

Makau Mutua  
named interim dean



Dean Olsen  
returns to the faculty

# UB LAW FORUM

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



## Going global

W I N T E R 2 0 0 8





# Editor’s note

“The world is a book,” wrote St. Augustine, “and those who do not travel read only one page.” So travel with us into this issue of the *Forum*, which takes note of the increasingly international quality of UB Law School. That globalization is cemented with the naming of Professor Makau Mutua, a scholar with deep roots in the African nation of Kenya, as interim dean. It ranges from current students’ globe-trotting internships in human rights and other public-interest law, to scholarly contacts in South America, Russia and Thailand, and to our alumni in far-flung places, including China and Korea. International students are attracted to Buffalo for our LL.M. program, visiting scholars mingle with our students and faculty, and our International Law concentration continues to develop. As the world in which we live gets smaller, UB Law is extending its reach and its influence far beyond Western New York. Happy travels!

Ilene R. Fleischmann

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Former human rights intern Brian McCarthy ’07 with Mama Magazi, in Tanzania.

**On the cover**  
Human rights internships take UB Law students far and wide. As an undergraduate, Brian McCarthy ’07 taught English, math and written Swahili on the island of Zanzibar, Tanzania, through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps International. When he went back to Africa as a UB Law intern at the Kenyan Human Rights Commission, he made a side trip back to Tanzania to visit with a former student, Joseph Shaban Magazi, and Magazi’s family. McCarthy is now pursuing a master’s degree in public health at UB.


# Message from Makau Mutua , Interim Dean

Let me begin by saying how honored I am to have been asked by University at Buffalo Provost Satish K. Tripathi to serve as Interim Dean of UB Law at this exciting time in its history. I also want to express my appreciation to my friend and colleague, Nils Olsen, for his many years of service to the Law School as our dean. We made enormous strides during his tenure, and I wish well in his future endeavors. I look forward to working with our students, faculty, staff and alumni on all the important matters facing our institution. The continued hard work, enthusiasm, and support of our alumni, colleagues and friends in the legal community will be of immeasurable service to me as your interim dean and colleague. In keeping with this transition, I am very pleased to announce several new appointments to the administration of the Law School. Professor Jim Gardner has kindly agreed to assume the responsibilities of Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. In this connection, he is working closely with Professor Susan Mangold to ensure a smooth transition in that office. I want to take this opportunity to thank Professor Mangold for her invaluable service to the Law School in the



past four years. Her devotion, dedication, and energy—all offered with incredible warmth and sensitivity – have resulted in more coherence and greater organization for the Law School’s academic programs. I have also asked Professor Errol Meidinger to take on an expanded role as the

Vice Dean for Research and Faculty Development. In this new role, Professor Meidinger will add to his responsibilities matters relating to faculty development to more comprehensively support faculty scholarship and stimulate broader recognition of their many accomplishments. To create greater coordination of our administrative activities, I have asked Mr. Jim Newton to assume the new post of the Associate Dean for Administration. Mr. Newton will coordinate the activities and services of the various administrative offices in the Law School, and will continue to direct employer relations efforts, national outreach, and reporting to the Law School’s accrediting agencies. These changes come in the midst of the Law School planning process which is underway and the dean search process that is ongoing. I am happy to report to the Law School community, especially our beloved students and alumni, that UB Law is in great shape and is poised to achieve even greater heights.

Sincerely,  



# Farewell message from Dean Nils Olsen

As I complete my term as dean of this extraordinary institution for which we all bear responsibility, it is with a sense of pride in all that we have accomplished together. That is a vital word – together. For it is only through the power of teamwork and collaboration – the magic of talented people of good will working toward a common goal – that great things happen, in the Law School or anywhere else. Individual leaders can set the tone, but it takes a team to turn a vision into reality. And so from this soapbox in *UB Law Forum*, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the contributions and gifts of so many who have made a difference: Our extraordinarily gifted and talented faculty, whose scholarship and collegiality is matched only by their focus on effective pedagogy. The support of our University administration; a great Law School can exist only in the context of a great University. Students and alumni are key. I have



learned as much from the best of my students as I have been able to share with them. And our alumni, in so many ways, continue to contribute to the Law School in myriad ways that make an enormous difference in the quality of the education we provide. I am especially pleased that the alumni have so generously supported my deanship. I deeply appreciate the many increased gifts which have been made to this year’s annual fund in my honor. Our faculty and staff administrators shoulder much of the work of running the

school; their talents have advanced our mission in ways large and small. My family, particularly my wife, Sandy, and our children, have been endlessly supportive throughout my years as dean, and it is to them I owe my greatest debt of thanks. I am not going away! After a leave of absence at the beginning of 2008, I will return to UB Law and continue to teach the course in civil procedure that I have taught for many years, as well as pursue research in the areas of federal post-conviction remedies and environmental policy. I have every confidence that the Law School will continue to grow, improve, and carry on its mission under a new generation of leadership. I look forward to being part of that promise, and to all that we will continue to accomplish – together.

Sincerely,  




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THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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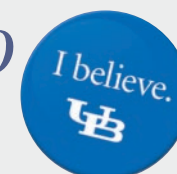
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# Alumni Profiles

## BULLY PULPIT

*Lisa Bloch Rodwin '85 sends a message on 'Oprah'*

As chief of the Erie County district attorney's domestic violence bureau in Buffalo, Lisa Bloch Rodwin '85 is used to speaking in front of a courtroom. But in two highly rated *Oprah Winfrey Show* appearances in May and another in November, Rodwin found her biggest audience yet – and used it to help victims of domestic violence craft a plan to find safety.

Rodwin went on the May 8 show with Susan Still, a complainant whose case became one of the most-publicized domestic violence cases in America. Still was repeatedly victimized by husband Ulner Lee Still, and had his adolescent son videotape a 50-minute assault. Rodwin's prosecution led to a 36-year felony sentence for the perpetrator.

The television appearance was the opposite of the prosecutor's usual methodical case preparation. "Oprah wants spontaneity," Rodwin says. "Her producers told me the topic, but none of the questions – which makes it more nerve-wracking."

"Her whole focus was not on exploiting or sensationalizing one family's tragedy, but using Susan's experience to reach out to women and families across the country. The theme was, this is the day you plan your escape."

Susan Still told her story, and excerpts from the videotape were shown. Then Rodwin listed some points of information for viewers facing a similar situation. "I was told that I had three to five minutes to tell everything that needs to be known for victims of family violence," she says, "both before they leave and after they leave."

Things move quickly in television – and it is a different world from her utilitarian life as a county prosecutor. "We got the royal treatment," Rodwin says. "They made all the travel plans for both of us, as well as my husband and son, who were in the audience. They put us up in a five-star hotel

suite and picked us up in a limo."

And looking good, of course, is Job One. Before traveling to Chicago for the taping, Rodwin had "spent a small fortune on TV makeup" and got her hair cut and styled. On the morning of the taping, she got up early and did her own makeup – only to have the show's makeup artist wipe it off and start all over. The *Oprah* hairdresser, too, had other ideas; "She pulled out a flatiron and said to me, 'There are no curls on TV.'" Rodwin ended up with straight hair, uncharacteristic for her.

Then it was showtime, an experience like no other, Rodwin says. A warm-up person "gets the crowd in an almost frenzied state," she says, and the audience just exploded when the charismatic host took the stage. It is a small auditorium, maybe 150 seats, to encourage a feeling of intimacy, and Winfrey talks to the audience during commercial breaks. "She clearly, honestly cares about her viewers and her guests," Rodwin says. "But she is not warm and fuzzy. She is not a hugger. She is just totally in control of every moment."

Oprah Winfrey

Sometimes Winfrey surprises her studio audience with gifts, often placed under their seats. For this emotional show, everyone got tissues.

"It is a message that I have spent my career trying to get out there," Rodwin says. "I felt honored to be the one who was chosen to deliver this message, that there are choices and that the system is there to help. I loved it, and the producers were thrilled."

So much so that she and Still were invited back for a second show, which aired May 23. Separately, she also took part in

ABC News' *20/20* newsmagazine show with Diane Sawyer, a "much more structured" experience that involved film crews coming to Buffalo three times over the course of a year.

It was a month to remember – in between her two *Oprah* appearances, Rodwin was in Erie County Court, successfully prosecuting a highly emotional two-week case against a man accused of spousal rape. She had just arrived in Chicago for the second appearance when the call came that the accused was guilty – and the victim was on the phone to thank Rodwin for believing her story. "I am standing there in the middle of Midway Airport, crying," Rodwin says. "Other than studying for the bar, May was the most stressful month I have ever lived through."

Her Nov. 7 return to the show came in the context of that spousal rape conviction. Appearing after a series of women told Winfrey about their experiences of being raped by their husbands, Rodwin brought a prosecutor's viewpoint to the common misconception by victims, "Maybe I brought it on myself."

"The bottom line is, if someone is forcing you to have sex, it is rape. It does not matter if you are wearing a wedding ring," the prosecutor told Winfrey. She emphasized the importance of victims' finding a safe place, telling someone what has happened and going to a hospital for documentation of their injuries. The latter, she said, is to counter the usual defense in such cases, which is that the sex was consensual.

Every U.S. state, Rodwin said, now has on its books a statute acknowledging marital rape as a crime.



## ONE-STOP JUSTICE

"A partnership unlike any other" is up and running in downtown Buffalo, serving families shattered by domestic violence and offering a way out for those who live in fear.

The Family Justice Center of Erie County has served more than 1,000 families since its opening last year, says Lisa Bloch Rodwin '85, who wrote the application which won a U.S. Department of Justice grant that made the project possible.

It is, she says, a triumph of community service over self-interest.

"Everybody had to get past all these turf issues and say, what can we do for people at risk?" Rodwin says. "This is the culmination of everything that all of us in this community have done."

Services at the Family Justice Center are free, and the center's client-friendly, client-centered focus ensures that those who come seeking help are treated with privacy and dignity. Rodwin says clients call the shots, choosing from an array of helpers: social workers, medical personnel, police and district attorney representatives, spiritual advisers, and advisers on work skills training, to name a few. The University at Buffalo is represented by its Law School and the School of Social Work.

