

S P R I N G 2 0 1 2

SUNY BUFFALO LAW FORUM

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SUNY BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Charles Ogletree,
the Jesse Climenko
Professor at Harvard
Law School and
chairman of
the panel



E. Thomas Sullivan,
recently appointed
president of the University
of Vermont and a
former dean of the
University of Minnesota
Law School



Kent Syverud,
dean and Ethan A.H.
Shepley Distinguished
University Professor
at the Washington
University School of Law,
in St. Louis



Jim Chen,
dean and professor at
the Louis D. Brandeis
School of Law at the
University of
Louisville



**Pamela Davis
Heilman '75,**
of counsel with
Hodgson Russ,
representing the
UB Council and DAC



CHARTING A COURSE FOR THE FUTURE

*High-powered panel engages faculty, students, staff
and alumni in Law School review*

On the cover, left to right:

Charles Ogletree, the Jesse Climenko Professor at Harvard Law School and chairman of the panel
E. Thomas Sullivan, recently appointed president of the University of Vermont and a former dean of the University of Minnesota Law School

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SUNY Buffalo Law Forum is mailed free to alumni, faculty, students and friends of the SUNY Buffalo Law School.

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Facing challenges

And accelerating our trajectory of excellence

“Our collective goal is to further enhance SUNY Buffalo Law School’s excellence in education, scholarship and service to our local and global communities.”

— Dean Makau W. Mutua

We all know that law schools and the legal profession are undergoing soul-searching. At SUNY Buffalo Law School, we are engaging in serious conversations about how to respond to the challenges facing our industry and profession. We have had to reflect anew on what being a lawyer means for you, us and our society. It is no secret that in the last several years, law schools and the legal profession have come under severe attack. We have been heavily critiqued by students, the public, our clients and even fellow lawyers. While some of that critique is fair and deserved, much of it is unfair and unfounded.

There are some things we can – as a profession – do better. We need to align tuition better with social and market demands. We need to increase diversity in law schools and in the profession. We need to do a better job with graduate employment. We need to serve our clients better, and with compassion and empathy. We need to adapt our curricula to the changing global economy and the emerging and unmet needs in society. We need to teach and practice law with a more robust social conscience. At SUNY Buffalo Law School, we are already doing most of these things. But we need to do more, and I promise you that we will.

We are determined to face these challenges and accelerate our trajectory of excellence. On May 8 and 9, UB President Satish K. Tripathi and I convened a panel of distinguished academics and lawyers to better understand these challenges and position ourselves to address them. As you know, over the past four years, SUNY Buffalo Law School has made significant progress toward achieving its goal of becoming a national leader in legal education and scholarship. Looking to the future, our collective goal is to further enhance SUNY Buffalo Law School’s excellence in education, scholarship and service to our local and global communities. Accomplishments over the last few years provide a strong foundation for us to continue to build our reputation, serve as a unique resource to aspiring lawyers in New York State and around the world, and achieve our goal to be a “top 50” ranked law school.

The distinguished panel was composed of Tom Sullivan, the recently appointed president of the University of



Gov. Andrew Cuomo with Dean Makau W. Mutua

Vermont; Charles Ogletree, professor at Harvard Law School; Jim Chen, the dean at the University of Louisville Law School; and Kent Syverud, the dean at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. They were joined by Pamela Davis Heilman ’75, UB Council member and member of the Law School Dean’s Advisory Council. These nationally recognized panelists met with key stakeholders – including faculty, staff, students, senior SUNY Buffalo Law leadership, external constituents and key alumni. Our panel will prepare a forward-looking set of recommendations for us to consider as we

advance our ambitious vision for the Law School.

The panel led discussions on many issues, including the recruitment of outstanding students in a climate of decreasing law school applications nationwide; enhancing career opportunities for our current and future students in light of an increasingly tight job market; recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty; and increasing fundraising capacity to support the school’s objectives. We are grateful to them for sharing their wisdom and expertise with our community.

In spite of the challenges we face, there is no doubt in my mind that the legal profession is the most indispensable calling in a democracy. We are a noble profession. The rule of law – the difference between democracy and autocracy – pivots on the legal profession. Lawyers work at the intersection of power and powerlessness. It is our duty to reduce powerlessness and hold power accountable. This is a high calling indeed.

I believe SUNY Buffalo Law School will emerge out of the current situation even stronger and more ready to serve our fellow citizens. With your help, the Law School will play its role in charting a new and better course for our profession.

Makau Mutua

LOOKING AHEAD

As the Law School celebrates its 125th anniversary, a high-powered panel engages faculty, students, staff and alumni to chart a course for the future

To accelerate our trajectory of excellence” is Dean Makau W. Mutua’s stated goal for an ambitious initiative to build on SUNY Buffalo Law School’s many assets, take stock of the rapidly changing environment for law practice and legal education, and move forward from our 125-year anniversary in a position of strength.

That initiative – designed to draw on the wisdom of faculty, staff, students and alumni of the school – got a major push on May 8 and 9 when four prominent experts in the field of legal education were on campus to meet with all of those stakeholders, report on their observations of the Law School’s current position, and sketch out some of the challenges facing law schools nationwide in the coming decades.

“These sessions gave us good food for thought,” the dean said. “We could not have had a more knowledgeable and caring group visit our Law School to engage us on the most pressing issues facing legal education and the legal profession today.”

“I hope that this process will open pathways for a community dialogue among faculty, staff, students and alumni about how SUNY Buffalo Law School can leverage its vantage point as the state’s law school. Central to this are two things – resources and strategic planning. Every law school in the country is undertaking a similar exercise. All law schools are faced with these turbulent headwinds and are scrambling to best respond. I see the panel as our launch of a community-wide response to the challenges facing us.”

The study panel that met with stakeholders, including an open forum for the Law School community on May 9 in UB’s Student Union, comprised

Harvard Professor Charles Ogletree, left, and University of Vermont president E. Thomas Sullivan



four highly respected educators who have thought long and hard about the challenges facing law schools:

E. Thomas Sullivan, recently appointed president of the University of Vermont and a former dean of the University of Minnesota Law School.

Charles Ogletree, the Jesse Climenko Professor at Harvard Law School and chairman of the panel.

Jim Chen, dean and professor at the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville.

Kent Syverud, dean and Ethan A.H. Shepley Distinguished University Professor at the Washington University School of Law, in St. Louis.

“We need to balance theory and doctrine, ethics, skills and practical application of the law.”

— E. Thomas Sullivan

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“We need to balance theory and doctrine, ethics, skills and practical application of the law.”

Kent Syverud,

“You have an integration into other disciplines that many schools should kill for.”

Jim Chen,

“SUNY Buffalo Law’s return on investment is so much more favorable than at other schools, but it is still a tough row to hoe.”



Pamela Davis Heilman '75,
of counsel with Hodgson
Russ, representing the
UB Council and the
Dean's Advisory Council,
moderated the open forum



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The panel gathered for an initial dinner with Mutua; UB President Satish K. Tripathi and interim Provost Bruce McCombe; and Pamela Davis Heilman '75, representing the UB Council. On May 9, the panelists met for breakfast with the dean and other senior Law School administrators; spoke at the open forum; met privately with faculty members; met over lunch with key Law School alumni; met with a selection of current students; and went through a debriefing and exit interview process. They are expected to issue a final report to summarize their experience and their observations, including recommendations for steps the Law School can take to move forward.

About 50 members of the Law School community were on hand for the open forum, moderated by Heilman. Each panelist spoke about his initial impressions of the school and sketched out some of the factors contributing to the difficult environment facing both law schools and the legal profession as a whole.

"We are here to talk about this great university law school – what it has been doing, what it can do, what it should do, and some of the financial constraints involved," began Ogletree. "We have heard about many good things that are going on in this law school. While there may be disagreement about how the administration is carried out, there is no doubt about the success of the teaching in the classroom, the students' learning capacities and the alumni enthusiasm."

But, he said, "things are very different in the 21st century in terms of our student body than when I was a student. Our students are smarter, more agile; they have great ideas, but they have little sense of history. They know a lot about the future and very little about the past. I'm hoping we can influence high schools and colleges so that if someone is considering a career in law, they have a sense of history."

Another difference, he said, is that "for many of those in this room, and for those on this panel, when we grad-

uated from law school we had a job, and sometimes multiple job offers. That has changed in every institution. Students no longer have a guarantee that there is a job."

Part of what law schools need to do, he said, is to "reorient students' thinking" so they are not so focused on working in New York or Los Angeles, and help them imagine a legal career in lower-profile areas of the United States, such as Tennessee and Ohio, or even overseas, in Asia, Africa and South America.

For his part, Sullivan addressed the limits of any law school curriculum. "We simply cannot produce the perfect lawyer in three years," he said, "and we need to be mindful of that. I am a strong proponent that the best we can do is produce well-educated, well-read generalists, not focus on producing specialists in that three-year period. We need to balance theory and doctrine, ethics, skills and practical application of the law. That balance in the curriculum is very key."

Sullivan acknowledged the interdisciplinary scholarship that happens at SUNY Buffalo Law as a signature strength, and said that approach "continues to be very important as we move toward the future. Research is about expanding knowledge and sharing that knowledge and making connections so students and the larger constituency will understand the importance of ideas in making a better society."

He also said that, in response to the scarcity of legal jobs, "it's almost a moral imperative that law schools roll back significantly in enrollment." He also called for taking a hard look at the cost structure of legal education, with an eye to minimizing tuition increases and reducing graduates' debt load and its attendant anxiety. Along those lines, he added that the top priority for law school fund-raising should be to make money available for financial aid.

And he called for transparency and

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“You have very good faculty members. You have spectacular tenure-track hiring that promises a bright future. You have low tuition, almost half the tuition rate of an elite private law school, which translates into lower student debt at graduation.” – Kent Syverud



University of Vermont president E. Thomas Sullivan, left, and Kent Syverud, dean and professor at the Washington University School of Law

accountability in the way law schools report statistics for the annual *U.S. News & World Report* ranking, saying, “This is about consumer protection. This is a professional graduate program we are talking about, teaching young men and women to go into for the rest of their life, so if we can’t be ethical and be role models about that, we have to go back to ground zero and start asking questions about what we want to achieve. We need to stop overpromising and underdelivering.”

Syverud addressed some issues around law school faculty, noting about SUNY Buffalo, “You have some advantages here that I envy. You have very good faculty members. You have spectacular tenure-track hiring that promises a bright future. You have low tuition, almost half the tuition rate of an elite private law school, which translates into lower student debt at graduation. You are the only state university in New York and the only law school in a three-hour radius, which is very unusual in the Eastern part of the United States. And your University

leadership is not hostile to law as a discipline. You have no idea how wonderful and rare this is. You have an integration into other disciplines that many schools should kill for. Those are potent strengths in the challenging environment we are facing now.”

The bad news for the profession, he said, is manifold: a difficult job market, high student debt, diminishing demand for legal education, scandals that have tarnished the reputation of legal education, and the declining prestige of law as a profession.

He called on faculty to make an attitude adjustment. “Before I became a dean,” Syverud said, “my attitude was, ‘Leave me alone. I’m very good at what I do, I work very hard in the classroom and in research. Please just protect me so my talents can flower in peace and you can get the benefits of it.’ The problem with that is it sounds a lot to the outside world and to really good administrators like *Après moi, le deluge*. Like, gee, I don’t really care whether we’re doing the right things institutionally to be a great law school 25 years from now, as long as while I’m here everything is wonderful.”

Instead, he said, every professor should help students with job placement, embrace new teaching technologies, be open to the best learning from other academic disciplines, and build relationships that enable effective fundraising.

Chen noted a paradox in the call for reducing law school enrollments: the reduction in tuition income that would result. “It’s not as if taxpayer support for legal education or higher education in general is going up,” he said. “It is going to be tuition [that is the main institutional support]. The question has to be about making it worth the while.”

SUNY Buffalo Law’s return on investment, he said, is “so much more favorable than at other schools, but it is still a tough row to hoe. Legal education right now is, in the terms of modern portfolio theory, a low alpha/high

beta investment. Your returns in absolute amounts are very low relative to what you could be doing with your time, and the risk that you bear is extremely high. We are talking about 20-to-25-year debt service schedules.”

And the practice of law itself, he said, is undergoing a dramatic change. Non-lawyers are performing many legal tasks, many with the help of widely available computer software. Some legal work is being outsourced to places like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Perhaps most dispiriting, computer programs are doing some of the work that lawyers used to do. “You can’t beat software,” Chen said. “Software doesn’t sleep. Software doesn’t have families. Software doesn’t go on strike. And software catches things in document review that human beings don’t catch. ... We are being squeezed as a profession.”

A brief discussion period surfaced issues such as the role of lawyers in economic development, the larger cultural and economic forces at work, and the role of skills training in legal education.

Sullivan ended the session on a high note by saying, “President Tripathi is very enthusiastic and supportive of this law school. One of your very strong competitive advantages is that you are the only public law school in the SUNY system. What a fabulous brand to be able to extend to all the statements you need to make. You have to be relentless on the communication side of a positive message, but I think you have a very bright future.”

Summary judgment

Justice Sam Green '67 reflects on a distinguished career on the bench

For him and for the Western New York legal community, it's odd not having Samuel L. Green '67 on the bench. Following five years in private practice, in 1973 Green was appointed and then elected a judge on Buffalo City Court; in 1978 he was elected to the state Supreme Court; and in 1983 Gov. Mario Cuomo appointed him to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, sitting in Rochester. He held that post for 38 years before his retirement at the end of 2011.

SUNY Buffalo Law Forum visited Justice Green in the well-appointed waterfront home he shares with his wife, Ernestine, and a much-loved dog named Precious.

One story about your time in City Court said this: "He quickly learned to tell the difference between a hardened criminal who will understand nothing but a jail cell and a young offender whose life can be righted by a judge's enlightened decision." How did you learn to do this?

