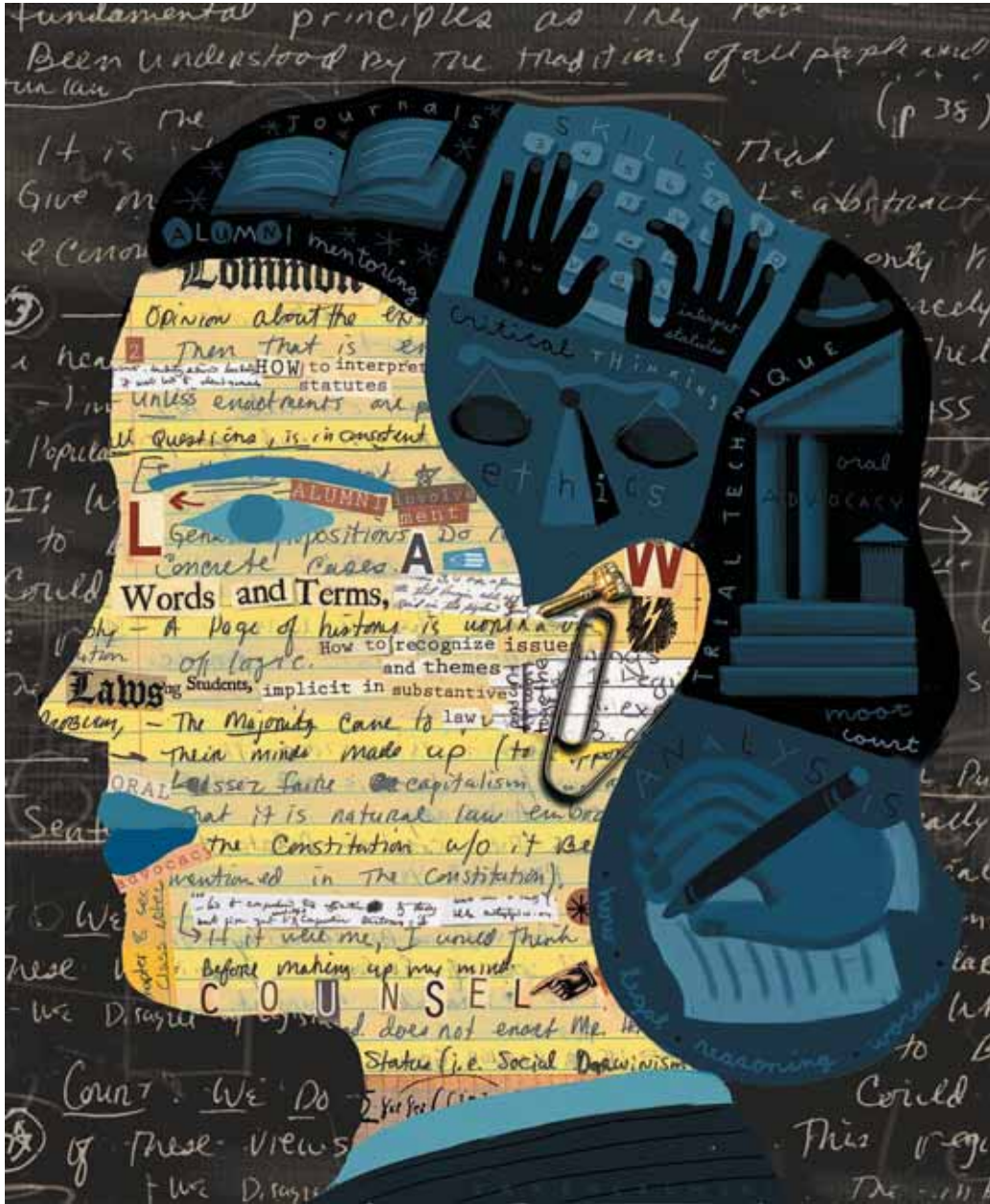


# UB LAW FORUM

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



# OUR STUDENTS: READY FOR THE FUTURE

*From the classroom to the law office • Putting skills first • Alumni involvement  
Listening to the experts • A diverse environment • A professional place to learn*

S P R I N G 2 0 1 1

**University at Buffalo Law School,  
The State University of New York**



*UB Law Forum* is mailed free to alumni, faculty, students and friends of the University at Buffalo Law School. Send your comments or suggestions to Ilene R. Fleischmann at [fleisch@buffalo.edu](mailto:fleisch@buffalo.edu)

*Vice Dean for Alumni and Communications, and  
UB Law Forum Editor:*  
**Ilene R. Fleischmann**

*Cover illustration:*  
**Daniel Zakroczemski**

*Principal Photographers:*  
**Janet Charles, Donald Dannecker,  
Mark Mulville, Nancy Parisi**

*Reunion Photographers:*  
**Doug Benz, Sharon Cantillon, Robert Kirkham,  
KC Kratt, Rob McElroy, Marc Murphy**

• • •  
Please address all correspondence to:

**Lisa Mueller:** Law Alumni Association  
[lmueeller@buffalo.edu](mailto:lmueeller@buffalo.edu)

**Amy Atkinson:** Reunions  
[aatkins@buffalo.edu](mailto:aatkins@buffalo.edu)

Mailing address:  
*UB Law Forum*  
310 O'Brian Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260



## *Keynote speaker*

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand  
speaks at Commencement,  
Saturday, May 21.  
Full multimedia coverage at  
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# *Don't be a stranger!*

We welcome your professional news.  
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# UB LAW FORUM

*The Magazine of the University at Buffalo Law School  
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Left to right, David Morisset '03,  
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# Message from the Dean

## Taking UB Law to the forefront of legal education

**E**ven though the spring was late in coming to Buffalo this year, our spirits as a school have never been higher. After much hard work, the school is taking off in new and exciting ways. Let me provide you with just a few examples. Our reputation is on the rise, as evidenced by several national rankings. In this, we shall not relent in our push for the Top 50. This semester, we have hired four new faculty – all with star potential – who will teach in important areas of need in our curriculum, including criminal law and labor law. We have virtually redone the entire first floor – and entrance – to the Law School. Adding to this energy, UB installed former Provost Satish K. Tripathi as its 15th president. Over the past three years, President Tripathi has been a wonderful booster and partner to this Law School. He cares deeply about UB Law. We simply could not have a better leader for our august university.

This magazine highlights some of the work behind one of our primary goals – our determination to produce practice-ready attorneys. Since assuming the mantle of dean, I have been driven by a singular commitment to produce the most skilled lawyers. To that end, we have spared no effort, or resources, to make that vision come true. We have hired faculty committed to great teaching, particularly in the black-letter law areas that are essential to the legal profession. We have hired nine highly skilled research and writing instructors who are working hard to train our students the “right way” from day one. I cannot say enough about how utterly crucial these hires are to the mission of the Law School.

Our legal skills curriculum includes nearly half of our offerings – research and writing, trial and appellate advocacy, externships, moot courts, law reviews and ADR. These are the fundamental skills that make a lawyer. I must say that I could not be more proud of the job that our entire legal skills team, under the leadership of SUNY Distinguished Professor Charles Ewing, is doing to impart to our students the culture and skills of great lawyering. Similarly, we are now revamping our clinical legal education program under Professor Kim Connolly, a nationally renowned legal clinician and scholar. This investment in our clinics is absolutely essential because it is a key prong of the legal skills curriculum broadly defined.

Finally, I want to say that great law schools teach law students how to think about complex legal problems while imparting practical legal skills. You know as well as I do that the legal profession is undergoing a deep transformation. The



Dean Makau W. Mutua with UB's 15th president, Satish K. Tripathi.

market is increasingly demanding that the law graduate of the future has the ability to hit the ground running. Law schools will have to retool to respond to these market forces. But they must do so in a smart way. That is why we at UB Law are heavily investing in lawyering skills while teaching our students to break down the most sophisticated legal theories. The two go hand in hand. I believe that the well-rounded law graduate has to be equipped to do both well. I want to assure you that our faculty is equal to this challenge. Please join us in taking UB Law to its place at the forefront of legal education. Thank you.

Dean Makau W. Mutua



## Stand-up guy

### *Thomas E. Black Jr. '79 accepts the Jaeckle Award with a smile and a challenge*

**T**he weather was frightful but the company was delightful as UB Law School alumni, administrators and friends gathered in New York City to present the 2011 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award to Thomas E. Black Jr. '79.

The Jan. 28 luncheon and award presentation took place at the elegant Union League Club, where the speakers stood beneath an oil painting of Abraham Lincoln to present the highest honor that UB Law School and its Alumni Association can bestow.

Black is managing partner of Black, Mann & Graham, LLP, a law firm he founded in 1997. Concentrating in mortgage servicing, the firm has over 130 employees with offices in Dallas, Houston and Flower Mound, Texas. Black has served on UB Law's Dean's Advisory Council since 2002 and has been its chairman since 2007. A major gift from Tom and his wife, Bridget, will establish a named professorship at the Law School.

Family members and members of his firm were present for the event, emceed by Dennis R. McCoy '77.

Dean Makau W. Mutua gave an update on progress at the Law School. Francis M. Letro '79, vice chair of the Dean's Advisory Council, shared his own welcome, and University at Buffalo Provost (now President) Satish K. Tripathi noted the tremendous loyalty and support that UB Law alumni feel toward the school.

Dean Mutua's wide-ranging introduction of the honoree converged on one key point. "There is one secret to Tom's success," the dean said, "and that is the way he treats people, whether it be his clients, his colleagues or his staff. I saw this myself when I visited Tom's offices in Dallas, where I could see, as Tom walked around with me to introduce me to various staff members, that he was not acting as a boss but as a colleague."

Black is known for beginning each meeting of the Dean's Advisory Council with a carefully chosen piece of humor, and this day was no exception. He told how he had been wait-listed by the UB Law admissions department and had already enrolled at another law school when, days before classes were to begin, he got a call from Buffalo. "I was the very last student



*"Volunteer your time, lobby your legislators, write a check. Get involved. Join us in this noble cause."*

accepted off the waiting list that year," he said. "On paper, I was the least intelligent person in my class. That never bothered me until one day, at a Dean's Advisory Council meeting, former Dean Tom Headrick pointed out that, on the whole, the Class of '79 was not a very bright class."

He credited the values of his parents – Tom and Claire Black, who were in the audience – for taking him so far. They scrimped to put him and his brother, Sean, through Notre Dame and UB Law School, and they taught important lessons, Black said, about integrity and respect and humor and generosity and compassion. "This award is truly a recognition of those values rather than this individual," he said, thanking also his children, Ryan (a current UB Law student) and Erin, and "my trophy wife of 27 years, Bridget. Her support, advice and love have made today possible."

Black challenged his fellow alumni to be an active part of UB Law's renaissance, saying, "Volunteer your time, lobby your legislators, write a check. Get involved. Join us in this noble cause."

And he quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson's definition of success, which included "the ability to laugh often and much and to win the respect of intelligent people."

"Today," Black said, "I feel successful."



Bridget Black

# State of readiness

## *Vince Doyle '89 set to take the reins of the New York State Bar Association*

**D**iscussing the New York State Bar Association, whose president he becomes on June 1, Vincent E. Doyle III '89 returns again and again to one word:

Enormous.

As in, an organization with 77,000 members, one-quarter of whom live out of state and even in other countries; with 90-odd committees and sections; with a slew of ongoing publications and other information-disseminating media; with a program of continuing legal education offered across the state and throughout the year.

As in, an enormous amount of work that awaits.

"As president, you work part of the time on what you want to accomplish and a lot of the time on things that other people want to accomplish," Doyle says in an interview in the library of the Buffalo law firm Connors & Vilardo, where he is a partner. "It's an enormous organization of staff and volunteers doing an enormous amount of work. This will be a year when I have two full-time jobs – three with my home life. (He and his wife, Kerry Rustowicz Doyle, have three young children.) It'll be very intense and challenging for a year."

In some ways his entire life to date has pointed to this moment. He remembers his father – Vincent E. Doyle Jr. '56, a celebrated defense lawyer and chief administrative judge for the State Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District – carting him to Bar Association events as a child. At UB Law, young Vince was a moot court champion, served on the *Law Review* and graduated with magna cum laude printed on his diploma.

He also has paid a lot of dues with the state Bar Association, having served both in the House of Delegates and on the Executive Committee. He also served as chair of the association's active Criminal Justice Section. He has spent the past year as president-elect of the organization, working closely with outgoing president Stephen P. Younger of New York City.

Now, as he prepares to take office,



Vincent E. Doyle III '89

Doyle wants to bring the Bar Association's considerable clout to bear on a select group of issues. He wants to focus attention on pro bono work, encouraging attorneys to increase their pro bono hours and helping to match them with pro bono opportunities. Such work is encouraged – but in New York State not required – as part of the profession, but Doyle especially wants to remind attorneys outside of law firms, such as government lawyers and those in corporate counsel's offices, that they too can get in on the act.

He also wants to tackle the perennial problem of improving diversity, both in the Bar Association and in the profession as a whole. And he wants to "increase the appeal and relevance of the legal profession to the next generation," including inviting law students to get more involved in the work of the organization. The cost of law school is a continuing concern; a Bar Association report to be released soon will make

recommendations on some changes in legal education and address work-life balance issues for attorneys in practice.

As president, he'll visit county and specialty bar meetings; attend special meetings and conferences of Bar Association sections; spend a lot of time in Albany, where the organization is headquartered, and New York City; and attend American Bar Association meetings and at least two meetings out of the country. He points out that more than 2,000 UB Law School graduates are New York Bar Association members, including members in China, India, Korea, Hong Kong, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom. He also, he says with a wry

grin, has become a registered lobbyist, the better to support the organization's lobbying efforts with state government.

**T**hrough all of this, though, Doyle holds fast to the idea of law as a calling, something he tried to impress upon the lawyers newly admitted to the bar when he was called to speak at their admission ceremony recently. "This isn't a job for us," he says, "and it isn't a business. It's a profession. We've seen changes in technology, changes in the business of law, certainly changes in the economy. All of these have changed the practice of law, but they have not changed the profession. And the profession – not to get sappy about it, but it has a soul. We have an obligation to serve the greater good, and we have a duty to improve the legal system where we can. And the role of a bar association, particularly, is to protect and nurture that soul."

# On the side of fairness

## *Karen Richardson '97 set to lead Women's Bar Association of the State of New York*

**W**hen Karen Richardson '97 is sworn in as president of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York on May 21, she promises that her inaugural speech will be a short one.

The organization's mission? Not so small.

With more than 3,800 members (10 percent of them male) in 18 chapters across the state, the association promotes the advancement of women in the legal profession and across society. At a time, Richardson says, when "women remain underrepresented in leadership positions" in the law – for example, less than one-third of federal judges are women, and they still lag as partners and managing partners in law firms – the association has plenty of work before it.

Richardson, who works as confidential law clerk to the Hon. H. Kenneth Schroeder Jr., magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court, Western District of New York, has come up through the ranks of the bar association, from her earliest days when "people already involved in the organization drew me in. I found it was a nice resource to be able to step out of the law firm practice and have other women you could bounce questions and issues off and talk about what in this community do we need."