A forensic medical unit on site at the center, 237 Main St., can provide some treatment and document injuries with high-resolution digital photos for use in criminal proceedings. There is even translation available for 110 languages.

Rodwin is proud that since the center opened, Erie County has not recorded a single family violence homicide.

Publicizing the center is an ongoing effort. One innovative initiative, sponsored by Zonta International, is called Behind Closed Doors. Posters are being put up inside the stalls in women's restrooms throughout the area, such as in grocery stores, health care clinics and movie theaters.

Lisa Bloch Rodwin '85



# Alumni Profiles

## EASTERN EXPOSURE

*Tibor Baranski '87 practices corporate law in Beijing*

In a global business environment, it has become cliché to say that players are operating between two worlds. For Tibor Baranski '87, two worlds are not enough. He has a foot in at least five.

Born in Toronto to parents who fled Hungary after that country's 1956 revolution, he is a citizen of Hungary, Canada and the United States. He is also a permanent resident of Yokohama, Japan. But he practices law in Beijing, China, and lives with his family in the suburbs of that fast-growing, cosmopolitan city.

After studying the economic history of Japan and China at Princeton University, and graduating with honors in 1980, Baranski became the first foreigner to formally complete a course of study in law in China after 1949 when he graduated from the Peking University Law School in 1984. He then returned to the States to study at UB Law School (his parents and older brother still live in Western New York). He also has studied at Yale University, the National Taiwan University, Kanazawa University in Japan and Columbia University. He speaks English, Chinese, Japanese, Hungarian and German.

All of which comes in handy at Jun He Law Offices in Beijing, where Baranski has been of counsel since 2002. From his 20th-floor office, he works with business clients looking to invest in China, especially Japanese firms, with extensive experience in merger-and-acquisition projects.

Jun He, he says, was founded in 1989 and is China's first private law firm; previously, lawyers were state employees. "There are about 160,000 registered Chinese lawyers," Baranski says. "But the number of high-quality Chinese lawyers is 2,000, tops. The rest you can forget about for all intents and purposes. Out of this number, the highest concentration by far is in Beijing."

His firm, he says, "has a very strong attitude of fiduciary duty toward the client. In the United States, the practice of law has become overly commercialized. The trust



Tibor Baranski '87 and his wife, Yan-hong, with their young daughter, Aniko.

between persons, or between lawyer and client, has been lost. They talk a lot about fiduciary duty and give lip service to it, but there is no trust." In Beijing's close-knit legal community, "You do not have to look over your shoulder, you do not have to worry about politicking too much. You can just concentrate on getting the work done."

Working on projects including telecommunications, R&D centers, corpo-

rate restructurings, even power plants, Baranski has established himself as a bridge between the Chinese and Japanese business worlds.

"I started in the '80s," he says, "and I have been doing it so long that the Japanese and the Chinese communities know me. I deal with a lot of Japanese at the high end of the business community both in China and in Tokyo. I am in contact with

them all the time. Clients tend to come to Beijing, but I also go to Japan frequently. I am in Tokyo up to 10 times a year. I have a Japanese green card, so I can do everything the Japanese can do."

It is a rare specialization – "Very few lawyers can do Japan-China legal work," he says. Part of the challenge is the nuance and the complexities of language, managing complex transactions while bridging the cultural and linguistic divide between Chinese and Japanese.

"Language is the ultimate tool for a lawyer," Baranski says. "If you do not read or write the language, you are essentially illiterate; you have no business engaging in the work. Knowledge and language are the ultimate tools."

"American lawyers emphasize how important it is to read and write English well, but then they go outside the border and do not recognize that they are illiterate."

"You lose critical nuances along the way that are absolutely fundamental when you are dealing. The details and words are like a chess game, and they are not fixed. Definitions do change; usages change. You can lose really big deals if you are not careful. It is not a mechanical process."

Complicating the work, he says, is that the concept of separation of powers does not apply in China. "China does not have an independent judiciary. The Supreme Court is beneath the People's Congress, and the Communist Party is above government. It is modeled on an old '60s Stalinist structure." Part of practicing law in China, then, is to network with those in power at all levels of government – central, provincial, municipal and local – in order to more effectively advocate for one's client.

The Chinese education system, Baranski says, focuses more on rote learning than critical thinking. But Peking University, where he has since endowed a scholarship, is an exception – it emphasizes analytical thinking. In that respect it is like an Ameri-

can law school, including UB Law.

Baranski's memories of his years in Buffalo include professors such as John Thomas, now dean of UB's School of Management, and John Spanogle, who now teaches at George Washington University Law School.

Baranski lives with his wife, Yan-hong, and their young daughter, Aniko, in a house outside the city's northeast corner. The population density is low and the air cleaner than in Beijing, he says – better for raising a family. His drive to work is 42 kilometers, about 40 minutes.

And Aniko herself is growing up trilingual. "I am responsible for the Hungarian, my wife is responsible for the Chinese, and she learns English at school," Baranski says. "You have to do it systematically. You have to live all three. It makes your life a lot more interesting."

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*"I deal with a lot of Japanese at the high end of the business community both in China and in Tokyo. I am in contact with them all the time."*

– Tibor Baranski '87

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# Alumni Profiles

## THROUGH THE GATES

*James Thoman '02 repeats as national skiing champ*

James C. Thoman '02 is going downhill fast – and he has the trophies to prove it.

Thoman, who practices bankruptcy and corporate law with the Syracuse, N.Y., law firm Menter, Rudin & Trivelpiece, in March '07 won the United States Ski Association's Class 1 masters skiing championship in Big Sky, Mont. Competing against "a dozen or so" skiers in his age group, 20 to 29, he won all three of the competition's events to take the overall title.

It was the second year in a row that he has won the age-group title. "Last year it was much more of a struggle," he says. "I didn't sweep all three events. This one, I beat up on the other guys pretty good."

"It was a really great trip," he says. "I went out there with a couple of guys I race with in the New York masters series. It was basically my spring break. We went out a day early and got to ski 5,000 vertical feet instead of 500. And you get to compare yourself with some of the best skiers in the country."

Thoman has been skiing since he was knee-high to a mogul. He grew up across the street from Western New York's best-known ski area, Kissing Bridge, was on the slopes at age 4 and was racing by 10. "Some friends of my family had a daughter who was into ski racing, and they talked my parents into letting me do it," he says. "That way I could ski real fast and not terrify my mother." He raced with Kissing Bridge's travel team throughout the state, and kept skiing through his undergraduate years at the State University of New York at Geneseo.

At UB Law, he says, he got involved with

some adult racing leagues and a "beer league" at Kissing Bridge, skiing Tuesday and Thursday nights throughout the season and coaching at another ski area, Holimont, on weekends.

Now, as a masters skier, he is joined by athletes from 21 to "guys in their 90s." "If you are not on a developmental team and you are done racing in college, if you want to keep going, masters is what you do," he says.

The competition is in three disciplines: the slalom, in which the skier negotiates tight turns while threading through "one gate per second, or even less"; the giant slalom, with slightly bigger turns but at faster speeds; and the super G, with lots of space between gates but at speeds approaching 70 miles per hour. Points are awarded for one's performance in each



James C. Thoman '02 on the slopes and in his office.



event, and these points determine the overall champion.

To qualify for the national championships, Thoman competed in the New York Masters Skiing league, a series of races from January to March. He won that series in 2006 and tied for second in 2007 among all age groups.

He also says Menter, Rudin & Trivelpiece has been supportive. "They did a little blurb on our Web site about it. They basically view it as, if not directly a marketing opportunity, one more thing to get my name and the firm's name out there. They are very encouraging."

And working in a somewhat less demanding environment, he says, is important to him. "That is the beauty of working in upstate New York," he says. "You are not

stuck in your office until 9 at night. My quality of life is much greater because I have something like this in my life and the time to enjoy it. I would not want to have a job where I could not do this."

During the off-season he stays in shape, and he gets serious about strength training in the fall to prepare for the ski season. But the course ahead could be tricky: This year Thoman will be 30, and competing against a whole new class of highly experienced skiers.

Nevertheless, Thoman says, the rush is still there. "I have no interest in just going skiing," he says. "It bores me. But when you set up a course and train to race a race, it becomes exciting again. It is a challenge. Even on a 30-second hill, when you have a race course set up, it is exciting."

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*"I have no interest in just going skiing. It bores me. But when you set up a course and train to race a race, it becomes exciting."*

—James Thoman '02

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# Alumni Profiles

*"I never learned to say no."*



## HER DAY ON COURT

*Belle Farrar Theobald '44, a groundbreaking tennis athlete opened doors for women*

Belle Farrar Theobald '44 says she never felt like a pioneer. Times, after all, were different. It was wartime, so for a young woman to find herself in a graduating class of 10 men and six women was less unusual than it might otherwise be.

As for becoming the first female athlete at the University of Buffalo to play on an intercollegiate level – well, most of the men were fighting overseas. It was only natural that the lifelong tennis player would join the men's team, playing two seasons and holding her own on the courts against top-flight opposition.

Pioneer? Not to hear her tell it.

*"The Law School would like to give special recognition to Belle Theobald as a long-time donor. Scholarships and on-campus jobs helped support her education at UB, and for this reason she gives back to help others. We are very grateful for her gifts."*

—Makau Mutua, interim dean

"I just loved the game. I always went out and played with the guys," says Theobald, who at 86 still knows her way around a tennis court. "I loved the game so much I used to sleep with a racquet under my pillow."

On Oct. 5, Theobald was one of seven individuals inducted into the UB Athletics Hall of Fame. She received the Pioneering Award, which honors "the accomplishments of outstanding participants during the years in UB history that women were not given an outlet for their athletic ability."

Theobald was a hometown girl who moved from Maine as a child and grew up playing on the municipal courts of Niagara Falls. She won that city's championship, as well as titles in Buffalo and southern Ontario, and was part of a doubles team that won the national public parks doubles tournament.