I was very concerned about young people. I didn't want to get them hung up in the system as repeat offenders. So I spent a lot of time trying to figure out, No. 1, what got them there, and then let's see if we can work to change it so this is a one-time experience with the system. You can actually save that person's life.

I didn't ever want that young person to get a taste of jail. For the average kid coming out of the inner city, it's like old hometown week when they get there. Their buddies are there. I never wanted them to get that experience. So I worked hard to keep the fear of incarceration in their mind.

What were your campaigns for judgeships like?

You have to go out and meet the people. In fact, that was one of my problems when I ran for the Supreme

Court in 1978. I went to three or four of the political agencies and they were telling me not to put my pictures on signs, not to go on television, and I'm thinking, how am I going to get elected? You can't sell someone something that's in a paper bag and you never show what it is. I wound up getting an agency person out of Toronto who ran my campaign, and we went on television and I went to all these places and I met all these people. I had to run in the eight counties of Western New York. And in 1978, there were 10 candidates running, five to be elected, I ran No. 1 ahead of all of them.

Some have called your election to the Supreme Court and your appointment to the Appellate Division "historic" in terms of racial achievement. Did you have any sense that you were paving the way for other African-American judges?

I'm sure subconsciously I thought about that. To be successful in the legal profession, just like in the medical profession, you have to be at the top of your trade. You had to work hard to make sure that you understood the law, that

you knew the law, that you could compete. I felt that by doing that, that was going to speak a lot louder. Then when they see that you are a minority, that's icing on the cake.

You need the great mind, but you also need people with human experiences. People who understand people, who care for people — those are the ones who make the best judges.

You've said you wanted to be a lawyer because it was a way to become an FBI agent. Was there something that happened in law school that changed your career path?

At that time there were a few books coming out about how spectacular and daring the FBI was. But little did I know at the time that I couldn't become an FBI agent anyway, because they didn't have any black agents. When I came out of law school, I wasn't going to do criminal work. But then some people I knew were getting in trouble and I'd go over and appear for them, and pretty soon I started getting good at it. I more or less switched my area to the criminal, and my partners could do the civil. I built up quite a practice. We were the

Cellino & Barnes of civil practice back in those days, but you couldn't advertise.

You were in a mostly white, mostly male class at UB Law School. Did you feel welcome there? What was the social experience like?

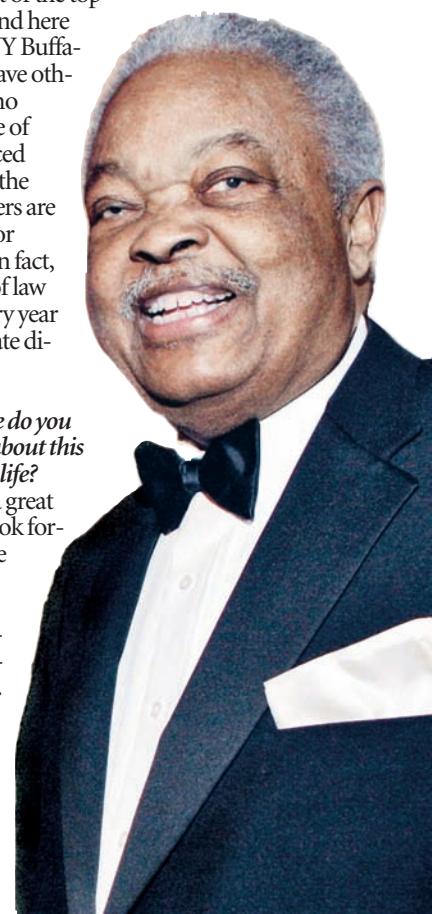
I enjoyed every minute of it because I wanted to become a lawyer. But I was the only black in the whole school. I couldn't get into any of the study groups. One of the professors wound up finding a person for me. This guy was pretty much on the outs because he was pretty far on the left politically and no one else wanted to deal with him. He became my study partner.

You've maintained close ties with the Law School for a long time. Can you talk about why, and about what you think the Law School means to the legal community here and elsewhere?

The Law School means everything to the community because most of the top lawyers around here went to SUNY Buffalo Law. We have other lawyers who went to some of the high-priced schools, and the Buffalo lawyers are just as good or even better. In fact, we hire lots of law students every year at the appellate division.

What else do you want to say about this stage of your life?

It's been a great run. And I look forward to some more good years doing some mediation or whatever else I do.



2012 could be a turning point for the city and Western New York – and SUNY Buffalo Law School alumni, faculty and students are helping to make the difference



LAWYERS LEAD THE WAY TO A BETTER BUFFALO

LAW SCHOOL REPORT



"There's no question that we are a major economic force in the region."
— UB President Satish K. Tripathi

"The greatest gift is a portion of thyself," the Yankee philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote. That's a piece of wisdom as old as humanity – and as fresh as today. Because increasingly the Law School's alumni, faculty and students are giving of themselves in smart ideas, legal acumen and boundless energy, to Western New York and Buffalo. In the process they are becoming an important catalyst for the area's economic renaissance.

That town-gown connection has a long provenance. In its 125-year history, the Law School has been a resource for its community in a thousand ways. But now, at what some see as a critical juncture for Western New York's economic future, the legal and business expertise it provides has never been more crucial. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has announced that he is directing \$1 billion in economic development money to the region, with hopes that this infusion of cash and tax credits will leverage \$5 billion in private investment.

UB President Satish K. Tripathi says economic engagement is "a logical extension of our service and outreach mission as a public research university. As a di-

rect outcome of our pursuit of research and educational excellence, we have a profound impact in contributing to the social, cultural and economic vitality of our region.

"There's no question that we are a major economic force in the region," Tripathi says. "We educate the majority of licensed professionals in Western New York – including eight out of 10 attorneys in the region. We are the region's second-largest employer, behind only the state government. Over 117,000 of our alumni live and work here. And our economic impact is substantial, currently measured at about \$1.7 billion annually.

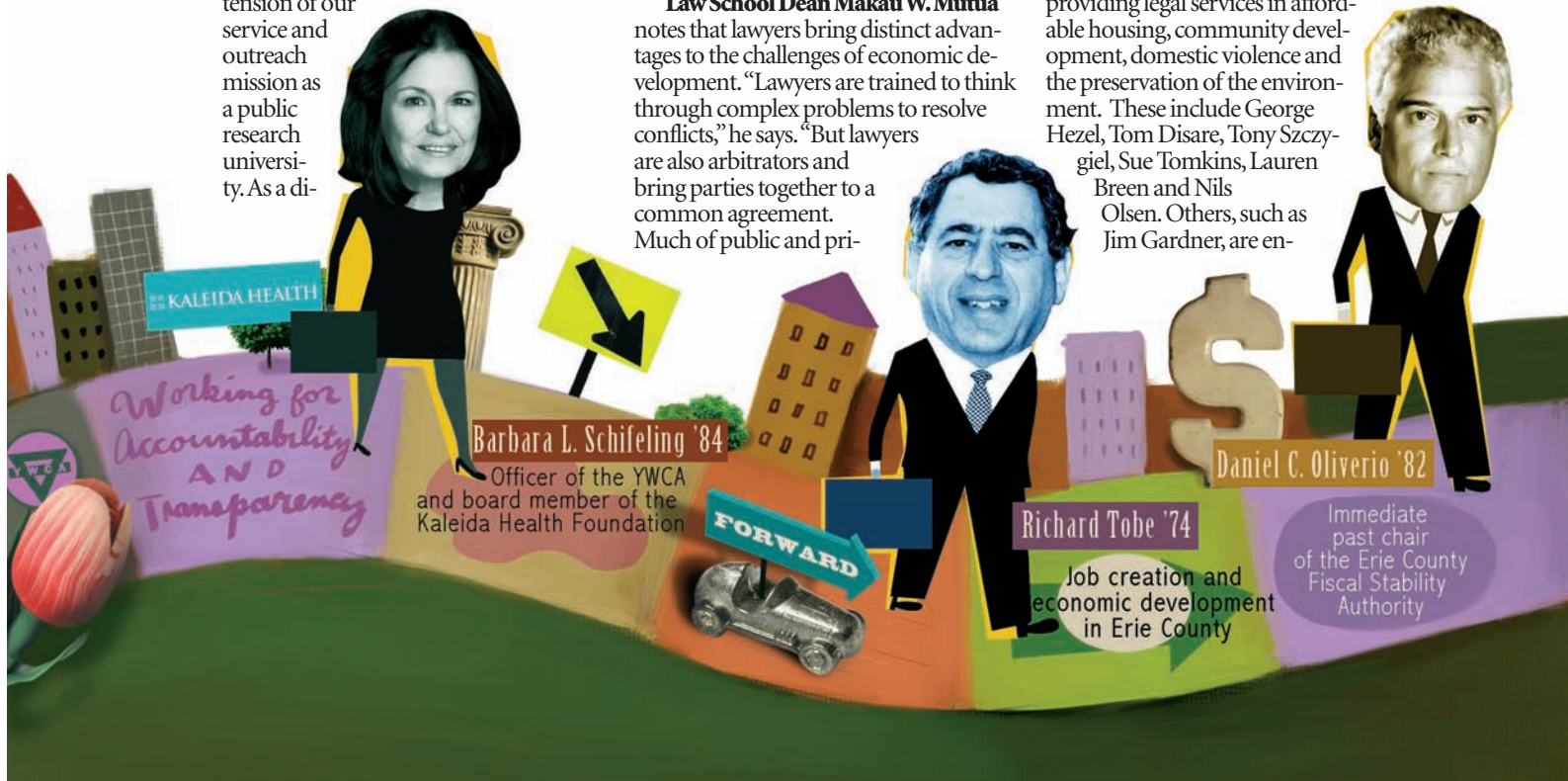
"But economic development is not just about job creation and dollars invested in the region. We create the environment for communities to thrive and prosper in a host of ways – through educating the next generation of leaders, through the problems we solve and solutions we develop, through the commercialization of our research, through the support we provide to local business and industry, and through our influence on the development of public policy."

Law School Dean Makau W. Mutua notes that lawyers bring distinct advantages to the challenges of economic development. "Lawyers are trained to think through complex problems to resolve conflicts," he says. "But lawyers are also arbitrators and bring parties together to a common agreement. Much of public and pri-

vate life in a democracy is about negotiating conflicts – some deadly, for sure, but most are the routine work of economic development, the functioning of markets and claims of fault.

"In a region like Western New York that's undergoing soul-searching about new models of doing business and rebuilding communities, lawyers are the linchpin. They can cut through the thicket of political fog and clarify choices. They can exercise oversight for more accountability and transparency so that public monies are not squandered or stolen. This is what makes democracy less objectionable than other forms of government."

The dean says the Law School recognizes community service as an essential part of the faculty's work. "Service is one of the pillars of faculty responsibility, along with scholarship and teaching," he says. "It is an important index for the grant of tenure. Service is a requirement – it's not optional. Many of our faculty are engaged in service activities locally, nationally and internationally. Many who teach in the clinics, led by **Professor Kim Connolly**, are deeply engaged in providing legal services in affordable housing, community development, domestic violence and the preservation of the environment. These include George Hezel, Tom Disare, Tony Szczygiel, Sue Tomkins, Lauren Breen and Nils Olsen. Others, such as Jim Gardner, are en-



gaged with the democratic process on elections, Michael Halberstam on redistricting, Athena Mutua on issues of youth incarceration, Todd Brown with the local bar on bankruptcy, Chuck Ewing on mental health – they are too numerous to name them all. Even after tenure, our faculty remain engaged in the community.”

A survey of the work being done by people affiliated with the Law School is necessarily incomplete. With about 5,000 SUNY Buffalo Law alumni living and working in the eight counties of Western New York, the influence of our graduates is incalculable. And only the faculty and students know how much positive work they are doing for the future of the region.

But a sampling of that work paints a fuller picture of the influence the Law School is wielding as Buffalo and Western New York grow into a better future.

STUDENTS IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

Through a widespread clinical education program, law students provide direct service to hundreds of clients in the region.

For example, the Affordable Housing Clinic, led by **Clinical**

Professor George M. Hezel, has produced more than 2,000 units of affordable housing by leveraging more than \$165 million in federal, state and local government funds as well as equity raised through the sale of low-income housing tax credits. **Assistant Clinical Professor Lauren Breen's** Community Economic Advocacy Clinic provides transactional legal assistance to a variety of business entities serving low-income communities in Western New York, with particular emphasis on child care policy, business/tax training and general corporate representation. The Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, directed by **Professor R. Nils Olsen**, has represented numerous community-based, citizen environmental groups and several local municipalities in environmental disputes, ranging from the proposed siting of hazardous-waste incinerators to land-use planning legislation. The Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic, directed by **Clinical Professor Suzanne E. Tomkins '92**, works to improve the lives of victims of domestic violence.

In March, eight UB students affiliated with the School of Architecture and Planning – including three from the Law School pursuing joint JD/MUP degrees, **Jonathan Falk, Taylor Hawes and Tamera Wright** – presented to the Erie County Industrial Development Agency an ambitious plan for strengthening the county's \$9.9 billion food system. The goal was to ensure

economical and viable agriculture in the county, promote access to local food by county residents, ensure lasting food security in the county, and promote residents' overall health and wellness.

In terms of direct service to people in need, the Law School's inaugural Day of Service was held last spring, a tradition that will continue. Coordinated by law student **Adam Lynch '13**, the event 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 a park and befriended the elderly.

LEVERAGING THE FACULTY

Professor **John Henry Schlegel** took over the school's course in regional economic development from Professor (and former UB President) William R. Greiner after Greiner's death. Students in the fall term designed five proposed projects for City of Buffalo neighborhoods in need of revitalization, including pedestrian zones, a micro-loan fund and a community land trust.