She served as treasurer and president of the association's Western New York chapter – the third-largest in the state – and then treasurer and vice president of the state organization. She has spent the past year as president-elect.

Richardson previously worked as an associate at the Buffalo law firm Phillips Lytle, and she assumes leadership of an organization that includes attorneys in public service, private practice, large firms and small, upstate and downstate.

"The role of the women's bar is very similar to that of the New York State Bar Association and the Erie



Karen Richardson '97

County Bar Association," she says. And so, for example, the organization takes positions on pending legislation in Albany that affects the legal profession, with special interest in issues with an impact on women's lives. Richardson notes that the Women's Bar Association was instrumental in passage of long-delayed no-fault divorce legislation in New York State, and she says it will continue to advocate for state funding for civil legal services for the poor – an issue important to women, given that the population in poverty is heavily weighted toward women, especially single women with children.

**N**oting that women are over half the general population and have been "well over 40 percent of law school students for 20 years now," she argues that advancing women's interests in the legal profession is not only a matter of

equity, but a matter of capitalizing on women's unique gifts. "Whether it's in the judiciary or the medical field or wherever, excluding them is a disservice," Richardson says. "You are excluding 50 percent of your resources." In a courtroom situation, for example, she says, "it's very important for people in a community to have a sense of confidence that they are represented – that they see themselves in that system," so the presence of women on the bench, on juries and at the attorneys' tables helps build trust in the judicial system.

Under her leadership, and with the work of the Women's Bar Association's 39 committees, she expects the as-

sociation to concentrate its efforts in several areas. One is to strengthen a program to encourage women to run for elective office and to make themselves available for judgeships, so that political parties and selection committees will "expand their vision of who the qualified candidates are." Another is to expand the association's continuing legal education offerings and to make more of them available through webinars, of special help to lawyers in remote rural areas of the state.

It means a busy year in which Richardson will juggle her work back home with visits to local chapters of the association, a lot of e-mail and conference calling, statewide weekend meetings five times a year, and time in the organization's New York City headquarters. "JetBlue," she says, "is a wonderful thing."



# The D.C. connection

## *Presidential Management Fellows reflect on the learning curve in government service*

**G**raduation and the bar exam are behind them, and they've been on the job for the better part of a year. So UB Law's most recent Presidential Management Fellows – five 2010 graduates who accepted offers in Washington, D.C., under the federal government's highly competitive program to train its next generation of leaders – are in a position to reflect a little bit.

UB Law Forum asked each of them about their work, the intricacies of government service and life in the nation's capital.



**Natalie Williams** is working with the Federal Railroad Administration, part of the Department of Transportation, as a financial analyst for the agency's Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement

Financing Program. There she analyzes loan applications and helps maintain the agency's loan portfolio.

The subject is new to her – “All I had done was ride Amtrak,” she says – but she brings to the agency a background and interest in finance. “It's a world apart,” she says of working in this area. “I'm still learning about the railroad industry and applying my financial skills. It's really challenging work, something different each day.”

The work involves evaluating the creditworthiness of the applicants, their financial statements and history, and projecting future financials to

evaluate borrowers' ability to repay a capital loan. Many applicants are small railroads looking for money to lay new track or buy new rail cars.

“I closed my first loan recently,” Williams says. “It was a smaller loan, but to the company getting the loan it's very important and very valuable. It was a small railroad in Mississippi, and this is going to be huge for them. It was pretty fulfilling to get that approved, knowing that it's going to help out this small railroad.”



Over at the Small Business Administration, **Mathew Pascarella** – whose J.D. was earned with a financial transactions concentration – is also doing financial analysis, in the SBA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. “We handle the budget, giving out the money to all the different program offices that are implementing our programs, and tracking that money to see how well these programs are doing and if they're meet-

ing their goals,” he says. There's also a regulatory compliance piece, for which his Law School training is most directly applicable.

“I really like where I'm at. It's extremely valuable if you want a career in the federal government,” Pascarella says of the Presidential Management Fellowship program. “I've learned a lot about how agencies operate at this level. It has just been an education in how the federal government operates.”



**Heather Strachan's** assignment has been with the high-profile Federal Emergency Management Agency, part of the Department of Homeland Security. There she has been involved with two distinct

projects. In the agency's human capital department, she has been working on policies and procedures for FEMA's PMF program, including policies on how fellows can rotate into other positions within the agency. And, working with the chief counsel's office, she is helping to develop a series of podcasts on legal topics related to FEMA's work, to be launched internally and then to the world on the Internet.

“One of the great things about the PMF program is that it's a way into the federal government,” Strachan says. “The idea is that you come in and

they want you to be a leader of the agency in the future, sort of a future management supervisor track. The other component is, you have to do at least one rotation outside your agency. That gives you an opportunity to see how other agencies work and expand on your skill sets." In June she will begin a rotation in the Human Rights Law Division of the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"It's interesting," she says of working at this level. "There can be a lot of bureaucracy you have to go through to get something done. But you can work on policies that impact a large population of people and can be really important, and you have opportunities to meet people you wouldn't otherwise meet. It's a great place to be."



With a Law School background in family law, **Margo Brown** began her PMF assignment in the Department of Health and Human Services, in the Office of Child Support Enforcement of the Adminis-

tration for Children and Families. There she worked in the policy division, working on ways to more effectively share information – much of it about responses to domestic violence – with other federal agencies, and participating in the ongoing policy-making work of the division. In January she took on something completely

different: a three-month rotation at the Department of Energy, working in the chief counsel's office of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, which promotes and funds research and development of advanced energy technologies. After that rotation, she'll return to Health and Human Services.

"It's rewarding to have a part in something that you know is going to affect people down the road," Brown says. "It's a great opportunity, because you're always around people and making connections. That's how D.C. is – it's important to know people."

Another advantage: the opportunity to work, on a flextime basis, four 10-hour days, leaving her time to do pro bono work.



**Jenna Moran** ended up at Health and Human Services, too, beginning her PMF stint at the National Institutes of Health. Her passion at UB Law was labor and employment law, and an externship

at Erie County Medical Center cemented that interest. She has parlayed that experience and training into a human resources track at NIH.

In one assignment, she worked on implementing a presidential memorandum on hiring reform. President Obama's directive was to shorten the

hiring process for federal positions, to make the process more transparent to applicants and to get agency managers more involved. "I became a point person at my agency to take that presidential memo and implement it into the day-to-day functions of our human resources office," Moran says.

She points out that the Presidential Management Fellowship program encompasses not just law graduates, but smart people with training in disciplines such as public health, business and social work. "Everybody is bringing something different to the table, and it's definitely a very dynamic place to be," she says. "The great thing about being in a PMF cohort is that everyone is really engaged and wants to know more than they necessarily need to. They really give us some great opportunities to be involved."

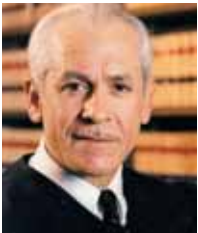
"The PMF program is perfect for someone who wants to use their legal degree in a non-traditional way. This was the perfect place for me to end up."



# Alumni Honored

## LAW REVIEW DINNER

*Buffalo Law Review* honors U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Julio Fuentes '75 and prominent attorney Garry Graber '78



Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75



Garry M. Graber '78

The *Buffalo Law Review* Dinner on April 21 celebrated a year of achievements by students in their respective organizations and paid tribute to UB Law alumni and faculty who have made a difference in law students' lives.

The annual event, which was held in the Park Club, in Williamsville, was chaired by third-year student Ryan R. Seher, managing editor of the student-run journal. The dinner celebrated a year in which the *Law Review*, under Editor-in-Chief Helen K. Root, published five issues and was ranked highly among university law journals as measured by readership and number of citations from other academic articles.

Two UB Law alumni were honored at the dinner: **Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75**, who serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, is the highest-ranking federal judge to graduate from UB Law School. He also serves on the school's Dean's Advisory Council.

"He has helped the Law School tremendously," Seher says. "Because of his service to the Law School and especially his service to the students, we were delighted to have him come speak to us and to honor him."

**Garry M. Graber '78**, a partner at the Buffalo-based law firm Hodgson Russ and an adjunct faculty member at UB Law, also was honored at the dinner. Graber has over 30 years of experience practicing bankruptcy, corporate and financial restructuring, creditors' rights, financial services, commercial and corporate litigation, and general business law. He, or one of his colleagues, plays a major role in virtually every large Chapter 11 case filed in upstate New York and many filed in the Southern District of New York and Delaware.

"Mr. Graber is a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association, serves on the Dean's Advisory Council, has held numerous positions on bar committees and has a very distinguished record of service," says Seher.

The *Law Review* staff and friends also celebrated this year's launch of *The Docket*, an online extension of the journal. *The Docket* publishes short responses to articles published in the *Review* and also publishes shorter original works, such as essays. Says Seher, "It is meant to be more of a conversation than another part of the *Review*."

## STUDENTS OF COLOR

Dinner honors diversity

The University at Buffalo Law School honored its diversity in this year's Law School Students of Color Dinner, held April 21 at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott. The dinner recognizes and honors the achievements of distinguished alumni, minority trailblazers, professors and law students who are set to graduate in May. Co-sponsored by the Asian American Law Students Association, the Black Law Students Association and the Latin American Law Students Association, it brings together graduating students, continuing students, alumni, faculty and a host of friends to celebrate the achievements of people of color who have been or are associated with the Law School.

Keynote speaker this year was John V. Elmore, who serves as senior trial counsel and managing attorney for the Buffalo law firm Brown Chiari. He is also the author of *Fighting for Your Life: The African American Survival Guide*, which addresses the issues of young people and the criminal justice system.

Two Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented, one to Buffalo City Court **Judge Craig Hannah '95**, who has been an active member of the UB Law Alumni Association's board of directors. Another was presented to **Alberto M. Benitez '86**, professor of clinical law, George Washington University Law School, in Washington, D.C.

The event's Trailblazer Award was presented to **Joseph M. Hanna '05**, a partner practicing commercial litigation with the Buffalo law firm Goldberg Segalla. As president of the Minority Bar Association, Hanna has developed a new clerkship program designed to attract students of color to clerkships in Western New York's 8th Judicial District.

Also honored at the dinner with the Jacob D. Hyman Professor of the Year award was **Professor Stephanie Phillips**, whose academic focus is Critical Race Theory but who also has worked tirelessly with the Black Law Students Association and serves on UB Law's Diversity Committee.

The Monique E. Emdin Award, given in honor of the 2007 UB Law graduate who died of cancer when she was 28, was presented to third-year law student **Tiffany LeBron**.

The award is a collaboration between Hiscock & Barclay LLP and Bethesda World Harvest International Church. A "Lift as We Climb" scholarship was awarded to a high school student.

The event's traditional candle-lighting ceremony closed the evening. Graduating third-year students "passed the torch" to those who will follow them as leaders in UB Law's students of color community.



Judge Craig Hannah '95



Alberto M. Benitez '86



## OUR STUDENTS: *ready for the future*



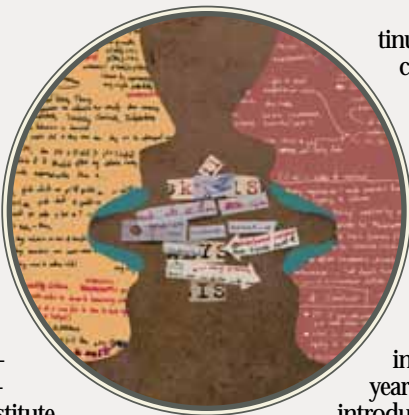
*From new courses to new opportunities for students to sample professional life, UB Law School is redoubling its efforts to produce lawyers ready to practice on day one. The new focus is apparent across the board – and already it's paying off.*

### ***From the classroom to the law office***

What will professional life be like for the lawyer of the future? There are as many opinions about that crucial question as there are pundits raising them.

What is clear, though, is that even with the seemingly radical changes in the profession being wrought by the Information Age and continuing economic pressures, there is no substitute for the skills that lawyers have wielded for time immemorial: the close reading, clear writing and analytical thinking that are every good attorney's stock in trade.

And so, even as the future of lawyering remains unknowable, UB Law School has recommitted itself to imparting to every student the skills necessary to succeed in 21st century practice. Drawing on its close connections with the bench and bar, the school con-



tinues to take the pulse of the legal community and meet its needs now and into the future. As a phrase often heard around O'Brien Hall has it, UB Law is graduating new lawyers who will be "ready to practice on day one."

### ***Putting skills first***

The most substantial change in the Law School's curriculum in years takes full effect this year with the introduction of the Legal Skills initiative.

Under the direction of Vice Dean for Legal Skills Charles Patrick Ewing, Legal Skills comprises curriculum components, moot court and trial technique experiences, published journals, professional development and legal externships.

For years, UB Law students have been required to take two semesters of research and writing. Now the

**Continued on page 10**



*"We asked what skills our students need on day one and what they do during their first week in a law office. We received a tremendous amount of feedback."*

*– Vice Dean for Legal Skills Charles Patrick Ewing*

newly renamed Legal Analysis, Writing and Research program, or LAWR, has expanded to require three semesters of coursework, begun last fall with the entering Class of 2013. A vote of the faculty affirmed the change.

"Legal analysis and legal writing are the two fundamental skills of any lawyer," Ewing says.

"This enables us now to not only give students more training in these skills, but to give it to them in pieces that they are more able to deal with at their level. We don't have to rush students to get all this in." One skills course will be required in each semester of a student's first year, with the third in the second year. UB Law recently hired two new instructors (see Page 17) to help implement the additional coursework.

The change grows out of a series of focus groups that the school conducted with judges, judicial clerks and attorneys. "We asked what skills our students need on day one and what they do during their first week in a law office," Ewing says. "We received a tremendous amount of feedback. We also looked at every law school in the United States, focusing especially on the top 10. We found that nine of them required at least three semesters of research and writing."

In addition, he said, students will be required to take at least one other course with a major writing component, such as an externship or a trial technique course. About 160 students participate in trial technique programs each year. A new course addresses the direct and cross-examination of expert witnesses in civil and criminal cases, and three special Saturday programs each semes-

ter for trial technique students include the presentation of a simulated trial by top local litigators as well as lectures on topics such as evidentiary issues in trial practice.

"Our first-year students spend a considerable share of their time in legal analysis, writing and research, which provides the basic building blocks for our Legal Skills curriculum," Ewing says. "UB Law students learn the basic practice skills required of every law graduate in the 21st century job market. Students

in our LAWR courses not only learn to use the law library and state-of-the-art computer legal databases, they develop their analytical and writing skills by researching and producing a series of written assignments, such as legal memoranda and motions. Assignments are reviewed by members of our full-time LAWR faculty, all of whom are seasoned lawyers with extensive practice experience. LAWR faculty members meet individually with first-year students on a regular basis and provide detailed critiques of their work."

All of this activity, Ewing says, including the school's successful trial technique program and success in local and national moot court competitions, "redounds to the school's benefit in terms of reputation," both the visibility created by hosting competitions and the performance of UB Law students at com-

petitions across the country. And success breeds success – Ewing says that UB Law has been able to be more selective in fielding trial teams, making the teams better prepared to compete on a national level.

