

ALUMNI PROFILES

Responses to our
2022 Reunion Questionnaire



University at Buffalo
School of Law

Anthony D. Parone '60

What and where was your first position practicing law?

At Gellman & Gellman, Esqs. I worked in Niagara Falls.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there for five years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65? 75?

General practice, specializing in corporate work.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I specialized in corporate work.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

I am not retired and I continue to practice every day.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I have one daughter, Deborah Lyn, and two granddaughters, Elena and Marina.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

It is my life. I cannot imagine doing anything else.

Describe your UB law school experience.

It felt it was a great experience with all my classmates and professors.

Who was your favorite professor?

Probably Saul Touster because he was a real showman!

Would you do it again?

Yes, I would do it all over again! I really cannot imagine doing anything else but being a lawyer.

Melvyn L. Hurwitz '62

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Worked in two law firms before becoming an Assistant District Attorney in January 1964

How long did you stay with it?

Three years then worked in other

Did you become a specialist? If so what Specialty?

Yes, I opened up my own firm in 1984 specializing in Workers Compensation Law and I still practice at age 84.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

An opportunity to help people, especially people who have been hurt at work.

Eric Corbett Williams '65

What and where was your first position practicing law?

FBI

How long did you stay with it?

30 years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65?

Special Agent, Then Supervisory Special Agent. 4 years as a lawyer at FBIHQ.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Foreign Counter-Intelligence/International Terrorism.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Gave me a great career. Met 4 U.S. Presidents. Was on Air Force 2.

Describe your UB law school experience.

3 Great years.

Who was your favorite professor?

Sol Touste

Would you do it again?

Of course!



David Manch '70

What and where was your first position practicing law?

At Hodgson Russ in Buffalo, New York.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there for thirteen years and then moved to Arizona. There, I practiced with Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie for over 30 years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55? 65? 75?

I did tax and ERISA work, specifically in the employee benefits area dealing with tax-qualified retirement plans, executive compensation, and estate planning for executives and business owners, as well as employee benefit plan fiduciary responsibility issues.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

ERISA law and Estate Planning.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

I retired in Phoenix, AZ where I have lived for the past 35 plus years. I am an avid hiker and Hospice volunteer. I have also traveled extensively and will continue to do so post-COVID. I am a native Buffalonian and still follow what's going on back in Western New York. And, of course, I am still a very avid Bills and Sabres fan and will be until I expire!

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I have one son and one grandchild who live in Buffalo. My grandson attends Keuka College in the Finger Lakes.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being a lawyer enabled me to have a challenging career in a complex area. I was fortunate to spend my entire career with only two very special law firms. I credit UB Law with giving me the tools to succeed.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I truly enjoyed my UB Law School experience. What's more, the education I received at UB was superb. I attended UB Law at the ancient Eagle St. location, which although not a spectacular facility, was small and intimate for a law school and that helped make the experience a rewarding one.

Who was your favorite professor?

Ken Joyce, hands down. I am very pleased that I was able to establish a special fund at the law school in Ken Joyce's name to promote excellence in law school teaching.

Would you do it again?

I would definitely do it again without question.

Margaret Quinn '70

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Fudeman and Renaldo

How long did you stay with it?

2 1/2 years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65? 75?

I was an administrative law Judge from 1980 - 2000 and retired. A year later I went back into private practice with James Myers and retired again 5 years later.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

I live in The Villages, Florida, which is known as The Disney Land for adults, with great golf, many clubs and all kinds of activities.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

My daughter and her husband moved down here two years ago and we do many theatre events, sight see and try the many pools and restaurants in this beautiful place.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

It was the most interesting field and I enjoyed it, except for the difficulties for some of the discriminatory practice we early women had to experience

Describe your UB law school experience.

Good

Who was your favorite professor?

Professor Joyce

Would you do it again?

Yes

Jeffrey Rabin '70

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Assistant District Attorney, Kings County D.A. Office (Brooklyn)

How long did you stay with it?

Three years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65? 75?

Criminal Defense during all of those years

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

Retired in 2018 from practice in NYC, currently reside in Charleston, SC, read, bicycle rides, have become a Pickleball fanatic

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

Four children, four grandchildren

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being a lawyer, especially a criminal defense attorney (after being a prosecutor), gave me the opportunity to challenge the system, and attempt to correct what I perceived to be errors in the application of the law. My association with other attorneys and the judiciary, especially during litigation, was most rewarding and helped better the person I was when I graduated.

Describe your UB law school experience.

My three years were filled with great relationships with other students and professors which cannot be matched in any other environment. I remember it as if yesterday and appreciate all that my time there taught me.

Who was your favorite professor?

Herman Schwartz

Would you do it again?

Yes. Without hesitation.

Martin Saperstein '70

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Kings County D.A., Brooklyn, NY

How long did you stay with it?

4 1/2 years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65? 75?

Private Practice. Legal work of course.

Did you become a specialist? If so, what specialty?

Intellectual Property, Real Estate

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Better than being a starving musician.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I can't remember.

Who was your favorite professor?

Ken Joyce

Would you do it again?

Yes



Joseph Dinardo '71

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Junior partner at Collins and Collins.

How long did you stay with it?

20 years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55? 65? 75?

I was a trial lawyer. I tried 9 or 10 cases to verdict every year for many years. We practiced and tried cases from Buffalo to Cleveland and into NYC and even Boston.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I did a great deal of injury work but had many Traumatic Brain Injury cases.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Difficult to answer as I feel no separation between me and the trial lawyer that I was. It infused every aspect of my life and I enjoyed so much helping people that needed our services.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I felt very fortunate that at the end of our first year I was ranked 8th in our class. Studying law (except Taxation) came naturally to the way I already thought and so it was a great fit for me. I loved being right next to the Erie and Federal Courts. Watching some of WNY's great trial lawyers of that era was inspiring.

Who was your favorite professor?

William Griener. He asked me to be his research assistant for the 2nd edition of his textbook: "The Nature and Function of Law" . That was a wonderful experience. We remained friends until his death several years ago.

Would you do it again?

Yes.

Margaret Anderson '72

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Erie County District Attorney's Office

How long did you stay with it?

Four years

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Trial lawyer then Buffalo City Court Judge

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

It meant that I was able to affect people's lives in a positive way. I was able to contribute in a small way to the betterment of my community and to apply high standards of truth and justice. It didn't always work out that way, but just being in the arena brought huge personal satisfaction.

Describe your UB law school experience.

It was one of the best of my life. It forced me to be independent and tough. I learned not to quit and how important it is to have study groups! I learned to value the people who support me through encouraging my efforts. It also at the same time was so much fun! Being one of only four women in the class was definitely a mixed blessing. I couldn't hide in class and was called on a lot. But as the time went by, I became more convinced that I had found the joy of my life in becoming a lawyer.

Who was your favorite professor?

Professor Seigel, who taught Civil Procedure, and made it interesting! Also, Professor Adolf Homburger, who kept after me relentlessly to be a better student and who probably had the biggest lasting effect on me! I will always be grateful to him and will never forget him.

Would you do it again?

Absolutely!

Joan Alexander '75

What and where was your first position practicing law?

I worked for the IRS Counsel's Office in Buffalo.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed for three years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65?

For my last twenty years of practice, I was an ALJ in IDEA Special Education disputes. I conducted hearings and wrote decisions.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

I had interesting paid work and volunteer work. Now, I'm happily retired. I'm still living in Buffalo and still a volunteer. For fun? I've spent many summers at the Chautauqua Institution near Jamestown, NY.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

We have 2 wonderful children and 2 wonderful grandchildren.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

It provided me with an opportunity to help people.

Would you do it again?

Yes, I would.



Ronnie Edelman '75

What and where was your first position practicing law?

My first position was as a trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section in Washington, D.C.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there 7 years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65?

At 45, I prosecuted World War II Nazis who entered the US in violation of the immigration laws as Principal Deputy of the Office of Special Investigations in the Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice. At 55, I supervised the prosecutions of domestic and international terrorists. I also wrote policy and legislation as Principal Deputy of the Counterterrorism Section of the National Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. At 65, I retired. I do volunteer work writing grants for non-profits, addressing environmental education and the arts.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I specialized in national security law and policy.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

I retired in 2008 and moved to Maryland's Eastern Shore. I do a lot of volunteer work with our local arts center, for our local liberal arts college, and local religious organization. Most of my focus lately is on a new local organization, Kent Attainable Housing, which designs and constructs homes for low income working families in Kent County, MD, and provides classes, counseling and support for prospective owners. In my free time, I enjoy knitting, reading, yoga, and hiking.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I have two children, no grandchildren yet.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being a lawyer was an interesting and challenging career. I've learned a lot and I believe I contributed to the safety and security of the American people.

