Buffalo’s economic transformation.

It was the relationships he built through community service that made possible one of the city’s signature economic developments. As chair of the nonprofit Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Beecher brought to reality a dream long stymied by inertia and turf wars.

Now the 120-acre medical campus, anchored by Oishei Children’s Hospital, Buffalo General Hospital, Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, is a bustling nexus for medical care and research.

When asked to spearhead the project, “I took the idea and ran with it,” Beecher says. “I didn’t have the talent to do all the things that needed to be done, but I was able to find the people who did have those talents, and mostly I got out of the way.”

He brought those same skills of connection and vision to what he calls his favorite endeavor, helping to establish the Bison Children’s Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than 33,000 scholarships over the past 25 years for low-income students to attend private schools in the city.

“I was just a volunteer,” he says of his work in the community. “I still had a very busy practice, but that was a separate life. I managed to live two busy lives at the same time.”

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Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin: *Bringing justice to the people*

Justice is blind, but it never looks away from the community it serves. And when the world changes, courts need to change as well.

As a prosecutor in Western New York, **Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin '85** knew that need well. Her work in prosecuting domestic violence created a vast change in how DV crimes are handled in Erie County.

After her election to Family Court – a post from which she is recently retired – Bloch Rodwin came to realize another reform was needed. Members of Buffalo's burgeoning refugee community, with a multiplicity of languages, beliefs and customs from their countries of origin, were beset by mistrust, misunderstanding and fear of the courts.

Bloch Rodwin's solution: the state's first Muslim and Immigrant Family Court Collaborative, which builds bridges to immigrant communities and makes the civil court system more accessible.

The effort now encompasses over 250 members, both service providers and community representatives. It teaches the judges, lawyers, social workers and probation officers who work with Family Court about these new communities; teaches immigrant communities about the Family Court system and how to use it; and ensures that children who are removed to foster care are placed with foster parents within the same immigrant community.

Bloch Rodwin and other stakeholders worked with imams and other community leaders. In a 2016 program, they brought 12 interpreters to Jericho Road Community Health Center for a presentation called "Know Your Rights."

"What's really special about our community is that the motto 'City of Good Neighbors' is not just a bunch of words," she says. "It has meaning. People really care about their neighbors and want to help one another."

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Catherine Cerulli: *Using science against violence*

Catherine Cerulli '92 was a law student when she co-founded the law school's oldest clinic, now called the Family Violence and Women's Rights Clinic. There came a point, though, when she realized that to effect change, she'd need to expand her toolbox. So she earned master's and doctoral degrees in criminal justice, enabling her to bring scientific rigor to the challenge.

Cerulli has devoted her career to addressing violence between intimate partners. She is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester, where she has directed the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women's Leadership and the Laboratory of Interpersonal Violence and Victimization.

"I view myself as an educator," she says, "and to be an effective teacher, you need to have your hands in research, practice and policy."

This year, Cerulli is studying in Washington, D.C., as a Health Policy Fellow, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Academy of Medicine. The intensive and prestigious program includes an assignment to the executive branch or a Congressional office. Afterward, Cerulli will return to Rochester and explore how judges can use science to make decisions about child custody and visitation to prevent child abuse and neglect.

It's emotionally involving work, but something she was born to do. "As professionals, we're prepared to do certain things in our life," she says. "Then there are people who are called to their work. When you're doing this difficult work, those two components have to align. You really have to be prepared and called to want to make a change in this world. Along the way, educational opportunities, mentors and colleagues have helped me achieve my goals."

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J. Mason Davis Jr.: *A pioneer of progress*

Like a lot of lawyers setting up their first practice, **J. Mason Davis Jr. '59** took pretty much every case that walked through his door. But the movement toward equal treatment for Black Americans had begun in earnest, and the young Birmingham, Ala., lawyer found himself in its midst.

When 125 Black protesters were arrested for staging the state's first lunch counter sit-in, Davis represented many of them, playing a key role in the desegregation of Alabama. In an early equal-opportunity case, he represented two Black employees of the Marshall Space Flight Center who were being significantly underpaid. The two were promoted and awarded back pay all the way from their hiring date.

Sometimes social change comes through those pursuing equity one case at a time.

Davis comes from a highly educated family, and he says that insulated him from the worst of the segregated South. But not entirely. When he applied to the University of Alabama School of Law, he was told no Blacks were allowed. But the state would pay the difference between the tuition at Alabama Law and any law school outside Alabama. Davis chose UB, then returned to Birmingham.

Davis would go on to a successful career as a partner with Sirote & Permutt, P.C. Among his achievements, he was elected president of the Birmingham Bar Association.

Perhaps most tellingly, he taught for 25 years as an adjunct at the University of Alabama School of Law. **"I have," he says, "taught an appreciable number of all the lawyers who practice in Alabama."**

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Tanya Hughes: *Making human rights a reality*

In a perfect world where all rights are respected and every law is obeyed, **Tanya Hughes '87** acknowledges, her job would be superfluous.

But the real world needs champions for people whose civil rights have been violated, and so Hughes and her colleagues at Connecticut's Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities have plenty to do. That includes enforcing protections in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations; ensuring that state agencies comply with affirmative action goals and contract provisions such as set-asides for minority businesses; and educating citizens about their rights and responsibilities.

It's a broad mandate for the nation's oldest state civil rights agency, which Hughes has led as executive director since 2013.

"We have a really dedicated staff of people who are passionate about the work they do," Hughes says. "We're basically running a law office," with 22 attorneys in the Hartford headquarters and others working as investigators across the state. **"I'm constantly testifying in the Legislature, interpreting laws, and working with the attorney general's office on different issues."**

If a pattern of discriminatory practices emerges, Hughes says commission attorneys can initiate a complaint, forcing, for example, a city or a prison to change its practices. In addition, her office closely follows the state Legislature's work, giving opinions to legislators, testifying in hearings and proposing legislative initiatives.

As with so many UB Law alumni, she has made her career in public service. "My dad was a politician, and many of his colleagues and friends were in public service," she says. "I've seen firsthand the commitment of government lawyers."

Read
more





Barbra Kavanaugh: *The magic of collaboration*

As a lawyer, **Barbra Kavanaugh '83** knows people will often defer to her opinion. But, she says, that's not always a good thing.

That's why Kavanaugh continues to build on an organizing model that brings together the expertise of community organizers, citizens and lawyers, in a collaboration she calls "movement lawyering."

"It's a more holistic approach that puts community organizers and lawyers on an equal footing," says Kavanaugh, who developed the approach as executive director of the Employment Justice Center in Washington, D.C.

The Employment Justice Center serves low-wage workers who've faced injustice at work, including wage theft. When Kavanaugh led the organization from 2010 to 2015, clients were served by lawyer-organizer teams from the start. If the complaint seemed to reflect a wider pattern of unfairness, the organization was able to mobilize workers as well as take legal action to address it.