She was an undergraduate studying political science when the University summoned her to fill out a war-depleted men's tennis team. In that first match, she won, helping UB to defeat the University of Rochester. She competed on the 1940 tennis team

that compiled a 2-3 record and on the 1941 squad that lost only one match and won seven. She played mostly sixth singles that first year, then second and third singles and second doubles in 1941.

Even though one player from Hobart College refused to play her, "to me it was just fun," she says. "I just loved tennis." She lost her husband in December 2006, but eight of her 10 children, and five of 20 grandchildren, were present when she received her award in October.

At UB Law School, "I hit those books like crazy," Theobald says. At first she worked the graveyard shift at a defense plant, until a sympathetic dean got her a job as a proctor at the law library. She lived not far from what is now the UB South Campus, and took the trolley downtown to West Eagle Street for her law classes.

After graduation, she went into the

Her musically talented family was even featured on a Merv Griffin television show called *One in a Million*. She earned a private pilot's license.

She also worked for a decade as a taxpayer service representative for the Internal Revenue Service – often tackling the tougher questions that came in. "They would just give you guidelines. I would get my books out and research it more completely," she says.

And she did a little traditional lawyering as the need arose – defending her kids in minor scrapes with the law, writing the leases for properties the family owned, advocating for a fair settlement when their home was claimed by eminent domain.

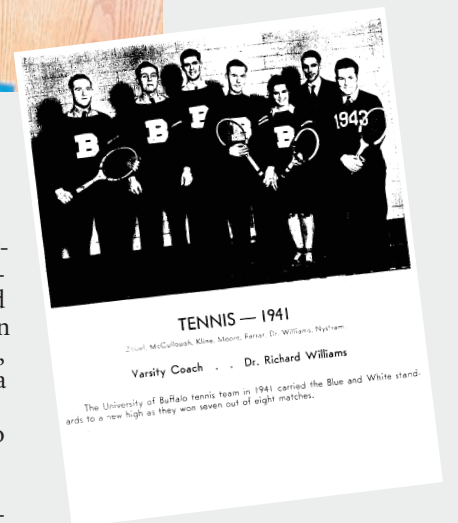
"I never learned to say no," Theobald admits. "I did not do much in law, but it opened the door for me. Because you have more education, you are always asked to do things."



Warde J. Manuel, Division I Director of Athletics, presents Belle Theobald with a letter sweater at the University at Buffalo Alumni Association's Athletic Hall of Fame dinner.

Army as a legal affairs officer, rotating through bases in Maryland, Georgia, Virginia and New Jersey, advising newly discharged soldiers on their legal issues, and winning the Army women's tennis crown in 1946. After her own discharge in 1947, she took her GI Bill benefits to Columbia University, where she earned a master's degree in public administration. She also did coursework toward a Ph.D. in political science at Rutgers University.

Theobald ended up living outside Asbury Park, N.J., raising her family and pursuing all sorts of projects. She served for many years on her local board of education, including a stint as president. She joined the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society.





# Alumni Profiles



## A DOUBLE CALL TO SERVICE

*Elizabeth Beiring Kim '94 helps protect the oceans through her work with EPA*

Elizabeth Beiring Kim '94 renewed her ties with the University at Buffalo when she spoke about her work at the Law School on April 23, in a lecture sponsored by the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy.

But her connection to UB runs deep, because she holds not only the J.D. but also a doctoral degree in marine ecology from the University. The accompanying essay on her life at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. — where she is an environmental protection specialist with the EPA's Oceans and Coastal Protection Division — was written for UB's Honors Program, in which Kim was a

standout student.

Now, as the head of the EPA's programs on cruise ship discharges and ocean dumping management, Kim says she finds her legal skills and her ecological knowledge working together.

"I am not an attorney," she says. "The legal work I do is more on a policy level. I am writing and reviewing legislation to submit to Congress, and sometimes dealing with international law."

For example, she says, she might lead a U.S. delegation at an international treaty meeting, and in that capacity develop negotiating positions or work on language for the documents involved. Recently she has been

working on a new treaty that regulates ocean dumping, and writing language that will enable its implementation once the treaty is ratified.

At UB Law School, Kim says, "I did a lot. I was on Law Review, and I started the *Buffalo Environmental Law Journal* as its first editor in chief. My partner and I won a national environmental law moot court competition at Pace University. In the environmental clinic, we won a great case against a farmer who was spreading sewage sludge. It was just such a fantastic time for me.

"The most important things I learned were about statutes and administrative law. Case law does not figure prominently into the work I do on national and international policy.

"Writing is the key skill here, everything from bulletins, to memos for the highest-level boss, to legislation. Also negotiation — being able to work with all sorts of different people and find the nub of the issue. Going through Law School and seeing the back-and-forth of the cases, being able to think on both sides of any issue — to me, that is thinking like a lawyer. You think in a different way. I suspect that is the basis of being a good negotiator, that ability to see the other person's position."

## FROM WETSUIT TO PIN STRIPE: The evolution of an ocean policymaker

By Elizabeth Beiring Kim

Have you ever been scuba diving for so long—and gotten so cold—that you had to pee in your wetsuit just to keep warm? For a few years during grad school, that was part of my daily summer routine while living on a tiny sand spit of an island in the Caribbean studying the romantic lives of corals. It was a small piece of paradise, made with sugar cane walls and a tin roof, and surrounded by vibrant tropical reefs.

As appealing as that and the underwater wonders of the world's coral reefs are, I traded it all in after finishing a joint law degree and Ph.D. to sit behind a desk in Washington, D.C. I work in the Oceans and Coastal Protection Division of the US Environmental Protection Agency, where I lead EPA's programs on cruise ship discharges and ocean dumping management.

Sure, the job is glamorous (like touring a sewage treatment plant in the belly of a cruise ship at port) and high-paying (after just 10 years I earn well over half what a first-year attorney makes), but that's not why I do it. On a planet of over 6 billion people, I am one of the luckiest. Protecting the environment is my way of repaying the fates.

How did I get here? A long and winding road from the Honors Program! After a very rewarding undergrad career at UB studying psychology and biology, I started a Ph.D. at Berkeley in cognitive science. After my first year, I knew that I did not want to be a professor. So I came back to Buffalo—and to my teacher, mentor, and friend, Dr. Herreid—for a year of thinking and working.

That was when the idea of protecting the oceans gelled, motivated by an article I'd read about Kathryn Fuller, then head of World Wildlife Fund-U.S., who was trained as both an attorney and a marine scientist. That seemed like an excellent combination to me.

So I went back to graduate school and law school . . . at the same time. And once more, UB opened its arms to me. With a great deal of support from the Law School,



*"Having expertise in both science and law gives me have a unique bilingual perspective and allows me to play the intellectual field, dividing my time among scientific studies, technical guidance, legal analyses, policy making, legislative drafting, and even international negotiations."*

the Biology Department, and my Ph.D. advisor, Howard Lasker, I finished this nontraditional combination after eight long, hard years. Along the way, I met my future husband, Kiho, who remains a card-carrying marine biologist as a professor of biology and environmental studies at American University.

For reasons I could never identify, my goal throughout grad school was to work at EPA. (I have since learned that some people are just born to regulate.) After I finished both degrees, I landed my dream job at EPA. And fortunately, by the time Kiho realized I wasn't going to take a high-paying legal job, we were already married.

While being this highly overeducated is not a prerequisite for my job, having exper-

tise in both science and law gives me have a unique bilingual perspective and allows me to play the intellectual field, dividing my time among scientific studies, technical guidance, legal analyses, policy making, legislative drafting, and even international negotiations. And it seems to make my bosses happy.

Now Kiho and I have two small marine biologists of our own. We spent last summer in Puerto Rico, where I taught them the trick about peeing in your wetsuit and renewed my love of the reefs through their wondering eyes. I hope, for their sakes, I can repay my debt to the fates.



# Alumni Profiles



Edwin F. Jaeckle '15



Manly Fleischmann '33

## Jaeckle and Fleischmann: a merger of titans

*Author uncovers the rich history behind one of Buffalo's premier law firms*

Jaeckle. Fleischmann.

If you have spent any time in the Buffalo legal community, you know the names. But you may not know the personal stories and professional accomplishments of Edwin F. Jaeckle '15 and Manly Fleischmann '33, who merged their practices in 1955 to create the powerhouse firm now known as Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel LLP.

A new book by Edward L. Cuddihy, a former managing editor of *The Buffalo*

*News*, brings a historian's eye and a storyteller's craft to the lives of two of UB Law School's most famous alumni. *The Merging of Titans: A History of the Law Firm That Bears Their Names* was a two-year project that began when the firm commissioned Cuddihy to write its corporate history.

"They wanted to do this while there were still people around who remembered Manly Fleischmann and Ed Jaeckle when they were alive," says Cuddihy. One of his

key sources was founding partner Adelbert Fleischmann, Manly's baby brother, who just celebrated his 95th birthday.

"I was happy to be interviewed by Ed Cuddihy several times for this book, and I did the best I could to recall the events and personalities that shaped our wonderful firm," says Adelbert Fleischmann, who is now retired from practice.

Cuddihy did a little research; a quick survey of the *New York Times* database yielded 175 stories on Jaeckle, around 80

on Fleischmann. The *Washington Post* and *Time* magazine yielded more material. Cuddihy decided, "These were big-time national figures that people in Buffalo may not know. They were the kind of people that, if they lived in our time, you would see them on the news all the time."

So he returned to the firm with a proposal that the book comprise short biographies of each man, as well as a corporate history. After voluminous research (much of it by Cuddihy's wife, Irene E. Cuddihy, Ph.D.) and interviewing, the result is a detail-packed narrative of two very different lawyers, a generation apart in age, and the influence each had on the politics and legal community of his day.

"The excitement for me is to get down in writing these two major figures that could easily be overlooked by history," Cuddihy says. "The way people do not get overlooked is by someone writing about them."