Describe your UB law school experience.

UB Law School prepared me well for the practice of law. I especially liked working with my study group. We helped and supported each other.

Would you do it again?

Yes.



Robert Fellows '75

What and where was your first position practicing law?

My first position was as an associate at the then Hirshfeld, Birbrower & Montalbano.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there for two years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65?

I first did general practice and then for the last thirty years, I have worked exclusively in plaintiff personal injury litigation.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I specialize in personal injury litigation.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I live with my life partner, Arlene Rodriguez Rodgers. We have three daughters, Meredith, Jodi, Brittney, and one son, Daniel. I have seven grandchildren—Hannah, Nathaniel, Jack, Noah, Abraham, and Zaide.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Satisfaction changing the lives of people injured. It also means the opportunity to give back to the community in a variety of ways. The gift of economic independence. The joy of continuing to exercise one's intellect and critical thinking. The good fortune of allowing the pursuit of musical endeavors with my still-sidelined rhythm and blues band, Cee Songbird and the Sound Travelers.

Describe your UB law school experience.

It was challenging my first year and far more enjoyable my last year.

Who was your favorite professor?

Adolf Hamburger.

Would you do it again?

Yes and no. I should have, in retrospect, pursued the opportunity to attend Yale although my SUNY Buffalo classmates were equal to any of the top tier schools. The professors were enthusiastic, accessible, interesting, challenging, and well-versed in their fields of expertise. Yes, there would be a "do-over" with better weather.

Rodney Klafehn '75

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Clerk / associate attorney / partner at a small firm in Oneonta, NY

How long did you stay with it?

12 years before going solo, 8 years in Oneonta and 22 in Laurens, NY.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

It was the typical development of a small-town law practice. In those early years, it was an "anything that came through the door" practice, which evolved into a thriving real estate practice (with an abstract & title company as an adjunct). All of those real estate clients needed wills - and over the next 10 years I drew a lot of them. The last 20 years of practice narrowed into estate planning, including elder law, and estate administration.

Out of a necessity at first to supplement my income, I entered public service as a part-time Asst DA. Later, out of a commitment to public service, I developed a municipal law practice, and served as a village & town attorney to several municipalities, as well as counsel to several fire districts and departments. I also served one term as County Attorney before realizing that politics was not for me.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

If it counts as a "specialty", the laws pertaining to the fire & emergency services. As a long-time active-duty member of the Laurens Fire Department, I had an instant connection and a good rapport with the fire & emergency services, and a perspective that few - if any - of my attorney colleagues had. So, by default, I became the "go to" attorney in the law of the fire & emergency services.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

Retired 7/1/17 and living in Laurens, NY, a small town (pop. 2500) 12 miles south of Cooperstown and 8 miles north of Oneonta.

My wife, Patty, & I are coordinators of the St Matthew Lutheran Church Food Pantry, which sponsors a monthly drive-/walk-through food distribution and on-call food distribution / delivery service for those in need.

As a long-time member of the Laurens Fire Dept., I have held both line (Capt.-Ret.) and administrative (Pres.) positions. I currently serve as Deputy Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Laurens Fire District, the administrative body governing the District's three fire companies and its emergency squad.

Fun = Family.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

4 sons and their wives and 7 grandchildren, including a set of triplets, all under the age of 8 - with the possibility of more to come.

The boys were all well into their 30s before the first grandchildren came along. We accused them of not having paid attention during the marriage ceremony when they were told to "be fruitful and multiply". But after our oldest son became a father - of triplets - fatherhood seemed to become a contagious condition.

We have been blessed with a large family - 17 of us and counting - and our best and most fun times are when we can all be together.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being able to be of service in a small town in a small county

Describe your UB law school experience.

3 years of anxiety and paranoia - and then you get to sit for the bar exam.

Who was your favorite professor?

George Zimmerman. Besides being knowledgeable and thorough in his subject matter, he carried himself very professionally. He was an early role model. Years later, it was a pleasure to meet his son, George, who was then an Asst Co Atty for Erie Co when I was Co Atty for Otsego Co.

Not a professor, but certainly memorable - Art, the custodian at Eagle Street. He could sit in as a fourth in any card game, offer advice as to professors and classes, and had a locker full of ties to match any suit or shirt when the need arose.

Would you do it again?

I have often asked myself if I had it to do over, would I have become an attorney or a firefighter. As it turns out, I got to do both!



Edward Manzo '75

What and where was your first position practicing law?

My first position practicing law was as an associate in a patent law firm in New York City.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed in the IP field for 45 years, but I worked for different companies. I moved from my first job after two years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

I worked in patent litigation and I was based in Chicago.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Yes, I have always been a patent specialist. More recently, I became specialized in patent validity trials at the Patent Trial and Appeals Board of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

I obtained two MA degrees (theology and bioethics). I also read and audit classes. I also resumed studies on classical guitar. I accompany the praise team at church; sing in choir; and ballroom dance. I plan to learn Spanish, Latin, and Koine Greek. I also plan to travel more—I have been to many countries, but haven't yet seen Greece, Ireland, Croatia, Australia, NZ, or Portugal. I would like to live in France a while to learn the vernacular "lingua franca."

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I have three children and three grandchildren.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

I've had my share of ups and downs. I am happy to be reaching retirement. In retrospect, my law career was fruitful and rewarding, but it was not the ultimate work for which I am intended. The best is yet to come.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I was EXUBERANT to get out of the NYC metropolitan area. I liked Buffalo. Wonderful people. Though I later practiced in Manhattan for three years, I left for good in 1978.

Who was your favorite professor?

Thomas Buergethal, Bill Greiner, Jacob Hyman.

Would you do it again?

Doubtful. The conditions are SO much different now. Not enough jobs, and I would be behind the 8-ball demographically. I might instead pursue something else. If I were to have a "do-over" in law, I would have sought a judicial clerkship. I might pursue international law instead of patent law. Another viable and perhaps better alternative would have been pure litigation involving technology where my STEM training (physics degree) would have been good background—so patents, technology contracts, etc.



William Savino '75

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Fix, Spindelman

How long did you stay with it?

Four months

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

Private practice

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Business, construction, and bankruptcy litigation

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

Not retiring

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

Emma is a tax lawyer at Hodgson. Will composes, performs and produces music for video games.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Found a profession I have thoroughly enjoyed for 46 years

Describe your UB law school experience.

I wasn't all in at the outset, but made numerous treasured friends from day one.

Who was your favorite professor?

KEN JOYCE

Would you do it again?

In a Manhattan minute

Phyllis Slesinger '75

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Director and Counsel, State Government Affairs, National Association of Home Builders

How long did you stay with it?

1 year--was hired away by the Mortgage Bankers Association to operate a similar program

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

My career up until age 50 focused on legal issues associated with residential real estate, primarily, the secondary mortgage market, including stints at HUD, Freddie Mac, a private law firm, the American Land Title Association, and a second, much longer stint (24 years) at the Mortgage Bankers Association, all in Washington, DC. My first eight years at Mortgage Bankers involved policy work related to the operations of Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac. At 50, I became general counsel of the Mortgage Bankers Association, focusing on internal corporate matters.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

As a corporate counsel of a large trade association, I was a generalist dealing with contracts, employment issues, antitrust, intellectual property, and election law. I also advised the Association's standard-setting subsidiary and helped launch the Association's foundation that provides mortgage and rental assistance to parents of critically ill or injured children.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

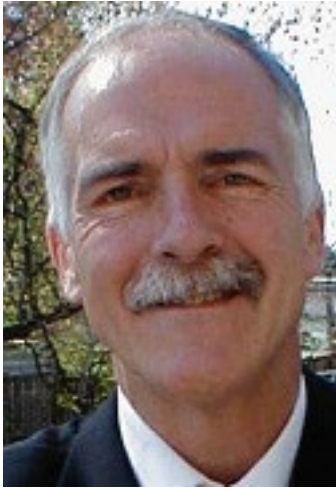
I retired at the end of 2016 in Washington, DC. Since then, I have served on a local nonprofit board, helped plan a wedding for my younger daughter, worked on the 2016 and 2020 elections, and up until the pandemic, travelled.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I have two adult daughters, one lives in Boston and the other lives in Alexandria, VA.

Would you do it again?

Yes



John Fargo '76

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Trial Attorney, Patent Section, Civil Division, US Dept. of Justice

How long did you stay with it?

43 years, although my position changed as I was promoted.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

At 35, I was a trial attorney, doing first chair (and often only chair) patent infringement trials in the US Court of Federal Claims and appeals before the Federal Circuit and two before the Ninth Circuit.

At 45, I was an Assistant Director, supervising others as well as trying more complex patent infringement cases and arguing appeals.