This innovative model paid off in significant improvements in worker protection laws, including raising the minimum wage incrementally to \$15 an hour.

Kavanaugh's varied career has included work at Neighborhood Legal Services in Buffalo, and a term as a member of Buffalo's Common Council. She and her partner, Lynn Edelman, raised their two sons in Buffalo.

Her face is even on a mural in the Allentown neighborhood celebrating LGBTQ history, though Kavanaugh says her advocacy has focused more on social and racial justice. But in reality, she says, "the so-called gay agenda is a social justice agenda of anti-discrimination, anti-violence and equal justice."

Read
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Elizabeth Kim: *Advocate for the ocean*

There is just one global ocean and its health is critical for life on earth. Some of the biggest threats to ocean health – plastic pollution, overfishing and climate change – require international solutions. At the United Nations, **Elizabeth (Beiring) Kim '94** presses the United States' case for ocean policy and marine conservation.

Kim is a diplomat and senior ocean policy advisor at the Department of State. "I represent the United States at the UN and other international forums," Kim says. "Right now, we're negotiating a global treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of high seas biodiversity." It's important work, with implications for marine conservation and the U.S. economy.

"As a diplomat, my job is to be the tip of the spear for the U.S. government, and that starts with getting the entire government on the same page with consensus positions. The negotiations I have within the U.S. government are often harder than the negotiations I face at the UN." But, Kim says, **"I am committed to public service and to making the world – especially its ocean – a better place."**

One of Kim's passion projects is the annual Our Ocean conference, which John Kerry started in 2014 while Secretary of State to bring together governments, industry, philanthropies, scientists and NGOs to make real progress in ocean conservation.

"It's not a typical international gathering with long speeches by heads of state and a declaration of promises to do better," Kim says. "It's 500 high-level people invited to come with commitments for significant new actions." The conference continues to be hosted by countries around the world and has resulted in \$91.4 billion in commitments to protect the ocean.

Read
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Daniel Lukasik: *Toward a healthier profession*

Sometimes change – in an individual or in an organization – comes from inside.

That's how it happened for **Dan Lukasik '88**. He was an accomplished litigator when he was diagnosed with major depression 20 years ago. With medication, therapy, exercise and diet, he was able to bring his illness under control. But the stigma he encountered at the time stayed with him.

And as he began to write and speak about his experiences, he realized how prevalent mental health problems are in the legal profession.

"There is something clearly unique about the kinds of stress lawyers experience and its connection to mental health problems," Lukasik says. **"Twenty-eight percent of lawyers report that they have had a problem with depression within the past year. That's four times the rate found in the general population. They're under chronic long-term stress, and it's really like a perfect storm for mental health problems to develop."**

Having experienced the problem, Lukasik has become part of the solution – a crusader for better mental health in the legal profession. He has written extensively, maintains a robust website of mental health resources (lawyerswithdepression.com), and has spoken and conducted trainings at law firms, professional conferences and law schools in the past. "This just organically became a bigger and bigger part of my life over the years," he says.

Now, as New York State judicial wellness coordinator, he educates judges and their staff on stress management and resiliency. "Judges are human beings, with the same kind of problems as other people," Lukasik says. "All of us are part of the human story with all its ups and downs."

**Read
more**



Talia Rodriguez: *A voice for the neighborhood*

When **Talia Rodriguez '15** looks at Buffalo's resilient West Side, she sees amazing potential in people who could be changemaking community leaders.

"We know there are brilliant leaders out there," says Rodriguez, who runs the West Side Promise Neighborhood initiative. "We're trying to deliberately address the gap of experience our leaders might have, and help them develop a vivid and informed understanding of their own leadership."

The initiative, run out of SUNY Buffalo State College, conducts a free leadership development program "for everyone who seeks to become a creative change leader," Rodriguez says. **"I like to compare it to a long dinner table, a gathering of family all coming together with the same goal: to make the West Side a better place."**

That means reaching out to the neighborhood's Latinx population as well as new immigrants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia. It also means ensuring that the training meets people where they are, "turning leadership development inside out" with facilitators from the community.

West Side Promise Neighborhood is a natural progression for Rodriguez, a fifth-generation West Sider. In telling her own story, she often cites the influence of her paternal grandmother, who immigrated from Puerto Rico, then marched with Martin Luther King Jr.

"When she was born, less than 50 percent of Puerto Rican students were in public schools, and she had a third-grade education," Rodriguez says. "But she came to my graduation. My education at UB Law was really the manifestation of her advocacy."

**Read
more**





b.howe @bhowe04439442 · May 13

Hon. Barbara Howe (ret.) here, proud Member of UB Law School Dean's Advisory Council, congratulating everyone graduating! #UBClassof2020 #UBLawGrad2020

...

A commencement

The circumstances were unique, but the pomp was in full evidence as the University marked its 2020 Commencement ceremonies. In the midst of pandemic uncertainty, and in order to keep everyone safe and well, the event couldn't be held in person. But the warm online presentation and follow-up outreach from the law school community was chock-full of personal touches.



Professor James Milles and Elke post celebratory greetings.

The law school sent its Class of 2020 into the world with remarks by UB President **Satish K. Tripathi**, University Provost **A. Scott Weber** and Dean **Aviva Abramovsky**, all of whom wore their academic regalia for the occasion.

They were joined virtually by student speaker **Jessica R. Simonetti '20**; 2019-20 Student Bar Association President **Abisha Vijayashanthar '20**; and 2019-20 UB Law Alumni Association President **Scott C. Becker '93**. The ceremony was bookended by the beautiful voice of **Emma L. Freedenberg '20**, who sang, a cappella, the national anthem and UB's alma mater. The names of the graduates, including those who received academic honors and awards, were presented in a scrolling list.

The festivities included: shout-outs on social media from faculty, staff and students; video messages from alumni; and, for each graduate, a curated collection of memorabilia delivered to their homes, with their graduation cords, a message from the dean, a photo of the graduating class, and even handwritten notes of congratulations from the faculty.



TOP HONORS

Max Koren Award

John N. Bennett Achievement Award

Dale S. Margulis Award

Faculty Award

Staff Award

Above: Charles Terranova '20 (center left) and Abisha Vijayashanthar '20 (center right) celebrate Commencement at home with Abisha's parents.



0:04 / 33:38

"Moving the arc of justice takes many hands. Grab on, new graduates!"

Aviva Abramovsky, Dean and Professor
School of Law

“Education is not meant for selfish gain. It is intended for the greater good. Indeed, this is a hallmark of a University at Buffalo education, that you share your enlightened viewpoint with the world for the betterment of the world.”

– Satish K. Tripathi,
University President

“Your hard work and perseverance have gotten you to this point. It is because of these attributes, as well as the continued support of your families, friends and the University community, that I know you will succeed in the future no matter what it may bring.”

