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Left to right, Susan Carrel, Hon. Paul L. Friedman ’68 and Alan S. Carrel ’67 at Buffalo Law Review dinner

Professor Ken Joyce has influenced the careers of thousands of students.

Left to right, Gena Ashe, Mason P. Ashe ’89 and Hon. Kevin M. Carter ’89 at Distinguished Alumni Award dinner
The following is excerpted from the dean’s remarks to graduates at Commencement on May 21.

It is presidential campaign season, a time that always offers much to ponder for someone who, like me, plows the fields of election law. This year, a theme has begun to emerge on the campaign trail – the theme of fraud, and its close cousin, the insistence that elections have been, or will be, “stolen.”

From the right, the claim was made very early, following the Iowa caucus, which on the Republican side was won by Sen. Cruz. Almost immediately, Mr. Trump declared on Twitter: “Ted Cruz didn’t win Iowa, he illegally stole it.”

From the left, following a string of Democratic primary wins by Hillary Clinton, the actor Tim Robbins tweeted that the “election is being stolen” from Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. More recently, Mr. Trump has made a related claim: that the rules of the game are “rigged.”

Now, none of these claims has any merit. Every serious investigation shows that voting fraud is trivial in the United States. And complaints about rules on the ground that they reward some kinds of achievements more than others rest on a profound misunderstanding of what rules are and how they operate.

But what really interests me about these claims is not their substance, but why someone would make them in the first place.

Those who shout fraud, theft and system-rigging ignore an obvious and much more plausible explanation for the election results: that more Iowa Republicans prefer Cruz to Trump, that more Democrats prefer Clinton to Sanders, or even that more Republicans nationwide might prefer not-Trump to Trump. Yet those who insist on attributing the results to fraud and malfeasance rule these explanations out of bounds.

What seems to be happening increasingly in our politics is that some people refuse to acknowledge the possibility that others – sometimes large numbers of others – might actually disagree with them. How, after all, could anyone possibly disagree with the self-evident truths to which I subscribe? Therefore, if my candidate loses a primary, or the nomination, the only remaining possibility is that the election was stolen by improper and fraudulent means.

This breakdown in civic respect and understanding poses, I think, a serious danger to democracy, and it worries me. But I want to leave the politics aside now, and instead suggest some useful lessons that this phenomenon offers to lawyers.

In law, people disagree all the time. Sometimes, to be sure, those disagreements are driven by little more than strategic positioning. But just as often, those disagreements can be genuine. Lawyers do themselves no favor by refusing to take seriously their opponents’ arguments.

The lawyer’s job is persuasion. Anyone who dismisses opposing arguments out of hand will end up capable of persuading only those who already agree – not much of an accomplishment.

“Anyone who dismisses opposing arguments out of hand will end up capable of persuading only those who already agree – not much of an accomplishment.”

– Interim Dean James A. Gardner

Please stay in touch; I’d be very grateful to hear your thoughts and concerns.

With all best wishes,

[Signature]
UB Law has launched many eminent individuals who have made valuable economic and social contributions in professional careers.
Judiciary

Hon. Paul L. Friedman ’68:
Steady presence on the bench

“I want to be a gladiator,” his trial lawyer friends would say to Hon. Paul L. Friedman ’68. “I don’t know how you can sit there and say very little and be neutral.”

But his transition from litigator to judge was a matter of temperament. “I very much liked trial work, but I didn’t feel that I had to be in court every minute in order to enjoy being a lawyer,” Friedman says. “The intellectual work of legal analysis and brief writing and arguing the law to judges was more exhilarating to me,” including arguing to judges in the Supreme Court of the United States on several occasions.

A former partner with White & Case, Friedman has served since 1994 as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He has presided over such high-profile matters as supervised-release requests for John Hinckley, who shot President Reagan. Before his judgeship, he also served as associate independent counsel during the Iran-Contra investigation.

In the eye of the Washington legal storm, Friedman has been careful about his public presence. He will speak to trusted reporters to provide background and context, for example: “If you help a good reporter understand what’s going on and therefore help the public understand better, that’s helpful,” he says. He also is an active member and secretary of the American Law Institute, the national law reform organization, and is proud of his work on issues of disparities in federal sentencing.

Reflecting on his long career, he thinks about the people, most immediately his law clerks. “I watch their careers and how they blossom and what they do,” he says. “That’s tremendously rewarding.”

And he thinks as well about people he has sent to prison. “Sometimes I’ll get letters from defendants whom I’ve sentenced, saying ‘Thank you for treating me fairly and with respect.’ One of the things we need to do as judges is to make people feel that you’re listening, that you’re open, that you do treat people with respect and you’re fair.”

Alexander W. Hunter Jr. ’74:
From appellate judge to the United Nations

Alexander W. Hunter Jr. ’74 was on his way to teach English in South Korea, with the Peace Corps, when, he says, “UB Law intercepted me by giving me a full-tuition scholarship.”

It changed his life. Hunter flourished as part of a close-knit group of minority students at the Law School. “We helped each other out,” he says. “We formed study groups, and I met a lot of people I am still friends with. Not too many of us didn’t make it.”

Hunter made it, all right. After stints as an assistant district attorney in his native Bronx and as a state Supreme Court law clerk, he became a judge – first in New York City criminal court, then in Supreme Court, and since 2009 as an associate justice of the Appellate Term, First Department.

Now Hunter is leaving that court to take on a new challenge, as a judge of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal. The six-month deployment, which begins July 1, will start at UN headquarters in New York, then move to Nairobi, Kenya, in January. He’ll adjudicate internal agency matters that include employee-employer disputes and actions on hiring, firing, pension and leave.

It’s a late-career switch for the jurist, who writes and lectures widely. But he measures his own impact by the students he has taught as an adjunct professor at Pace Law School over nearly three decades.

“I love being in the courtroom – not advocating for a side, but giving new lawyers some direction in how they should proceed,” Hunter says. “I usually have five or six interns during the summer and a couple during the school year. I want them to see that how I am in the courtroom is not any different from how I am in real life. It’s about having the temperament and the knowledge to succeed.”
Richard M. Tobe ’74: Leveraging the public good

Richard M. Tobe ’74 knows coming of age in the ’60s and ’70s was a time of exciting possibilities. The Law School fostered that. He tells of a seminar with Law School Dean “Red” Schwartz, a sociologist. “There were maybe 15 of us,” Tobe says, “and he asked, how many of us imagined we would be traditional lawyers in courts or boardrooms or doing contracts? Nobody raised their hand. And we weren’t a shy bunch! That then became the subject for the seminar. We all worked on questions relative to the law and our ambitions. I think the Law School was just terrific for that.”

Tobe has used his law degree for the public good in a series of high-profile positions. He worked with the late legendary Buffalo Assemblyman William B. Hoyt on major environmental legislation, including New York’s Freshwater Wetlands Act. He ran Erie County’s Department of Environment and Planning; served as vice president of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo; was commissioner of Buffalo’s newly created Department of Economic Development Permit and Inspection Services; did some business consulting; and until recently served as deputy Erie County Executive. He has also taught as an adjunct at the Law School.

Now, as Director of Upstate Revitalization for New York State, Tobe is responsible for $1.5 billion awarded through a competitive process to three of upstate’s eight economic development regions.

“It’s a capstone position for a lawyer who has spent his career making the law work for New Yorkers. And despite his familiarity with the political process, Tobe says, “I’ve never been super-interested in politics in the campaign sense. I’m interested in what you can do when campaigns have been won.”

Celeste M. Murphy ’97: Keeping the markets honest

“Our financial markets are the envy of the world,” says Celeste M. Murphy ’97. In her position with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission, she works to keep it that way.

“Our work impacts lives around the world,” she says, “in terms of investor protection, capital formation and fair markets, which are all critical foundations of a strong, healthy economy. I take personal pride in being part of that.”

Murphy, who recently joined the Law School’s Dean’s Advisory Council, is a legal branch chief for the SEC’s Division of Corporation Finance. She manages a staff that ensures compliance with the agency’s disclosure and financial reporting requirements for the technology, media and telecommunications industries.

“This is a job where you learn something new every day,” she says. “But what is a luxury is to be able to step back and take a closer look at what you’re doing. There are constant policy considerations for transparency in corporate SEC filings and careful thought is given as to how those drive good information for capital markets.”

Murphy says her move to Washington, leaving behind a high-powered legal firm in New York, was partly driven by family life. “It’s exciting, high-profile work, and it’s also possible to have a family and be able to raise my children in a way that is healthy for everyone and keeps me completely engaged in my work.”

She has become an advocate as well for other women lawyers in the nation’s capital. She’s on the board of the Women’s Bar Association of the District of Columbia, and co-chaired that group’s Government Attorneys Forum for many years. “These women who have taken on very high-level work,” Murphy says, “have a passion to improve the world in the areas in which they work for the federal government. We are an amazing group of dedicated professionals who accomplish incredible things.”
Bridget E. Niland ’98: Competing in the court of sport

Four miles from UB, a small college with a rich history is poised to make some more: Daemen College is joining the ranks of NCAA Division II athletics.

That’s no simple process. And Bridget E. Niland ’98, Daemen’s athletic director and special assistant to the president, is sweating all the details.

“My experience working for the NCAA at the national office in Indianapolis gave me a solid background on that organization’s expectations of Daemen,” Niland says. “As we move into active Division II membership, we still have to ensure we comply with NCAA rules, but the legal side also broadens to include a lot of contract work with sponsors and donors.”

A gifted runner, Niland first got involved in sports administration in her last undergraduate year at UB when she was named to the NCAA National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The committee work became an independent study when she entered the Law School.

She says she’s still “tremendously proud” of that experience: “We gave real voice to college student-athletes. We changed several NCAA rules that were far too restrictive on student-athletes and their ability to make the most of their college studies. It was sad to see the NCAA dismantle that committee and dilute its media presence in 1999, but it did motivate me to stay involved in college sports and attempt to keep the focus of any college sports program on the student-athlete’s experience.”

Niland also teaches as a Law School adjunct. “It’s a great experience to share what I do with UB Law students,” she says. “We discuss and analyze college sports through an entirely different lens. Some students have joked with me that they enjoy watching college sports less after the course because they notice issues with their favorite teams that they didn’t notice before.”

Christine Haight Farley ’94: Teaching on the cusp of IP law

You’ve heard about trademark litigation over the Washington Redskins’ logo? Christine Haight Farley ’94 has written amicus briefs on that and worked with the lawyers involved.

You’ve followed the easing of U.S. trade sanctions with Cuba? Farley is part of a program to prepare Cuban lawyers for the end of the embargo and help them understand U.S. commercial law.

That’s the nature of intellectual property law – as the world changes around us, IP specialists are on the case.

Farley rides that wave as a professor at American University’s Washington College of Law. She teaches IP law to first-year students, writes copiously in the field, lectures, travels, speaks at conferences, appears on television. Her resume runs to 15 pages.

As an entering student at UB Law, she says, “I hoped to become an academic, and Buffalo Law really cemented that goal. The faculty were so engaged and engaging. I got to know so many faculty so well – I went to their houses for dinner, I got involved in their research as a research assistant.”

After graduation, she taught legal writing for a year at UB Law, earned master’s and doctoral degrees at Columbia University, and practiced in New York City for two years. She joined Washington College of Law in 1999, and notes, “I’ve taught over 2,000 students by now.”

