

S U M M E R / F A L L 2 0 1 8

UB LAW *f*ORUM

The Magazine of the University at Buffalo School of Law

The State University of New York



UB SCHOOL OF LAW *responds*

RECOGNIZING NEED
AND TAKING ACTION

S U M M E R / F A L L 2 0 1 8

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

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University at Buffalo
School of Law

On the cover:

Our Puerto Rico Recovery Assistance
Legal Clinic providing legal and
humanitarian aid.

Photo by Tuty Feliciano

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A MESSAGE FROM DEAN AVIVA ABRAMOVSKY



Bold participation, bright future

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Dean's Suite! Throughout my first full year as dean, I have been humbled by the warm welcome I have received. I have met thousands of alumni, learned your stories and formed new partnerships. The many meetings, collaborations and brainstorming sessions have already led to a variety of exciting new initiatives, several of which are highlighted in this issue.

It is clear to me that **the UB School of Law Community cares deeply and works hard.** That ethic is evident in the compassion and commitment of the student attorneys in our clinics (p. 12-14), and in the access to justice work done by our pro bono scholars (p. 10-11). It is clear from the work of our faculty and staff as they implement new paths to careers in law (p. 6-8), and expand the avenues to pursue a law degree (p. 4-5).

This community recognizes need, seizes opportunity and takes action.

It has been no surprise to me that each of you reflects those same ideals, stepping up and stepping forward time after time. When Hurricane Maria caused great devastation to Puerto Rico creating a need for legal assistance, you paid travel expenses to send our clinic students to the island. Proving that we live our values, you supported the sixth season of Discover Law. As a result, 18 bright and talented undergraduates of color learned that they can succeed and thrive at our law school. And when we asked for assistance in expanding our mentoring and career placement efforts, you volunteered your time and talent, resulting in nearly an **11% increase in our student placement rate at the time of graduation.**

Your response has been genuine and continuous, and we could not be more grateful. Thank you for all that you do for our law school. Together our future is **bold and bright.**

With great appreciation,

Aviva Abramovsky

Here

IS HOW



YOU'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Our **6th** season
of Discover Law

55
named scholarships
for promising new
students

10
clinic students
traveled to Puerto Rico
to provide legal
assistance

Nearly
11% increase in
our placement rate at
the time of graduation

... and so much more!

UB LAW *responds:*

Diversity in the profession

“...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.” The final words of the Pledge of Allegiance reflect the spirit of the legal profession – a justice system that reflects the American melting pot. Progress toward that ideal has been inconsistent: Minority lawyers now make up 16 percent of law firms but only 9 percent of partners in the U.S.* Here is how the UB School of Law community is working to make a difference.

→ **New director to expand our focus on diversity and inclusion**

The School of Law’s continuing effort to enhance our diverse and welcoming community took another step forward with the appointment of **Kendra N. Cadogan** as director of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Cadogan most recently served as an academic adviser and coordinator for the Daniel V. Acker Scholars Program, for gifted undergraduate students of color at the University at Buffalo. In that capacity, she created an intensive orientation program to acclimate students from diverse and underrepresented communities to UB’s campus.

Her role at the School of Law affects all members of our law school community. “Kendra is working with community partners, University departments, and with law administration, faculty and students to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in our community,” said **Dean Aviva Abramovsky**. “She will also work to continue UB Law’s award-winning Discover Law program.”

“This is a position that will touch students across the spectrum,” says **Bernadette Gargano**, vice dean for student affairs. “We want to continue to focus on our pipeline to law school programs in order to increase diversity in the profession as a whole, to increase diversity within our own communities including first-generation college students and students of color, and to make sure we keep inclusion and equity as a main focus throughout the school.”

Cadogan earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at UB, her B.A. in psychology and sociology, and a master of education degree.



Q&A WITH KENDRA

Your job title includes responsibility for diversity, equity and inclusion. How do you define each of these in relation to the law school?

Diversity refers to the entire range of human difference, from race and socioeconomic status to gender, nationality, age, gender identity, religion and sexual orientation. Law schools benefit from having a wide range of diversity among faculty, students and staff, because the diversity of the larger society is reflected, and when students go out into the world they’re better prepared to practice and to effect change. Equity refers to treating people fairly across differences so that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed. And inclusion is about making a deliberate effort to ensure that differences aren’t just tolerated but actively included and welcomed. It’s about creating an environment where everyone feels respected.

Up to now, you’ve mostly worked with undergraduate programs. What’s different about doing this work in a graduate school environment?

The biggest difference in a professional school is a greater range of ages. Graduate students tend to be a bit older and a little more settled with respect to their professional goals. The biggest difference here is the opportunity to work really closely with more faculty on these issues. In this position, I have the opportunity to effect change on a larger scale.

How focused on diversity is the law school’s student body, staff and faculty now?

The School of Law is definitely on the right track. During my interview process, one thing that I really appreciated was how many faculty members, staff members and students came to the interview and wanted to ask questions and be involved. It was clear that this is a school that is committed to looking at any areas in which more work

*Based on 2017 data collected by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association.

“ Inclusion is about making a deliberate effort to ensure that differences aren't just tolerated but actively included and welcomed. It's about creating an environment where everyone feels respected. ”

– Kendra N. Cadogan, director of diversity, equity and inclusion

can be done and then bringing resources to bear on those areas. People are very collaborative here, and I've had so many people reach out to me.

You've developed assessment tools in this area and used data to drive decision-making about programs. Why this focus on data analytics?

The idea is to use different kinds of assessments, both quantitative and qualitative, to get a snapshot of where we are, always with the idea that there's a certain place we want to be. The numbers don't necessarily tell the whole story, but they indicate where we need to initiate change. The community is always changing, and every year there's a new class, so you have to assess continuously. This allows you to revise where necessary and monitor those benchmarks.

You are carrying forward the highly successful Discover Law program for promising students of color. What's the status of funding for that program, and why is the law school so committed to it?

This year we were very lucky to receive a President's Circle grant from UB, and individual donors and big firms also made contributions that allowed us to host this summer's session.

We are now focused on raising the funds needed for next summer's session. It's so important to the School of Law because it's a proven step to increasing the number of underrepresented people in the profession, period. That's why people are so passionate about it.

How can alumni help?

I'm a UB graduate, and I know what a close-knit community Buffalo is. Alumni are our most important asset and resource. They've been so generous across the board, willing to mentor our students, willing to volunteer and give back, and we need them to continue to do those things.



Interested in supporting next year's Discover Law program?

Contact **Karen Kaczmarzski '89**, Vice Dean for Advancement at (716) 645-2109 or krkacz@buffalo.edu.



Left to right: Natalia Marte '19, Destiny M. Johnson '20, Donell L. Gibson, Jr. '18, Dwight D. Jackson '20 and Tiffany J. Barlow

Hub of activity

A busy and productive year for the Black Law Students Association

Reaching up, reaching back and reaching out, our Black Law Students Association is expanding its influence with a series of initiatives to support current students and encourage young people of color to consider law as a profession.

“We wanted to become a *thing*,” says **Donell L. Gibson Jr. '18**, BLSA's president this past year. “The perception of our chapter, even from some of our members, was that we were simply a student club. We wanted to highlight the fact that we're much more than that and we serve a much larger purpose.”

Toward that end, the group sponsored an impressive series of activities both on campus and beyond. They included:

- BLSA entered a four-person team in a mock trial competition sponsored by the Northeast Region of the National Black Law Students Association. The competition was held in conjunction with the region's annual convention in Albany in January, and a contingent of UB students, including the mock trial participants, made the trip. Financial support was provided by attorney **John Elmore** and the law firm Harris Beach, PLLC.

“This is new, our involvement at the wider level,” says Gibson, who notes that the national organization has nearly 6,000 members nationwide and has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. He served as treasurer of the Northeast Region, and BLSA vice president **Natalia Marte '19** has been elected chair of the region, with a

HUB OF ACTIVITY: Continued on Page 5

UB LAW *responds:* DIVERSITY IN THE PROFESSION



Left to right: Myrabel N'guessan-Gbe, Amber Levias, Jailene Peralta, Hagir Elzin, Aristotle Copeland, Brooklyn Crockton, Zaiya Dillon, Maria Paulino, Princella McCullough, Bianca Munoz, Magi Aziz, Alonni Reid, Victoria Grant Yim, Iris Guzman, Jeremie Gashindi, Makayla Ashe, Enoch Ofori and Taylor Weatherspoon

Sixth season of **DISCOVER LAW**

Discover Law aims to address a continuing challenge for law schools and the legal profession: how to attract and retain talented and diverse applicants and help them succeed in law school and in practice.

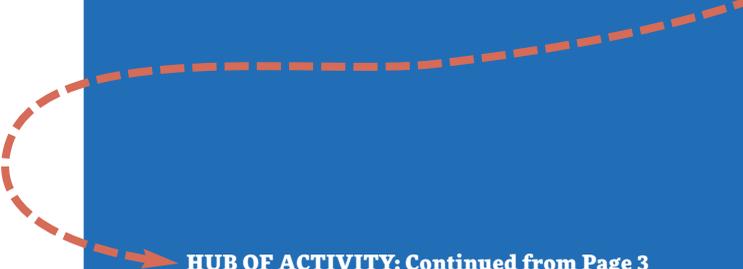
An innovation that has become a tradition – the School of Law's Discover Law program for promising undergraduates of color – celebrated its sixth season in June. Discover Law aims to address a continuing challenge for law schools and the legal profession: how to attract and retain talented and diverse applicants and help them succeed in law school and in practice. Advocates call it a pipeline program, because it seeks to increase the pool of potential law students of color.

"Everyone's reasons for wanting to join the legal profession are different," notes **Kendra Cadogan**, UB School of Law's director of diversity, equity and inclusion, who oversees the program. "Typically students say, 'I really want to go to law school, and I know this program will give me the tools I need to be a successful applicant and to graduate.'"

Eighteen students participated in the program. Many were from New York State, mostly from Western New York and New



Discover Law Scholar Enoch Ofori with Stephanie A. Saunders '00


HUB OF ACTIVITY: Continued from Page 3

York City, but there were also students from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Mississippi. They will be college sophomores, juniors and seniors this fall, but for the month of June they experienced the life of a law student, living on campus and taking courses taught by law school professors and instructors.

And they had their work cut out for them. Topics ranged from property to contracts to constitutional law, with a heavy emphasis on legal research and writing, and the skills of oral advocacy. Other classes addressed the practicalities of navigating the law school admissions process and preparing for the LSAT. Students also got out of the classroom to see the justice system in action, including touring the Erie County Holding Center and local law firms.

Discover Law was initiated in 2012 with funding from the Law School Admissions Council, but that initial grant has run out and it's now entirely funded by donors. "Without the generosity of our donors and campus partners, we would not be able to offer this program," Cadogan says. "We're always looking for diverse students and community partners who want to diversify their firm and the legal profession in general. With donor support, we pay for all of the costs associated with housing, room and board, classes and transportation in Western New York. The students are only responsible for their transportation to UB and back home."

It is an opportunity for the participants to experience the value of a UB School of Law education and the warmth of the law school's community. "Our vision is that Discover Law will be a feeder program for the law school," says Cadogan.

Those who have survived the rigors of the program can be its biggest advocates. Case in point: **Ninteretse Jean Pierre**, who was part of the inaugural Discover Law class, went on to graduate from UB School of Law in 2016 and now handles commercial real estate transactions at the law firm Nixon Peabody.

On a personal level, Jean Pierre says, Discover Law "was really a turning point for me. It gave me the information I needed to get through law school – an understanding of the kind and amount of work and preparation it would take. The intensity of the program prepared me, so in that first week of law school, when everyone was shocked that we had 100 pages of close reading to do, I wasn't surprised at all."

“Discover Law provides a unique opportunity for minority students by exposing them to the rigors of law school during their undergraduate years. As a legal community, we all benefit from the program as its often sparks interest in the legal profession in talented students who otherwise may have never dreamed of practicing law.” ”

– **Stephanie A. Saunders '00**

seat on the wider organization's national board.