Also under the Legal Skills umbrella is the school's program of externships. Ewing says many more students are taking advantage of these unpaid, for-credit experiences in judicial clerkships, in law offices and in not-for-profit and government agencies. Many more judicial externships have developed, he said, under the leadership of Director of Externship Programs Lise Gelernter.

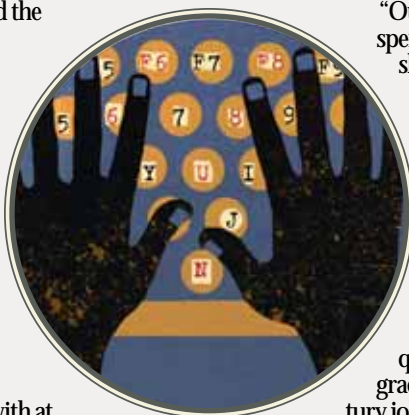
Administrators are also working to streamline and standardize the work processes of the law journals published at UB Law, under the direction of Associate Professor Rick Su. And the school's academic support program, directed by Barbara Sherk, has become part of the Legal Skills initiative, with support for students preparing for the bar exam and other professional development services.

## Alumni involvement

The Law School's alumni cohort, whose energy is a signal strength of the institution, has stepped up to reinforce these efforts and to help new graduates negotiate the tricky waters of the legal hiring process.

Each of the four official alumni chapters has a substantial steering committee, says Lisa M.

Mueller, assistant director of the UB Law Alumni Association, and these alumni have come forward with major initiatives in support of current students and new graduates. "All the chapters want to do something that



involves student engagement,” she says.

This year brought the second installment of Rochester Day at the school, in which 14 alumni from the Rochester area – where the Law School’s second-largest concentration of alumni practice – gave a three-part program that included individual presentations, a panel discussion and then small-group mentoring sessions. A similar D.C. Day has introduced students to the possibilities for practice in the nation’s capital.

A major initiative last summer, to be repeated this summer, is a program of mock interviews by alumni practicing in New York City. After the Career Services Office helped set up an intensive round of interviews for students at firms in the city, UB Law alumni there were matched with students seeking work in their practice area. They did some mock interviews, prepping the students for the real thing and reducing the anxiety level of the job search. After the real interviews were over, there was a social gathering for alumni and students – a time for debriefing and building professional connections. “The practice of law, like any profession, is very dependent on relationships,” Mueller says. “Sometimes those relationships lead to employment, sometimes they lead to further clients. Our alumni provide our students with invaluable professional contacts.”

These initiatives come on top of the school’s network that puts prospective students, current students, students working for a summer in an area, in touch with alumni volunteers for some informal mentoring, and UB Law’s formal mentoring program, in which first-year students are matched with a professional mentor.

## ***The students sign on***

Second-year student Frank Ewing (no relation to the professor), president of the Student Bar Association, says he has seen an incremental growth in professional skills development in just the time he has been at UB Law. “It’s very practical,” he says. “We have two tools as attorneys: our written work and whatever comes out of our mouth. To the extent that we can learn the skills that bolster both of those, we’re in a good place. Even in the early stages of this emphasis on skills, it’s starting to pay off.”

The SBA, which comprises 32 clubs and organizations – including five academic journals and a half-dozen moot courts – is reorienting itself toward skill development as well. It has created a

speaker series in which prominent local attorneys and judges talk

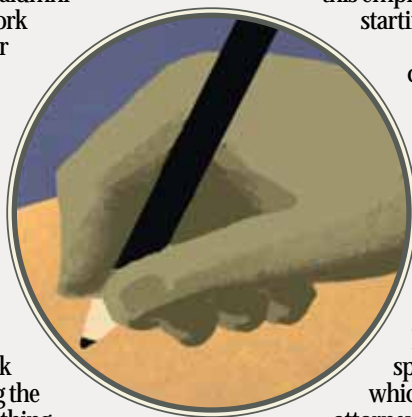
about what they do, then meet informally with small groups of students. “You can get 20 students around these very bright and intelligent people in a cozy setting,” Ewing says. “A lot of lawyering is based on relationships. To the extent that we can facilitate relationship-building, that’s what we’re going to do.”

On April 2, the SBA hosted the Law School’s first Day of Service, sending students into the community for volunteer efforts of all sorts. “I think sometimes the city forgets that we have a whole pool of talent and intellectual bandwidth here that maybe they’re not using as much as they should,” Ewing says.



*“We have two tools as attorneys: our written work and whatever comes out of our mouth. To the extent that we can learn the skills that bolster both of those, we are in a good place. Even in the early stages of this emphasis on skills, it’s starting to pay off.”*

*– Frank Ewing ’12,  
Student Bar  
Association president*



Continued on page 12





*"We're giving these students an opportunity to see something very practical – the everyday workings of a court, how a court clerk mediates a dispute or runs a pretrial conference, how a judge tries a case. And they learn the little things, like being punctual, how to address the court, how to speak to your opposing counsel. They see these things and learn them."*  
 – Joseph M. Hanna '05, Minority Bar Association president

### ***A diverse environment***

Recognizing the educational value of a diverse student body, as well as ensuring access to the State University of New York system's only law school, also is key to building a legal community that reflects the wider community.

In conjunction with UB's Millard Fillmore College and the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, the Law School is part of a task force aimed at recruiting and retaining qualified minority students. The task force's programs have even reached down to the elementary level of the Buffalo Public Schools (a presentation, "Goldilocks on Trial," to get youngsters thinking about law as a career), a speaker series at area high schools on legal careers and law school, and, in the planning stages, a pre-law preparatory program for college freshmen and sophomores, called Explore Law, that seeks to expand the pool of qualified minority applicants to UB Law.

Joseph M. Hanna '05, president of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, says the association is committed to supporting UB Law School's minority students in practical skills that will help them succeed in the legal world.

"One of my agenda items is to re-connect with UB Law School and re-connect with its diverse students," says Hanna, a partner in the Buffalo law firm Goldberg Segalla. "They're our future leaders, not only of the legal community but of Western New York. We need these students to work in the community, and know that we're here to mentor them and help them

and pass along practical tips and information."

Toward that end, the Minority Bar Association has sponsored career panels at the schools, and on April 5 presented a well-attended forum called "Pass the Bar – The First Time."

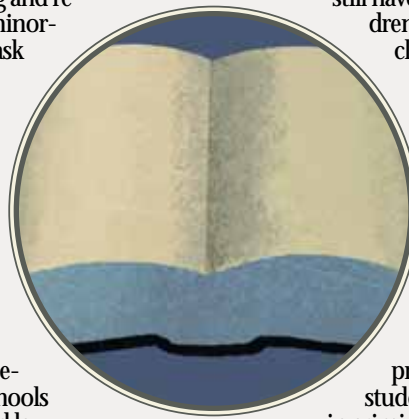
"Not all law students come directly from undergraduate school," Hanna says. "They may have families to raise and kids at home. Along with spending the necessary time to study, they still have to raise their children."

So the panel included lawyers in just that situation who did pass the bar – as well as lawyers who didn't pass the first time, but persisted until they did.

The Minority Bar Association also has established a clerkship program for minority students, placing them in criminal, civil and family courts throughout Western New York. More than 13 judges have expressed interest in the program, Hanna says.

"We're giving these students an opportunity to see something very practical – the everyday workings of a court, how a court clerk mediates a disputes or runs a pretrial conference, how a judge tries a case. And they learn the little things, like being punctual, how to address the court, how to speak to your opposing counsel. They see these things and learn them."

In conjunction with the Minority Bar Association, the Law School is also working to secure a grant to bring 25 to 30 disadvantaged local college students to the campus in the summer to take several weeks of law courses to be taught by full-time faculty.



# LOOKING GOOD!

*Major renovation enhances the  
ambiance of O'Brian Hall*



**Y**ou never get a second chance to make a first impression. So the thousands of people who enter John Lord O'Brian Hall each day – students, faculty, administrators, visitors, potential students – will find a friendlier, more professional and more inviting place when the Law School's substantial renovation is completed this year.

The renovation, which is concentrated on the highly trafficked first floor, is being funded by the University at Buffalo and by private donations to the Law School. Completion is expected by October.

"The first floor and entrance of any building creates a lasting impression on visitors and occupants," says Dean Makau W. Mutua. "We are re-creating the first floor to give a professional look and make it a comfortable and welcoming space for students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors. Once completed, it will transform the visual impression of UB Law."

James R. Newton, vice dean for administration, says the heaviest users of

the first floor – students – "are really enthusiastic about it. This is really their space; they spend 80 percent of their time on that first floor."

Especially popular is the recent renovation of the first-floor student lounge, accomplished with a bequest from Michael Doran '82 and major gifts from his family and colleagues. That project includes new windows, blinds, carpeting and furniture to create a comfortable retreat for overburdened law students.

The main entryway area, near the elevators, has new lighting, wood-look flooring and wooden columns. A raft of other improvements include new benches, a building directory, stair railings, a 30-foot wooden display case for faculty scholarship and another to display student trophies from moot court competitions, a "lifetime giving wall" honoring top alumni donors to the Law School, and new handicapped-accessible restrooms offering greater parity for female students. Two flat-screen monitors will be installed, one featuring administrative announcements and one

for student use.

Perhaps most significantly, a new vestibule is being installed to serve as a main entrance to the hall – something it has never had in its 38-year history. Students were asked to vote on the design of the furnishings and chose an elegantly curved wooden reception desk.

A secondary project is to install a second-floor lounge opposite the entrance to the Law Library.

The project is in its final push toward completion, a task complicated by the need to minimize construction noise in a working Law School. Summer classes, including bar review courses, will be moved out of the first-floor lecture halls this summer to accommodate construction.

"This first-floor area is the first impression people have – visitors and prospective students especially," Newton says. "But most importantly, this project is intended to improve the quality of life for students."

In addition, the first of a major upgrade in technological capability is complete, with two main first-floor classrooms – Rooms 106 and 108 – now wired for electronic teaching technologies.

The project comes following a survey in which faculty members were asked what technologies would help them teach better, and after Terrence E. McCormack, head of the M. Robert Koren Center for Clinical Legal Education and interim manager of Law School technology, visited law schools nationwide that showcase their instructional technology as a key component of the learning experience. It's a feature that resonates with students, he says, who routinely use YouTube clips and PowerPoint in their own presentations.

"Our aim," he says, "is to move toward teaching technologies that are functional for teaching and learning, but also are as transparent as possible."

As UB Law builds lawyers ready for the future, they will expect nothing less.

# Moot Court: 'The most valuable experience I had in law school,' students say

**T**he cases are fictional, but when UB Law School students pour heart and soul into moot court competitions, the emotions are all too real. Students uniformly call their experiences in moot court, whether at home or on the road, "the most valuable experience I had in law school."

"Legal knowledge is good. But what purpose does it serve if you're not advancing it for the benefit of a client or in front of a judge or a jury?" says Erie County Court Judge Thomas P. Franczyk, who with attorney Christopher O'Brien oversees the Law School's trial advocacy programs. "It teaches you critical skills, analytical skills, the ability to think on your feet, to argue a case. Even if you never set foot in a courtroom as a lawyer, it's invaluable training."

Under the direction of Professor George Kannar, director of moot courts, UB Law students' participation in these exercises is both intramural and external. The Law School runs one moot court competition only for UB Law students: the Charles S. Desmond Moot Court Competition. It also sponsors two competitions that are open to law students from across the nation: the Albert R. Mugel Tax Law Competition (the first-ever tax competition) and the Wechsler Criminal Law Moot Court (the only competition in the nation devoted solely to substantive criminal law).

In addition, UB Law students travel to compete in a full range of nationwide trial competitions, including events sponsored by the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association and the American Association for Justice. Professor Lucinda M. Finley coaches two of these teams. Other nationwide events in which UB Law teams participate include competitions dealing with



Audrey Herman '11 and Christopher Moran '11 won the Albert R. Mugel Tax Moot Court Competition.

international law and legal ethics. The crown jewel of the program is the Buffalo-Niagara Tournament, held in the fall, one of the largest such competitions in the nation.

Local judges and attorneys – some UB Law alumni, some not – volunteer their time as judges for the competitions held in Western New York.

**S**ome highlights from the spring season:

- At the Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in February, the UB Law team's strong showing included winning sixth-best brief and receiving two awards for oral argument. Melissa Overbeck was recognized as the fourth-best oralist in the region and Angelyn Delgado was recognized as the region's ninth-best oralist. Kevin

Espinosa '09 and Michael Hecker '09 coached the team.

- At the Niagara Cup International Moot Court Competition, in Toronto, which focuses on international legal disputes between Canada and the United States, UB Law's team not only advanced to the competition's quarterfinals, but placed second overall after the preliminary rounds. It also brought home multiple awards for written and oral advocacy. Kenneth Graham and Jacob McNamara, together with Rebecca Guerra, won runner-up Best Applicant Memorial (brief). Jason Urbaniak won second-place Oral Advocate, and Kaitlyn Faucett won third-place Oral Advocate. Christine P. Bartholomew of the UB Law faculty served as coach.

- A UB Law team consisting of third-year students Christopher Moran and Audrey Herman won the Albert R. Mugel Tax Moot Court Competition, besting a team from John Marshall Law School. Herman was also named the 2011 competition's third-best oral advocate, and the winning UB team received an honorable mention for its brief. Associate Professor Stuart G. Lazar drafted the problem for the competition.

- The 13th annual Herbert Wechsler National Criminal Law Moot Court Competition, held in early April in the downtown Buffalo City Courthouse, included teams from 23 law schools across the nation, including two teams from UB Law. The winning team represented Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law, with second-place honors going to a team from the Appalachian School of Law. Other teams competing represented the University of Michigan, New York University, the University of Wisconsin, William & Mary, American University and the University of California at Davis.





Erie County Court Judge Thomas P. Franczyk and attorney Christopher O'Brien

## Q&A with Judge Franczyk and lawyer Chris O'Brien, co-directors of the trial advocacy programs

**E**rie County Court Judge Thomas P. Franczyk and attorney Christopher O'Brien, of the Buffalo law firm O'Brien Boyd, co-direct the Law School's trial advocacy programs. *UB Law Forum* recently spoke with these key figures in the school's programs to develop litigation and oral advocacy skills.

**UB Law Forum:** *These moot court experiences are about litigation skills. But most lawyers don't do litigation, do they?*

**O'Brien:** One thing that I know from practicing as a trial lawyer is, once you try a case, you never again view a set of facts the same way. Once you try a motor vehicle case, it affects how you do your client intake, it affects how you do your depositions, it affects your pleading, it affects all aspects of it, because now you're thinking, what's going to happen if I have to try this case?

**Franczyk:** You have to be ready, willing and able to try a case if you don't get a satisfactory offer in a civil case or a satisfactory plea in a criminal case. I think a lot of academics misunderstand or misapprehend the whole point of the exercise. It forces a law student or a lawyer to evaluate a whole set of facts in light of the law and be ready to try the case if necessary to show your opponent you're ready, willing and able to do it. And those are the lawyers who

generally get the best results.