But that’s only part of the equation. “Being an academic,” Farley says, “I’ve had a great ability to have an impact on the development of law through my scholarship, my teaching, my speaking, my pro bono activity. Not only has IP law grown in importance and in practitioners, but the trend has been to protect intellectual property at a stronger and stronger level. I’ve been a voice for balance and a voice that asks us to consider the cost of stronger rights.”
**Business**

Anne M. Noble ’92:
Generating billions for the Connecticut lottery

Even in Law School, Anne M. Noble ’92 was drawn to the idea of politics and public service. Those passions, while not at the forefront, remained alive while she practiced labor and employment law as a partner with two firms in Hartford, Conn. Then the governor of Connecticut called, and Noble became the state’s deputy counsel.

Now, as president and CEO of the quasi-public Connecticut Lottery Corp., she oversees an enterprise that annually generates approximately $1.2 billion in revenue and more than $300 million for the state’s general fund. She’s proud that the lottery has recorded six straight years of record profits.

“Gaming is a pretty important part of almost every state’s economy,” Noble says, “and it’s important that state-sponsored gambling is run efficiently and responsibly. I believe I’ve helped define what that means in the State of Connecticut.”

As CEO, Noble manages a staff with responsibility for legislative and government affairs, legal issues, human resources, marketing and sales, finance, information technology, security and business operations. She also interacts with stakeholders including the Lottery’s Board of Directors and state legislators. For example, she testified recently in front of the General Assembly about whether daily fantasy sports might affect games of chance, an area reserved for the lottery.

Her legal training helps. “It’s a highly regulated industry, so understanding, interpreting and complying with the regulatory structure in which we work is important,” Noble says. “At the heart of running a business are the supplier relationships and the business partnerships you enter into. Legal training is invaluable in assessing such ventures.”

Negotiating skills help, too, as when the Lottery introduced Lucky for Life, the first-ever collaboration among all New England states that operate a lottery and that has expanded to include 18 more lotteries nationwide. “I understood how those relationships had to fit together legally in order for that business idea to come to fruition,” she says. “But one of the challenges for lawyers who become CEOs is to not allow their legal knowledge to impede developing the business. We’re taught to be risk-averse and sometimes that’s not beneficial. It’s all about balance and having the talent around you necessary to succeed. I have a great team at the Connecticut Lottery Corp.”

Adam K. Rizzo ’03:
Building a company on green principles

Of the Earth’s 7 billion people, Adam K. Rizzo ’03 points out, more than 2 billion have no access to electricity. That, he says, is why renewable energy is more than an environmental issue—it’s a matter of human development.

Rizzo brought that commitment to UB Law expecting to practice environmental law. But in classes and internships, he became interested in solar power. After graduation he did practice law for a couple of years, but he had a side project with his brother, a little company that supplied solar panels, especially to the German market. They sold on eBay and financed the business on their credit cards.

Now that company, Solar Liberty, which Rizzo founded with his brother, is a fast-growing installer of solar electric systems with 75 employees. They also created the Solar Liberty Foundation, headed by sister Paige L. Mecca ’99, which provides solar energy systems and solar cookers to people in rural areas of developing nations, such as Haiti and Tanzania. Even replacing air-fouling kerosene lanterns and installing solar lighting so kids can do their homework at night can change lives.

“Everything in business seems to revolve around contracts and contractual issues,” Rizzo says. “My law background comes into use every day.” There’s also IP law to deal with; Rizzo’s brother, Nathan, has patents pending for a solar panel mounting system called DynoRaxx.

“I like to think that the business is helping improve the world and the people in it,” Adam Rizzo says. “Instead of producing electricity from coal or natural gas, we’re producing it with the sun; it’s non-polluting, and it’s there for us to use. I like to think that we help to improve the families of those whom we employ, and all the vendors we work with, as well as our customers. It feels great to be able to eliminate a customer’s electric bill from their yearly budget.”
Karen M. Andolina Scott ’09: 
Extending a welcome

“I’m exactly where I was hoping to be,” says Karen M. Andolina Scott ’09. Who could ask for anything more?

Scott, a graduate of the Law School’s joint program in law and social work, is executive director of Journey’s End Refugee Services, which each year serves as many as 500 refugees seeking to make their home in the United States. Scott practiced immigration law in a firm and with Journey’s End, serving as managing attorney, before she accepted the top job last year. Now she oversees administration, programs and the agency’s strategic plan, and is the public face of Journey’s End to the community.

The Journey’s End legal services department has six staff attorneys, supplemented with Law School externs and a few volunteer lawyers. They serve low-income clients who are applying for permanent residency and naturalization, or fighting deportation.

Her legal training still pays off, Scott says, “in thinking about ways to approach a problem, making sure I’m looking at every possible outcome. In advocating for our clients and agency staff, it’s certainly useful to know to put your strongest argument first, and to look at counterarguments and be prepared for those.”

It can be difficult work, she acknowledges; refugees and other immigrants often come with tragic personal stories that need to be documented. But the impact of the work is its own reward.

“I hope to be able to educate people on what the refugee process is, who refugees are, how they benefit our community, and show that refugees want to work, want to bring their families here, want to become citizens,” Scott says. “For the clients themselves, I love seeing those moments of success when we have been able to reunite families, or watch clients or staff members become citizens and now feel that they are a part of something again. It’s truly remarkable work.”

Karen Nicolson ’89: 
Advocating for the elderly

As a high school student, Karen Nicolson ’89 met a legal services attorney helping farmworkers on her native Long Island.

That, she thought, is what I want to do: make the law work for poor people.

Now, as CEO of Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York, she leads an organization that provides free legal help to low-income senior citizens, and trustee and guardianship services for disabled persons.

The issues range from physical and financial abuse, to scams targeted at older people, to eviction and other housing concerns. For disabled persons, LSED is a trustee for a pooled trust, which has about 400 beneficiaries, and the court-appointed Article 81 guardian for more than 100 low-income individuals.

It’s all in service of one goal: to help clients live independently and with dignity.

“The Law School did prepare me for my position here,” Nicolson says. “I’m doing non-traditional legal work – I deal with personnel issues, lobbying, fundraising. But there’s a legal component to a lot of it.” In addition to helping supervise 15 attorneys, she manages contracts with funders, keeps up on labor law, and as a registered lobbyist, works to comply with state reporting requirements.

“We have such a wonderful staff,” Nicolson says. “It’s so inspiring to see them come in with this great passion and see how hard they work. There’s always a hum of activity, people talking about cases and strategy and victories. It’s a great place to practice law.”

Beyond the direct benefit to clients in real need, she says LSED has been in the forefront of identifying issues that affect seniors. They saw the foreclosure crisis coming, and noticed the trend toward financial abuse of elders before it was widely reported. “Our staff is out in community, they’re on boards, they talk to people,” she says. “We’ve been able to help bring a better focus on elder issues.”
Lutz Eidam ’03: Seeking a deeper vision of criminal law

It’s a long trip from Germany to Buffalo. But, says Lutz Eidam ’03, that journey became an important part of his professional development. His experience at UB Law, where he earned the master of laws degree with a focus on criminal law, “opened the door to a different legal culture which still has an impact on my scientific work.”

Now Eidam is back home in Germany as a law professor at the University of Frankfurt. (The German term is privatdozent, denoting a professor who has the qualifications to teach at the university level and to supervise Ph.D. candidates.) After his study at UB Law, he went on to earn a doctoral degree at the University of Frankfurt and to serve as a research assistant at the private Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany. But his students are reaping the benefits of that fruitful year he spent in Buffalo.

Eidam is a specialist in criminal law, and he has written as well about criminal procedure law, white-collar crime, medical criminal law and legal theory. He currently serves as an assistant professor in the criminal law department at his law school, a position he assumed in 2015.

In addition to his teaching, Eidam works as a defense attorney in private practice – “in chosen cases,” he says.

Legal education in Germany happens at the undergraduate level, and Eidam says he finds the most satisfaction in “sharing my scientific insights with young students.” Two important impacts can be seen, he says: “the education of young students to be critical-minded lawyers who do not accept anything that politics demands from the law; and, as a defense lawyer, I have (in many cases) been the guardian of legal and procedural standards.”

Seung-in Hong ’05: Oiling the wheels of trade

The vast machinery of the international economy doesn’t run by itself. It needs continual attention from people who understand how markets work, how negotiations can succeed, how the law both supports and constrains free trade.

People like Seung-in Hong ’05. A South Korean citizen, since 2014 he has served as that nation’s deputy chief of mission to Peru. “I cover almost everything for my embassy here in Lima, with a focus on economic matters,” he reports. (South Korea exports cars, cellphones and other electronics to Peru; in turn, Peru mostly exports mineral resources and fisheries products.) “There are some trade issues, bilateral and multilateral, but much more important are issues of economic cooperation in the areas of energy/mining, infrastructure, information technology and environment.”

That means using the traditional skills he learned at UB Law School in non-traditional ways. “My current work here in Peru is slightly outside traditional law practice,” Hong says. “As we move up the ladder of hierarchy of any organization, we need more political judgements and insights rather than detailed legal knowledge and analysis. However, even the day-to-day management of my embassy, for example, requires some level of understanding of various legal matters, such as labor, tax, pension and diplomatic immunity.”

Before his posting to Peru, Hong served as a trade diplomat for South Korea. In that role he spent three years in Geneva, Switzerland, handling World Trade Organization matters, including WTO dispute settlements and negotiations over the organization’s Doha Development Agenda. Over a five-year period, he was involved in more than 100 rounds of bilateral trade negotiations.

“Korea’s free trade agreements have been important legal and economic instruments for boosting Korea’s trade with the United States and the European Union,” Hong says. “Investments are liberalized and protected under those instruments as well. I am proud of the contributions I made during the negotiations.”
Jessica Ortiz’05: Making the federal case

As co-chief of the Narcotics Unit for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of New York, Jessica Ortiz’05 sees defendants who have made terrible choices. But she also tries to see beyond their crimes. “People who end up in the federal system, in the cases I deal with, are often people who didn’t have a support system that allowed them to escape the conditions they were raised in,” she says. “Sometimes a federal prosecution can help somebody, because it takes them out of an area, or it can save them from violence or help get their life back on track. My job is to look at each individual defendant and say, what is a fair and just outcome for the crime committed by this person, and how can we ensure that our prosecution is part of the solution?”

Her work extends as well to trying to find solutions when drug abuse threatens communities. “We are trying to figure out how best to deal with public health crises and use the tools that we have to combat those issues,” she says. The current focus is on heroin, but last summer a synthetic cannabinoid called K2 surfaced in New York, in the form of tea leaves sprayed with chemicals from China. “The chemicals were a controlled substance, but you could walk into any bodega and buy it and you had no idea what you were smoking,” Ortiz says. “People were having horrible reactions to it.” State law didn’t cover the drug, but federal law did — and her office initiated an action that led to the arrest of a number of manufacturers and distributors.

“I think our job is one of doing justice and helping the community,” she says. “It’s the fun part of the job.”

Ortiz won the 2016 Top Lawyers Under 40 award from the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Kevin M. Comstock ’87: Serving his country on two fronts

“I think there’s value in public service,” Kevin M. Comstock ’87 says with understatement. “That’s what my career has been, both in the U.S. Attorney’s office and with the military, serving the country and furthering the rule of law.”