- Marte organized a full-day academic retreat in October at Syracuse University Law School, educating students from UB, Syracuse, Cornell and Albany about the nuts and bolts of succeeding in law school and beyond: outlining a case, taking tests, building a resume, shining in a job interview. Of special interest: honest talk about how to navigate law school as a black student. "That's a conversation we don't always feel comfortable having," Marte says. "It was a great space for us to finally talk among each other about our experiences."

- BLSA resurrected a local moot court competition for undergraduate students of color. Sixteen students from UB and Buffalo State College competed in two-person teams, coached by practicing attorneys or recent UB School of Law graduates. They also hosted a workshop to teach participants some of the skills of oral advocacy. In partnership with the Minority Bar Foundation, BLSA was able to award scholarship prizes to the top three teams.

- Seeking to grow the pool of potential candidates to enter the profession, BLSA also established a UB undergraduate pre-law chapter. That group now has its own board and organizational structure, and is helping undergrads of color to imagine the possibilities for a life in the law.

- Reaching even further back, Marte ran an after-school program for potential lawyers at Math Science Technology Preparatory School, a public high school on Buffalo's East Side. She gave students short but dense passages and taught them how to read critically and analytically, even putting them on the spot with a little Socratic-method questioning. "I wanted to let them know that this was the experience in law school," she says. "They knew they had to be prepared." BLSA members also visited to talk to the students about getting into college and law school.

- For their peers at UB Law, the BLSA members reached out with support and encouragement. Each member of the organization's executive board mentored a fellow student in his or her critical first year. They urged BLSA members to get involved in the Student Bar Association and the *Buffalo Law Review*. "We wanted to be a resource for our members," Gibson says. "Students of color face unique challenges; it can get tough. It helps to talk to someone who looks like you and who is facing the same challenges."

UB LAW *responds:*

Opening doors to law

More than ever, the world needs the guidance of skilled, compassionate advocates. UB School of Law has responded to that need with programs like Discover Law, as well as a series of new undergraduate initiatives to encourage a legal career. The goal is to seek out talented young scholars and to help them imagine the purpose and passion of a life in the law.



says, could include careers in such fields as engineering, business management, human resources and regulatory compliance. The minor will also include experiential and practical courses, Milles says, so students develop skills such as drafting legal documents, as well as understanding how law functions in society.

He says the undergraduate courses will likely have a different format for grading – more assessments throughout the semester, not so much weight on the final exam. Another difference: Because some of these classes are expected to be large, the instructors will have teaching assistants, an employment opportunity for law students.

The new minor comes as the School of Law seeks formal approval from the State University of New York and the American Bar Association for an undergraduate major in law, which it hopes to begin in fall 2019. That would make UB just the second law school in the nation, besides the University of Arizona, to offer an undergraduate degree in law.

Professor Matthew Steilen, who initially headed the faculty-staff committee that considered developing the undergraduate program, says the idea had existed for some time and was revisited as part of the law school's strategic planning process.

"There's a lot of excitement about this particular degree program," Steilen says. The 10-person committee reached out to lawyers, business executives and other stakeholders in organizations where legal expertise comes into play, and those inquiries were met with tremendous interest.

And the faculty share in the enthusiasm. "Our faculty has

unique talents and academic interests," says Steilen. "We have faculty who have taught undergraduates, and a large number with doctorates in areas other than law. So I was excited about finding a way to bring some of that knowledge to undergraduates, in a package that would give them strong job prospects as part of their study of law."

"They can major in a number of other things, but the idea is to add some strength in legal knowledge for anyone in any career where legal knowledge would be useful."

– **Professor James Milles**, Director of Undergraduate Education



The School of Law is taking its first steps this fall toward entering the world of undergraduate education, with the introduction of a minor in law for UB students.

Undergrads will take Introduction to the American Legal System, Public Law and Sports Law in the fall semester, and three more courses will be offered in the spring, including Common Law. All will be taught by UB School of Law faculty and adjunct instructors.

The minor designation, says **Professor James Milles**, who directs the program, is a way for interested students to deepen their understanding of the legal system.

"They can major in a number of other things, but the idea is to add some strength in legal knowledge for anyone in any career where legal knowledge would be useful," Milles says. That, he

→ New UNDERGRADUATE MINOR broadens our reach

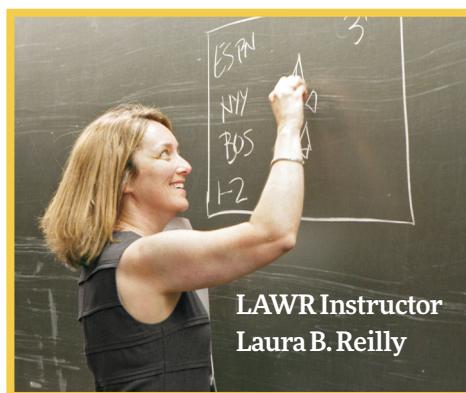


The FAST TRACK to law school through our new accelerated B.A./J.D. programs

Whether they're concerned about their college debt load, dead-set on a legal career or just in a hurry to get their education finished, some undergraduate students have a new option for making their way to UB School of Law.

The school's newly established 3+3 accelerated B.A./J.D. program, a partnership with four colleges, allows committed undergraduates to start law school in what would otherwise be their senior year at college. Credits earned in their 1L year are counted toward both their bachelor's degree and the Juris Doctor.

It's a way for talented students to save themselves (or their parents) a year's worth of undergraduate tuition and expenses, while also encouraging students to start thinking about law school early in their college career. The law school application process is the same – they'll need an LSAT score at or above the median for last year's entering class, a GPA of 3.5 or better, letters of recommendation and a personal essay – but successful applicants will become a part of the UB School



LAWWR Instructor
Laura B. Reilly

of Law community earlier than their college peers.

Laura Reilly, who teaches in the Legal Analysis, Writing and Research program, serves as point person for this initiative. She says initial inquiries were made to the School of Law's top 25 "feeder" institutions, and four have signed on already: St. John Fisher College near Rochester, LeMoyne College in Syracuse, Medaille College in Buffalo, and several departments in UB's College of Arts and Sciences, including Sociology, Philosophy, History and Political Science.

"From our vantage point, the students are coming in like any other 1L students," Reilly says. "The heavy push is really on our undergraduate partners to make sure the students have completed all the requirements needed." The 3+3 model, she says, has become increasingly popular nationwide.

Lindsay Gladney, vice dean for admissions, says she has seen "a lot of interest in this program up front. It's going to help us narrow in on individuals who have Buffalo at the very top of their list, get them here early, expose them to our community

and allow us to nurture those relationships."

From the undergraduate institutions' perspective, it might seem like the main result is losing a year's tuition revenue. But Reilly points out that the availability of the program is a great recruiting tool and might draw some students to the college in the first place.

"This program is very compelling, since it creates a direct path from an undergraduate career at Fisher to one of the most attractive law schools in the state," says **Dr. Wesley Renfro**, chair of the legal studies and political science programs at St. John Fisher. "This partnership gives our students access to a rigorous and widely known law school with broad and deep connections in Western New York and beyond. Our students will benefit greatly from the legal education they receive at the University at Buffalo as well as opportunities for professional growth and networking."

As the program gears up, Reilly is planning more marketing efforts to potential students, as well as programs tailored to undergraduates who have enrolled in the 3+3 program. She says that might include LSAT preparation and seminars on writing the required personal statement; or invitations to sit in on School of Law classes and to come to networking events.

"This is not an easy ask for these students," Reilly says. "They're flying past their classmates; sometimes they are taking courses out of sequence to meet the requirements. We want them to know that they're not doing it alone."

UB LAW *responds:* OPENING DOORS TO LAW



Undergraduate interns Natassia Tuhovak (left) and Philomena Burger (right).

VITAL WORK on their way to law school

The School of Law's thriving clinical legal education program has expanded its reach – and cultivated some potential new law students in the process. Two talented undergraduates interned in our clinics this summer under the supervision of **Kim Diana Connolly**, director of clinical legal education, and clinic staff and summer law students.

"These undergraduate students came in highly recommended by their own institutions," Connolly says. "The clinical program welcomed them and provided them with an opportunity to investigate their interest in becoming a lawyer.

"These are two amazing young people who experienced firsthand what's going on with our legal clients. They read documents, attended meetings, did research, and saw what it's like to interact with legal clients. We showed them what we do as lawyers, and shared our excitement about what we do in the clinics."

POWERING education

Alumni support is critical to keeping law school affordable. These students are the grateful recipients of scholarships funded by UB School of Law alumni – fostering new legal talent.

Scholarships awarded 2017-18

Alden-Baldy Scholarship

James. L. Harrington '19
Brian D. Mazurowski '18
Crystal M. Melvin '19
Jonathan J. Reyes '19

Varkis A. Baligian & Hon. Jacqueline M. Koshian Scholarship

Katelyn M. Gindele '19

Henry W. Box Scholarship

Kapila Kapoor '20
Meghan L. McElligott '20
Chloe Jane Nowak '20

The Alan Carrel Award

Katelyn M. Gindele '19
Carolyn E. Grennell '19
Katrina M. Loss '19

Ross M. and Jeanette E. Cellino Scholarship

Ashley Rose Jindra '20

Class of 1966 Award

Breanna C. Reilly '19

Anthony J. Colucci Jr., Esq. '58 Law Review Scholarship

Joshua D. Mertzlufft '18

Charlotte Cuneen- Hackett Scholarship

Erin Elizabeth Killian '20

Charles Dautch Memorial Award

Sarah E. Honan '20

Harold A. Dautch Memorial Scholarship

Laura A. Godly '18
Jason M. Gunning '18
Emilie E. Ronald '19

Diversity Scholarship

Spencer R. Stresing '19
Jacob C. Umoke '19
Amanda Blum '19

Charles and Patty Donegan Scholarship

Kevin L. Southern '19

Frederick C. Ebert Scholarship

Jason Michael
Gunning '18

Hon. John T. Elfvin Scholarship

Chad A. Davenport '18

Richard J. Evans Scholarship in Memory of Morris and Adeline Evans

Caitlin M. Beck '20
Destiny M. Johnson '20

Martin A. Feinrider Scholarship

Alexandra S. Balmer '19

Ellen and Kenneth Forrest Scholarship

Brendan F. Conley '18
Jacob R. Sikora '18



“The three of us are very proud to be graduates of UB School of Law. This institution provided a well-rounded education that allowed us to be gainfully employed upon graduation. We want to share the wealth of what UB law can offer by providing this scholarship.” — Elizabeth M. Savino '92 with her daughter, Emma M. Savino '18, and husband, William F. Savino '75

Gold Group Scholarship

Peter J. Farruggia '20
Pia Perfetto '19

Edith and David Goldstein Award

Colleen A. Roberts '19

Richard E. Gottlieb Scholarship

Megan Connolly '20
James J. Dawson '18

Graduating Class Gift Scholarship

Kristen R. Spulecki '19

Philomena Burger, a rising sophomore at the University of Chicago, was a full-time intern in the Environmental Advocacy Clinic, where she worked on issues of water quality in the City of Buffalo and helping with follow-up on Puerto Rico relief efforts.

As a biology major, she says, "I don't get the chance to read things about the current world and the people within it. I find researching the disparity of clean water among low-income households and the lack of basic resources in Puerto Rico, to this day, so saddening, but fascinating. The first step of making a difference is knowing and understanding the problem."

Burger says working in the clinic has confirmed her interest in environmental work. "I want to go to law school and later find a job where I can work on environmental policy and advocacy," she says. "There are so many issues facing the environment right now, and a lot of people are ignorant to them."

Her fellow intern, **Natassia Tuhovak**, is a rising senior at

Canisius College, where she studies animal behavior, communication studies and political science. She interned 10 hours a week in the Animal Law Clinic.

