

FALL 2014

SUNY BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL FORUM

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



From Main Street to Wall Street

EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS, ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

SUNY BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL FORUM CONTENTS

*The Magazine of
SUNY Buffalo Law School
The State University of
New York*

Cover story

- 2 Finding success one student at a time
- 3 Six graduates tell the story of their journeys
- 5 Students receive personalized support

Law School Report

- 6 Fulbright scholar visits from Africa
- 7 Students travel abroad for summer legal internships
- 8 Double LL.M. program for international students launched
- 9 Talking taxation, from Paris to Buffalo
- 10 Torts conference looks at the push for reforms
- 11 BPILP students spend the summer in the public interest
- 12 SUNY Buffalo Law Commencement 2014
- 14 We welcome the Class of 2017

Faculty

- 16 French's new book explores the nexus of Buddhism and law
- 17 Matthew Steilen and Michael Boucai chosen for scholarly forum
- 18 James A. Gardner ranks high in election law blog
- 19 Luis E. Chiesa appointed vice dean for academic affairs
- 20 Susan V. Mangold co-edits major casebook on children and the law
- 21 Adjunct Gary Muldoon '76 contributes to *Black's Law Dictionary*

Alumni

- 22 Pamela D. Heilman '75 to receive the 2015 Jaeckle Award
- 23 Steven J. Weiss '91 focuses on affordable housing
- 24 SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association elects 2014-15 officers and directors
- 25 2014-15 GOLD Group leadership named
- 26 Annual Fund: The time is now to earn your H!
- 27 Alumni photos from across the nation

In Memoriam

- 28 Former Dean Wade J. Newhouse Jr. dies at 91



8



19



22



12



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

“We have taken necessary steps to strengthen the Law School and retain our edge among our peers.”

I t's that time of the year again when we welcome new students to SUNY Buffalo Law School. It's a time of renewal as one class departs and another joins the school. This isn't just about the rhythms of the calendar. For us, it is confirmation that we remain a key player in legal education and a desired destination for tomorrow's lawyers. The entering class is exciting and brings with it the diverse faces of America – it comes from many states and an impressive catalogue of schools around the country. Yes – admissions to law schools continue to face declines, but we are pleased to have recruited a competitive class. We don't know how long the downturn in legal education is going to last, but we have taken necessary steps to strengthen the Law School and retain our edge among our peers.

Second, I want to report about our Campaign, whose goal is \$30 million. We are ecstatic that we have crossed the \$23 million mark. We have two years to raise just under \$7 million. You have stood by us and, with your support and leadership, the Campaign has roared along. Your generosity has been boundless. You've responded with enthusiasm every time we have called you. I know that you will dig deeper and take the Campaign for SUNY Buffalo Law across the finish line with time to spare. That is why I am now asking you – again – to lift us up. As I constantly say, no law school can become great without dedicated alumni. You are devoted to SUNY Buffalo Law School. We couldn't have done what we have accomplished these last five years without you. We have hired world-class faculty. We have dramatically improved our facilities and upgraded our technology. We have kept our education affordable through scholarships. And our Campaign is on a roll – all because of you.

Third, we continue to partner with lawyers and judges within the state to advance legal education. We recently expanded our reach and collaboration with the bench and bar by launching the Advocacy Institute. UB Council member Chris O'Brien and Judge Thomas P. Franczyk have agreed to serve as co-directors of the Advocacy Institute.

They have served with brilliance as the co-directors of the Trial Advocacy Program, which now becomes one of the key anchors of the Advocacy Institute. Leading trial attorney Terrence Connors of Connors & Villardo has agreed to serve as the Institute's board advisory chair. We continue to work closely with Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman of the New York State Court of Appeals to expand legal services and pro bono opportunities for law students. I worked closely with Chief Judge Lippman to help craft and bring to fruition the Pro Bono Scholars Program (www.law.buffalo.edu/current/pro-bono/scholars-program.html). Over one dozen of our students have been chosen for the program, which will allow them to take the New York Bar in

February, a semester early before graduation.

Finally, allow me to thank you again for all the good things that are happening at the Law School. Our faculty, staff and students are indebted to you.



UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski and Dean Makau W. Mutua before 2014 Commencement ceremonies.

“When temporary, school-funded positions are excluded from the data, SUNY Buffalo ranks second among all New York State law schools – behind only Columbia – in the percentage of active job seekers who are employed.”

— *Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers, a legal education advocacy group*

Finding success one student at a time

The numbers tell the story: Recent graduates of SUNY Buffalo Law School are finding jobs at a rate that is, by some measures, better than other major law schools.

For the Class of 2013, 190 of 233 grads had secured employment within nine months of graduation, according to **Lisa M. Patterson**, associate dean for career services. That proportion, at 84.1 percent, is on a par with the national average of 84.5 percent, as reported by the National Association for Law Placement (NALP). The figures reflect graduates who are either employed or enrolled in an academic degree program.

SUNY Buffalo’s employment figures score above the national average when factoring in one major difference in the way other law schools compile employment data, Patterson notes. Many law schools hire their own graduates or fund their fellowships at nonprofit organizations, then include these positions in their employment figures. This accounts for 4.7 percent of all jobs held by the Class of 2013 nationwide, NALP data show.

SUNY Buffalo Law, on the other hand, does not hire its own graduates, nor does it fund graduates’ fellowships at nonprofit organizations, Patterson notes. When temporary, school-funded positions are excluded from the data, SUNY Buffalo ranks second among all New York State law schools – behind only Columbia – in the percentage of active job seekers who are employed, according to Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers, a legal education advocacy group.

Nationwide, according to NALP, 11.2 percent of law graduates from the Class of 2013 were still seeking work nine months after graduation; among SUNY Buffalo Law School grads the figure is just 8.4 percent. In addition, Buffalo Law grads enrolled in graduate academic programs at a much higher rate than the national average – 4 percent, compared with



Of the 233 students in the Class of 2013:

- 82%** Are employed nine months after graduation.
- 4%** Are pursuing an advanced degree full time. This includes LL.M. degrees, Ph.D candidates and a master’s of public health.
- 3%** Decided not to seek employment due to illness, family obligations, a recent move or other personal reasons.
- 8%** Are actively seeking work.
- 3%** Did not respond.

1.8 percent nationwide.

The employment data also show that 69 percent of Buffalo’s 2013 graduates hold jobs which required that they pass a state bar exam, indicative of traditional careers in law practice, Patterson says. The nationwide average is 64.4 percent.

This good news comes in the midst of a protracted difficult job market for new lawyers. “The market continues to be a challenge,” Patterson says. “There’s going to be a new normal. The bigger firms that set the industry standard are seeing changes, and they’re not temporary changes.” Law firm managers, she says, are imposing new fee structures as clients have balked at paying high legal fees; changing the structure of their partnership tracks for new associates; and creating positions for staff attorneys who will never be on a partnership track.

Nevertheless, she says, legal hiring – which

had been falling for four or five years – appears to have leveled off.

“We’re cautiously optimistic about the outlook, for a number of reasons,” says **Marc Davies**, the Law School’s associate director for career services. “The number of applicants to law schools is down, and presumably that will be projected in the future as fewer attorneys going into the profession. At the same time, we think positions in state and federal government will be opening up as baby boomers’ retirement portfolios recover and they begin retiring in large numbers.”

Recent SUNY Buffalo Law graduates are working in locations from Florida to Alaska, Hawaii to South Korea, as prosecutors, public defenders, associates at private firms or solo practitioners, as well as in corporate settings, nonprofit agencies and federal government positions.

The individual roads taken

Recent SUNY Buffalo Law graduates take many different routes in a tough job market. Six tell their stories . . .

Ross Sarraf '14

Associate, Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson, New York City

"When I came to the Law School, I had a sense that what I wanted to do was work in a larger firm," says Ross Sarraf, a J.D./MBA graduate. And so for him, the work of job-hunting began pretty much right away.



"I spent the first year trying to talk to the people who worked at larger firms, to get a sense of what I needed to do," he says. "They talked about positioning yourself academically, getting on *Law Review*, doing the extracurricular things that firms like.

"Then I spent the majority of my time getting hold of SUNY Buffalo alumni in Western New York and New York City. I started out by talking to Marc Davies [of the Career Services Office]. He had a good sense of which lawyers actually were helpful to students, those who were really responsive and interested in helping. He helped me whittle down the list to a group of maybe 50."

Sarraf started cold-calling those lawyers. "I would ask about the recruiting process, say that I was planning to apply to your firm, and anything you can tell me about working at the firm would be appreciated. Lots of people were very helpful, including some who said, 'I've tried but we really only hire Ivy League graduates, and you

Shatorah Roberson '12

Partner, Budde & Roberson, Buffalo

It wasn't a direct route, Shatorah Roberson says, but it got her to a good place. At the end of her third year, she did some interviewing but found no job offers forthcoming. She decided to hold off, studied for the bar exam, then did some contract legal work and even temp work before she landed a permanent position at a small firm. But there she found that "I was just very unhappy. I didn't know what it was like to work in the private sector, and I was taken aback at how things were driven entirely by money. I wasn't sure what to do."

While in law school, Roberson had worked as a law clerk for the University's immigration counsel, processing immigrant and non-immigrant visas for the University's international professionals. As fate would have it, her supervisor in that department,



Oscar Budde, needed help in his practice, which specializes in immigration law and corporate start-up legal services. He called her.

"It was kind of like the perfect storm," Roberson says. "I wanted to do immigration and

help people, but I didn't want it to be all about money. Money doesn't get me up in the morning – my clients get me up in the morning."

Now, though "I still have days when I doubt myself and my capacity to really help people and effect changes," she says her professional life is much happier. "I get creative control but I still am accountable to someone else for the work that I do," she says. "It's a good situation."

probably should focus elsewhere."

It was through one of those Buffalo connections – Robert Schwenkel '82, co-chair of Fried Frank's corporate department – that Sarraf won a coveted intern position last summer. His MBA helped with some of the concepts and terminology in the M&A and private equity deals he worked on, and the week before the internship was over, the hiring partner tendered him a job offer.

. . .

Rody Damis '13

Presidential Management Fellow, Department of Veterans Affairs, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

"For me," says Rody Damis, a J.D./MBA graduate of the Law School, the job search "was a process. I went about it as if I was the only person who could find myself a job – not the networks, not the school. I had to make sure I had the right networks and was doing the right things. Anything that attorneys told me would make me more marketable, I would do it."

And he did the legwork. "I



made sure to apply for every single program, no matter how difficult it seemed to be,"

Damis says. That included the Presidential Management Fellowships, the federal government's program to train and develop its next generation of leaders. After Damis got an email from the Career Services Office about the program, he researched it and applied – a process that included three essays, a video assessment

Continued on Page 4

The individual roads taken

Rody Damis '13

Continued

and an application, then a day-long in-person assessment that included a group exercise, a mock news conference and personal interviews. Twelve thousand people applied; 300, including Damis, were chosen.

The program rotates fellows through various federal agencies. Damis currently is at the VA medical center in eastern Pennsylvania, drafting and negotiating contracts with vendors to, he says, "make sure the government gets what it paid for."

"I'm not sure where I'll end up after my two years are done," he says. "I love working for the government. But they're really up on leadership development, and the fellowship itself also makes you pretty marketable."