Even if you don't go to trial, it's a valuable set of skills to have. And the insurance companies and the other lawyers know if you're the type of lawyer who can back up his or her demands with skills in the courtroom. That's what we teach these students. And they generally are the ones who get the best and have the most successful result.

**UB Law Forum:** *What skills do participants in these experiences come away with?*

**O'Brien:** Let's take a look at someone who's going to practice tax law, who gets involved in trial technique and then moves on to a trial competition. And a client comes in and tells them about what their issue is, what their problem is. They're going to be thinking, let's see, one day I might wind up in the U.S. Tax Court about this. And if I'm going to wind up there, I'd better know what the law is. Now, I've already been taught the law from my law professors in tax, but now what I'm going to be doing is applying that law to a certain set of facts. So I'm going to ask questions that otherwise I might have missed. At the same time, I'm going to be sizing up the client's credibility. No matter what type of law you're doing, it impacts right from the start with your initial interview of a potential client and your case analysis.

**Franczyk:** The skills that we try to

teach are to help the students to think not only intellectually but to think strategically, in terms of getting the best possible result for their client. We structure the course around a fact pattern that they will ultimately be trying at the end of the semester. We teach them first and foremost how to read that case, critically, analytically, thoughtfully, in terms of not just the law and the elements of proof, but what are the themes and theories of the case? How are we going to appeal to a jury on a human level?

Then we teach them the nuts and bolts of trial lawyering. How to give an opening statement in terms of how to connect with the jury. How to develop themes and theories of the case that will connect with the jury. How to give a proper direct examination so that you can elicit the witness' story in a compelling way. How to do the mechanics of getting an exhibit into evidence. How to lay the foundation for an expert to be able to give their opinion in the courtroom. How to cross-examine a witness, which is probably the most difficult thing. Then how to put it all together in a closing argument in a compelling way that doesn't just rehash the facts but argues the cause that you're trying to get the jury to buy into. So it's a combination of law, strategy and trying to understand and communicate with people.

**UB Law Forum:** *Can new lawyers really be fully ready to practice on day one?*

**Franczyk:** This is as close as they can get. What they're doing in mock trial settings is as true to life as you can get.

**O'Brien:** I tried my first case as a plaintiff when I was just about five years out of law school. Nobody had taught me how to break down witness statements and prepare witnesses and the best way to construct a cross-examination. I wound up going through 10 years of continuing legal education seminars. These students are getting all of that CLE before they ever leave the Law School. I think they have a tremendous advantage over students from other law schools. Part of it is that we've had a great deal of support from Dean Mutua's administration and with the help of Dean Ewing, saying that we want this to be done and we're going to focus on it and we're going to hold you accountable.

**Franczyk:** They've clearly made it a priority.

*For a full transcript of this conversation, visit [www.law.buffalo.edu/links/04-2011.reportTrial.asp](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/links/04-2011.reportTrial.asp).*

## Listening to the experts



Joyce Y. Hartsfield



Hon. Henry Scudder



Makau W. Mutua and Craig Peterson '76



Hon. Rose Sconiers '73

As Law School administrators further refine the school's curriculum and programs to emphasize professional skill development, they aren't doing so in a vacuum. Two major initiatives in the past academic year have sought input from both members of the Law School community – students, faculty and staff – and from judges in the Western New York legal community.

"Gauging our progress" is the goal of UB Law's participation in the Law School Survey of Student Engagement, a national survey that produced a wealth of information specific to the school. The survey explored such themes as "To what extent do students devote time and energy to activities that further their education?" and "What policies and practices do schools use to encourage students to succeed, both academically and professionally?" The survey had a phenomenal 54 percent response rate among students.

The result is a thick book of charts, graphs and numbers – an indicator of where UB Law stands right now, and perhaps a map for future growth.

"The biggest benefit is benchmarking against yourself," says James R. Newton, vice dean for administration, who with Clinical Professor Suzanne E. Tomkins co-chaired a staff-faculty-student committee that administered the survey and analyzed the results. The committee presented an introductory PowerPoint presentation in two open sessions for the Law School community, then held a series of seven focus groups to discuss the survey results, generate ideas and suggest changes to practices and policies in response to the survey findings.

Newton says the school is committed to repeating the survey each year, both to measure progress and to continue to identify opportunities for improvement.

Another information-gathering effort took place in February, as LAWR faculty members heard from justices and others associated with the New York State Supreme Court. Together the judges and the instructors brainstormed ideas about what skills new lawyers need, how well the LAWR program is teaching them, and how the Law School could improve further toward that goal.

"UB Law is committed to producing practice-ready attorneys," said Dean Makau W. Mutua, who was present at the gathering. "That's why I called this meeting with the judges – to get their ideas on how we can enhance our research and writing curriculum to produce the best lawyers possible."

Representing the judiciary were two state Supreme Court justices: Hon. Henry Scudder, presiding justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department; and Hon. Rose Sconiers '73, also of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. They were joined by Craig Peterson '76, chief Appellate Court attorney; Patricia Morgan, clerk of the court for the Appellate Division, Fourth Department; and, accompanying Justice Sconiers, Joyce Y. Hartsfield, executive director of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities, Unified Court System, Office of Court Administration, in New York City.

Fourteen Law School professors, administrators and staff also took part in the frank exchange of ideas.

Some comments revolved around a particular format used in the Appellate Division: the bench memo. Peterson described it like this: "We start off with the nature of the case, state the issues that the parties are raising, give a fact pattern overview of the case, give a fairly detailed summary of the record with citation to pages in the record, and then the law assistants will address issues that the parties have raised. They go on and do their own independent legal research. That will all be summarized in a discussion section."

"We caution the law assistants that it's not a law review article. It is supposed to summarize the law for the court so we can quickly get into the issue. Essentially that is what the work is, research and writing."

Peterson noted that "we have had many good law assistants from the University at Buffalo. We have hired more law assistants from the Buffalo Law School than from any other law school, and we have been very happy with them."

# New instructors boost research and writing

**T**he highest-profile change in UB Law School's legal skills curriculum – now called LAWR, for Legal Analysis, Writing and Research – is the addition of a required third semester of legal research and writing training for all students during their second year. In the first two semesters of research and writing, students learn the rubrics for how lawyers conduct research, organize an argument and write clearly and persuasively in a legal format. The additional semester-long course, initiated in response to interviews with judges, judicial clerks and attorneys, as well as a survey of other top U.S. law school curriculums, offers students additional coaching in these indispensable skills.

The school has hired two new instructors with significant skills and experience in this important area to help implement the additional courses.

**Bernadette Clor** is a returnee – she served from 2005 to 2009 as research and writing instructor at UB Law, leaving to become confidential law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge William M. Skretny. In that clerkship, she researched a myriad of criminal and civil legal issues; drafted proposed decisions and orders; and supervised law clerks and interns, including training them in research and writing skills. She is a cum laude graduate of Cornell Law School.

"One of the big pushes coming from the bar," Clor says, "is for students to have more practical experience with legal skills, in particular research and writing. The idea is to give them more exposure to those skills."

The new course, she says, will provide more opportunities for students to practice the skills they have already learned, and introduce some new materials. "It will be structured to give them a greater depth of experience," Clor says. "Students sometimes don't realize how much they'll use these skills in practice. Whether they end up in public service, private practice or government work, these skills will translate."

Changes in the profession, she says, have made it even more crucial that law schools provide these real-world

skills. "As practice has become more focused on billable hours," she says, "new associates are not getting the mentoring at law firms that they would get in the past. You're not going to be the best lawyer you can be in the first year out of law school. But one of the great things about practice is that as you go along, the better you get and the more experienced you get. And that experience never gets devalued."

She's excited about returning to the classroom, she says, partly because it's a chance to coach students about the changing realities of the profession. "A strong skills program at UB can not only benefit the school but also have an impact on the profession in a meaningful way," she says.

**H**er colleague **Monica Wallace '94** sees in the research and writing program "an opportunity to help shape the next generation of UB Law School graduates and help provide them with the tools that they'll need to succeed. I see this program as evidence that the Law School is serious about and firmly committed to helping our graduates meet the extraordinary demands of practicing law."

She, too, notes the changing nature of the profession, particularly the time demands that attorneys face. "You're really required to be on call around the clock," she says. "The profession is becoming more of a business in many ways, and it requires lawyers to be more attentive to how much time they spend billing their clients. Practitioners who can produce good-quality work at a very efficient rate for their clients will be rewarded."

Wallace has served since 1998 as confidential law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara. In that capacity, she has performed research on complex legal issues; analyzed applicable statutes, legislative history and case law; conducted pretrial conferences and settlement conferences; and assisted with all aspects of civil and criminal cases before the court.

Drawing on those experiences, as well as ideas from a recent symposium

on teaching advanced legal writing, Wallace expects the third-semester course will further refine the skills that students acquire in their first two sections of research and writing.

"One of the goals of the legal writing program is to help students further develop their legal writing and analytical skills by requiring them to address more complex legal issues," she says. "It's about practice in the art of oral and written advocacy, and the more opportunities a student has to practice, the better."

"We will do some deeper analysis of complex legal issues that will involve different forms of legal drafting work. We'll also be introducing students to how they should present themselves in dealing with a client. A lawyer has to present his or her thoughts in a clear, persuasive, sophisticated manner, whether it's to a judge, a client or a board of directors."

Her own legal work history, which includes a clerkship at the appellate court level and work in litigation, provides, she says, "a broad range of experiences to draw on" in the classroom. "I've conducted research and analysis on a host of complex civil and criminal law issues, sat in on dozens of trials, reviewed hundreds of briefs," she says. "I've seen both outstanding and poor advocacy, and developed some strong skills myself."

In addition, she says, she has worked routinely with student interns, including those from UB Law, in her District Court office. "Part of my job is to assign their cases, give them some guidance, have them give me a draft decision or bench memo, then review it and give them feedback. I really have enjoyed that."



**Bernadette Clor**, lecturer in Law, Legal Analysis, Research and Writing



**Monica Wallace '94**, lecturer in Law, Legal Analysis, Research and Writing



# The experience factor

## *In the UB Law classroom with Amnesty International's voice of conscience*

**I**n UB Law School's seventh-floor seminar room, class begins with a movie. Sixteen students at the horseshoe-shaped table close their laptops and watch as the film – a product of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees – recounts the anguished story of an Indian man whose wife and infant child died for lack of transportation to a hospital. Worldwide, more than 500,000 women each year die in childbirth, the narrator intones. “Maternal mortality is a human rights issue.”

Watching along with them is Visiting Professor Irene Zubaida Khan. The seminar is called Human Rights and Poverty, and Khan – a soft-spoken native of Bangladesh who recently completed eight years as secretary-general of Amnesty International – is bringing to the class a unique perspective honed in the trenches of international human rights advocacy.

“There are all these socioeconomic issues, but the key factor beneath it all is rights,” she tells her students when the lights come back on. “It keeps coming back to this issue.”

Khan is teaching two seminars at UB Law this spring (the second is Business and Human Rights) at the invitation of Dean Makau W. Mutua. She says she has found the second- and third-year students in her seminars to be engaged, but wrestling with the untraditional focus of her teaching.

“What they are finding quite challenging is that I am presenting issues to them as a practitioner,” she says.

For example, students are used to thinking about how issues get resolved in court. “But I tell them, with my issues, most poor people do not go to court to fight for their rights. They do not have the money to go to court, and they do not have faith in the system. So we discuss the limits of the formal legal system and look at human rights in the context of all sorts of things: orga-



Cetty Images

*“Much of my early work was in counseling refugees who had gone through a traumatic experience and trying to help them rebuild their lives.” – Professor Irene Zubaida Khan*

nizing people, applying pressure through lobbying, whatever you have to do to bring change. Law is one tool among many, and often you use litigation as your last resort.”

**I**t is a valuable perspective as students – many drawn to UB Law by its Human Rights Center and their idealism around human rights work – learn some of the intricacies of real-world advocacy. It is an advantage that Khan herself did not have in her own legal training.

“When I was at Harvard Law (she graduated in 1979), they did not even have a course in human rights,” she says. “Human rights was not considered a respectable subject for a law school class. A lot of my exposure to human rights work came afterward. I got the taste and flavor for how human rights works in practice as I was visiting refugee camps and interviewing refugees. Much of my early work was in counseling refugees who had gone through a traumatic experience and

trying to help them rebuild their lives.”

That up-close-and-personal view resonates through her classes. For example, she brought back from an annual meeting on women's issues at the United Nations, stories she heard women tell about living with HIV in countries where that status can mean forcible sterilization or even, in the case of pregnancy, forced abortion. “It leads to some very lively discussions about, how do you change the situation for these women?” she says.

“Legal education is extremely important because it is about justice, the rule of law and structured thinking. But when these students bring their academic knowledge to the world, they will need to think creatively. In the end, real people are behind the laws that we study in the books.”

# Building the development team

## *Jeff Piscitelli joins UB Law*

**J**eff Piscitelli is no stranger to travel. He has been a “road warrior” for most of the last three years as an assistant director of development programs at the University of Rochester, his alma mater. He is now joining the fundraising team at UB Law School, where he will travel nationally – Florida, D.C., North Carolina, California and Massachusetts – as well as throughout New York State, to meet alumni, bring them up to date on the Law School’s recent achievements and request their support.

“I am very impressed with the changes Dean Mutua has made to the academic program,” says Piscitelli. “He has created a dynamic curriculum that challenges the students and prepares them for life after law school. I am convinced that UB Law, if it has the necessary resources, is positioned to become one of the best law schools in the country. I look forward to helping it accomplish that goal.”

Piscitelli grew up in Springville, a small town 25 miles south of Buffalo. An exceptional athlete, he led the mighty Griffins football team as quarterback to a state championship in his senior year. He continued to lead on the field at the University of Rochester, where he was the starting quarterback for four years. “I’ve learned the value of relationships from playing football,” Piscitelli says. “You meet so many great people and build bonds with them, and you never lose that. You learn how to work to-



*“The school has incredibly accomplished alumni who have been very welcoming to me and who believe in the importance of giving back. We don’t want them to lose touch with the school.” – Jeff Piscitelli*

ward a common goal as a team. That collaborative spirit and persistence is a valuable asset in the development world.”

After graduating in 2001 with a bachelor’s degree in economics and a concentration in marketing management, he became an assistant football coach at the University of Rochester. He worked on weekly game planning, prepared schematics and scouting reports, helped run practices and recruited student athletes. He then spent three years in Buffalo working for an insurance company before re-

turning to the University of Rochester and beginning his development career with the School of Engineering and the School of Arts and Sciences. His time at the University of Rochester was well spent, enhancing his belief in the importance of higher education and helping him hone his skills in his new profession. For the last two years Piscitelli commuted to Rochester from Snyder, a suburb of Buffalo, where he lives with his wife, Lauren, a physical education teacher and a star athlete as well. Both love the Western New York community and Piscitelli is delighted to be working in Buffalo as part of the Law School team.