One practical benefit was learning to use Law Library databases to research case law – a skill she'll need in law school. In addition, she says, sitting in on a monthly conference call among the directors of the seven animal law clinics nationwide has been a great experience. "I got to hear some exciting updates on what each professor has been working on to help animals, and it was rewarding to see animal law actually being implemented," Tuhovak says. "It was great to make some connections with people in the animal law field and to hear about all they have accomplished."

Hon. Samuel L. Green '67 Award Fund

Andre Mangongo '20

Professor William R. Greiner Scholarship

Meghan R. Zickl '20

Stanley Grossman Scholarship

Chelsea M. Bliss '20
Cassandra L. McCormick '20

Pamela and Robert Heilman Scholarship

Gina M. Piva '20
Abisha Vijayashanthar '20

Jacob D. Hyman Scholarship

Joshua D. Mertaluff '18
Carolyn J. Lavin '19
Melissa J. Kathan '19
Molly F. Spakowski '19

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

Nicholas D. Winkley '19

Norman B. Lewis Scholarship

Jack A. Bargnesi '20
Eliza Jean Frank '20

Lipsitz Green Scime & Cambria Scholarship

Emily G. Sauers '19

Joseph G. Mari Scholarship

Elizabeth R. David '19

James M. McMahon Memorial Scholarship

Eric R. Duncan '19

Ira S. Meiselman Scholarship

Serena E. Mott '20
Christine M. Naassana '20

Adelbert Moot Scholarship

Michael R. Bombard '18
Nicole L. Przespo '18
Matthew D. Medoff '18
John T. Murray '18

Albert Eli Moss Scholarship

Joseph C. Crozier '19

Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize

Deonna M. Jones '19

William M. and Carolyn B. North Scholarship

Sarah M. Grimaldi '20

Dr. Karen P. O'Connor Scholarship

Lindsey M. Johnson '19

Gerard J. O'Brien '52 Trial Excellence Scholarship

Benjamin F. Macaluso '18

Joseph P. Peperone Memorial Scholarship

William J. Gerken '19
Jordan D. Magil '18
James L. Harrington '19

Phillips Lytle Diversity Scholarship

Katherine T. McCarley '20

Thomas A. and Billie Davis Rodenberg Scholarship

Dwight D. Jackson '20

Henry Rose Book Scholarship

Philip C. Barth '18

Hon. Eugene W. Salisbury Scholarship

Jacqueline A. Carosa '19

Savino-Martin Scholarship

Chad Bryan Milbrandt '19

Barbara L. Schifeling '84 Scholarship

Jia Liu Passucci '20

Matthew J. Schnirel Scholarship

Jordan N. Sieracki '18

Phyllis G. Smith Scholarship

Nicholas J. Frandsen '20
Ember K. Holmes '18
Kelly M. Johnson '19

Frederick W. Steinberg Scholarship

Orlando H. Dickson '19

Carmen P. Tarantino Memorial Scholarship

Chloe Jane Nowak '20

Hon. Michael A. Telesca Scholarship

Nicole L. Przespo '18

Hon. Robert Foster Thompson Memorial Scholarship

Joseph C. Crozier '19

University at Buffalo Buffalo Law Alumni Scholarship

Tyleana Venable '18
Abisha Vijayashanthar '20
Joshua S. Wallace '19

University at Buffalo Law School Scholarship

William J. Gerken '19
Hillary E. Panek '19
Colleen A. Roberts '19
Emily G. Sauers '19

Candace and James Vogel Book Scholarship

Ankita Vaid '19

Lawrence H. Wagner Scholarship

Eric T. Weyand '18

Jacob Weissfeld Scholarship

Hillary E. Panek '19

Christopher A. and Diane L. Wightman Scholarship

Donell L. Gibson '18

Brent L. Wilson Scholarship

Jordan N. Sieracki '18

Margaret W. Wong Scholarship

Christopher R. Bitar '18
Yik Cheng '18

UB LAW *responds:*

--- Providing access to justice

UB-trained lawyers come out of law school with a deep understanding of the need for excellent pro bono service, and a commitment to using their knowledge to promote positive change and access to justice. That attitude grows in our clinics serving those in need, as well as in the pro bono service done by our student attorneys. And their commitment will last a lifetime.

→ PRO BONO SCHOLARS take the lead on championing justice

There are wins. There are win-wins. UB School of Law's pro bono scholars program, though, is a win-win-win.

For the students accepted into the program, they can hone their practice-ready skills working full time during their last semester of law school – not to mention taking the bar exam early, in February.

For the nonprofit and government employers they work for, the students provide welcome assistance with often crushing caseloads.

And for low-income individuals caught up in the justice system, the pro bono scholars are often a lifeline when they need it most.

The law school's six pro bono scholars this year – part of a statewide program – were employed "doing very diverse things, everything from housing and banking to criminal public defense work to family and elder law," says **Melinda Saran** (inset), vice dean for social justice initiatives, who oversees the program at the law school and teaches the associated seminar course. "It takes a special person to say, 'I'm going to do this in my last semester and not take regular classes and hang out with my friends.' They give up their spring vacations. But they become attorneys, and it helps them bridge the gap between book knowledge and practice while providing another set of hands at legal services agencies."

Historically, Saran says, about half of the law school's pro bono scholars have gone on to work in public interest settings, and half have joined law firms. But even the latter, she says, carry with them a commitment to doing pro bono work and championing that work at their firms.

For the students, the decision to become a pro bono scholar sometimes hinges on practicalities. **Bethany Cereo '18**, for example, whose pro bono service was spent with the Center



Above, Bethany A. Cereo '18, right, puts her legal skills to work at the Center for Elder Law & Justice, in Buffalo.



At left, Jason M. Gunning '18 practices his advocacy training.

for Elder Law and Justice, says the opportunity to take the bar exam early was a plus for her.

"As someone who was pursuing working at a nonprofit and doing pro bono work as my career, it meant that I could apply to those places earlier," she says. "A lot of nonprofit and legal services organizations will only accept applications from people who are admitted or who have passed the bar and know they'll be admitted soon." The strategy paid off – she is working in the Legal Services and Advocacy Unit of the Mental Health Association of Erie County. "It felt good to already have



a legal services job and not have to wait on taking the bar,” Cereo says.

Her supervisor at the Center for Elder Law and Justice, pro bono coordinator **Nicole Komin '15**, says the organization made good use of Cereo's talents. “Most of our student interns are in the summer straight out of their first year of law school,” Komin says. “They're still new to research and writing; they're not familiar with talking to clients. When you get a pro bono scholar, it's much different. One of the biggest differences is their writing and the level of research and the efficiency with which they can get things done.

“Researching is a science and a skill, especially when you get into more high-level research, and that's definitely a very strong skill that Beth has.”

Jason Gunning '18 spent his pro bono scholar workweeks with the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo's Criminal Defense Unit. One of his major responsibilities was to interview prisoners at the Erie County Holding Center, listen to their stories, and work with the attorneys to devise an appropriate court strategy for each.

“Everybody's got a story,” Gunning says, “and hearing them puts into perspective the underlying causes of criminal behavior. Especially in Buffalo, with the opioid and drug treatment courts, plenty of people seem to be receptive to trying to change. When I talked to people at the Center, many seemed genuine about it, and I could tell the attorney that this person is open to getting treatment.”

Gunning, a Long Island native, starts in September as an assistant district attorney in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office – “going over to the dark side,” as his boss at Legal Aid, Chief Attorney **Kevin Stadelmaier**, jokingly puts it.

“Jason is obviously a very bright, talented and dedicated young lawyer,” Stadelmaier says. “We've had interns in the past who were not self-starters, constantly asking, ‘What should I do now?’ It wasn't like that with Jason. He had a schedule that he kept to, and when he was done with that work, he consulted with the other lawyers and helped them with research and writing. He had a lot of enthusiasm.”

Our other 2018 Pro Bono Scholars and their spring placements included **Senovia Cuevas '18**, Bar Association of Erie County's Volunteer Lawyers Project; **Samuel Dolce '18**, Western New York Law Center; **Allyson Kehl '18**, Monroe County Public Defender's Office; and **Emily Stoufer Quinn '18**, Legal Assistance of Western New York.

Crucial help in the APPEALS PROCESS

A major effort to give civil litigants the representation they need in New York's appellate courts is now part of the UB School of Law umbrella.

As part of its commitment to ensuring equal access to the justice system, the School of Law's Clinical Legal Education Program will administer the Pro Bono Appeals Program for the Fourth Judicial Department, which comprises 22 counties in Western and Central New York.

The program connects volunteer attorneys with litigants who are filing or defending a civil case on appeal. It's designed for those who earn too much to be eligible for court-assigned counsel but cannot afford to

hire their own attorney. The program includes litigants who earn up to 250 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; in a four-person household, for example, the program's upper income limit is \$62,750.

The litigants' cases range from shelter and housing issues to subsistence income and benefits, health and education, personal safety and family stability. The law school's partners in the initiative are the New York Bar Foundation and the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction.

“We are thrilled to have this partnership with UB Law and its excellent staff,” says **Timothy P. Murphy**, co-chair of the program and chief attorney in the appeals and post-conviction unit at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo. “This program will enable the indigent appellant to have another place to reach out to in the Fourth Judicial Department.”

The Clinical Legal Education Program's contribution to the effort is to provide pro bono expertise, outreach to the community, extensive administrative support, and Continuing Legal Education training in appellate advocacy for attorney volunteers.

“It is an honor to add this pro bono service opportunity to our multifaceted clinical programmatic offerings and our other experiential learning options,” says **Kim Diana Connolly**, director of the clinical legal education program. “We look forward to working with the NYSBA and the excellent volunteer lawyers to provide service-learning for our students while simultaneously offering legal assistance to those who need access to justice.”

Attorneys may volunteer for the program by emailing law-pbap@buffalo.edu.



UB LAW *responds*: PROVIDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Our student attorneys with staff attorney Karla Raimundi (far left, top row), Dean Aviva Abramovsky (second from left, top row) and Professor Kim Diana Connolly (second from right, top row).



Responding to critical needs after a disaster that much of the nation has already forgotten, a group of UB School of Law students devoted much of their winter break to delivering legal and humanitarian aid in Puerto Rico.

Through the Puerto Rico Recovery Assistance Legal Clinic, the 10 students – often working 12-to-16-hour days – helped with recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria devastated the island last September. Working in teams with community partners, they helped more than 80 residents file aid applications with the Federal Emergency Management Agency or appeal FEMA’s denial of aid. They also formed humanitarian brigades that delivered solar lamps and other supplies to more than 800 families in hard-to-reach areas of the island.

Responding, recovery, resilience

Clinic students deliver LEGAL AID to Puerto Rico

“When we first planned the trip, we thought things would be far better than they were when we got there,” says Professor **Kim Diana Connolly**, who taught the clinic and traveled with the students. “We went to many communities that still lacked electricity and running water. Students saw firsthand the devastation of what happens when agencies can’t reach certain people.”

In addition to delivering practical assistance, the clinic students also coordinated with University of Puerto Rico experts and met with top officials in the island’s justice system including the Solicitor General and the Chief Justice of Puerto Rico. But, Connolly says, it was the experience of working as student attorneys in such difficult circumstances that made the biggest impression.

“Emotions were high,” she says. “Some of the students were left in tears when they realized that they didn’t know whether their client’s FEMA appeal would come through, and how other needs would be met. It was a lesson in how hard it is to be on the front lines of disaster and recovery lawyering.”

Words from the island

Students shared their experiences and their discoveries throughout their journey to assist Puerto Rico and develop their legal skills. Here are a few excerpts from the **#UBLawResponds** blog:

“This concept of accountability is central to the failures we have seen in Puerto Rico since it was hit by María. The people of Puerto Rico are our brothers and sisters – they are our fellow United States citizens. These people were in need of – and many are still in need of – basic life necessities, like water, shelter, electricity and food.”

– Sarah Gardner '19

“Working in the public interest is mentally, emotionally and physically exhausting, and sometimes I’ve found that anger can serve as a short-term motivator when I feel like giving up to go work in corporate America. Anger can help me get that extra little bit of emotion to power through when I feel oppressed by the weight of all the work there is to do.”