Comstock has made public service his life on two fronts: as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Norfolk, Va., and in his extensive service in the United States Navy Reserve as a Judge Advocate.

In more than 25 years with the U.S. Attorney’s office, Comstock estimates he has represented the United States in more than 1,500 court appearances, over 500 motions, and over 250 search, seizure and surveillance warrants. He has litigated over 750 felony cases leading to convictions, sentencing and forfeiture of over $10 million in assets. His cases have ranged from counterfeiting to Ponzi schemes to cybercrimes, though he now is mainly assigned to drug and firearms cases.

The other front grew out of his four years of active-duty service with the Navy right after law school, where he served in the JAG Corps. He has served for more than a decade in the Navy Reserve, and currently is the executive officer for a 30-person unit — lawyers and legalmen (paralegals) — based in Jacksonville, Fla.

As a reservist he spent half a year in Iraq, working as a Rule of Law Attorney to help the Iraqis reestablish their legal systems. He traveled widely, assessing the security of courthouses and jails. “Obviously it has proven to be difficult because of the various factions that exist there,” he says of the overall task. “But I felt very good about supporting my country’s national security efforts.”

His service has not gone unnoticed: Comstock recently received the Rear Adm. Hugh H. Howell Jr. Award of Excellence for Meritorious Service, the highest honor given in the Navy Reserve Law Program, and was selected for promotion to the rank of captain last year.
A high-profile and highly effective Buffalo trial lawyer has received the Edwin F. Jaeckle Award, the University at Buffalo School of Law and Alumni Association’s highest honor. **Terrence M. Connors ’71** accepted the award on Jan. 29 at the Union League Club in New York City, as part of the school’s annual New York Alumni Luncheon. The Jaeckle Award is given annually to “an individual who has distinguished himself or herself and has made significant contributions to the Law School and the legal profession.”

Connors, founding member of the Buffalo firm Connors and Vilardo, has been active with the Law School in many ways, including teaching aspects of trial technique. He is a major investor in the school’s newly formed Advocacy Institute and serves as chair of the institute’s advisory board. Additionally, Connors has served on the Dean’s Advisory Council, which consults with the Law School dean on curricular and other matters.

**Being a lawyer is a special privilege, Connors tells Jaeckle Award audience**

After greetings from the event’s master of ceremonies, Hon. Eugene F. Pigott ’73, and Law Alumni Association President Robert P. Heary ’91, interim Dean James A. Gardner gave an update on the Law School, noting that the employment rate for our new graduates is at 90 percent and that the number of applicants has increased modestly even as law school applications nationwide continue to fall. “We are exceptionally busy,” Gardner said. “We’re working hard to keep the school secure, its product top-notch and its graduates well-prepared to take their place alongside you, other alumni and the entire legal community.”

UB President Satish K. Tripathi gave a similar update on the University as a whole, noting that applications are up about 11 percent. Of the honoree he said, “Terry exemplifies what it means to be a great alumnus, a distinguished leader in the legal community who offers an inspiring example to our current and future students, and a deeply engaged University citizen who cares professionally about the Law School and has committed himself to actively advancing it. He is a proud example of everything we try for our students to achieve when they become alumni of UB.”

In his introduction, Dean Gardner characterized Connors as “a lawyer’s lawyer,” “incredibly well-prepared in every case he takes,” and someone “distinguished by his genuine compassion for both clients and the people around him.” He also noted Connors’ deep involvement in the school’s newly formed Advocacy Institute, both as a donor and as chair of the institute’s National Advisory Board.

“This is such an exciting initiative, and we have Terry to thank for supporting it in so many tangible and intangible ways, and for exemplifying the kind of advocate we want to help our students to become,” Gardner said. “In his practice and with the Law School, Terry is the real deal.”

Accepting the award, Connors expressed gratitude to the Law School’s foundational role in his career. “The Law School means a great deal to me,” he said. “When I was there I valued the education I was receiving, I valued the inspiration that I received from the law professors who taught me, and I know that what I learned there pushed me down a path that I have been so pleased to travel over the last 40 years. It’s been a wonderful journey for me, and I know that I would not have been able to take that journey without the University at Buffalo School of Law.”

He also spoke of the experience of interviewing new lawyers as part of the Eighth Judicial District’s Committee on Character and Fitness for Applicants for Admission to the Bar. “They all want to know what’s it like 30, 35, 40 years into practice. I tell them that being a lawyer is a very special privilege. If I had the power to go back and select any profession at the beginning of my career, I’d take our profession in a heartbeat. It wouldn’t even be close. Every day we have an opportunity to make a difference, to change someone’s life, to stand between them and power to stand up for them when some can’t stand up for themselves. It’s stimulating, it’s intellectually challenging, and it’s incredibly rewarding.”
Two-part Mitchell Lecture looks at a changing profession

Nothing less than the fate of the legal profession—and the future of legal education—was at issue in two Mitchell Lecture presentations at the University at Buffalo School of Law.

The Mitchell event this year came in two parts and addressed the topic “Legal Education for a Changing Legal Profession.” The first part came Feb. 12, when a distinguished panel of speakers and practitioners took up the question of where the legal profession is today, and where it is likely to go in the future. In Part 2, held April 8, speakers addressed the implications for law schools of these changes in the profession.

In the first event, Professor David B. Wilkins of Harvard Law School noted that such developments as the globalization of economic activity, the rise of information technology and the “blurring of boundaries of traditional categories of organization and thought” are “reframing our entire economy.” Such changes have come late to the legal field, he said, but their effects will be unavoidable.

“The high profit margins in law are attracting very important competition,” he said, citing for example the deregulated field for legal practice in the United Kingdom and competition in the United States from such legal services providers as LegalZoom and Avvo.

Professor Gillian Hadfield of the USC Gould School of Law spoke to the breadth of the unmet need for legal services—not just among the poor, but for people of nearly all economic situations who wrestle with housing issues, child visitation disputes, even foreclosure cases without the help of a lawyer. “The problem of access to justice affects virtually everyone,” she said. “There’s a lot of legal work that needs to be done, if someone can figure out how to provide that legal work in an affordable way to all those folks.”

She observed that legal services are going the way that medical care already has, to a “pyramid” model in which simpler cases are addressed with software or by lesser-educated professionals, with only difficult or complex cases rising to the level of a lawyer’s attention.

The final presenter in Part 1, Professor Bryant Garth of the UC Irvine School of Law, brought a sociology-of-law perspective to the issue, reminding the audience that lawyers have since the late 19th century served as “institutional players” in society. That influence had meant that “the best and the brightest” were attracted to the field, ensuring its continued dominance. But, he says, as talented students began to gravitate to MBA degrees in the 1980s, and investment banks gained prestige in making multimillion-dollar deals, law is in danger of losing its elite status.

Following the presentation, alumni panelists included Ann E. Evanko ’79, Michael A. Battle ’81 and Douglas W. Dimitroff ’89.

In Part 2 of the Mitchell Lecture, three legal academics brought their sometimes-provocative ideas on the topic to an O’Brien Hall classroom filled with students, practitioners and faculty members.

Susan D. Carle, a professor at American University’s Washington College of Law, introduced the idea of “J.D. Advantage” jobs—those that don’t require bar passage or licensure, but still put a graduate’s legal training to use. The growing category includes such positions as corporate contracts administrator, government regulatory analyst, FBI agent, jobs with investment banks and consulting firms—even, she noted, law faculty.

Many students, she said, go to law school with one of these jobs as their goal, never intending to enter traditional practice. “These are the jobs they really wanted, and they are jobs that respond to the conditions in the world as it is today,” Carle said.

She suggested that law schools should provide more career services and training relevant to J.D. Advantage jobs, including courses in law and technology, and interdisciplinary clinics and seminars.

Michael Hunter Schwartz, dean of the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, said his school has re-emphasized so-called “soft skills” that law firms say they need in new attorneys. These include such skills as workload management, team management, client relations, integrity, honesty and stress management.

Kevin R. Johnson, dean of the University of California, Davis, School of Law, added a further dimension by urging the audience to make diversity and student wellness a primary concern of legal education.

Citing the alcohol-fueled student culture at many law schools, Johnson said, “We need to spend some time helping students with healthy responses to stress. We should think very carefully about how we work to make the law school environment a healthier, better one for law students.”
High-powered board will advise Advocacy Institute

The Advocacy Institute – UB School of Law’s newest signature initiative to train students to become the best advocates in the profession – has taken a major step forward with the naming of a high-profile National Advisory Board.

At its recent inaugural meeting, the board began its work of advising and supporting the Advocacy Institute, ensuring that its teaching and programs are of exceptional quality and reflect the best ideas in the field. It includes nationally acclaimed trial attorneys, jurists and legal scholars.

“We are very excited about the National Advisory Board we have recruited,” says SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Dr. Charles Patrick Ewing, who directs the institute. Ewing, himself a gifted teacher and nationally sought-after expert on the criminal mind, notes: “These board members are renowned in their fields, with outstanding reputations and accomplishments, and we are honored that they have joined us to help guide the institute in becoming one of the nation’s top advocacy programs.”

“The level of enthusiasm for the Advocacy Institute has been outstanding, with so many distinguished practitioners and jurists eagerly agreeing to serve on the board,” says board Chair Terrence M. Connors ’71, founding partner of Connors LLP who has been ranked for the past eight years as the top Super Lawyer in upstate New York. “In addition to some of our most prominent alumni, several non-alumni with no prior connection to the Law School, who are famous for their success in high-profile cases – such as Barry Scheck in the O.J. Simpson trial, Bob Clifford in the 9/11 case, and Stewart Jones, a top New York trial lawyer – are so enthusiastic about the current quality and vast potential of the Institute that they have agreed to serve on its Board.”

In addition to Connors, the members of the National Advisory Board include: Michael A. Battle ’81, a former U.S. attorney and judge, and now a partner with the Washington, D.C., law firm Barnes and Thornburg, focusing on commercial/civil litigation and white-collar criminal matters and appeals.

Jennifer Beckage ’07, former owner of a technology-based company that was publicly acquired, whose practice now focuses on complex business disputes and commercial litigation as a partner with the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle.

Donald Chiari ’83, founding partner of Brown Chiari in Buffalo, whose practice is devoted to clients who have sustained catastrophic, life-changing injuries, and who has obtained one of the largest nursing home verdicts in New York State.

Robert A. Clifford, a senior partner with Clifford Law Offices in Chicago and designated as the No. 1 Super Lawyer in Illinois for eight years, who was the lead negotiator in the $1.2 billion settlement of 9/11 property damage claims involving the Twin Towers in New York City.

Steven R. Fisher ’16, a third-year law student who serves as executive editor of the Buffalo Law Review, who later this year will join the New York City firm Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson.

Neil A. Goldberg ’73, a renowned trial attorney, founding partner of Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo and former president of the Defense Research Institute, who has defended products liability, pharmaceutical, medical device, trucking, toxic tort and other catastrophic cases nationwide for a number of New York Stock Exchange companies.

E. Stewart Jones Jr., an acclaimed trial lawyer and partner with E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy in Albany, N.Y. He is the only New York State lawyer outside of New York City to be named to all four of the Arbitration Moot Court

More than 300 law schools from around the world competed in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court held annually in Vienna, Austria.

For the first time, from March 19 to 24, the Advocacy Institute sent a team to compete.