– A. Scott Weber, University Provost and
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs



Dan D. Kohane @kohane · May 16

Congratulations to the Law School Class of 2020. Great things ahead for you!

Dan D. Kohane, Adjunct Professor of Insurance Law

#UBLawGrad2020



Lindsay Gladney @LindsayGladney · May 17

Congratulations University at Buffalo School of Law, Class of 2020!!! We are so proud of all that you've accomplished, and look forward to your incredible journeys ahead.

#UBClassof2020 #UBLawGrad2020

17

Like no other



RECIPIENTS

Charles Ross Terranova '20

Kathleen Hannon McGraw '20

Abisha Vijayashanthar '20

Professor Christine P. Bartholomew

Amy Hayes Atkinson, Director of Student Life



Tazbir Alam

June 11 · Instagram ·

We might not have gotten our traditional graduation, where we got to walk across the stage and have our families be able to see the decades of love, hard work, pain, trials and successes we all shared, to culminate in one moment. But this school community is unlike any other, yesterday they sent us a box with all our wonderful graduation things, awards, certificates, cords, a class picture, and many many lovely cards with uplifting messages. Thank you for still making this so special. All that's left is the actual diploma (it's not real until I see documentation, spoken like a lawyer, haha) much love to my friends and classmates of University at Buffalo School of Law! #Classof2020



Watch the
commencement
ceremony



“If law school taught me anything, it was mastering the art of feeling uncomfortable – in the ugly moments, the stressful ones, the emotional and the beautiful... feeling uncomfortable was not only the result of being law students, it was a necessary part of learning how to understand the world well enough to protect it.”

– **Jessica R. Simonetti '20,**
Student Speaker



The Cheering Section

Ryan Page and Melissa Wilkinson congratulate their friends Rocco Polimeni '20 (stick figure on left) and Daryn Loy '20 (stick figure in center) on Instagram.

“The last few months have surprised us all. But we have persevered. ... That's the power of resilience. That's what sets leaders in law and icons of justice apart. It will make you a better attorney, a stronger advocate for your clients.

It will inspire you to persist in the pursuit of justice.”

– **Aviva Abramovsky**
Dean and Professor of Law

“Now more than ever, do not hesitate to ask for help when you need it, and always offer help when you can give it. You will come through these uncertain times stronger, more confident, and most importantly, together.”

– **Scott C. Becker '93, 2019–20**
UB Law Alumni Association President



Introducing OUR NEW FACULTY



**Associate Professor
Heather Abraham**
Housing Law
Civil Rights



**Associate Professor Alexandra
(Ali) Harrington**
Sentencing Reform



**Lecturer in Law and Society
Paul Linden-Retek**
International
Political Norms



**Associate Professor
Amy Semet**
Intellectual Property

Building on its strengths, the School of Law has welcomed to the faculty four new professors who bring diverse interests but a common commitment to making the law a real force for good in society. Housing law, civil rights, intellectual property, sentencing reform, international political norms – all have come under scrutiny in the work of these accomplished academics. They're also deeply invested in the quality of their teaching, and bring with them solid experience in the classroom.



Associate Professor **Heather Abraham's** research and advocacy interests center around fair housing, something she says "has captivated me for a decade now." It was the basis of her master of public policy program at the University of Minnesota; and it informed her time at the University of Minnesota Law School, where she earned a JD, *magna cum laude*, in 2012.

As director of UB Law's Civil Rights & Transparency Clinic, Abraham is integrating fair housing into the clinic's overall portfolio, which traditionally has focused on civil liberties and freedom of information litigation. Abraham and her students are working to build a docket of potential cases **"to move the needle on advancing housing choice."**

She is also challenging students to think about the future of civil rights through a semester-long research and writing assignment. She asks them to consider the most pressing civil rights issues of today, as well as issues that are often overlooked, and then asks how the clinic can make a meaningful impact on those issues – at the university level as well as the local, state and national levels.

Before joining UB, Abraham was a teaching fellow and a supervising attorney for the Civil Rights Clinic at the Georgetown University Law Center.



Associate Professor **Alexandra (Ali) Harrington**, director of the law school's newly established Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic, knows well how effective student attorneys can be in addressing critical gaps in the provision of justice. At Yale Law School, from which she earned a JD in 2014, she served in clinics addressing human rights issues, capital punishment and refugee resettlement. She was also a public defender in Connecticut for several years after graduation.

In conjunction with her clinic, Harrington also serves as the director of the Innocence and Justice Project, managing cases resulting from New York State's Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act. Enacted in 2019, the legislation draws on new understandings of domestic violence's psychological underpinnings, allowing state Supreme Court judges to reduce some survivors' prison sentences. Clinic students work in teams to represent clients – predominantly women – serving years in prison.

"Sentencing is supposed to be holistic," Harrington says. "In practice, without this law that gives specific recognition to domestic violence survivors, mitigating factors weren't always getting fair shrift at sentencing."

Beyond the DVSJA matters, Harrington and her students are working on projects that address a wide range of criminal system reforms, including police accountability and the prison system's response to COVID-19 – students are part of a team enforcing a settlement agreement in a federal class action lawsuit against FCI Danbury, a federal correctional institution in Connecticut.



Lecturer in Law and Society **Paul Linden-Retek** teaches in UB Law's newly established undergraduate program in law, and jointly holds a research fellowship with The Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy. It's in that role that he is drafting his current book, which explores post-national constitutionalism in the European Union through the distinctive lens of narrative interpretation.

"I'm interested in how international norms become a source of deep commitment on the part of citizens – something that has long been a fraught dimension of international human rights law," Linden-Retek says. "The crises the EU presently suffers point to the fragility of that project, and the difficulty of building out political solidarity beyond the nation-state."

The framework of narrative, he says, opens a path for studying how nation-states and their citizens understand such evolving commitments and for appraising the role law plays in this process. "We should think of our lives and our politics as open-ended stories that are constantly renegotiated over time," he says. "Our particular commitments are not merely our own – they always refer, however implicitly, to others, and we need the other to give meaning to those commitments. Law can help us to better perceive and do precisely that."

Linden-Retek earned a PhD in political science with university distinction from Yale University and a JD from Yale Law School.



A specialist in intellectual property law as well as administrative law, Associate Professor **Amy Semet** brings to her scholarly work the tools of quantitative analysis – compiling and mining data sets to understand how the law works in practice.

"I'm particularly interested in analyzing data to see how legal institutions can best be reformed," says Semet, whose teaching at the law school includes courses in property law, patent law and an IP survey course. Semet builds and analyzes legal databases in such areas as immigration law, National Labor Relations Board case law, environmental case law, and IP issues including patent, copyright and trademark.