– Amanda L. Oppermann '18



Visiting homes in Maunabo.

Buffalo

Student attorney **Siedah Gibson-Laurencin '19** spent part of the time researching issues of elder law on the island. She learned, she says, that many elderly Puerto Ricans have no web access and no easy way to get information about programs that could help them. Further, she says, as searchers went house to house after the hurricane, they discovered many homebound older people – unable to get out, without family and apparently without official records.

“It was frustrating initially” to be unable to solve all the problems they saw, she says. “But just being a shoulder, a listening ear, listening to people and showing compassion – that’s very important to the recovery process.”

Building on the success of the January trip, a smaller group of clinic students returned to Puerto Rico in July, working on resiliency issues around reliable access to food, energy and information. The group was joined by **Dean Aviva Abramovsky**, who made presentations and was invited to do work that has led to a service-learning course in disaster insurance law and recovery.

“One of the law school’s main goals,” Connolly notes, “is to create profession-ready students. Clinics like this one offer them the opportunity to get ready by directly serving those in need – it makes them realize how demanding it is to be working on behalf of real clients. Student lawyers leave the clinic experience knowing they did something that really matters.”

Our student attorneys:

- Michael E. Altman '19
- Jonathan J. Reyes Colon '19
- Elizabeth R. David '19
- Heather L. Frank '18
- Sarah Gardner '19
- Siedah Gibson-Laurencin '19
- Margaret McKenzie '19
- Emma C. Molodetz '19
- Amanda L. Oppermann '18
- Eamon Jon P. Riley '18
- Suzanne C. Starr '19
- David J. Yovanoff '18



This clinic was made possible by the generosity of our alumni and friends. To help the clinic continue its work, contact **Karen R. Kaczmariski '89, Vice Dean for Advancement at (716) 645-2109 or krkacz@buffalo.edu.**

“ Puerto Rican resiliency is fueling their recovery, but we have a duty as a nation to respond appropriately to the needs of all US citizens. Only with the support of the nation and a focus on sustainability can Puerto Rico ever fully recover and ensure that this level of enduring devastation never occurs again. ”

– **Elizabeth R. David '19**

“ Each expert we met helped to further assemble the complex picture of Puerto Rico’s status. Each new connection strengthened our long-term relationship with the island. Each new piece of information helped to get our perspectives to a better place for serving Puerto Rico. ”

– **Eamon J.P. Riley '18**



Preparing to deliver humanitarian aid.

10 days of service in Puerto Rico

Day One

- Arrival in San Juan
- Planning Meeting

Day Two

- AM – Meeting with the Dean of the University of Puerto Rico Law School/ Historic Tour of UPR
- AM – Insurance Talk with Insurance Expert Ariel Rivera Miranda
- PM – Legal Brigade Training with Local Lawyers at Ayuda Legal Huracán Maria

Day Three

- All Day – Legal Brigades in Quebradillas and Maunabo

Day Four

- AM – Collaborative Work Sessions at the University of Puerto Rico
- PM – Faculty & Student Mixer with UPR Law School

Day Five

- All Day – Legal Brigades in Loiza and Arroyo

Day Six

- All Day (Team 1) – Humanitarian Brigades in Naranjito
- All Day (Team 2) – Legal Brigade in Loiza

Day Seven

- All Day – Legal Workshop in Rio Piedras with CAUSE
- PM – Meeting with Potential UB Clinic Client re: Sustainability/ Resilience



Filing FEMA appeals.

Day Eight

- AM – Meeting with INESI
- PM – Individual Paper Research/ Writing Session

Day Nine

- AM – Humanitarian Brigades in Recio, Patillas and Guardarraya
- PM – Meeting with the Regional Director of the Department of Family and Social Work

Day Ten

- AM – Breakfast & Meeting with the Solicitor General Luis Roman Negrón
- PM – Meeting with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, Hon. Maite Oronoz Rodriguez

San Juan

BOLD

Clinics: Real-world service

Health Justice

Representing a Roswell Park patient in a disability discrimination claim, a team of Health Justice Clinic student attorneys researched and wrote three submissions to the NYS Division of Human Rights, prepared their client for an interview with the agency investigator, received a finding of probable cause from the agency, and negotiated a substantial settlement for the client.



Civil Liberties and Transparency

The Civil Liberties & Transparency Clinic is in court seeking answers from the Erie County Sheriff's Office about the high number of suicide attempts at county jails and its failure to properly report incidents to state oversight officials. Student attorneys **Suzanne Starr '19** and **Dominick Roa '20** appeared in court this spring arguing for disclosure of basic policies and reports.

Family Violence & Women's Rights

Clinic fellow **Ariel Bauerle '19** collaborated with the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence to provide training to domestic violence survivors on navigating the family court system. Bauerle's work is funded through the generosity of the Garman Family Foundation.



Community Justice Clinic

The Community Justice Clinic represents victims of human trafficking, and in the past year has secured a visa and a path to citizenship for three trafficking survivors.



Environmental Advocacy

Environmental Advocacy clinic students **Francis J. Marrano '18**, **Heather H. Burley '19** and **Eamon J.P. Riley '18** presented a poster highlighting the clinic student attorneys' work since 2014 representing the Niagara River Corridor on its Ramsar Designation. The project was recognized at UB's 14th annual Celebration of Student Academic Excellence.

Animal Law

The Animal Law Clinic worked for the Erie County SPCA on several wildlife and companion legal and policy issues, drafting policy papers and legislative language.



& BRIGHT

Students: Our rising stars

Buffalo News photo



Nlemvo "Fidele" Menavanza '18 (LL.M.)

Recipient of the 2018 Liberty Bell Award, the highest award bestowed by the Bar Association of Erie County.

Jonathan J. Reyes Colon '19, Eamon J.P. Riley '18 and David J. Yovanoff '18

Recipients of the top prize in the University of Puerto Rico School of Law's Nilita Vientós Gastón legal writing competition.

Donell L. Gibson, Jr. '18

Served as treasurer for the Northeast Region of the Black Law Students Association, a national organization with nearly 6,000 members.

Natalia Marte '19

Elected chair of the Northeast Region of the Black Law Students Association, and has a seat on the organization's national board.



Elena H. Smith '18

Best Overall Advocate in the National Trial Competition hosted by the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

Devon E. Gawley '18 (far left), Diane E. Orosz '18 (second from right) and Jake M. Eckenrode '19 (far right)

Finalists in the National Trial Competition hosted by the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

Pictured with their coach Elizabeth M. Fox-Solomon '06 (second from left).



Joseph W. Schafer '18

Established the law school's Sports & Entertainment Law Blog. One of his posts was retweeted by ESPN Analyst Jay Bilas.

Rebecca Postek '19 and William J. Gerken '19

Semi-finalists in the Consensual Dispute Resolution Competition hosted by the International Bar Association and the Vienna International Arbitral Centre in Vienna, Austria.

Gabrielle K. Walter '18

Miss New York 2017 and founder of DreamUpAmerica.



Karen D. Zacarias '18 and Carmen Alex Vacco '19

Winners of the UB Law Mock Trial Competition.

CELEBRATING FOUR DECADES OF INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy

has touched the lives of generations of thinkers and contributed in countless ways to high-quality legal scholarship. As the center marks its 40th anniversary, a look back reveals just how wide its influence has been, and how it continues to foster the best each scholar has to offer.

Introducing sociology to law

By Luke Hammill

The Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy might not exist if the University at Buffalo School of Law hadn't made the audacious decision at the dawn of the 1970s to hire as its dean a man who was not a lawyer.

The late Richard D. "Red" Schwartz, a sociologist, was appointed in 1970 and began as dean at the law school the next year. In an interview taped in 2005, 12 years before he died last year at 92 years old, Schwartz recalled that he was the first-ever dean of an American law school to lack a Juris Doctor degree, save for one non-lawyer who had led Yale on an interim basis in an earlier decade.

Schwartz's arrival and acceptance at UB was an example of the law school's "Buffalo Model" in action, an institutional philosophy that encouraged interdisciplinary research exploring how the law actually interacted with the society around it.

Such research was at the core of the Law and Society Association, which had been founded in 1964 and sought to knock down the figurative walls law had built around itself. Schwartz was one of the association's founders and served as the first editor of its journal, the *Law & Society Review*.

Buffalo has played a crucial – and often overlooked – role in the Law and Society movement, from its early days to the current era. And that role has a lasting legacy at UB that continues to evolve today at the Baldy Center, which this year celebrates its 40th anniversary.

A serendipitous combination of events, including the hiring of Schwartz, made the center possible, and since then, it has taken advantage of the opportunity, making its mark in the sociolegal world through research, education, conferences and publications.



Professor Errol Meidinger, left, and Professor Barry Boyer

But why is it called the Baldy Center?

Shortly after Schwartz arrived on campus, UB learned it would soon be the likely recipient of a generous bequest from a man named Christopher Baldy, a well-known Buffalo attorney who had died in 1959 at the age of 73.

Baldy was a 1910 graduate of the Buffalo School of Law, in the days when UB was the private University of Buffalo. In 1911, he joined the firm then known as Kenefick, Cooke, Mitchell & Bass as a law clerk, eventually becoming a partner and specializing in tax and corporation law. Today, the firm is Phillips Lytle LLP.

Baldy, a bachelor, became wealthy, and when he died, he was generous with his money toward his alma mater. His estate was initially valued at more than \$1.4 million. In his will, he left relatively small amounts to his church, the Erie County Bar Association, his Masonic lodge, and his two sisters-in-law. Nearly all the rest went to his three brothers, and when they died, whatever was left over was to be given to UB for a scholastic building or residence hall.

By the early 1970s, the amount in the fund for UB had grown

AGES OF OLARSHIP



to somewhere between \$1.5 million and \$2 million, according to a university memo from that period, and the last surviving Baldy brother was nearing the end of his life.

UB was about to get the money, but circumstances had significantly changed since Baldy died.

UB had become a public university and a part of the State University of New York, which at the time was spending generously on the construction of new buildings at its campuses, including the new North Campus that was then being built in Amherst.

University and law school officials felt that the Baldy money would be better used for an academic program and were able to convince a judge to allow it to fund research on one of Schwartz's favorite subjects: the intersection of law and social policy. In return, a new building next to the law school (which had already

been named for John Lord O'Brian) was named after Baldy.

Under the deanship of Thomas Headrick, the research program was eventually formalized in 1978 as the Baldy Center, and it has been on the fifth floor of O'Brian Hall ever since.

"I'm very proud to have had some small part in the development of the Baldy Center," Schwartz said in the interview he recorded late in his life.

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Luke Hammill is a UB graduate and Buffalo-based journalist whose work has appeared in the Chicago Tribune, The Oregonian (Portland, Ore.) and The Buffalo News, among other publications. This article has been adapted and excerpted from a forthcoming monograph Hammill is writing in commemoration of the Baldy Center's 40th anniversary. The monograph will be available at the Anniversary Celebration event.

KEY DATES IN BALDY CENTER HISTORY

1910

Christopher Baldy graduates from the Buffalo School of Law.



1959

Baldy dies, leaving a substantial gift to UB, to be delivered after his three brothers pass away.

1970

Richard D. "Red" Schwartz, a sociologist with no law degree who had co-founded the Law and Society Association, is appointed as dean of the law school.



1973

With the passing of the three Baldy brothers, Erie County Surrogate Judge William J. Regan, a graduate of the law school, signs a decree allowing Christopher Baldy's endowment to be used for an interdisciplinary program in law and social policy.

1975

Buffalo hosts the first-ever formal meeting of the Law and Society Association.

1978

The program is formalized into the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy under the deanship of Thomas Headrick. Barry Boyer of the law school and Jim Brady of the philosophy department are named co-directors.

1981

Brady leaves the co-directorship, and Boyer becomes the sole director.