In many ways they were an unlikely pairing. Ed Jaeckle was a progressive Rockefeller Republican and a would-be kingmaker who backed New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey in two losing presidential campaigns. In their Buffalo law practice, "he was the rainmaker," Cuddihy says. "He knew everyone in Buffalo who was up-and-coming, and he knew how to get things done. He was the hand-shaker, the back-patter, the consummate politician." Always impeccably dressed, he could often be seen in the back of his chauffeured limousine.

Jaeckle saw politics as a means to the greater end of public service, and he believed in the responsibility of lawyers to contribute to civic affairs.

By contrast, Cuddihy says, Manly Fleischmann, a registered Independent, was "almost apolitical. He was by all accounts a brilliant lawyer. Fleischmann also was on the national stage, taking on positions of enormous power and influence in the federal government.

During the Korean War, President Truman appointed him Administrator of the National Production Authority and head of the Defense Production Administration.

For two years he oversaw the allocation of scarce materials, balancing the interests of an increasingly consumerist society with the needs of the war effort. Said Harper's magazine: "Fleischmann is the man whose decisions determine how many television and radio sets will be built next month and next year. He decides ... how much steel Detroit may have for passenger cars, how much rubber Akron may have for tires."

Fleischmann also was commissioned by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in 1969 to study public education in New York, including the way it was funded, and to recommend improvements. The result was a massive two-volume report, and Cuddihy says, "If you read it today, you see that they were dealing with fundamental issues we are

still struggling with today — financing education, how to serve students with special needs."

As UB Law School graduates, along with fellow founding partner Albert R. Mugel '41, they remained close to the University, Cuddihy says. "Because Al Mugel was an adjunct professor all during this time, the firm was hiring the best people from UB Law School." And, of course, the Law School's highest award is named for Edwin F. Jaeckle. Manly Fleischmann served for

many years as a trustee of the State University system.

Cuddihy says the project fed his longtime interest in Buffalo and New York State history. "The most fun," he says, "was reliving Ed Jaeckle's political life, being able to piece together, step by step, Jaeckle from the time he met Dewey in Saratoga Springs (for the 1938 state Republican Convention) to the time he waved goodbye to Dewey in 1948. I was reading and hearing about Alf Landon and Wendell Willkie. These were names out of the past, but they were talking to Ed Jaeckle. To me, that was real history."

*The Merging of Titans* was privately printed for in-house use, but those interested in obtaining a copy may e-mail [mmcdonnell@jaeckle.com](mailto:mmcdonnell@jaeckle.com).

"Cuddihy did a damn good job," observed Adelbert Fleischmann.



Erma R. Hallett-Jaeckle '36 and husband Edwin F. Jaeckle '15 at the Deans Dinner, 1988.

### From the book:

One of the highlights of Fleischmann's Washington years was the time in the Fall of 1952 when he and his wife Lois flew to the West Coast for a speech. Lois hated to fly so they planned a cross-country train ride back to Washington. But a call from the White House changed that and Manly flew back to Washington on his own. The occasion was a meeting of the Cabinet with Winston Churchill. Fleischmann found an empty chair in the back row of the cabinet room and Winston Churchill came in with British foreign secretary Anthony Eden and President Truman. Churchill quipped that this time, the Brits had come "not for aid but for trade." He praised the nation's program designed to supply the free world with weapons while keeping the economy going at home. He praised the author of the plan and asked if Manly Fleischmann was in the room. To applause from the cabinet, Truman called Manly to the head table where the men shook hands all around.

Later in the day, Secretary of State Dean Acheson held a quiet party for his British guests, and Churchill and Fleischmann had a long chat about defense production. "And mother missed that too," said Manly's daughter Alison. "She was on a train somewhere out west." However this meeting led to a return visit to London in 1957, this time with Lois Fleischmann. (Editor's note: Lois later changed her attitude toward flying after Manly was appointed to the board of directors of American Airlines.)



Manly Fleischmann '33 and wife Lois.



# Law School Report

FALL MITCHELL LECTURE

## CHALLENGING 'THE POLITICS OF FEAR'

*Amnesty International leader says war  
on terror should not negate human rights*



Standing-room-only crowd came to hear Irene Zubaida Khan.

A prominent international advocate for human rights brought her message to UB Law School in October, capping an extended period of teaching and discussion with a keynote address that explored the uneasy tension between homeland security and the rule of law.

Irene Zubaida Khan, secretary general of the human rights watchdog Amnesty International, delivered the annual James McCormick Mitchell Lecture on Oct. 25 in O'Brian Hall to an overflow crowd. Even more watched her address on an oversized video monitor in the room next door. In addition, the speech was broadcast live on the Web, and was recorded for later showing on C-SPAN.

Khan's appearance came at the invitation of SUNY Distinguished Professor Makau Mutua, director of UB's Human Rights Center. Khan consulted with Mutua as she initiated internal reforms that broadened Amnesty International's focus on human rights abuses in Southern Hemisphere countries.

Her O'Brian Hall address followed a two-day residency in which Khan spoke to UB Law students in Mutua's human rights course and a course on domestic violence law taught by Clinical Professor Suzanne Tomkins. In addition, she met with University Provost Satish K. Tripathi, Professor Stephen Dunnett, UB's vice provost for in-

*Continued on Page 18*

“ In the war on terror, the main casualty has been the rule of law. . . .  
Terrorism must be confronted, but it must be confronted within the framework of human rights. ”  
— Irene Zubaida Khan, secretary general, Amnesty International





# Law School Report

FALL MITCHELL LECTURE



*“Fear allows leaders to consolidate their own power. I think today the biggest test of human rights and the rule of law is fear. In the fear of terrorism and counterterrorism, you see the most specific manifestations of fear and what fear can do to human rights.”*

— Irene Zubaida Khan, secretary general, Amnesty International

Continued from Page 16

ternational programs and other university professors and dignitaries.

A native of what is now Bangladesh, Khan is Amnesty International’s seventh secretary general and the first woman, Asian and Muslim to hold the post. She is a graduate of the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, and Harvard Law School.

Khan’s address was titled “The Rule of Law and the Politics of Fear: Human Rights in the 21st Century,” and in his introduction, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor David Engel said, “These issues have remained a central challenge to our society, and it is the responsibility of law schools and members of the legal profession to continue to address them.” He noted that Khan’s leadership of Amnesty International has broadened its mission as an advocate for human rights, and praised her diplomatic skills in pursuit of that goal, saying that her advocacy comes “not in the form of finger pointing or elitist condescension, but in a form accessible to all.”

Khan, a former United Nations official, began by noting that the post-9/11 world is one “where the security interests of the powerful and the privileged override those of the poor and marginalized. This agenda seems to provide security, but it is security for the few at the expense of insecurity that affects lives of many more. This agenda is driven by fear.”

Fear can be a positive sometimes, she said, as in worries over global warming that are spurring ecological action. But mostly, she said, “it destroys our shared humanity because it converts the other into a threat.” She cited the rising incidence of racism and xenophobia in Europe, and increasing anti-Western feeling in the Middle East – “all consequences of fear-mongering” by political leaders who use emotion to build consensus for their own agendas.

“History is replete with examples of

how easily political leaders have used fear to short-circuit debate or divert attention from other issues they do not want to talk about,” Khan said. “Fear allows leaders to consolidate their own power. I think today the biggest test of human rights and the rule of law is fear. In the fear of terrorism and counterterrorism, you see the most specific manifestations of fear and what fear can do to human rights.”

Noting that “terrorist violence as been with us for a long time,” and acknowledging that states have a duty to protect their citizens, she engaged in a thorough critique of the U.S. response to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

“The United States could have treated this incident as an international crime and could have garnered international support for arresting those responsible,” she said. “Instead, the U.S. chose regime change in Iraq and Afghanistan, and around the world they launched a global war on terror.”

And by responding instead as if it were an act of war, she said, “the United States has taken the position that international human rights law does not apply. This is in sharp contrast to international legal opinion.”

Khan specifically criticized American agents’ use of waterboarding, a controversial interrogation technique in which the subject is made to believe that he is drowning, and the presence of secret CIA detention facilities outside the United States. “We do not know what people are being held there or under what conditions. What the president admitted to, in effect, was enforced disappearances,” she said. “This has been a crime under international criminal law since the Nuremberg trials. The irony is, had these secret detention centers been created by another country, they would have been reported in the State Department’s human rights report.”

The U.S. administration, she said, “has tried to redefine torture. It has tried to differentiate between torture and cruel and degrading treatment, though international



Professor Makau Mutua introduces Irene Zubaida Khan

to law students in his Human Rights class.

law treats them as the same.” But whatever the term, she said, these techniques are “actually very unreliable methods of gathering intelligence, because when people are in pain, they will say anything they think the other side wants in order to stop the pain.”

Khan, who became secretary general of Amnesty International a month before the 9/11 attacks, said, “In the war on terror, the main casualty has been the rule of law. You all know Thomas Paine’s words about how the law is king – well, the rule of law is not just about any law. Nazi Germany had a rule of law. Adequate protection of human rights is a fundamental principle of the rule of law. The U.S. administration, by disregarding human rights, has undermined that concept of the rule of law. Terrorism must be confronted, but it must be confronted within the framework of human rights.”

One consequence, she said, is that the United States’ moral authority has been impaired on the world stage. As Russia and especially China emerge as major economic powers, they need to be encouraged to make the human rights of their citizens a priority – but now, she said, the United States is in no position to make that argument.

Khan concluded her remarks by urging “another way of looking at things, an approach based on sustainability rather than insecurity. A sustainable strategy promotes both human rights and democracy. Sustainable approaches to human rights require a global approach and multilateralism. It means rejecting the Cold War style of supporting your favorite dictator. We all get afraid from time to time. It is leadership that makes the difference whether we are ruled by fear or whether we manage that fear.”