At 55, I was the Director of the Intellectual Property Staff, Civil Division, overseeing all patent, copyright and trademark litigation within the Civil Division, as well as commenting on proposed legislation and attending meetings at the Solicitor General's Office on cases before the Supreme Court involving intellectual property.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Yes. I have specialized in intellectual Property litigation. Most of my work has been in patent infringement litigation, although I have also handled copyright and trademark litigation.

Since my retirement from DOJ, I have continued to do some freelance work assisting small law firms with IP litigation and related matters.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

It has been an ideal job in permitting me to develop and use my skills in writing and debating, as well as employ my engineering background in dealing with technology while seeking to fairly resolve legal disputes. One of the things I've loved about working at DOJ was the freedom to advocate for a reasonable result without having to worry about keeping clients. While we advocated vigorously, we did not have the pressure to pick fights in order to increase billable hours that sometimes occurs in private practice.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I enjoyed law school, perhaps, because I had never planned to go to law school until after I graduated from UB with an engineering degree. Having done some blue-collar work after undergrad, I was ready to spend my days at law school working 9-5 so that I had less to do when I got home. Once I began law school, I found that the courses were so much more interesting than the various calculus, physics, chemistry and other engineering courses that I took in undergrad.

I really enjoyed my classmates in law school, who came from a wide range of backgrounds. I learned a great deal from them, aside from what I learned from classes.

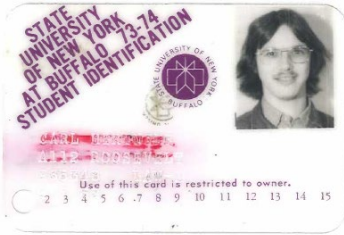
Who was your favorite professor?

Probably Paul Goldstein, who brought a great deal of energy, along with probing questions, to our Intellectual Property class (although it wasn't called IP, back then). The background principles that he provided for patent, copyright and trademark law served me well when I began to specialize in it.

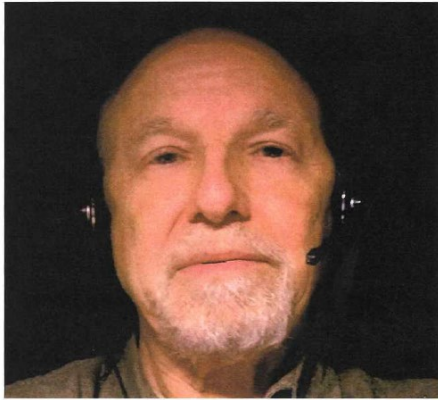
Would you do it again?

Yes. I still enjoy legal work and connecting with my colleagues through our Inn of Court in DC.

THEN ↓



NOW →



Carl Heringer '76

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Defense Contract Administration Services (DLA) - NYC

How long did you stay with it?

Eight years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

35: In-House Counsel, Fairchild Republic Company

45: Counsel, Princeton Capital Finance Company

55: SVP & General Counsel, Computer Generated Solutions, Inc.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Government Contract Procurement, Contracts & Corporate Law

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Professionalism

Describe your UB law school experience.

Interesting, especially in an unfinished law school building and an unfinished dorm building, both on an unfinished campus.

Who was your favorite professor?

Professor Wade Newhouse, Professor Thomas Buergenthal

Would you do it again?

Unknown, what are my options?



Stephen Kaplan '76

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Law Clerk for Carnahan, DiGuilio, Lafalce, Moriarity & Hill in Buffalo, New York

How long did you stay with it?

Until I graduated.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

Attorney in private civil practice.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Not really, although when I started out as a lawyer, I was doing a great deal of labor work.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

It is what I have enjoyed and how I make a difference in my community to social and jurisprudential justice.

Describe your UB law school experience.

It was a great experience meeting wonderful people who had passions that they pursued.

Who was your favorite professor?

Al Katz, James Adelson, and Wade Newhouse. But I liked them all.

Would you do it again?

Yes



Tom Collins '77

What and where was your first position practicing law?

After clerking with NY App. Div. 4th (Simons) and US Ct App 7th (staff), I practiced at Chamberlain, D'Amanda in Rochester, starting in 1980.

How long did you stay with it?

Spent my entire career at Chamberlain, D'Amanda (associate, partner, of counsel), until retiring from law in 2001.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Yes, appellate practice and complex litigation.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Wow! My wife still introduces me as a "recovering" lawyer, but my mentor Louis D'Amanda always said you can stop being an attorney, but never lose what makes you a lawyer. I left practicing law for what became a serial entrepreneurial life and lots of how I look at and navigate through life and business is still heavily influenced by my legal training and practice experiences.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Growth. Jumping back from the next question, I want to say that as much as the professors and the law school itself, my experience was shaped by the dumb luck I had in joining my first semester study group, Patrick Deveney, Charles Chehebar, Chris Carty, Mary Engler, and Sandy Berland, and me. They became friends and we stuck together through graduation.

Who was your favorite professor?

Not possible to pick one, so I'll name the ones who still jump to mind and influence my work:

Bill Greiner

Jan Lindgren

Howard Mann

Michael Tigar

Danny Holley

Adolph Homburger

Would you do it again?

Yes

John Doscher'77

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County (Family Court Division)

How long did you stay with it?

2.5 years

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

The last 31+ years I practiced law I was a prosecutor - 1st in the Queens DA's Office and the last 28 years in the Erie County DA's Office. The last 26 years I mainly handled white collar/government corruption cases. The last 14 years I was in the Erie County DA's Office I headed the bureau handling these cases. As things developed, my specialty was investigating and prosecuting embezzlements. If everyone had been able to remember "Thou shalt not steal", I would have been out of a job – or worse, might have had to prosecute DWIs.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Ideally, a person wants 4 things from a job: It needs to be honest, it needs to provide reliable financial security, it needs to be livable, and it needs to provide the opportunity for service to others. I was very lucky in that the legal jobs I had satisfied all 4 of these requirements.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Those who, like me, were in the Class of 1977, may remember a saying we often used to quote to each other: "The 1st year they scare you to death, the 2nd year they work you to death, and the 3rd year they bore you to death." Having been scared to death and worked to death, by the time I got to my 3rd year I found boredom an experience for which I was grateful.

Who was your favorite professor?

I had Kochery for Labor Law, CP II, and NY Practice. He had a knack both for making complicated matters understandable and for making class pleasant. Even our last semester, when he was battling declining health, he remained a very effective teacher - and a kind and pleasant man.

Would you do it again?

"Jury is still out."

On the one hand, I had a successful legal career where I was able to help many people (the best part of being a white-collar prosecutor was often being able to help people get their money back); on the other hand, law is often (not always) a "zero sum game" where we win by causing someone else to lose. I think that a "positive sum game" career (where I won by helping someone else win) - like something medical - might have suited me better. But, as Lincoln said in his 2nd inaugural, "the Almighty has his own purposes", so maybe I wound up where I was supposed to be.



Larry Rubin '77

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Assistant Erie County Attorney, Buffalo, NY

How long did you stay with it?

Six years

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Municipal Law, Economic development

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Having an opportunity to make a difference in the well-being of my community

Describe your UB law school experience.

It opened doors for my future career, but most importantly it brought me to Buffalo where I met my incredible wife of almost 44 years.

Who was your favorite professor?

Hard to choose between Schlegel, Hyman, Greiner. and Joyce.

Would you do it again?

Now or then? Then yes; now, who knows?



Jerry Citera '80

What and where was your first position practicing law?

I started my legal career as an associate in the corporate department at Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods and Goodyear.

How long did you stay with it?

About two years. I received an offer to join the SEC and moved to Washington in 1982.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55? 65? 75?

I have extensive background in government, law firm and in-house legal positions. I have worked at or been legal advisor to the SEC, large banks, investment banks, brokerage firms and other financial institutions in complex legal, regulatory and compliance matters.

At 35, I was Counsel in the Securities Enforcement Group at Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering.

At 45 I was Deputy General Counsel at PaineWebber Securities.

At 55, I was Senior Counsel in the Financial Institutions Group at Davis Polk & Wardwell.

At 60, I was Associate General Counsel and Managing Director at J.P. Morgan.

At 65, I returned to public service, and currently serve as Senior Policy Adviser to the SEC Division of Trading and Markets.

It is fitting and somewhat ironic that I basically started my legal career at the SEC in 1982 and, after almost 40 years of practicing law, have returned to the same office to share my years of experience and knowledge to that agency.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I have spent my entire career providing legal advice to the financial industry. I have done everything from preparing bank loan documentation at my first job to negotiating complex international merger agreements for financial institutions. As a result, I have developed an expertise in representing financial institutions in complex legal and regulatory matters, particularly in the area of broker-dealer regulation and the regulation of the trading markets.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

Not yet retired, but looking forward to playing more golf, hiking, sailing and relaxing on my porch with a cold beer. I know that all of the retirement books and advisers say you have to have a purpose in life, but I think after over 40 years of working hard, my purpose will be enjoying life. (I might also continue to do some professional and pro bono work, but only if I can fit it in with my golf and sailing schedule!)