1986

The Baldy Center's "working groups" – consisting of faculty interested in a specific subject who collaborate on research – debut.

1992

David M. Engel takes over as director of the center following Boyer's appointment as dean of the law school. The working groups have evolved into more formal Baldy Programs.



2001

Engel leaves the directorship and Errol Meidinger takes over as interim director.

2002

Political scientist Lynn Mather is appointed as the next director, the only time UB looked outside its walls to find a leader for the Baldy Center.



Mather, who had just completed a term as president of the Law and Society Association, came from Dartmouth College.

2006

The law school and Baldy Center debut a complete renovation of space on the fifth floor of O'Brian Hall. The \$1 million-plus project, funded partly with Baldy money,



created a suite with a major conference area and a smaller seminar area, and an elegant new faculty lounge attached to a faculty reading room. Also, the Baldy Center helps organize a conference during which the law school hosts the Dalai Lama.

2008

Rebecca French becomes director of the Baldy Center.

2010

Errol Meidinger becomes director of the Baldy Center.

2011

Meidinger replaces the working group structure, which had again become less formal, with a new program that hosts post-doctoral fellows and visiting researchers.

2018

The Baldy Center and the UB School of Law celebrate the center's 40th anniversary by hosting a Mitchell Lecture – scheduled for November – on critical challenges of Law and Society research. The featured speaker will be John Braithwaite of the Australian National University.

• • •

Mark your calendars for November 9 & 10, 2018 when the Baldy Center

will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with the Mitchell Lecture and a conference on critical contributions and the challenges of law and society research. For more details, visit buffalo.edu/baldycenter.



Representative publications by Baldy Scholars

The following highly cited publications provide a good sense of the important work carried out by Baldy-affiliated scholars over the years.

Berrey, Ellen. *The Enigma of Diversity: The Language of Race and the Limits of Racial Justice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Boyer, Barry, and Errol Meidinger.

"Privatizing Regulatory Enforcement: A Preliminary Assessment of Citizen Suits Under Federal Environmental Laws." *Buffalo Law Rev* 34 (1985): 833–964.

Braverman, Irus. *Wild Life: The Institution of Nature*. Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press, 2015.

Engel, David M. "The Oven Bird's Song: Insiders, Outsiders, and Personal Injuries in an American Community." *Law & Society Rev* 18 (1984): 511–582.

Engel, David M., and Frank W. Munger.

Rights of Inclusion: Law and Identity in the Life Stories of Americans with Disabilities. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Finley, Lucinda. "The Hidden Victims of Tort Reform: Women, Children, and the Elderly." *Emory Law J* 53 (2004): 1263–1314.

French, Rebecca Redwood. *The Golden Yoke: The Legal Cosmology of Buddhist Tibet*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1995.

Granfield, Robert, and Lynn Mather.

Private Lawyers and the Public Interest: The Evolving Role of Pro Bono in the Legal Profession. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Miller, Teresa A. "Citizenship and Severity: Recent Immigration Reforms and the New Penology." *Georgetown Immigration Law J* 17 (2003): 611–666.

Nightingale, Carl H. *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Schlegel, John Henry. *American Legal Realism and Empirical Social Science*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1995.



Reining in the web's robber barons

Mitchell Lecture addresses free speech and capitalism

“You, my friends, are working for The Man.” With those challenging words, this spring’s Mitchell Lecture speaker defined the economic trade-off made by everyone who uses the web: enjoying unlimited access to information, but at the price of giving up voluminous personal data.

The speaker was **Jack M. Balkin**, Knight Professor of Constitutional Law and the First Amendment at Yale Law School. His April 13 appearance at UB School of Law, titled “The First Amendment in the Second Gilded Age,” explored the question of how, in a capitalist society, we pay for exercising our freedom of speech.

Drawing a comparison with the Gilded Age – the late 19th century era of rapid economic growth that made a handful of industrialists and financiers unimaginably wealthy – Balkin argued that we’re in a second Gilded Age. Instead of oil and banking, though, he said, the most valuable commodity today is information.

In the last century, he noted, information flowed “from the few to the many,” promulgated by newspapers, broadcasters and book publishers. Now, every one of us is a content generator. “Twitter, Facebook, Instagram – these media are all about having people produce stuff,” Balkin said. “Facebook

would die on the vine if everybody wasn’t constantly checking in and posting. Twitter wants you not only to follow what’s going on, it wants you to tweet.”

At issue is the economics of this new information economy: Who pays for the platforms that support public discussion? Newspapers can sell subscriptions and advertising space; broadcasters can sell air time. The business model of social media companies and search engines like Google, he noted, relies on advertising as well – namely the ability to target ads to individual consumers based on highly specific data these services gather.

“What is the result of an infrastructure of free expression that is primarily based on the exchange of free services for advertising?” he asked. “The answer can be summed up in one word: surveillance. Everything you do online leaves a trace. This medium is simultaneously a method of communication and a method of surveillance.” That’s increasingly true, Balkin said, with the advent of the Internet of Things, a time when even cars, ovens and refrigerators are being designed to collect data on their owners’ habits.

“We pay for the public sphere through a grand bargain,” Balkin said. “We will give you a search engine that is miraculous, we will give you amazing social media, we will give you new ways of being amusing, new ways of being interesting, new ways

of being entertaining, and in return you will give us information about you. You will let us surveil you.”

That bargain introduces the problem of how to ensure that all this collected data is used responsibly. “We have to find a way to prevent these search engine and social media companies from misusing and abusing their position as the collectors of personal data,” Balkin said.

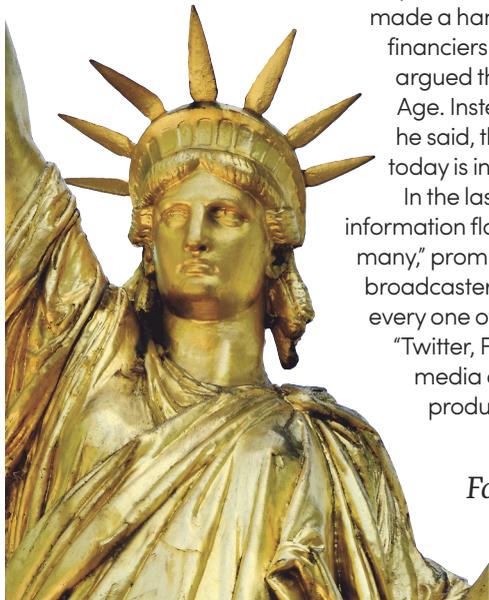
His proposed solution: to treat these companies as “information fiduciaries,” bound by the same rules that say lawyers, doctors and accountants cannot use information they gain to hurt or cheat their clients. In looking at applying this concept to the public sphere, he said, “Currently the law does not recognize this concept. But all of the elements of this idea are present in law.

“They’ll still be able to make a profit,” he said. “But this status will restrict some of the ways they monetize information – and they will have special duties not to act like con artists.”

The Mitchell Lecture Series, the School of Law’s only endowed lecture, has brought a distinguished list of scholars and thinkers to Buffalo each year since 1951. This year’s organizing committee, chaired by Professor Luis E. Chiesa, included Professor Mateo Taussig-Rubo, Assistant Clinical Professor Nicole Hallett, Manager of Law School Technology Terrence McCormack and Director of Student Life Amy Atkinson.

The entire Mitchell Lecture event can be viewed at tinyurl.com/ycxh3c7w.

For more photos and videos from our events visit: law.buffalo.edu/forum/extra



New leader for the New York City Program

When the UB New York City Program on Finance and Law, a signature program of the Schools of Law and Management, convenes this fall, it will have both a new director and a glorious new space for learning.

David A. Westbrook, Louis A. Del Cotto Professor of Law, has assumed leadership of the long-running New York City Program, in which talented UB students spend a semester in Manhattan learning from top-level lawyers and financiers in the nation's financial capital. This year's cohort will gather in a well-appointed space in an Eighth Avenue building, splitting time there with art students from SUNY's Stony Brook University.

"This is a great opportunity," says Westbrook, a veteran instructor in the program. "It's a wonderful program, and it really does help students become far more sophisticated practitioners."

He'll continue to teach in the program as well – a role he says mainly consists of helping students connect the dots as they wrestle with the guest lecturers' ideas. "Students are used



to things that are more packaged," he says. "Presentations in New York will not be doctrinally pure – there are no courses on contracts, no subject matter boxes to be checked off. Instead, we start from actual practices, and try to understand the law and economics at issue.

"We're trying to take these different practices and different perspectives and different contributions and tell a story, so that the pieces cohere into a narrative. So we will start with business associations and basic ideas in finance, move to financing and financial instruments, markets, and institutions, think about leverage and regulation and distressed situations, which will lead us to compliance and a concern for rule-making. I believe this narrative arc will help the students make sense of the different things to which they will be exposed."

The core of the program is the practitioners, most of them UB alumni, who share their knowledge and their experiences. "People really want to help," Westbrook says. "They get to a certain stage in their life and realize they have learned something, and they want to give back. There's an aspect of sharing to the program that I really like and try to foster."

Also this year, students will have the opportunity to work two days a week in externship placements, doing legal and financial work at banks, financial services firms, courts and regulators – another contribution by interested alumni, and one that helps the law students meet new ABA standards for experiential learning in law school.

The program also has a new Facebook page where students can share photos and stories from their experience. To find it, search "University at Buffalo – NYC Program on Finance & Law."

Library Director takes interim University role

A familiar face will be missing from the Charles B. Sears Law Library for a while, as library Director **Beth Adelman** takes on a major University administration role.

Adelman, the School of Law's vice dean for legal information services, has temporarily relocated to Capen Hall to serve as UB's interim vice provost for University Libraries. In the role, she will oversee the management team that runs SUNY's largest and most comprehensive library system – one that includes more than 3.8 million print volumes, as well as digital collections, multimedia resources and substantial special collections.

Her appointment, announced by UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski, will last for approximately one year while a nationwide



search is conducted for the permanent vice provost. During this time, UB School of Law librarian **Theodora Belniak** will be oversee the Law Library.

The interim posting, Adelman says, "will give me a broader perspective on what's going on in the University, particularly the financial outlook." She notes that she's already familiar with many of the librarians on the management team, because – like only a handful of U.S. law schools – the Law Library is a fully integrated part of the University Libraries system.

In the position, Adelman will help steward the funds allocated for the library system, make acquisition decisions and help set library policy.

Adelman has directed the Law Library since 2011 and was previously associate director and head of collection management. An elected member of the American Association of Law Libraries Executive Board, she previously served as chair of the Society of American Law Library Directors. She has co-authored four books and written numerous articles and electronic legal research tutorials, called "CALI Lessons."

Adelman has both J.D. and Master of Library Science degrees, and has been honored with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship.

Terrence M.
Connors '71
delivers the
keynote address.

2018 Commencement

Graduates encouraged to take on new responsibility with strength and pride

“Every day we have an opportunity to change people’s lives, and in the process effect a positive change in the law,” remarked renowned trial attorney **Terrence M. Connors '71**, as he delivered the keynote address at the law school’s 129th Commencement ceremony. Connors began his legal career as a litigation associate at a large Buffalo law firm before joining Lawrence J. Vilardo, Esq., in 1986, to form the litigation boutique firm now known as Connors LLP.

“It happens regularly and routinely,” Connors said, emphasizing the significance of the graduates’ new roles as counselors and champions. “It doesn’t matter ... whether or not that change that you effect comes in a matter of high profile, or in the closed quarters of your conference room. For those individuals that you speak for, for those individuals that you advocate for, to them, it is the most important matter in their lives.”

148 J.D. candidates and seven master of laws candidates accepted that responsibility as degrees were conferred at the May 20 ceremony held at the Center for the Arts on UB’s North Campus.



Dean Aviva Abramovsky expressed her pride as she addressed her first graduating class as dean of the law school.