• • •

Matthew Turetsky '14

*Assistant public defender,
Ontario County (N.Y.) Public
Defender's Office*

Even before he entered law school, Matt Turetsky had worked in the public defender's office near his hometown of Clifton



Springs, N.Y., as an intern. "I really liked it," he says. "I liked the office and I liked the people. And I knew I wanted to do some type of litigation – that's what my skills gravitated toward."

So he returned to the same office in his 1L summer, then his 2L summer. But timing is everything, and when he graduated, they didn't have a position open for him. So he widened his search.

"I applied for countless jobs," Turetsky says. "But it's hard,

Raad Ahmed '13

Founder and CEO, LawTrades.com, New York City



As law school began, Raad Ahmed fully expected to follow the traditional path: work hard, get good grades, find a job in a law firm. But two things conspired to change his mind.

The first was the success of an app he created that, he says, "makes your Facebook page look awesome." "That got me more excited about going the entrepreneurial route," he says.

The second was that, in all his reading about starting your own law practice, he realized how hard it is to find clients and build a practice. "I started wondering why it isn't easier for people to find legal help," he says. "Access to legal services is a huge issue."

So he created a system that made it possible to book an appointment with a lawyer online. He sought feedback from other students, entrepreneurs and lawyers, and developed his company, Lawtrades.com, starting with a handful of attorneys in New York City. The company now has four employees and works with over 300 lawyers in 40 cities, providing potential clients, Ahmed says, "a portal for finding interested and available lawyers who can take your case, in a quick and seamless process."

He acknowledges that plunging into the uncertain world of entrepreneurship was a risk, especially for someone carrying student loan debt. But, he says, "I really wanted to be the first in the market for something like this. I took a chance, and luckily it's working out for me right now."

• • •

because there are some jobs posted, but you're trying to find something that works well for you. I wanted to find a position that I really wanted to do."

So, he says, he bided his time. And he stayed in touch with the folks at the public defender's office: "I talked to them a lot. We went back and forth a couple of times. I waited for this position. And the timing worked out just

enough – somebody left, and I was offered the job.

"The reason I kept going back," he says, "is that I like criminal law. I think it's interesting. But the experience I'm going to gain there, that's what I'm really interested in."

• • •

Kimberly Rowles '13

*Law clerk to Hon. Elizabeth A. Wolford, U.S. District Court,
Western District of New York,
Rochester, N.Y.*



"Nothing was working out," Kimberly Rowles says of her job-hunting experience during her third year at SUNY Buffalo Law. "I was applying for jobs all along, and I went to a number of interviews, but it's still a tough climate out there."

What she really wanted to do, Rowles says, was clerk for a judge. She had had an internship with the Second Circuit court in Geneseo, and, she says, "I knew that I really enjoyed working in the federal courts."

She took a break from looking for a job – and it turned out to be a lucky break. Typically judges hire their law clerks a year out, but Judge Elizabeth Wolford was appointed to the federal bench to fill a vacancy, and she needed a clerk. "The judge was appointed at a time that wasn't on the typical schedule for a judge to be hiring clerks," Rowles says. The appointment took effect in January; Rowles applied in December, and got the job.

Now, she says, "I'm exposed to a lot of areas of law, and I'm learning a lot. I get to see practitioners at work, review their papers, see them at trial."

And she says, "I am proud that I came from Buffalo Law School. I know that I'm well prepared for what I'm doing. I'm proud of the fact that I come from a state school education and was able to get a position like this, and continue to learn and transfer my skills to the legal community when I enter practice someday."

Students receive personalized support from day one

Alumni have access as well to the office's jobs database

You probably remember the feeling: The first days and weeks of law school, when new people and new experiences are coming at you from all sides. Got that torts casebook yet? Password for NexisLexis? Alarm clock set? Study group in place?

Oh, and by the way, what's your plan for after graduation?

For the 1L just worried about getting his feet under him, that question might seem like piling on. But from the perspective of the friendly folks at the Law School's Career Services Office, it's the beginning of a three-year conversation — one full of practical advice and guidance, but also dedicated to the hopes and dreams that are as individual as each student.

"We try to get students early on in their law school career so we can get to know them," says **Marc Davies**, the Law School's associate director for career services. "As they go through their legal education and they gain experience and begin to mature, they start to develop their narrative in terms of what their future is going to look like. This is their professional story — where they're coming from, what they've experienced and what they're interested in, and where they're headed."

"You see them develop genuine interests through internships and externships, through clinical experiences and certainly through summer jobs. Throughout, they're learning how to talk about their skills and what they bring to the table in terms of adding value to an employer."

That approach reflects an attitude of concern for the whole student, which SUNY Buffalo Law has cultivated in every area from admissions recruit-



New York City Chapter Chair Robert J. Gutowski '99 helps prepare 2L student Andrew J. DeMasters '16 in a mock interview.

ment to building post-graduation connections with alumni.

"Some students are drawn to particular schools because they have these massive recruiting models, places where 300 firms are interviewing on campus," says **Lisa M. Patterson**, associate dean for career services. "Our strength is that we're a place that cares about students as individuals and is welcoming and tries to see the whole person. We don't just sweep them all into a basket and try to dump them into one market. You never know what people want to do when they walk through the door."

The one-to-one approach is labor-intensive, but CSO is serious about it — all first-year and third-year students are required to visit the office and familiarize themselves with the resources available to them.

That includes mock interview sessions — conducted in Buffalo, Rochester and New York City by volunteer alumni — that hone students' presentation skills. Davies says that experience helps students express their professional experiences in a vocabulary that connects with potential employers. For example, he says, a student skilled in litigation might want help talking about those skills with an employer whose major area is financial regulatory compliance.

Also important is helping students develop a presence on LinkedIn, the online tool for professional networking. The Law School's LinkedIn Discussion Group has more than 1,000 members — students, alumni, faculty and staff — who can post updates, share news and make comments. Membership is by permission. The Law School's LinkedIn Education Page has over 16,000 followers who can read news from the Law School and can recommend the school to others. Both groups are a rich source of information as well for the school as it studies individuals' career trajectories and can identify, for example, alumni working in a specific geographic or practice area.

CSO's support services, on a case-by-case basis, are sometimes also extended to alumni seeking a change in their working situation. Alumni have access as well to the office's jobs database, with further links to national databases of job openings.

Overall, Patterson says, the encouraging employment numbers for recent graduates point to the success of this one-job-at-a-time approach, working with students to bring their professional ambitions to fruition. "There are a lot of things that success looks like in a graduating class full of people with jobs," she says. "We're here to help them develop their narrative and their path, wherever that may lead."



Lisa M. Patterson, associate dean for career services.



Marc Davies, the Law School's associate director for career services

Visiting Fulbright scholar focuses on economic development and cooperative security agreements in Africa

“You cannot have economic development without security,” says **Kennedy Gastorn**, whose nine-month term at SUNY Buffalo Law School as a visiting Fulbright scholar ends in December.

That hard truth, and how it applies to his native Tanzania and other nations in East Africa and across the continent, is the focus of Gastorn’s research in Buffalo, under the sponsorship of the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy.

This sojourn in Buffalo is his first visit to the United States. “For a scholar, this is the place to be,” he says. “People here know the value of democracy and the value of giving equal opportunities to people. And there is a very friendly faculty in Buffalo, which enriches my study.”

He cites scholars he has met through the Baldy Center, including SUNY Buffalo Law Professor David A. Westbrook and political science Professor Claude E. Welch, both of whom share his interest in human rights issues. He’ll also present on his current and past work in seminars for Law School faculty members.

Gastorn’s research project grows out of three years of study on the East African Community. The EAC, which comprises the nations of Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, is a treaty-based regional government, one of several overlapping alliances of African nations.

His research asks how effective the

EAC has been at ensuring public safety against both internal strife and international hostilities. “Most conflicts in Africa are trans-border,” Gastorn says. “We have come to realize that good neighbors are the basis for the future. And there is no way to achieve peace alone, because the insurgents will be planning from another coun-

is an attack on all.”

In 2012, he says, the EAC produced two agreements on this front, the Protocol on Cooperation in Defense and the Protocol on Peace and Security. They have been signed by the respective heads of state but not yet ratified by their legislatures, and Gastorn says his research is looking at “what can we

expect when these protocols are put in place. I’m trying to investigate, why has it taken so long? Also, where are the contentious issues?” Toward that end he’s researching other economic development and security agreements, such as those in the European Union and between the United States and Canada. He expects to publish the results of his inquiry in book form.

“I really needed some international experience

and exposure to world-class research institutions,” says Gastorn, who teaches in the Department of Public Law at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law, where he co-founded the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies. He says he heard several U.S. scholars speak highly of Buffalo and decided to make that the first choice on his Fulbright application.

And once he arrived, he says, he found two small-world coincidences. He discovered that he had met Joseph E. Schneider, SUNY Buffalo Law’s director of post-professional and international education, at a previous conference in Vancouver. And he learned that a star student at the University of Dar es Salaam happened to be in Buffalo as well – Dean Makau W. Mutua.



“We have come to realize that good neighbors are the basis for the future. And there is no way to achieve peace alone, because the insurgents will be planning from another country.”

– Kennedy Gastorn

try.” He points out that geography makes cooperative security agreements necessary: Tanzania shares a border with eight neighboring countries.

The EAC was formed in 1999, with Rwanda and Burundi joining in 2007. Gastorn says the agreement provides for all three branches of government – an executive branch in the Council of Ministers, a parliament that makes transnational laws and a justice court.

Much of the EAC treaty involves economic development, such as free trade agreements. But, Gastorn says, providing for peace and security in the region is a vital underpinning of economic progress. He cites “cooperation in disaster management, intelligence exchanges, joint military operations against piracy and terrorism, standardization of training, joint military exercises to build confidence and trust. . . . The plan is to have mutual defense pacts, so that an attack on one

Students travel abroad for summer legal internships

The flight is long, the food is unfamiliar, the language can be tricky. But for four SUNY Buffalo Law students who spent the summer working abroad, the experience of an international legal internship will stay with them forever. Conversations with them show how their legal training served them well, even halfway around the world.

Amanda Howell '15
in Prague, Czech
Republic



Third-year student **Amanda Howell** was one of two who was in Europe through a program of the New York State Bar Association's International Law Section. She worked with a private law firm, Kocian Solc Balaščík, in the Czech Republic capital of Prague. It was her third time in the historic city, Howell says, following a study-abroad undergraduate experience and another visit as a tourist.

At the firm, she worked on cases involving international contract work, international sale of goods, arbitration agreements and corporate compliance with international treaties. It helped, she says, that some contracts, even when both parties were from the Czech Republic, were drafted entirely in English. New York State law and the Uniform Commercial Code were a large part of the governing body of laws, as well as international treaties.

"I did a lot of research," she says, "and I learned a lot, especially about contract law."

Her classmate **Rachael Pelletier** worked with a law firm in downtown Vienna, Gras Pitkowitz, also through the NYSBA program.

The internship involved several projects, including writing an internal memo on a new European Union banking initiative and how it might affect banking regulations in Austria; editing a chapter on securities transactions that will become part of a textbook published this year; and working on a paper about how firms can create secured interests in companies in Austria. That paper will be presented at a NYSBA conference to take place in October in Vienna.

"It was absolutely worth it," she says of the experience. "It was nice to be able to see how international laws work and how the relationship between Austrian law and the EU is similar to the relationship between federal and state governments in the United States. I got a lot of experience, and it gives you a completely different view."