In addition, Semet has researched and written extensively about administrative law – the rule-making and adjudication that governs the work of federal and state governments' administrative agencies. "When people become lawyers, much of their legal work will not be in federal or state judicial courts," she says. "There is a lot of legal work in federal and state administrative agencies."

Semet graduated *summa cum laude* from Dartmouth College, where she studied government and history, before moving on to Harvard Law School, graduating *cum laude* in 2000. She earned her doctoral degree in political science from Columbia University in 2015. She also did a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics at Princeton University and was a Visiting Fellow at Yale Law School's Information Society Project.

Expanding our library

Despite increased demands in the classroom, our faculty continued their innovative and interdisciplinary research, authoring and editing eight new books since our last issue.



New York Legal Research
by Elizabeth G. Adelman,
Teaching Faculty and
Vice Dean for Legal
Information Services
with Courtney L. Selby, Brian T.
Detweiler and Kathleen Darbil

New York Legal Research (Carolina Academic Press, 4th ed. 2020) provides an alternative to legal research books that take a bibliographic approach to legal research. The fourth edition explores both the sources of New York state law and the process of conducting research using those sources with an emphasis on the online research process.



**Zoo Veterinarians:
Governing Care on a
Diseased Planet**
by Irus Braverman,
Professor and William J.
Magavern Faculty Scholar

Drawing on in-depth interviews and observations of zoo and aquarium veterinarians, **Zoo Veterinarians** (Routledge, 2021) highlights the recent transformation that has occurred in the zoo veterinarian profession during a time of ecological crisis. By exploring the regulatory landscape governing the work of these experts, the book navigates the gap between the hard and soft sciences as well as the gap between humans and non-humans.



**Feminist Judgments:
Rewritten Tort Opinions**
by Lucinda M. Finley,
Frank G. Raichle Professor of
Trial and Appellate Advocacy
with Martha Chamallas

Feminist Judgments (Cambridge University Press, 2020) rewrites both canonical and lesser-known tort cases from the feminine perspective, exposing gender and racial biases in how courts have categorized and evaluated harm stemming from prenatal malpractice, pregnancy loss, domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, invasion of privacy, and the award of economic and non-economic damages.



**Legal Argument:
The Structure and
Language of Effective
Advocacy**

by James A. Gardner,
SUNY Distinguished Professor,
Bridget and Thomas Black
Professor and Christine P.
Bartholomew, Professor of
Law

Legal Argument (Carolina Academic Press, 3rd ed. 2020) is a full-featured guide providing a pragmatic approach to thinking about argument structures. Intended primarily for law students in research, writing and analysis courses, or trial advocacy classes and moot court programs, the guide is designed to walk the future advocate through the process of crafting a winning argument.

FACULTY NEWS

Elevating excellence

Congratulations to **Christine P. Bartholomew** and **Michael Boucai** on their recent promotions from associate to full professor. Promotion to full professor is based on scholarship, teaching and service to the University.

“I love the law and I try to share that passion with the students, to help them connect to the material. If you become



engaged with the law as a tool for social change, as a way to help people, then all the coursework in law school becomes a way to further that drive and achieve those goals.”
– **Christine P. Bartholomew**

“I’m drawn to the way that UB School of Law tends to attract a lot of students who may be the

first in their family to attend college or professional school. And I have such affection and respect for my colleagues on the faculty. They’re not only a brilliant bunch of people, but many of them are also very good friends. Working for many

years in the same institution is a much more appealing prospect when you have respect and affection for your colleagues.”
– **Michael Boucai**





ADR in the Workplace

by *Lise Gelernter*,
Teaching Faculty Emerita
with *Laura Cooper, Dennis Nolan,*
Richard Bales, Stephen Befort and
Michael Z. Green

The fourth edition of **ADR in the Workplace** (West Academic Publishing, 4th ed. 2020), part of the American Casebook Series, addresses ADR topics through a wide range of materials, including judicial decisions, arbitration awards, essays, and questions and problems for class discussion. Sections on judicial determinations of arbitrability, judicial review, injunctions, deferral, and the duty of fair representation offer thorough coverage of legal issues.



A Post-WTO International Legal Order: Utopian, Dystopian and Other Scenarios

Edited by *Meredith K. Lewis*,
Professor of Law and
Vice Dean for International and
Graduate Programs
with *Junji Nakagawa, Rostam J.*
Neuwirth, Colin B. Picker and Peter
Tobias Stoll

A Post-WTO International Legal Order (Springer International Publishing, 2020) provides readers with a unique opportunity to explore how the international economic legal order may look in a post-World Trade Organization world. The substance of the book presupposes, correct or not, that the WTO either stagnates into the foreseeable future or falls apart completely.



Transnational Business Governance Interactions: Advancing Marginalized Actors and Enhancing Regulatory Quality

Edited by *Errol Meidinger*,
SUNY Distinguished Professor
Emeritus
with *Stepan Wood, Rebecca*
Schmidt, Burkard Eberlein and
Kenneth Abbott

From climate change to derivatives trading, and in industry sectors from agriculture to sports, transnational regulatory regimes and actors are multiplying and interacting with poorly understood results. **Transnational Business Governance Interactions** (Edward Elgar, 2019) investigates whether, how and by whom transnational business governance interactions (TBGIs) can be harnessed to improve the quality of transnational regulation and advance the interests of marginalized actors.



Getting Through Security: Counterterrorism, Bureaucracy, and a Sense of the Modern

by *David A. Westbrook*,
Louis A. Del Cotto Professor
with *Mark Maguire*

Getting Through Security (Routledge, 2020) offers an unprecedented look behind the scenes of global security structures, unveiling the “secret colleges” of counterterrorism, a world haunted by the knowledge that intelligence will fail, and Leviathan will not arrive quickly enough to save everyone. The book is based on extensive interviews with special forces and other security operators who seek to protect the public, and survivors of terrorist attacks.

National recognition as a public scholar

The National Endowment for the Humanities recognizes public scholars – authors writing about important aspects of culture for a wide spectrum of readers. It has bestowed that designation on Professor **Samantha Barbas**, along with a monetary grant to support work on her



latest book. Barbas is one of 25 public scholars nationwide who will share in \$1.4 million in NEH grants. The awards are intended to “support well-researched books in the humanities aimed at a broad public audience.”

Barbas’ current project looks at the sociolegal history of *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, the U.S. Supreme Court’s

landmark 1964 ruling that First Amendment protections of free speech limit public officials’ ability to win a defamation lawsuit. That decision established the “actual malice” test, under which the plaintiff must prove that the defendant knew the statement in question was false or showed reckless disregard for whether it was true.

Our student stars

Law school requires intellect and ambition. Accomplishments above and beyond – that takes a special kind of spark. Our bold and bright students and newest graduates are distinguishing themselves in impressive ways. Here are just a few examples.