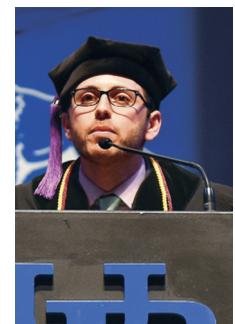


“... I have learned what differentiates us from many other fine educational institutions,” she said. “I look at our seal and our bison and it shows me, you don’t have to be a predator to be strong. You don’t have to be a predator to be tough. A simple observation all too often absent in other corners of society.”

She continued, “Like the bison in our seal, it is certainly easy to stand proud. For I am proud of you, the assembled

guests here are proud of you, your families and your communities are proud of you – proud of our successes and proud of our collective values as we strive to live our own lives and make our own professional choices.”

Christian Cassara '18 gave the student address, encouraging his classmates to use their legal education to move forward and take action. “It’s been an honor spending the past three years with all of you,” Cassara said. “Today is a day to celebrate our accomplishment – without a doubt, well deserved. But when the partying dies down and the euphoria dissipates, we’ll confront the reality that there are a lot of problems out there that need solving. Let’s get to work.”



Other highlights of the 129th Commencement ceremony

Dean Aviva Abramovsky presented the Dean's Medal to **Hon. Eugene F. Pigott Jr. '73**, a New York State Supreme Court justice and former senior associate judge of New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals. The Dean's Medal is awarded to an individual who is distinguished by his or her commitment to justice and the rule of law.



“ Everyone that I have met ... has proven themselves to be outstanding. ... They chose to be lawyers. It is to our great benefit that these outstanding men and women have chosen this profession. ”

The Ken Joyce Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to **Jennifer R. Scharf '05** recognizing her exemplary teaching and her longstanding service to the law school. Scharf is a health care attorney at the Erie County Medical Center Corporation and the co-director of the law school's Trial Advocacy Program.



“ Every day in your career you can tap into ... why you went to law school – to give a voice to those who don't have one, to fight against injustice. Be proud of that. Focus on that. ”

University at Buffalo President Satish Tripathi bestowed a SUNY honorary doctorate of law on **Margaret W. Wong '76**. An international leader in the area of immigration law, Wong has remained a dedicated supporter of the law school, where she has mentored students, co-chaired the \$30 million Campaign for UB Law, and endowed scholarships for 15 law students and a named professorship.



“ UB took a risk on me. The first day I came in, I felt welcome. ... I still think that 1976 was the best year at UB. And I loved it. And I want you to say one day, 2018 is better than 1976. ”

The three top awards in the graduating class went to:

Christian Alan Cassara '18 received the Max Koren Award for scholastic achievement, leadership and dedication to the ideals of the law.

Timothy Banker '18 received the John N. Bennett Achievement Award for the highest scholastic achievement.

Jordan Nicole Sieracki '18 received the Dale S. Margulis Award for contributing the most to the School of Law and community.

Additional awards presented by Student Bar Association President **Annabelle Gao '18** on behalf of the graduating class included the Faculty of the Year Award given to Associate Professor **Christine Bartholomew**, and the Staff of the Year Award given to **Amy Atkinson**, director of student life.



Professor S. Todd Brown presents the Dale S. Margulis Award to Jordan N. Sieracki '18.



Annabelle Gao '18 presents the Faculty of the Year Award to Associate Professor Christine Bartholomew.



Amy Atkinson, Director of Student Life, receives the Staff of the Year Award.

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

As the academic year drew to a close, our student groups took time out to mark their accomplishments, honor some professional role models – and build for the future.



Buffalo Public Interest Law Program's 23rd Annual Auction

March 2, 2018 at The Web @ Pearl Street in Buffalo

More than 150 attendees participated in this annual event to fund fellowships for law students working at public interest organizations over the summer.

1. Carolyn J. Lavin '19, Dean Aviva Abramovsky, Lindsey M. Johnson '19, Kaitlin R. Kramer '19 and Samantha J. Ventura '18
2. Tevon T. Carpenter '20 and Amani Abuhumra '20
3. William MacDonald, Director of Academic Success

29th Annual Students of Color Dinner

April 12, 2018 at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott

Honorees included:

Trailblazer Award: **Duwaine T. Bascoe '12**, Associate, Abrams, Fensterman and **Vanessa A. Glushefski '14**, Attorney, Glushefski Law

Jacob D. Hyman Award: **Bernadette J. Gargano**, Vice Dean for Student Affairs, UB School of Law

Distinguished Alumnus Award: **Asker A. Saeed '01**, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Fried Frank

1. The leaders and members of our student groups celebrate our diversity.
2. Duwaine T. Bascoe '12
3. Vanessa A. Glushefski '14
4. Bernadette J. Gargano
5. Asker A. Saeed '01



2018 OUTLaw Dinner Celebration

April 20, 2018 at Chef's Restaurant in Buffalo

Honorees included:

Byshop Elliot, Senior at McKinley High School, and **The Center for Elder Law and Justice**

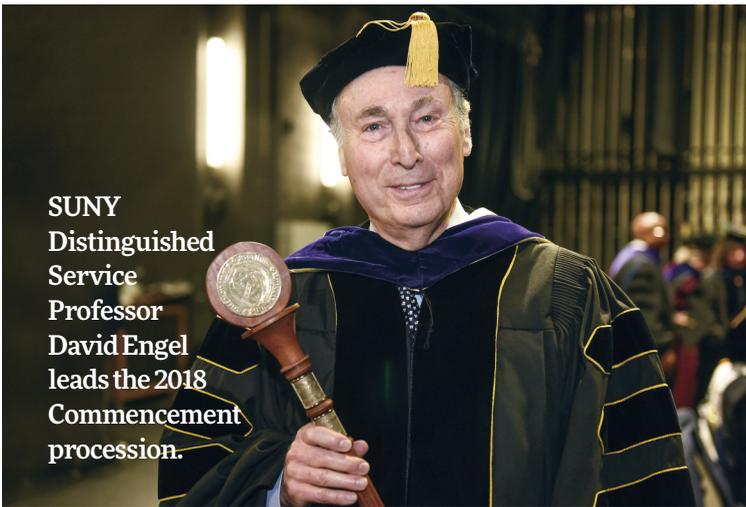
- 1. Bethany A. Cereo '18, Karen L. Nicolson '89, CEO, Center for Elder Law & Justice, Alexandra S. Balmer '19 and Chelsea I. Gonzalez '19
- 2. Tabatha Coleman and Byshop Elliott
- 3. Melanie J. Prasad '17 and Associate Professor Michael Boucci

2018 Buffalo Law Review Dinner

April 26, 2018 at the Park Country Club in Buffalo

Honorees included:

- 1. **Hon. Amy C. Martoche '99**, Judge, Buffalo City Court (left), and **Hon. Erin M. Peradotto '84**, Associate Justice, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department (right) pictured with Dean Aviva Abramovsky
- 2. Hon. Eugene F. Pigott Jr. '73 with daughter Martha M. Pigott '18
- 3. Morgan A. Lloyd '18, Sharon R. Kahn '18, Christopher R. Bitar '18 and Krystal C. Chapin '18



SUNY
Distinguished
Service
Professor
David Engel
leads the 2018
Commencement
procession.

A teacher and scholar moves on

When UB School of Law graduates gather for an all-alumni reunion this October 20th, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor **David Engel** is planning a little something on the side: a reunion of the 50 or so alums who, as students, traveled with him to study the legal system of Thailand.

Many students say those January bridge-session trips opened their eyes to how law works in a societal context. The Thailand courses offered real-life exposure to the “law in action” – a key tenet of the Law and Society movement, for which Engel has been an influential leader.

Engel, who is retiring from his UB School of Law teaching duties after 37 years at the school, brought that same perspective to his classes in Buffalo, where he taught courses on torts and products liability and seminars on the tort law system, disability rights, and on law, culture and society.

“I just love teaching, the whole process of teaching,” he says. “It has been one of the most fulfilling things I’ve done. I loved working with students who are just beginning law school in the fall semester, starting with a complete blank slate and trying to help them understand, how do I acquire the knowledge I need and a method for learning more? And it has been so rewarding to see the careers that my students have gone on to, as judges, prosecutors, working in big and small firms, or doing public-interest work or government work.”

Even in retirement, he won’t lack for further opportunities to teach. Engel and Professor Lynette Chua, a law professor at the National University of Singapore, hope to launch a five-year program of 10 workshops, which he and Chua would organize and teach in Singapore. The goal is to train and mentor young Asian scholars and graduate students who conduct research in Asian law and society. He’ll also continue lecturing at Chiang Mai University in Thailand.

And the lecture invitations just won’t stop coming. This spring he delivered the annual addresses at both the Oxford University Centre for Socio-Legal Studies and Leiden University’s Von Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance, and Society. Engel is a former president of the Law & Society Association, the world’s premier organization for the interdisciplinary study of law. Last year he received the association’s highest honor, the Harry J. Kalven Jr. Prize, in recognition of his long and continuing work in interdisciplinary legal study.

Engel will stick around O’Brian Hall for much of the coming academic year, officially on research leave as he works on two new books and a couple of articles.

“What brought me here in the first place is also what has kept me here,” he says. “The law school is a special place. Its values are still somewhat unique in legal education – the importance of public service, along with an understanding that the law operates in a broader society. A really effective lawyer has to understand the social context as well as the law on the books. UB remains more dedicated to living that vision than most law schools.”

Details regarding our all-alumni reunion can be found on the back cover.

Engel’s academic impact

Associate Professor **Anya Bernstein**, who holds a Ph.D. in sociocultural anthropology, on the impact of Professor Engel’s life work:

“David’s influence ripples through the world of sociolegal studies, both through his own scholarly, intellectual contributions, and through his enthusiastic mentorship and support of others. In his research, he’s explored how community belonging influences our relation to law; and in practice, he’s worked tirelessly to put together communities that encourage creativity.

“For me personally, he’s been a crucial interlocutor: in his gentle and unassuming way, he’s pushed me to reconsider basic assumptions I’ve made about the things I study and helped me develop more nuanced understandings of them.”



Two books with an eye on society

In a happy coincidence, Cambridge University Press has released a one-two punch of David Engel-related books.

For the first, *Injury and Injustice: The Cultural Politics of Harm and Redress*, Engel was one of three co-editors.

Squarely in the law and society tradition, the book examines how cultures worldwide understand injury and its relation to the justice system.

Engel also contributed a chapter, titled “Chairs, Stairs, and Automobiles: The Cultural Construction of Injuries and the Failed Promise of Law.” It draws on the thinking that went into his 2016 book *The Myth of the Litigious Society*.

“The theory of tort law,” he says, “is that litigation will deter dangerous or risky behavior; it will compensate people when they suffer injuries and struggle with their medical bills and damaged careers; and it will provide a moral statement of who’s to blame when unnecessary risks are posed. But those promises fail if very few people with valid claims actually use the tort system.”

Injury and Injustice also includes chapters by UB School of Law **Professor Samantha Barbas** and by **Li Chen**, a former

UB dual degree law student sponsored by the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, who is now a history professor at the University of Toronto.

The other book grew from a Baldy Center conference that took place in 2015. In *Insiders, Outsiders, Injuries, & Law: Revisiting “The Oven Bird’s Song,”* legal scholars young and old take stock of a groundbreaking article by Engel first published in 1984. In that article, he examined how predominant norms and values in a rural Illinois county discouraged injury litigation, even when residents believed they had suffered serious wrongs. Engel argued that anxiety about social and economic changes in the community found expression in negative perceptions of tort claims as compared to positive perceptions of contract claims.

“‘The Oven Bird’s Song’ is such an enduringly influential work that law and society scholars around the world turn to David’s work again and again and again for insight and inspiration,” the book’s editor, UB sociology professor **Mary Nell Trautner**, writes in her introduction.

This book, too, includes a significant UB Law presence, with chapters by **Associate Professor Anya Bernstein** and **Emeritus Professors Alfred S. Konefsky** and **Lynn Mather**.



Growing the next generation of lawyers

“When I was in law school,” **Tolu Odunsi** remembers, “I developed great relationships with so many professors. They taught me a lot, and they empowered me to be a good lawyer. It’s my goal to do the same for the students who come through my classes.”