Third-year student **Jillian Nowak** was on the other side of the world this summer, wading through the humidity in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, as a Buffalo Human Rights Center fellow working for the Documentation Center of Cambodia and its Genocide Education Program.

As a legal associate there, Nowak was part of the effort to roll out a new secondary-school curriculum that incorporates the Khmer Rouge genocide of the 1970s. "It's making up for a huge loss in time, a huge generational gap in people who have never known this history," she says. She researched and helped lay the foundational groundwork for the bylaws for the new Sleuk Rith Institute, which comprises a permanent documentation center, a school and a museum. She also did independent research on the reparations scheme at the Extraordinary Chamber in the Courts of Cambodia, an international tribunal that tries Khmer Rouge

war criminals.

"I put in several 16-hours days," she says. "If I've learned anything about NGOs, it's how hard everyone works." She has now been retained as the international legal adviser to the Sleuk Rith Institute's School of Genocide, Conflict and Human Rights, which plans to open its doors in May 2015.

Second-year student **Julia Purdy** spent the summer in Zaragoza, a mid-size city in northeast Spain, working with the United Nations' Water Decade Program on Advocacy and Communication.

"I was practicing the communication part of our title," she says, "as well as learning about UN advocacy." Largely she worked on preparations for an exhibit to be staged at UN Headquarters in New York City on March 22, World Water Day—"reading a lot of cases they have prepared, reaching out to different organizations and different leaders in the water movement world and getting people to contribute to this exhibit."

The exhibit necessarily includes the theme of legal framework, which she focused on. In extension, she wrote an article for the exhibit pertaining to transboundary agreements to advance water cooperation, a field she hopes to focus on in her career.

"Not everyone is a traditional lawyer," Purdy says. "I wanted to leave law school with as many experiences as possible, to see where I fit best and where I am most effective. I do know that I really want to practice internationally."



Julia Purdy '16
in Zaragoza,
Spain

SUNY Buffalo Law launches double LL.M. program for international students with the Catholic University of Lyon

Continuing to develop its presence in global legal education, SUNY Buffalo Law School has announced a new program by which international students can earn two master of laws degrees – one in Buffalo and one in Lyon, France.

The Double LL.M. program, scheduled to begin this fall, is in conjunction with the private Catholic University of Lyon (Université Catholique de Lyon or UCL), in east-central France. Students will enroll in UCL's master of laws program in inter-

national business law and study there during the fall semester, then come to Buffalo for the spring semester as part of the Law School's general LL.M. program.

The Buffalo seg-

ment begins with an intensive January course that introduces students to the U.S. legal system. At the end of the spring semester, they graduate with a master of laws degree from each institution.

The program builds on the strengths of both schools, not least of which is their locations. Lyon is in the heart of Europe, providing students with easy access to international and European institutions. Situated on the international border with Canada, Buffalo is at the crossroads of an internationally ranked research university and



“Buffalo has long been a center for innovative, international legal education, and we are most pleased to build on this tradition with Lyon.” – Dean Makau W. Mutua

a vibrant midsize legal community.

Students in the program will benefit from exposure to different perspectives on law. With only a handful of exceptions, LL.M. students at SUNY Buffalo Law are in classes with students in the J.D. program, and they have access to nearly all of the Law School's curriculum. In addition, students will gain the valuable experience of living and studying in both France and New York, and begin to learn how to network across professional communities in the global marketplace.

The Double LL.M. program builds on SUNY Buffalo Law School's existing programs for international students, including general and criminal master of laws programs and a program in which internationally trained lawyers can earn the J.D. in two years.

All law students at SUNY Buffalo also enjoy study-abroad opportunities, including Thailand, New Zealand and Glasgow, Scotland.

Says SUNY Buffalo Law **Dean Makau W. Mutua**: “Buffalo has long been a center for innovative, international legal education, and we are most pleased to build on this tradition with Lyon. It will be a wonderful and valuable experience for students.”



Lyon is in the heart of Europe, providing students with easy access to international and European institutions. Above, Louis XIV's statue in Place Bellecour in Lyon's main shopping and restaurant area.

Talking taxation, from Paris to Buffalo



Law students in the Franco-American Comparative Tax Law Seminar sat in on several Law School classes and watched Professor Lazar teach his class on partnership taxation.

The French Tricolour



“Building relationships and knowledge” was the goal as 33 students – 17

French law students and 16 SUNY Buffalo Law students – gathered in April for intensive study of that universal constant in human governance: taxation.

The Franco-American Comparative Tax Law Seminar was the creation of Associate Professor **Stuart G. Lazar** from SUNY Buffalo Law School, Professor Ludovic Ayrault from Université Paris 1 (Pantheon-Sorbonne) and Theodore Joyce, a Boston-based attorney and adjunct law professor.

Prior to arriving in Buffalo, the French students, accompanied by Ayrault, had a taste of big-city life and tax practice during a visit to New York City. Lazar, Ayrault and SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus Kenneth Joyce had arranged for them such experiences as a day at the U.S. Tax Court in Manhattan, visits to the accounting and tax-practice firm Deloitte and the international law firm Hodgson Russ, and a reception at the French Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

When they arrived at SUNY Buffalo Law School, they sat in on several Law School classes and watched Lazar teach his class on partnership taxation.

For the U.S. students as well as their French counterparts, it was an exercise in learning by teaching. In pairs or as individuals, they presented to their colleagues on topics in tax law from the two countries. These presentations included a comparison of the income tax systems of the two countries, a comparison of France’s value added tax to the American state sales tax regime, discussions relating to methods of business taxation, analyses of the French solidarity tax on wealth and the U.S. estate tax, and the theoretical underpinnings of government’s role in tax law. Those presentations consumed two full days at the Law School, April 11 and 12.

“It was very much a student-driven course,” Lazar says of this inaugural academic exchange. “It just seemed like a great opportunity for our students at a time when we’re trying to increase their international exposure.”

For both sets of students, Lazar said, “we’re trying to give them the flavor of international law, tax law and the combination of the two. We were also hoping they would get to see and learn a little about a different culture. It’s also a networking experience and, maybe, something that will enrich them in their future careers.”

The SUNY Buffalo Law students were

first-, second- and third-years, as well as one student pursuing an LL.M. And while the Buffalo students had varying interests and prior study in tax law, the French students, all in their final year of studies, are set to receive master’s degrees in taxation this June. The seminar was conducted in English, which the French students spoke fluently, Lazar says.

It wasn’t all work. The experience included local flavor such as wings from Duff’s, a visit to Niagara Falls, as well as a potluck with the International Law Students Association and some good American barbecue served up at Lazar’s home.

The hope, Lazar says, is to reverse the direction during the January 2015 bridge term and take some SUNY Buffalo students to Paris for limited-time study at the Sorbonne, where they would have some of the same types of cultural immersion experiences.

Among the SUNY Buffalo students who took the one-credit seminar, the response was positive.

“It was definitely an amazing experience,” says first-year student Anaiss Rijo. “I was happy as a 1L that we were actually able to register for this course. It did involve a lot of research; you had to go beyond your comfort zone, to learn something new so fast and present it in front of strangers. But I was interested in the international aspect, the complexity of two countries coming together.”

The French tax system, she notes, is complicated by the nation’s inclusion in the European Union.

And although the seminar was a whirlwind of activity, they made some friends – staying in touch through LinkedIn and sharing a Facebook page.

Her fellow first-year student Todd Aldinger, who has a background in working on tax policy, says the seminar “turned out surprisingly well for how quickly they put it together. I thought it was a very valuable experience.”

Particularly, he says, the seminar was helpful from a policy perspective – how the two nations understand the purpose of taxation and how that philosophy gets written into law. “It’s always helpful,” Aldinger says, “to be aware that there are different ways of doing things than the Americans do them.”

Torts conference looks at the push for reforms

Civil cases seeking compensation for torts – whether individual or en masse – often are accompanied by large sums of money and intense emotion. On Oct. 6, a SUNY Buffalo Law School conference will examine recent developments in tort law, affording students, faculty and practitioners a rare inside look at this high-stakes field of law.

The conference, called “Recent Developments in Tort Law and Practice,” will be held at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo, at Pearl and West Huron streets. Conference attendees are eligible to earn 4.5 non-transitional New York State CLE credits.

“This is an opportunity to host something at the cutting edge of what’s going on in this area of law,” says Associate Professor S. Todd Brown, lead organizer of the conference. In addition to practitioners, business owners, students and law professors, faculty from other UB units with an interest in environmental issues or public health and safety issues will benefit, Brown says.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Law School and the Coalition for Litigation Justice, a business group whose agenda includes legislative proposals for tort law reform.

The event’s keynote speaker will be **Kenneth R. Feinberg**, an attorney who has overseen the administration of compensation funds established on behalf of the victims of the 9/11 World Trade Center attack, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Boston Marathon bombing, and several other high-profile mass disasters and mass torts. Feinberg, founder of the Feinberg Rozen law firm and currently a lecturer at Harvard Law School, will speak on “Settlements and Compensation Funds.” His 8:30 a.m. address will also serve as the annual Gerald S. Lippes Lecture, with co-sponsorship by the University at Buf-



Kenneth R. Feinberg, the Gerald S. Lippes lecturer, will speak on “Settlements and Compensation Funds.”

falo’s School of Management.

The Lippes Lecture is free of charge and open to all with prior registration. The cost of the conference is \$125 (\$100 for paid members of the Law Alumni Association). Cost includes CLE, Continental breakfast, lunch and cocktail reception.

Detailed information and registration for the conference and the Lippes Lecture is available on the Law School’s website, www.law.buffalo.edu/torts-law14.

“Feinberg is an amazing speaker, very engaging,” Brown says. “He makes sure that his presentations are accessible to a very broad audience. Even when he’s speaking to experts in the field, he speaks in a way that is easy and approachable.”

Topics to be covered by panelists at the conference include:

- Are mass tort actions best handled entirely in aggregate, or – as has been done recently – should pre-trial issues be handled for claimants as a group, with individual cases then returned to state courts for trial or settlement? “It has worked brilliantly in the asbestos arena,” Brown says. “It has

been much more efficient than trying to push everyone into one big settlement. And it gives the individual and the lawyer the ability to exercise greater control over what happens with their individual claims.”

- A practitioner panel on asbestos litigation, including information about leg-

islative reforms at the state and federal levels.

- A speaker from the RAND Institute for Civil Justice discussing the early findings from its study on how the bankruptcy of a potentially liable company affects whether plaintiffs remember being exposed to the company’s products. One expectation, Brown says, is that claimants often forget such contact after a company goes bankrupt, leaving the other companies being sued with greater financial exposure.

- A look at New York State’s scaffolding law, which, Brown says, has “become much more of an issue as the law has been interpreted as applying to a broader range of issues.” The law, which requires employers on building sites to ensure the safety of laborers working above the ground, has been under attack as antiquated and as provoking sky-high insurance premiums.

- A panel of judges telling of their experiences with asbestos litigation.



Amanda
Barba '15



Richard
Rogers '17



Samantha
Yager '16



Andrew
DeMasters '16



Kelly
Barrett '15

A summer in the public interest

Carrying on a proud SUNY Buffalo tradition of working in the public interest, nearly two dozen students invested their summer in government and nonprofit work. Many did so with the support of the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, which awards grants to support students who work unpaid internships.

Their jobs and the experiences they had range widely, but they report one common thread: They remain committed to using the law as an instrument of seeking justice and improving lives.