Spurred by the competition, more than 20 pre-moots were created in such cities as Budapest, where our team competed, before the actual rounds began in Vienna.

The goal of the Vis Arbitral Moot is to foster study in the areas of international commercial and arbitration laws, and to encourage the resolution of business disputes through arbitration.

Our advocacy team in Vienna, left to right: Victoria Hahn ’17, Cara Cox ’16, Devan Omahan ’16 and Mary Alexandra Verdi ’16
the most exclusive organizations honoring outstanding trial lawyers, including the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and American College of Trial Lawyers.

Marianne Mariano ‘94, a former courtroom lawyer who serves as Federal Public Defender for the Western District of New York, and the first woman to head a federal public defender’s office in the Second Circuit.

Teresa A. Miller, a Harvard Law School graduate and longtime UB Law professor, now UB’s vice provost for equity and inclusion, who is an expert on prisons, immigration and prisoners’ rights.

Hon. Erin Peradotto ‘84, an accomplished trial and appellate lawyer, former head of the New York attorney general’s office in Buffalo, and now justice of the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

Hon. Eugene E. Pigott Jr. ‘73, now senior associate judge of the Court of Appeals, New York State’s highest court, following a distinguished career as a trial attorney, Erie County Attorney in Western New York, New York State Supreme Court Justice, and Presiding Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

Barry Scheck, a partner with Neufeld, Scheck and Brustein in New York City, co-founder of the Innocence Project at Cardozo Law School, which has exonerated approximately 300 people, and a key member of the “Dream Team” that defended O.J. Simpson. Scheck is renowned for his eight-day cross-examination and his part of the summation in that trial.

Christopher Viapiano, a partner with the Washington, D.C., law firm Sullivan & Cromwell, whose practice includes complex antitrust, commodities, securities and shareholder derivative litigation.

Judge Richard Wesley, a former trial attorney in private practice who served in the New York State Legislature and on the New York State bench (Supreme Court, Appellate Division and Court of Appeals) before becoming a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit.

For more information about the Advocacy Institute and the National Advisory Board, please visit www.law.buffalo.edu or contact Professor Ewing at ewings@buffalo.edu or (716) 645-2770.

Commencement 2016
Words of challenge as graduates cross a threshold

No one gets through law school without a cheering section, and as 200 students received their degrees at SUNY Buffalo School of Law’s 127th Commencement ceremonies, their families and friends did plenty of cheering.

At the May 21 ceremonies, held in the auditorium of UB’s Center for the Arts, 188 J.D. candidates and 12 master of laws candidates crossed the stage as degrees were conferred – and crossed the threshold of their new life as lawyers.

Interim Dean James A. Gardner welcomed the crowd and had some parting words for the Class of 2016. (See Message from the Interim Dean on page 1.)

The afternoon’s keynote speaker, Robert Odawi Porter, is the former president, attorney general and chief legal counsel of the Seneca Nation of Indians. Porter shared some hard-won lessons about life in the law, encouraging the graduates to think beyond the narrow interests of their careers.

He asked each of them to consider their profession a “personal journey.” “From this day forward,” he said, “it will become increasingly meaningless how well you did here in the Law School as a student. What will matter is whether you’re any good as a lawyer and whether you’re any good as a person.”

Porter also counseled a careful balance between the pursuit of a high salary and the higher calling of the law. “I don’t think there’s any shame in wanting to improve your economic situation,” he said. “But as lawyers we exist to serve our clients. Money is a consequence of some success in the legal profession, but it is not the objective.”

Finally, he encouraged the graduates to be engaged in their community. “Serve on the school board. Raise money for a charity. Teach a kid how to read. Run for Congress. Whatever you do, it will not only help your legal career, it will make you a better person.”

The student address was given by Ibrahim Tariq, who recounted a moment in Associate Professor Matthew Stieles’s classroom when Stieles – explaining a concept in constitutional law – paused and said, “We’re lawyers. We run this.”

“And he was right,” Tariq said. “We run our society. We know what the law says, but it’s our duty to argue about what the law should mean.” He encouraged his classmates: “Let’s not change the way we fight. Let’s not change the way we argue. Let’s fight civil, let’s argue clean. And let’s not play a part in a spiral down into rancor and animosity. After all, we run this. Let’s run it well.”

An emotional Professor Charles Patrick Ewing presented the Ken Joyce Excellence in Teaching Award posthumously to John R. Nucherno, who passed away during the first year of the Innocence and Justice Project he was instrumental in creating. Catherine E. Nagel ’98 accepted the award on behalf of her husband and law partner.

For more photos and video visit: www.law.buffalo.edu/forum/extra
OUTLaw Dinner honors a fighter for gay dignity

A gay-rights pioneer told his story of two major court victories — ones that advanced the legal rights and human dignity of gay and lesbian people — at the annual dinner of OUTLaw, the Law School’s LGBTQ student organization.

William H. Gardner ’59, a retired senior partner with the Buffalo law firm Hodgson Russ, spoke as he accepted the group’s award for distinguished service. The March 10 event was held in the Hotel @ the Lafayette, in downtown Buffalo.

After opening remarks by OUTLaw President Patrick J. O’Brien ’17 and the organization’s advisers, Associate Professor Michael Boucai and Lisa M. Patterson, associate dean for career services, the honoree was introduced by David C. Schopp ’82, executive director of the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo.

Gardner spent nearly three decades on Legal Aid’s board of directors. At a time when there was a severe backlog of appeals to be filed, Schopp said, Gardner stepped in to solicit attorneys to file the appeals pro bono, organized their training, and personally wrote and filed more than 50 appeals. “It’s an astounding testament to the type of person he is,” Schopp said. “Anyone who has worked with Bill knows he will do the job and do it incredibly well.”

Gardner’s remarks brought his listeners back to the 1970s and ’80s, a time when police in Buffalo and elsewhere routinely arrested gay men and lesbians.

“I was seeing people in run-down, abandoned properties — gay people gathering together with cook fires and having the camaraderie they wanted as a group — harassed routinely by the Buffalo police and other members of the citizenry for the outcasts they were,” he said.

The tools of this harassment were a law banning consensual sodomy and an anti-loitering law. As a young lawyer at Hodgson Russ, he got permission to take on some of these cases pro bono.

“Given my responsive horror to the attitudes of the authorities against the gay population in Buffalo, the only way I figured we could overcome that was to mount a crusade to overrule the laws that they were enforcing so vigorously,” he said.

“I let various folks and gay organizations know that if they brought me people, I would represent them for free. If they wanted to make a case and fight the system, I was ready to do that. I was confident that sooner or later someone would show up who wanted to fight and not be a victim.”

His first major victory came in 1980, when he represented two women who were charged with consensual sodomy. Gardner noted that the newspapers routinely published the names of those arrested for such offenses, putting their reputations and their jobs at risk. His motion in the case argued that the law was unconstitutional. He lost in Buffalo City Court. He lost in Erie County Court. But on appeal to the state Court of Appeals, he won, and the law was thrown out. “For the first time in New York,” he said, “it became established that consensual sexual love between homosexuals was constitutionally protected.”

The second case, decided in 1984, involved a teacher in the Buffalo city schools who, on a hot summer night on North Street, invited a nervous young man back to his apartment for a dalliance. It was a trap, and the police moved in. The teacher called Gardner and said he wanted to fight the charge of loitering for the purpose of soliciting sodomy. The case took the same path: a loss in City Court and in County Court, then an appeal to the state’s highest court. “I argued that you couldn’t have a situation where consensual sodomy was OK but inviting someone home to have consensual sodomy was illegal,” Gardner said. He won the case, but the district attorney appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which agreed to hear the case.

“I will never to my dying day remember a circumstance when I was more frightened, more tense, than I was that day” in Washington, Gardner said. He made his argument. Justice William Rehnquist asked him a technical question, and repeated it, but it made no sense to the Buffalo lawyer. “I really thought I was out of my league,” he said.

But the result was a victory. Without ruling on the merits of the case, the court left in place the New York Court of Appeals decision. “The net result was a draw,” Gardner said. “What it meant was that the Albany ruling stood and people would not be arrested for either offense.”

He closed with a plea to the current and future lawyers in the room: “I hope that all of you who are so inclined will come to the defense of all of us who need your defense.”

Interested in becoming involved with OUTLaw or want to receive an invitation to future events? Please contact us at BuffaloOutlaw@gmail.com.

Left to right: William H. Gardner ’59, Patrick O’Brien ’17 and Dan Kahr
Buffalo Law Review builds on success

With a nod to its long tradition of legal scholarship and anticipation of the next generation of that tradition, members of the Buffalo Law Review celebrated a season of achievements at the publication’s 27th annual dinner.

The April 28 dinner, held at the Park Country Club, marked a changing of the guard as graduating students gave way to the next slate of editors. The Law Review also honored two previous members who have gone on to distinguished careers in the law.

The outgoing editor in chief, Michael R. Staszkiw ’16, listed the year’s achievements. They included a special symposium issue in January, curated by Professor John Henry Schlegel, on “different topics that have been forgotten in history and how the field of intellectual history can expand and better explain them.” Also notable was a piece in the August issue highlighting potential legal remedies for the outbreaks of disease that have resulted from the anti-vaccination movement, an article that drew attention from several legal blogs.

Notably, the Law Review this year climbed into the top 50 nationwide among student-edited law journals for its impact on legal scholarship. “This is a substantial achievement, as it exemplifies the impressive quality of articles the Review has published over the last eight years,” Staszkiw said.

The evening’s alumni honorees were Hon. Paul L. Friedman ’68, a senior judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and Barbara L. Schifeling ’84, recently retired from a successful career in litigation for the Buffalo law firm Damon Morey LLP (now Barclay Damon LLP).

In accepting her award, Friedman remembered being assigned an arcane topic for a Law School paper that involved tort law and medical malpractice. He wasn’t enthusiastic, he said, but “there are lots of things you never thought would be interesting that actually turn out quite interesting, and you can get intellectually engaged in them.” Every case is interesting, either because it’s intellectually challenging or because you’re helping real people solve real problems.”

Thinking back over his career, Friedman said, “I still like being a judge. It’s fascinating every day. … You can really have a pretty good life in the law. But no matter how hard you work, get a life. Make time for things other than the law. Don’t miss seeing your children grow up. Don’t miss keeping contact with people who matter to you. Find friends who are not lawyers and certainly not clients. It will make for a fuller life.”

For her part, Schifeling said, “There has never been a moment in my 31-plus years of practice that I was not grateful to UB School of Law. It gave me my professional life.”

Long an advocate for women in the profession, Schifeling pointed to some continuing deficits in full gender equality. Though almost 45 percent of associates in private practice are women, she said, only 17 percent of equity partners are women, and among the 200 largest law firms, only 4 percent have women as their managing partners.

Remedying those inequities, she said, will require continued pushback against entrenched traditions such as expectations around work schedules; mentoring that brings out the best in up-and-coming lawyers; and recognizing the “unconscious bias” that persists in the ways professional women are perceived.

Associate Publication Awards, recognizing excellence in writing on the Law Review, were given to second-year students Lauren Adornetto, Kerry Q. Battenfeld, Erin R. Goldberg and Kelsey L. Hanson. The Justice Philip Halpern Award, presented to a third-year student for excellence in writing, was given to Brandon R. White. And the Carlos C. Alden Award, conferred on the third-year student who has made the greatest contribution to the Law Review, belonged to Michael R. Staszkiw.