High Achievers



Austin Thomas Mann '22

Selected to participate in the Shook Scholars Institute, a leadership and development program led by the Missouri-based law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP.



Richelle Kloch '22

Co-authored an article on lethal injection protocols published in the academic journal *American Behavioral Scientist*.



Christopher Phillips '20

Recipient of a national fellowship from the Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging.



Natalia Marte '20

Recipient of a 2020 Regional Public Interest Award from Equal Justice Works and winner of a Robert M. Helfend Criminal Defense Scholarship.



Shelby Scibetta '20

Recipient of a national justice fellowship from Equal Justice Works, Immigration Justice Corps Division.

A way with words

Student fellows share their unique summer experiences on blog

The blog titles tell it best. “When the World Is Ending, but Your Summer Internship Is Not: A Lesson in Resiliency” – **Samantha Gier '22**, Dean’s Advisory Council Summer Fellow
“From Courthouses to Cat Coworkers: Remote Internships My 1L Summer” – **Lizzy Vinal '22**, Professor Suzanne Tomkins '92 Women, Children & Social Justice Advocacy Fellow



Lizzy Vinal '22

“The Wild Twist That Is My First Summer After 1L Year” – **Alexander Sanchez '22**, Mary J. Dowd '80 Fellow
All come from **#UBLawResponds**, a School

of Law blog “helping people navigate the legal system during a time of crisis.” They were written by students who, after finishing their first or second year, took part in summer fellowships, which school officials call “critical to launching a law student’s legal career.”

“The School of Law’s summer fellowships achieve two central parts of our mission,” says **Kim Diana Connolly**, vice dean for advocacy and experiential learning. “The fellowships offer

students learning opportunities where they directly experience lawyering responsibilities, while at the same time providing talented help to community partners, courts and governmental offices working in the public interest.”

Since 1993, fundraising by the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program and donor-funded fellowships have helped cover summer living expenses for dozens of law students each



View a complete list of our 2020 Summer Fellowships


Karthik Sekharan '22

Winner of a diversity scholarship from Harter Secrest & Emery LLP in Buffalo.


Rachel Vicario '20
Darian Wilkom '20

Recognized at UB's Celebration of Student Academic Excellence for their teen dating violence prevention program with local high schools.


Courtney Way '20

Recognized at UB's Celebration of Student Academic Excellence for her blog series on sports concussions.

year. Still, more funding is needed, especially for first-year students. In 2018, 40 percent of the first-year class would have benefited from a fellowship if additional funds were available.

To meet that need, Dean Aviva Abramovsky launched an initiative to secure financial support for that critical first summer. The goal: to make

sure all first-year law students interested in an unpaid summer position can afford to take one.

As a result, 34 first-year students received aid to take part in a summer fellowship – an increase over each of the previous two years. Forty-six fellowships were awarded this past summer.

To help support our summer fellowship initiative, contact:

Karen R. Kaczmariski '89
 Vice Dean for Advancement
 (716) 645-6429
 krkacz@buffalo.edu



Caitlin Rudin '20 completed her pro bono placement at Philadelphia Legal Assistance. Since then, she was hired as a staff attorney in the agency's Medical Legal Community Partnership Unit.

Justice Seekers

Eleven of our 2020 graduates dedicated their final semester of law school to advocating for underserved New Yorkers. Participants selected for our Pro Bono Scholars program took the New York bar exam in February and spent their spring semester working in nonprofit legal services agencies, fulfilling their pro bono hours requirement for admission to the bar and getting a jump start in their profession.

Emily Chisholm Gallagher '20

Volunteer Legal Services Project
 Rochester, N.Y.

Kelsey Hatfield '20

Journey's End Refugee Services
 Buffalo, N.Y.

Janna Jehlen-Koch '20

Legal Aid Society, Attorney for the Child Unit
 Rochester, N.Y.

Jennifer Klemenz '20

Neighborhood Legal Services, Housing Unit
 Buffalo, N.Y.

Robert Neill '20

Western New York Law Center
 Buffalo, N.Y.

Alexandra Jimenez Nuri '20

Neighborhood Legal Services, Family Unit
 Buffalo, N.Y.

Christopher Phillips '20

Center for Elder Law and Justice
 Buffalo, N.Y.

Leighann Ramirez '20

The Bronx Defenders, Immigration Practice
 Bronx, N.Y.

Hannah Rauh '20

Legal Assistance of Western New York
 Jamestown, N.Y.

Caitlin Rudin '20

Philadelphia Legal Assistance
 Philadelphia, Pa.

Morgan Schlossel '20

Mental Hygiene Legal Services
 Buffalo, N.Y.

Tyler Gately '21 and
Emma Powlin '21,
winners of our
2019 Charles S.
Desmond Moot
Court Competition



The Advocacy Institute: Building on strength

November 2019

The law school's Advocacy Institute has a dual mission: to train students to be world-class legal advocates, and to put those skills to use for the benefit of vulnerable clients. This year has seen some major advancements – ambitious initiatives in service and teaching, and new funding to strengthen that ambition even further.

A new concentration in advocacy

Our newest academic concentration gives students a significant career advantage: intense training in the skills of legal advocacy. An outgrowth of the law school's Advocacy Institute, the concentration in advocacy includes hands-on experience in trial advocacy, appellate advocacy and alternative dispute resolution. It also incorporates doctrinal courses and clinical service, ensuring students are exposed to both black-letter law and experience in representing real-world clients.

The concentration, says **Anthony O'Rourke**, Joseph W. Belluck and Laura L. Aswad Professor of Civil Justice and director of the Advocacy Institute, is unique among U.S. law schools. "Other schools have concentrations in advocacy," he says, "but the difference is our emphasis on the rigorous core doctrinal requirements that provide students the foundation to become skilled litigators." In addition to a Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility course that all UB Law students take, advanced courses in evidence, administrative law, complex litigation, criminal procedure and the federal courts are required.

Significantly, students must participate in at least one law school clinic or practicum. As part of their courses in appellate advocacy, mediation and trial technique, students must take part in competitions offered through those courses. "We want to provide students the opportunity to take experiential courses in the three most important facets of advocacy," O'Rourke says, "but also to have client contact and understand what it means to litigate on behalf of a real person."

About one-third of all UB law students are currently involved in some way in Advocacy Institute courses, O'Rourke says. Graduating with a concentration in advocacy will afford new graduates a leg up in the job market. **"It will be a signal that they're serious about becoming litigators," O'Rourke says, "and it will show that they have the training to become effective litigators on their first day on the job."**

• • •

Endowment gift supports trial teams

The Advocacy Institute's trial competition teams will continue to flourish thanks to a major gift by a local attorney whose family has deep roots in the law school.