Among those whose work was supported by BPILP:

At the New Jersey attorney general's office, **Amanda Barba '15** helped represent the Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

Much of her summer, she says, was spent drafting a 65-page responding brief for an appeal of a case in which a mother's parental rights were terminated. "I had to review the entire case record, all the trial transcripts and all this documentation that the division has gathered since before the parents even had the child," she says.

"And it puts things into perspective. This is a real case; I'm not in school here. I wanted to do a good job with this because this child has a good life with his foster parents now."

Richard Rogers '17, a joint J.D./MUP student, worked in Buffalo with the mayor's Office of Strategic

Planning and reports, "It's a nice mix between law and business." That includes sitting in on meetings about the Green Code, the city's overarching economic development plan.

He also worked with the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency, evaluating developers' proposals for developing unused property owned by the city, and also helping prepare property transfers under Buffalo's homestead program, in which individuals can buy houses or vacant lots for virtually nothing if they agree to build or rehabilitate the housing stock.

"City-owned lots are a strain for the city to maintain," Rogers says. "Now residents are taking control of these lots and stabilizing the neighborhoods."

An undergraduate interest in prisons and inmate recidivism led **Samantha Yager '16** to her summer position with Prisoners' Legal Services of New York, in Buffalo. The tiny nonprofit advocates for and provides civil legal services to indigent inmates in New York State correctional facilities.

"I felt this was a way to get a real-life experience of how the system works," Yager says. That included visits to inmates in two local prisons to discuss how best to help them.

The job, she says, entailed "a lot of legal research, trying to figure out how the courts address certain issues," as well as writing numerous letters to the state Department of Corrections on behalf of inmates seeking treatment for medical or mental health conditions.

"People are victims of circumstance

sometimes, and mental illness seems to be an increasing problem in prisons," Yager says. "Their stories are heart-breaking."

Andrew DeMasters '16 was in Washington, D.C., with the Office of General Counsel of the federal Department of Homeland Security. There he worked on pre-trial litigation in labor and employment law, cases involving Homeland Security workers who claim employment issues such as age or sex discrimination or a hostile work environment.

"It's fascinating," DeMasters says. "I've done a lot of different things: discovery, responding to a discovery report, motions for summary judgment, requests for admission and document requests."

As well, he says, he got to experience

"what it's like to have the United States government as your client. That's a huge responsibility, but at the end of the day, what you did meant something."

Kelly Barrett '15 spent her 2L summer in the government affairs office of the Trevor Project, a national organization that provides crisis inter-

vention and suicide prevention to LGBT young people.

Partly, she says, the work involved advocacy — reading the Federal Register to look for government actions that would affect gay and lesbian youths, and submitting comments on the Trevor Project's behalf. There was also a major research project looking at how the religious exemption in Title IX has been applied in light of the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision.

"I have learned more this summer than I have ever learned in any position in the past," Barrett says. "I spent probably half the week out of the office, meeting with other organizations, going to Congress, attending White House briefings, networking with tons of people and learning a lot about advocacy and policy work. This has been the most incredible experience of my professional life."



The Buffalo Public Interest Law Program (BPILP) held a bagel breakfast in the lobby of O'Brian Hall to welcome new students.

SUNY BUFFALO LAW COMMENCEMENT 2014

Senator points to a bright future

“**Y**ou will never forget this day,” **Dean Makau W. Mutua** told the Law School’s newest crop of graduates, and indeed it was an unforgettable celebration as 200 law degrees were awarded at Commencement 2014.

The ceremony, held May 17 at a packed Center for the Arts, honored the achievements of 191 students receiving the J.D. degree and nine others receiving master of laws degrees.

“The law is the pivot of our democracy,” Mutua went on. “It is that which makes impossible tyranny and extreme human suffering. You came to the Law School for the right moral reasons. And I know that nothing we have taught you here has vacated the noble reasons that brought you our way.”

The keynote speaker – introduced by Dean’s Advisory Council Chair **Thomas E. Black Jr. ’79**, who was his roommate at Notre Dame – was **U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly**, Democrat of Indiana. Donnelly, who practiced law and ran a small business before entering Congress and then winning election to the Senate, focused not on the past three years but on the nation’s future.

“We have amazing challenges in front of us, but amazing opportunities also,” he said to the graduates. “You’re going to be the ones who lead us into that future. You look at each other and you see your classmates and your friends. But I look at you and I truly see where America is going to be, what we have to accomplish, the things we have to overcome, the opportunities we have. I see our future, and it is incredibly exciting to me.”

In terms of medical research, he said

he expects that cures will be developed soon for cystic fibrosis, arthritis, diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease. “We are on the verge of complete energy independence and medical breakthroughs that will take your breath away,” Donnelly said. “and you are inheriting the chance, almost the obligation, to make things right.”

That leadership, he said, happens not necessarily in grand gestures but in small acts of moral courage. Donnelly held up as an example former Army sergeant Kyle White, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for pulling two wounded comrades out of harm’s way during a firefight in Afghanistan. “You don’t have to be president, you don’t have to be a senator, you can lead by what you do,” Donnelly said.

In legal practice, he said, that includes “going the extra mile for a client in need. Completing an adoption for a couple that could change their life forever. Solving a legal problem that’s overwhelming a family. Helping serve the Thanksgiving meal at the local shelter.”

Graduating senior **Daniel DeVoe** gave the student address, citing the value of the old adage “This too shall pass” – advice that gained special poignancy in his own life when his sister passed away during his final year in law school.

“Life is about accepting loss: losing someone we love, losing an important trial,” DeVoe said. “We all do know deep down that everything in life is only for now. It should make us strive to give the gift of our total presence, not just to our loved ones and our future clients, but to ourselves. . . . Really be there each day of your personal and professional lives. Ask, have I found my flow? Am I like a conductor who is lost in the music? If not, go out and find that, even if it’s outside of the law.”

Two alumni received major awards during the ceremony.

The Dean’s Medal, recognizing a commitment to justice and the rule of law, was awarded to **Vikki L. Pryor ’78**, principal of the thought leadership company Create Change Transform. “Today’s award is a reminder to me that I stand on the shoulders of others,” Pryor said. “To create a life of broad shoulders, which I entreat you to do, requires



Dean Makau W. Mutua, left, and keynote speaker Sen. Joe Donnelly



UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski conferred the degrees on the graduates.

To watch a video and view photos, www.law.buffalo.edu/forum/extra



Vikki L. Pryor '78 received the Dean's Medal.



Ken Joyce Excellence in Teaching Award recipient Hon. Thomas P. "Tim" Franczyk, left, with Joseph L. Nicastro '14.



SUNY Distinguished Professor James A. Gardner led the procession.



Law School graduates who are new members of the Order of the Coif, left to right: Brooke D. Leone, Peter D. Cantone, Sarah E. Fenster-Rich and Andrew W. Dean.



Left to right, UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski, Sen. Joe Donnelly and Thomas E. Black Jr. '79



Faculty Award recipient Christine P. Bartholomew and Daniel DeVoe, who gave the student address.



Clinical Professor Suzanne E. Tomkins, left, with daughter Emily Dinsmore, recipient of the Dale S. Margulis Award.

courage and risk taking. It means taking the road less traveled. It means standing up for what you believe in. There's one important voice that you must always listen to, and it's yours."

The Ken Joyce Excellence in Teach-

ing Award was given to **Hon. Thomas P. "Tim" Franczyk**, co-director with Christopher J. O'Brien of the Law School's trial advocacy programs. O'Brien noted that from humble beginnings, the school now sends eight trial

teams to competitions nationwide. He also strapped on his guitar and, with fellow musician Joseph L. Nicastro, a graduating senior, sang an original song about the rigors of law school. "Crying, waiting, hoping" was the hook.

This was the first Buffalo Law Commencement at which the top 10 percent of the graduating class were honored with membership in the Order of the Coif, the prestigious legal honor society. The Law School became the organization's newest member this year.

The three top awards in the graduating class went to: **Andrew M. Dean**, who received the Max Koren Award for scholastic achievement and leadership; **Peter D. Cantone**, who received the John N. Bennett Achievement Award for the highest scholastic average; and **Emily Dinsmore**, who received the Dale S. Margulis Award for contributing the most to the Law School and community.

Meet the Class of 2017!

They're talented, diverse – and eager to learn the law

Over a thousand people applied, but only 148 found their way this year into SUNY Buffalo Law School's incoming class. They are, says

Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, the school's vice dean for admissions and student life, a solid group of students who "have shown that they're really ready for this next step."

As the Class of 2017 settles into their classrooms in O'Brian Hall, a look at the students in aggregate shows that, despite intense competition from other law schools for talented scholars with strong potential, this cohort maintains the high standards that have characterized recent Buffalo Law classes.

That's true despite a rapidly changing environment in law school admissions. Though applications to SUNY Buffalo Law were down 5.8 percent from last year, Wiley-Upshaw says, "we were probably one of only a handful of law schools nationwide that didn't experience a two-digit drop in applications."

The median LSAT score for incoming students held steady at 154, and their median grade point average was 3.44. More than one-third are age 25 or older, 7 percent already hold advanced degrees, and the class's ethnic diversity registers at 19 percent. Women slightly outnumber men, at 53 percent to 47 percent.

"It's important we admit students who can do well in law school and pass the bar," Wiley-Upshaw says. "Every year I have a chance to work with students who are excited about the law, who have a personal passion and conviction for wanting to do this work, and who take this next step in their

lives very seriously.

"I'm excited about their potential and that they'll become part of our Law School family. I see people who will have an impact in their careers and on our school. We are creating a generation of lawyers that will make us proud and do good things."

Conversations with a handful of these first-year students reveal a variety of hopes for their future in the profession, but a uniform excitement about the law school experience.

Sarah Hicks, a Binghamton native who did her undergraduate work at Lemoyne College in Syracuse, came to Buffalo to pursue her interest in family law. Her college advisers, she said, helped inform her decision for SUNY Buffalo Law. "My advisers had a lot to say about certain law schools and not so much to say about others," she says. "You learn to trust them after four years."

Her classmate **Michelle McCabe**, a Western New Yorker from the small town of Cassadaga who went to St. Bonaventure University, also wants to study family law. "There are so many situations where kids are not being put into proper homes," she says. "I want to be able to affect that for the better."

Settling into the law school grind, she says, has bought some surprises.



For one, "I didn't know there was so much writing," McCabe says. "I thought I would be mostly reading and thinking."

Mohammed Zaki Sharas, a native of Toronto, comes to SUNY Buffalo Law from the University of Toronto, where he studied strategic management as a business major. He is hoping to work in international business, and says he is looking to round out his finance background with legal training.

"Even if I end up working in Canada, a lot of the companies are U.S.-based," he says. "I could still go on to get a degree in Canada as well, but having a background in U.S. law makes it easier to do this work."

He notes also that Buffalo is about midway between his hometown and New York City, "the top city for lawyers in the world." He may pursue a placement in the Law School's New York



City Program in Finance and Law.

His law school experience so far, he says, has been “fantastic. I was pleasantly surprised at the level of professionalism among the students. I didn’t expect everybody to be so engaged from the get-go.”

Buffalo native **Jasmine Peterson**, who studied criminal justice and psychology at Canisius College, says she figures her interest in family law makes her job prospects bright: “There’s always room for family lawyers,” she says.