The incoming editor in chief of the Buffalo Law Review is Kerry Q. Battenfeld.
Pipelines work, Professor Miller tells Students of Color

This year’s 27th annual Students of Color Dinner marked a first: the graduation of two students who came to UB School of Law by way of DiscoverLaw, the school’s program to introduce promising students of color to the possibilities of a legal career.

Third-year students Brittany Andrews and Ninteretse Jean Pierre were among the attendees at the April 14 dinner, which each year celebrates diversity in the legal community and recognizes graduating students of color. Andrews and Jean Pierre were standout members of the DiscoverLaw program in the summer of 2012.

“These students are evidence that pipelines work,” said Professor Teresa A. Miller, the evening’s keynote speaker, who serves as UB’s vice provost for equity and inclusion. “Of the 79 students who have come through that program in four years, 50 are either currently enrolled in law school or in the admission pipeline for 2016-17.” Two are first-year students at UB Law; nine others have applied for the Class of 2019.

Guests at the dinner, held at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott, heard words of inspiration from Miller and from other legal professionals.

In her remarks, Miller took note of the changes confronting the legal profession, but said that such changes—and the worry that attends them—have been present for decades.

“The law is an inherently conservative discipline, averse to change,” she said, “and reactions to these changes have ranged from deep pessimism and foreboding to denial. . . . Be mindful of the changes in the market, but don’t be afraid of them. . . . While the legal profession is changing, there is so much unmet need, it is hardly going away.

“In a country that will be majority-minority by 2040, the legal profession understands the need for lawyers who are diverse and culturally competent,” Miller said. “Law does a huge range of things: It orders, it defines, it permits the peaceful redress of grievances, it enables us to write new contracts and do new things. A lot of law ensures the functioning of our democracy. It’s not to be underestimated.”

Two UB Law graduates spoke briefly in receiving Distinguished Alumni Awards: Oliver C. Young ’80 and Ranjana Kadle ’96.

“If I can impart any advice to you tonight, it’s this: Don’t sell yourself short,” said Young, principal court attorney for the New York State Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District. “Go out there and compete for the top jobs in any law firm; compete for jobs in state and federal agencies. If you want to work in the area of public interest law, be the very best. You are prepared to meet the challenges and to compete for any opportunities that are available.”

Kadle, Intellectual Property & Technology Practice Leader and partner at the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ, sounded a similar note. “Believe in yourself. Believe in your abilities. You have the tools, and you need to go out there and really think about how to use them,” she said. “Challenge yourself more than anyone else is challenging you.”

New York State Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner, a 2012 UB Law graduate, received the Trailblazer Award, and spoke about her work in representing constituents in her native Bronx: “I am not only making decisions for myself but for those who look like me, which is a great honor.” She also spoke about her legislative support for the Legal Education Opportunity Program, a project of the New York State Unified Court System that prepares students of color for the rigors of law school.

Finally, the Students of Color honored Lisa M. Patterson, associate dean for career services, with the Jacob D. Hyman Faculty Award.

In her remarks, Patterson spoke in personal terms about the question “What are you?” She was able to answer that question more fully when recently, following her adoptive father’s death, she learned about her family of origin.

“That question is important for each of us: What are you?” she said. “There are so many ways to measure how amazing people are. Law school is one of the most ego-crushing experiences you can go through. But I’m here to tell you that the answer to ‘what are you?’ is that you are amazing.”

The Students of Color, comprising groups for students of African-American, Hispanic, and Asian American heritage, also awarded “Lift as We Climb” scholarships to a high school senior and a UB freshman, and conferred the Monique Emdin Memorial Award on third-year student Anaiss Rijo, president of the Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA).

President’s Awards were given to Larry Waters ’17, vice president of the Black Law Students Association, and to two officers of LALSA: Maria Apruzzese ’17, vice president, and Michael Marrero ’17, secretary.

For more photos and video visit: www.law.buffalo.edu/forum/extra
Witnessing history at a key UN climate conference in Paris

In the seminar, students researched the underlying issues of global climate change and studied the international law that undergirds UN treaties. Each also chose an area to focus on, such as market-based solutions to carbon emissions, or compensating the victims of climate change, and wrote a paper on the topic. “These students sat in on and were part of international treaty negotiations. It’s firsthand experience in international law,” Owley says. “There’s a lot of science behind climate change, but there’s a lot of law, too. Law is what will help people fight this problem. So the students got well-versed in the legal mechanisms that are involved.”

As a side project, the students carried to Paris with them a long scroll bearing thousands of names from Western New York — people who had signed a pledge that if a climate justice treaty were reached, they would press for its ratification in their states. They presented the scroll, an initiative of the local Sierra Club, to Sierra Club President Michael Brune just before he was to meet with Secretary of State John Kerry.

That handoff, Owley says, became a gesture of participation: “They could feel like they’re part of something bigger and they’re involved. These students were representing Western New York. They weren’t only there sitting and listening, they were bringing their own message.”

“I had never been exposed to lawmaking like that on an international scale,” says one seminar participant, third-year student Andrea DiNatale. “It was like I was seeing the backstory of a law that people will read about in casebooks in the future.”

She said she was particularly interested in discussions about how the treaty could be ratified by the U.S. Congress. “There were policymakers and members of President Obama’s Cabinet, the EPA administrator, and they were all talking about how they were going to implement U.S. laws on climate change. What I found really interesting were discussions about the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, and how those play into the climate change agreement, and the political battles they faced.”

DiNatale also learned a lot at the side events — smaller presentations by countries and organizations on various topics. It helped her to research her seminar paper on how restoring mangrove forests can help countries build natural seawalls to protect the land from storms and rising sea levels.

That was also the case for second-year student Alyssa Erazo, whose specific interest was in how indigenous groups are affected by climate change. She learned a lot in presentations by the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change, which represents the interests of indigenous people in the negotiations.

“Even though indigenous groups are affected more than most by climate change, they were not allowed into the talks to negotiate with other countries,” Erazo says. “I mostly experienced people from Ecuador really4.48 heard us out their battle with oil companies searching for oil on their land.”

Being at COP21, as the conference is known, “really gave me some passion for the issues,” Erazo says. “I learned everything I could about environmental law so I could understand what was going on. We learned about how treaties are put together, the politics of it. Watching that whole progression from draft to treaty was very interesting.”

Oh, she adds, they did do just a tiny bit of sightseeing. They went to the Eiffel Tower.

“To watch a climate change protest.
High honors for a sought-after law professor

“This award is a fitting tribute to the immense talent, energy and creativity you bring to your work as a teacher and scholar.”
– UB President Satish K. Tripathi in a letter to Professor Bartholomew

A popular University at Buffalo School of Law professor whose teaching on intellectual property law is enlivened by humor, music videos and a wide-ranging command of popular culture has won the state university system’s highest award for teaching.

Professor Mark Bartholomew, who joined the Law School in 2006, was awarded the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching by SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher. The award recognizes “consistently superior teaching at the graduate, undergraduate or professional level in keeping with the State University’s commitment to providing its students with instruction of the highest quality.”

“Mark is truly beloved by his students, and they exhibit a striking loyalty toward him,” said Professor James A. Gardner, interim dean of the Law School. “He spends an enormous amount of time preparing his classes, and creatively uses images, videos and other kinds of displays when doing so will help solidify his students’ understanding. At the root of these efforts lies both a love of his field, and a profound caring for the success and welfare of his students.”

Bartholomew, who joined the faculty in 2006, has been previously recognized twice with the Law School’s only teaching award, the Faculty Award, and in 2009 he received UB’s Teaching Innovation Award. His scholarship and teaching focus on intellectual property and law and technology, with an emphasis on copyright, trademarks, advertising regulation and online privacy.

Bartholomew’s forthcoming book, Adcreep: The New Advertising and the Legal System’s Failure to Respond, will soon be published by Stanford University Press. His articles have been published in the Vanderbilt Law Review, the George Washington Law Review, the William & Mary Law Review, the Brigham Young Law Review, the Connecticut Law Review and the Berkeley Technology Law Journal, among others. He is a frequent commentator on intellectual property issues in broadcast and print media as well as a speaker at academic and professional conferences.

A graduate of Cornell University and Yale Law School, Bartholomew previously clerked on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and practiced law, both as a litigator for a San Francisco law firm and as a deputy county counsel in Sonoma County, Calif.
Staff realignment includes new social justice position

Interim Dean James A. Gardner has announced several changes in the Law School’s administration, including creation of a new position aimed at facilitating students’ community service legal work.

The new position, vice dean for social justice initiatives, will be filled by Melinda R. Saran ’86, who has served since 1999 as vice dean for student affairs.

“The idea is to integrate the programs that send our students out into the community to do pro bono or other good work, to make a coordinated effort to provide encouragement and supervision,” Saran says. “We will make sure that students have appropriate training and that they make the right connections. The goal is to make our community engagement more impactful and also encourage our students to do more.”

In her new role, which begins early this summer, Saran will oversee the Law School’s externship program, manage the Pro Bono Scholars Program, and identify and promote social justice initiatives in the Law School.

She notes that many students already are seeking out service opportunities as they look to fulfill the new requirement of 50 hours’ pro bono service for admission to the New York State bar. But beyond that requirement, she envisions matching talented students with a wide range of opportunities for serving citizens’ unmet legal needs.

“Students are starting to do more, and we want to encourage them to do more,” she says. “Maybe someone doesn’t have time to do a full-day externship, but there are limited-scope legal intervention clinics where students can go one a month, or one morning a week, or one afternoon a week or at lunchtime, and make a difference without disrupting their busy lives. The idea is to show them what’s available.

“It’s about access to justice, but it’s also about teaching our students both the soft skills of how to deal with clients, with agencies and with other attorneys, but also the hard skills of being an attorney. We hope it will foster a value in them to continue doing this when they’re attorneys.”

The other announced administrative changes include:

• **Professor S. Todd Brown** will become vice dean for academic affairs. He succeeds Professor Luis E. Chiesa, who is stepping down after two years in the position. “I am extremely grateful for Luis’ dedicated service, strong work ethic, ability to get things done, and for his candid advice,” Dean Gardner said.

• **Law lecturer Bernadette Gargano** will step into the role of vice dean for student affairs, while also continuing to teach in the Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Program.

• **Lisa Bauer**, who previously directed the Law School’s externship program, has been named assistant director of career services. In her new position, she is responsible for event planning and educational programming, career counseling, statistical collection and analysis, legal career research and publication, and helping to manage job postings, interviews and other recruitment tasks.
Three new faculty members join Clinical Legal Studies program

New Community Justice Clinic to help low-income and immigrant communities in WNY

Nicole Hallett was talking to someone in Buffalo about the needs of the city’s immigrant population. Hallett asked about wage theft — when an employer cheats low-wage workers out of their fair pay by requiring them to work off the clock or failing to pay overtime. “He said he wasn’t sure that wage theft was a problem in Buffalo,” Hallet recounts. “Which would be very strange, because something like 70 percent of immigrants across the country are victims of wage theft.”