And she does see signs of hope, Khan said. As one instance, she pointed to international criminal courts operating in Uganda and Congo, cracking down on the recruitment of child soldiers. But “possibly the biggest sign of hope,” she said, “comes from civil society,” the non-government organizations that serve as a check on government abuses. Last year, she said, Amnesty International and Oxfam conducted a massive campaign to gather not petition signatures, but photographs of individual endorsers, urging passage of a treaty controlling the international trade in small arms. Despite opposition in the United States led by the National Rifle Association, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the drafting of this treaty.

“It is a dismal, dark picture out there,” Khan summed up. “There are many chal-

lenges. But new governments are coming on the scene, new actors are coming on the scene, and what is really exciting is the way social capital is being built, social networks are being built, around the issue of human rights.

“Some governments are fear-mongers; I believe that human rights activists are hope-mongers.”

• • •

*The James McCormick Mitchell Lecture, first given in 1951, is funded by an endowment by Lavinia A. Mitchell in memory of her husband, an 1897 graduate of the Law School who later served as chairman of the UB Council.*



## ‘QUO VADIS HABEAS CORPUS?’

*Distinguished jurist examines the state of the ‘Great Writ’*

One of UB Law School’s longest-standing traditions, the annual Mitchell Lecture, had a historical tenor of its own when Hon. James Robertson, U.S. district judge for the District of Columbia, delivered the 2007 address on March 21.

Robertson, a former Mississippi civil rights lawyer, was appointed to the bench in 1994. In November 2004, he issued the initial decision in a case granting a Guantanamo Bay detainee’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus, a decision that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. He also served on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court for more than three years, stepping down in December 2005 after the Bush administration disclosed the National Security Administration’s warrantless surveillance program.

His address, titled “Quo Vadis Habeas Corpus?,” was delivered in Lippe Concert Hall. In it, the jurist discussed the origins and development of the “Great Writ,” an essential legal tool and safeguard against overzealous government action.

“Recent events reveal how little understood is the writ of habeas corpus, and how much the writ is at risk of becoming a rather impotent legal anachronism,” he said. “The writ has been reduced in our own time to a procedural quagmire for jailhouse lawyers, and it has been treated by our judiciary, I fear, as a nuisance.”

The concept, Robertson said, stems from the Magna Carta in 1215. “Habeas corpus,” he said, “does not mean ‘produce the body.’ It means, ‘You have the body.’” The sense, he said, was “You have the body of William. Bring him to me and show what legal cause you have for detaining him.”

“That was the gist of a writ of habeas corpus in the 16th century.”

Robertson told his listeners some of the writ’s long and complex history, including, from the start, demands for exceptions from habeas corpus in times of threat to the public security. He noted that Article 1, Section 9, of the U.S. Constitution specifies that “the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.” Habeas corpus, he noted, was the only common-law writ mentioned in the Constitution.

The exceptions are where it gets tricky. Robertson cited, for example, an instance in 1806 when President Thomas Jefferson asked Congress to suspend habeas corpus for three months because of a suspicion that Aaron Burr and two others were engaged in a treasonous conspiracy to seize U.S. lands. The House of Representatives rejected the request.

President Abraham Lincoln, too, suspended habeas corpus often during the Civil War. “There was no effective opposition to what Lincoln did,” Robertson said. “His Republican Party controlled Congress, the Southern states had withdrawn, and the courts were at a low point in their power. The president had a clear field upon which to act, and act he did, issuing further proclamations suspending the privilege of the writ throughout the country, and authorizing the arrest of any person guilty of any disloyal practice affording aid and comfort to rebels against the authority of the United States.”

By 1945, Robertson said, habeas had become a vehicle for challenging convictions outside the facts, such as denial of the right to consult with counsel. The number of such cases has grown dramatically, especially in capital cases, spurring the 1995 Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which imposed a one-year limitation on filing habeas petitions.

“So here we are in 2007,” Robertson said. “We have no jurisdiction of habeas petitions by alien combatants or suspected ones; we have no power to hear post-conviction claims more than a year old. Where are you going, habeas corpus? The answer, in my opinion, is nowhere, unless attention is paid to several problems.”

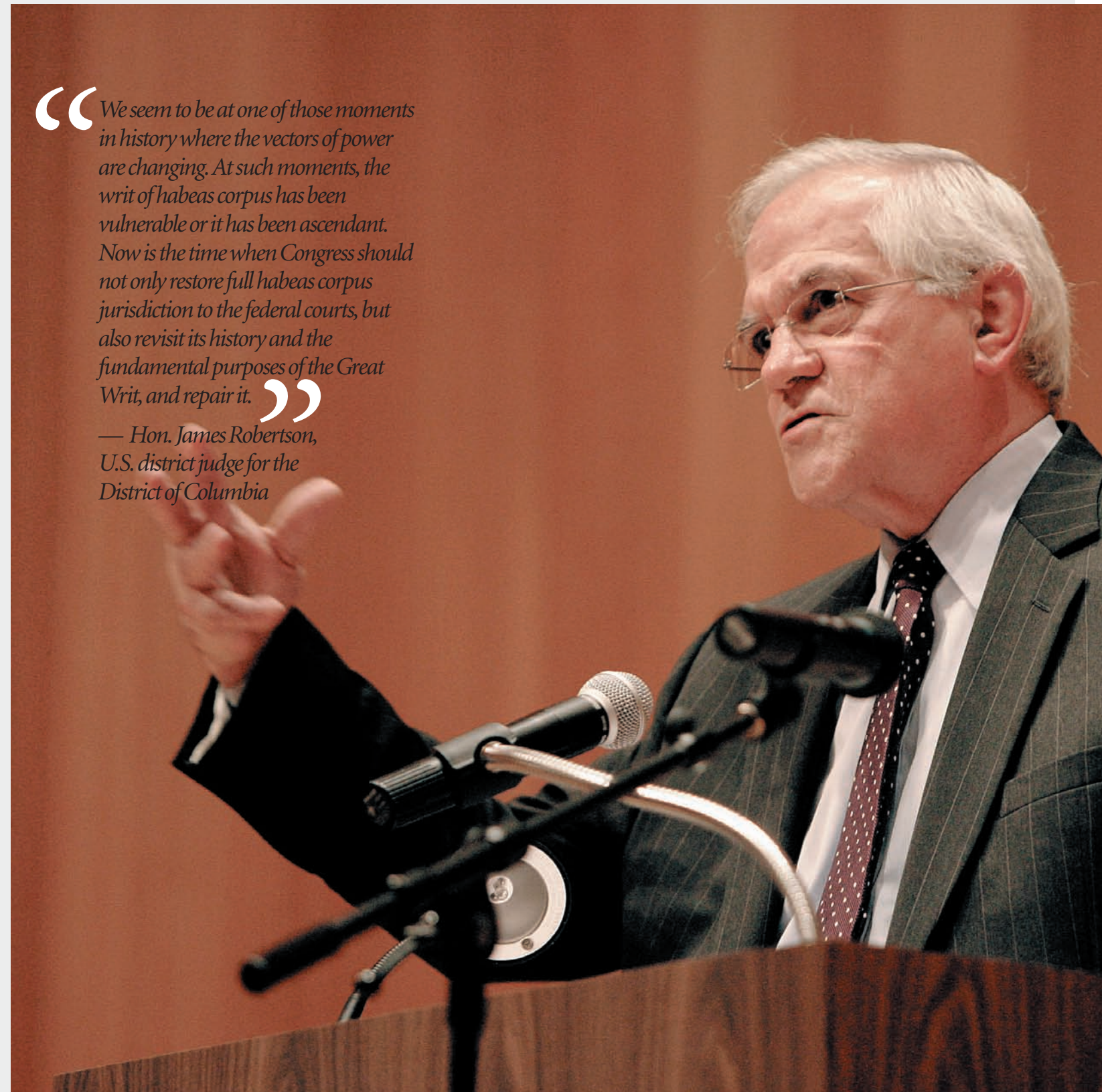
These, he said, include delays in moving habeas applications through the judicial system; procedural obstacles that confront prisoners seeking review of their convictions; and the jurisdiction-stripping provision of the Military Commissions Act of 2006. “When Congress silences the judiciary, it abdicates its historic role in the system of checks and balances,” the judge said.

“Congress may soon consider legislation that would restore habeas to where it was before the Military Commissions Act,” he said. “My suggestion, my wish, is that Congress would do more than that. We seem to be at one of those moments in history where the vectors of power are changing. At such moments, the writ of habeas corpus has been vulnerable or it has been ascendant. Now is the time when Congress should not only restore full habeas corpus jurisdiction to the federal courts, but also revisit its history and the fundamental purposes of the Great Writ, and repair it.”

Specifically, he said, lawmakers should consider “removing or reducing the procedural barriers that so often frustrate habeas petitions; insist on prompt, timely handling of habeas petitions, perhaps by enacting public reporting requirements; and most importantly, proclaim that the federal writ of habeas corpus shall run to any place in the world where people may be detained or otherwise deprived of their freedom by officers or agents of the American government, so that American justice may be and may be seen to be present wherever America shows her flag, projects her power and influence, and trumpets her values of liberty and freedom.”

“We seem to be at one of those moments in history where the vectors of power are changing. At such moments, the writ of habeas corpus has been vulnerable or it has been ascendant. Now is the time when Congress should not only restore full habeas corpus jurisdiction to the federal courts, but also revisit its history and the fundamental purposes of the Great Writ, and repair it.”

— Hon. James Robertson,  
U.S. district judge for the  
District of Columbia





# Law School Report

UB 2020



*The Law School  
will play a major role in the  
University's civic engagement  
and public policy initiative*

## Building up, reaching out

From left to right, Dr. Kate Foster, director of the Regional Institute, and Laura Mangan, special assistant to the Law School dean for civic engagement and public policy. The Regional Institute will be one of the flagship tenants of a third, downtown campus located in the UB Downtown Gateway – the former M. Wile Building.

The Law School is an integral element of UB 2020, the University at Buffalo's far-reaching plan to expand, improve academically, and achieve national prominence. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the segment of the strategic plan focused on civic engagement and public policy.