Associate Professor **Michael Halberstam**, whose research

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LAW SCHOOL REPORT



"In a region like Western New York that's undergoing soul-searching about new models of doing business and rebuilding communities, lawyers are the linchpin."
— Law School Dean Makau W. Mutua

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interests include the challenges of political redistricting, with his students presented to the Erie County Legislature and its Legislative Reapportionment Advisory Committee a non-partisan legislative redistricting plan. The plan by Halberstam and his students, including then-student Patrick Fitzgerald '11, proposed a logical alternative to the politically motivated plans then in play.

And in 2010 **Professor (and former Dean) R. Nils Olsen** was named chair of the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority, then a "hard" control board that reviewed significant contracts that the city entered into and oversaw spending in the Buffalo Public Schools, the Municipal Housing Authority and the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency.

Samuel L. Magavern, a Law School clinical adjunct instructor, serves as co-director of the Partnership for the Public Good, a Buffalo think tank. The organization's stated goal is to "build a more just, sustainable and culturally vibrant community through action-oriented research, policy development and citizen engagement."

On the administrative side, **Lillie Wiley-Upshaw**, as part of her work as vice dean for admissions and financial aid, has been a prime mover of the new UB Undergraduate Scholars Program, sponsored jointly by the Law

School, the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, and UB's Millard Fillmore College. "Fewer than 10 percent of all attorneys are people of color," Wiley-Upshaw says, "and that's certainly not representative of our country. As the State of New York's law school, we have a responsibility to help change that in our own region and community."

ALUMNI IN THE GOVERNMENT ...

Many alumni are exercising the option for public service by serving directly in government.

As deputy Erie County executive, **Richard Tobe '74** is focusing on job creation and creating a streamlined, sustainable and efficient approach to economic development in Erie County. Tobe has more than 30 years of economic development experience in the public and private sectors as well as academia.

Tobe is joined in Erie County Hall by **Christopher L. Jacobs '99**, who serves in the key post of Erie County clerk, in charge of an office that processes over 2 million transactions each year. Jacobs is an advocate for the creation of charter schools and co-founded the BISON Scholarship Fund (Buffalo Inner-City Scholarship Opportunity Network).

In Buffalo, **Timothy A. Ball '04** is serving as corporation counsel, the city's top attorney.

Daniel C. Oliverio '82 is the immediate past chair of the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority—the "control board" that has put the coun-

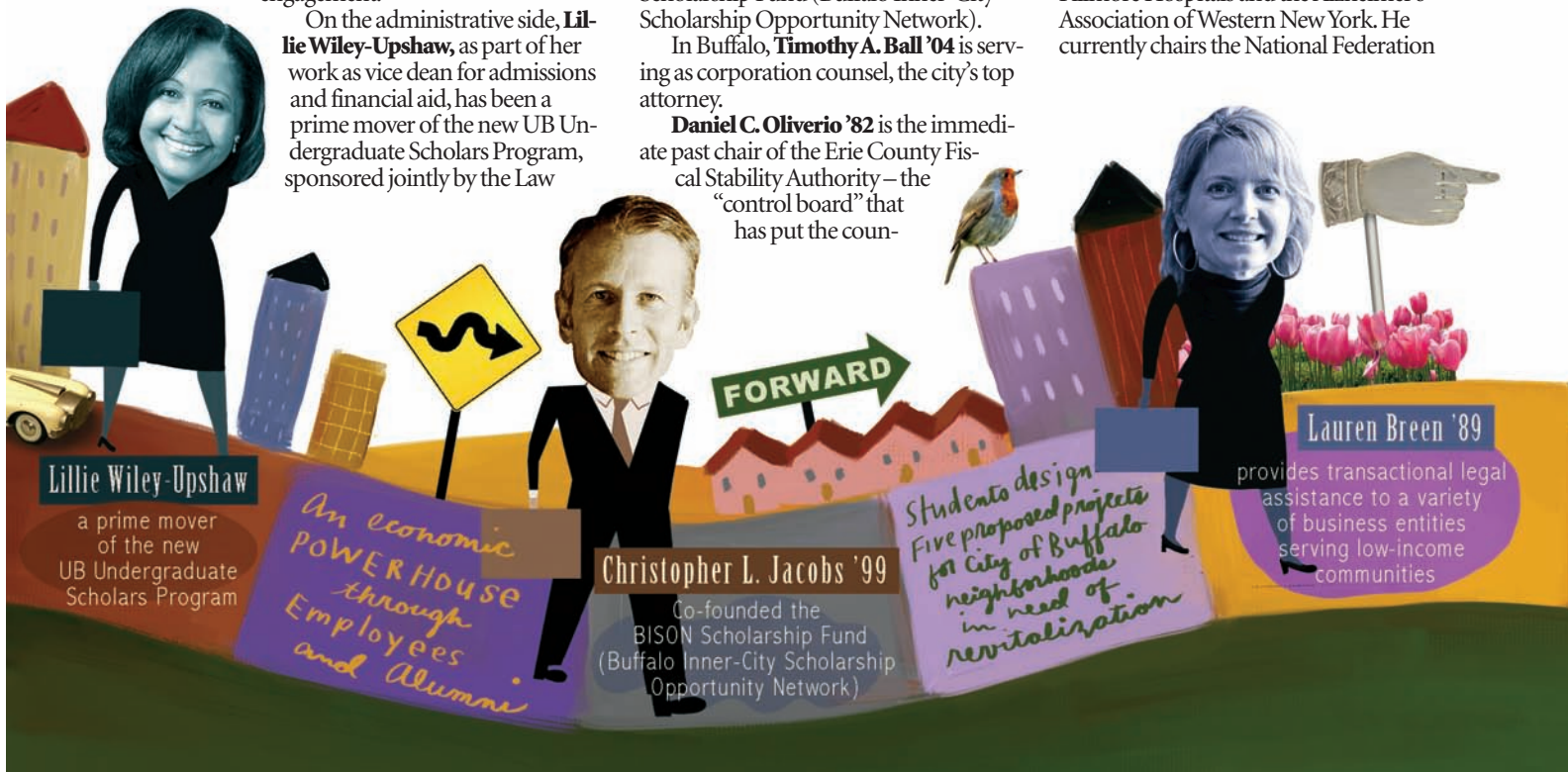
ty's finances on an even footing.

Earlier this year, **Dean Mutua** was appointed to the board of the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp., whose charge is to develop a coherent public-use plan for one of Buffalo's most underused assets, its Lake Erie waterfront.

As a Buffalo City Court judge, **Henry J. Nowak Jr. '93** (now serving on the State Supreme Court) transformed the Queen City's Housing Court. Once the court was run like a criminal court, with elderly or poor homeowners sometimes punished for neglecting to make repairs to their homes which they often could not afford. Housing Court is now a problem-solving court in which the help of community organizations and advocates is brought to bear to assist well-meaning but needy homeowners to make necessary improvements.

...AND IN OTHER ARENAS

Like many other Law School alumni, **Christopher T. Greene '74**, a partner in the Buffalo law firm Damon Morey, has invested his time and expertise in several boards, including the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, Millard Fillmore Hospitals and the Alzheimer's Association of Western New York. He currently chairs the National Federation



for Just Communities of Western New York, which fights racism, bias and discrimination, and serves on the board of Kaleida Health.

Also a partner at Damon Morey, **Barbara L. Schifeling '84** is a member and officer of the board of directors of the YWCA and serves as a board member of the Kaleida Health Foundation.

Brian D. Baird '83, of counsel with Kavinoky & Cook, also devotes considerable time to public service matters. He is a trustee of the Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation and has been active in numerous local charities.

Douglas W. Dimitroff '89, a partner with Phillips Lytle, serves on the board of Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, a non-profit, private business development and regional marketing organization pitching the idea that the Buffalo Niagara region is the ideal place for businesses to locate, grow and start up.

Pamela Davis Heilman '75, of counsel with Hodgson Russ, has served in a variety of community roles, including serving for five years as board chair of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, the first woman to hold this position. She currently serves as vice chair of the Board of Governors of the Shaw Festival, one of the largest repertory theater companies in North America.

Director of the Buffalo regional office for the New York State Division of Human

Rights, **Tasha E. Moore '98** also heads a Minority Bar Association of Western New York committee focused on educational outreach, to get more students of color thinking about going to law school. "We want to expose kids to what a lawyer is," Moore says, "and get them thinking about civic responsibility."

David F. Smith '78, president and CEO of National Fuel Gas Co., chairs Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, a non-profit, private business development and regional marketing organization. BNE helps new and existing companies do business in Western New York, and has attracted more than \$2.9 billion in new capital and helped create 36,000 since it began in 1999.

Carl J. Montante '67 is president and managing director of Uniland Development Co., a major Western New York developer. His privately held company built and owns more than 130 commercial buildings in the area, totaling more than 6 million square feet, including the Avant Building, a 16-level mixed-use hotel, office and condominium building.

Gordon R. Gross '55, a senior partner in the Buffalo law firm Gross, Shuman, Brizdle & Gilfillan, has served most recently as a founder of UB's Institute for Jewish Thought and Heritage. He was also a member of the State University of New York Board of Trustees. His involvement with community service has included leadership positions with Roswell Park Cancer Institute, St. Mary's School for the Deaf, the Community

Foundation for Greater Buffalo and the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies.

David R. Pfalzgraf Jr. '97 of Rupp, Baase, Pfalzgraf, Cunningham & Coppola, chairs the board of directors of the Kaleida Health Foundation, and serves on the board of the Buffalo Renaissance Foundation, where he is a past president. The non-profit foundation seeks "to help our future generations realize the best opportunities to enjoy a high quality of life in Western New York."

AN ONGOING PROCESS

Many more stories of community involvement and civic impact are playing out, all in service of a common goal: a stronger economy and even better quality of life in Buffalo and Western New York.

Says President Tripathi: "We don't live in an ivory tower – we are an intrinsic part of the fabric of our communities, and we have a responsibility to play a leadership role in this regard. Our commitment to civic engagement extends across the institution, and we are fortunate to have a wide array of schools and units that lead exceptional programs focused on the enrichment of our larger communities. The Law School has long been a leader in advancing the University's commitment to civic engagement, and many of its programs provide an excellent model of community outreach and impact."



H. Carl McCall pays a visit



Dean Makau W. Mutua, left, with H. Carl McCall, chairman of the State University of New York Board of Trustees

SUNY's head trustee gets Law School grand tour

New York State's public law school entertained a visitor with deep roots in public service to the state — and by all reports, he liked what he saw.

H. Carl McCall, the former state comptroller, current member of the state's fiscal control board for the City of Buffalo and chairman of the State University of New York Board of Trustees, toured SUNY Buffalo Law School on May 2. He met with Dean Makau W. Mutua, who spoke at length to him about significant recent developments that have moved the school toward academic excellence. These include a large cohort of excellent faculty hires, the ris-

ing caliber of incoming classes of students, the school's increased support for faculty scholarship at the highest level, and successful efforts aimed at fundraising and mobilizing the school's 10,000 alumni across the nation and worldwide.

The dean also laid out for McCall some of the challenges facing law schools generally, and detailed a program, Panel on Legal Education Excellence, that brought four nationally recognized experts to UB on May 8 and 9. They met with key stakeholders to assess the school's status and recommend how best it can move forward.

McCall's visit also included a tour of

the Law School's newly renovated facility in John Lord O'Brian Hall, with improvements including a new student lounge, a revamped and more welcoming first floor, and improved teaching technology in classrooms. He also spoke with a number of students as they came near to semester-ending examinations, and interacted with senior Law School administrators and staff.

As chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees, McCall leads an 18-member governing body for the 64-campus system, the nation's largest public higher education system. He was appointed to that post by New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

Practical perspectives

Experts from three areas bolster a course on pollution control law



Environmental Law Program Director Kim Diana Connolly teaching in the clinic

Variety is the spice, and diversity of opinion is the goal, in a unique environmental law course offered this spring at SUNY Buffalo Law School. Rather than the traditional one-professor-one-viewpoint format, the course is being taught by three experts in the field of pollution control, along with the lead instructor, Law School Professor Kim Diana Connolly, who directs the school's Environmental Law Program.

The 21 second- and third-year law students in the course on pollution control law are learning in three-week "units," each taught by one of the four instructors. Subject areas include the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the Clean Air Act and the Toxic Substances Control Act.

In addition to Connolly, the instructors – all with extensive experience in environmental law – are:

Well-known environmental law attorney **Richard J. Lippes '69**, of Richard

J. Lippes & Associates.

Tom Tyler, an official with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., and formerly a principal of a major trade association, who brings expertise in toxics and air quality issues.

Adam S. Walters, who leads the Land, Environment & Energy Practice Group of Phillips Lytle.

"We wanted to bring in experts who would teach short units of the course from a practical perspective and also share their outlook and experience from having been environmental law practitioners for decades," Connolly says. "We've designed it to feature three really different perspectives that are not just the academic perspective."

For example, she says, Walters discussed working for the "regulated community" – such as companies that need an environmental permit or a manufacturer who wants to build a road. And all three experts touched on the hottest issue in New York environmental law today: hydrofracturing to recover oil and natural gas trapped in under-

ground shale. Connolly says Tyler advocated for the EPA to get involved with fracking on a national level, and Lippes and Walters also have worked on this issue – which invokes regulations on air and water quality and emissions of toxic substances – from different perspectives.

The instructors explore why each statute was written, how it has been implemented by the agencies, how courts have interpreted it and how it works in practice. Students are learning about broader areas of authority under which agencies act (beyond just regulations and enforcement) and how the realities of clients and other stakeholders influence how the laws are applied.

Connolly provides the overall structure for the course, taught one three-week unit, sits in on every class and supervises the students' writing of "white papers" that will be posted on the Law School's Web site.

"We have these three people who have two things going for them that students love," she says – "deep expertise in their subject area and on-the-ground daily practice experience. They can talk about statutes, regulations and case law in a contextual way that is real. I'm able to add a little of the jurisprudence."