“This was a perfect opportunity to work for a high-quality school and terrific people in my own back yard,” says Piscitelli. “It is wonderful to bring impressive, positive news to the alumni I am visiting. We have a bright student body, which is being taught by talented professors and is preparing to become the next generation of strong legal professionals,” he continues. “The school has incredibly accomplished alumni who have been very welcoming to me and who believe in the importance of giving back. We don’t want them to lose touch with the school. We want their input, and we want them to know about the advancements being made here. The stronger we make the Law School and the University, the more valuable their law degree will become. We cannot achieve our potential without help from our alumni and friends. With the message we have to share, I know we will be successful.”

*Jeff Piscitelli can be reached at (716) 645-3076 or at [jjpiscit@buffalo.edu](mailto:jjpiscit@buffalo.edu).*

# Building knowledge, piece by piece

“**P**hilosophy is thinking in slow motion.” The formula may not have originated with **Matthew Steilen’s** Ph.D. adviser, but it has rung true for Steilen through his study of philosophy – and on through Stanford Law School and a legal career.

Steilen, who joins the UB Law faculty this fall, has done some thinking in his time. A Minnesota native, he earned his bachelor’s degree in philosophy, magna cum laude, at that state’s Carleton College, then went on to a doctoral program in philosophy at Northwestern University. Following law school at Stanford and a federal appellate clerkship, he has worked in litigation at the San Francisco office of the Washington, D.C., law firm Covington & Burling.

Steilen found himself drawn to philosophy, he says, because it indulges his love of intellectual puzzles. “Sometimes you believe you understand something about the world,” he says, “and when you slow down and examine why it is you’ve come to the conclusion you’ve come to, everything starts to fall apart. For people who enjoy intellectual inquiry and the life of the mind, that feeling of exploring something you thought you understood so well is really enjoyable.”

Steilen says when he was ready to make the leap from practice into legal teaching, he was drawn to UB Law’s reputation as a place that values interdisciplinary scholarship. It was evident, he says, when he delivered a candidate paper that was “more philosophical than it was typical legal scholarship. The people who were there ate it up. The level of engagement with the substance of my talk and with my broader set of interests was phenomenal. It’s going to be a great place to start



*“One thing that law schools should do for students, whatever their skill set, is to push them a little bit.”*

– Associate Professor  
**Matthew Steilen**

my career as a teacher.”

Or continue it, actually. Steilen was an active teaching assistant at Northwestern, and worked to train other TAs in classroom techniques.

“I really enjoy teaching,” says Steilen, whose initial courses will be in Constitutional law and civil procedure. “It’s very different from practice. When you’re providing a service to a paying client, you have to move quickly. There’s not time to re-create the foundations of the law from the ground up. In teaching, I know where I want to go and I figure out a series of steps, and I can draw out of students

their views on certain aspects of the subject and keep them moving in the direction I want them to move.”

Not that it’s always comfortable, he acknowledges. “One thing that law schools should do for students, whatever their skill set, is to push them a little bit,” Steilen says. “If you’re not working on developing the suite of skills you come with, law school is doing you a disservice.”

**H**is legal experience bears that out. As law clerk to Hon. Kermit V. Lipez of the U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit, in Portland, Maine, he learned a lot by “seeing the judge wrestle through how to resolve a case and really do his best to treat the parties fairly and spend significant time understanding the factual basis of the case and the law.”

At Covington & Burling, Steilen worked on two large cases: helping to represent BP in its effort to obtain insurance coverage for losses arising out of the Deepwater Horizon accident, and representing plaintiffs pro bono in a case alleging racial discrimination by Maricopa County, Ariz., Sheriff Joseph Arpaio.

The professor and his wife, Kate Hasler Steilen, a fiction writer, have a 14-month-old daughter, Willa. He says they’re looking forward to doing some hiking in the area and, because they love the outdoors, are glad to be back in four-seasons territory.



# Making academics work for good



*"To see your students engaged in education and helping the community, that is really satisfying."*

– Associate Professor Anthony O'Rourke

**“**One of the things I really enjoy about teaching," says Anthony O'Rourke, who joins the UB Law faculty this fall, "is getting the opportunity to be an informal mentor. It is really wonderful to see your students applying their legal training to serve their communities."

For example, he says, one of his students at Columbia Law School, where he earned the J.D. and where he serves as an associate in law, started tutoring public high school students interested in law. "To see your students sharing their education with others," O'Rourke says, "that is really satisfying."

As a teacher of legal research and writing at Columbia, O'Rourke says he works with students "not only on the mechanics of legal writing, but on how legal reasoning works, how to interpret statutes and how to engage in arguments based on case law and precedent. This allows students to think

deeply about the questions they confront in their substantive law classes. It's a tool for the rest of their law school education."

O'Rourke, who grew up near Detroit, Michigan, pursued a double major in economics and philosophy at the University of Michigan, where he graduated with high honors. He then spent two years in Washington as a research assistant at the International Monetary Fund, working on issues related to human rights, labor rights and gender mainstreaming as they intersected with the IMF's economic mission. Interacting with officials at United Nations agencies, labor unions and non-governmental organizations, he says, helped him to understand better the dynamics of political institutions, and the complicated dimensions of economic policy debates.

After law school, O'Rourke worked

in litigation practice at the New York firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. In addition to handling securities fraud and actuarial malpractice matters, he worked pro bono on a Guantanamo detainee case and on a Texas death penalty case involving a mentally retarded defendant. "I saw the work that a defense counsel has to do to protect a client's interests," he says.

O'Rourke also clerked for a U.S. District Court judge in Philadelphia. "We had a lot of criminal cases on the docket, and to be exposed to the criminal justice system from that perspective was fascinating." He also clerked for a judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in Pasadena, California, before returning to Columbia Law School to teach and conduct research.

That research, now to continue in Buffalo, studies the intersection of criminal procedure and structural constitutional law. "I'm very interested in how political and institutional structures affect the scope of the rights we enjoy, particularly in the area of criminal procedure. To understand how constitutional doctrine evolves, I think it is necessary to examine how the institutions that make constitutional law operate in practice."

**A**s he heads upstate, O'Rourke says Buffalo reminds him of his hometown Detroit in both "the challenges the city faces and what's exciting about the city. What struck me about Buffalo," he says, "is the extent to which the Law School community is engaged in work that's important to improving the city. The students here have so much potential to have an impact on what's happening around them."

O'Rourke is married to Christine Varnado, who will be a Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender Studies in UB's Department of Transnational Studies.

# ‘Tying it together’ in the classroom

“I don’t like to be the one always doing the talking,” **Matthew Dimick**, who joins the UB Law School faculty in September, says of his teaching style. “When I think of the professors I liked best in law school, they did several things. They asked people questions, but they also would, at the end of the class, spend time tying it all together. They usually brought in a little bit of theory that also did some of the work of putting things together.”

Dimick, a Cornell Law School graduate whose specialty is labor law, brings with him a doctoral degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He says studying labor law from a comparative perspective – his dissertation looked at “union democracy” in the United States and Great Britain – is an effective way to understand the law in context. “Often you learn more about your own system of laws or rules when you study a different one,” he says. “It’s then that the questions come: ‘Why do we do it this way if they do it that way?’ I think a lot of good learning can come that way.”

He also is considering a problem-based teaching method in which the professor presents a fact scenario and the students, in effect, act as lawyers, working through the steps in handling a case and getting a grounding in the analysis, research and writing that attorneys do every day.

Dimick, who grew up in California’s Bay Area and then in Denver, was an English major at Brigham Young University. As a Mormon, he complet-



*“Often you learn more about your own system of laws or rules when you study a different one.”*

– Associate Professor  
**Matthew Dimick**

ed the traditional two years of missionary work (in Las Vegas) after his freshman year of college, then returned to complete his degree. “Both in high school and in my freshman year, I hadn’t really figured out how to work academically,” he says. “The mission is really what taught me how to work.”

He was already thinking of pursuing an academic career when he entered Cornell Law School, where – in a small-world coincidence – he was in-

spired to pursue labor law partly when he took a class in employment and labor law from UB Law Professor Dianne Avery, who was a visiting professor at Cornell at the time.

“Labor was an interest I had before law school,” he says. “My religious background has something to do with it. Many, if not all, religions have a concern about social and economic justice. I think the scriptures and lessons sank in at some point and manifested themselves as an interest in labor.”

When he visited UB Law, Dimick says, he was reminded of the school’s historical strength in labor law. Emeritus professor James Atleson’s *Values and Assumptions in American Labor Law* is a well-thumbed reference on his bookshelf, and he points to Professors Avery and Robert Steinfeld as others with whom he is looking forward to sharing ideas. “The Law School curriculum is so diverse that it’s often hard to find a real good critical mass of people in a field,” Dimick says. “But these colleagues, including people from the sociology department, bring different perspectives, different insights, and exposure to ideas and things that you would never have otherwise.”

Dimick and his wife, Alexandra, have a son, Liam, 7, and a daughter, Normandie, 3.

# Engaging students from the start

**S**amantha Barbas, who joins the UB Law School faculty this fall, says her teaching style has been informed by two experiences – one positive, one not so much.

The not-so-positive one was her experience being in a class where a “professor missed the basics. At times I have seen professors play only to the best, most advanced students and leave everyone else behind. I’m determined to start at the most basic level and make sure every student knows the fundamentals.”

The positive experience was a lesson early in her teaching career – she taught history, mainly at Chapman University in Orange, Calif., before going to law school – from a wise mentor who had once been an actor. “He told me that absolutely above all, you have to keep the students’ attention,” Barbas recounts. “He gave me a number of different strategies, such as walking the aisles of the classroom, or bringing in props to illustrate a point. Especially now that students are using laptops and there are so many distractions, I still believe that you have to find a way to draw students in.”

Those lessons will stand her in good stead at UB Law, a place she was drawn to, she said, by the interdisciplinary work of the faculty. “I was impressed with the way UB foregrounds this work,” she says. “The faculty all seem to have Ph.D.s or advanced degrees in other disciplines.”

Barbas will add her own doctorate to the mix. A Seattle native, she did her undergraduate work in political science at Williams College, then went



*“It’s essential for any law student to learn how to write for an audience beyond the legal community.”*

– Associate Professor  
**Samantha Barbas**

on to earn a Ph.D. in history from the University of California at Berkeley, and then a J.D. from Stanford Law School.

**H**er scholarship as a historian has centered around the history of American film and journalism, including two books: a biography of gossip queen Louella Parsons called *The First Lady of Hollywood* (University of Cali-

fornia Press, 2005) and *Movie Crazy: Fans, Stars and the Cult of Celebrity* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2001).

She decided to go to law school, she said, because “I thought it would make me a stronger thinker. I’ve always been interested in the law, and I saw it as a challenge. I thought that I might be able to speak to a broader audience and speak in a deeper way by knowing aspects of law.”

In her writing she has combined her skills as a historian with the analytical mind of a legal scholar. In addition to writing on the history of privacy law, she has also researched the development of law around the constitutional status of movies as free speech. In a 1915 decision, she notes, the U.S. Supreme Court held that movies were mere entertainment unprotected by freedom of speech. Not until the 1950s did the court reverse itself and acknowledge that the movies were indeed protected by the First Amendment.

“I definitely see history and law as coming together in my scholarship,” says Barbas, who’s currently serving as a clerk in Honolulu for a judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

She will bring that synthesis to her classrooms as well. “The mark of a great scholar and writer in law,” she says, “is one who can translate complex ideas into terms that everyday people can understand and use. It’s essential for any law student to learn how to write for an audience beyond the legal community. The lawyer has a responsibility to be a public educator.”



# Considered opinions

*In three new books, UB Law professors pull together research and advocacy*

**P**rime examples of the Law School's interdisciplinary strengths, three new books by prominent UB Law professors range widely into the social sciences, international policy-making and the intricacies of legal study. Together they reflect the quality of research and writing that have come to characterize the law faculty's increasing prominence in the world of legal scholarship.

Now out in paperback, **Professor David Westbrook's** *Deploying Ourselves: Islamist Violence and the Responsible Projection of U.S. Force* (Paradigm Publishers) was, he says, a long time in coming.

"I've been working on it since the breaking apart of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s," he says. "It crystallized right after 9/11, but other books got in the way."

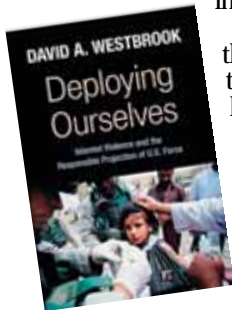
In *Deploying Ourselves*, Westbrook makes the case for a re-evaluation of U.S. foreign policy that recognizes the rise of powerful competing worldviews and the need to act responsibly and constructively in the use of military force. "What the United States has committed itself to since World War II is the creation of an integrated global order," he says. "But that cannot remain a U.S. project. The U.S. plays the role of the nation that is most capable of projecting military force. We do have profound commitments globally. But the challenge is to find a way to reconceived security policy in a way that we can find respectable."

Working with some of the ideas of 19th century German military theorist Carl von Clausewitz, who spoke of war as a "political instrument," Westbrook addresses the competing "idioms" that have arisen on the world stage, including "an Islamic political grammar and ideology ... that has been articulated violently. This is a way of talking about the world. Bin Laden is promoting a different order of the modern world."

In response, he says, the United States has a responsibility, when it con-



Professor David Westbrook, left, Professor James A. Gardner, lower left, and Professor Charles Patrick Ewing, below.



siders the use or the threat of military force, to consider how that "speaks" on the world stage. "The argument here," he says, "is that U.S. violence means things, and the consequences of that violence mean things. How we fight matters because how we fight is how we signal our violence. ... A great deal of the security concerns of the United States are understandable to people around the world. The question is, how do we pursue those concerns, and how do we involve other actors?"

The book, which carries endorsements from thinkers in several disci-



plines and across the political spectrum, is targeted at senior policy-makers in the federal government. "I've worked hard to make the book seem useful to them," Westbrook says. "It's very plain-spoken."

*New Frontiers of State Constitutional Law: Dual Enforcement of Norms* is the plain-spoken title of a new volume of essays co-edited by UB Law **Professor James A. Gardner**, with Florida State University law professor Jim Rossi.

The volume, published by Oxford University Press, grew out of a 2006 conference of judges and academics

who are interested in state constitutional law. It reflects a growing edge in the field of constitutional law: research not in issues around the U.S. Constitution but in those arising from the 50 individual state constitutions.

"We should be thinking about it as a system in which constitutional norms and values can be generated independently at two levels," both state and federal, Gardner says. "There is no one fountain of constitutional values. The process is really dialogic. The thesis of the volume is that there is a constant, ongoing conversation about constitutional values and norms."

The movement in academic scholarship has gained steam, he says, as the Supreme Court has reflected an increasingly narrow understanding of the individual rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Legal theorists pushing a more expansive view of rights increasingly have turned to state constitutions, each of which, Gardner says, contains its own bill of rights.

"There is nothing that prevents states from being more generous with rights than the federal Constitution," he says. "Exhibit A for the past several years has been gay marriage. The federal courts have said, forget it. But individual states have extended that right."

Gardner has an essay in the volume – "on a technical aspect of constitutional interpretation," he says – and also did the principal work on the introduction. "I think of it as a coherent way of thinking about the field."