Now Law School faculty and administrators are being challenged to think in new ways about how their scholarship and service can be leveraged to improve the quality of life in Western New York, New York State and beyond.

UB Law has a long history of making a difference in the community. Such strengths as the school's extensive clinical legal education program, the Regional Institute, and the interdisciplinary Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy have long been a positive force in the community, particularly in the area of public policy. So the Law School is in a position of leadership as the University looks to identify and build on such work.

The new focus on civic engagement and public policy, says former Dean Nils Olsen, "has an educational as well as a scholarly component. It also pulls together a lot of other activities that the University engages in previously without much coordination or self-identification.

"This is an area in which people are already extraordinarily engaged, obviously," Olsen says. "We have a terrific body of scholarship that demonstrates that we are committed to civic engagement and public policy.

The idea is to really integrate this into the life of the University, not only its scholarly life but its engagement with the community."

Dr. Kate Foster, director of the Regional Institute, a research and policy center that is now a unit of the Law School, identifies four ways the Institute carries out this strategic strength:

- Contract work for regional clients in government, business and foundations. Recent examples are a study for Erie County on alternatives to incarceration and a tourism management plan for seven Southtowns municipalities to assess and develop their tourism potential.

- Research and policy studies addressing topics in regional governance, economies and demographic change. These include MacArthur Foundation-funded work on "building resilient regions" as well as the award-winning policy briefs series highlighting regional policy topics.

- Online information resources for media, public officials, scholars, grant writers and other regional interest groups. Prominent among these are the institute's extensive Regional Knowledge Network offering data, maps, contact lists and studies, and findings of the ongoing State of the Region performance indicators project.

- Public forums and conferences that directly engage policy-makers and the general public. These include the October 2007 Symposium on Change in Buffalo Niagara and its Region's Edge series highlighting issues at the international border.

Foster notes also that as UB expands geographically, the Regional Institute will be one of the flagship tenants of a third, downtown campus located in the UB Downtown Gateway—the former M. Wile Building and the newest building on the growing downtown campus, located at 77 Goodell St.

With the appointment of a former longtime Baldy Center administrator as special assistant to the Law School dean for civic engagement and public policy, the Law School expands its role in this important focus of the UB 2020 effort. In her new role, Laura Mangan will facilitate, coordinate and at times help implement applied faculty research involving civic engagement and public policy.

"Faculty research and scholarship is often informed by pressing or persistent concerns," Mangan says. "We want to encourage faculty to continue to do this kind of research. We are a public research university, and part of our mission must be to serve the public."

Mangan has the multifaceted responsibility of coordinating work in civic engagement and public policy throughout the University. In the position, she will work in cooperation with and under the guidance of the Faculty Advisory Committee overseen by the Deans' Coordinating Committee.

She notes that the strategic strength has five initial areas of focus:

- Creating resilient communities and sustainable economies.
- Reaching across borders.
- Improving public health.
- Advancing pre-K through 16 education.
- Preparing leaders in public policy.

In those broad categories, she and her colleagues will conduct a census of current faculty research and teaching, and will bring together groups of faculty from multiple disciplines in each research area. One measure of success, she said, will be the fertile cross-pollination, so familiar in the Baldy Center, that takes place when scholars in different disciplines find common interest in scholarship and research projects. This should lead to more external grants coming to UB; many research grants are targeted for interdisciplinary endeavors.

"Civic engagement is not going to be for everybody," Mangan acknowledges. "Members of the law faculty could be involved in other strategic strengths. Getting the University as a whole to reconsider the value of applied research is one of the great challenges and opportunities of this effort."

Nevertheless, she said, Dean Olsen has been a champion of civic engagement and public policy in the Law School and University-wide, and much recent and current activity in the Law School fit nicely into this area.

The "service learning" work of the Law School's 10 legal clinics, for example, "serves mostly the local community, but what they do sometimes has national and international applications."

Other Law School examples of civic engagement: Law students in Professor Teresa Miller's classes have documented on video the stories of survivors of domestic violence and the experiences of inmates at Attica State Prison.

- Professor Isabel Marcus' longtime research on women's international human rights and domestic violence, including exchange programs with scholars from Central and Eastern Europe, and planned train-

## Regional Institute *Building a better Buffalo Niagara*

One of the signature ways the Law School engages with the Buffalo Niagara community, and exerts its influence to improve the region, is in the Regional Institute. With its mission of "providing regional understanding and promoting regional progress," the institute is a major source of unbiased information for policymakers, as well as a sponsor of scholarly study, conferences and projects that benefit the binational Buffalo Niagara region.

The Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth, as it was then known, was founded in 1997 by former State Sen. John B. Sheffer II, who maintains a presence at the institute as a senior fellow. Under the direction of Kathryn A. Foster, who took over in 2005, the institute has become a unit of the Law School and has broadened and deepened its work. In January 2007, the program changed its name, adopting the shorter moniker Regional Institute.

The institute marked its 10th anniversary in 2007 with a series of events, foremost among them a successful Symposium on Change that convened regional leaders and community members in October. It was also announced that the Regional Institute,

which has been housed in Beck Hall on UB's South Campus, will become an anchor tenant of the University's planned third campus in downtown Buffalo, a key support for UB's push to develop its civic engagement and public policy presence.

At an anniversary reception following the Symposium on Change, Dean Nils Olsen reflected on the institute's work and its place in the Law School.

The realignment that brought the institute into the Law School, he said, "has provided the Regional Institute with an academic home to reflect its dual mission of scholarship and public service. That placement makes sense in a lot of ways, because it reflects the interests that we in the Law School have in common with those who are deeply involved in the work of the Re-

gional Institute, and we can build on the synergies that result from those common interests."

As examples, Olsen pointed to law faculty participation in a research project on the implications of the region's aging population, and in a project investigating alternatives to incarceration in Erie County.

The Regional Institute also is co-sponsoring a Law School conference on governance of the region's water resources, he said, and works closely with the Law School's Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy on research projects, working groups and forums.

"Even though it is housed within the Law School," Olsen noted, "the institute also engages with faculty in virtually every unit at UB, including engineering, arts and sciences, architecture and planning, social work and public health. It truly is an example of how we as scholars can work together, across disciplines, to be a central player in the University's efforts toward civic engagement and public policy."

ing for domestic violence prosecutors in Latin America.

- A planned 2009 interdisciplinary conference on water quality and boundary issues to coincide with the centennial of the Boundary Waters Treaty between the United States and Canada, in partnership with Ontario's Brock University and other local academic institutions.

- The extensive work of the Regional Institute in resourcing and influencing policy-

makers in local and state governments.

- Conferences on public emergencies; law, Buddhism and social change; and other cross-disciplinary matters of public importance.

- Even a monthly report on Community Action & Student Engagement, offering law students opportunities to engage with the community in everything from human rights internships to providing blankets for homeless residents.



# Law School Report

CLINICS: IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

## The Clinics and their clients

*UB Law's Clinical Legal Education Program achieves real-world results*



Clinical Professor Suzanne Tomkins, center, director of the Women, Children and Social Justice Clinic with Clinical Professor Sara Faherty, second from right, and students outside Carolyn's House, Niagara Falls.

As the University at Buffalo rallies around President John B. Simpson's call for greater community involvement and assistance, the Clinics of UB Law School continue their quiet mission of education and service—a mission that they have pursued for more than 40 years. Visits with representative clients of each of the school's 10 clinics reveal a program that is meeting real needs where help is needed most. (Two clinics, the Immigration Law Clinic and the Securities Law Clinic, keep the identities of their clients confidential, for reasons of privacy.)

The **Environmental Law and Policy Clinic** recently finished a project for the Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism. James Isaacson, senior planner, said students “did a lot of research on easements for snowmobile trails from a legal perspective. There is a lot of difficulty in protecting these trails from changes of land ownership and other interests. One way of protecting them is through easements, a way for the landowner to own their land and have some control and allow use of the trail.”

The county, he said, wants to create a network of trails, including its well-developed snowmobile trails and the equestrian trails it is now developing.

“If we develop a trail, we want to know it is going to be there for a long time,” Isaacson

said. “Easements are a tool to protect those trails.”

Clinical students also presented a training seminar for snowmobile and equestrian enthusiasts, in Ellicottville. An audience of about 40 heard a presentation about their research and the basics of the easement document.

“It has been very useful,” Isaacson said. “We needed some good research into this area.”

The **Community Economic Development Clinic** was instrumental in the construction of a neighborhood playground in Buffalo's Fruit Belt neighborhood. Sharon Benz of Daemen College's Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement is a liaison to the neighborhood.

The law students, Benz said, worked with a block club to become a 501(c)(3) organization, helping them with technical assistance but also budgeting and the like. The clinic also helped prepare the funding application that won a grant for the project. “The reason we were picked was that we had this collaboration among local groups,” Benz said. “It was neighborhood people, not imposed from outside.”

“It really helps organize a community—it gives them experience in advocating for themselves, planning, all sorts of things. It could not have been a better project.”

Playground equipment worth \$35,000 was donated, and the block club had to raise \$10,000 to match it. Law students dealt with the issue of charging sales tax on fund-raising fish fries, and managed the legal aspects of other fund-raisers, and the clinic has stayed on as legal counsel to the block club as it considers other ventures.

“I love the law clinic,” Benz said. “I think the students do a great job.”

The **Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic** places many students in legal service agencies, including Neighborhood Legal

Services. Cindy Chandler is a staff attorney in the Family Law Unit there.

“The last intern I had for a full academic year was very knowledgeable about the subject area. It was a pleasure having her,” Chandler said.

“Students do everything from interviewing clients to sitting in on negotiations between attorneys and the court, drafting papers, filing the papers, photocopying, returning phone calls, legal research and writing memos, sometimes going to special meetings such as the Minority Bar Association, the Erie County Bar Association or the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence. Students can even get a practice order so they can appear in court with me and can speak in court,” she said.

“It is good networking for them to meet the people in the area. The Family Court community is a limited number of practi-

tioners, so it is pretty tight-knit.”