"Students say they're excited about the practical nature of what they're hearing in the classroom and the fact that they're hearing from people with real experience."

Student Robert Grimaldi '12 says of the course: "Each of these professors was an excellent resource, sharing personal insight on working on environmental issues such as Love Canal and current controversies dealing with air and water pollution and the handling of hazardous materials. After taking this course, I can now confidently state that I am practice-ready in the field of pollution control."

The course has been renewed for next year.



From top, Richard J. Lippes '69, Tom Tyler and Adam Walters

LAW REVIEW DINNER

The Review in review

23rd annual dinner marks a successful year for journal

In good company and in the august confines of the Buffalo Club, the members of the Law School's premier student-run legal journal gathered to celebrate a successful year of publication and scholarship, and to honor two of SUNY Buffalo Law's most accomplished alumni.

The April 17 *Buffalo Law Review* Dinner drew about 150 people and marked the end of a five-issue publication year for the journal. "We have had an incredible year of hard work," said Jonathan P. Cantil '12, managing editor.

The *Law Review's* outgoing editor in chief, Cristin L. Murray '12, cited several highlights of the year, including an April issue that reprinted U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson's 1946 address at the then-University of Buffalo, summarizing his experience as chief U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials following World War II.

For the year, Murray said, "Our goal was to carry on the tradition of quality and excellence that our alumni set for us, and our entire staff has much to be proud of in living up to those high standards. Our articles team gave priority to high-quality pieces, striving to maintain our position as a generalist journal. The quality of our issues is a testament to the strength of our publications team."

Law Review editors chose to honor two alumni for their contributions to the legal profession and the Law School: Jean C. Powers '79 and David E. Franasiak '78.

Powers, who practices real estate law with the Buffalo-based firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel LLP, told how she ended up studying law in the first place, saying her only



David E. Franasiak '78 makes a point at the podium.



David E. Franasiak '78, Dean Mutua and Jean C. Powers '79



Left, the *Law Review*'s outgoing editor in chief, Cristin L. Murray '12

Far left, Jonathan P. Cantil '12, managing editor

inkling of what lawyers did came from watching Perry Mason on television, and even as an undergraduate she knew that was far from realistic. So she majored in English, became a teacher, married and had a child – and then, when her husband was transferred from New York City to Buffalo, decided to take the plunge into law school.

“Before I finished unpacking our boxes, I registered for the LSAT,” Powers said. “I applied to exactly one law school – UB – and I was very, very fortunate, because I was accepted. They sent the letter out on a Friday, it arrived on Saturday, and I’m not exaggerating to say that at 9 o’clock Monday morning I was at the registrar’s office with my deposit check.

“One of my favorite parts of law school was the *Law Review*,” Powers said. “My daughter loved to accompany me to the *Law Review* offices as well as to the library. She even attended two classes when her babysitter wasn’t available. She was probably the only 4-year-old who knew how to Shepardize a case.”

Powers also took the opportunity to encourage the students and alumni to help build a stronger Law School, such as by mentoring students, judging moot court competitions and volunteering with the SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association or administrative committees. And she pointed to the continuing need for alumni contributions, noting, “When I was in Law School, our school got 90 percent of its funding from New York State. Now it’s closer to 30 percent. That means that we all have to help our Law School all the more.”

In accepting his award, Franasiak noted that he never served on the *Law Review*, and indeed never intended to work in a law firm. With a back-



ground in history, economics and business, he said, “I always wanted to go to Law School to think like a lawyer. That was the real key.

“The law is an extraordinarily important part of the United States,” said Franasiak, a principal with the Washington, D.C., firm Williams & Jensen, “and the fact that you’re on *Law Review* and just starting your careers, you have a wonderful career ahead of you. For one thing, the financial meltdown has spawned a lot of statutes and a lot of regulations that someone is going to have to interpret and someone is going to have to implement.”

Furthering his career advice, Franasiak said, “There’s more than just law. There are intersects with other interests that can open up new opportunities for you. You’ve got to really do what you love. If you don’t do what you love, you’re not going to be very good at it. But if you do, you will end up being so invested in your work that you don’t even realize it’s work –

it’s going to be fun.”

Also honored at the dinner were the four *Law Review* associates whose articles will be published in the coming year of the journal: Kenneth L. Bostick, for a piece about cloud computing; Stewart E. Forbes, on stateless asylum seekers in the United States; Eric T. Glynn, on the credit industry and identity theft; and Joshua M. Tal-ent, on hydraulic fracturing.

The Justice Philip Halpern Award, presented to a senior for excellence in writing on the *Law Review*, went to Nicole J. Ettlinger '12 for an article titled “You Have the Right to Remain 13.” And the Carlos C. Alden Award, presented to the senior making the greatest contribution to the *Law Review*, went to Cristin L. Murray '12 for her tireless work as editor in chief.

Caitlin M. Higgins '13 is the incoming editor of the *Law Review*.

From left to right: Kinsey Davidson '13, Andrew R. Borelli '13, Caitlin M. Higgins '13, Karen M. Oddo '12, Jennifer L. Karnes '12, Jennifer Yates '13, Amanda E. Dermady '13, Reg J. Miller '13

S U R V E Y

Talking it through

Survey results lead the way to a better student experience

Unique among the 95 law schools that took part in a massive national survey of the law student experience, SUNY Buffalo Law School is using the results to strengthen its sense of community and make changes that yield great benefits for students' everyday lives.

2011 was the second year in which Buffalo took part in the Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE), which surveyed more than 33,000 students nationwide about all sorts of things: how students spend their time; their relationships with peers, faculty and staff members; their sense of their school's emphasis and how effectively they've learned; and demographic information.

"What's unique in our use of this information is the extent to which we are engaging the whole community, particularly the students," says James R. Newton, vice dean for administration, who co-chairs the Law School's LSSSE Committee with Clinical Professor Suzanne E. Tomkins.

Indeed, SUNY Buffalo was highlighted in the annual report produced by the survey's sponsoring organization, the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research. Under the title "Creating a Shared Vision," the report detailed how Buffalo's LSSSE Committee "identified several themes on which to focus their work by drawing from LSSSE data and other sources of information in the school. These themes were then discussed with students, faculty and staff in various settings, including all-school public forums and small dinners at faculty homes; in this way, the committee was able to foster a meaningful dialogue among different segments of Buffalo's community. . . . This method of using LSSSE data helps schools establish a culture of transparency and shared vision."

"The incentive is that there's a feedback loop," Tomkins says. "The questions are written in a fairly general way,



Emily Dinsmore '14, left, and Danielle Shaffer '14



Left to right: Lizeth Castillo '14, Sandra Benyamin '14 and Alexandra Lugo '14



Matthew Scherer '14, left, and Associate Professor Rick Su

For us as a committee, it's important to drill down and find out what's behind the answers. If we identify a trend in the data, we need to ask students, what does this mean to you? It helps us keep a finger on the pulse of what's going on in students' lives."

The committee, which includes faculty, administrators and students, sponsored two school-wide forums in Feb-

ruary, open to all students, faculty and staff, to present results from the survey and to strategize about how to improve the law school experience.

Third-year student Frank Ewing, a member of the LSSSE Committee as well as president of the Student Bar Association, noted that they were working with only two years of data, but even so, he said, "You can already see some trends. We just pore through the data and make sense of what are we doing well, what are we doing not so well, and where are we on a par with other law schools."

For example, he said, the 2010 survey surfaced the general opinion that Law School administrators were sending too much e-mail to student inboxes. The solution was instituting a new Student Information Portal. "Now," Ewing says, "instead of receiving all these e-mails, there's a one-stop shop where everything gets uploaded. That has made communication flow a lot easier."

Similarly, students expressed resentment that too many undergraduates were using the Charles B. Sears Law Library, crowding law students out of needed resources. In response, the Law School added new seating with access restricted to law students, and dedicated computers and printers for law students' use. "These are very small things," Ewing says, "but they make a big difference in the Law School experience."

And in response to students' expressed wish to interact more with Dean Makau W. Mutua, the popular Pizza With the Dean event was initiated.

"We have an administration that is extremely open-minded and also open to their students' feedback," Ewing says. "The message is, We're here for the students and we actually care."

And the process continues: The Law School will participate in the 2012 iteration of the nationwide survey as well.

The color of success

Students of Color Dinner reminds all to “lift as we climb”

For more than a generation, as SUNY Buffalo Law School has admitted classes that increasingly look like America, the school's students of color have gathered at year end to remind themselves, and those who will follow them, that nothing is beyond their reach.

That inspiring tradition continued April 19 with the 23rd annual Students of Color Dinner. The event, held a stone's throw from campus at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott, celebrated the students who are graduating, passed the torch to those continuing their Law School journey, and honored several trailblazers in the legal profession.

Chief among the latter was **Hon. Rose Sconiers '73**, who since 2010 has served on the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, of New York State's Supreme Court. Sconiers previously was a Buffalo City Court judge, executive attorney of the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, and assistant corporation counsel for the City of Buffalo.

In her keynote address, Sconiers noted that “in 2012, the legal profession has changed greatly, especially since I began my career. Before, it was with typewriter and carbon paper – there was no iPad, no smart phones, no Twitter, no Instagram and no Facebook. So we gather at a time of great challenge and opportunity for the legal profession, and for you.”

Encouraging her listeners to press on through the inevitable professional setbacks, Sconiers spoke of several difficult elections, including two in which recounts were necessary before she was declared the winner.

“The pattern is all about challenges and perseverance,” the judge said. “You cannot be turned back. You have to persevere. You have to stand firm and say, this is what I want to do.”

She spoke also in support of working in the public service, saying, “Giving back to a community is a way of repaying the previous generations that paved the way for our success.” In addition, she said, people of color who serve the public provide role models for young people and

“make a conscious effort to contribute to the progress of generations to come.”

Two SUNY Buffalo Law School alumni – **Jonathan S. Beane '98** and **Sada Manickam '96** – were honored with Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Beane, executive director of workforce diversity and inclusion for Time Warner, asserted, “It is critical that we increase the number of students of color not only at SUNY Buffalo but at all law schools. As the 2010 census has shown, the demographics of our society have changed rapidly and dramatically, but only 10 percent of all attorneys and judges in the United States are people of color. The Law School must take aggressive steps to make sure students of color are well represented in the student body.”

He encouraged the audience as well to take some chances in their careers. “Show me a lawyer that has taken a risk but failed and rebounded to achieve success, and I would say that's greatness,” Beane said. “So failure's OK, taking risks is OK. You will get up and it will get better. Be bold, be competent, and follow your passion fully.”

Lisa M. Mueller '93, assistant dean for alumni and communications, accepted the award for Manickam, an immigration litigator in the Department of Justice who had a schedule conflict and could not attend. His remarks stressed the importance of building and maintaining relationships with Law School professors and classmates, and with colleagues in the legal profession.

“Probably the most important thing I've learned as an adult is this: Your professional growth is a product of the connections you make,” Manickam wrote. “Don't spend all your time worrying about billable hours, but get out into the outside world. And if you're passionate about an area of law, such as civil rights, look for mentors and take their lessons to heart. It is time well spent.”

The recipient of the Trailblazer Award was **Stephanie Saunders '00**, director of



From left to right: Brenda W. McDuffie and Stephanie A. Saunders '00, winner of the Trailblazer Award. See inside back cover for additional photos.

medical affairs for Kaleida Health. In brief remarks, she thanked her own mentors and her family, and left the audience with “a pearl from my grandmother: Always keep your mind open. If you come gracefully, leave gracefully, because this is a very small community.”

Lise Gelernter, SUNY Buffalo Law School's director of externship programs, was honored with the Jacob D. Hyman Professor Award. In her acceptance remarks, she paid tribute to the Students of Color organization “for creating a community that gives a minority students a home, a place for networking, support and socializing.”

The organization also awarded “Lift as We Climb” scholarships to **Shantina Addison**, a Buffalo high school senior, and **Dominique Johnson**, a senior at Buffalo State College. The Monique E. Emdin Scholarship Award went to **Tamara Wright '12**. And each of the three student groups that make up the Students of Color awarded its own President's Award: the Latin American Law Students Association, **Lizeth Castillo '14**; the Black Law Students Association, **Jasmine Paul '12**; and the Asian-Pacific American Law Students Association, **Tracy Liu '12**.

The Students of Color Dinner was chaired by **Lizeth Castillo '14** and **Bibin Mathew '13**.

C L I N I C S

Taking it to the courts

Criminal law practicum puts students to work on actual cases

Selecting from an avalanche of applicants, six students are the first participants in a newly developed practicum course in criminal law this spring semester – a model that the Law School is looking to develop into a series of such combination practical skills/service learning courses.

The criminal law practicum was created by **Professor Kim Diana Connolly**, who directs the Law School's clinical programs, and SUNY Distinguished Service **Professor Charles Patrick Ewing**, vice dean for legal skills. It's co-taught by two adjunct professors with deep experience in criminal law – Robert N. Convissar '77, a noted Buffalo defense attorney, and Leigh E. Anderson, also a long-time Buffalo attorney.

In contrast to the work that students do in the Law School's clinics, where students are admitted to practice as student attorneys under direct faculty supervision, those in the criminal law practicum spend about 10 hours a week observing and assisting practitioners who represent indigent defendants as assigned counsel in county, state and federal courts.

"This is true service learning, bridging substantive academic classroom study with work with active practitioners in the community," Connolly says. "It's a true skills course as well, because students are learning skills from adjuncts partnered with practitioners. It's learning through actual experience with an overlay of academic rigor."

The course requirements, Connolly says, include assigned reading, weekly journaling to reflect on the students' experiences in practice, and an end-of-semester academic paper on a legal topic that grows from their work. Connolly oversees these papers with



Stephanie Poray '12

"I jumped at the opportunity to become involved with the practicum, because I wanted to get as much practical experience as possible while still in law school."