*Justice Perverted: Sex Offense Law, Psychology, and Public Policy* (Oxford University Press) is **Professor Charles Patrick Ewing's** evaluation of public policy around how the law and the criminal justice system handle sex offenders. Ewing discusses the role of mental health professionals in society's response to these offenders, casting a

critical eye on whether punishment and treatment as they are currently administered are effective – and, in a strained fiscal climate, cost-effective as well.

The book focuses on four aspects of the law: civil commitment statutes, in which offenders can be confined indefinitely after their prison sentence is complete if they are deemed at risk for reoffending; sex offender registration, notification and restriction laws; child pornography laws; and laws against using the Internet to sexually solicit minors.

"It is hard not to be a public policy advocate if you're writing about these things," Ewing says. "We're spending tons of money, and there is really no evidence that it is doing any good."

For example, he says, the academic literature indicates that "Megan's Law" – a network of laws requiring that sex offenders register with law enforcers and that their names be publicized – "makes re-entry so difficult and stigmatizes offenders so much that in many ways it drives them underground" and actually increases recidivism. In addition, he says, these sex offender registries – encompassing offenders from forcible rapists to partygoers who miscalculated the age of an attractive young woman – are riddled with errors and expose those on the list to vigilante justice. One conclusion Ewing draws is that access to these registries should be limited to police and those involved in hiring people who work with children.

Similarly, he says, states that have passed civil confinement laws – including, just recently, New York – are spending huge amounts of money to lock up offenders. The Supreme Court has ruled that such detention is permissible if it's for treatment purposes. "But these programs are not about treatment, they're about incarceration," Ewing says. "Clear-

ly there's no evidence that the guys who are in this program are getting anything out of it." It costs New York taxpayers \$175,000 a year for each person in civil confinement.

Ewing argues instead for the more cost-effective approach taken by Texas, where released sex offenders are closely monitored in a kind of "super parole" and treated on an outpatient basis. If they violate that parole, it's a crime, and they go back to prison.

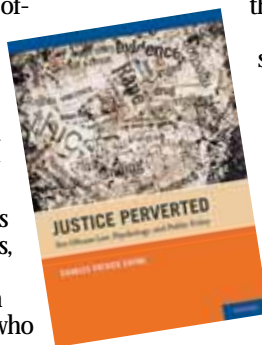
He makes a similar argument around the fight against child pornography – an unquestioned evil, but one that carries wildly unequal and disproportionate penalties. "We're treating possession of child pornography the way we would treat murder," Ewing says. "It's a horrible, horrible crime, but the cost of the law is staggering. It's kind of like the drug problem – we've aimed our guns at the users and not so much the suppliers."

So, for example, federal sentencing guidelines have resulted in "draconian" sentences for possession of child pornography.

"Twenty-year sentences are not unheard of," Ewing says. "The annual cost of keeping convicted child porn defendants in the federal prison system is estimated at \$247 million,

and will keep getting higher." Meanwhile, he says, for no discernible reason, some offenders are tried only in state courts and face much lesser penalties.

What's most important? Ewing asks. Protecting the young victims. And so he argues for a new focus on efforts such as the FBI's Innocent Images National Initiative to shut down the makers of child porn. That initiative was funded at \$60 million in 2008, he says, and rescued 187 children: "You talk about bang for your buck. That's where we can really be effective."



# A world of complexity

*Professor Winnifred F. Sullivan collaborates in three-year project on religious freedom*



*“This is an academic project, not a political project. We’re interested in the ways in which religious freedom is not actually a single thing.”*

*– Professor Winnifred F. Sullivan*

Professor Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, who directs UB Law School’s Law, Religion, and Culture Program, is one of four scholars to receive a major grant from the Henry R. Luce Foundation for an ambitious project called “Politics of Religious Freedom” (see [www.politicsofreligiousfreedom.com](http://www.politicsofreligiousfreedom.com)). The three-year project (2011 to 2014) also includes scholars from the University of California, Berkeley; Northwestern University; and the University of Maryland.

The researchers – Sullivan, another legal scholar, an anthropologist and a political scientist – will study how religious freedom is being transformed through legal and political contestations in the United States, the Middle East, South Asia and the European Union. Often understood to be a single, universally recognized human right enshrined in international law, the project seeks to understand “the multiple historical trajectories, concepts and practices now organized under the rubric of religious freedom.”

“This is an academic project, not a political project,” says Sullivan, whose best-known book is *The Impossibility of Religious Freedom* (Princeton, 2005). “We’ll be looking, for example, at the ways in which, while having longer histories, contemporary ideas about religious freedom as a global concern largely grew out of the international agreements that were made in Europe after World War II and the institutions that were created then. We also recognize an ongoing concern about minority populations and how they should be treated in the European context.”

“We each come at this history from our own disciplinary perspectives and our own specialized knowledge about a part of the world. My own training is in law, in religious studies and in the history of religion in the United States. In the last several decades, laws protecting religious freedom, and political efforts to extend religious freedom, have grown around the world, in ways that are

both recognizable and not to Americans. One of the aspects of this history that I’m interested in is the way in which a certain understanding of religion is built into American notions about religious freedom. This tends to be a more Protestant understanding – priority is given to conscience or belief, and religious practice is usually understood to be secondary. American understandings of religious freedom also tend to focus on the individual. What we usually say we want is to separate church and state and to protect the individual’s freedom to choose and to respond to his own belief, although we do much more than that. For example, Protestant Christian ideas about humans and about society are also built in to our laws, most recognizably in family law, but also in many other areas of law. Other peoples have different understandings of what religion is and how it should be present in public life.”

The other scholars involved in the project are Saba Mahmood, associate professor of anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley; Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, an international political theorist and assistant professor of political science at Northwestern University; and Peter Danchin, associate professor and director of the International and Comparative Law Program at the University of Maryland School of Law. “We have a set of common concerns,” Sullivan says. “We each have our own research that we’re doing independently, but we’re also trying to put together our different disciplinary approaches, and the different parts of the world we study, to better understand something that we think is a pretty important issue in the world today.”

The project will include major workshops in Venice, Delhi and Cairo. The participants expect to publish papers from those workshops; produce a handbook to be used by legal practitioners and civil society organizations; produce translations of, and commentaries on, key legal cases involving religious freedom from India, Egypt and South Africa; and develop undergraduate and graduate courses on the comparative history of religious freedom globally.

The Luce Foundation’s decision to fund the project, Sullivan says, “shows an interesting, lively sense of the complexity of the world. They’re not just funding the easy route. The fact that the Luce Foundation is interested in listening to some other voices is really important. The world is a complicated place, and we don’t know all the answers. It’s really fun to work with smart people who know about different areas of the world and think about them in different ways than you do.”



# In the presence of the princess

## *Professor David Engel receives an honorary degree in high Thai style*



**S**UNY Distinguished Service Professor David M. Engel – well-known for his course on The Legal Culture of Thailand, in which he takes a small group of UB Law students each January bridge term to northern Thailand – was honored Jan. 24 with the honorary degree of doctor of laws from one of that nation's major universities, Chiang Mai University. The degree was conferred by Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, daughter of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Professor Engel kept notes on the elaborate ceremony. Some excerpts:

**Jan. 21:** I was invited to deliver a one-hour lecture (in Thai) to the faculty and 2011 graduating class of the Chiang Mai University Law School in a large auditorium. Presenting the lecture was tiring, even with several practice runs beforehand. The general themes were (a) the importance of considering the social and cultural environment of law, and (b) the troubling phenomenon of the apparent disappearance of law and rights consciousness from the lives and narratives of Thai people.

**Jan. 23:** There was a full-dress rehearsal for the honorary degree recipients from 6:30 to 11:30 a.m. We were fortunate in this regard, since the students had to undergo three full days of

Above, the Crown Princess presents Professor Engel with an honorary doctor of laws degree from Chiang Mai University.

rehearsals before the official commencement. The preparations were elaborate and highly choreographed, and the 6,000 students for the most part had it down pat. We old-timers struggled a bit more – when and how to bow to the Crown Princess before and during the walk across the stage, how to extend one's hand, how to receive the diploma and return it to one's chest, how to back away and bow again, etc.

**Jan. 24:** On the day of the commencement, we got up early and were taken in a van by my "handlers" to the CMU Convention Hall at 6:45 a.m. Everyone was fed, robed and put in position more than an hour before the Crown Princess arrived.

The ceremony began with Buddhist monks chanting while the crown princess entered and lit candles and incense at a shrine. The honorary degree recipients were then announced one at a time and walked across the stage to receive our diplomas from HRH to the applause of the assembled students (no room in the convention hall for their parents or families). On my way back to my on-stage seat, I was intercepted

by the CMU president and the chair of the CMU Council. We chatted for an hour, but then I returned to my seat behind the Crown Princess and watched for six more hours while each student received a diploma from her hand.

The speed and precision were remarkable, approximately 28 students per minute, each of them bowing, extending and retracting the hand properly, stepping back and bowing again. The Crown Princess demonstrated impressive stamina. Meanwhile, we sat more or less at attention during the proceedings. One doesn't cross one's legs in the presence of royalty.

When the ceremony concluded in the afternoon, the honorary degree recipients were invited to the doorway of the Crown Princess' quarters. As she left for her limousine, she stopped to talk with us. She was completely unpretentious, living up to her reputation for simplicity and humility. She chatted with us in Thai, English and French. An entirely different, elegant and esoteric vocabulary is required to converse with royalty in Thai, but she put us at ease by using ordinary colloquial language, and we responded in kind. As she drove away, students and their families raced to line the route and get a glimpse of her. She is the people's favorite.

That evening, there was a grand reception at the Dhamma Hall of the university, with speeches by all the dignitaries and by the honorary degree recipients. I received four bouquets, an engraved silver plate, and a certificate awarding me the status of honorary alumnus of Chiang Mai University.

**Jan. 25:** The next evening, the Law Faculty held a beautiful reception for me on the lawn of a hotel along the river, with speeches by the dean, the president and two longtime friends and CMU colleagues. I gave another short speech, trying to convey in Thai and English my gratitude and my affection for friends and colleagues at CMU as well as my appreciation of the history and culture of northern Thailand.

*"We sat more or less at attention during the proceedings. One doesn't cross one's legs in the presence of royalty."*

*– Professor David M. Engel*

# Following their passions

## *From UB Law to a world of good in the community*

**A**ging seniors. Literary-minded folks. Dogs. And one of Buffalo's most important historic churches.

What do they have in common?

They're all benefiting from the volunteer efforts of UB Law faculty and staff members, who are using their training and their hearts to make good things happen in Western New York and beyond.

As the University deepens its strategic strength in community involvement, and even as the Law School's clinical program does enormous good in the community, these individuals have taken on cherished personal causes with time and talent.

Professor **Anthony H. Szczygiel**, for one. He serves on the board of Canopy of Neighbors, a newly formed not-for-profit agency that coordinates services in Buffalo's Elmwood Village neighborhood so senior citizens can remain in their homes and maintain their independence as long as possible.

Says Szczygiel, a specialist in elder law and a resident of the Elmwood Village: "The idea is to take a geographical area, look at the local knowledge base and resources, and ask, what can we do to make this a more livable area? We've got this neighborhood, we've got people who are aging and need more support – what sort of coordination of services can we do to keep people in their homes?"

Many such services are available, he notes – such supports as rides to the grocery store and to medical appointments, and help in dealing with the health care and health insurance system. But the patchwork of these services is crazy-quilt. Canopy of Neighbors aims to coordinate services and fill gaps, partly with volunteers, partly by making available paid workers for specific tasks.

So, for example, the group has identified retired nurses who are will-



Professor Anthony H. Szczygiel is on the board of a neighborhood group.

ing to go with a patient to a doctor's appointment and take notes, then talk to the patient's family, to ensure a flow of good-quality information. Other volunteers and paid providers are available to do home repairs, walk the dog, run errands, help with computers and remote controls, and check in daily with an older person.

Nationally, "a lot of forces are coming together to say, now we have to get serious about this," Szczygiel says. "We have to consciously reinvent the support system that historically people have taken for granted." The home care movement is also growing in response to cost pressures elsewhere in the health care system – it's a whole lot cheaper for people to stay at home, with appropriate support, than to enter an assisted-living facility.

Szczygiel says his work with Canopy of Neighbors is about "using a lawyer's skills in a way that is broader than litigation or traditional legal work. This is mainly a social work model, not a legal model. But it's terribly satisfying to pull together this information. For me, this is one little way of using my energy, my talents and my time to make a difference in the quality of life that's available."

**O**ne look at her German shepherds, Kelsey and Aspen, and it's evident: **Nancy Babb** loves dogs.

Babb, cataloging librarian and Web manager for the Charles B. Sears Law Library, puts that love into action in her work with dog rescue groups and as an SPCA volunteer.

She started at the SPCA as a dog walker, then became part of an enrichment program. "It's designed to help the dogs be as happy as possible in the kennels so they will be happy and healthy when they're adopted," she says. Now she mainly works with people who come in wanting to adopt, helping them choose a dog and helping dog and human scope each other out. "When you're able to help folks make that connection, it's a wonderful thing," she says.

She also volunteers with a rescue organization called Big Dogs Big Hearts, which is kind of like an Underground Railroad for unwanted dogs at risk. Western New York's dog population is well-controlled, she says, and for the SPCA Serving Erie

County, the policy is not to euthanize any healthy animal. But that's not the case in the South, where a lot of hounds, especially, are abandoned as unwanted. Rescue volunteers, coordinated



Librarian  
Nancy Babb

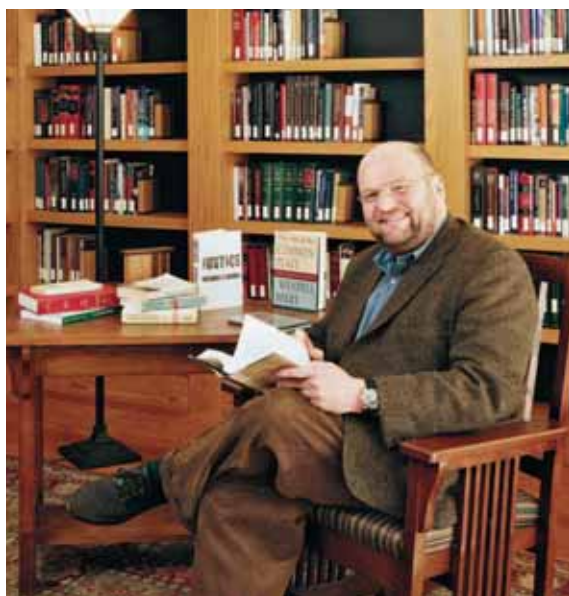
by e-mail, arrange a series of car trips for many of these dogs, taking them from unsafe conditions in states such as Tennessee, Ohio and Georgia and driving them in shifts to Buffalo or on to Rochester, Syracuse, Watertown, even Vermont.

So she'll open the hatchback of her Toyota Yaris and do some driving, sometimes two dogs at a time. "They just curl up and go to sleep, just like my dogs," she says. "It's amazing how

calm they are.”

Her work with animals, she says, also keeps her involved with the law, including a new caucus on animal law as part of the American Association of Law Librarians.