Those will be first-year UB School of Law students in the school’s foundational Legal Analysis, Writing and Research program, which Odunsi joins this fall as an instructor. She’ll teach two sections, with about 15 students each, joining her colleagues in delivering intensive instruction in the basics of legal research, analysis and argumentation.

It’s a new career juncture for Odunsi. She earned her J.D. at American University’s Washington College of Law, where she graduated *cum laude* and was a senior staff member of the school’s *International Law Review*. After graduation, a legal internship and a law clerkship, Odunsi worked as an associate attorney at the Buffalo law firm Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, practicing in the area of civil litigation.

But, she says, “It had always been a dream of mine to end up in academia,” and she feels a strong connection to UB School of Law, where she has been a mentor to students and has volunteered to judge the Black Law Students Association’s moot court competition. She also has strong connections in the local legal community; she currently serves as president of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York and on the board of the Center for Elder Law and Justice.

She recognizes that, as a younger lawyer, she has insight into the challenges that students of the millennial generation face in the classroom. “We’ve grown up having such quick access to information, and that’s in contrast to how learning is in law school,” Odunsi says. “You really have to take time with the material to understand the precedent. Legal research and writing isn’t a quick process, and it involves a lot of rewriting.”

A dream come true: When Odunsi was named last year to *Buffalo Business First’s* “30 Under 30” list of up-and-coming young professionals, she was asked to name her “professional goal before I turn 40.” Her answer: “Teach a law school class.”



Tolulope “Tolu” Odunsi

FACULTY IMPACT AROUND THE GLOBE



UB School of Law faculty are fully engaged in the world's marketplace of ideas. Here are some ways they're sharing their knowledge in a global context.

Associate Professor **Anya Bernstein** visited **Taiwan** three times in the past three years as a visiting scholar at Academia Sinica, Taiwan's premier research institute. Bernstein is continuing to explore how Taiwanese government administrators relate to the legislature and how they understand their place in their democracy.

• • •



SUNY Distinguished Service Professor **David M. Engel** helped to organize and lead a Young Scholars Workshop in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Asian Law and Society Association at National Chia Tung University in **Taiwan**. Workshop participants came from universities throughout Asia and North America.

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SUNY Distinguished Professor **James A. Gardner** visited the University of Barcelona in **Spain**, where he taught an introductory seminar on American constitutional law and participated in a symposium on free speech and criminal law.

• • •



Professor **Rebecca Redwood French**, a recognized authority on the intersection of Buddhism and law, was an invited speaker at a conference in **Bhutan's** capital. French was part of a panel discussion about Buddhist influences on world legal codes, held at Bhutan's newly established law school – the first in that tiny South Asian nation.

• • •



Assistant Clinical Professor **Nicole Hallett** served as a short-term legal expert for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative in **Mexico** City, training the directors of three new labor law clinics at Mexican law schools: Universidad Nacional de Mexico, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, and Universidad Autónoma de México.

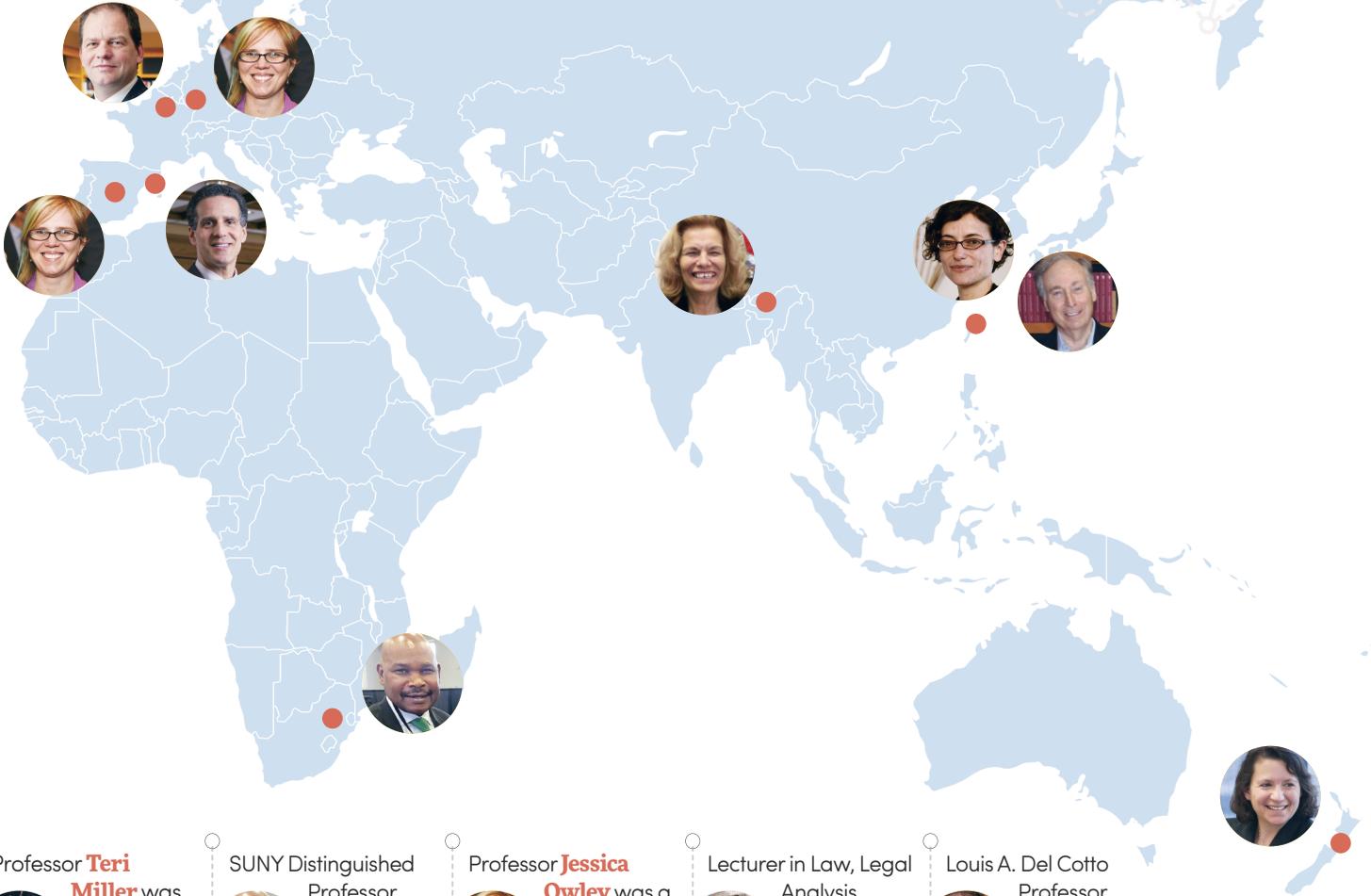
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Professor **Meredith Kolsky Lewis** traveled to Wellington, **New Zealand** with 10 law students as part of the January course "New Zealand: International Economic and Comparative Law in Context." They met with academics, government officials, private practitioners, and a Supreme Court justice.

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Professor **Teri Miller** was named to one of the top posts in the State University of New York system. As SUNY's Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and chief of staff to SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson in **Albany**, Miller serves as Johnson's liaison with SUNY executive administrators and leaders on the system's 64 campuses.

• • •



SUNY Distinguished Professor **Makau W. Mutua** delivered the lecture "Is the Age of Human Rights Over?" at the Centre for Human Rights in the University of Pretoria in **South Africa**.

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Professor **Jessica Owley** was a visiting professor at the Universidad Pontificia—Comillas in Madrid, **Spain** where she will be returning annually to offer a course on comparative environmental law. Owley brought five students to the International Climate Change treaty negotiations in Bonn, **Germany**. While there, Owley presented on climate change law at an event sponsored by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

• • •



Lecturer in Law, Legal Analysis, Writing and Research **Stephen Paskey** moderated and participated on a panel titled "Law's DNA: The Double Helix of Rhetoric and Narrative" at the 2018 International Conference on Narrative in Montreal, **Canada**.

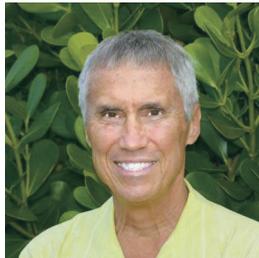
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Louis A. Del Cotto Professor **David A. Westbrook** was a global scholar at Université Catholique de Louvain in **Belgium**, where he presented "EU and the World: How to Think About Ourselves?"; "The Politics of Large Polities: The Imagination of Identities and Allegiance in the EU, U.S. and Russia"; "Deploying Ourselves: Islamist Violence and the Responsible Projection of U.S. Force"; and "Unicorns, Guardians, and the Concentration of the U.S. Equity Markets."

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A new chapter for Professor Ewing

After closing out his nearly 35-year teaching career at UB School of Law, Professor **Charles Patrick Ewing** could be taking it easy in the sunshine of Naples, Fla., where he now lives with his spouse, Dr. Sharon Harris-Ewing.

But that's hardly likely.

There's his burgeoning practice as a forensic psychologist, which fills his calendar with court dates and evaluations of defendants and prison inmates.

There's his love of photography – his images, mostly landscapes and other nature themes, have been viewed nearly 5 million times online.

And, of course, he continues to write. The latest project: a memoir of his experiences in forensic psychology, all the way back to his first job, at age 18, as an attendant in a state psychiatric hospital.

"I'm working harder than I've ever worked," Ewing reports.

Most of that comes from his practice. Ewing travels throughout Florida and beyond, evaluating criminal defendants, consulting with attorneys and testifying as an expert witness. Because Florida is a death penalty state, that includes high-stakes work in examining capital murder defendants, probing their life histories in seeking out mitigating factors such as child abuse, neglect or traumatic brain injury. He's especially interested in the cases of juveniles who were



Photo by Charles Patrick Ewing

sentenced to life without parole and, since the U.S. Supreme Court's prohibition of that practice, are up for resentencing. "I've seen people in their 60s who have been in prison all that time," Ewing says. "Those cases are especially intriguing to me because you're looking at a person's entire life. I spend a lot of time reviewing school and prison records, then individually examining these individuals. You really have to go in depth."

In addition to his memoir, Ewing continues as editor in chief of the international journal *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, and he writes a few scholarly reviews here and there. But his real passion is taking pictures. "One of the great joys of photography is the absolute concentration it requires," he says. "When I'm taking photos, there is literally nothing else on my mind other than getting the best shot possible. And having spent a lifetime using my brain as my only tool, it's great to be doing something that requires hands-on skills."

He has left the Buffalo weather behind, but not the School of Law. "I really enjoyed my time there," Ewing says. "The law school gave me the opportunity to pursue my academic and practical interests wherever they took me. It enabled me to have an amazing career both in and outside the school. That was a real gift."

Students remember

Some former students on how Professor Ewing made a difference for them:

Milton D. Gordon '15, assistant Erie County district attorney: "Because of him, I was given the opportunity to succeed as a minority student at UB Law. The depth of his involvement can only truly be explained with the word 'compassion.'"

Daniel T. Lukasik '88, private practitioner: "Professor Ewing had an enormous impact on me during my time at UB. Not only did he challenge me intellectually, he set an example of dignity and compassion that I have carried with me throughout my 30 years in the legal profession."

Trini E. Ross '92, director of Attorney-Investigators for the Inspector General's Office of the National Science Foundation: "I took four classes with Dr. Ewing because I enjoyed the blend of practical and theoretical he provided to the students. His extensive courtroom experience made his classes

interesting and practical, while his academic background, in law and philosophy, provided the academic knowledge I expected as a law student."



Hon. Barbara Howe '80 receives the 2018 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award

A point of pride for Judge Howe

For Hon. **Barbara Howe '80**, UB School of Law's highest honor came as a punctuation mark in a distinguished legal career.