Andrew Kleehammer '12

"It is one thing to have professors tell you how the law works or even to experience a simulation like trial technique, but this cannot match the experience of sitting down with an attorney and preparing for an actual trial."



Patrick Reinikainen '12

"It is critical that law students apply what they have learned in the first two years. The criminal law practicum provides that channel and connects students with seasoned criminal defense practitioners."

input from Ewing, Convissar and Anderson. The final products will be published on the Law School's Web site, making them available to practicing attorneys and scholars worldwide, and also demonstrating the students' analytical and legal writing skills. Topics, Connolly says, range from theories of sentencing to how the rules of evidence work.

"SUNY Buffalo Law has developed this line of courses in part as a response to increasing demand for more practical courses," Connolly says. "Students are hungry to do things that matter."

"We identified six practitioners of great experience who I believe would be excellent role models and teachers for the students," says Convissar, who previously has taught trial technique at SUNY Buffalo Law for three years.

"These students are serving as law clerks in actual legal offices, assisting with actual cases for real-life defendants. Lawyers who might not otherwise have interns can receive a law student engaged in service learning, a process that also benefits the community by focusing part of the work of a law school class as an aid to indigent defendants."

Convissar, a former president of the Bar Association of Erie County and incoming head of the bar association's Assigned Counsel Program, says about 40 students applied for the six spots (future practicums may accept as many as eight). "We were blessed with the initial enthusiasm for the program and were able to be highly selective," he says. "We have the support of the Law

CLINICS

Companions in safety

Clinic project makes it easier for abused women to access care for themselves and their pets

School, the students and the bar.”

As for the students, they are finding it helpful to get out of O’Brian Hall each week and take some first steps toward practicing the craft of lawyering.

“I jumped at the opportunity to become involved with the practicum, because I wanted to get as much practical experience as possible while still in law school,” says **Stephanie Poray**, a third-year student in the course. “I have found that there is nothing more valuable to me than this practical experience, and I learn best in such an atmosphere.”

“Real-world experiences and situations create competent attorneys. These experiences take what we have learned in the classroom for the last 2½ years and transform it into something real, something that matters.”

Says her classmate **Andrew Klee-hammer**: “It is one thing to have professors tell you how the law works or even to experience a simulation like trial technique, but this cannot match the experience of sitting down with an attorney and preparing for an actual trial. To see how an attorney works through a case and to be able to collaborate on forming questions for cross examination or closing arguments is truly unique.”

And student **Patrick Reinikainen** says: “My experiences included meeting with clients, interacting with judges, drafting motions, and gleaned the pragmatic skills that will carry over to my career. It is critical that law students apply what they have learned in the first two years. The criminal law practicum provides that channel and connects students with seasoned criminal defense practitioners.”

Future law school practica will follow a similar model in other subject matter areas.

The story repeats itself often: A woman in an abusive relationship stays in the home, often at severe risk to her own well-being, because she can’t bear to leave behind a beloved pet when she seeks shelter.

Pet owners will recognize the feeling – people are deeply attached to their dogs and cats (and all sorts of other creatures), finding in them the affirmation and affection that every human being needs. Further, research shows that in violent homes, the abuser may threaten to harm the pet as a tactic of control.

Enter SUNY Buffalo Law School’s Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic, which has begun a project to make it easier for women to seek safety by helping them to access caregiving for their pets as well.

The project has resulted in an online database, available at <http://law.buffalo.edu/familyviolence/petProject.asp>. Organized by county, it lists programs for victims of violence that can house both victim and pet, and agencies that will accept pets for sheltering.

Says **Clinical Professor Suzanne E. Tomkins**, who directs the clinic: “We know firsthand from catastrophes like Katrina that individuals will not seek safety if they have to leave their pets behind. Our goal is to reduce a very real barrier for abused individuals seeking safety by knowing their pets are cared for and safe.”

Second-year law student **Karalyn Rossi** is working on the project through the clinic. She has created a PowerPoint presentation that details the challenges faced by targets of domestic violence who own pets, and some available solutions. Rossi is presenting this information to task forces on domestic violence in all eight counties of the 8th Judicial District of Western New York. The goal is to make prosecutors, domestic violence agencies and court representatives aware of the problem so that they can help targets of such violence find safety for themselves and their pets.



Clinical Professor Suzanne E. Tomkins with three therapy dogs

For example, some domestic violence shelters have a dedicated area for pets, either a room or a separate facility. Other programs have agreements with local animal shelters to house clients’ pets temporarily, or even place them in foster care for a time.

“We want to help them build capacity and assist them with legal issues that might arise,” Tomkins says. The legal issues are myriad, and this is the focus of the clinic students’ work on the project, she says. For example, liability issues arise when pets are housed in shelters for domestic violence victims. It’s also not well-known, Tomkins says, that pets can be included in an order of protection sought by the target of domestic violence.

The initiative grew out of three regional seminars hosted by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services. The Law School clinic was commissioned to survey domestic violence agencies and animal shelters across the state and develop the database. The continuing project is supported by a grant from the Verizon Foundation.

Says Rossi: “This clinic project allows me to work in two areas of law that excite me – animal rights and domestic violence. I have two dogs I would have a hard time leaving. It is so rewarding to know that my research is being applied directly to help victims with pets as they seek shelter.”

Curing what ails democracy

A Harvard Law School ethicist with harsh words for the way Congress does its work brought those ideas to SUNY Buffalo Law School in a provocative, high-profile address.

Lawrence Lessig, who also directs the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University, spoke April 19 in O'Brian Hall. Lessig's address, co-sponsored by the Law School and UB's School of Management, was part of the Gerald S. Lippes Speaker Series, one of the university's highest-profile lecture series.

The speaker, whose most recent book is *Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress – and a Plan to Stop It*, was introduced by Law School Associate Professor S. Todd Brown as a “rock star” in the field of legal ethics. And his lecture, “Institutional Corruption and the Financial Crisis,” raised as many emotions as ideas, as Lessig took on some systemic problems in politics and economics that, he said, threaten the very foundations of the American experiment in democracy.

Lessig began by noting the Founding Fathers’ “obsession” with independence, and said that trust is a function of independence. For example, he said, people place less trust in an industry-funded study of the safety of a chemical than in an independent study – “All of us psychologically will process the recognition of money in the wrong place.”

He then went on to define his current field of study, institutional cor-



Harvard Law School professor of law and ethicist Lawrence Lessig

ruption, saying the phrase refers not to bribery or any other illegal activity, but rather to a corruption of the purpose of the institution, steering it in the wrong direction “especially by weakening the public trust of the institution.”

So, for example, a tax credit for companies’ research and development expenses was passed under President Ronald Reagan, and instituted temporarily, to test its effectiveness. It worked – on that, Lessig said, all sides agree. And yet the credit continues on a temporary basis, requiring a periodic vote by Congress

to renew it. Why hasn’t this tax credit been made permanent? Because, Lessig said, members of Congress get lots of campaign contributions from industry lobbyists seeking to ensure the law is renewed. “This dynamic is central to how Washington works,” he says. “We architect tax policy not only to make it easier for the Treasury to raise money, but to make it easier for campaign treasuries to raise money. We regulate in part to facilitate the raising of money for campaigns.”

The 2008 financial crisis, he said, came about through a mixture of too little government on the one hand – financial-industry deregulation that led to an explosion in the use of risky financial instruments called derivatives – and, on the other hand, too

Lippes Series speaker issues a bold challenge to “institutional corruption”

much government – “the suggestion that a bailout would await on the other side when bubble burst. We have had socialized risk but privatized benefit. This is insanely stupid as a way to architect a financial system.”

But, he said, as Congress debated reforms to prevent another such meltdown, “Wall Street still had the power to blackmail both the Democrats and the Republicans to get basically a get-out-of-jail-free card and to pass financial reform that does not address the structural problem that produced the catastrophe.” In 2010, he noted, the banking sector was the largest contributor to congressional campaigns.

Because of situations like this, Lessig said, “Americans believe that money buys results in Congress” – an opinion held by 75 percent of the respondents in some surveys. And thus the proportion of Americans who trust Congress is very small, around 9 percent. “There were certainly a bigger percentage of Americans who believed in the Crown at the time of our Revolution than believe in Congress,” Lessig said.

“The Framers,” he said, “gave us a representative democracy. Our government would have a branch that would be dependent on the people alone. But Congress has developed a different dependence: It’s increasingly dependent on the funders.” Members, he said, spend up to 70 percent of their time on fund-raising. “They develop a sixth sense, a constant awareness on how what they do might affect their ability to raise money.”

As a result, he said, though every citizen’s vote is supposed to count the same,



SUNY Buffalo Law Associate Professor S. Todd Brown, left, brought Harvard Law School Professor Lawrence Lessig to Buffalo for the Lippes Speakers Series.

members of Congress are in some sense beholden to a very small segment of the electorate. Only one-quarter of 1 percent of Americans, he said, have given more than \$200 to a congressional campaign. And 80 percent of the money spent by “super PACs” in the current presidential campaign has been supplied by only 196 Americans. “This is corruption,” Lessig said, “because it’s a dependence that conflicts with the dependence that the Framers intended.”

One remedy, he said, would be to re-

quire campaigns to be funded by small contributions. As a model, Arizona, Maine and Connecticut have systems under which candidates can receive such contributions and have them matched by the state.

Though fixing the problems will be difficult, Lessig acknowledged, it’s up to smart people of good conscience to tackle the issues. “We face these critical problems in our society that need serious attention, but we have these institutions incapable of giving them attention,” he said. “They’re distracted, these institutions, unable to focus, like a pilot playing on a laptop rather than flying an airplane, a surgeon flirting during surgery, half of you with your cell phones while driving.

“And who is to blame for that? Who is responsible? It’s too simple to blame just the evil people. Evil people play their role, but as well as the evil people, there is us. We, the most privileged, have the responsibility to fix this problem. Because the most outrageous part here is not just that the corruptions were primed by the most privileged, it’s that they have been permitted by the passivity of the most privileged, too.”

The Lippes Speaker Series is funded by the support of Gerald S. Lippes ’64, a founding and senior partner in the Buffalo law firm Lippes, Mathias, Wexler and Friedman.

From the beginning

Francis Letro '79, recipient of the Jaeckle Award, found his inspiration early

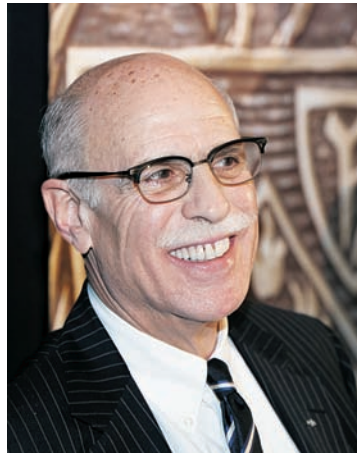
A well-known Buffalo trial attorney, whose attitudes about “the nobility of the law” were born when he was a child and his family faced tough times, accepted the 2012 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award with an emotional recounting of his story.

Francis M. Letro '79 accepted the award, the highest honor bestowed by SUNY Buffalo Law School and its Law Alumni Association, at a Jan. 27 luncheon in New York City's elegant Union League Club. The presentation was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Law School's New York City alumni chapter, one of its strongest and most active alumni cohorts.

After words of welcome by Dennis R. McCoy '77, chair of the luncheon committee, and Brian Melber '96, president-elect of the Law Alumni Association, Dean Makau W. Mutua gave an update on progress at the Law School. “We have invested in the indexes of academic excellence,” said the dean, pointing to 14 new faculty hires in the past four years, plus two this year, and the improving quality of each entering class of students, noting that this year's incoming class had the highest GPA in the history of the Law School.

UB President Satish K. Tripathi, introduced by Dean's Advisory Council Chairman Thomas R. Black Jr. '79, said the Law School is a key component of the University's long-range plan. “We already have a very strong institution, and we have much to take pride in. The Law School is a key part of that strength and pride,” Tripathi said.

In introducing the honoree, Dean Mutua noted that “over the last decade, Fran has provided leadership to the Law



Francis M. Letro '79



Left to right: UB President Satish K. Tripathi, Francis M. Letro '79 and Dean Makau W. Mutua



Left to right: Kamlish Tripathi, Cindy Abbott Letro, Paul A. Equale '77 and Donald H. Vogelman '76

School at every critical juncture and in every possible way. His altruism, his service to the Law School and the legal community are simply extraordinary.”

He went on to cite “two African sayings which I think describe Fran as a community person, as a professional and as a true friend. First, the Africans of old used to say, if you want to kill a flea, remember that you can't do so with one fingernail. You need to put two fingernails together to kill a flea. That's about cooperation. The second one says that if you want to walk fast, walk alone, but if you want to walk far, walk togeth-

er. Fran, in my view, symbolizes the kernel of truth in each of those ancient sayings. He's a collaborator, he's a leader, he's a fellow human being, he's a loving person."

Letro used the occasion to look back on his life and career, starting with when his family was thrown into turmoil when his father, a railroad worker, lost a leg in a work-related accident. "My father never returned to work," he said. "It was my mother, a homemaker, who left the home to walk to the closest place where she could find a job, selling in a retail store. My oldest sister had to drop out of nursing school, returned home, and she went to work to help support the family."

The railroad, he said, disavowed any responsibility for the accident, and "my family turned to a small-town lawyer, a sole practitioner, to take our side. I learned at that age that a lawyer present in our family during our times of hardship gave us tremendous hope and confidence. I clearly remem-

ber him coming to our apartment after work, wearing a suit and carrying a briefcase. He would stop by the house to update my parents on the status of case and to re-confirm to them his commitment to seeking justice on behalf of my family. He showed us the potential nobility of the law.

"It was during those visits, when I was 7 years old, that I watched the law in action. How this lawyer showed great compassion and showed great love for his work and told my family that the rule of law would prevail. After he would leave the house, my

parents' spirits were buoyed. They had a sense of hope, a sense of opportunity and a sense that we would have another chance."