Chandler said her unit deals with family offense cases, child custody, support and divorce. Of the clinical placements she says, “Overall I think it is a very worthwhile program for the students and for my office. It helps my office especially; we are not-for-profit, and our support staff is not always up to par with where we need to be.”

The **Affordable Housing Clinic** was instrumental in building Cornerstone Manor in downtown Buffalo. The clinic secured \$10.7 million in financing for the project, a three-story residence for women who have substance abuse problems and their children. With its on-site medical, counseling and educational facilities, and its enclosed courtyard playground, the new facility replaces and significantly expands services offered at the overcrowded previous facility.

Thomas McLaughlin is CEO of City Mission, the project sponsor. “Almost from the first day we met, (clinic director George Hezel) was in favor of the project,” McLaughlin said. “He was interested immediately and wanted to take it back and present it to the students.”

Dozens of meetings over a period of three years, involving more than 30 students, followed. The clinic's work included helping to prepare applications for the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, and following that process through to its completion.

“Because Cornerstone has four times the space of our prior facility,” McLaughlin said, “it allows us to serve up to 120 women and children, many of whom could never have been served at prior facility. They can stay there up to two years; in fact, we encourage it.”

“This has helped us to make a significant impact on the poor and homeless population that we serve.”

Students in UB Law's **Mediation Clinic** help to resolve disputes in Family Court, the Center for Resolution and Justice, and in other arenas where people are at odds with each other. One of those arenas is small claims court. Judge Geoffrey Klein of Amherst Town Court has benefited from having these mediators at his side.

“What the mediator can help do is take the personal feelings out and explain the legal ramifications of where the two sides stand,”

Klein said. “They hear both sides, then give them some feedback back and forth. What they are doing is applying the law.”

“The difference is that they cannot impose a decision. They just try to get the two sides together and have them agree on something. It probably comes down to something I would have imposed anyway. They resolve things pretty much along the lines I would.”

“Each judge has a calendar of 12 to 15 cases. If they can settle half of those for us, they have saved us a lot of time. I cannot compliment these students enough. The only thing they have not done is pass the bar. They are ready to go.”

The **William and Mary Foster Elder Law Clinic** recently settled a class-action lawsuit in federal court, recovering \$11 million on



Instructor Steven Sugarman, left, director of the Mediation Clinic, explores strategies with students.

behalf of nursing home residents who had overpaid for their care. Harold Belote Jr. of Depew is the son of one such resident.

Belote said the clinic helped his family access money from his father's Social Security and pension benefits to help support his mother, who was living independently. Staffers also helped obtain a refund on co-pays remitted for medical equipment his father used, and Belote's father became part of the class-action settlement. The money involved totals thousands of dollars.

It was a long process, he said, but gratifying in the end.

“As I go through the papers now,” Belote said, “this many years later, I am astonished that they could take such interest and do this for us. We never would have gotten this money, for my mother to continue her life, without them.”

Students in the **Law and Social Work Clinic** are pursuing joint degrees in law and

social work, and they serve in field placements in the community, including the Law Guardian Unit of the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo. Pamela Neubeck '87 heads that unit.

“JD/MSW students are getting more legal work opportunities here than they would in a pure social work setting,” Neubeck says. “They are given a caseload in conjunction with the lawyers, and work these cases from both the social work and the legal aspect.” Cases include Article 10 abuse and neglect cases, juvenile delinquency cases and Persons in Need of Supervision proceedings.

“This is not about money. This is about people's lives,” Neubeck said. “The social work background that JD/MSWs bring to this work can be invaluable. It is a plus for us, because a lot of the students come with really fresh ideas that we probably would not have considered. They are not shy about bringing their new ideas to the table.”

“We really appreciate having them, because it helps us, too—from a workload standpoint, of course, but also in keeping connections with the Law School. It is a plus to have a good relationship with the school.”

Wind power has been a recent focus of the **Environment and Development Clinic**, which has done research for the Wind Action Group, a Western New York advocacy organization.

“It has been excellent,” said the group's Bill Nowak. “It is really helpful and reassuring to have that kind of legal expertise available to us.”

Clinic students, he said, have researched and presented on several issues surrounding the development of wind power in the region. One examined the nuances of siting windmills offshore, in Lake Erie, dealing specifically with the environmental review process. “That was very important to have,” Nowak said, “and we were really glad to receive it.”

Another research project examined how to attract businesses that would invest in wind energy. A third examined the Canadian experience with offshore windmill siting.

“There is an enormous potential for Western New York both on land and offshore,” Nowak said, “and we see having these resources available to anybody who is interested in doing that development, and being part of the process, as invaluable.”



# Law School Report

CLINICS: IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

## Sharing ideas at the fourth annual Affordable Housing Conference

The innovative visions of Arshile Gorky, Clyfford Still and Sam Francis mingled with the life-changing ideals of decent, low-cost housing at the fourth annual Upstate Affordable Housing Conference, held Sept. 25 in Buffalo's Albright-Knox Art Gallery. Co-sponsored by UB Law School as part of its celebration of Affordable Housing Month, the conference drew about 325 attendees—from attorneys to financiers, developers to government regulators.

According to Dean Nils Olsen, the work of the UB Law School's Affordable Housing Clinic is part of the UB 2020 emphasis on civic engagement and public policy, which is focusing University-wide intellectual strengths on understanding and finding solutions to social problems that are confronted by the community.

Other sponsors included the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal, the New York State Association for Affordable Housing, and the New York State Bar Association.

Six breakout sessions covered such topics as tax-exempt housing bonds, low-income housing tax credits, a case study on funding, a roundtable on the Qualified Application Plan by which the state allocates funding, "green" building in upstate New York, and the challenges of resyndicating "year 15" deals.

UB Law Clinical Professor George M. Hezel, longtime director of the school's Affordable Housing Clinic, which is marking its 20th year, greeted the attendees and noted that the organizers chose the art gallery for this year's conference as a result of suggestions from those attending last year's gathering.

Deborah VanAmerongen, commissioner of the Division of Housing and Community Renewal, congratulated the UB Law clinic on its anniversary and "all the good work you have done in the Buffalo area." She also addressed recent revisions in the Qualified Allocation Plan, which is the document the state uses to set out priorities for funding affordable housing. The revisions, she said, seek to provide more flexibility, renew emphasis on a project's community impact, and draw new attention to the need for historic preservation.

Priscilla Almodovar, president and CEO of the New York State Housing Finance Agency and the State of New York Mortgage Agency, reviewed recent initiatives in her agencies, including introduction of a new housing preservation program and a plan of



*"The ironic situation is that ... if we do not use green techniques, we are inadvertently*

*going to be causing homelessness even as we try to overcome it."*

*—Sam Magavern, an instructor in the Affordable Housing Clinic*

collaboration with sister housing agencies in the State.

Highlights from a few of the breakout sessions:

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### **"Using Tax-Exempt Bonds and DHCR's Homes for Working Families Program—A Case Study: Olean":**

Roger W. Brandt Jr. of Rochester's Cornerstone Group described two projects in Olean, in the Southern Tier of New York, both of which demolished antiquated public housing units and built family homes "scattered" and integrated into the neighborhoods. They were difficult projects, he said, complicated by a new set of wage rates issued in Monroe County and a "meteoric" rise in the prices of building materials, which led to funding shortfalls for the devel-

opments; tax credits made it possible to proceed.

Former Rochester Mayor Bill Johnson lamented the problem of keeping up with deteriorating housing. Urban mayors, he said, face three intractable challenges: escalating crime, diminishing school performance and deteriorating housing. "The general public is most focused on crime and school problems," he said. "These are issues that almost invariably make their way to the front pages of newspapers and onto newscasts. For the general public, there is less of a concern and recognition of the housing problem. Unless you happen to be living in a neighborhood that is overtaxed and overwhelmed by deteriorating housing, you will not make it into the news."

Lenny Skrill, upstate director of capital development for the Division of Housing and Community Renewal, talked about how DHCR seeks to "motivate developers to use tax-exempt bond financing as a way to pay for affordable housing." Niall Murray of Rockabill Advisors detailed the "jigsaw puzzle" of funding the Olean projects. "We had to fit the pieces together to complete the puzzle," he said. And Darryl Seavey of WNC & Associates noted that the financing for the project was turned around in just 38 days.

...

### **"Green Building in Upstate New York":**

Sam Magavern, who teaches in the Affordable Housing Clinic, gave a run-down on a report that grew from his "Green Cities" class in the spring 2007 semester, detailing the environmental costs of housing. "Green housing is housing that lessens its negative impact on the environment," he said. "All housing has a negative impact, but the issue is how we lessen that impact." The average U.S. home causes 24,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year, Magavern said.

Additionally, "the type of housing we are producing and the emissions it causes hurt poor people the most, both on a local level and on a global level." For example, he said, rising ocean levels because of global warming

threaten hundreds of millions of people in low-lying coastal areas worldwide, many of them poor. "The ironic situation," he said, "is that if we do not pay very close attention to how we are doing our affordable housing, if we do not use green techniques, we are inadvertently going to be causing homelessness even as we try to overcome it."

Walter Simpson, UB's energy officer, warned that much higher prices are coming for gasoline, natural gas and electricity. And, he said, citing a NASA expert, "we are on the brink of catastrophic global warming. To address this, he said, builders must seek low-carbon solutions for affordable housing, such as active and passive solar and photovoltaic energy, wind energy, biomass and biofuels, and hydroelectricity.

As to whether solar energy can work in frigid Buffalo, Simpson showed off photos of his own house, equipped with passive solar heating, solar hot water and solar electric generation. "The electric meter runs backwards," he said. "National Fuel owes us at this point."

E.L. Andrew Padian of Steven Winter Associates, an energy consultant to architects and builders, spoke about the relative energy inefficiency of multifamily buildings, saying they use energy at five times the rate of the average American home.

Even simple design changes, he said, can mean big savings on energy costs. He pointed out a newly built home in Rochester that, with a \$175 investment in energy efficiency improvements, reduced its utility costs by a staggering 35 percent. "Stay away from the energy bling," he advised, "and just do the nuts-and-bolts stuff."