She especially appreciates the welcoming atmosphere at SUNY Buffalo Law, which she says has made the back-to-school transition easier after a few years away from academia. “The school has a great community vibe,” Peterson says. “It’s not really a competitive place—we’re all in it together. It’s like a family.”

One highlight of orientation week was a 3.5-mile run/walk in Buffalo’s Delaware Park, free to law students.

Professor French's new book explores the nexus of Buddhism and law



Professor Rebecca R. French greets His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet during his first law school conference in 2006.

A rapidly growing field of study – the influence of Buddhist thought on legal systems worldwide – has its first book-length overview with a new compilation conceived by a Law School professor who is a pioneer in the field.

Buddhism and Law: An Introduction (Cambridge University Press) was co-edited by SUNY Buffalo Law **Professor Rebecca R. French** and **Mark A. Nathan**, an assistant professor in UB's history department and its Asian Studies Program. Interdisciplinary in nature and broad in scope, it challenges the idea that Buddhism is an apolitical religion without implications for law. In fact, the authors argue, Buddhism provided the architecture for some legal ideologies and secular law codes, and added a new layer of complexity to existing legal systems elsewhere.

"There are almost no books on Buddhist legal systems," says French, who wrote one herself in 2002 with *The Golden Yoke: The Legal Cosmology of Buddhist Tibet* (Snow Lion Publications). "The study of Buddhism itself is pretty much brand new. Buddhist studies departments have existed in univer-

sities only in the last half century, and there has been serious study only in past 20 to 30 years. But scholars are now working on the Vinaya and its influence on secular law."

The Vinaya is the law code, written for the followers of the Buddha, that makes up the first one-third of the Buddhist canon. French says that dabblers in the religion, especially the reductionist, commodified version familiar to many

Americans, might be surprised at the vehemence, even the harshness, of the Buddha's words. "The Vinaya is a series of encounters between the Buddha and a person who has committed some offense," she says. "They have a conversation, they talk almost Socratically, then he states what the person has done wrong and what the punishment is."

The book was almost a decade in the making, and it grows partly from a couple of conferences organized by French and Law School Professor David M. Engel, who has longtime ties to Thailand. Rather than thematically, it's organized geographically, with contributors taking up topics from India, where the religious tradition began; South and Southeast Asia, including Sri Lanka; East Asia, including China, Japan and Korea; and North Asia and the Himalayas region. French contributed one chapter, on Buddhism and law in Tibet.

"There's a lot of diversity in how this plays out," French says. "Many people thought Buddhism was so diverse and so scattered that there wouldn't be central ideas. The variety has been inter-

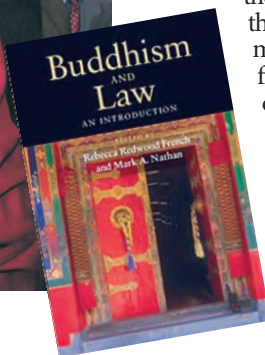
preted as a lack of centralization, as a lack of coherence and as a lack of true law. I would argue that we just need to start looking. The relationship between Buddhism and law is completely different in different regions."

For example, she says, in Burma (now Myanmar), scholars have shown that law codes were built from scratch based on Buddhist teachings. Contrast that with the situation in China, where, French says, Buddhism arrived after the nation already had a strongly established legal system.

As a field of study, Buddhism and law is fraught with complexities, from the voluminous extant writings on the Buddha's teachings, to the problems of translating from the languages of heavily Buddhist countries and their long and complicated histories.

But, says French, "most people are thinking about the ethical and foundational issues of legal systems – how a culture gained those things and what they meant. The Judeo-Christian foundations of our own legal system are extremely important. Similarly, the Islamic influence on the legal system is very important in Islamic countries. Why wouldn't we want to know about the basic religious foundations of an enormous segment of the world?"

Buddhism and Law is dedicated to Frank E. Reynolds, an emeritus professor of the University of Chicago Divinity School and an early proponent of Buddhist legal studies. French says that Reynolds will visit and speak about Buddhist thought in Thailand at a book launch party planned for SUNY Buffalo Law in September.





Associate Professor Michael Boucai



Associate Professor Matthew Steilen

Two young faculty chosen for prestigious scholarly forum

Matthew Steilen and Michael Boucai represented SUNY Buffalo at Stanford

Two associate professors at SUNY Buffalo Law School were selected to be part of the prestigious Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum, which fosters scholarship by young scholars and enables them to present papers on cutting-edge topics in the law.

Faculty members **Matthew Steilen** and **Michael Boucai** represented Buffalo at the forum, held June 27 and 28 at Stanford Law School. This year, forum organizers received over 400 articles and selected 19 for presentation at the conference. It is considered a rare honor for a school to have two faculty members selected for the forum in the same year.

The Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum, now in its 15th year, rotates among those three schools each year. Its goal is to increase the level of scholarly discourse and give junior facul-

ty the chance to experience high-level discussion of their own and others' work, as well as to build a sense of community among American legal scholars.

A jury of senior scholars selects the participants after anonymous submission and blind review of their papers. Eligible scholars have been teaching for one to seven years. The participants' presentations were followed by commentary by senior academics.

This year's forum focused on selected topics in public law and humanities.

In a morning session on "Law and the Humanities," Boucai presented his paper "Glorious Precedents: When Gay Marriage Was Radical," which will be published next year in the *Yale Journal of Law and Humanities*. The paper builds on his investigations into the historical roots of same-sex marriage in the United States, which date to the early 1970s.

"Far from betraying the liberationist politics of post-Stonewall gay activism (as is often claimed of contemporary same-sex marriage activism), these first cases were conceived within that radical ideological framework," Boucai has written. "They were designed to critique the gendered roles of 'husband' and 'wife,' promote gay visibility, and publicly affirm the moral equivalence of heterosexuality and homosexuality."

In an afternoon session on the histor-

ical foundations of Constitutional law, Steilen presented his paper "Judicial Review and Non-Enforcement at the Founding," forthcoming in the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law*.

The article examines the relationship between judicial review and presidents' assertions that they are justified in declining to enforce unconstitutional laws.

"This article shows that there is essentially no historical evidence, from ratification through the first decade under the Constitution, in support of a non-enforcement power," Steilen has written. "It also shows that the framers repeatedly made statements inconsistent with the supposition that the president could refuse to enforce laws he deemed unconstitutional. In contrast, during this same period the historical record contains hundreds of discussions of judicial review."

Commentators on their papers were legal historian Robert W. Gordon, of Stanford Law School, for Steilen; and civil rights and antidiscrimination expert Richard Thompson Ford, also of Stanford Law School, for Boucai.

Steilen, who is also affiliated with the Department of Philosophy in UB's College of Arts and Sciences, joined the Law School faculty in 2011, and Boucai was hired in 2012.

SUNY Distinguished Professor James A. Gardner in top 10 for cites

*Legal blog shows
SUNY Buffalo
election law
scholar's impact*

Law review editors who do the exacting work of checking their articles' citations of other scholars' work see the same names pop up again and again. In the field of election law, a new study has tallied those citations to identify the 10 faculty from all 200 ABA law schools whose work in election law has the most impact on their peers – and a SUNY Buffalo Law School professor is on the list.

SUNY Distinguished **Professor James A. Gardner**, a specialist in election law, was one of the most highly cited legal scholars working in this area. The ranking, reported by the influential Election Law Blog, shows that other scholars cited Gardner's work about 320 times in articles published from 2009 to 2013.

Other election law scholars on the list are at the law schools of New York University, Stanford, Columbia, Yale, the University of Southern California and the University of California-Irvine. Blogger Rick Hasen, a law professor at UC-Irvine, conducted the study, using Westlaw and other electronic resources.

"I'm gratified," said Gardner, who holds the Bridget and Thomas Black professorship at Buffalo Law and has served as the school's vice dean for academic affairs. "Most of the other people on the list are extremely prominent in the field. It's nice to know my work is being recognized and people are paying attention and it's having an impact. As academics we



Other scholars cited Gardner's work about 320 times in articles published from 2009 to 2013

can spend a lot of time thinking and writing, but if it falls in the forest and doesn't make a sound, it's not accomplishing what we hope it will accomplish."

Gardner received his B.A. from Yale University in 1980 and his J.D. from the University of Chicago in 1984. From 1984 to 1988, he practiced law in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Before joining the SUNY Buffalo Law faculty in 2001, he taught at Western New England University, William and Mary, and the University of Connecticut. Since then, he has been a visiting professor at Florida State University, and in 2012 held the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in the Theory and Practice of Constitu-

tionalism and Federalism at McGill University in Montreal.

His research interests include the constitutional structure of politics, the institutionalization through law of principles of democracy, comparative and American federalism, and subnational constitutional law.

Gardner's most recent books are *Election Law in the American Political System* (Aspen), *What Are Campaigns For? The Role of Persuasion in Electoral Law and Politics* (Oxford University Press) and a new revision of his *Legal Argument: The Structure and Language of Effective Advocacy* (LexisNexis).

Vice Dean and Professor Luis E. Chiesa oversees curriculum

Searching for the competitive advantage

A popular professor and specialist in criminal law has been appointed to one of the Law School's most influential administrative positions.

Professor **Luis E. Chiesa**, who joined the faculty in 2013, was named vice dean for academic affairs by Dean Makau W. Mutua. In that role, he is responsible for issues related to the curriculum, including hiring adjunct professors, assigning courses to professors and scheduling classes, and dealing with student disciplinary matters and students' concerns about their Law School experience. In addition, he continues as director of the Buffalo Criminal Law Center.

One of his first items of business: working with a committee of faculty and staff to examine the overall curriculum, starting with the foundational courses that all first-year law students take, and seeing where reforms might be made.

"With the crisis in legal education, the product of a sharp decline nationally in law school applications, many schools including ourselves are reflecting and engaging in a self-study to see how we can offer an even better product than we are offering," Chiesa says.

"All law schools are fighting for a smaller pool of students, which makes everything more competitive, from the students themselves choosing a school to the amount of money schools give for scholarships to entice students. Small changes could make a big difference in attracting the best students."

In addition, Chiesa is focusing on the quality of teaching at the Law School, looking to find ways for both full-time and adjunct professors to share ideas and hard-won wisdom about effective teaching. As an example, he cites the hot-but-ton issue of whether to allow students to use laptops in class; some professors see



"All law schools are fighting for a smaller pool of students, which makes everything more competitive, from the students themselves choosing a school to the amount of money schools give for scholarships to entice students. Small changes could make a big difference in attracting the best students."

— Professor Luis E. Chiesa,
vice dean for academic affairs

the computer as an essential tool, while others struggle with the reality that students may be checking Facebook as well as taking notes.

"I want to bring to our full-time faculty some opportunities to talk in a more formalized setting about teaching," Chiesa says. "We may want to bring in speakers who are experts on teaching and the law school curriculum, so they can talk to our faculty about cutting-edge techniques in the classroom or best practices." Another possibility, he says, is a daylong faculty retreat at which SUNY Buffalo Law professors present on teaching topics, such as using technology in the classroom.

As well, Chiesa says he hopes to "incorporate the adjunct professors more into our community. Our adjuncts have some awesome but also very time-intensive jobs. They teach mostly because they want to give back, they enjoy it and they're friends of the Law School." So he is organizing a reception for adjunct faculty, where these practicing lawyers can mingle with the school's full-time faculty and know that their contributions are valued. A further idea is a yearly workshop for adjunct professors covering the basics of the teaching life: choosing a casebook, writing a syllabus, classroom management, using technology, grading

assignments and exams, and how much reading to assign.