John J. Fromen Jr. '87 says he made the \$100,000 donation after serving as a judge in the Charles S. Desmond Moot Court Competition and recognizing the law school's growing strength in legal advocacy training. The gift will establish an endowed fund providing a permanent income stream to pay for expenses such as airfare and accommodations for trial teams when they are able to compete in-person nationwide and internationally.

Sitting on the bench for three rounds of the competition was an eye-opener for Fromen. **"I got to see firsthand what these kids were doing with their skills," he says. "I came away extremely impressed with these students. Some of them could walk into a courtroom in Erie County or state Supreme**



Court today and be just as effective advocates as some of my colleagues who have been doing this for years."

After conversations with law school staff, Fromen says, "what struck me as impressive is that students who went through the advocacy program had a greater passing rate for the bar exam than those who didn't."

The fund bears the name of his family in recognition of its long involvement with UB School of Law. His late father, **John J. Fromen Sr.**, was a 1966 graduate and founder of a boutique personal injury firm in the Buffalo suburb of Snyder. Fromen Jr. and his stepbrother, **Michael T. O'Connor '87**, were law school classmates and both practice with the firm. Daughter **Haley Fromen '18** is the most recent graduate, and her brother **Lucas Fromen '21** is a current third-year student and the newest student member of the Advocacy Institute's National Advisory Board.

• • •

Major grant awarded to fund help for imprisoned DV survivors

The law school will address "a historic blind spot in the judicial system" with the benefit of a major grant from the American College of Trial Lawyers. The \$53,125 grant will support a revitalized Innocence and Justice Project, with an initial mandate to represent incarcerated clients who have suffered serious abuse and have received harsh prison sentences for actions related to that abuse.

"This is a significant milestone," says trial attorney **Terrence M. Connors '71**, who chairs the Advocacy Institute's National Advisory Board. **"Their approval of our grant application recognizes that our Innocence and Justice Project is incredibly worthwhile and is consistent with the mission of their foundation."**



To take on this project, the Advocacy Institute is collaborating with a new Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic. Students work under the direction of Professor **Alexandra Harrington** to identify, interview and represent clients – predominantly women – who are in prison after suffering serious abuse.

The initiative is made possible by the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, enacted in 2019 in New York. The legislation, drawing on new understandings of the psychological underpinnings of such violence, allows state Supreme Court judges to significantly reduce some survivors' prison sentences.

Professor **Anthony O'Rourke** will serve as co-counsel with Harrington. He says the need is great for this kind of work – and close at hand. "The state's largest prison for women is virtually at our back door, in Albion," he says, "and there's little infrastructure at this point for representing clients from Buffalo."

In addition to direct representation of clients, O'Rourke says, students in the project will conduct research to understand the scope of the legal need and develop creative litigation strategies as the justice system begins to implement the new law.

To support the Advocacy Institute Endowment Campaign, contact:

Emilie Rosenbluth
Associate Director of Advancement
(716) 645-2113
ebrosenb@buffalo.edu



The final round of our 2020 Charles S. Desmond Moot Court Competition.

Top row (Competition Judges): U.S. District Court Judge Jeremiah J. McCarthy, Paul J. Cambria Jr. and Dean Aviva Abramovsky

Second row: Canio Marasco '22, Daniel Caves '21 and Marc Cange '22

Third row: Patrick Callahan '22

Outstanding Advocates

2020 Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition

Best Respondent Brief:

Jesutowo Adekola Adeniji '20 and Aldiama Anthony '21

2020 New York State Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section's Mediation Tournament

Best Mediation Statement:

(the only top prize awarded)

Nisha De Souza '20, Michael Garrett '20 and Jashanjot Singh Girn '20

2020 Syracuse National Mock Trial Competition

Best Cross Examination:

Ryan Falk '21

2020 Charles S. Desmond Moot Court Competition

First Place Team:

Patrick Callahan '22 and Daniel Caves '21

Best Brief:

Patrick Callahan '22 and Daniel Caves '21

Best Oral Advocates:

Daniel Caves '21 and Canio Marasco '22

2020 Representation in Mediation Competition

First Place Team:

April VanOrman '21 and Melissa Whyman '21

#UUBLAWRE

Clinics meet needs where

The need for skilled representation and advocacy knows no end. Student attorneys in the law school's clinics find creative ways to tackle emerging issues, helping those who need it most – and making the community around us a better place.

Investing in artificial intelligence and safety



Our **Entrepreneurship Law Center Clinic** represented the University in a transaction that will invest significant resources in Buffalo Automation, a company that grew out of a project by three UB engineering students. The promising new startup uses artificial intelligence to develop autonomous navigation technology that improves maritime safety. And last year it responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by redeveloping its thermal imaging software, allowing for quick scanning of crowds to detect fever.

Ensuring a holistic approach to sentencing

With a grant awarded to the law school's Advocacy Institute from the American College of Trial Lawyers, students in the **Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic** are working on resentencing applications under the new Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act. Enacted in 2019, the legislation draws on new understandings of the psychological underpinnings of domestic violence, allowing state Supreme Court judges to reduce some survivors' prison sentences. Clinic students work in teams to represent clients – predominantly women – who have been sentenced to spend many years in prison.



Developing tools for procedural justice

The **Family Violence and Women's Rights Clinic** is developing a toolkit for a court watch program in civil and criminal courts that hear domestic violence cases in Erie County. The court watch checklist will assess "procedural justice" measures in these courts, such as adequate security in court waiting areas,



clear signage, the availability of advocates to accompany victims to court, and whether the judge explains the proceedings in a respectful and clear manner. A pilot is expected to be launched this winter.



Expanding pro se assistance

Building on the past work of our Pro Se Assistance Program in collaboration with the U.S. District Court and our many community partners and volunteer attorneys, the **Access to Justice Hybrid Clinic** is expanding its reach to pro se litigants in Western New York. Beginning in January 2021, the clinic will provide short-term, limited-scope representation to prisoners in Western New York facilities.

SPONDS

the need is great



Advocating for transparency

Prompted by nationwide calls for police reform after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the State of New York amended its laws to release records of police misconduct to the public. In response, police and firefighter unions across the state sued to block cities from releasing certain disciplinary records. The **Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic** successfully advocated for release of police misconduct records by Buffalo law enforcement over the objections of the police union, making the case that releasing these records is in the public's interest.

Representing our non-human friends



Our **Animal Law Clinic** collaborated with animal welfare organizations and local government officials from several municipalities to draft and support local laws that limit puppy mills. Student attorneys are also at the forefront of using innovative restorative justice practices to settle local disputes, including issues related to local community cat legislation.

Confronting the impact of a global pandemic



Our new **COVID Law and Community Engagement Clinic** is working to help people with legal needs arising from the job losses, personal tragedies and injustices connected with the COVID-19 pandemic. As the clinic evolves in response to developing challenges, student attorneys assist with such matters as forestalling evictions, writing wills, assessing COVID's impact on prisoners and appearing at unemployment hearings.