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I have three great kids, one son and two daughters, and at the present one grandchild (although hoping for more soon!) My son is a standup comedian and sometimes actor currently living in LA. My older daughter is an event manager for Rockefeller Center including the Rainbow Room and Top of the Rock. My youngest daughter chose the financial industry and is currently an associate at a private equity firm. I am happy that each of them got to pursue their passion and do the thing the thing they love.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

An interesting, challenging and rewarding career. I do not know of any career that would have provided the varied experiences, challenges and rewards that being a lawyer had provided to me. But the most important thing is that I always enjoyed my work and the people that I have worked with. I have also had the opportunity to give back to the profession and the community through pro bono work and other professional activity, including teaching and mentoring younger lawyers.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Law School was probably one of the best times of my life. I enjoyed the study of legal issues; I made great friends and had a lot of fun and was able to enjoy a number of interesting and challenging work opportunities. While the work was hard, we were able to balance that with good times and fun activities (as well as a significant number of wasted time at Coles and other local social establishments). While the legal training I received and the experience I gained from different work opportunities were critical to my successful career as a lawyer, I believe the friendships and personal relationships were the most enriching valuable part of the experience. I maintain many of these relationships to the present.

Who was your favorite professor?

Professor Louis Delcotto. He surprisingly made tax law interesting and instilled in me a curiosity to dig below the surface to understand the principals and competing interests that helped formulate the law. While I did not specifically pursue tax law (although it is always a significant consideration), I found this skill particularly useful in everything that I have done. I would also be remiss if I failed to mention Phil Halpern. I did not take any courses with Phil in law school (although we later recalled that we played on the same teacher/student basketball team during law school) but worked with him for almost 15 years on the New York City Program, which I found particularly rewarding. He was an inspiring professor to the students in that program and one of the main reasons that the program continues to be so successful.

Would you do it again?

Yes!



Stephen Krason '80

What and where was your first position practicing law?

I have never been in law practice. I was in the J.D./Ph.D. (political science) program at UB Law School and have been in the academic world (I am a professor of political science and legal studies at a university, teaching undergraduates). I was a visiting professor at a law school one semester in 2019.

How long did you stay with it?

I am still working there.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65?

I am still doing the same work. I am a university professor of political science and legal studies at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. I started here at age 32 and have been here for over 34 years.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

The area of my focus has been American Constitutional law, but that has been only in teaching. I have done a couple of amicus curiae briefs in U.S. Supreme Court cases and have spoken at CLE programs over the years.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

My wife, Therese is an R.N. and from Buffalo. We have four adult children (ages 28-34). Two of them, daughters, are married. We also have three grandchildren, ages 1-7.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being in the academic world teaching political science, it has given me a deeper take on some of the questions and issues that come up in the subject matter that I teach in that academic discipline. It has also given me the background needed to get involved in some public issue areas, such as parental and family rights.

Describe your UB law school experience.

So much of my focus was on my Ph.D. program, since I was in a joint program. The flexibility of the UB law curriculum then, starting in the second semester of the first year, enabled me to take many courses that piggybacked on and enhanced my Ph.D. studies, which prepared me well for my academic career.

Who was your favorite professor?

The late W. Howard Mann, who was then one of the constitutional law professors. I took any course that he offered and he also served on my Ph.D. dissertation committee.

Would you do it again?

Yes. I would definitely do the joint program again.

Michael Mohun '80

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Associate and later partner with Jim Brown.

How long did you stay with it?

1980-1998.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55? 65? 75?

At 45 - Criminal defense and representing judges and attorneys in professional discipline matters.

At 55 - same.

At 65 - Elected County Surrogate and Family Court Judge, appointed Supreme Court Judge.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Bad word, read the Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 7.4.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

Still at it.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

Three kids all terrific. No grandchildren yet.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Everything.

Describe your UB law school experience.

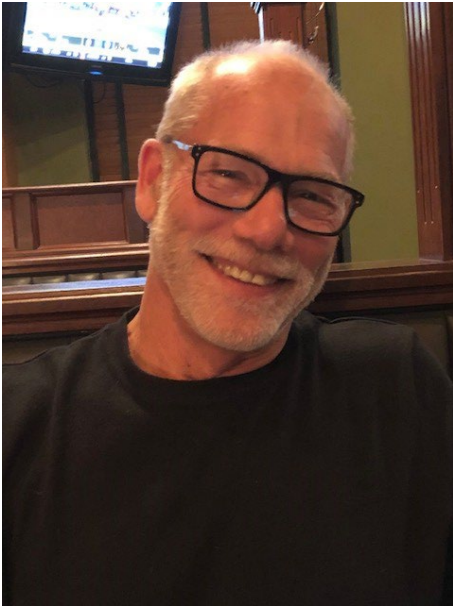
Great.

Who was your favorite professor?

Joe Lauffer.

Would you do it again?

In a heartbeat.



Philip Myers '80

What and where was your first position practicing law?

SEC - Washington, DC

How long did you stay with it?

Two years in DC and two years in San Francisco.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55? 65? 75?

I have owned an investment banking firm and managed a REIT since 1989.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

No.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

Married 35 years...recently divorced. Two children, one of whom is deceased. No grandchildren yet.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Great education and foundation. Became member of NY, CA and MN bars but didn't practice beyond 1988 as I applied my experience into owning and operating a business that required many legal skills.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Wonderful and challenging, especially five tax courses with Lou Delcotto. Great classmates!

Who was your favorite professor?

Lou Delcotto.

Would you do it again?

Most certainly.

Dale Clark '81

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Private practice in Bath, NY to be the part-time after-hours elf who came in at 4 PM after teaching college classes to draft all the Surrogate's Court papers for the next day.

How long did you stay with it?

20 years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

Teaching Business Law and Paralegal courses at Corning Community College as professor (29 years), while working evenings and summers with a local private practice doing estate probate and tax.

Did you become a specialist? If so what Specialty?

Estate probate and taxes. My 2nd years summer position was with a Cheektowaga firm doing their probate files. I had a folding table and chair in the basement with a stack of pending files and instructions to ask the secretary for some closed files to see how the court papers were filled out. At the end of summer, I was able to do everything from start to finish. It got me my first and only private practice position.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

I could teach my students with real examples. I was able to provide practice clients with quick, affordable, and accurate services in a community where that was not always the case.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I applied to 2 law schools - UB and an Ivy League school. The Ivy League school, from a grad with connections, was hesitant about my SUNY undergraduate work and stumbling start. I am SO GLAD that UB accepted me, and my student loan debt was trivial. The mix of demographics was exhilarating, and the faculty was friendly and accessible. Despite all the long hours, I enjoyed the entire experience. The friends I made are treasured and the things we did together are lifelong memories. GO DUCKS!

Who was your favorite professor?

George Priest, for what a laser focused commitment to discipline looked like. Ken Joyce, for how to teach tax (!) like your funny uncle. Bill Greiner for allowing me to be his tutor and recommending me to teach evening UB undergrad evening classes, which led me to decide to teach for a career.

Would you do it again?

When can I start? Are there breaks for naps?

Maria Diakos '82

What and where was your first position practicing law?

NY Dept of State, Division of Corporations

How long did you stay with it?

Two years

Did you become a specialist? If so what Specialty?

No

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Pride for an accomplishment and I am humbled by the kind words of clients when they let me know that my work is appreciated.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I liked that it was so much more intimate than undergrad giving me the chance to meet some remarkable people from the faculty, staff and student body.

Who was your favorite professor?

Just one? Maybe a tie between Virginia Leary and Louis Delcotto.

Would you do it again?

Probably.

Mark Ventrone '82

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Upon graduation in 1982 with the law firm where I had interned and then clerked Bogart and Assoc in Syracuse.

How long did you stay with it?

Was with the firm for 12 years until I joined fellow UB LAW ALUM Dave Kimpel and another partner in the law firm of Kimpel Gideon and Ventrone for another 12 years.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Yes--while always engaged in a general practice of law have always specialized in civil litigation both plaintiffs work and defense.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

An opportunity to assist others and give back affords me the greatest satisfaction. In this regard I am and have been active with our local talk to a lawyer volunteer program; I chair the lawyer in the classroom committee and annual memorial service for our Onondaga County Bar Association and have more recently joined the assigned counsel program essentially assigned to 2 justice courts. I am also a member of the NYS BAR LYC (law youth and citizenship) committee that promotes civics in education and is involved with the annual mock trial competition.