“There’s so much trouble in the world that I can’t do anything about,” Babb says. “I can’t reform state government. But just a few hours of volunteering can make a tremendous difference, and you can see the results, and it’s really gratifying.”



Patrick J. Long '00, lecturer in Legal Analysis, Writing and Research

**P**atrick J. Long '00 brings his experience as an English teacher at the private Nichols School to his work as a legal analysis, research and writing instructor at UB Law. That love of the written word also led him to volunteer with Just Buffalo Literary Center, Buffalo’s premier literary organization. Long was president of the non-profit for three years and remains on its board.

Long first joined the board in

2001, in keeping with the community service push at Hodgson Russ, where he was practicing law at the time. Just Buffalo was struggling financially; “the first couple of years, we weren’t sure if we could keep the lights on,” he says. But under Executive Director Laurie Dean Torrell, the organization has flourished. Now, Long says, “Just Buffalo occupies this really special place in the Buffalo cultural community. We’re the only people who speak for words in Western New York.”

With a minimal staff of three full-time employees and one part-timer, Just Buffalo sponsors the literary reading series called Babel, which has brought to Kleinhans Music Hall such high-profile international writers as Salman Rushdie and V.S. Naipaul. Its Big Night gatherings – poetry, music, video and food – have become hugely popular. And its program to put working writers into the Buffalo Public Schools has, Long says, the potential to change lives. “Kids get to meet a living, working artist, and some kids get the opportunity to see their poems in print. Suddenly they have a different view of what their life might be.

“One of the wonderful things about not-for-profits,” Long says, “is that people in the business community are able to use the skills they’ve learned to help others, and not just for profit. They need expertise in many disciplines.”

**F**or Professor **Stephanie Phillips**, her work with the Buffalo Niagara Freedom Station Coalition is both personal and professional. The coalition is dedicated to restoring the Michigan Street Baptist Church, one of the most significant sites on the Underground Railroad and a church Phillips’ father, the Rev. Porter W. Phillips Jr., served as pastor beginning in 1953.

“I grew up in that church, and I was baptized there,” Professor Phillips says. “My early childhood was in that building at 511 Michigan Ave.”

The church still needs some cosmetic work, she says, “but the board saved it from literally falling down. We got some money to shore up the walls and patch the roof, but we need to begin some more serious restoration.”

Many historic sites, Phillips says, are “trying to get ourselves spruced up and coordinated” in preparation for this year’s national conference in Buffalo of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The church, she says, is also “a gold mine for the scholar,” and Phillips will work jointly with Professor Lillian Williams, chair of UB’s department of African and African-American studies, to compile an edited volume of essays about its history. They will draw from the papers of the Rev. J. Edward Nash, pastor of the church from 1892 to 1952. “He was an extraordinary person,” Phillips says, “a scholar but also a person who was connected to the major African-American political and social leaders during that period. There is correspondence with Booker T. Washington and other prominent people. He really established the church as a place not only for religious worship but also for social action.”



Professor Stephanie Phillips



# THE WIDE ANGLE

## *Alumni connections across the nation*

**W**herever you work or live, you can connect with your UB Law classmates and friends by friending the UB Law Alumni Association on Facebook. Visit [www.law.buffalo.edu/alumni](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/alumni) to get connected today!

**ROCHESTER**  
Insurance Law CLE at Monroe County Center  
for Education



Left to right, Thomas Durkin, Kevin T. Merriman '92, Laura A. Myers '05 and Hon. Thomas A. Stander

**ROCHESTER**  
Rochester Day Reception at the Law School



Left to right, CSO Career Counselor Kathleen Devereaux, Kim Koski Taylor '02 and Tanisha Bramwell '12

**ROCHESTER**

Social at  
Murphy's Law  
Left to right,  
Kevin M.  
Momot '02,  
Henry D.  
Teegarden '99  
and Richard J.  
Evans Jr. '86

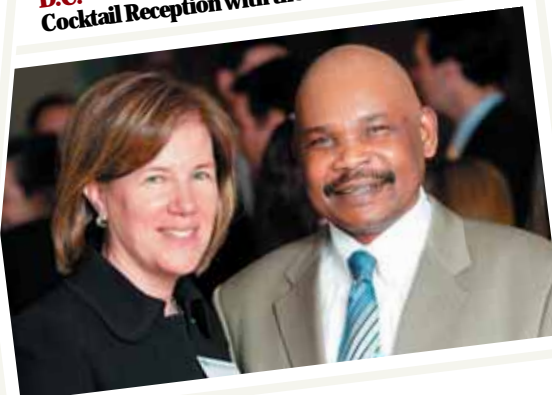


**D.C.**  
Hockey Nite at Kelly's Irish Pub



Kenneth A. Libby '85, left, and Sada Manickam '96

**D.C.**  
Cocktail Reception with the Dean at Arent Fox PLLC



Host Mary Joanne Dowd '80 and Dean Makau W. Mutua

**D.C.**  
Cocktail Reception with the Dean at Arent Fox PLLC



Left to right, William P. Farley '95, David K. Koehler '94, Kristin Graham Koehler '94 and Christine Haight Farley '94

**LOS ANGELES**

**Cocktail Reception with the Dean at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse**



Left to right, front row – Tracey Stephen '06, Mark Suzumoto '82, Dean Makau W. Mutua, Laureen Charles '08 and Arivvel Tinnoco; Second row – Anne Lattime '99, Michael Rinaldi, Susan Becker '08, Associate Dean Karen Kaczmarzski '89, Dana Leier Stenvick '07 and Rachel Akman; Back row – Paul Perrier '08, William Remery '79, Robert Kitson '95 and Vice Dean Alan Carrel '67.

**NEW YORK CITY**

**Annual Luncheon at the Union League Club**



Harvey L. Kaminski '77 and Barbara D. Klippert '75

**NEW YORK CITY**

**Informal Social at The Aspen Social Club**

Left to right, David Morisset '03, Donna A. Humphrey '83 and Ching Huey '09

**NEW YORK CITY**

**Informal Social at The Aspen Social Club**

Left to right, Andrew P. Devine '12, Charles S. Kacherski '01 and Jose Truzman '01

## Join your Law Alumni Association today!

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We have chapters in the following areas:

**Albany**

Matthew R. Coseo '05  
mcoseo@spa.net

**New York City**

Michael D. Mann '06  
mdmann@sidley.com

**Ohio**

Margaret W. Wong '76  
wong@imwong.com

**Rochester**

Lorisa D. LaRocca '02  
llarocca@woodsoviatt.com  
and  
Laura A. Myers '05  
lmyers@theemploymentattorneys.com

**Washington, D.C.**

Betsy Broder '81  
bbroder@ftc.gov

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



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

## Renew for 2011-12

[law.buffalo.edu/alumni](http://law.buffalo.edu/alumni)



# With honors

*Five receive awards at Law Alumni Association's 49th annual dinner*



Jeffrey L.  
Tanenbaum '76



Hon. Paula L.  
Feroletto '82



Howard S.  
Rosenhoch '76



Christopher J.  
O'Brien



Kathleen M.  
Mehlretter '78

**F**our UB Law alumni and one non-alumnus friend of the Law School were among the recipients of 2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards as the UB Law Alumni Association gathered for its 49th annual dinner on May 4.

The event, which began with cocktails at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7, was held at the downtown Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

Honors were received by:

**Hon. Paula L. Feroletto '82**, administrative judge for the New York State Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District, in Buffalo, for the judiciary. Only the second woman to take control of the 8th Judicial District, Feroletto in 1991 became the first female partner in the Buffalo law firm of Brown & Kelly. She was also the first female president of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. As a busy private attorney, she was active for years in pro bono legal work through the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Before she was elected to the bench, she was a board member of Lawyers for Learning, which provides tutors for inner-city children. She was elected to the

state trial bench in November 2004, and assumed her current post in October 2009.

**Howard S. Rosenhoch '76**, partner in the Buffalo law firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, for community service. Rosenhoch, a partner in the firm's litigation group, practices in the areas of personal injury defense and property damage claims, including extensive experience in products liability and toxic tort litigation. He is a frequent presenter and panelist in industry presentations on ethics in legal practice and other legal topics. Rosenhoch also serves as president of Temple Beth Zion in Buffalo.

**Jeffrey L. Tanenbaum '76**, recently retired as a partner in the New York City firm Weil Gotshal & Manges, for private practice. Tanenbaum was named 2010 Dealmaker of the Year by *The American Lawyer*, recognized for his role as counsel to General Motors in the bankruptcy of auto parts manufacturer Delphi. He also worked on the General Motors reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Tanenbaum teaches a bankruptcy course as part of the Law School's New York City Program in International Finance and Law.

**Kathleen M. Mehlretter '78**, former acting U.S. attorney in Buffalo, for public service. Mehlretter retired

last year after 31 years as a federal prosecutor. Among the high-profile cases on which she worked successfully were helping to convict the "Lackawanna Six," accused of supporting al-Qaida; the Oklahoma City bombing case; and the high-profile case against a gunman who killed an Amherst doctor who performed abortions.

**Christopher J. O'Brien**, partner in the Buffalo law firm O'Brien Boyd, for outstanding service to the University and community by a non-alumnus. O'Brien, a lecturer at the Law School and a personal injury trial attorney, co-directs the school's Trial Technique Program. A graduate of Washington & Lee School of Law, he also serves on the UB Council and with community organizations as disparate as Canisius High School's Alumni Board of Directors, the Food Shuttle of Western New York and the Buffalo Na Fianna Gaelic Football Club.



# Reunions 2010

*Friday morning, Oct. 8, in O'Brian Hall*

## BACK TO SCHOOL

*Alumni audit fall classes.*



## 1ST ANNUAL NETWORK THE NATION

*Alumni from across the country share insight into the practice of law and non-traditional careers with students. A reception followed.*



Hon. Julio Fuentes '75, right, answers questions about his judicial career with students.



Kenneth A. Libby '85 of the Federal Trade Commission.

Christina Akers '13 and Kevin Fay '85, counsel at PACCAR Inc., Bellevue, Wash.



Robert Brucato Jr. '90, left, counsel at Counsel Press, LLC, Buffalo, and Professor Charles Ewing, right, at the social.



Peter A. Dunn '90 talks with a student about his non-traditional career as the president and CEO of the Central New York Community Foundation.

# Reunions 2010

*Friday evening, Oct. 8, at the Mansion*

**ALL CLASSES COCKTAIL PARTY WITH THE DEAN**

Left to right, Dean Makau W. Mutua talks with Ann Giardina Hess '85 and husband, Dr. Michael Hess



Left to right, Leslie R. Kellogg '95, Amy Habib Rittling '95 and Christine L. Keller '95



Nancy Quinn Gates '90, left, and Donna Crumlish Haslinger '90



Left to right, Jennifer M. Dillon '90, Kathleen Doyle Boyd '90 and Elizabeth M. Savino '90



George B. Weires '65, left, and Robert D. Kolken '65



Frederick L. Garwood '70, left, and Thomas E. Roberts '70



Left to right, Richard Samuel Jr. '80, Kenneth C. Turek '80, Michael M. Mohun '80, Martin J. Schank '80 and Kenneth A. Patricia '80



James Navarro '00, left, and Joseph J. Barker '00



Joseph W. Bennett Jr. '70, left, and Oliver C. Young '80



Above, left to right, Hon. Robert E. Whalen '70, Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75, Hon. Barbara Howe '80, Hon. Leslie G. Foschio '65 and Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin '85



Class of 1965 being introduced at the cocktail party.



**45TH REUNION**  
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010  
Dinner at the Buffalo Club



# Class of 1965

Left to right, 1st Row – Hon. Leslie G. Foschio, Richard A. Weissfeld, Marion K. Henderson, Robert D. Kolken  
2nd Row – Harold P. Bulan, David C. Laub, Roger P. Williams, George B. Weires

Below, left to right, 1st Row – Stephen N. Lee, Joseph W. Bennett Jr., Paul A. Gianelli, Jason M. Karp  
2nd Row – Thomas J. Casey, William H. Mattrey, Nicholas L. LoCicero, William J. Neff, James S. Tylock  
3rd Row – Patrick G. Rimar, Hon. Michael L. D'Amico  
4th Row – Frederick L. Garwood, Joseph P. Muenkel, Hon. Robert E. Whelan, Joseph Faerber



# Class of 1970

**40TH REUNION**  
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010  
Dinner at the Country Club of Buffalo

**35TH REUNION**  
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010  
Dinner at the Jacobs Executive Development Center



# Class of 1975

Left to right, 1st Row – Robert N. Gottfried, William F. Savino, Dianne Bennett, Hon. Julio M. Fuentes, Sue S. Gardner, Edward F. Zagajeski, Terry Ann Raszeja, Bruce D. Steiner

Stairs, left to right, Hon. Kenneth E. Graber, Pamela Davis Heilman, Edward D. Manzo, Barbara D. Klippert, David P. Picker, William J. McDermott Jr.



# Reunions 2010

## 30TH REUNION

Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010

Dinner at the Buffalo Yacht Club



Seated, left to right, Robert H. Gurbachi, Hon. Timothy J. Cooper, Douglas F. Wasser, David F. Abbott, Mary Joanne Dowd, Robert J. Portin, Dennis P. Koepfel, Mary C. Kloepfer, Debbie I. Humprey  
Standing, left to right, Leonard D. Kirsch, Richard Samuel Jr., Chris E. Forte, Paul T. Buerger Jr., Thomas J. Goetz, Oliver C. Young, Larry Kerman, Kenneth A. Patricia, Steven P. Curvin, Claire M. Fay, Michael J. Lombardo, Donald R. West, Patricia A. Randle, Lorenzo Randle, Kenneth C. Turek, Lewis F. Steele, Karen L. Mathews, Michael M. Mohun



# Class of 1985

## 25TH REUNION

Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010

Dinner at the  
Greatbatch Pavilion,  
Darwin Martin House

Seated, left to right, Jill M. Bond, Patricia N. Grace, Patricia A. Obstarczyk, Ann Giardina Hess, Judith G. Olin, Susan Schultz Laluk, Mary E. Armini, Paula M. Ciprich  
Standing, left to right, Kenneth W. Africano, Mark S. Mullholland, Michael J. Whitcher, Richard M. Schaus, Duane D. Schoonmaker, Kenneth A. Libby, Stephen J. Schop, Kevin J. Fay



**20TH REUNION**  
 Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010  
 Dinner at the Burchfield  
 Penney Art Center

## Class of 1990

Left to right, 1st Row – Kathleen A. Ranni Burr, Mary Catherine Callahan Malley, Susan S. Jennings  
 2nd Row – Donna Crumlish Haslinger, Nancy Quinn Gates, Peter A. Dunn, Timothy E. Jennings  
 3rd Row – James R. Grasso, James B. Biagi, Hon. Jeffrey P. Markello, Robert Brucato Jr.