Protecting our world

Our **Environmental Advocacy Clinic** continued creating a combination of "good trouble" and creative change. Student attorneys fought for resilience, environmental justice and sustainability, advocating for policy support of several environmental justice efforts in Puerto Rico and beyond.

Teams of students also tackled mainstream National Environmental Policy Act concerns and lead poisoning issues in New York.



NEW FACES at the LAW SCHOOL

In addition to our new full-time faculty clinicians featured on pages 18–19, the law school welcomed several new faces to our clinical legal education team.

“The newest additions to UB’s clinical legal education program bring solid expertise and terrific enthusiasm to our clinics. The new team members have launched determined criminal justice advocacy, community driven multi-level COVID responses, commanding civil rights work in fair housing and other arenas, and hard-hitting transparency and First Amendment actions. Our new clinicians join those doing longstanding clinical work in other areas, including family violence prevention and response, entrepreneurship support, court-based access to justice, mediation, environmental advocacy, animal welfare and support for veterans. Despite having to work in a hybrid and remote manner, the fall 2020 semester got great reviews from student attorneys, and enormous appreciation from clients who otherwise would have been without access to justice.”

— **Kim Diana Connolly, Vice Dean for Advocacy and Experiential Learning**

Three practitioners bring their skills to our clinic

Vanessa Glushefski '14

**Co-Director and Adjunct Instructor,
COVID Law and Community Engagement Clinic**

Partnering with Vice Dean Kim Diana Connolly to lead the law school’s newest clinic, Glushefski is guiding student attorneys as they assist clients with issues arising from the job losses, personal tragedies and injustices caused by COVID-19. Before taking on this role, Glushefski provided general civil legal services as a private practitioner on a sliding fee scale to those in need while also volunteering at the Buffalo office of Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York.



Michael Higgins

**Assistant Director, Civil Rights and
Transparency Clinic; Director, Externship Program**

In just a little over a year, Higgins has quickly made an impact at the law school, supervising an active docket of transparency cases with a focus on representing journalists in Western New York. Now teaching and practicing in the areas of government accountability and freedom of the press, Higgins previously worked at the Social Security Administration in Buffalo and taught in a disability and civil rights legal clinic at Brooklyn Law School.



Kelley A. Omel '89

Adjunct Instructor, Family Violence and Women’s Rights Clinic

Omel joined the law school during the spring 2020 semester to assist with the Family Violence and Women’s Rights Clinic and teach in the new undergraduate law program. Prior to joining UB, Omel served as an assistant district attorney with the Erie County District Attorney’s Office for nearly 30 years, including nine years as chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.



**Caroline Funk doing
research in the western
Aleutian Islands**

New associate director helps expand The Baldy Center’s interdisciplinary impact

Caroline Funk, PhD

*Associate Director, The Baldy Center
for Law and Social Policy*

A new podcast series, blog and online magazine will extend the visibility of the meaningful and timely scholarly work done through The Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, a signature research arm of the law school and the University. These initiatives are being managed by the center’s new associate director, Caroline Funk, who holds a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and also is a research assistant professor in UB’s Department of Anthropology.

“Our purpose is to find multiple ways of sharing the voice of the researchers,” says Funk. “People cognitively access information differently – they read, they listen – and we’re accessing the time and the intellectual space of people from first-year college students all the way to emeritus faculty members, in multiple disciplines. So we’re working to make sure that the scholars’ voices are heard or read.”

BOLDLY BUFFALO

THE CAMPAIGN FOR UB

November 2018

Bold means using your voice to change the world.

Whether it's providing legal services to entrepreneurs and startups, tackling sports-related legal issues, or fighting for civil rights and liberties, we're not afraid to do what it takes to make an immeasurable impact on our community and around

the globe. The Boldly Buffalo campaign provides countless opportunities for students to discover their passions and achieve their dreams. To learn how you can help create a better world, visit buffalo.edu/campaign.

BE PART OF OUR BOLD INITIATIVES

There are many ways to give back to the law school and support an initiative that means the most to you, including:

- The Advocacy Institute Endowment Campaign
- Emergency Student Assistance Fund
- Social Justice and Racial Equity Fund
- New York City Program in Finance and Law Endowment Campaign
- UB Law Clinics
- Summer Fellowship Program

and many more ...

law.buffalo.edu/giving

To make a gift to the law school and contribute to the Boldly Buffalo campaign, contact a member of the School of Law's Advancement Office:

Karen R. Kaczmariski '89



Vice Dean for Advancement
(716) 645-6429
krkacz@buffalo.edu

Emilie Rosenbluth



Associate Director of Advancement
(716) 645-2113
ebrosenb@buffalo.edu

CAUSE TO CELEBRATE

Before the pandemic forced most gatherings online, we marked a handful of milestones and achievements with live festivities. Here's to good times, fun events and future in-person celebrations!



Left to right: 2019–20 LAA President Scott C. Becker '93, Michael A. Battle '81, Dean Aviva Abramovsky, New York Lt. Gov. Kathleen C. Hochul



Watch a video
of the award
presentation

Michael A. Battle '81 receives high honor

2020 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award Presentation and Annual New York City Luncheon

Jan. 31 at the Union League Club, New York City

Recognizing his outstanding career as a champion for justice, **Michael A. Battle** received the 2020 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award, the highest honor bestowed by the law school and the UB Law Alumni Association. Currently a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP in Washington, D.C., Battle distinguished himself in public service before entering private practice. From 2005 to 2007, he directed the Executive Office

for United States Attorneys, where he coordinated and managed 93 U.S. Attorneys. Previously, he was one of the first three federal defenders in the Western District of New York when the office was created in 1992. He was later appointed U.S. Attorney in that district. Battle has also served as an Erie County Family Court judge and as a staff attorney for the Legal Aid Society of New York City, Civil Division.

“All that I have been able to accomplish is the result of having benefited from a firm foundation, and in this case a very solid legal education. I perform as an attorney every day with lawyers from all over the country and lawyers from all over the world, educated at many other law schools. ... I get a chance to lead sometimes and to work alongside them, to hold my own and to think in the back of my mind, ‘UB Law School is in the house.’ ”

— **Michael A. Battle '81**

New York's newest lawyers

Our 2020 post-admissions ceremony celebration

Jan. 8 at Java's Café, Rochester, N.Y.

For recent graduates, hard work and long preparation led to their admission to the New York State Bar by the Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department. We celebrated this hard-won achievement with Dean Aviva Abramovsky, members of the law school administration and Rochester-area alumni.