After a long battle, the case was settled, his family's economic well-being was secured – and Letro had found his calling. "After having seen that," he said, "I wanted a chance to be that guy, who could step in, save families, restore their dignity the way I saw it done in my family."

He also said the UB was the only law school that accepted him, and that it took him seven years to graduate. "I knew what it meant to be a lawyer, but I didn't know what it took to be a lawyer," Letro said. "Professor Bill Greiner took me under his wing to make a lawyer out of me. With his guidance, we walked far and we walked together. And I learned a lot about life and I learned about the law that way.

"If the Jaeckle Award would allow me one wish and one wish only, that wish would be that we all walk far together, that we continue our love for the law and each other and for our alma mater."



Thomas E. Black '79

Gift bolsters scholarship aid to students

A couple who met as students at SUNY Buffalo Law School, and in the intervening years have been substantial supporters of the school in time, energy and dollars, have stepped forward with a major gift in furtherance of the Law School's mission.

Kenneth B. and Ellen C. Forrest, both members of the Class of 1976, have specified that their gift is to endow scholarships for deserving law students. "We thought about different alternatives for giving," says Ken Forrest. "Law schools are very aggressive in providing scholarships to students, and we wanted to help SUNY Buffalo Law be in the position to do the same thing. We just felt this is what the Law School needs, and hopefully over the years the amount will accumulate so it will provide for meaningful scholarship money.

"In the past, we have given annual gifts which have been used for scholarships and have been gratified to learn that very well qualified students have received the benefit of these," he said. "We wanted to do something along those lines on an endowed basis. It is our hope that other Law School alumni will consider making gifts for this purpose, because ultimately, if there were several large scholarship endowments available to the Law School, it would be certainly advance the Law School's ability to attract top students with financial needs."

Forrest is a partner in the New York City law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, concentrating his practice in the area of commercial litigation.

The gift comes as a capstone to the couple's long involvement with SUNY Buffalo Law. Forrest was a founding member of the school's Dean's Advisory Council and has worked with four deans in helping to chart the Law School's strategic direction. He has received Distinguished Alumnus Awards from the UB Alumni Association as well as from the SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association. In 2010 he received the Edwin F. Jaeckle Award, the Law School's highest honor.

Ellen Forrest serves as board chair of the Vincent Smith School, a private school in Port Washington, N.Y., and has volunteered extensively with charitable organizations that relate to people with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorders.

The couple have two grown children, Kimberly and Craig.

"It is our hope that other Law School alumni will consider making gifts for this purpose."

— Kenneth B. Forrest '76 and Ellen C. Forrest '76

The next step

Visiting professor Amy Bach hopes her crusading book about ineffective courts will bring about reforms

Eight years. That's how long lawyer and journalist Amy Bach spent watching the wheels of justice turn in county courts across America, from small-town Georgia to upstate New York, Mississippi to Chicago. She was drawn by a curiosity about how justice was meted out not in the white-columned upper reaches of the system, but at the most local level, in the courts of the more than 3,000 counties in the United States.

What she found, again and again, were overburdened courts resorting to assembly-line tactics in which due process is casually violated, advocacy is tepid, and a clubby legal culture compromises the quality of representation by public defenders. Not that these were ill-intentioned or incompetent people, she stresses, but their very closeness to the legal system in which they were entrenched made it impossible for them to see the ways that the rule of law was being subverted in the midst of their work.

The result of this grand investigation was *Ordinary Injustice: How America Holds Court* (Metropolitan Books, 2009). No less a personage than Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of the Lincoln biography *Team of Rivals*, called it "a crusading call for reform in the tradition of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* or Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at Any Speed*. . . . Amy Bach provides a fascinating range of individual stories to reveal the systemic, everyday problems in our courts that must be addressed if justice is truly to be served."

Now Bach, who is at SUNY Buffalo Law School this semester as a visiting professor under the auspices of the Baldy Center, is going beyond stating



the problem to help look for the solution. With her organization Measures for Justice (www.measuresforjustice.org), she is developing and refining performance measures that can be applied to criminal courts – an objective yardstick by which to hold individual courts accountable for the quality of their work.

"These measures are based on some of the types of dysfunction found in the book," Bach says. For example, she says, the presumption is that criminal charges should be adjudicated effectively and in a timely way; so tallying how long defendants spend in pretrial custody for certain crimes measures whether people are being held for longer than they should be because of too high bails or bond or other reasons.

The next step will be to run pilot programs to test the performance standards in everyday use. The goal, Bach says, is "to develop best practices, find ways these counties compare and get them talking to each other."

Bach is commuting to Buffalo from Rochester, where she lives with her husband and their 4-year-old son. In addition to her research, she is teaching a

section of criminal law to about 70 first-year students.

"I'm extremely impressed with the caliber of the students," she says. "They're so turned on, and they work so hard, and they're so willing to do the extra work and follow a difficult hypothetical situation." The variety of their life experiences, too, enriches the class discussion, Bach says, such as students who have children and some who know about guns.

As well, she says, the process of teaching and preparation has jogged her creative process. "Creativity happens when they're asking the basic questions," Bach says. "Why do we need intent? Why do we give a break to people who are provoked and fly off the handle? It's helpful to revisit those questions with fresh eyes, and teaching helps me do that."

One recent acknowledgment of Bach's work comes from the Public Defender's Office in Palm Beach County, Fla., which chose her to receive the 2012 Gideon Award, presented to those who "have manifested an honorable, consistent and recognizable effort to ensure equal justice for the indigent in our community." The award, named for the plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court ruling *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which guaranteed the right to counsel for indigent defendants, reflects the challenge to do better presented in *Ordinary Injustice*. Past recipients have included Barry Scheck, co-director of the Innocence Project (and a member of O.J. Simpson's defense team), and Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative.

A return, with portfolio

New associate professor Michael Boucai has a childhood connection to Buffalo



As a child, Michael Boucai traveled every summer from Long Island to Buffalo to visit his maternal parents, immigrants from eastern Europe. “I always had a lot of fun,” he says. One attraction: the dinosaur bones at the Museum of Science.

Now Boucai is returning for good as he joins the SUNY Buffalo Law School faculty this fall. He will teach criminal law and sexuality law. His research focuses on the latter. Boucai’s scholarship explores how the law treats various forms of sexuality and intimacy, and how this treatment relates to social, moral and political norms and ideologies.

“Law and sexuality intersect primarily in the fields of criminal law, family law and constitutional law. Each of those fields is strongly represented on Buffalo’s faculty,” Boucai says, “but at the same time, the school lacks someone with my particular focus. So there’s a place for me, in terms of what’s already here and also what’s not.

“Buffalo has a well-deserved reputation as a home to serious scholars. It’s intellectually rigorous, engaged and ad-

venturous. There’s an openness to substantive and methodological innovation, and the faculty is genuinely interdisciplinary. All these qualities make it an excellent fit.”

Boucai was a history major as an undergraduate at Yale, where he edited the *Yale Journal of Human Rights*. From there he went to law school at Georgetown University Law Center, where he was a Public Interest Law Scholar. “I wanted to be an impact litigator, particularly in the field of LGBT rights. But I soon discovered that the things that most interested me were more critical, more academic and oftentimes more historical. I recognized that there are many wonderful litigators in the world, and that, if I had something unique to contribute, it would be from a scholarly perspective.”

After clerking in Miami for 11th Circuit Judge Rosemary Barkett and then spending two years practicing commercial and bankruptcy law in New York City, Boucai pursued a master’s degree in history at the University of Cambridge. While in England, he volunteered with Lawyers Without Borders; ironically, his

work for the organization related primarily to American death penalty cases.

Since 2009, Boucai has been a law teaching fellow at the Williams Institute, a think tank housed at UCLA School of Law that studies law and policy relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. “It’s been wonderful to get my start in legal academia teaching the subjects I love most,” Boucai says. “And as a scholar, I’ve benefited from interactions with some of the most astute and experienced people in the field.”

Boucai’s current research deals with the first same-sex marriage cases (from the early 1970s) and with the relationship between same-sex marriage and sexual liberty. He appreciates the University’s openness toward same-sex couples, even before the state passed legislation last year to recognize same-sex unions, and particularly its recognition of de facto domestic partnerships. “As an unmarried person with a longtime partner, it makes a big difference that my relationship, whether married or not, will be recognized by the school,” Boucai says. “Also, New York provides such a rich case study on the law and politics of same-sex marriage that I’m thinking of making it the centerpiece of seminar.”

Boucai brings to Buffalo an ambitious roster of research interests, including projects on the non-enforcement of obscenity law; sexual age-of-consent laws and their role in the cultural construction of childhood; the “erasure” of bisexuals in gay rights efforts; and a critique, grounded in the Establishment Clause, of marriage solemnization statute. He also is considering a book-length project on the 19th century Anglo-Irish writer Oscar Wilde, whom he studied at Cambridge.

Beyond the work (“and my work is fun,” he says), Boucai is an opera fan, plays tennis and does yoga, and, he says, is cultivating an interest in film.

Going the distance

New associate professor Meredith Lewis comes from half a world away

“So many people have said, ‘I can’t believe you moved to New Zealand,’” says Meredith Kolsky Lewis. “‘I could never do that.’ But it was a very attractive thing to do, from my perspective.”

Lewis, who joins the SUNY Buffalo Law faculty next spring, has taught since 2005 at Victoria University of Wellington Law School, in Wellington, New Zealand, where she co-founded and is currently associate director of the New Zealand Centre of International Economic Law. She teaches and writes in the area of international trade law.

As in much of the world, law is an undergraduate course of study in New Zealand, and Lewis says many of her law students there double-majored in another subject. “For most New Zealand students,” she says, “going to law school is not a momentous decision because if they don’t like it or aren’t good at it, they can just focus on their other degree.”

By comparison, she says, “American students are more invested in their legal study, because if you go to law school in the United States, there is a real opportunity cost to doing so. You could get a job doing something else, but instead you are assuming a fair amount of debt to do this course of study, and if you were to stop in the middle there is no perceived gain in credentials. . . For that reason and because American law students are on average older, I think U.S. law students on the whole are more concerned with studying hard and doing well.”

At SUNY Buffalo Law, Lewis will teach classes on public international law — “laws that affect states rather than private business behavior” — and on private international law, involving commercial matters that cross borders. Regular courses will likely include International Business Transactions and International Trade Law.

A Washington, D.C., native, Lewis studied economics and political science



at Northwestern University, and took three years of Japanese language training as well. She went on to earn a master’s degree at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, as part of a four-year program in which she also earned her law degree from Georgetown’s law school. “I’m not good at picking a single focus,” she says. “I wanted to go to law school but I also really liked the political science research I did in college, so I thought, maybe I can do both.”

She then worked for eight years at the Washington, D.C., office of the New York law firm Shearman & Sterling LLP, practicing in the areas of international trade and commercial litigation. In 1999 she put that Japanese language training to good use, spending six months in the firm’s Tokyo office advising the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry on international trade issues. She primarily represented foreign companies, both in litigation and international trade matters, including clients based in Germany, Japan, Italy, Mexico and Great Britain. . Another highlight: a litigation matter that went to trial in federal District

Court in New Jersey and resulted, she says, in the sixth-biggest jury verdict in the country that year (fortunately her firm’s clients were the plaintiffs). “The (Italy-based) clients were so happy they took the entire trial team to Italy to celebrate.”

The move to academia, she says, was part decision and part happenstance. “I had always been interested in teaching and had always liked the opportunities I had to tutor or teach more informally,” Lewis said, “but it was difficult to focus on making a change while working long law firm hours.” But during her stay in Tokyo she became eligible for a one-month sabbatical and decided to visit at a law school and do some research. She spent the month at the Victoria University of Wellington law school, and the die was cast. Three years later when the school was looking to hire, Lewis leapt at the opportunity and never looked back.

Professor Lewis has been very active in promoting the international economic law discipline internationally. In addition to co-founding the New Zealand Centre of International Economic Law in Wellington, she is also a founding member and currently co-head of the Society of International Economic Law, an organization founded in 2007 that now has approximately 800 members.

In her scholarship, Lewis has examined the applicability of economic principles to international trade law issues; conducted broad-ranging examinations of the effects of free trade agreements; and engaged in empirical and theoretical work concerning dissent in WTO dispute settlement.

Lewis and her husband, Kent Lewis, met at Georgetown Law. They have a 10-year-old son, Owen, and an 8-year-old daughter, Claudia.

Northern exposure



Professor James Gardner will head to Montreal on a Fulbright grant

Tension and resolution – those are the key elements of the scholarly work that SUNY Distinguished Professor James Gardner will do as he spends the fall semester in Montreal on a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant.

Gardner will hold the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in the Theory and Practice of Constitutionalism and Federalism, at McGill University. His project, called “Intergovernmental Contestation in Federal Systems,” will build on his interest in how governments of differing levels, such as Canada’s federal government and its provincial governments, influence each other, resolve conflicts and get things done.

Gardner, who is completing his tenure as vice dean for academic affairs, joins the list of other SUNY Buffalo Law faculty who have been awarded

Fulbright grants, including Professors Rebecca French, Isabel Marcus and Errol Meidinger.

Being in Montreal, government seat of the fractious Canadian province of Quebec, will enable him to interview and observe provincial lawmakers there, as well as federal officials in Ottawa. “There is a tension built into the system by design, and it is that tension that is supposed to protect liberty,” Gardner says. “It’s a competitive arrangement – subnational and national governments are competing to do a better job for their boss, the people. What interests me is asking, where has there been conflict and how has it been resolved?”

His Fulbright project comes in two parts, likely to result in two substantive law journal articles.

The first looks at both the legal framework for how powers are allocated to the federal and provincial governments, and the more informal, extralegal ways that legislation gets passed.