Describe your UB law school experience.

What a great 3 years, and as a result of my time there in Buffalo even though I grew up and have always been a GB Packers fan, I became a big Bills fan and attended 2 of their 4 super bowls vs Dallas when a good friend was producing for NBC sports. We attended almost every home game and playoff game during the 4-year run inclusive of 50 below wind chill games. We also "found" the PLACE on Lexington and Ashland which became our Buffalo Cheers post game.

Who was your favorite professor?

Probably Ginny Leary -even though I am not a big contracts person-and Prof Joyce since he also was a big Red Sox fan.

Would you do it again?

Definitely would do it all again--for me far enough yet close enough-with a program that helped us prepare not just for the profession but for the bar-and was an excellent law school that was also economically feasible.

Gail Donofrio '85

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Lawyer in small firm.

How long did you stay with it?

Approximately 10 years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55? 65? 75?

Over the years I practiced law, was elected as a Family Court Judge and a Supreme Court Justice.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

See above response.

If you are retired, when and where, and what do you do all day? What do you do for fun?

Exercise, read, travel, spend time with family and friends.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

My husband and I have three children and two grandchildren.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Exciting and interesting career. I have met and worked with fascinating people.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Exhilarating and exhausting.

Who was your favorite professor?

Marjorie Girth.

Would you do it again?

Definitely.



Bruce Kaplan '85

What and where was your first position practicing law?

At Wilson, Elser at al.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there for seven months.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Sort of. My specialties include commercial litigation, real estate, bankruptcy.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

The most fulfilling thing I have done as a lawyer was saving the \$5 million headquarters building of a Hempstead, NY Community Action Agency which provided, and continues to provide, empowerment social programs, such as Head Start and career training. It had been threatened to be foreclosed upon by Nassau County, NY, ostensibly to allow expansion of a courthouse, but really as retribution for the Voting Rights Act activity of the agency's CEO which caused the wholesale restructuring of the county power structure through a new legislature. By finding the right legal basis in an intricate NYS real property tax law section, I was able to have title remain with the agency. Years later, I would walk in the building and be greeted warmly, with the principals stating, "our kids continue to receive Head Start programming because of you."

Describe your UB law school experience.

Pleasant. I enjoyed the give and take in class.

Who was your favorite professor?

Ken Joyce.

Would you do it again?

Sure.



Mark Katz '85

What and where was your first position practicing law?

I took and passed the New York bar exam, so of course my first job was as a litigation associate in a small commercial law firm in Kansas City, Missouri. I became a connoisseur of bar exams, of sorts, since my first job required me to gain admission to both the Missouri and Kansas bars, and there was no such thing as reciprocity.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed at my first job for two years and then moved to the Jackson County, Missouri Prosecutor's Office, where I worked as an assistant prosecutor for almost 6 years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

By the time I was 35, I had left the prosecutor's office to practice in an insurance defense firm where I defended product liability cases, employment discrimination cases, and governmental liability cases. I learned that I enjoyed products cases because they gave the science and math side of my brain a workout, and I enjoyed the discrimination and governmental cases, because they exercised the philosophical part of my brain. All of this work involved written and oral advocacy, which have become my passion. At 45, I was a partner in the same firm; and, by the time I was 55, I was a partner in my own firm, Coronado Katz LLC, handling the same types of cases. Recently, my firm joined with another, which is now known as Baty Otto Coronado PC. I continue to try civil defense cases, and I have recently embarked on a career in mediation. My new firm gives me the opportunity to engage in another passion of mine: working with new attorneys to help them become excellent advocates.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Ironically, my "specialty" is civil litigation, trials, and appeals (NOTE to the ethics watchdogs in Kansas and Missouri, where I am admitted to practice: I am using the term "specialty" colloquially to describe the areas of law in which I spend the greatest amount of my time, and not to suggest a technical specialization or designation). I say ironically, because I had absolutely no interest in trial or appellate work during law school. My work has taken me to leadership positions in DRI, Voice of the Defense Bar and the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel. I am also active in the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and the Johnson County Bar Association. These organizations have also afforded me opportunities to speak and write articles on a variety of topics.

What do you do for fun?

Fun for me is family and friends time: indoors, outdoors, wherever and whatever, as long as family or friends are involved, I'm up for it. My spouse and I enjoy traveling, evenings out, great whiskey, and good wine, but this being the time of COVID, I have turned more to reading, too much screen time, and I've been yelling at the TV a lot.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I am grateful to be married to a woman I love and admire, an attorney and soon-to-be counseling psychologist (all the same person). Jill and I met "on the job," when I was prosecuting adults and she was an attorney in the juvenile court system prosecuting delinquencies and abuse cases. She has since gone on to a career in family law and is known for her

work in high-conflict custody matters as an advocate, guardian-ad-litem, and mediator. We have two independent and adventurous daughters. Our youngest lives in Boston with her boyfriend and cat. She graduated from Emerson with a BFA in Writing, Literature, and Publishing. She works for a writers' community where her primary duty is to plan and execute "one of the nation's leading literary conferences." Our oldest graduated with a custom degree in art and psychology from the American University in Paris. While travelling in Australia, she met and fell in love with an Aussie, who is now our son-in-law. They live a couple of hours north of Sydney with our two grandchildren, two cats, and a dog.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

It comes down to one word for me: Service. Service to clients, the Bar, and the community. I have seen the people at their best, as they endure the worst of situations; and I have surely seen people at their worst. It gives me great hope to work in a system where the constant struggle, the push and pull of competing interests, usually in good faith, usually grinds out a just result. I may not always agree with it, but I can almost always defend it. And when I can't, I live to fight another day to change it.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Two words: transitional and indelible. Transitional, because I was still in college-student mode for most of my years in law school. I had the benefit of great professors and friends but looking back I feel I could have wrung more from it. Indelible, because I still harken back to lessons learned and cases read, particularly as a 1L.

Who was your favorite professor?

Schlegel! Hands down. Schlegel was the professor for the torts part of the (in)famous ConTorts class. I still remember him asking me (and others) first to tell him "about" a particular argument, and then to stand up in front of the class and "make the argument." It was brilliant, and it is literally what I have done all day, every day for 35 years. His "making dinner" analogy of argument (open the refrigerator and use what's there) is the picture I hold in my head when I'm trying to construct a particularly challenging argument. He also advised us not to specialize in law school in area in which we planned to practice—great advice which I did not realize I was following at the time.

Special mention goes to Nils Olsen for federal civil procedure and the question "Where do you look?" (Answer in unison: In the Rules.) If I had to count them, I regularly practice in 15 to 20 appellate and trial level jurisdictions. I have worn out countless paper volumes of federal and state rules, and I've burned through gigabytes' worth of local and judge-specific rules. Plus, I've trained associates to call courtroom deputies and administrative assistants to find out the "unwritten rules," because they exist, and you better know them. "In the rules" is where I look every day.

Would you do it again?

You bet I would! And twice on Sundays!

Kenneth Libby '85

What and where was your first position practicing law?

My first position was as an attorney at the Federal Trade Commission.

How long did you stay with it?

I still work there—35 years and counting!

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

I have been practicing antitrust law at the Federal Trade Commission.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I specialize in civil penalty enforcement of the premerger notification requirements of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act and civil penalty enforcement for violations of FTC orders.

What do you do for fun?

I read, watch movies, and take walks.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I am remarried. I have one daughter and two step-daughters.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being a lawyer for the federal government means that I act in the public interest rather than in the personal interests of a client. This allows me to act for the public good.

Would you do it again?

Yes, although law school was hard, I have thoroughly enjoyed being an attorney.

Roger Banan '86

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Niagara County Assistant District Attorney - 1987 to 1995.

How long did you stay with it?

Eight years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? Now?

I am a Vietnam vet. I was 35 when I graduated and got my NY law license. I got a District of Columbia law license at the same time. That merely involved paying money - I never practiced law in D.C. At 45 I was an Assistant Attorney General in Albany, after a brief stint at Gross, Shuman in Buffalo. I practiced environmental law at the NYAG (cost recovery for oil spill clean ups.) In 2008 I moved back home to Arizona and became an AZ Attorney General. I regulated Indian casinos for 5 years and then retired at 65.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I became a specialist in whatever area in which I practiced. NY criminal law, personal injury (at Gross, Shuman) the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act as an AAG in Arizona.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

I enjoyed the intellectual challenges - the research and writing. The trials were stressful. I routinely tried cases against ExxonMobil who had high priced trial council. I sued the Peoples Republic of China once -pleadings translated into Mandarin. I really didn't like trials. I wish I could have been a theoretical physicist - or a Formula One racecar driver.