It’s issues like this, so often flying under the radar of public awareness, that will come into play in the Community Justice Clinic that Hallet will establish this fall at UB School of Law. The clinic will reach out to low-income and immigrant communities in Western New York, seeking to identify cases in the areas of workers’ rights, consumer rights, immigration and civil rights. “It’s really grounded in the needs of underserved communities,” Hallett says. “We’ll work with community organizations to identify these issues, and we’ll take on cases that come out of those conversations.”

Students will work on cases under Hallet’s supervision. It’s an experiential educational model that is gaining in importance at UB and other law schools, as educators press to give their students the tools they’ll need to succeed in the legal profession. “The idea,” she says, “is that at the end of the year, students have the practical skills they need to be practicing lawyers. In a sexual harassment case, for example, “students would work up the case and file a complaint in federal court, and they would see that lawsuit from beginning to trial or settlement. That involves interviewing clients, drafting a complaint, discovery, taking depositions, oral arguments, motion practice. The idea is that students are handling the case in a particular subject area but gaining skills in federal litigation that they can apply to many different areas of law, depending on what they do after graduation.”

The Community Justice Clinic will build on Hallett’s experience at Yale Law School, where she co-taught the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic. Hallett is a graduate of Yale Law School herself. She also previously taught in the Community Development and Economic Justice Clinic at NYU School of Law. Her undergraduate work was at DePauw University, where she studied philosophy and English literature, and she also earned a master’s degree in refugee studies at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

In addition to her teaching, she has written about labor organizing, human trafficking and topics in international human rights, and she intends to continue her scholarship in Buffalo. “I have found that I am a more creative lawyer and a more creative teacher if I keep my head in scholarship,” she says. “Trying to brainstorm policy solutions to some of these problems gives me a broader perspective that is hard to get through litigation alone.”

Hallett’s teaching stems from an early interest in immigration and international migration, what she calls “one of the great human rights issues of the 21st century.” I see how these global forces are manifesting in people’s lives in the communities I live in. I came at this work from an international perspective, but I have really grounded my work in local issues.”

These human-scale issues manifest themselves through the immigration system, but also in every facet of immigrants’ lives. In Hallett’s clinic, students will learn about these global forces, while tackling issues for individual clients that will get students into court. “There’s a lot of need in Buffalo and a lot of opportunity for legal work that really changes conditions for people,” Hallett says. “There aren’t very many lawyers now who are working on these issues. I’m very excited to come and fulfill that role and expose the students to a different facet of their community.”

Hallett comes to Buffalo from New Haven, Conn., with her husband, fellow UB Law clinician Jonathan Manes, and their 3-year-old son, Ezra.
Balancing civil liberties and national security in a new Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic

As a student at Yale Law School, Jonathan Manes worked and studied in two legal services clinics: a Community Lawyering Clinic that provided general legal services in an immigrant neighborhood in New Haven, and a National Security and Civil Liberties Clinic.

The experience, he says, has stayed with him. “That was where I first learned how to practice law,” says Manes, who comes to UB Law School this fall to establish the new Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic. “I learned about the judgment a lawyer must exercise, the strategy that goes into any representation, the complex dynamics between lawyer and client. I learned that cases don’t arrive on a silver platter—you have to investigate facts and craft a strategy that serves the clients’ objectives. All of this became vivid working in the clinics. The experience of representing a client for the first time was both empowering and humbling.”

Manes has research interests in the eternal tension between civil liberties and national security. He worked for two years in New York City with the American Civil Liberties Union’s National Security Project, litigating cases challenging post-9/11 national security policies, including aspects of military detention, targeted killings, and airport security. He also spent two years as a public interest fellow at Gibbons P.C., a large Newark, N.J. firm, litigating civil rights cases, including an appeal establishing the public’s constitutional right to record police officers. Following those experiences he returned to Yale Law, where he helped run the school’s Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic for three years and supervised students in the Veterans Legal Services Clinic.

At Buffalo Law, Manes will direct the newly established Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic, with a portfolio that includes civil liberties and government transparency issues, especially involving national security, veterans issues, and technology and privacy concerns. He will be talking with grassroots groups, journalists, as well as regional and national advocacy organizations about the issues the clinic might work on most profitably from its home base in Western New York.

He hopes that clinic students can give nonprofits and journalists the legal support they need to do government accountability work. That might mean representing reporters or advocacy organizations in Freedom of Information Act filings or other transparency litigation. “Many reporters can no longer persuade their editors or managers to cover the costs of litigation,” he says, “so they are less able to pry information loose and hold institutions accountable.” He hopes to build on the work of the Yale clinic he helped lead, which has won major victories challenging government secrecy on issues including electronic surveillance, federal prison practices, and international trade negotiations.

Manes also hopes the clinic will handle civil rights cases, particularly on national security and veterans issues. “I envision this clinic taking on systemic problems that veterans face dealing with the military and other bureaucracies,” he says. “That could include anything from problems accessing benefits through to data privacy concerns.”

The work could well have implications beyond Western New York. Manes notes that his students in the Yale veterans clinic took on the cause of veterans who received “bad paper” discharges from the military as a result of undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder. The military boards with authority to upgrade these less-than-honorable discharges had been systematically turning away veterans with PTSD.

Clinic students filed a federal class action lawsuit and advocated in Washington D.C. on behalf of individual affected veterans, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and a local veterans organization. Ultimately, the military agreed to overhaul how it handles applications from veterans with PTSD.

A similar opportunity, he says, might present itself in Buffalo.

Teaching in a clinic, he says, means using a different kind of textbook. “The cases that we take are the texts that we teach from,” Manes says. “That’s the course material. We ask the students to take the lead on every aspect of their cases, and each step is closely supervised. It’s a very practical kind of teaching, and I find it extraordinarily rewarding.”
Advocating for victims of intimate partner violence

Judith Olin ’85 prefers a team approach for the Family Violence and Women’s Rights Clinic

Stemming the tide of violence that happens in families – partners hurting each other or their children – takes a team effort.

Advocates increasingly have adopted a multidisciplinary approach to helping victims of such violence, says Judith Olin ’85. It’s a model she has guided as director of the Lee Gross Anthony Child Advocacy Center, a one-stop facility in Buffalo where alleged victims of child abuse can interact with police, prosecutors, child protection advocates and therapists, all in a family-friendly environment.

As Olin leaves that organization to head one of UB Law’s oldest and best-known legal clinics, the Family Violence and Women’s Rights Clinic, she brings with her the knowledge that Buffalo and Erie County are troubled by high rates of family violence – but also the conviction that highly committed students can make a difference.

“Students will have a unique opportunity to engage in advocacy on behalf of victims of intimate partner violence in court and through community outreach and education projects,” she says. “They will also have the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge about the multidisciplinary team approach to child abuse cases, and to work with experts and learn about legislative reform in family violence.”

Students in the clinic, Olin says, will observe as cases of suspected child abuse are investigated, to gain a fuller understanding of how investigators and advocates work together. They’ll also be able to represent adult victims of intimate partner violence, for example in seeking an order of protection in Family Court.

Olin also points to longstanding local coalitions that work against family violence, saying, “I envision the students working with coalitions like that to learn about their work and to offer some legal education to them as well.

“I’ve always been interested in the intersection of law and social problems like domestic violence and child abuse,” says Olin, whose undergraduate work was in philosophy at New York University. “It’s just always been naturally a very compelling area.”

She has followed those interests into a series of positions, including serving as a staff attorney in Neighborhood Legal Services’ Family Law Unit; supervising students in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School; as an assistant Erie County district attorney; and at the Child Advocacy Center, where she spent 12 years. She also taught a course in Child Abuse and Neglect at UB Law for six years.

That class was notable for her use of UB theater students to role-play child abuse victims so law students could practice interviewing children in a developmentally appropriate way.

Law students who are drawn to learning about this area of the law, Olin says, tend to be highly committed. “These are students who are very, very passionate about these issues and committed to working on them,” she says. “This is just what they want to do.”

But the work comes with hazards for the practitioner. “When you work with victims like this, it’s very challenging,” says Olin, whose appointment came as the result of a national search. “Victims who experience violence deal with a lot of emotional issues, and these pose challenges for an attorney who is interested in working with them.

“Part of what we teach is resilience so that students can recognize the danger of secondary trauma, and learn how to manage it.”

– Judith Olin ’85
Smart faculty opinions become big national press

When the media need expert commentary on legal cases that make headlines, they have members of the UB Law faculty on speed dial. Sharing that expertise is a kind of public service, helping readers and viewers to understand what's going on in the courtroom. It also helps to build the school's reputation for great teaching and scholarship on cutting-edge legal issues.

While several of our faculty are regularly called by the press, nowhere has that been more apparent than in two high-profile cases this spring.

‘A change in the cultural mood’

When a jury in St. Petersburg, Fla., awarded professional wrestler Hulk Hogan $140.1 million in his lawsuit against Gawker Media, some saw the award as a victory for privacy rights. (Hogan had sued after Gawker posted a video of him and a friend’s wife having sex.) A Washington Post story quoted Associate Professor Samantha Barbas on the long-term import of the outcome:

“Despite its unsavory aspects, “this case will be important because it indicates a change in the cultural mood,” said Samantha Barbas, an associate professor of law at State University at Buffalo who studies the mass media and privacy. The jury “is essentially saying too much free speech is dangerous. There are a lot of people who are disgusted with the way the media is corrupting the public sphere.”

Some of this is a backlash against the media, Barbas said, but it’s also personal. People increasingly fear the loss of control over their own images and information through hacking or unauthorized sharing via social media. “People are feeling very insecure about their own privacy,” she said.

Barbas was also quoted in the Associated Press, The New York Times, The Guardian, Time magazine and NPR.

‘Tom Brady is all but done’

After the Second Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated a four-game suspension for New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, adjunct faculty member Helen “Nellie” Drew ’88 was quoted widely on the decision. Reporters for the Los Angeles Times, USA Today, the Providence Journal and MSNBC, among others, sought her expertise on the ruling, which came in response to allegations that Brady was aware of a scheme to underinflate game balls during last year’s NFL playoffs.

From MSNBC:

“The ramifications of the Second Circuit’s decision are far-reaching. It reinforces the commissioner’s authority to discipline players in a far-reaching manner as set forth in the collective bargaining agreement. The previous decision was shocking in that it ran counter to a long-established federal policy in which the courts defer to the results of private arbitration processes – particularly those that are the result of collective bargaining,” Nellie Drew, a sports law professor at the University at Buffalo, told MSNBC. “The decision also puts significant pressure upon the NFLPA to wrest away some of the commissioner’s broad authority over disciplinary issues in the next round of collective bargaining.

“From a legal perspective, Tom Brady is all but done. Can this decision be appealed? Sure. They can request an en banc hearing before the Second Circuit or even seek review in the Supreme Court. But it is highly, highly unlikely that such an appeal would be entertained by either court,” Drew said. “The appeals court holds tremendous weight, so the odds are stacked against Brady and the union at this point.”
A new look at the case of an 18th century terrorist in Virginia has brought recognition to a University at Buffalo School of Law faculty member.

**Associate Professor Matthew Steilen**

Steilen’s paper, “The Josiah Philips At-tainder and the Institutional Structure of the American Revolution,” was selected for the 2016 Law & Humanities Interdisciplinary Junior Scholar Workshop. This year, seven papers were selected from what organizers describe as “a very large pool of submissions.” Steilen was the only legal scholar whose work was chosen.

The papers were presented and discussed June 6-7 at the UCLA School of Law. Steilen’s paper will also be published in an upcoming issue of the journal *Critical Analysis of Law*.