“I want to look at the concrete, on-the-ground techniques by which Canadian provinces influence – and, in particular, attempt to resist or thwart – national policy initiatives by which they feel threatened or with which they merely disagree,” Gardner says. “I have in mind not merely high-profile, ethnically fraught clashes between Quebec and the national government, but also

complaints by western provinces such as Alberta about inadequate influence on national policy making.” This line of inquiry builds on work he has previously done in looking at the Catalan and Basque regions of Spain.

The second part of the project examines the role of political parties in the interplay between federal and provincial lawmakers. “In order to act autonomously, subnational governments have to be autonomous and make policy decisions independently of the federal government,” Gardner says. “I’m looking at the operation of an institution that I think thwarts that autonomy, and that is national political parties and the back-channel way in which states influence federal policy.”

It is often observed, he says, that state and provincial public servants influence the agendas of national political parties. But it’s also true that the influence goes from national to local as well, what he calls a “national colonization of state politics.” The result, Gardner suspects, is a “convergence” of political thought – “the way questions are framed, the way they are pressed, and what counts as a good solution” – that compromises the autonomy of the state or province and subverts healthy conflict between governments on different levels.

Gardner’s research interests include the theoretical foundations of the constitutional structure of politics, the institutionalization through law of principles of democracy, constitutional structures of federalism, and subnational constitutional law. He is a frequent commentator in state and national media on constitutionalism and elections law.

The core Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program offers U.S. faculty, administrators and professionals grants to lecture, conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields, or to participate in seminars. The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

A milestone celebration

50th annual Alumni Dinner honors six for excellence

Not all that glitters is gold, it's said. But as SUNY Buffalo Law alumni gathered May 3 for their golden-anniversary 50th annual Alumni Dinner, there was plenty of glitter in evidence.

Most of the sparkle emanated from the six honorees – five Law School alumni and a non-alumnus – who received Distinguished Alumni Awards at the event, held at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

Richard F. DiGiacomo '76, outgoing president of the SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association, noted the 50-year milestone and also another major one, an observance of the Law School's 125th anniversary that will begin Sept. 28 with a kickoff at the newly renovated Hotel @ the Lafayette in downtown Buffalo.

Dean Makau Mutua updated the attendees about progress in several areas at the Law School. "What I said to you four years ago is that we at SUNY Buffalo Law were not content to be an OK law school, we were not content to be a good law school, we want to become a great law school," Mutua said. "Before I made that promise, I did not contemplate what was coming our way. The great recession, of course, hit us. We were hit with turbulent headwinds. But I say to you again that this law school will not be victimized by small dreams, no matter what the challenges are. We have risen to those challenges, we have overcome the headwinds, and we have accomplished things that were not thinkable four years ago."

He cited the hiring of 16 new tenure-track faculty members; the academic quality of this year's entering class, whose median GPA is a best-ever 3.57; building renovations and new teaching technologies; and significant efforts to reach out to area attorneys and judges. These improvements, the dean said, come with the support of UB President Satish K. Tripathi and the Law School's alumni:

"You are the difference makers."

Winner of the Distinguished Alumnus Award for the judiciary was **Hon. Cynthia M. Rufe '77**, U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. A Philadelphia native, Rufe joined the court in 2002 after being nominated by President George W. Bush. She began her legal career as a public defender and in private practice, before being elected to the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, where she served for eight years.

Laurie Styka Bloom '83, immediate past president of the Law Alumni Association, presented the award, sharing the jurist's long resume of professional and civic accomplishments. The reach of her service includes coordinating volunteer committee to rebuild a covered bridge and founding a suicide-prevention organization. "I'm tired just telling you about everything she's done," Bloom quipped.

Mark K. Suzumoto '82 was honored for his work in private practice. Suzumoto, who practices corporate litigation as a partner in the Los Angeles law firm Van Etten Suzumoto & Sippelle, is a longtime supporter of the Law School. Since 2004 he has been a member of the Dean's Advisory Council, which advises Dean Mutua on curricular and other matters.

"People who have worked with Mark call him a character guy," the dean said in presenting the award. "They say you will never find a more

hard-working lawyer. His colleague Keith Sippelle describes him as a lawyer's lawyer, a person who will never put the interests of his firm or his own interests before the interests of the client. I want the young lawyers in the room to hear that. He puts the client first. That is the nobility of our profession."

Vincent E. Doyle III '89, partner in the Buffalo law firm Connors & Vilar-do, was honored for his community service. Doyle has served as president of the New York State Bar Association since June 2011. He also served in the bar association's House of Delegates and on the Executive Committee, and chaired its Criminal Justice Section.

Said presenter James W. Grable Jr. '96, vice president of the Law Alumni Association: "I can't think of a better way to enhance the image and reputation of our Law School and our profession, and I can't think of a better way for a lawyer to improve his or her community, than by tireless efforts to serve the underserved, represent the unrepresented, and remember the sometimes forgotten participants in our justice system. Vince dedicated his presidency and stewardship of our state bar association to the theme 'Justice for All.' It was a rally to action and a reminder of the good all of us as lawyers can accomplish with the education we received from our Law School."

William J. Hochul Jr. '84, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, in Buffalo, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for public service. Hochul has served with the U.S. Attorney's office since 1991; he has been chief of the office's anti-terrorism unit, as anti-terrorism advisory council coordinator, as chief of the national security division and as confidential human source coordinator. He also has prosecuted some of the biggest federal cases in Western New York.

In presenting the award, Mary Pat

“You are the difference makers.” – Dean Makau W. Mutua



Left to right,
front row:
Vincent E. Doyle III '89,
Mark K. Suzumoto '82,
Cynthia M. Rufe '77
and William J. Hochul
Jr. '84

Back row:
Jill M. Bond '85 and
Michael S. Taheri

Enright Fleming '85 said, “Bill is a tireless and energetic public servant who has dedicated himself to improving the safety and well-being of the Western New York community.” Besides his prosecutorial work, she said, Hochul is actively involved in a group called Bridges, which works to foster positive relations between the Muslim community and law enforcement. He also, she said, is the holder of a martial arts black belt, “which has certainly enhanced his management skills in the office.”

Jill M. Bond '85, senior vice president and general counsel for Rich Products Corp. in Buffalo, received the award for her performance in the business world. She is also a former member of the Law School's Dean's Advisory Council.

Presenter Brian D. Gwitt '98 noted

that Bond started with Rich Products as corporate counsel and, in just eight years, rose to become general counsel of this \$2.8 billion global company. “She's handled her success with grace and humility, which is a wonderful trait to have,” he said.

Finally, **Michael S. Taheri**, partner in the Buffalo firm Taheri & Todor, received the award for outstanding service to the University and community by a non-alumnus. Taheri is a longtime adjunct instructor at the Law School, teaching courses in DWI law, white-collar crime and law firm management. He also is a thoroughly involved volunteer at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, on Buffalo's East Side, where he teaches and mentors high school and college students and helps them prepare for a career.

In presenting the award, DiGiacomo

said that Taheri calls St. Luke's his “second home” and noted that several of the students he has mentored were present at the dinner. “This award tonight is especially noteworthy because Mike is an example to all of us lawyers of how a busy, well-recognized, excellent and successful lawyer can devote a major part of his life to a not-for-profit cause, the cause of helping underprivileged young people on Buffalo's East Side,” DiGiacomo said. “The award shows all of us that in addition to assisting our clients, we can find a way to help people in need.”

Co-chairs of the 50th annual Alumni Dinner were Alan J. Bozer '84, Mary Pat Enright Fleming '85 and Brian D. Gwitt '98. Brian M. Melber '96 is the president-elect of the SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association.

THE WIDE ANGLE

Alumni connections across the nation

Wherever you work or live, you can connect with your SUNY Buffalo Law classmates and friends by friending the SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association on Facebook. Visit <http://law.buffalo.edu/facebookLAA.asp> to get connected today!

NEW YORK CITY
Alumni Luncheon at the
Union League Club



Left to right:
Vice Dean James
R. Newton, LAA
Vice President
Pietra G. Lettieri
'01, Melissa A.
Foti '03 and LAA
President-Elect
Brian M. Melber
'96

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Reception at Urbana Restaurant



Left to right: Bari Talente '97 and
Amy L. Duvall '98

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Reception at Urbana Restaurant



Left to right: Stephen K. Trynosky '05, Christopher
R. Moran '11, Professor David A. Westbrook and
Dean Makau W. Mutua

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Reception at Urbana Restaurant



Left to right: Michelle M. Radecki '96 and David Kelly '00

ROCHESTER
Rochester
Chapter's CLE
on Not-for-
Profit Boards

Left to right:
Wende J. Knapp
'10, Anita Pelletier
and Clinical
Professor Thomas
F. Disare



ROCHESTER
Rochester Social at
Murphy's Law

Left to right: Hon.
Gail A. Donofrio
'85, Wende J. Knapp
'10 and Rochester
Chapter Co-Chair
Jennifer K.
Meldrum '10



NEW YORK CITY
Reception at Inside Park at St. Bart's



Annual Fund Co-Chair and reception host Michael A. Battle '81, left, and Allan D. Mantel '76

NEW YORK CITY
Reception at Mintz Levin



Left to right: Jeremy M. Saland '00 and Francis J. Earley '98, chair of the NYC Alumni Chapter

CENTRAL NEW YORK
Committee meeting at Hancock Estabrook, Syracuse



Left to right: James J. O'Shea '09, Daniel K. Mannion '11, Robert Whitaker '05, Samuel M. Tamburo '68, Hon. Michael L. Hanuszcak '84, Mary M. Miner '10, Nancy L. Caple '81, Craig M. Atlas '86, Paul J. Avery '05 and Daniel J. Pautz '08

CHICAGO
Reception at Dykema Gossett PLLC



Above, left to right: Ruth V. Siegel '76, Dean Makau W. Mutua, Simon A. Fleischmann '01, Vice Dean Ilene Fleischmann and Ethan Liu '11

CHICAGO
Reception at Dykema Gossett PLLC



Annual Fund Co-Chair and reception host Richard E. Gottlieb '85, left, and Dean Makau W. Mutua

Join your Law Alumni Association today!

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

We have chapters in the following areas:

Albany

Matthew R. Coseo '05
mcoseo@spa.net

Central New York

Samuel M. Tamburo '68
samdrum@earthlink.net

Chicago

Daniel A. Sikka '07
danny.sikka@us.mcd.com

New York City

Francis M. Earley '98
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Rochester

Jennifer K. Meldrum '10
jennifermeldrum@gmail.com

Washington, D.C.

Leslie P. Machado '96
leslie.machado@leclairryan.com

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

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REUNIONS 2011

Class of 1966

45th Reunion

Friday, Oct. 28, 2011
The Mansion on Delaware

From left to right, front row (seated):
James J. Kirisits, James W. Grable Sr.,
Robert J. Bolm, Dale M. Volker,
Thomas Whissel,
Hon. Timothy J. Drury

Back row (standing):
John A. Cirando, Richard G. Jackson,
Courtland R. LaVallee, Thomas M. Ward,
Peter M. Kooshoian, Robert W. Keller,
Michael Swart



Class of 1971

40th Reunion

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011
Park Club

From left to right, back row (standing):
Robert M. Goldstein, Gerald Chiari,
Thomas A. Palmer, Hon. Leonard G. Tilney,
Jr., Richard J. Rosche, James L. Kennedy,
Gregory Stamm, James A. Ullman

Front Row (Seated): John F. Collins,
Hon. Joseph R. Glownia, Paul V. Hurley,
Anthony M. Nosek, Gerald B. Cohen



Class of 1976

35th Reunion

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011
Saturn Club

From left to right, front row: Lynn D. Gates,
Beaufort N. Willbern, Bari J. Schulman,
Stephen P. Gleit, Florence V. Dean,
Cheryl Smith Fisher, Eileen J. Katz

2nd Row: John J. Fargo, Karen B. Leeds, J. Carlton
Howard, Jr., Dennis E. Ward, Lawrence F. Cataldi, Robert
J. Feldman, Thomas R. Lochner,
Margaret W. Wong, William A. Gersten

3rd Row: Howard S. Rosenhoch, Lawrence M. Meckler,
Gabriel J. Ferber, Jeffrey L. Tanenbaum, Ruth V. Siegel,
Gary K. Norgaard, Carol M. Matorin, Ellen Katz
Forrest, Kenneth B. Forrest, Francis M. Letro

Back Row: John Hartje, Mark R. Hellerer,
David E. Leibowitz, Randolph M. Paul, Diane F. Bosse,
Hon. Kenneth I. Krigstein, Richard F. DiGiacomo,
Eric H. Green, Donald H. Vogelmann, Paul A. Equale

Class of 1981



30th Reunion

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011
Albright-Knox Art Gallery

From left to right,
Row 1: James S. Kraus,
Mark J. Weinstein, Jay H. Marlin,
Arthur A. Marrapese III

Row 2: Barbara L. Wagner,
John A. DiCaro, Jeremy L. Nowak,
Larry P. Malfitano, Mitchell S. Lustig,
Elyse L. Gilman, Anna Marie Cellino,
Edward C. Northwood,
Hon. Lawrence Friedman

Row 3: Neil E. Botwinoff,
Jeffrey L. Taylor, Nancy L. Caple Johnston,
Hon. Melanie L. Cyganowski,
Markus Ian Berkovits, Ronald S. Zarowitz,
Leslie Wolfe Berkovits, Dale J. Clark,
Erik D. Lindauer

Row 4: Gary R. Gaffney,
M. Margaret Fabic, Michael I. Chakansky,
Therese Rahill Wincott, Clifford N. Barry

Row 5: Patricia M. Jayne,
Ronald J. Winter



Class of 1986

25th Reunion

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011
Park Club

From left to right, back row (standing):
Craig M. Atlas, Melinda R. Saran,
Robert D. Lipman, Roy A. Mura, Mark A. Baehre,
Hon. Diane Y. Devlin, Nels M. Johnson,
Shari Jo Reich, Gina M. Peca, Gayle T. Murphy,
Michelle A. Missry, Robert A. Schwartz,
Karen H. DuWaldt, Timothy A. Farley,
Leslie A. Stroth, Brenda J. Joyce,
Michael G. Whelan, James M. Joyce

From left to right, front row (seated):
Jeffrey H. Katz, Lionel Samuel Rigler,
Karen M. McMahon, Paul J. Korniczky,
Victor R. Siclari, William P. Daly Jr.