Who was your favorite professor?

Erroll Meidinger

Would you do it again?

I had no choice. The default condition for a very high-grade point average in the liberal arts (BA in Philosophy) is law school. I couldn't do anything else. I have no STEM skills. I had to do it.



Deirdre Bowen '90

What and where was your first position practicing law?

My first position was a litigation associate at Shaw Pittman in Washington, D.C.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there for two years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

At 35, I was getting my Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Washington in Seattle.

At 45, I was a professor at Seattle University School of Law, which is what I am doing at 55!

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I specialize in family law, comparative family law, and domestic violence. I teach these courses, in addition to others. I conduct research on issues surrounding gun injury prevention, issues of race, legal processes, and families.

What do you do for fun?

I love to go to the theater, swim, travel, ride my bike, play board games, go wine tasting, read, do stand-up comedy, and hang out with friends and family.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I have two daughters, Hayley (23) and Sheila (19).

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

It has meant the ability to help people who need the protection of the law, particularly family law. It has allowed me to teach and inspire future lawyers.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I loved my law school experience.

Who was your favorite professor?

George Kannar.

Would you do it again?

Yes!



Barb Gardner '90

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Harris Beach and Wilcox, Rochester, NY

How long did you stay with it?

One year

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

I graduated from UB Law when I was 38 years old - 69 years old now. I stopped working as an attorney after a couple of years. Went back to being a paralegal - much less stress!!!

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

No

What do you do for fun?

Sleep

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

No husband, no children, no grandchildren, no significant other.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

I never wanted to be a lawyer. I never mention that I was.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Loved every minute of it. Did the daily commute from Rochester. Really enjoyed the school experience, classmates and professors.

Who was your favorite professor?

I honestly don't remember any of them!

Would you do it again?

Absolutely not



Craig Mokhiber '90

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Law Firm of Gellman, Kurtzman, Macri & Grasmick

How long did you stay with it?

One year

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

30 years as a human rights lawyer at the United Nations, serving in duty stations around the world. Currently Director of the human rights office at UN headquarters in New York.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Yes. International human rights.

What do you do for fun?

Travel, photography, reading, hiking, camping.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

Single, no children.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

The law has given me tools essential to fight for the political, social and economic change necessary to advance equality and justice, to seek redress for victims, protection of the vulnerable, and accountability for perpetrators and the powerful.

Describe your UB law school experience.

UB law was a truly empowering experience for me. Three years of intellectual stimulation, public debate, political activism and plenty of fun at the same time. These were busy years. I worked almost full time while also studying, organizing, serving on the law review, being active in the National Lawyers Guild charter, assisting in the Human Rights Center, and participating in the Graduate Group on Human Rights Law & Policy. I spent my first summer monitoring human rights in the occupied territories, and my second as a human rights intern at the UN in Geneva.

Who was your favorite professor?

Professor Virginia Leary, my teacher, mentor and friend.

Would you do it again?

Absolutely



Andres Madrid '91

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Dewey Ballantine, New York, NY

How long did you stay with it?

3.5 years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? Now?

Attorney

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

IP Litigation

Describe your UB law school experience.

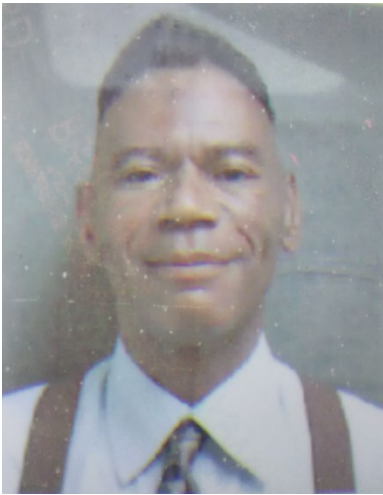
Met some great people, some of whom are still good friends.

Who was your favorite professor?

Tie between David Engel and Charles Ewing

Would you do it again?

Yes, but not litigation



Adrian Paniagua '91

What and where was your first position practicing law?

JP Morgan Chase, Wall Street, NYC, NY as a Global Trust Administrator for FHA backed investment securities.

How long did you stay with it?

9 months - I hated it!!

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? Now?

After JP Morgan Chase (Chemical Bank at the time), I began working for NYC based, nonprofit organizations (both secular and faith-based), beginning in 1993 serving homeless men, women, children and families secure permanency and affordable housing, entitlements and employment, disabled veterans, foster children and their families, the mentally, physically and developmentally disabled, adults and teens suffering from mental illness, alcohol and drug addiction. In addition, I also had the privilege to serve those at risk of housing eviction, loss of utilities and those suffering from food insecurity and hunger.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Beginning in 2010, I earned a NYC, civil service appointment with the NYC Department of Probations-Office of the General Counsel, then later, the NYC Administration for Children Services (ACS), NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD).

I continued my civil service career in Florida with an appointment with the Broward County Board of County Commissioners - Department of Human Services. After I left Florida, I was given a contract position as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) and Deputy Director with the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement building full-service shelters in the Washington, DC metro area for unaccompanied, undocumented minor children entering the United States through our nation's southern borders. Most of my civil service career centered on managing and administering federal, state and local government grants and contracts awarded to nonprofit organization to provide all manner of human and social services to individuals and families in need.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

My UB Law experience can best be described as absolutely life changing. My legal education and training at UB Law was fulfilling, exhilarating, challenging, intellectually and empirically challenging and fulfilling. The CLS (Critical Legal Studies) method of legal education UB Law provided me totally expanded my ability to learn, discern, think critically and to be able to critically analyze problems and issues from many perspectives without getting intellectually "lost" or "bogged down." As self-serving and subjective as my perspective may sound, I'm so happy that I did not enroll in a law school that dryly taught the law from a purely "Socratic/Black Letter" perspective.

In addition, my law school experience allowed me to forge friendships with my former UB Law classmates (my alumni brothers!) who've went on to become nationally recognized and very distinguished in their chosen field of endeavors and whom I am still in contact with on a regular basis.

As a result of my UB Law education and training, I was able to go on 20 years after graduation and be awarded a full scholarship to and successfully graduate from the CUNY Hunter College-Silberman Graduate School of Social Work. Combined with my law degree from UB Law, I've been able to further my career in government civil service where I can continue to advocate for those in need and concurrently, at age 63, continue to serve my community, hopefully for the next 20 years or so.

I'm humbled and privileged to say that without UB Law, I would have never been able to fulfil my dream of being an advocate for the less fortunate. Those, whom I've been honored to serve, have enriched my life beyond measure!

Who was your favorite professor?

I had several "favorite" UB Law professors. But if I had to pick a #1, it would be Prof. Lou DelCotto. My other favorite professors were without question Profs Elizabeth Mensch, Alan Freeman, Nils Olson, Phillip Halpern, Victor Thoyroni, Prof. Joyce, Prof. Jacob (Jake the Snake) Hyman and Prof. Blum.

Would you do it again?

I would do it again in a NY Minute!!!

Robert Callahan '95

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Curan & Troy, New York, New York

How long did you stay with it?

Five years



Christian Casini '95

What and where was your first position practicing law?

My first position was at Volgenau & Boss, LLP in Buffalo, NY.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there for one year.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? Now?

I work at Osborn Reed & Burke, LLP in insurance and medical malpractice defense, also in labor and employment law.

What do you do for fun?

I enjoy lake life—boating, swimming, hiking, and cycling.

Tell us about your family. Children?

I have two boys, ages 17 and 19.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being constantly challenged, growing, learning and helping others. I am also thankful and extremely grateful for the financial security and opportunity being a professional brings.

Describe your UB law school experience.

No cable TV, no cell phone, or fancy meals, but wonderful professors and classmates that I think of fondly and miss often.

Who was your favorite professor?

Professor Steinfeld and Professor Staudt.

Would you do it again?

In a heartbeat.

Moises Juliao '95

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Assistant District Attorney, Niagara County District Attorney's Office.

How long did you stay with it?

Four years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 45? 55? 65? 75?

Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

Two boys ages 19 and 17.

What has being a lawyer meant to you? Would you do it again?

Yes, I would do it all over again! I really cannot imagine doing anything else but being a lawyer.



Joseph Kresse '95

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Covington & Burling in Washington, DC

How long did you stay with it?

Still there

**Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45?
Now?**

Defense side complex litigation and Government Investigations/White Collar

What do you do for fun?

Coach my daughter's hockey team

Tell us about your family. Children?

My wife Andrea and I have two girls. Molly is 11 and Ella is 8.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

For the most part, it's been a great ride. It's afforded me the chance to meet and work with some really good folks. It's also presented the opportunities to do some very interesting pro bono work and otherwise support numerous worthy causes.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Time well spent with interesting classmates and professors learning and experiencing the difference one can make in the lives of others.