"Sometimes being a law professor is a lonely job," Chiesa says. "I hope we can build some camaraderie."

He also continues to revitalize the Buffalo Criminal Law Center, coming off a successful conference in May that brought leading U.S. criminal law scholars to the table with their peers from Spain, Chile, Germany, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

This fall, a leading U.S. criminal law scholar, Professor Joshua Dressler of the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University, will speak about reforming homicide laws. His visit to Buffalo Law is sponsored by the BCLC and the student Criminal Justice Society.

Another upcoming highlight is a conference next spring, part of the center's Comparative Criminal Law Conversations Project, that seeks to foster conversation between younger junior scholars and older, more established senior scholars. The young scholars — from civil law countries including Chile, Argentina, Spain and Germany — will write papers, and the senior scholars will write a brief response. Then, in Buffalo, comes the free exchange of ideas, with a twist: To open the discussion, the respondents will present the original papers, and the authors will reply.

Educating the advocates

Professor Susan Mangold co-edits the go-to casebook for children's law

Children and the Law: Doctrine, Policy and Practice (West Publishing) had gone through four editions before Professor **Susan V. Mangold** got the call: Would she consider becoming a co-editor, contributing to a thorough revamping of the popular casebook for its fifth edition?

She would and she did. Now the newly published casebook, weighing in at 1,197 pages, stands as testament to the major work involved in updating and renewing the text, a standard choice for law professors teaching a survey course in children and the law.

"We chose some new cases, retained some cases, updated all the statistics – and it's a pretty statistics-rich book," Mangold says. "All comments have new information from recent cases, reflecting statutory changes, foundation reports, ABA reports. Anything that happened in last three years in this area of law is edited down and contained in the book."

Mangold, whose particular interests are in the foster care system and in child abuse and neglect, made substantial changes to the book chapters dealing with those areas. But her involvement reached throughout the casebook as she worked with co-editor Douglas E. Abrams of the University of Missouri School of Law. (Abrams' co-editor for the first four editions, Professor Sarah H. Ramsey of the Syracuse University College of Law, is entering retirement.)

Working with three student research assistants – Daniel DeVoe '14, Valerie Stanek '14 and current third-year student Ann Dillon – Mangold reviewed the literature and case law for the chapters for which she was primary editor. She was particularly interested, she says, in incorporating information from public health studies on children in transitional situations.

For example, she drew on the massive Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, a joint effort of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



"Anything that happened in last three years in this area of law is edited down and contained in the book."

– Professor Susan V. Mangold

and the health care company Kaiser Permanente, to show that childhood trauma puts people at significant health, social and economic risk.

"This isn't information that lawyers typically think about," Mangold says. "It's important information, but it's also a great advocacy tool, if you can show a judge that this child might suffer significant trauma from being moved around or removed from the home or whatever, events that have been shown to increase the risk for pulmonary and heart disease." Similarly, the book cites recent U.S. Supreme Court cases arising from the juvenile justice system that take into account the neuroscience of how children's brains develop.

The project comes in three parts: the casebook; a comprehensive teacher's manual with thoughts about how professors might use the book most effectively in the classroom to develop the next generation of children's lawyers; and a "nutshell" version appropriate for use with undergraduates studying children and the law.

In the casebook, chapters cover children's legal status, the child-parent relationship, the challenge of representing children, abuse and neglect, foster care, adoption, medical decision-making, financial responsibility, the regulation of children's conduct and delinquency.

The teacher's manual, Mangold says, was "one of fun things for me, because new faculty and faculty using the book for the first time have been in touch with me, and we've walked through the book together and talked about how to present it. . . . I'm really happy to have this project, both because children and the law is my area and it's wonderful to be able to think about how to organize the material, but also because I love teaching."

Indeed, Mangold's dedication in the book is "To the future attorneys who will learn from this book and the young clients they will represent."

"It's not just a collection of information," she says. "I really hope it will influence the attorneys working in this area for the next generation and how might they be thinking about these topics."

She'll continue as a co-editor of the casebook for future revisions, and says the process should be less cumbersome from here on out, because she'll collect material – new cases, new research – as it becomes available, rather than having to perform a comprehensive review.

Black's wordsmith

Adjunct Gary Muldoon '76 makes his mark in the definitive law dictionary

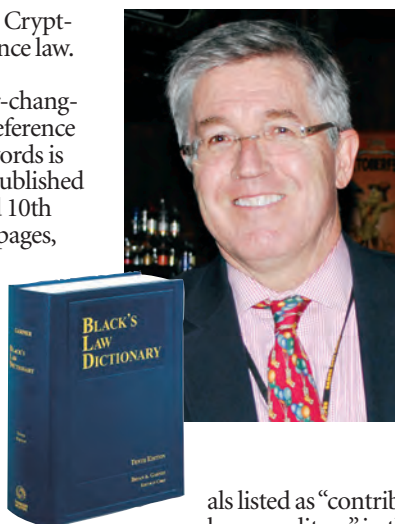
The affluenza defense. Cryptanalysis. Zero-tolerance law. Legaldybook.

Law is a profession of ever-changing ideas, and the definitive reference for putting those ideas into words is *Black's Law Dictionary*, first published in 1891. The newly published 10th edition, weighing in at 2,052 pages, has more than 50,000 entries, and among the contributors is SUNY Buffalo Law adjunct faculty member **Gary Muldoon '76**.

"I bought my first Black's, the third edition, during my first year of law school," says Muldoon, a partner in the Rochester, N.Y., firm Muldoon, Getz & Reston. But the vocabulary of law keeps growing, he says, with "court decisions, unusual expressions and new statutes that are enacted that use terminology that we haven't seen before. Fifty years ago, DNA wouldn't have been an entry in any law dictionary. The whole area of forensics is very much an emerging area of law that wouldn't have gotten a whole lot of attention when I was in law school."

The dictionary is useful, too, for decoding the shortcuts that grease the wheels of justice. "One of the things lawyers are criticized for is the use of jargon known only to the cognoscenti," Muldoon says. "But there's a reason for it. You don't have to say, 'I want to challenge the prosecution's attempt to introduce my client's statement on the grounds that it was taken involuntarily.' You can just say, 'I request a Huntley hearing.' Any criminal practitioner or judge in New York is instantly familiar with that."

Muldoon is one of seven individu-



als listed as "contributing lawyer-editors" in the new edition of Black's. That designation comes because he and editor Bryan A. Garner have developed an email correspondence on all things lexicographical: New expressions that crop up in legal decisions. Quibbles about spelling or hyphenation. Poor instances of word usage, or interesting passages from the newspapers that might serve to illustrate a dictionary definition.

"Sometimes he agrees, sometimes he totally disagrees," Muldoon says. "Sometimes it just goes into his brain to maybe consider later on. I kind of function as a canary in a coal mine in my areas of law."

It's an area of interest that has stayed with him since his undergraduate days as a history and political science major at Skidmore College. "Walter Scott once said that 'a lawyer without history or literature is a mechanic.' And for me, history was my major and words are my avocation, and they should be for any lawyer," Muldoon says.

He has written some books of his own, too, including *Criminal Law Slangage of New York*, co-authored by Buffalo administrative law judge

"I kind of function as a canary in a coal mine in my areas of law."
— Adjunct faculty member Gary Muldoon '76

Glenn Murray. Muldoon's sixth book, *The Education of a Lawyer*, is being published this fall by the American Bar Association.

"This new book is my sidebar to the next generation of lawyers," he says. "I'm trying to give them my ideas on what is proper when it comes to studying, interact-

ing with others, civility, writing, researching, caring about the profession. It has to do with helping law students who are floundering the way I was, and most people are, when they are in law school or just getting out."

Muldoon has been a VISTA lawyer in a legal services office, an attorney and instructor at the Cornell Legal Aid Clinic, an assistant public defender and a law clerk in city and county courts. He also served for eight years on the Rochester City Council.

At SUNY Buffalo Law School, he has taught courses in trial technique, sex offender registration and civil commitment, and New York civil practice. "When you're teaching, you take on a course because you think you know the subject," he says, "but you also realize there's a lot more there than you know. Part of the reason people teach as adjuncts is exactly that. It's a rejuvenating and enlivening experience, and you become better at the subject matter in which you supposedly have some expertise."

Heilman'75 to receive the 2015 Jaeckle Award

Longtime business lawyer will receive Law School's and Law Alumni's top honor

Pamela Davis Heilman'75, a longtime leader in cross-border business practice with the Hodgson Russ law firm and an active presence in the University at Buffalo and its Law School, has been chosen to receive SUNY Buffalo Law's highest honor.

Heilman will be presented with the Edwin F. Jaeckle Award at a Jan. 30 luncheon in the Union League Club in Manhattan, in conjunction with a meeting of the Law School's New York City alumni chapter. The award is given annually to "an individual who has distinguished himself or herself and has made significant contributions to the Law School and the legal profession."

At Hodgson Russ, where she is currently of counsel, Heilman has played a leading role in the firm's Canada/U.S. practice, counseling Canadian businesses and organizations considering expansion into the United States. She has also worked to promote the advancement of women in international business, among other roles serving as a director of the International Alliance for Women, an umbrella organization for 39 organizations working to foster the economic empowerment of women.

In the Western New York community, Heilman has been active in a variety of roles with nonprofit organizations, including as board chair of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. She has also held leadership roles in the Vassar College Club of Western New York, the Kaleida Health Foundation, D'Youville College and its Center



"Much of my success is based on my Law School education at UB and the opportunity that it afforded me to join Hodgson Russ 36 years ago and then become a partner."

— Pamela Davis Heilman'75

for Women in Management, the Community Music School, Housing Assistance Center of the Niagara Frontier and the SUNY Buffalo Law School Alumni Association.

At the Law School, she has served as a member of the Dean's Advisory Council — which advises Dean Makau W. Mutua on curricular and professional matters — since 2004. She also serves on the steering committee for the school's ambitious Campaign for SUNY Buffalo Law School and has chaired the school's Annual Fund campaign. She and her husband, Robert Heilman, a business consultant and 1975 graduate of UB's MBA program, recently made a major gift to the Law School in support of admissions scholarships for talented potential students.

"Much of my success is based on my Law School education at UB and the opportunity that it afforded me to join Hodgson Russ 36 years ago and then

become a partner," Heilman has said. "Without that legal education and without UB being there for someone who did not come from wealth, it would not have happened. Affordable, high-quality public education is so important."

Thus her involvement also extends to membership on the UB Council, a group of leaders appointed by the governor to provide counsel to the University president. Heilman notes that under SUNY guidelines, the Council has two enumerated powers: to name buildings on campus, and to establish a search committee when there is a vacancy in the president's office. She was part of the search committee that recommended UB's current president, Satish K. Tripathi, for the position.

Tickets for the Jaeckle Award ceremony will be available through online registration on the Law School's website, www.law.buffalo.edu, and by phone at (716) 645-2107.

Weiss '91 closes deals for affordable housing

The timing was nearly perfect, and a career was born. When **Steven J. Weiss '91** was at the Law School, the federal government was just getting started with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, which makes it attractive for private investors to put their money into the creation of affordable rental housing. The Law School's Affordable Housing Clinic was also just coming into being, but too late for Weiss to enroll in the program at UB. Regardless, he was introduced to its founder, Clinical Professor George Hezel, and due to their common interests they nonetheless became acquainted and have remained in close contact over the years.