## Class of 1995

**15TH REUNION**  
 Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010  
 Dinner at the Burchfield  
 Penney Art Center



Left to right, 1st Row – Leslie Ringle Kellogg, Terri L. LoTempio, Christine L. Keller  
 2nd Row – Catherine M. Brennan, Kathleen A. Linhardt, Amy Habib Rittling, Kevin S. Mahoney  
 3rd Row – David R. Adams and Charles W. Russell



## Class of 2000

**10TH REUNION**  
 Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010  
 Dinner at the Burchfield Penney Art Center  
 Left to right, Julie K. Linhart, Richard P. Staropoli, Elizabeth Snyder Fortino, Elizabeth V. Zanet



## Births

To **Kathryn J. Rebhan '99** and Tom Rebhan, a daughter, Elizabeth Rose, on May 5, 2010, in Buffalo.

To **James Appler '00** and **Carrie Appler '03**, a daughter, Whitney Caroline, on Oct. 8, 2010, in Amherst, N.Y.

To **Mary Snyder Radel '01** and **Patrick G. Radel '02**, a son, John Paul, on Oct. 21, 2010, in New Hartford, N.Y.

To **Andrea M. Rigdon '03** and Jay A. Rigdon, a daughter, Juliana Grace, on Aug. 4, 2010, in Syracuse, N.Y.

To **Lisa Sharp '03** and David Sharp, a son, Nathaniel Everett, on May 3, 2010, in Richmond, Va.

To **Paul Shipper '04** and Talya Shipper, a daughter, Ella, on May 21, 2010, in Rochester, N.Y.

To **Mary Coseo '05** and **Matthew Coseo '05**, a son, Ian Matthew, on Jan. 18, 2011, in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

To **Yadira Ramos-Herbert '05** and Jeffrey Herbert, a daughter, Julyssa Annabella, on July 12, 2010, in New Rochelle, N.Y.

To **Katherine Courtney '06** and Daniel Courtney, a daughter, Bridget Shea, on April 8, 2010, in Rochester, N.Y.

To **Sarah Hansen '07** and Adam Hansen, a daughter, Adeline Rose, on Oct. 13, 2010, in East Aurora, N.Y.

To **Melissa L. Vincon '09** and Sean J. Vincon, a son, Emmett Arthur, on June 30, 2010, in Lockport, N.Y.

## Marriages

Congratulations to the following newlyweds:

**Hon. Melissa L. Klemens '94** and Steven Marshall Jones, Dec. 4, 2010

**Carolyn G. Goodwin '00** and **Daniel Wells Morse '00**, July 17, 2010

**Lauren Jennifer Berrol '04** and Jeremy Seth Soffin, Feb. 20, 2011

**Andrea M. Gray '05** and Paul Gray, Oct. 9, 2010

**Megan E. Misiti '06** and Paul Cumbo, Oct. 8, 2010

**Alicia R. Sim '07** and David Aaron Nayak, Sept. 4, 2010

**Joshua E. Dubs '08** and Lauren Maroni, Oct. 2, 2010

**Carrie Lee Weremblewski '10** and Ian Oliver Conrad, Aug. 27, 2010

## In Memoriam



**Professor Emeritus Lee A. Albert** passed away in New York City on Sept. 5, 2010, following a brief illness. He was 73. A professor of law at UB from 1975 until 2008, he came to UB from Yale Law School, where he had been an associate professor of law. His teaching and research interests included Constitutional law, administrative law, law and health care, and U.S. Supreme Court litigation. Professor Albert published articles and book chapters on issues of justiciability and federal court litigation as well as the legal rights of dying patients and judicial review of administrative action.

At the time of his retirement, Professor Albert spoke to an O'Brian Hall gathering in his honor. He ended his remarks with these words: "Closure is a much overused term these days, but I think it well fits this occasion, at least for me. I left during the Christmas recess of 2008, and somehow leaving quietly in the evening after three-plus decades of teaching seemed to many people here abrupt. In fact, one colleague was heard to remark, 'Is that really it?' Until tonight the answer to that question is, I'm afraid so. After tonight, the question has been answered in the right way. I can't say after all these years of teaching that I sorely miss the classroom, but I do miss the place and the people who keep it running."

The Law School extends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of the following friends and alumni/ae:

**Anthony L. Pusateri '36**, Lockport, N.Y.

**James T. Duggan '39**, Getzville, N.Y.

**Hon. William J. Flynn Jr. '40**, Amherst, N.Y.

**John J. Nasca '46**, Amherst, N.Y.

**Martha Rousos '46**, Kansas City, Mo.

**Ross L. Runfola '49**, Williamsville, N.Y.

**James J. Hagerty '50**, North Palm Beach, Fla.

**Luke C. Owens Jr. '51**, Grand Island, N.Y.

**David Lund '52**, Sanibel, Fla.

**John Miller McKee '52**, Williamsville, N.Y.

**Robert S. Gottesman '53**, Greenbrae, Calif.

**Peter B. Carr '54**, Buffalo

**William E. Balthasar '55**, Buffalo

**William S. Gordon '55**, Williamsville, N.Y.

**Charles Porreca '56**, Rochester, N.Y.

**James N. Carlo '58**, Buffalo

**Samuel B. Dattilo '58**, Honeoye Falls, N.Y.

**Robert W. Bartels '61**, Buffalo

**Paul W. Dolloff '62**, San Marcos, Texas

**George Markarian '63**, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Victor J. Gagliardi '65**, Grand Island, N.Y.

**Theodore J. Burns '67**, Buffalo

**Richard S. Kwiecek '69**, Hamburg, N.Y.

**Hon. Francis F. Talbot '73**, Mount Pleasant, S.C.

**Vincent L. Morgan '74**, Chautauqua, N.Y.

**Linda E. White '76**, East Aurora, N.Y.

**Ellen B. Simon '78**, Hoboken, N.J.

**Nancy Dillman Peck '79**, Rochester, N.Y.

**Herbert Roisman '80**, Rochester, N.Y.

**Mary M. Donoghue '84**, Buffalo

**Jane E. Blumenthal-Stechman '85**, Woodmere, N.Y.



# Thank you to our lifetime members

Mark S. Ackerman '77 – D.C.  
Cristine A. Agola '92 – Rochester, N.Y.  
Theodore Lyons Araujo '85 – Syracuse, N.Y.  
Edward J. Barron '75 – D.C.  
Thomas E. Black Jr. '79 – Texas  
Anna Marie Cellino '81 – Buffalo  
Ross M. Cellino Jr. '82 – Buffalo  
Douglas S. Coppola '75 – Buffalo  
Regina A. DelVecchio '88 – Buffalo  
Sareer A. Fazili '96 – Rochester, N.Y.  
Gordon R. Gross '55 – Buffalo  
Robert J. Gutowski '99 – New York City  
Joel M. Hockett '78 – New York City  
Giuseppe A. Ippolito '05 – Buffalo  
John J. Jablonski '93 – Buffalo  
Karen R. Kaczmariski '89 – Buffalo  
Deborah J. Karet '01 – D.C.  
Hon. Mary Ann Killeen '52 – Buffalo  
Changse L. Kim '75 – Korea  
Kristin Graham Koehler '94 – D.C.

Paul W. Kullman '87 – Buffalo  
Jason Y. Lee '07 – New York City  
Francis Letro '79 – Buffalo  
Kenneth A. Libby '85 – D.C.  
Karen L. Mathews '80 – Buffalo  
Rebecca Z. McCauley '04 – Buffalo  
Leah R. Merritt-Mervine '07 – Rochester, N.Y.  
Thomas M. O'Donnell '82 – Niagara Falls, N.Y.  
Michael Olander '77 – North Carolina  
James Scott Parker '84 – Buffalo  
Vikki L. Pryor '78 – New York City  
Lawrence J. Regan '84 – Buffalo  
Eric Ian Robins '03 – New York City & D.C.  
Kurt R. Sherman '84 – Syracuse, N.Y.  
Michael J. Surgalla Jr. '82 – D.C.  
Steven J. Weiss '91 – Buffalo  
Christopher A. Wightman '99 – Pennsylvania  
Gary P. Winter '87 – Minnesota  
Margaret W. Wong '76 – Ohio



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- Three free live one-hour NYS Continuing Legal Education programs per membership year
- 50 percent off the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers' regular membership rate
- Discounts to a wide variety of social and networking events throughout the year

### In addition, your membership dues help support the activities of the Law Alumni Association including:

- **Admissions Scholarships** – The Law Alumni Association provides an annual contribution to support tuition scholarships to help attract the best and the brightest students to UB Law.
- **Regional Alumni Activity** – Our Regional Chapters in Rochester, Albany, New York City and Washington, D.C., organize many great programs and events designed to bring alumni and students together outside of the Western New York area.
- **The UB Law GOLD Group** – An arm of the Law Alumni Association, our Graduates of the Last Decade provide seminars, networking opportunities and fun, informal events focused on the needs of new alumni/ae as they bridge the gap from graduate to attorney.

- **Our popular Class Reunion Program** – The Law Alumni Office provides all the support you need to help commemorate the anniversary of your law school graduation.

- **Our Oral History Project** – A collection of digital interviews of UB Law alumni/ae and the many people who have contributed to the Law School and the Western New York legal community. An oral history library is projected to be accessible online as the Law School celebrates its 125-year anniversary in fall 2012.

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Look for the University at Buffalo Law Alumni Association on Facebook and stay connected with your Law School colleagues and friends!

Join today at: [www.law.buffalo.edu/Alumni](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/Alumni)

# Obama taps two alumnae for high-profile positions



Virginia Seitz '85



Denise E. O'Donnell '82

## *Seitz '85 and O'Donnell '82 share a hearing date before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary*

**T**wo University at Buffalo alumnae, Virginia A. Seitz '85 and Denise E. O'Donnell '82, have secured high-profile and highly sensitive legal positions in the Obama administration.

Both women were nominated for the positions by President Obama: Seitz as assistant attorney general heading the Office of Legal Counsel in the Department of Justice and O'Donnell as head of the Justice Department's Bureau of Legal Assistance. They appeared for questioning at a hearing before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on March 30.

After questioning from judiciary committee members, their nominations were scheduled for committee consideration during an executive business meeting. As *UB Law Forum* went to press, the full Senate voted to confirm the nominations.

Both women were cited by Obama for their "extraordinary dedication."

### **Virginia Seitz**

Seitz was nominated by the president as assistant attorney general, where she will head the Office of Legal Counsel in the Department of Justice. Seitz, who was first in her class at UB Law and the recipient of the Max Koren award, said that during law school "I was prod- ded to not just think in a tiny box, but connect all coursework with what I was doing in other areas."

Since 1998 she has worked in the Washington, D.C., office of the law firm Sidley Austin LLP. There she has done appellate litigation work, and she is best-known for authoring an amicus brief on behalf of retired military offi-

cers in support of affirmative action in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Grutter v. Bollinger*.

The office of legal counsel provides legal advice to the president and executive-branch agencies on constitutional and other major issues. It employs about two dozen lawyers. The office has not had a Senate-confirmed head since 2004 and has been a flashpoint of political division in recent years.

Seitz is a former clerk for Judge Harry Edwards of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan. She has worked on more than 100 Supreme Court briefs and petitions for

certiorari, and hundreds of filings in lower courts. Her bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, is from Duke University, and she was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

### **Denise O'Donnell**

O'Donnell was nominated by President Obama to head the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau, part of the Department's Office of Justice Programs, gives grants to state and local criminal justice agencies and other entities across the criminal justice field, including law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system.

O'Donnell recently served as New York State Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, where she oversaw 11 homeland security and criminal justice agencies with a combined annual budget of \$4.7 billion. From 2007 to 2010, she served as Commissioner of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, where she managed several crime reduction efforts, including the collection and analysis of crime data, criminal background investigations, juvenile justice, and the administration of state and federal criminal justice grants.

Prior to her appointment, O'Donnell was a litigation partner at Hodgson Russ, LLP. During the Clinton administration, she was appointed as United States Attorney for the Western District of New York (1997-2001). She joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District in 1985 as a prosecutor and was later promoted to first assistant U.S. Attorney in 1993. Earlier in her career, she served as a law clerk to the late Justice M. Dolores Denman of the New York Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

She holds a B.S. from Canisius College and an M.S.W and J.D., summa cum laude, from the University at Buffalo.





Above, Law School volunteers sorted through boxes of donated clothing at the Joan A. Male Family Support Center. From left to right: Katie L. Taylor '13, Seung Eun Lee '13 and Marshall M. Bertram '13.

Below, students Lydia H. Beebe '12 and Richard A. Maltese '13 cleaned up Delaware Park.



## Student Bar Association launches Day of Service



Students helping to repurpose building materials at Buffalo ReUse: The ReSource. Laura B. Powalski '13, left, and Nicole E. Haimson '12.

**U**B Law School's inaugural Day of Service was held Saturday, April 2. The program provided 80 UB Law students, faculty and alumni with an opportunity to assist several not-for-profit organizations in the Buffalo area. In the course of the day, the Law School volunteers sorted through boxes of donated clothing, removed nails from repurposed building materials, sifted through donated goods, cleaned up the park and befriended the elderly.

Sponsored and organized by the Student Bar Association, the Law School volunteers were transported by bus to and from the various locations. Lunch was catered by Caroline's House, a local non-profit organization that provides catering services performed by battered women,

and was hosted in the home of Law Professor Susan V. Mangold.

Volunteers were given the option to participate in the following locations: Buffalo ReUse; Olmsted Parks Conservancy; Delaware Park Cleanup; Weinberg Campus; and Joan A. Male Family Support Center.

Law student Adam Lynch '13 coordinated the event, receiving assistance from Leigh Ann Chute '12, Lauren Pienkowski '12, Monique Tronchin '12 and Frank Ewing '12. The UB Law Social Justice Committee also assisted.

The SBA hopes to make the Day of Service an annual tradition for the Law School.

Multimedia: [www.law.buffalo.edu/forum/extra.asp](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/forum/extra.asp)



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# Save the date for your class reunion!

## *Oct. 28 & 29, 2011*

*Planning is under way for the classes of  
1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1991 and 2001.*

*Here is some of what you can expect:*



### **FRIDAY, OCT. 28**

- Back to School – an opportunity to audit a class. Classes to be determined by fall class schedule.
- Network the Nation – Share your insight into the practice of law or your non-traditional career in small groups with our students.
- Reunion Class Cocktail Party With the Dean – at The Mansion on Delaware with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

### **SATURDAY, OCT. 29**

- CLE with the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers.
- Tours of the Law School – See our newly renovated lobby and other facility changes.
- Afternoon on Your Own – Call some classmates or just take the afternoon to explore some of Buffalo's hot spots: Burchfield Penney Art Gallery, Darwin Martin House, Albright-Knox Art Gallery and Buffalo Zoo.
- Your Class Party – Reunion weekend concludes Saturday evening with the all-time favorite alumni event – the individual class party.

More information will be posted in the coming months at  
[www.law.buffalo.edu/ClassReunions](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/ClassReunions)

Make sure we have your e-mail address! Join your class Facebook page – link found on the Web site.

### ***Class of 1961's 50th Reunion***

MAY 20 & 21, 2011

Commencement Weekend. Register now. We look forward to seeing you!



Comments or questions, contact  
**Amy Hayes Atkinson** at  
[aatkins@buffalo.edu](mailto:aatkins@buffalo.edu) or  
(716) 645-6224

**UB** [www.law.buffalo.edu](http://www.law.buffalo.edu)