Who was your favorite professor?

Phil Halpern

Would you do it again?

Yes



Anne Joynt '05

What and where was your first position practicing law?

At Lipsitz & Ponterio, LLC.

How long did you stay with it?

I am still there, 15 years later!

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 30? Now?

I work in plaintiff civil litigation, focusing on toxic torts.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

My firm focuses in toxic tort litigation, as well as catastrophic injury cases.

What do you do for fun?

Have passport, I will travel anywhere!

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

I love being an attorney and have very much enjoyed being a part of the legal community. Despite the many jokes, I think attorneys help to make the world a better place.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I loved law school! So many of the people I met there became wonderful friends, and I will forever credit UB with giving me the skills necessary to succeed in the legal community.

Who was your favorite professor?

I loved Professor Meidinger. Property was one of my favorite classes!

Would you do it again?

Absolutely!



Stephan Trynosky '05

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Presidential Management Fellow, Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S Department of Homeland Security

How long did you stay with it?

3.5 years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 30? Now?

At 30, I began my Federal civilian career in Washington, DC as a Presidential Management Fellow for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS)

Office of Legislative Affairs. It was an incredible opportunity for a newly hired JD/MPH graduate and I doubt I could land a similar position if graduating today. I was assigned as the Congressional Affairs liaison for the DHS Office of Health Affairs and the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. In my first week on the job in DC, I was sitting in a senior Senator's personal office with a DHS Senior Executive. This position exposed me to food, agriculture, and veterinary security issues which have become a career long area of interest. During that first year (2006-2007), I was DHS' primary liaison for the highly contentious 2007 Farm Bill – a massive five-year piece of authorizing legislation. It was an unparalleled front row seat to the Federal legislative process and a transformative experience that I still draw lessons from.

Since graduating UB Law, I have maintained two parallel careers as a career Federal civilian employee and an Army Medical Service Corps Officer. Since 2018, my Army Reserve career has been the primary focus. I am completing a 31-month tenure as the Commanding Officer of the 993rd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services), an Army Reserve unit based in Aurora, CO. We were deployed from 2020-2021 to perform the Department of Defense's food safety and animal health missions in 11 countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates. That experience was the highlight of my career, military or civilian, and a highly improbable journey for a UB Law graduate. I credit my very first position after law school with DHS for opening the necessary doors that allowed me to assume a command role normally reserved for a senior Army public health veterinarian. In July, I will begin studies at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA for the 2022-23 academic year. This program will award a Master of Science in Strategic Studies. After graduation, I hope to get selected for a utilization assignment at the Pentagon with the Joint Staff or Army Staff.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Since I've never practiced law in the traditional sense, I don't qualify as a specialist in that narrow sense. I've tried to keep my career - both civilian and military - as broad as possible. I like the diversity of issues I encounter as well as the breadth of opportunities it enables. I am one of only a handful of senior Army Medical Service Corps Officers that have not specialized and that has offered me unique opportunities to perform unconventional roles normally reserved for specialists (e.g., command of a veterinary unit and service as a non-medical Joint Plans Officer).

My areas of legal interest, or at least intellectual curiosity, are administrative law and Federal legislation.

What do you do for fun?

Because I've maintained parallel civilian and military careers, my Army Reserve responsibilities and continuing education requirements consume much of my free time. I've had very little down time while in command and am looking forward to a more optimal work-life balance next year at War College. Making the most of Family time is very important to me. For personal relaxation, I regularly attend fitness studio classes at Gold's Gym, experiment with new recipes, pursue EMT continuing education classes, and read deeply on areas of interest. For community/professional service, I recently completed a decade of service on the Parish Council at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, DC and was an elected Governing Councilor for the American Public Health Association. I am completing my tenure as a Cub Scout Assistant Cubmaster.

Tell us about your family. Children.?

My wife, Jill, is currently the Assistant Inspector General for Audits at the United States International Trade Commission. She recently started this position after 19 years with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General. We have two sons, Stephen (10) and Robert (7).

Describe your UB law school experience.

I attended UB Law after completing four years of active-duty service as an Army Medical Service Corps Officer. In retrospect, I am so glad that I took that time "off" between undergraduate and graduate study. At the time, the GI Bill was much less generous than it is today and, as a New York resident, UB was my one and only default choice for reasons of cost. It was a very caring and collaborative environment and that reduced the pressure to adhere to a strict path of study. Many of the Lieutenants I served with in the Army also went on to law school and they reported much more competitive, and even "cut throat" environments. I did not have any concrete idea of what I wanted to do until the end of my 1L year when I quite accidentally stumbled on the JD/MPH program, which changed my career trajectory. UB Law allowed an incredible atmosphere for community service and activities. I loved my two years on the Buffalo Law Review and as BPILP Co-President. I also fell in love with the City of Buffalo which I consider my "adopted" home town and miss greatly.

Who was your favorite professor?

I will have to give two answers for two different reasons: Sheila Shulman and David Westbrook. Professor Shulman initiated UB's JD/MPH program and impressed on me a worldview that anything is possible. She saw potential that I didn't see in myself and pushed me to seek opportunities that I thought I was not competitive for. This support resulted in my selection for a competitive, paid ORISE fellowship at the CDC's Public Health Law Program in Atlanta. I was one of two, rising 3Ls selected that year and would never have even applied without Professor Shulman's counsel. Professor Westbrook also pushed me to reconsider the boundaries of what I thought possible. I was his graduate assistant for the year following law school while I finished my MPH requirements. Experiencing the entire process of writing a book (*Between Citizen and State*) was invaluable and paid great dividends later in my career when I authored my own research monograph. It totally demystified the research, writing, and publication processes. Since graduating, Professor Westbrook continues to be a wide counsel and colleague and I've greatly enjoyed our periodic chances to get together in Washington, DC and Lawrence, KS. I'm even seeking his advice as I scope my Strategic Research Project proposal for the Army War College.

Would you do it again?

That is a tough question. To be totally introspective, I almost certainly would not do it again if I were 20 years younger and leaving the Army today. I say that because the new post-9/11 GI Bill is so comprehensive and generous that I would

feel social and status pressure to chase the most prestigious or expensive law school I could get into for "free." That is the brutal reality, but I know that I would miss out on so much if I went to Georgetown, or GW, BU, or Fordham for status or US News ranking prestige. If faced with the abundance of tuition free options enjoyed by young Veterans today, UB Law wouldn't even be on my radar, but my life and career would not be what they are without my UB Law experience. Without UB Law, I almost certainly wouldn't have pursued a JD/MPH, made Law Review, or enjoyed the deeply rewarding academic/balance I did in Buffalo. This may read like a confusing answer, but I am glad that I went to Law School where I did (UB Law), when I did (2002-2006), and with the economic environment (and tuition levels) prevailing at that time.



Jenny Mills '06

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Assistant Public Defender - Kotzebue, Alaska

How long did you stay with it?

One year

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 30?

Now?

30: HR/Employment Law, Kotzebue, Alaska

Now: Senior Training and Technical Assistance Specialist for Office for Victims of Crime (Contractor).

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I specialize in victim services programs in tribal communities with a focus on victims of child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

I left practicing law to focus on victim services and child advocacy centers. Working with victims was a better use of my skills and talent and was much more satisfying professionally and personally.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I enjoyed the social aspects of law school and was very active in student groups, student government, etc. I developed wonderful friendships and learned a lot about the intersection of law and social justice.

Who was your favorite professor?

Teresa Miller was a brilliant woman and mentor. I was honored to have worked closely with her and call her a friend.

Would you do it again?

I would, but I would have moved straight into public policy and program development instead of practicing law.

Jennifer Oliver '06

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP, NYC

How long did you stay with it?

Almost 10 years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 30? Now?

Commercial litigation -- same!

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Yes, antitrust and privacy

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

I left practicing law to focus on victim services and child advocacy centers. Working with victims was a better use of my skills and talent and was much more satisfying professionally and personally.

Who was your favorite professor?

Betty Mensch and Rebecca French

Would you do it again?

Yes!

Sonia Baez '07

What and where was your first position practicing law?

As associate at Law firm in Mamaroneck

How long did you stay with it?

Eight months

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Yes, my specialty is immigration law.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

A roller coaster. As a woman of color and an immigrant, I have not been able to earn the same salary than attorneys with the same experience.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I was able to make good friends that I am still in contact

Who was your favorite professor?

Ms. French and Barbara

Would you do it again?

No.



Kevin Bush '10

What and where was your first position practicing law?

I have never “practiced” law, but I found my way into financial services through my law degree.

How long did you stay with it?

I have been in financial services compliance since 2012.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 30? Now?