The story continues for Howe, who has now entered private practice after 30 years as a New York State judge, including 14 years in Erie County Surrogate Court. And as she accepted the Edwin F. Jaeckle Award, she took the occasion to reflect on the system to which she has devoted her professional life.

"I think there's an exquisite orthodoxy to the law," Howe remarked in the award presentation ceremony, held Jan. 26 in Manhattan. "And then, of course, I love the agility of the law to bring common sense to the table and get the job done in ways that are lawful and proper.

"My love of lawyers is real," she said. "I have seen lawyers do magic with their craft, and work in so many situations where they ended up doing it pro bono, whether they planned to or not."

The Jaeckle Award is given annually to a person who exemplifies the highest ideals of the School of Law and the Law Alumni Association, and has made significant contributions to the school and the legal profession. Those contributions are on full display with Howe, who is now senior counsel with the Buffalo office of Woods Oviatt Gilman.

As a supportive alumna and former president of the UB Law Alumni Association, Howe has maintained close ties with the law school throughout her academic and judicial career. She has taught several courses, as well as actively promoting and participating in the law school's mentor program.

And as a judge in one of New York State's busiest courts, Howe has frequently assumed leadership roles on numerous statewide committees. A member of the state Office of Court Administration's Legislative Advisory Group, she helped to initiate and implement legislation making Erie County Surrogate's Court the state's first to allow e-filing. She has also played an active role in shaping legislative proposals relating to estate and surrogate's court practice while serving on the OCA's Surrogate's Court Advisory Committee.

Howe, who became Surrogate Judge in 2004, began her judicial career on the Buffalo City Court bench in 1988, and was a New York State Supreme Court Justice from 1992 through 2003. Before she joined the bench, she was a tenured faculty member in UB's Department of Sociology. She has authored numerous articles on sociology and the law, and more than 50 of her judicial decisions have been published by the *New York State Reporter*.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Connecticut at Storrs, where she earned a bachelor's degree with highest honors, Howe also has master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from Cornell University, in addition to her J.D.

“Barbara has given her time and talents to literally thousands of young women, people aspiring to enter the legal profession ... and that will be her legacy more than anything. There will be generation upon generation that I believe will pay it forward because they were touched, and so blessed to have had the opportunity to call Barbara a friend and mentor.”

— **Hon. Kathy C. Hochul**, New York State Lieutenant Governor

“Hundreds of people have been personally mentored, non-stop, for life by Judge Howe. I know this privilege and this honor firsthand. I am only one amongst so many people that Judge Howe takes under her wings. ... The span of those wings reach so far and are never-ending.”

— **Hon. Acea M. Mosey**,
Erie County Surrogate



“The respect Judge Howe has for the entire judiciary is a culture that she has created. One of promptness, kindness and respect to all.”

— **Chanel T. McCarthy '08**,
Senior Associate, The Knoer Group,
PLLC





Law Alumni Association President Pietra Zaffram '01 welcomes the attendees.

Congratulations to our 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

May 8 at the Hyatt Regency, Buffalo

The Law Alumni Association hosted over 300 guests at its 56th Annual Alumni Dinner. Classmates, family members and friends gathered to pay tribute to six outstanding leaders in our legal community.



From left to right:

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>For Private Practice
Douglas W. Dimitroff '89
Partner, Phillips Lytle LLP
Buffalo</p> | <p>For The Judiciary
Hon. Craig D. Hannah '95
Judge, Buffalo City Court
Buffalo</p> | <p>For Community Service
Steven J. Weiss '91
Managing Partner, Cannon Heyman & Weiss, LLP
Buffalo</p> | <p>For Outstanding Service to the Community by a Non-Alumnus
Hon. Frank P. Geraci Jr.
Chief U.S. District Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Rochester, N.Y.</p> | <p>For Business Achievements
Bradley M. Gayton '91
Group Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel, Ford Motor Co.
Dearborn, Mich.</p> | <p>For Public Service
Karen L. Nicolson '89
Chief Executive Officer, Center for Elder Law and Justice
Buffalo</p> |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|



Bradley M. Gayton '91 with his daughters Claudia (far left), Sydney (far right) and wife, Lisa Lewis-Gayton '92



Steven J. Weiss '91 and family



Karen L. Nicolson '89 and her fans



Douglas W. Dimitroff '89 with his parents (left) and wife, Dr. Grace Dimitroff



Hon. Craig D. Hannah '95 with his daughter Taylor and wife Angela Reynolds



Hon. Frank P. Geraci Jr. with dinner co-chair Elizabeth Kraengel '07 and Hon. Frank Caruso



LAA President-Elect Marc W. Brown '99



Annual Dinner Co-Chair Jason G. Ulatowski '07

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

BUFFALO



1



3



2



4

Alumni Mentor Matching Reception

January 31, 2018

- 1. Scott C. Becker '93 and Christopher J. Phillips '20
- 2. Gina M. Middleton '20 and Melissa Hancock Nickson '97

Behind the Bench CLE for LAA Members Only

March 14, 2018

- 3. Hon. Henry J. Nowak Jr. '93, Hon. Catherine Nugent Panepinto '97, Hon. Frank A. Sedita III '86, Hon. Tracey Bannister '84, Hon. Dennis E. Ward '76 and Hon. Timothy Walker

The GOLD Group's Annual Spring Social

April 19, 2018

- 4. Laura P. Berloth '13, Nicholas A. Romano '13, Kimberly A. Rowles '13 and Bradley S. Loliger '13



5

The Class of 1968's 50-Year Reunion

May 19, 2018

- 5. 1st Row: Wayne LeChase, Robert P. Fine, John J. LaDuca, Samuel M. Tamburo, Thomas M. Montante, Michael R. Wolford, Patrick J. Baker and Kenneth S. Kirsner
- 2nd Row: Gerard A. Mitrano, Robert J. Salomon, Robert B. Conklin, William J. Love Jr. and Bruce D. Drucker
- 3rd Row: Robert C. LePome, Norman P. Effman and Andrew Feldman
- 4th Row: David R. Pfalzgraf, William H. Bond and James P. Renda

ALBANY



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Reception with the Dean

March 28, 2018

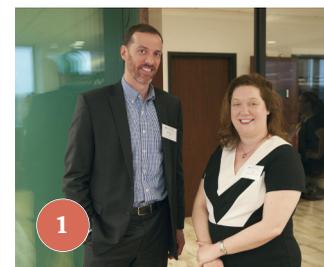
- 1. Dean Aviva Abramovsky with Hon. Eugene F. Pigott, Jr. '73 and all seven members of the New York State Court of Appeals.



2

- 2. Albany Chapter Co-Chairs Patricia C. Sandison '07 (left) and Caroline B. Brancatella '07 (right) with Vice Dean for Alumni Ilene R. Fleischmann

Central New York



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Meet the Dean Reception

March 29, 2018

- 1. Matthew T. Kerwin '00 and Dean Aviva Abramovsky



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- 2. Lisa A. Bailey Vavonese '06, Vice Dean for Advancement Karen R. Kaczmarek '89 and Central New York Chapter Chair Sam M. Tamburo '68.

Interested in making an alumni connection in your area?

Contact **Ilene Fleischmann**, Vice Dean for Alumni at 716-645-2107 or fleisch@buffalo.edu.



For more photos and videos from our events visit:

ROCHESTER



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e-Discovery CLE and Reception for Newly Admitted Attorneys
June 7, 2018

- 1. Veronica A. Kaye '17, Dean Aviva Abramovsky, Rochester Chapter Co-Chair Lawrence K. Bice '12 and Katelyn M. Korus '16
- 2. CLE speakers Pauline Kiser, Hon. Marian W. Payson and Megan K. Dorritie '03
- 3. Robert C. Brucato, Jr. '90, Megan K. Dorritie '03, Wende J. Knapp '10 and Andre L. Lindsay '08

WASHINGTON, D.C.



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Alumni Lunch with Students Working in D.C.
July 11, 2018

- 1. 1st row: Elizabeth R. David '19 and Meghan L. McElligott '20.
- 2nd row: D.C. Chapter Co-Chair Meredith Jolie '03, Leslie P. Machado '96, Kenneth A. Libby '85, Mary Jo Dowd '80 and Rody Damis '13



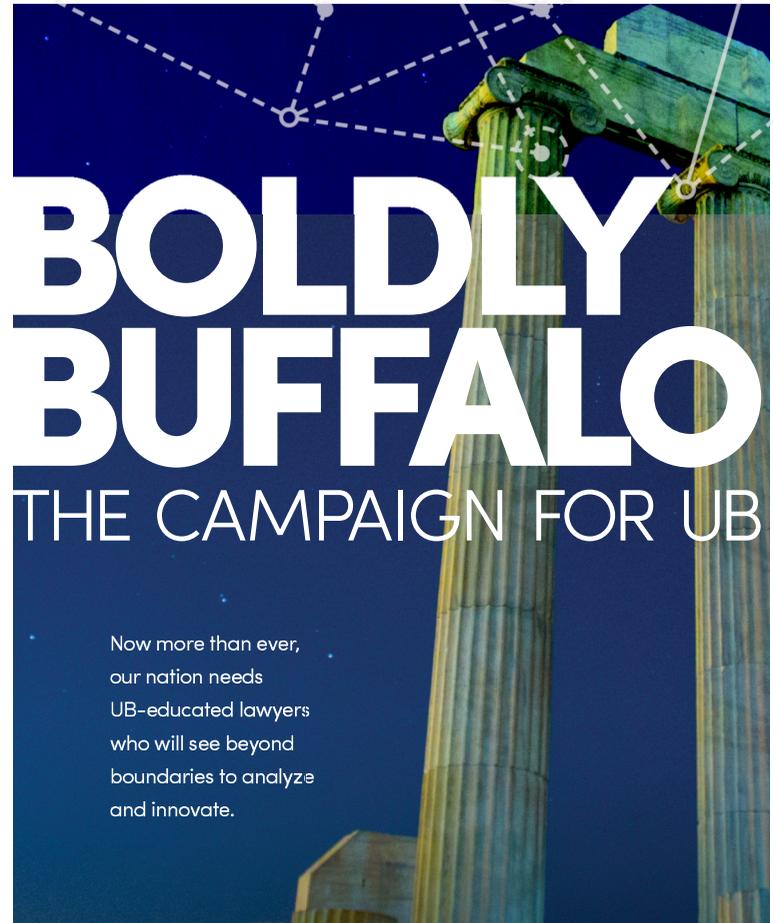
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Summer Social at U.S. District Courthouse
July 25, 2018

- 1. Elizabeth R. David '19, Meghan L. McElligott '20, Hon. Paul L. Friedman '68 and Daniel J. Mattle '20
- 2. D.C. Alumni Chapter Co-Chairs Meredith Jolie '03 and Dana M. Louttit '86



BOLDLY BUFFALO

THE CAMPAIGN FOR UB

Now more than ever, our nation needs UB-educated lawyers who will see beyond boundaries to analyze and innovate.

Our Place. Our Way. Our Future.

At UB, being bold means training global citizens to thrive in today's legal profession. Partnering with medical specialists to provide counsel to critically ill patients who don't have access to a lawyer. And working on the front lines toward justice and safety for domestic violence victims.

The Boldly Buffalo campaign represents countless opportunities for you to invest in critically important causes and ideals that can change the lives of our School of Law students and improve our world.

buffalo.edu/campaign

Here

IS WHERE YOUR JOURNEY STARTED AND HERE IS WHERE WE'LL PARTY

DID YOU GRADUATE IN:

1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988,
1993, 1998, 2003, 2008 or 2013? If so ...

Then it's time
to celebrate!
Saturday, Oct. 20

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

All class years are invited
to party – even if you're not
a "3" or "8"

THE WESTIN BUFFALO 250 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

To register online, for discount hotel information
and for other reunion weekend events visit:

law.buffalo.edu/alumni-celebration

Or call the alumni office at (716) 645-2107



HELP US HONOR...

SUNY Distinguished Service
Professor David M. Engel on
his retirement after
37 years on the faculty

law.buffalo.edu

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