And in the win-win scenario of the tax credit, he found his niche. Now, as a founding partner of Cannon Heyman & Weiss, with offices in Buffalo and Albany, he, along with Steve Heyman and Geoff Cannon, helps to oversee 37 professionals whose firm is devoted to using tax incentives to make affordable housing and community development deals possible in several states.

That means an apartment complex for homeless veterans, for example, or "housing for the working poor: firemen, teachers, police officers, people we value in society but generally don't pay them enough to be able to afford a market-rate apartment."

The firm, whose Buffalo office is in the historic Larkin at Exchange Building, also works to secure investment incentives for historic preservation projects, which in Buffalo include the Bethune Lofts, Babeville, the Electric Tower and, now, the H.H. Richardson complex on Forest Avenue.

Weiss attributes his firm's success to the idea, "When there's a significant purpose behind a business opportunity, it creates stability and meaning."

Weiss worked his way through UB as a teaching assistant, earning a bachelor's and MBA in accounting and finance, then continuing to teach and work at a law firm as a student. "It taught me to be very efficient," he says.

"I also learned that a 500-page reading assignment really meant figuring out which 100 pages to read and which 400 to skim."

A summer associate position at the now-defunct firm Moot & Sprague led him to the lawyer he considers his mentor and friend, the late Herman Loonsk, also a UB Law School alum. When the firm dissolved, Weiss moved with Loonsk and the duo ended up at Saperston & Day, where together they created a niche practice in making the new housing tax credit work for clients. At the same time, he says, Hezel was doing much the same as he developed the Affordable Housing Clinic at the Law School.

"We developed a great relationship with George," Weiss says. "The clinic was educating students about the practice area of our firm, which benefited both of us, as it gave students a strong background and the hope of a job after school and it gave us groups of students to interview. So we would work collaboratively. We developed a very collegial environment between our firm and the school and we would learn from each other."

That collaboration continues with Cannon Heyman & Weiss, which was founded in 2001. "When we see a teaching opportunity – like a complicated tax issue – I'll share that with George so he can convey it to the students or one of our lawyers will come in and help teach a class," Weiss says. "I look forward to also collaborating with Clinical Professor Lauren Breen in the future."

At the Law School, Weiss also teaches a course on the business of the practice of law. He says it reflects what he learned from his mentor: "client relationships, marketing, practice management, basically how a law firm operates and the difference between revenue and profit."

"If you've done well in law school, you fit within the range of well-qualified candidates for a legal job," he says.



Steven Weiss secures investment incentives for historic preservation projects, such as the H.H. Richardson complex.

"Then the question is, how can you distinguish yourself from every other qualified candidate? Do you understand how a law firm works? Can you bring in a client? Those are the skills that will sustain a law firm."

Weiss pours his energies as well into public service. He is the former board chair of Preservation Buffalo Niagara, helping to create that organization from the merger of two predecessors, and he is a board member and vice chair of the New York State Housing Finance Agency. He and his wife, Ellen Romer Weiss, who also holds an MBA from UB, are active in the Jewish community, and he serves as general campaign chair for the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo. He's also working with the Charles H. Revson Foundation, which is funding a program to create affordable rental housing in Israel. Weiss was recently in Tel Aviv, where apartments are more expensive than in New York City, to address a university think tank studying the problem. "We're working with government and academics to say, here are some tools we use, you might want to consider these," Weiss says. "Many of the concepts translate really well, but the last thing we want to do is tell someone they are doing it wrong or that only we have the right answers."

SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association elects 2014–15 officers and directors



Front row, left to right: Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor Luis E. Chiesa, Assistant Director Lisa M. Mueller, Sheldon K. Smith, LAA President Hon. Lenora B. Foote-Beavers, Anthony J. Colucci Jr., Hon. Barbara Howe, Joseph D. Morath Jr., Beverley S. Braun, Stephanie A. Saunders and Executive Director and Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann

Second row, left to right: Preston L. Zarlock, Brian M. Melber, Laurie Styka Bloom, Robert P. Heary, Terrence M. Gilbride, Melissa A. Foti, Michael A. Piette and William F. Savino

Third row, left to right: Thomas F. Knab, Mary Pat Enright Fleming and Mary Moorman Penn

On stairs, front row, left to right: Marion K. Henderson, Stephen A. Sharkey, Ernest J. Norman, Amy L. Hemenway, Paulette E. Ross, Anne E. Joynt, Pauline C. Will, Jaime C. Gallagher and Linda Lalli Stark

On stairs, back row, left to right: Scott C. Becker, Joseph N. Del Vecchio, Christopher E. Copeland, Brian D. Gwitt, Hon. Tracey Bannister, Brendan J. Rich, Andrea Schillaci and Marc W. Brown

Not pictured: Michael T. Feeley, Jeffrey F. Reina, Amy P. Herstek, Pietra G. Lettieri, Ryan J. Mills and Tiffany R. Perry

Hon. Lenora B. Foote-Beavers '97 elected president

Hon. Lenora B. Foote-Beavers '97 has been elected 2014–15 president of the SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association. Judge Foote-Beavers is a support magistrate for Erie County Family Court, where she hears and decides child and spousal support petitions as well as paternity cases. Previously, she served as the first Save Our Streets coordinator for the City of Buffalo, as assistant corporation counsel under Mayor Anthony Masiello, and as general counsel for the City of Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency under Mayor Byron Brown. She is also a paralegal instructor at Bryant & Stratton College.

Robert P. Heary '91 of Hiscock & Barclay is the new president-elect. Vice presi-

dents are: Hon. Tracey Bannister '84 of New York State Supreme Court; Scott C. Becker '93 of Kavinoky Cook; Marc W. Brown '99 of Goldberg Segalla; Joseph N. Del Vecchio '96 of National Fuel Resources; and Mary Pat Enright Fleming '85 of the United States Attorney's Office.

Treasurer is Pietra G. Lettieri '01 of Harris Beach; assistant treasurer is Brian D. Gwitt '98 of Damon Morey; secretary is Amy Herstek '04 of PCB Piezotronics; assistant secretary is Jeffrey F. Reina '99; and secretary emerita is Marion K. Henderson '65, retired.

Immediate past president is Terrence M. Gilbride '88 of Hodgson Russ. Vice Dean for Alumni, Public Relations and Communications Ilene R. Fleischmann of SUNY Buffalo Law School continues as executive director. Lisa M. Mueller '93, assistant dean for alumni and communications, serves as assistant director.

New directors elected for terms ending in 2017 are Beverley S. Braun '07 of Jaeckle Fleischmann & Muegel; Jaime C. Gallagher '02 of the New York State Liquor Authority; Amy L. Hemenway '01 of Harter Secrest & Emery; Tiffany R. Perry '00 of the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo; Brendan J. Rich '05 of Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman; Pauline Costanzo Will '96 of Bennett Schecter Arcuri & Will; and Preston L. Zarlock '92 of Phillips Lytle.

Other directors include: Christopher E. Copeland '02 of M&T Bank; Michael T. Feeley '92 of Rupp, Baase, Pfalzgraf, Cunningham & Coppola; Melissa A. Foti '03 of Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak; Anne E. Joynt '05 of Lipsitz & Ponterio; Thomas F. Knab '88 of Underberg & Kessler; Ryan J. Mills '03 of Schnitter Ciccarelli Mills; Joseph D. Morath '05 of Connors & Vilarado; Paulette E. Ross '97 of Gibson, McAskill & Crosby; Stephanie A. Saunders '00 of the Law Office of Stephanie A. Saunders; Andrea Schillaci '82 of Hurwitz & Fine; Stephen A. Sharkey '88 of Bond, Schoeneck & King; Sheldon K. Smith '01 of Nixon Peabody; and Linda Lalli Stark '84 of the Law Office of H. Jeffrey Marcus.



Hon. Lenora B. Foote-Beavers '97



Front row, left to right: Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor Luis E. Chiesa, Executive Director and Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann, Kerisha H. Hawthorne, Assistant Director Pat Warrington and Teia M. Bui

Second row, left to right: Ryan P. Crawford, Shatorah N. Roberson and GOLD Group President Kevin J. Espinosa

Third row, left to right: Seth D. Pullen, Frank H. Ewing and Christopher S. Safulko

On stairs, left to right: James M. O'Keefe, Michael E. Reyen, Patricia C. Sandison, Bradley S. Loliger, Joshua E. Dubs, Ryan K. Parisi, Jeffrey P. Gleason, Marnie E. Smith, Paul C. Parisi, Thomas M. Gordon, Royston A. Mendonza and Elizabeth Blazey-Pennel

Not pictured: Stephanie J. Calhoun, Kathleen T. Feroletto, Jeffrey T. Fiut, Michael J. Hecker, Elizabeth A. Lee and Melissa M. Morton

2014–15 GOLD Group leadership named

Officers and directors of the Law Alumni Association's GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group, an arm of the Association focused on organizing educational, social and networking opportunities to assist recent graduates as they transition from student to attorney, were elected to lead the Law School's 2,454 young attorneys.

Kevin J. Espinosa '09 of M&T Bank will serve as 2014-15 GOLD Group president. President-elect is Michael J. Hecker '09 of Hodgson Russ. Immediate past president is Teia Marie Bui '08 of Clover Group; treasurer is Joshua E. Dubs '08 of the Law Offices of Joshua E. Dubs; treasurer-elect is Jeffrey T. Fiut '10 of Hodgson Russ; secretary is Seth D. Pullen '09 of Biltelkoff & Pullen; and secretary-elect is Ryan P. Crawford '06 of Gibson, McAskill & Crosby. Patricia L. Warrington of SUNY Buffalo Law School serves as assistant director.



Kevin J. Espinosa '09

Other GOLD Group directors include: Elizabeth Blazey-Pennel '11 of the Internal Revenue Service; Stephanie J. Calhoun '08 of the New York State Attorney General's Office; Frank H. Ewing '12 of M&T Bank; Kathleen T. Feroletto '11 of Brown & Kelly; Jeffrey P. Gleason '08 of Damon Morey; Thomas M. Gordon '05 of Gross, Shuman, Brizdle & Gilfillan; Kerisha Hawthorne '14 of the UB Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program; Elizabeth A. Lee '14 of Rupp, Baase, Pfalzgraf, Cunningham & Coppola; Bradley S. Loliger '13 of Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled, or Disadvantaged of Western New York; Melissa M. Morton '07 of Gibson, McAskill & Crosby; James M. O'Keefe '07 of The Law Offices of William Mattar; Paul C. Parisi '06 of the Erie County District Attorney's Office; Ryan K. Parisi '10 of the Niagara County District Attorney's Office; Michael E. Reyen '09 of Hodgson

Russ; Shatorah N. Roberson '12 of Budde and Roberson Attorneys-at-Law; Christopher S. Safulko '13 of Chelus, Herdzik, Speyer & Monte; and Marnie E. Smith '09 of Harris Beach.

Chairs of the Association's regional alumni chapters include: Rachel P. Ainspan '12 of the New York State Legislative Bill Drafting Commission and Kevin M. Grossman '04 of the New York State Governor's Office of Employee Relations, co-chairs of the Albany Chapter; Sam M. Tamburo '68 of the Law Office of Sam M. Tamburo, chair of the Central New York Chapter; Robert J. Gutowski '99 of MSCI Inc., chair of the New York City Chapter; Penny A. Dentinger '04 of Xerox Corp. and Wende J. Knapp '10 of Xerox Corp., co-chairs of the Rochester Chapter; and Kenneth A. Libby '85 of the Federal Trade Commission, chair of the Washington, D.C., Chapter.