REUNIONS 2011

**20th Reunion**

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011
Buffalo Club

From left to right, seated: Margot L. Watt, Elizabeth M. Ritter, Joy Feldman, Mushiya M. Kabemba-Warren '92

First Row (standing): Francis C. Amendola, Mark S. Aquino, Marybeth Cullinan, Michael D. Braisted, Kevin S. Doyle, Charles A. LoFaso, Robert P. Heary, Moses Mark Howden, Modesto A. Argenio, Laurice A. Ghogasian, Bernard L. Salamone, Samuel R. Miserendino Jr.

Middle Row (between first row standing and staircase bannister): Jonathan G. Hager, Mary Ellen A. Gianturco, Regina M. Ryan, Sally B. Logan

Staircase: Dilek B. Babakurban, Mary Ellen Kresse-Rutowksi, Sebastian W. Fasanella, Kathleen M. Reilly, Hon. John S. Wiencek, Elizabeth Bergen, Joseph R. Bergen, Rodger P. Doyle, Karen Cook Serotte, Christopher D. Thomas, Deeanna M. Galla, Michele R. Driscoll, Anthony L. Eugeni, Eric J. Braun, Mark A. Doane

10th Reunion
Saturday, Oct. 29,
2011
Pearl Street



Seated: David L. Allen, Pietra G. Lettieri, Lori A. Robb Monaghan, Andrea Ruta Kozlowski, Anita Cristina Butera, Kevin J. Graff
Standing: Michael D. O'Keefe, Norman M. Bennett, Nicholas L. Rossi, Hugh Reid, Jonathan E. Staehr, Sheldon Keith Smith, Frank Bogulski, Gabriel S. DiMaio

Network the Nation

Friday, Oct. 28, 2011

As part of Reunion Weekend, alumni from across the country shared insights into the practice of law and non-traditional careers with law students. A reception followed.



Mushiya M. Kabemba-Warren '92, left, a solo practitioner from Dallas, Georgia, talks about hanging out your own shingle.



Jeffrey L. Tanenbaum '76, left, retired from Weil Gotshal & Manges, New York City, answers questions about big law bankruptcy practice.



Sheldon Keith Smith '01, right, of Nixon Peabody, Buffalo, discusses his corporate litigation practice.



Victor R. Siclari '86, left, Senior Managing Counsel – Asset Management at Bank of New York Mellon, answers questions about wealth management.



Dennis R. Black '81, Vice President for Student Affairs, University at Buffalo, talks about his academic position.



James A. Ullman '71, right, of Quarles & Brady, Phoenix, shares his thoughts about franchise law.

THREE ALUMNI WHO BECAME DEANS



David Sanders

Dean Sylvester '94

Heads Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State

Douglas Sylvester '94, whose legal research has included the study of nanotechnology, the smallest machines ever built, is thinking a whole lot bigger as a law school dean.

Sylvester, who has taught at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law for 10 years, was named the school's permanent dean in March, after serving for nearly a year as interim dean.

The new role follows upon his tenure as associate dean for faculty research and development, a position in which he worked to foster faculty scholarship, organized speaker series, mentored junior faculty and tried to increase the visibility of the law school's faculty.

"We've always known we were an amazing law school – with fantastic faculty, staff and students, but it became clear that the geographic distance between us and some other law schools was affecting perceptions about us," Sylvester says. "One consequence was that our faculty was not, in the past, invited to as many conferences and events as was warranted by their work and reputation. So we decided that we would become a destination for conferences and events."

For example, the law school hosted major national conferences on the future of legal education, involving law firm partners, federal and state judges, and academics, and on the recommended re-vamping of the use of forensic science, drawing crime lab experts, police detectives and researchers in the field from

around the world. "They were dynamic conferences," Sylvester says, "but they were also a way of letting people know of the amazing work we do here, and it has really worked. The national profile of this faculty has grown by leaps and bounds over the past decade – and so have the number of conferences and events we continue to host. The weather in winter, of course, makes that last part easy!"

Such moves have paid off not only in helping faculty to make scholarly connections, but in raising the school's profile nationally. The most recent *U.S. News & World Report* ranking puts the school at 26th nationwide among all law schools, eighth among public law schools.

"Although we don't define ourselves by our ranking and, like many, view its value with skepticism, we are extremely proud of ways in which this law school has dramatically improved over the past few years," Sylvester says. Improvements were noted in the caliber of students the school attracts, the quality of education students receive, its reputation among academic peers, the recognition among judges and lawyers around the country, and its employment track record.

Now Sylvester is in position to move the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law further forward. Founded in 1967, the law school has about 600 students and 117 full- and part-time faculty. It was renamed in honor of O'Connor, who was raised in Arizona and the first female justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, in 2006.

As he settles into his new role, Sylvester says he has discovered a few things about himself. "I've enjoyed getting out into the city and country, meeting alums; I didn't expect that would be one of my favorite parts of the job."

Even fund raising, every dean's constant burden, has come naturally, he says. Facing the reality of a hard-pressed state budget, the school is moving rapidly to-

ward the day when it will be supported entirely by tuition, alumni giving, grants and other revenue. "You look around the university and you realize there is only so much money to support an institution of this size and vibrancy," Sylvester says. "State support of the University has just dropped too far to allow every unit to retain past levels of tuition support. Every unit on campus is looking hard at itself to determine how best to handle this new economic reality. At the College of Law, we've decided that the best way for us to move forward is to reduce our state-funding to zero but, to make that work, we need to be very creative about how we replace those dollars. We've had to raise tuition – but we remain one of the least expensive schools in the country. In addition, we need to do a far better job of engaging our alumni to make the case that they need to give back to support the next generation of lawyers. That is a big job – but it's one I happily accept."

As at SUNY Buffalo Law School, the dean says, there is a sense that you will most likely end up working with your classmates someday. "We have been the only major law school within 100 miles of Phoenix for 40-plus years," Sylvester says. "The local community is greatly populated by lawyers who graduated from ASU. So the vast majority of people who go to law school with you are people you will know for the rest of your career."

"At Buffalo, you had a sense of community among the students. I also felt a sense of connection with many of my professors. I had faculty reach out to me. That is definitely the way it feels here."

Another parallel, he says, is the shared role of the public law school: "It's a sense of public service for the community in which you're embedded. Our students gave over 100,000 hours last year in free legal services to the community. That's a \$10 million free economic gift to this community."

THREE ALUMNI WHO BECAME DEANS

Dean Holley '70

Leads Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern

Dannye Holley '70 has been a law professor, a scholar, an administrator – and, of course, a student. He brings the lessons of all of those experiences to his work as dean of Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, a job that holds him accountable to faculty, staff, alumni, students and the university.

Those skills began in his native Buffalo, where he was a UB undergraduate before entering SUNY Buffalo Law School. After earning a master of laws degree at the University of California, Berkeley, Holley returned to Buffalo and taught at the Law School for five years, principally in his specialty area of criminal law. He also ran summer programs for incoming law students and traveled widely, especially in the South, "telling the Buffalo story" and recruiting minority applicants to help diversify a then mostly white student body.

Now he is nearly two years into his permanent deanship at Thurgood Marshall, after a one-year interim posting, leading a Houston law school whose 600 students are mostly African-American and of Hispanic origin.

"We have a unique national niche," Holley says, "because we are one of the few schools that is predominantly minority. In the *U.S. News & World Report* diversity index, we rank No. 1 or 2 or 3 every year as the most diverse law school in the country. For the most part, our students are not students whose mom or dad or uncle are connected with the legal profession. So we have a lot of teaching initiatives. One of my challenges is to make sure we have enough academic support to give our students the chance to succeed."

Like law schools nationally, Thurgood Marshall has seen a decrease in



applications recently, Holley says. "Whenever the pendulum swings down, it is going to affect us as well as everybody else," he says. "People don't see a clear likelihood that they will economically benefit from the three years they spend in law school. I think the profession as a whole is going to have to pay a lot more attention to this issue."

And the deanship, he acknowledges, is in large part a game of numbers. Like SUNY Buffalo Law, Thurgood Marshall is part of a public university, a fact that introduces into the budgeting equation an element of political uncertainty. "You have to figure out what you can control and what you can't," Holley notes. Then there are the continuing challenges of fundraising from donations and negotiating with the university on the proportion of tuition money that the law school can retain for its programs.

It is a different skill set from, say, understanding the rules of evidence.

But Holley worked on budget planning a decade ago when he served as associate dean, and says he depends on the current associate dean for finance as he asks "what if" questions: "What if we do this? What would result in additional revenue, and how much of it is limited because it has to be spent on certain things and not on others, and is there a way of loosening those restrictions if you move the money from one category to another?"

But he still teaches – criminal law for the first-years, evidence for the 2Ls and criminal law procedure for the 3Ls – as is the tradition for the school's deans and associate deans. And he makes a point of getting face time with the students, meeting with student leadership often and, once every semester, meeting with each class – "just talking about current issues and concerns, upcoming events, what our plans are."

It is that sense of responsibility to multiple constituencies that Holley says is the defining characteristic of life in the dean's office. But, he says, it is gratifying to be able to set the tone for the school and help others to share in the mission.

"If you have an investment in the institution's welfare and some vision for manageable institutional progress that drives what you're doing, that is my way of thinking that the job is rewarding," he says. "You don't have to see it as a status position; it is something you're doing hopefully for the greater good and with an endgame in mind. You have to communicate to other people specific things that you think are the most important issues that the institution should be concentrating on, and get other folks to at least accept that those are worthy goals."

THREE ALUMNI WHO BECAME DEANS

Dean Bobinski '87

Serves at University of British Columbia

"The program at Buffalo was incredibly strong. It prepared me very well."

— Mary Anne Bobinski '87

From her office at the University of British Columbia, where she serves as dean of the Faculty of Law, Mary Anne Bobinski '87 regularly sees bald eagles in flight against the backdrop of forest, mountains and ocean.

It is one of the small rewards of her law school's newly completed building, Allard Hall, which replaces a Brutalist concrete building that, Bobinski says, was "misplaced on our campus as it was pretty much devoid of usable windows."

Like many law schools, the Faculty of Law at UBC was established to serve the veterans returning from World War II. It has grown to comprise 45 full-time faculty members, about 580 J.D. students and about 120 graduate students studying for the master of laws and Ph.D. degrees. (Bobinski points out that Canadian law students interested in teaching at the university level typically pursue a graduate degree.)

At SUNY Buffalo Law School, Bobinski was in a joint J.D./Ph.D. program, but left with the J.D. to serve a judicial clerkship before going on to earn a master of laws at Harvard Law School. "The program at Buffalo was incredibly strong," she remembers. "It prepared me very well. I still draw on the knowledge and perspective that I acquired in Buffalo decades ago. I really believe that the law school provided the kind of foundation that allows people to follow their dreams."

Before moving to Vancouver, Bobinski—whose specialty is health law—was the John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Law and director of the Health Law and Policy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center. She joined the UBC Faculty of Law in 2003 as dean and professor, and she still teaches whenever she can.

"Being dean is a pretty intensive job from the administrative standpoint," she says. "I try to structure the times that I teach in ways that are consistent with the



fairly heavy travel schedule I have as dean." She also continues to publish, and is working on a major revision of the U.S. casebook *Health Care Law and Ethics*, for which she is one of three co-authors.

Serving as dean of a law school, Bobinski says, is "among the best jobs you can have. You work with fantastically smart people in a higher education environment, people who are all committed to the students and the future of the legal profession; you're looking at research that's making a difference; and you're in a position to work with a wonderful group of people to make great things happen. I go from one meeting to the next talking to people who have interesting ideas, and my job is to help find a way to support those ideas and make them happen."

The UBC law school, she says, is known for particular strengths in business law, Asian legal studies, environmental law and indigenous legal studies. The Canadian and U.S. models of legal education are very similar, Bobinski says, but the sources of law are quite different. She has had to research and learn

about the sources of Canadian law concepts that correspond to landmark U.S. cases. "A lot of the issues would sound familiar," she says, "but Canadian students learn about them through a different legal system that uses different cases and different legislation."

And the issues that law school administrators worry about, she says, are the same in both countries: how to raise funds, how to set tuition, how to make law school affordable enough for people of all economic backgrounds, and how to strike the balance between legal theory and practice. While the Canadian market for legal employment remains strong, Bobinski also travels widely—across Canada and to Hong Kong, London and New York—making the case to employers for her students.

Like SUNY Buffalo Law School, her school's student culture is a supportive one. "In addition to their outstanding GPAs and LSAT scores, our students bring a broad range of life experiences; we welcome everyone, from first-generation immigrant families or even people who've immigrated themselves, to people who have many judges and famous lawyers in their family," she says. "There's a wide range of students who all have incredible academic records and potential, so we try to create an environment that's welcoming to all of those backgrounds."

Overall, she says, the deanship is a chance to share a vision. "You have a key role where you can bring your own vision and ideas about legal education and can work with others to make a difference," Bobinski says. "It's really an incredible honor and privilege to be able to do that."



The traditional candlelighting ceremony. Story on Page 19.

The Students of Color pass on the legacy



From left to right: Hon. Rose H. Sconiers '73 and Vice Dean Lillie Wiley-Upshaw.



From left to right: Jasmine Paul '12, Paulette D. Cooke '12, Jasmine Monica Liverpool '14.



From left to right: Jonathan S. Beane '98, winner of the Distinguished Alumni Award, and Nathnael Yohannes '12.

For more photos: www.law.buffalo.edu/forum/extra.asp

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