Steilen’s research interests center around the history and development of the separation of powers. He says the case of Josiah Philips is a well-known one, set in the years immediately following the Declaration of Independence.

Philips, a Loyalist in the midst of the American Revolution, led a criminal gang that terrorized Virginians in two counties. A contemporary account called them “a party of desperadoes” who had “commenced to rob and murder … peaceful citizens.”

Efforts to apprehend them failed; for one thing, Virginia’s leaders had a lot on their minds. “These militant, criminal loyalists posed a serious challenge for the new state governments formed in 1776 and 1777,” Steilen writes. “States like New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia struggled to administer civil justice and protect citizens across their expansive territories, and in some cases militants were able to operate in essentially ungoverned areas.”

So Virginia turned to Thomas Jefferson, a leading member of the colony’s House of Delegates, who drafted a bill of attainder – essentially a legis-lative “indictment” ordering Philips to surrender and face trial. It accused him of treason, arguing, Steilen writes, that “widespread murder, arson and robbery, accompanied by armed resistance, constituted levying war against the commonwealth.”

Philips was given a month to surrender, but was captured before the deadline passed. He was tried and convicted – not for treason, but for robbery that netted him merely “28 men’s felt hats … and 5 pounds of twine.” All manner of felonies were considered capital offenses in that era, and in December 1778, Philips was hanged.

Steilen is interested in how legislators used the bill of attainder as a law enforcement tool during wartime. “Instead of prosecuting the Philips gang for treason, which was difficult under the relevant English law, colonial authorities pursued them on the basis of felony charges, because the punishment was the same. They didn’t have to meet the procedural requirements,” he says.

“If your state is being invaded by the British army and much of it is not under your control, if you can’t enforce the law by calling out the militia, how do you deal with people who are terrorizing civilians? The bill of attainder was one mechanism for doing this. By passing such a bill, the legislature itself acted like a court and sheriff, exercising judicial and executive power.”

Steilen’s conclusions are based on a study of primary sources, including letters and personal histories written by Jefferson, Patrick Henry and other Virginia revolutionary leaders. The Charles B. Sears Law Library holds much of these materials, and other texts were available through the Library of Congress and online repositories.

He plans to build on this paper for a book-length project on attainder and the separation of powers during wartime: “It’s an interesting way to study the ways in which people engaged in armed conflict thought about how to provide justice in the course of the conflict – when ordinary forms of civil justice in a court of law applied and when they had to resort to other forms of proceedings. It is a problem we still face today.”

The full paper is available at http://tinyurl.com/zwxu6kj.
David Manch '70 was sitting in the student lounge in the basement of the Law School’s old Eagle Street campus. It wasn’t bright; it wasn’t fancy. In walked Professor Ken Joyce, then in the early years of his teaching career. “Professor Joyce!” Manch said to him. “Welcome to our hovel.”

When they spoke by phone more than 40 years later, Joyce remembered that story. Good students leave an impression. And good teachers, of course, can change lives.

The paths of student and teacher have crossed again now that both have entered retirement. Manch has made a major gift to establish the Professor Kenneth F. Joyce Excellence in Teaching Fund. The endowed fund will foster great teaching by making it possible for Law School instructors to enhance their teaching skills, for example funding their attendance at teaching seminars or to watch skilled teachers in action.

“It’s time for me to give back,” says Manch, who built his law career on the tax and ERISA aspects of qualified retirement plans, along with estate planning and wealth transfer. “I got this license to practice law, and I’ve been able to do pretty well over 45 years, and I owe it to those who provided me with the tools to fashion that career.”

He also knew that he wanted to recognize Joyce’s influence on the thousands of students who learned the intricacies of tax and estate law in his courses. “Anybody who had Ken Joyce remembers him,” Manch says. “He had the remarkable ability to teach with intense enthusiasm, and he had an incredible mastery of his subject matter. That combination of enthusiasm and mastery made it really special.”

Not that it was always smooth-sailing. Manch tells another story about the day in his second-year Gratuitous Transfers class when somebody just didn’t get it. “There are always a couple of people who don’t pay attention and ask too many questions,” he says. “And somebody was going on and on, and with the Buffalo law firm Hodgson Russ and the balance of his career with the Phoenix-based firm Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie. “It’s highly statutory, as opposed to having developed over hundreds of years through common law. I quickly realized that that’s what I wanted to do. I like the intellectual challenge of it, and I liked that I could spend time dealing with clients directly, not just dealing with other lawyers. Ken taught tax in such a way that you could really understand the principles behind things.”

Thinking about how to give to the Law School in a meaningful way, and after discussing the possibilities with his longtime friend and former partner, Diane Bennett ’75, he saw an opportunity to ensure that the next generations of future lawyers will benefit from the same effective teaching he experienced half a lifetime ago. And such mentoring will pay tribute as well to Joyce’s own apprenticeship with legendary Buffalo Law tax professor Lou Del Cotto.

The fund is being seeded with Manch’s $25,000 initial donation and a further gift of $100,000 as a bequest. Others who have benefited from Joyce’s teaching, or who have an interest in furthering great teaching, are invited to contribute; visit Giving or contact Karen R. Kaczmarski, vice dean for philanthropy, at (716) 645-6429 or krcacw@buffalo.edu.

“UB School of Law has always recognized the importance of the classroom,” Joyce says. “The establishment of this fund, made possible by David’s thoughtfulness and generosity, is yet another demonstration of the school’s dedication to improving the educational experience of its students and the resulting benefit to society.”

Professor Ken Joyce has influenced the careers of thousands of students.
In many ways, says Loraine Yates, her new job as a development officer for University at Buffalo School of Law is like coming home.

Yates, a Western New York native, was a UB undergraduate before finishing her bachelor’s degree in human development at SUNY’s Empire State College. And she worked in development for UB’s other professional school, the School of Medicine, before spending nine years doing similar work at Buffalo State College. “I always really did want to come back to UB,” Yates says. “I always thought of it as being the place to work or go to school.”

She has a particular connection to UB Law; her daughter Jennifer Yates is a 2013 JD/MBA graduate. “Her experience helped me make the decision,” Yates says. “I could see that the faculty were wonderful, and she shared how much she really loved the opportunity to be here.”

With the official title of major gifts officer, Yates works with alumni who, she says, “have the capacity or the inclination to do something significant, something that will have a great impact. Typically, these are people who are interested in leaving a legacy. I present opportunities for them to become a part of the Law School, to really know the inside scoop and know that their gift is going to have a lasting impact.”

Often that conversation involves planned giving, an expertise she has developed over the course of her career in development. “It’s a journey you work on with people,” she says. “It’s finding out what they want to do first – what do they want to accomplish? And you can keep presenting them with ways to do things that they might not have thought about.”

It’s a process made easier, she says, in working with Law School alumni, because they have a common interest in fostering the excellence of their alma mater. “There are a lot of alumni who love the Law School and are willing to take time out to have those conversations,” Yates says. “If I’m reaching out to 100 people to arrange a visit, I get a flood of responses. It’s not a cold call in the Law School, because of the communications that they’re getting, they’re staying in touch, they’re being invited to things. The law alumni are engaged – I am able to get to the heart of things with them.

“It is wonderful to learn of their interest to volunteer, teach, mentor, support financially. It is equally important to raise awareness and keep them in the fold. It’s more of a relationship than a transaction.”

Yates and her husband, Jeffrey, who also has made a career in development work, now live “out in the country” in East Aurora. Their three daughters, Leah, Eryn and Jennifer, are all grown, and the focus now is on the family’s first grandchildren, Leah’s fraternal twins. They’re 18 months old. There are more than a few pictures of them in Yates’ office. And one as well of the Yateses’ other baby: a tennis-ball-obsessed golden retriever named Bailey.

As a development officer, Yates is on the road a lot – Florida, D.C., Atlanta, New York City and the upstate corridor. But Western New York runs deep. “I am proud to say this is my hometown,” she says. “With all the traveling I do, I love coming back to Buffalo.”

Yates is in 414 O’Brien Hall; she can be reached at (716) 645-2354 or llyates@buffalo.edu.
On the wall in UB Law School’s development office is a row of big black numbers. There are eight of them. They start with a 2 and a 9. That’s $29 million-plus and counting—a tally that is oh-so-close to reaching the ambitious $30 million goal of the Campaign for UB School of Law.

The books close on the seven-year Campaign on Dec. 31.

For Karen R. Kaczmarski ’89, vice dean for philanthropy and director of development, the celebration party can’t come soon enough.

“We knew that $30 million was an optimistic goal,” Kaczmarski says. “There’s a saying in campaigns that if you’re not nervous every day, you haven’t set your goal high enough. I’ve been nervous every single day for seven years.”

The remarkable achievements in pledging and giving that have already been made are testament, she says, to the commitment of the Law School’s 20-person national steering committee, to the leadership of the four co-chairs of the campaign, to the hard work of outstanding staff, and to motivated donors who have seen the Campaign as an opportunity to give thanks for their Law School experience.

The Campaign for UB Law School is key to taking the school to the next level in quality. Campaign gifts are bolstering the scholarship aid available to students, improving the school’s infrastructure, and providing faculty support to retain the very best professors. Scholarship support is the Campaign’s top priority, and Kaczmarski says about 35 percent of gifts and bequests have been designated for that purpose.

The numbers have been encouraging, Kaczmarski says, because alumni and friends of the Law School have taken to heart the “stretch” goal of the Campaign, and have responded with some budget-stretching of their own. Six donors have made gifts or bequests of at least $1 million, including a $4 million bequest from an anonymous contributor. Other donors who might in the past have given $10,000 have been asked to consider a gift of, say, $100,000.

That doesn’t mean writing a check today, Kaczmarski emphasizes. With campaigns like this, a pledge spread over up to five years counts—in its entirety—toward the overall goal. So, for example, she says, “a pledge of $5,000 a year for each of the next five years counts as a $25,000 campaign gift. An added benefit at that level is that if the gift is put into an endowment, it will produce income of $1,000 per year. For many people, that’s the equivalent of their Annual Fund gift. So they’ve effectively endowed their annual gift.”

In addition, the number of bequests has doubled during the Campaign, another avenue for making a substantial financial impact without tapping donors’ bank accounts. “It’s something people may not think about a lot, but in this Campaign we’ve been able to get people talking about that,” Kaczmarski says.

The impact of the Campaign is already being felt. The Law School now has eight named faculty positions, up from just three. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship money is flowing to bright new students. And Campaign gifts have helped create the Advocacy Institute, the Law School’s new signature program that trains students in all aspects of advocacy, and have provided a solid foundation for the distinctive New York City Program in Finance and Law.

Still, until that first 29 turns over to 30, the job isn’t done. The final push is on for gifts, multi-year pledges and bequests to put the Campaign over the top.

“This has been a huge undertaking, and joyful in many ways,” Kaczmarski says. “One of the best parts is when donors see the difference they’ve made—meeting the student whose scholarship they’ve funded, celebrating our students’ success at trial competitions that the students have been able to attend thanks to private donations, learning about a student’s summer fellowship that a donor contributed toward, and so much more. The positive impact of our donors—that is what this is all about, and we are grateful beyond measure for their generosity.”