The time is now to earn your

LAW SCHOOL PROGRESS REPORT

NAME _____

QUARTER _____

Scholarships _____

Faculty Research _____

Hands-on Learning _____

Technology _____

Comments:

First Quarter
Campaign Goal: \$30 Million

Second Quarter
Progress to date: \$23 Million

Third Quarter
Projected progress in
2 year period: \$7 Million

Fourth Quarter
Shows great promise to meet the goal of
raising \$7 Million in the next
two years. Will require hard
work. Need generous support
from alumni and friends to
reach our goal.

H = Honor Roll, and we give credit where credit is due.
When you donate to the Annual Fund, you donate to the
Campaign and are listed in the Law School's Honor Roll.
This is the perfect time to earn your "H" and make a
difference to the future of SUNY Buffalo Law!

You can designate where you would like your donation
to go, or let it be used where it is needed most.

**We have two years left in the
Campaign and \$7 million to go.
Help us surpass our goal!**

Every dollar pledged to the Law School Annual
Fund counts toward the Campaign goal.

Make your gifts in the future count now!

Please consider making a multi-year pledge.
Every dollar you pledge today can be counted
towards the Campaign goal, even if you pay off
the pledge over a number of years. Because you
pledge to pay that amount, we know that we can
count on it! Invest in the future of SUNY Buffa-
lo Law School.

Our national co-chairs



**Ann E.
Evanko '79**
Buffalo



**Lawrence M.
Spaccasi '87**
Washington,
D.C.



**Neil E.
Botwinoff '82**
New York City

Ways to Give

By Phone

Please call (716) 645-2109.

Online

Make a secure transaction with your credit card at
www.law.buffalo.edu/giving.

By Mail

Make your check payable to "UB Foundation – Law School" and
send to UB Foundation Inc.,
P.O. Box 730, Buffalo, NY 14226-0730

Questions?

Contact Lucy Dadd at (716) 645-2113
or ladadd@buffalo.edu.

Rochester Alumni Chapter's Annual Summer Social at the Genesee Brew House
Aug. 14, 2014

Left to right:
Lawrence K.
Bice '12,
Andrew
Kleehammer
'12 and
Robert C.
Brucato Jr.
'90



Left to right: Rochester Chapter Co-Chair
Penny A. Dentinger '04, Ninteretse Jean
Pierre '16 and Laura A. Myers '05



Rochester CLE & Reception at Nixon Peabody LLP
May 1, 2014



Hon. Stephen K. Lindley '89 (center) with newly
admitted attorneys (left to right): Kimberly A.
Rowles '13, Amber J. Diem '13, Adam R. Durst '13
and Tyler M. Ellis '13

Alumni connections across the nation

THE WIDE ANGLE

For more photos, visit www.law.buffalo.edu/forum/extra

**Rochester Judiciary
Reception for Incoming Students**
Aug. 21, 2014



**D.C. Alumni Steering Committee
Summer Lunch with Students**
July 30, 2014



Left to right: Christopher R. Moran '11,
Sada Manickam '96, Chapter Chair Kenneth
A. Libby '85, Michael J. Surgalla Jr. '82, Alicia
R. Stone '92 and Alexandra Verdi '16

**NYC Alumni Chapter's Annual
Summer Social at Faces and Names**
August 13, 2014



Regina L. Reading '08, left, and
Lisa J. Brucato '08



Left to right: Samantha Gordon '17, Noreena Chaudari '17,
Hon. Gail A. Donofrio '85, Hon. John J. Ark '72, Hon. Ann Marie
Taddeo '75, Fred J. Infantino '73, Russel Shanahan '17 and
Griffin Dault '17

**GOLD Group CLE & Reception
at Niagara University**
June 11, 2014



Left to right: CLE presenters Chanel T. McCarthy '08,
Jacob A. Piorkowski and Jaime C. Gallagher '02

**GOLD Group/Law Alumni Association
Board of Directors Mixer at Pettibones Grill**
July 30, 2014



Left to right: Marnie E. Smith '09,
Joshua E. Dubs '08, Pietra G.
Lettieri '01 and Assistant
Director Patricia Warrington



Executive
Director
Ilene R.
Fleischmann
and Buster
Bison



Left to right:
Ryan P.
Crawford '06,
Paul C. Parisi
'10 and
GOLD Group
President
Kevin J.
Espinosa '09

Former Dean Wade J. Newhouse Jr. dies at 91



Students recalled a professor with a courtly demeanor and a proponent of the transformative work of lawyers in areas such as education and the civil rights movement.

Wade J. Newhouse Jr., a longtime SUNY Buffalo Law School faculty member and dean of the school from July 1986 to December 1987, passed away on May 21. A resident of Getzville, N.Y., he was 91 years old.

During his tenure as dean, Newhouse reviewed the Law School's administrative structure, using computer technology to improve budget planning, internal operations and record-keeping. He also worked to build

stronger ties between the Law School and its alumni. During his deanship, the school celebrated its 100th anniversary.

But his service to the Law School was not confined to his brief tenure as dean.

The design of John Lord O'Brian Hall in large part reflects his influence. Before its completion and dedication in 1974, Newhouse was the architects' faculty representative for decisions on configuring classrooms, the size of faculty offices and the many other details that characterize the Law School's home. "When you build a law school building, there are all kinds of interests to be satisfied," says emeritus Professor Marjorie Girth. "If he thought it would make the students' experience better and the faculty interaction better, that's what he went for."

Newhouse also served as director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library on three occasions, during one term introducing the Nexis legal research computer program. Additionally, he was director of the Edwin F. Jaekle Center for State and Local Government Law, and served terms as assistant dean in 1961-62 and associate dean from 1966 to 1969.

In 1970, Newhouse worked with Norman Rosenberg '71 to organize a highly successful clinic to help Buffalo public school students claim their due-process rights when they were suspended or expelled from school.

Rosenberg, then an assistant professor at the Law School, recalls, "Before Wade, there was very little attention paid to school law issues. He had this vision about protecting students who were caught up in school disciplinary issues. We built this thing into a very vibrant, very successful enterprise, and it was certainly meaningful to the kids in Buffalo who were in trouble and now had an opportunity to have lawyers represent them and help them through the process. Wade's conviction was that these kids had the right to some contin-

uing education — the schools couldn't just kick them out on the street. He was intellectually and personally committed to this issue."

Girth also points to Newhouse's support for the full and fair inclusion of women at the Law School during the early days of the feminist movement, advocating for female applicants in the admissions process and in hiring faculty members and research assistants.

A Tennessee native (his voice retained a hint of Southern drawl all his life) and a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, Newhouse joined the Buffalo faculty in 1958 after teaching at the law schools of Creighton and Columbia universities.

In Buffalo, students recalled a professor with a courtly demeanor and a proponent of the transformative work of lawyers in areas such as the civil rights movement. "I never saw Professor Newhouse without a suit," says Michael Rosen '94, now a policy adviser in the Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, an arm of the U.S. Treasury Department. "He was just that type of old-school person. He really wanted you to understand the tremendous responsibility that attorneys have to their clients and to these types of issues."

As a scholar, Newhouse focused his research on the legal rights of disabled persons, public employee relations law, and law and public education. He also was called upon to serve on the Fleischmann Commission, a committee to study the quality, cost and financing of public education in New York State. The commission's 1972 report recommended busing to end racial segregation and proposed a state takeover of all public elementary and secondary schools.

The Law School celebrated his service in 1990 when it awarded him its highest honor, the Edwin F. Jaekle Award.



Nathan P. Short '10, Assistant Director for
Career Services Joanna T. McKeegan '10 and
Patrick O'Brien '17

Join your Law Alumni Association today!

No matter where you live or work, your Law Alumni Association can help you meet other alumni in your area, organize events or develop your professional network.

We have regional chapters in the following areas:

Albany, N.Y.

Co-Chairs:
Rachel P. Ainspan '12
NYS Legislative Bill
Drafting
Commission
rachelainspan@
gmail.com

Kevin M.
Grossman '04
NY State Governor's
Office of Employee
Relations
kmg343@gmail.com

Central New York

Chair:
Sam M. Tamburo '68
Law Office of Sam M.
Tamburo
Samdrum@
earthlink.net

New York City

Chair:
Robert J.
Gutowski '99
MSCI Inc.
robert.gutowski@
msci.com

Rochester, N.Y.

Co-Chairs:
Penny A.
Dentinger '04
Xerox Corp., Office of
General Counsel
penny.dentinger@
xerox.com

Wende J. Knapp '10
Xerox Corp., Office of
General Counsel
wende.knapp@
xerox.com

Washington, D.C.

Chair:
Kenneth A. Libby '85
Federal Trade
Commission
klibby@ftc.gov

If you are
interested in
organizing a
chapter in
your area,
contact:



Lisa M. Mueller '93
Assistant Dean for Alumni and
Communications
lmuellder@buffalo.edu

Renew for 2014-15
law.buffalo.edu/alumni

Visit us at www.law.buffalo.edu



SUNY Buffalo Law Forum

Editor:
Ilene R. Fleischmann
fleisch@buffalo.edu

Designer:
John Davis

Cover illustration:
Glynis Sweeny

Photographers:
Janet Charles, Donald Dannecker,
K. C. Kratt, Doug Levere,
Rob McElroy

Mailing address:
SUNY Buffalo Law Forum
310 O'Brien Hall
Buffalo, NY 14260

Follow us on:

facebook facebook.com/ublawn
twitter twitter.com/sunybuffalolaw
LinkedIn law.buffalo.edu/linkedin
YouTube youtube.com/ublawnschool
flickr flickr.com/ublawn



Send your class notes to Cynthia Watts Rogers
at clwatts@buffalo.edu for inclusion in our
online newsletter, SUNY Buffalo Law Links.
Send your comments or suggestions to Ilene R.
Fleischmann at fleisch@buffalo.edu.

SUNY BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL
JOHN LORD O'BRIAN HALL
BUFFALO, NY 14260-1100
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO NY
PERMIT NO. 311

*Mingle with, ask questions of and learn from
nationally relevant players in your own back yard ...*

Civil Justice Symposium 2014:

Recent Developments in Tort Law and Practice

*An all-day conference kicks off with a morning
keynote address by renowned attorney
Kenneth R. Feinberg, who will deliver the
Lippes Lecture, Monday, Oct. 6, 2014,
8:30 a.m., at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.*

*The Lippes Lecture, titled "Settlements and
Compensation Funds," is free and open to the
public, with prior registration.*

*The conference, featuring nationally
prominent judges and attorneys, will follow
and includes 4.5 non-transitional CLE credits,
Continental breakfast, lunch and a cocktail re-
ception for \$125 (\$100 for paid members of the
SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association).*

*For more information and to register for the
lecture and/or conference, visit:*

www.law.buffalo.edu/torts-law14



Photo by Matthew Worden/Washingtonian

The Lippes speaker, **Kenneth R. Feinberg**, is an attorney who has overseen the administration of compensation funds established on behalf of the victims of the 9/11 World Trade Center attack, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Boston Marathon bombing, and several other high-profile mass disasters and mass torts.

The Lippes Lecture is co-sponsored by SUNY Buffalo Law School and the University at Buffalo School of Management