Left: Hon. John M. Curran '84 and Yitong Zhao '19



Right: Leigh A. Chute '12 and Christina M. Deats '08



Left: Kaitlin R. Kramer '19 and Melissa J. Kathan '19



Right: Joshua Wallace '19 holding his daughter, Eloise, and Alexander Buszka '19

Sharing some well-earned pride

2020 OUTLaw Dinner & Awards Presentation

March 5 at Shea's Seneca, downtown Buffalo

The 2020 OUTLaw Dinner honored two champions of gender/sexuality justice. We recognized **Hon. Javier Vargas '92**, of Kings County Family Court in Brooklyn, for his outstanding judicial activism with the LGBTQ+ community and communities of color, and for his work with families and youth as a family court judge. And we celebrated **Roberta "Bobbi" O'Toole**, of The Law Offices of Roberta O'Toole in Kenmore, N.Y., for her efforts to increase the visibility and acceptance of transgender persons in the legal field.



Left to right: Stephanie Verhage '21, Peter Farruggia '21, Hon. Javier E. Vargas '92, Dean Aviva Abramovsky, Roberta "Bobbi" O'Toole, Catherine Polanco '21 and Melissa Whyman '21



Left to right: Bridget M. O'Connell '98, Rachel Haseley, Karen L. Nicolson '89 and Hon. Sharon M. LoVallo '94



Professor John Schlegel and Andrea Schillaci '82

Law Alumni Association Report

The COVID pandemic may have delayed a few of our traditions and kept us physically apart. But it did not stop our Law Alumni Association from forging forward with new opportunities to connect and support its alumni, expanded online programming, and a focus on promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal community.



Jennifer M. Oliver '07, partner at Mogin Rubin in San Diego and a member of the Dean's Advisory Council, provides career advice during a panel discussion on succeeding in a difficult job market.

Educational resources available online

Check out the Law Alumni Association's collection of free educational webinars. Many of the topics are related to the impact of COVID-19 on the legal practice.

Topics include:

- **Federal Trials During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **How to Access Free and Low-Cost Legal Resources for COVID-19 Related Matters**
- **Business Disputes in Bankruptcy Court in the Era of COVID-19**

... and many more.

To view our webinar library, visit:

law.buffalo.edu/alumni/education

New social justice and racial equity committee

The UB Law Alumni Association and the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group formed a new **Social Justice and Racial Equity Committee** focused on creating programming and promoting dialogue within the legal community on diversity and equity issues.

"Our goal is to support the law school," says 2020-21 LAA President **Anne Joynt '05**, "and be a partner in these necessary discussions. This is a time that's really ripe for looking inward and turning our thoughts into action; to consider what we should be doing to promote diversity, and then do it."

Toward that end, the LAA enlisted **Tolulope Odunsi**, assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, to provide an intensive training session for members of the LAA and GOLD Group boards, as well as the Dean's Advisory Council – 54 people in all. Titled "How to Build an Anti-Racist Culture," the goal, Odunsi says, was to give the participants tools to

Are you a member of the Law Alumni Association? If not, join today at law.buffalo.edu/alumni

advocate for a more open and inclusive workplace, and to better support their colleagues of color.

The committee also organized two community outreach programs:

- **How to Hire – and Retain – Diverse Lawyers** featuring **Paulette Brown**, senior partner and chief diversity and inclusion officer at Locke Lord LLP and the first African American woman president of the American Bar Association.

- **The Racial and Economic Underpinnings – and Impact – of Mass Incarceration** featuring **John Major Eason**, sociology professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a Diversity Innovation Distinguished Visiting Scholar at UB.

Both events were organized in conjunction with the Bar Association of Erie County, the WNY Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, and the Minority Bar Association of Western New York.

LAA Committee members include **Ericka Bennett ’05**, **Anne Joynt ’05**, **Marianne Mariano ’94**, **Robert Neill ’20**, **Tiffany Perry ’00**, **Jason Ulatowski ’07** and **Sarah Washington ’16**.

Outstanding leadership



The law school and the Law Alumni Association extend their sincere gratitude to **Scott C. Becker ’93**, our 2019–20 LAA president. Scott’s steady leadership and calm demeanor at the onset of the pandemic allowed the association to quickly respond to the needs of its members,

offering new programming formats and keeping our alumni informed and connected.

“Scott has led the association through an extraordinary year, beginning with a visit from the Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg and ending at the height of the COVID pandemic,” says **Dean Aviva Abramovsky**. “Through it all, Scott and the entire board of directors never wavered in their support of the law school. I am very grateful for all that they do to provide scholarships, job opportunities and mentoring advice so that our students have the greatest likelihood of success.”

The association has transitioned leadership to the capable hands of its 2020–21 president **Anne E. Joynt ’05**. Joynt is a junior partner in the Buffalo law firm Lipsitz Ponterio, LLC. Joynt has served on the LAA board since 2013 and was previously president of the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group.



AND SO MUCH AHEAD

Honoring excellence: Our 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Five alumni leaders and one non-alumna will be recognized for their contributions to the legal profession and the legal community when the UB Law Alumni Association confers its Distinguished Alumni Awards in a new virtual format. Be sure to join us when we honor:



For the Judiciary

Hon. John J. Ark ’72

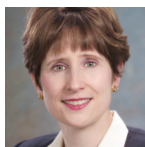
*Justice, NYS Supreme Court
Seventh Judicial District
Rochester, N.Y.*



For Public Service

John J. Flynn ’95

*District Attorney, Erie County
Buffalo, N.Y.*



For Business

Paula M. Ciprich ’85

*Retired Senior Vice President and General Counsel
National Fuel Gas Co.
Williamsville, N.Y.*



For Community Service

Laurence K. Rubin ’77

*Partner, Kavinoky Cook LLP
Buffalo, N.Y.*



For Private Practice

David R. Pfalzgraf Jr. ’97

*Managing Partner, Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf
Cunningham LLC
Buffalo, N.Y.*

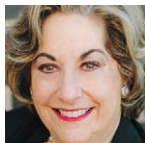


For Outstanding Service to the University and the Community by a Non-Alumna

Hon. Shirley Troutman

*Associate Justice, NYS Supreme Court, Appellate
Division, Fourth Judicial Department
Buffalo, N.Y.*

Our online presentation will take place in late spring or early summer. Details will be announced soon!



QUESTIONS?

Contact **Ilene Fleischmann**

*Vice Dean for Alumni Affairs
(716) 645-7347
fleisch@buffalo.edu*

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It's time to **plan forward** and **look back** with your classmates and friends

Our 2020 Class Reunions may be late, but they'll be great! If you graduated in a year ending with "0" or "5," please plan on joining our 2021 reunion classes – classes ending with "1" or "6" – at a fun, fall event. (Final date and event format is contingent on public health and safety conditions.)

In the meantime, take a virtual walk down memory lane and check out our collection of photos, yearbooks, issues of The Opinion, and more, on the Class Reunion webpages. →



QUESTIONS? Visit law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent or call the Alumni Office at (716) 645-2107.