– Karen R. Kaczmarski ’89,
Vice Dean for Philanthropy
Alumni connections across the nation

THE WIDE ANGLE

Buffalo
GOLD Group’s Fall Social
1. Michael E. Reyen ‘09, Ryan Johnsen ’14 and GOLD Group President Michael J. Hecker ’09
GOLD Group’s Spring Social
2. LAA Treasurer Marc W. Brown ’99 and Hon. Richard C. Kloch ’76
Washington, D.C., Chapter
Annual Fund Reception
3. Mason P. Ashe ’89, Ian C. Fitzpatrick ’90 and Tonya Fitzpatrick

New York City Chapter
UB on Broadway
4. Lila Gutowski and Robert J. Gutowski ’99, chair of the NYC Chapter
Annual Fund Reception
5. Interim Dean James A. Gardner, Annual Fund Co-Chair Christopher A. Wrightman ’99 and Neil E. Botwinoff ’82

Rochester, N.Y., Chapter
Fall Social
6. Franz M. Wright ’14, Kevin M. Momot ’02 and Rochester Chapter co-chair Michelle A. Daubert ’07

Albany, N.Y., Chapter
Reception With the Dean
7. Eileen M. Hayes ’94, Albany Chapter co-chair Caroline B. Brancatella ’07 and Patricia L. Swolak ’94

Central New York Chapter
Reception With the Dean
8. Paul J. Avery ’05, Holly L. Wagner ’05 and Nancy L. Caple ’81
International Chapter
Seoul, Korea
9. Han Kim ’12, Hyeh Jung Soh ’92, Sun Min Kim ’12, Professor Meredith Kolsky Lewis, Assistant Dean Joseph E. Schneider ’02, Jin Hwan Lee ’90 and In Sung Park ’11

For more photos and video visit: www.law.buffalo.edu/forum-extra
Are you an anxious lawyer? Jeena Cho ’03 may have an answer for you.

Cho is the co-author, with former litigator Karen Gifford, who currently acts as an investor and advisor in the technology industry, of The Anxious Lawyer: An 8-Week Guide to a Joyful and Satisfying Law Practice Through Mindfulness and Meditation. It’s the first book that the American Bar Association has published on the topic of mindfulness and meditation.

Cho, who practices bankruptcy law with the boutique San Francisco firm JC Law Group PC, has made a sideline career of coaching lawyers in techniques to help them find their calm center personally and professionally. “I know firsthand the suffering lawyers experience,” she says. “Practicing mindfulness has helped me be more productive, resilient and live a happier life. It’s possible to gain these benefits with just a few minutes of practice each day.”

Lots of professionals have stressful lives, of course. But Cho says that lawyers bear special burdens. “As lawyers, we are constant witnesses to human suffering,” she says. “Clients come to us with complicated problems that the legal process may be ill-suited to address. The economic pressures on legal practitioners are greater than ever. We are expected to win at all costs. We constantly push ourselves harder, to work more, to bill that extra 0.1 hour. It’s no wonder that lawyers have one of the highest rates of substance abuse and depression of any profession.”

For her and for a growing number of practitioners interested in mindfulness techniques, the remedy is not medication but meditation. It’s not voodoo, Cho points out: “Meditation and mindfulness are simply tools for training the mind.”

“The Anxious Lawyer is the first book that the American Bar Association has published on the topic of mindfulness and meditation.”

The book is available through Amazon and at www.theanxiouslawyer.com.
He’s looked at law from both sides now, and The Arthur A. Duncan II ’12 likes being on the right side.

It wasn’t always that way.

Born in Los Angeles and raised primarily in Buffalo by his grandparents, Duncan fell in with a bad crowd in both places. In high school in LA, he skirted the edges of gang culture and suffered abuse from his cocaine-addicted stepfather. Back in Buffalo, he met up with some childhood friends and found himself selling drugs. He served three years in prison.

It’s then that Duncan’s story takes a hairpin turn. Determined to change his life, he enrolled at Erie Community College, earned an undergraduate degree at UB, completed law school, passed the bar and was admitted to practice. Today the former felon is an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Buffalo, working in the litigation department.

Duncan tells his made-for-Hollywood story in Felon-Attorney, a 256-page memoir published by Mascot Books. It’s a no-holds-barred account of his descent into criminality and his arduous journey to becoming a practicing lawyer.

“When I graduated from the Law School, I was 43 with a wife and five kids,” Duncan says from his office in City Hall. “If you’re in a job you don’t like… it’s never too late to go back to school.”

The Arthur A. Duncan II’12

Duncan says he had dreamed of becoming a lawyer, but assumed that dream was moot because of his record. But a supportive professor at ECC looked into it and found that someone with a felony conviction could be admitted to the New York State Bar if he was cleared by the Bar Association’s Character and Fitness Committee. The catch: He would have to complete law school and pass the bar exam before going before the committee. There was no guarantee he would be admitted.

He took the risk. “I believe that God was with me,” he says, “so I stepped out on faith and believed that I could do it.” The risk paid off. But nothing about the journey was easy. After graduating cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in legal studies, he was waitlisted for two years in a row at SUNY Buffalo Law. He decided to spend his 1L year at Cleveland Marshall College of Law, making it a three-hour drive home to Buffalo. He was so concerned with his family responsibilities, Duncan says, that his grades suffered in that first semester. But he buckled down, got the grades up and transferred to SUNY Buffalo Law for his last two years.

Now, as an attorney, he helps with Buffalo’s response to lawsuits as varied as slip-and-falls on city sidewalks to injuries and bullying in the schools. He’s also active as a deacon at First Calvary Missionary Baptist Church and helps mentor young men there, and tells his story in motivational speeches to students and community organizations. He and his wife, Latisha Duncan, are parents to five children.

Felon-Attorney, Duncan says, was written piece by piece as he made his way through law school, and really came together in his final year at University at Buffalo School of Law. The book is one way he can make a difference in the lives of others who are struggling.

“I got a second chance,” he says, “and people got in my corner and looked out for me. I want other people to believe that you can have a second chance and be successful despite something you did in your past.”
Rising up from rural poverty to a rich and influential life

His life reached from one touchstone of the African-American experience to another—from just after the Emancipation Proclamation all the way to the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

In that extraordinary stretch of time, William Johnson Trent lived an extraordinary life. The son of freed slaves, he pursued education with a vengeance, and it took him all the way to a college presidency.

Judy Scales-Trent, a University at Buffalo School of Law professor emerita, tells the life story of her paternal grandfather in a newly published book, A Black Man's Journey From Sharecropper to College President: The Life and Work of William Johnson Trent, 1873-1963 (Monroe Street Press).

The biography was a 10-year project for Scales-Trent, who knew her grandfather since childhood trips from New York City to his home in North Carolina. But, she says, “I only knew him as a college president. I had a sense of him being quiet, sort of settled in himself. His home was right across the street from the college, and I was thrilled because he had a key and we could go into the library.”

It was a long way from Trent’s youth in western North Carolina. Raised in a family of sharecroppers—former slaves who farmed the land in exchange for 40 percent of the yield—he was a plow-hand by the time he was 12. His schooling was meager and sporadic; classes were held only four months a year, when there was no planting or harvesting to be done. Nevertheless, Scales-Trent says, when he was 17, the family decided that he should leave the farm and pursue an education.

He was accepted to Livingstone College, a small, historically black college in Salisbury, N.C., affiliated with the AME Zion Church. Tuition was free but room and board amounted to $6 a month, real money in those days.

The academic challenge was a steep one, too. Church-sponsored black college like Livingstone typically included elementary and secondary, or “normal,” schools. When he started at Livingstone, Trent was reading at a fourth-grade level. Eight years later he had earned his bachelor’s degree, in a curriculum modeled on Princeton’s. He graduated at the top of his class.

From there he went on work in what was then called the Colored Men’s Department of the YMCA, in Asheville, N.C., and Atlanta. The Y, Scales-Trent points out, played a vital role especially in the black community, among other things providing a safe haven for farm boys of any race coming into the city and giving them a place to stay, Bible classes, sports and literacy instruction. Trent had been with the YMCA for 27 years when his alma mater called and asked him to become its president. He would serve for 32 years in that role, becoming a well-loved figure on campus.

Scales-Trent begins her book with the gala celebration in 1950 of his 25th anniversary as president. “They loved their president, they understood his contribution to the school, and they wanted to do him proud,” she writes.

In researching and writing the biography, Scales-Trent drew on her father’s voluminous files, did extensive research in archives and libraries, and even was able to interview former students and teachers at Livingstone, with support from a Baldy Center grant and one from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The students sometimes called him W.J. Go Home Trent, she learned, because he was so strict on discipline. You broke the rules, you went home. In the archives of Livingstone College she found “the most amazing document,” a college catalog from 1887, listing the books her grandfather would have studied early in his time there—then UB Law librarians located the books themselves.

For the author, the project was a foray into the work of a historian. “I started out saying I didn’t understand how he could go from the field to a college presidency,” Scales-Trent says. “I’ve discovered how historians work. They have a jigsaw puzzle and they don’t have all the pieces. They have to go find the pieces, and the picture on the jigsaw puzzle box is not even complete. It was so much fun, I think historians have a ball.”

And her subject’s life, of course, is situated in the larger story of the African-American experience over his 90-year lifespan. “All his life he was serving young black people in the South and opening doors for them,” she says. “He’s a story of resilience and courage and hope.”

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Not to mention very good humor. Scales-Trent tells of the time there was a guest speaker at the college. “President Trent, how long would you like me to speak?” he asked.

“You may speak as long as you want,” the president responded. “We will listen for 20 minutes.”
Congratulations to our 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award winners
May 11 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo

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Honoree Trini E. Ross ’92 with her family: left to right, Kemba Seals, Trini Ross, Khari Seals and Geoffrey Seals

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For more photos and video visit: www.law.buffalo.edu/forum/extra
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Second row: Mason P. Ashe ’89
Third row: Marilyn Tebor Shaw ’79, Trini E. Ross ’92
Fourth row: Hon. Ralph A. Boniello ’69, Thomas F. Segalla ’72

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

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SAVE THE DATE FOR YOUR CLASS REUNION!

Sept. 23 & 24, 2016

Planning is under way for the classes of 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006

Friday, Sept. 23
• Back to School – An opportunity to audit a class. Classes to be determined by fall class schedule.
• Network the Nation – Share your insight into the practice of law or your non-traditional career in small groups with our students.
• Reunion Class Cocktail Party with the Dean & Professors – At The Mansion on Delaware with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.

Saturday, Sept. 24
• Tours of the Law School with our student ambassadors, including light refreshments.
• UB Bulls Football Game (pending start time) vs. Army Black Knights with pre-game tailgating concert series.
• OR experience the Buffalo renaissance during an afternoon on your own – Call some classmates to explore some of Buffalo’s hot spots: Harborplace, Burchfield Penney Art Center, Darwin Martin House, Albright-Knox Art Gallery and Buffalo Zoo.
• Your Class Party – Reunion weekend concludes Saturday evening with the all-time favorite alumni event – the individual class party.

50+ Reunion Luncheon
• Save the Date! Wednesday, July 27, at the Law School in O’Brien Hall.

Comments or questions, contact:
Amy Hayes Atkinson,
Director of Special Events and Class Reunions
aatkins@buffalo.edu or
(716) 645-6224

More information will be posted in the coming months at
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Make sure we have your email address for updates and last-minute reminders!