At 30, I was working on trading desks in New York and Boston for Fidelity Investments as a compliance advisor to Equities and Derivatives sales and trading desks, providing real-time regulatory compliance and legal guidance. Today, I hold a similar role at Scotiabank providing compliance advice to Prime Brokerage, Equities, Derivatives, and Fixed Income sales and trading desks in New York and Toronto.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

I specialize in providing real-time compliance advice on U.S. securities rules to global sales and trading businesses. My areas of expertise focus on FINRA, Federal Reserve, Dodd-Frank, and the various U.S. exchange requirements across equities, derivatives, fixed income, and lending products. I also have developed a specialty in market structure in Latin America, Canada, and the U.S. across listed products.

What do you do for fun?

I am proud third-generation Bills fan doing his best to pass the torch on to his daughters! My brothers and I are committed value investors and huge fans of Warren Buffett and Charlie Munger. We have travelled to Omaha and Los Angeles to see them speak for almost ten years. In 2016, I had the great honor and huge thrill of meeting Charlie in Los Angeles.

Tell us about your family. Children?

My UB Law grad wife and I have two beautiful girls, Caroline (5) and Alice (1).

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Opportunity! Being a lawyer truly means that there are so many directions you can take your career. It was not always easy and there were certainly times of doubt, but taking a non-traditional route has been very rewarding personally and professionally. I am truly excited for the adventures ahead!

Describe your UB law school experience.

I enjoyed my time at UB law, especially after the first year. I focused in business related courses that fueled my passion

for investing and business that helped me build my career. One of my favorite parts was learning from practitioners about their experience in private equity, doing business in China, advising on transactions, and carving out a niche to build their career. I also really enjoyed the camaraderie of the law school and greater UB community.

Who was your favorite professor?

As the son of a former Mayor of Buffalo, the late George Zimmermann had an incredible number of stories about the history of Buffalo and its development. I could listen to his stories for hours. I also really enjoyed learning from Tom Disare during the Financial Crisis. His Acquisitions Transactions course was by far my favorite class in law school.

Would you do it again?

Absolutely! The best thing I got out of UB Law was my wife.

Jeffrey Fiut '10

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Hodgson Russ LLP, litigation attorney

How long did you stay with it?

Approximately five years

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 30? Now?

At 30, I was a litigation attorney for Hodgson Russ LLP. I am currently an attorney for the Department of Homeland Security on detail to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York.

Tell us about your family. Children?

I live with my wife, Allison, and son, Gordon, in Amherst, New York.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

It is a privilege to hold a law license and to advocate on behalf of a client. It is a responsibility that I take very seriously.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I really enjoyed my time at UB Law. I still keep in touch with many of my classmates.

Who was your favorite professor?

There were a number of outstanding professors at UB Law during my time there. It's hard to identify one as being my favorite.

Would you do it again?

Yes



Lee Sobieski '10

What and where was your first position practicing law?

My first position was real estate law with the Law Offices of Melissa Tocha.

How long did you stay with it?

About a year or so.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55?

At 30, I was in between jobs. Now, I am a partner at an Immigration firm, Berger

Berger & Sobieski.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Yes, in immigration law.

What do you do for fun?

With quarantine, I pretty much just watch TV, and have occasional family gatherings.

Tell us about your family. Children?

I have a wife, Christina, and currently no kids—yet.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Helping people.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Enjoyable.

Who was your favorite professor?

Mark Bartholomew.

Would you do it again?

Hard to say. Considering how long and hard it was to find something long-term, probably not.



Lori Roman Genovese '11

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Bernhardi Lukasik

How long did you stay with it?

One year

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 30? Now?

I was a college professor. I went to law school after and am now a senior staff attorney at Volunteer Lawyers Project.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty

I am the Senior Staff Attorney for Family Law at Volunteer Lawyers Project and the director of the Family Court Help Desk for the Eighth Judicial District. I focus my full representation practice on assisting low-income clients in non-parent custody, grandparent visitation, and complex paternity cases.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

My practice is incredibly fulfilling. Helping the indigent get access to justice is always significant, but even more so during the pandemic. VLP is committed to its mission and each day my coworkers and I focus on making a difference for our clients. It's inspiring, rewarding work.

Describe your UB law school experience.

I was a non-traditional student, so my law school experience was focused mainly on the academic portion. I would wake up at 5 am to read, take my kids to school, go to classes, pick up the kids and spend time with them until bedtime, then study until midnight. And I loved it.

Who was your favorite professor?

Betty Mensch. The perfect name for a great professor. Dean Gargano. I thought I knew everything about writing until her class. She cares about her students and the subject matter.

Would you do it again?

Definitely

Jonathan Choi '15

What and where was your first position practicing law?

My first position was as a Veterans Advocate at Neighborhood Legal Services.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there for one and a half years.

Where and what kind of work are you doing now?

I work as a staff attorney at Legal Aid Bureau.

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Not as much specialist, but I do niche work in Juvenile Delinquent and Person in Need of Supervision proceedings.

What do you do for fun?

I spend time with my wife and dog.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Help the least represented.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Solid.

Who was your favorite professor?

David Engel and Christine Bartholomew.

Would you do it again?

Absolutely.

Andrew Clement '15

What and where was your first position practicing law?

I worked in the American Express Financial Intelligence Unit in Scottsdale, Arizona.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there for two years.

Where and what kind of work are you doing now?

I opened and run a real estate and construction company with my brother. We are also going to open a taco shop, Dos Hermanos, in Albany, NY.

What do you do for fun?

I play a lot of sports—golf, basketball, flag football, cornhole, paintball, swim, and ski. During the pandemic, I also joined a book club and enjoy amateur woodworking.

Tell us about your family. Children?

No children yet. Just my wife, Kari, and I.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Exciting and interesting career. I have met and worked with fascinating people.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Law school was probably more fun than it was supposed to be. I made some of my best friends in law school and still stay in contact with them today. We really worked hard and played hard.

Who was your favorite professor?

CPB, Christine Bartholomew.

Would you do it again?

Absolutely. It was a lot of fun.



Amy Counter '15

What and where was your first position practicing law?

The Law Office of Amy L. Counter, Esq.

How long did you stay with it?

6 years.

Where and what kind of work were you doing when you were 35? 45? 55? 65? 75?

I'm working as a Public Defender in Eugene, Oregon and I love it!

Did you become a specialist? If so what specialty?

Criminal Defense.

What do you do for fun?

Yoga, art, bicycling, hiking, reading, travel when it's safe.

Tell us about your family. Children? Any grandkids?

I'm expecting my first child this winter and I couldn't be more excited!

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being a lawyer and serving my community has given me purpose and allows me to make a career out of important life skills such as empathy and compassion.

Describe your UB law school experience.

UB law school was a great experience to look back on. I appreciate the quality of educators that were working in the community as I believe that is the best way to learn.

Who was your favorite professor?

I really enjoyed and connected with Jessica Owley as a professor. Glenn Murray and I remained close over the years as well.

Would you do it again?

I'm happy that I did it when I did.

Sidney Mosher '15

What and where was your first position practicing law?

Associate Attorney, The O'Brien Firm, Amherst, NY

How long did you stay with it?

Three years.

Where and what kind of work are you doing now?

Corporate counsel for a healthcare technology start up specializing in Artificial Intelligence.

What do you do for fun?

Run, hike, travel.

Tell us about your family. Children?

I have 2 dogs.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being a lawyer has meant being open to change, constantly learning, and overcoming unexpected adversity. The experience of being a lawyer has been nothing like I imagined when I entered law school. It has come with both extreme challenges and rewards, and I am grateful everyday say this is my profession.

Describe your UB law school experience.

Eye opening and life changing.

Who was your favorite professor?

Everyone who volunteered to teach Trial Tech and coach Trial Team.

Would you do it again?

Yes, without hesitation.



Joseph “Nick” Williams '15

What and where was your first position practicing law?

I worked at Duke, Holzman, Photiadis & Gresens as an associate in contracts and business litigation.

How long did you stay with it?

I stayed there for 1.5 years.

Where and what kind of work are you doing now?

I moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, and started a career in acting.

What do you do for fun?

I play music, work out, and armchair quarterback all sports. Seriously. Even (and especially) the ones I know nothing about. It's fun. Watching polo and pretending you know what's going on is a good exercise in thinking on your feet.

What has being a lawyer meant to you?

Being a lawyer was an incredible lesson in both academic work (analyzing statutes and case law to build an argument) and thinking on your feet (standing in front of a judge as he pokes every part of your carefully crafted argument and staying strong).

Describe your UB law school experience.

At UB Law, I made friends I'll never forget.

Who was your favorite professor?

Matthew Steilen.

Would you do it again?

Yes