Finally, Michael Colgrove of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority introduced a new Multifamily Performance Program designed to help builders create affordable housing that is energy-efficient. "Our vision across the state is to help New Yorkers in all sectors save energy," he said.

"You are all bringing preconceived notions, and a lot of this is hearsay, to the table when you think about green energy efficiency. The incremental cost is really your inexperience. It is your learning curve. Once you learn how to do it, it will cost you less to build good solid energy-efficient buildings than the ones you are building today. I guarantee it."



Jamestown development project, Appleyard Terrace Townhouses.

Jon Eiler

### **"Introduction to Low-Income Housing Tax Credits":**



Chadakoin Center, in Jamestown

Hezel gave a brief history of the tax credit program and highlighted three remarkable program characteristics: flexibility of use for large and small, rural and urban developments; adaptability to other streams of financing from the federal, state and local governments; synergy resulting from yoking the drive and discipline of the for-profit sector with the mission direction of the not for profit housing agency. To illustrate these characteristics Hezel showed off photos of three successful developments in Jamestown: the newly constructed 20-unit Appleyard Terrace Townhouses; Euclid Gardens, a successful rehab of a long-vacant school; and Chadakoin Center, an elegant downtown building rescued from a 1950s modernization effort, which Hezel said resulted in "a horrendous piece of junk."

Steven Weiss '91, of Cannon Heyman & Weiss, gave an overview of how tax credits produce the money that is needed to fund construction of affordable housing. "The government allocates tax credits that can be turned into cash, and the cash goes to fund the development," he said. "In general, the economics work very well in these transactions. The default rate on these transactions is extraordinarily low, there have been very few foreclosures on

these transactions, and the risk is generally low."

Sebastian Corradino of RBC Capital Markets/Apollo Equity Partners, a tax credit syndication firm, spoke of the role of the investor in this process. The biggest investors in low-income housing tax credits, he said, are banks and insurers, because such investment fulfills their Community Reinvestment Act mandate. "There is so much room in these things that can go wrong that it is remarkable how well they go, and that is a testament to the lawyers who put these things together," he said.

And Arnon Adler, representing the New York State Division of Housing, spoke about the Qualified Allocation Plan and how the agency's scoring system determines how to disburse its finite resources. Among the requirements, he said, is that the proposed housing units are restricted to tenants earning no more than 60 percent of the area's median income.



# Law School Report

CLINICS: IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

UB Law instructor Sam Magavern: “The single most important thing we can do for affordable housing and the environment is to fight sprawl and revitalize the central city.”



## Painting the town green

*Bold ideas on affordable housing and the environment*

Some facts for your consideration:

- Houses cause 17 percent of the United States’ greenhouse gas emissions.

- Flooding spawned by global climate change threatens low-lying coastal areas that are home to 634 million people.

- People with low incomes suffer the most from pollution. In the United States, for example, 20 million people suffer from asthma, disproportionately present in the poor.

- A compact fluorescent light bulb saves its owner \$68 over its lifetime.

Those were some of the startling figures

brought forth in a roundtable, titled “Affordable Housing and the Environment,” held Aug. 15 under the sponsorship of UB Law School’s Affordable Housing Clinic. The forum, which attracted about 40 people, was held in downtown Buffalo. It was presented in conjunction with the Law School’s celebration of Affordable Housing Month.

UB Law instructor Sam Magavern presented a draft report that grew from his “Green Cities” class in the spring 2007 semester. Students from that 13-member class, as well as a panel of local housing experts, listened as Magavern ticked off the

high points of the report, “Affordable Housing and the Environment in Buffalo, New York.”

The overall message was win-win – that environmentally friendly housing can also be affordable for those with low incomes. “You might think that greener housing is more expensive,” Magavern said, “but the research shows just the opposite. Over the life of a home, a greener home will save the owner large amounts of money, mainly by lowering utility bills.”

For Buffalo, whose housing stock is the oldest of any city in the country, green housing is less about new construction

Kevin V. Connors, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Architecture, addresses the forum.

than about “preserving, rehabilitating and weatherizing our existing housing stock,” he said.

That makes housing more affordable. Rents in Buffalo are famously low, Magavern said, “but that does not necessarily mean that housing is affordable.” Nearly half of renters in the city are paying 30 percent or more of their income in rent. “That is the ninth-worst rate in the nation,” he said. “To say that Buffalo has an affordable housing market is very misleading. For low-income renters, that is not so. It is not that housing is too expensive, but that people’s incomes are too low to afford it.”

Adding to the burden, he said, are utility rates that are 30 percent higher than the national average. So weatherizing existing homes, replacing inefficient appliances with Energy Star brands, installing compact fluorescent bulbs, and moving toward solar-powered water heating and home heat, are essential. Such moves not only reduce a home’s impact on the environment, Magavern said, but also make housing more affordable.

The challenge, he said, is to persuade developers and residents that “green” elements are worth the initial investment. “We need to consider the full life cycle of housing and not just what it costs to build it,” Magavern said. “So many of these green features cost the same or a little more, but save money over the life of the house.” And there are benefits that cannot be quantified: the health of those who live in the house, for example, which may be improved when emissions are reduced; and the reduced load on the environment, locally and worldwide.

Finally, he said, “the single most important thing we can do for affordable housing and the environment is to fight sprawl and revitalize the central city. We have all this housing stock in the city. If we demolish it and build elsewhere, we really see a triple impact” in terms of disposing of demolition debris, the environmental cost of new building, and the increased transportation impacts of residents commuting from far-off suburbs.

Before a more general discussion with the audience, four local housing experts added their own comments.

Architect Kevin Connors of eco\_logic STUDIO acknowledged the great architectural diversity of the city’s houses. “We can capitalize on the character and integrity of our housing stock,” he said. “Affordable housing does not have to be cookie-cutter. We have incredible variety here.” He also suggested that Buffalo and Erie County should become leaders in the move toward energy-efficient housing, even establishing “zero-energy affordable housing” as a demonstration project.

Aaron Bartley, executive director of the advocacy group PUSH Buffalo, noted that “poor people in Buffalo are our greatest environmentalists. They consume fewer utilities; they tend to walk a lot more. The car ownership rate in Buffalo is second-lowest in country, so they are driving less

and taking the bus a lot more. So how do we build on that culture?”

Bartley stressed that as the city demolishes abandoned houses, and as developers rehabilitate some houses, it is important to maintain the housing density, block by block. He pointed to the area around the Broadway Market, where only one or two houses remain. “That could be the future of our city,” he warned.

Michael Riegel, vice present of the non-profit housing group Belmont Shelter Corp., spoke about the tricky business of securing funding to build affordable housing. “The extent to which we are able to use green techniques is dependent on the source of funding,” he said. “The rules and regulations of public funding sources – federal, state and local governments – really dictate a lot of the things we can do and the money we can spend. Sometimes a developer may not be rewarded for doing things that will save the tenant money over the years. You get rewarded for doing more for less than your competitors.”

Competition for funding is fierce, and projects are rated on a point system. Fortunately, he said, funders are starting to realize that “green” construction saves money over the long run, and are adjusting their point systems accordingly.

Thomas Van Nortwick, regional director of New York State’s Division of Housing and Community Renewal, spoke from the funder’s perspective and acknowledged the shift in attitudes toward environmentally friendly projects. “We want to say to the development community, it is really a partnership,” he said. “Yes, utilize the least amount of our resources to do what you are going to do. The expense of doing affordable housing is not going down. These green elements can cost more in the short term. We are saying to the developer, we will give you more points if you use less money from us. But we have added points to the scoring for green elements. There is a very high priority to the whole concept of green. We’re looking for ways to encourage developers to use more green techniques.”

Magavern’s full report is on the Web at <http://green-housing-buffalo.wikispaces.com>.



# Law School Report

CLINICS: IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

## Building for the future

### Affordable Housing Clinic launches endowment

One of UB Law School's signature clinics is building on the momentum of its 20th anniversary celebration to launch an ambitious endowment campaign.

The Affordable Housing Clinic, established in September 1987, marked the anniversary with a series of events. They included the fourth annual Upstate Affordable Housing Conference, which attracted about 330 people to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery; an economic justice conference called The High Road Runs Through the City; a roundtable on affordable housing and the environment; and a symposium on supportive and senior housing, held at UB's Center for Tomorrow. In recognition of the anniversary, the University also recognized September as Affordable Housing Month.

Clinical Professor George Hezel, who has directed the clinic since its inception, told WBFO Radio: "We are celebrating the fact that we have helped to build or rehab 2,000 housing units in Western New York. We are celebrating the fact that we have brought \$165 million of economic boost to the western region of New York. And we are celebrating the fact that we have equipped our students at the Law School with the skills necessary to take them into the marketplace where they can get good, productive jobs serving the public interest."

UB President John Simpson has cited that combination of educational value and community service as he advances his UB 2020 strategic growth plan and works to expand the University's strategic strength in community engagement and public policy. The president's "Buffalo Believers" campaign has featured Kathleen Granchelli, chief executive officer of the YWCA of Niagara, who is enthusiastic about the help

her organization received from the Law School's clinics as the YWCA built Carolyn's House, a residence for women who have suffered domestic violence.

Now, as the Affordable Housing Clinic enters the next phase of its work, it has launched a campaign to build a substantial endowment that will ensure its future. As the Law School and the University continue their transition away from dependence on state funding, Hezel said, it will become increasingly important to generate operat-



Left to right: Anthony J. Rizzo, senior vice president and regional manager of corporate banking for Citizens Bank, presents a check for \$75,000 to Clinical Professor George Hezel and Dean Nils Olsen as a grant for the Affordable Housing Clinic.

ing funds from sources like endowments. Until now the clinic has been funded by a patchwork of grants, fees, gifts and tuition dollars.

Fortunately, he said, the endowment campaign is a relatively easy sell for the Affordable Housing Clinic. "The significance of housing for homeless people is hard to ignore," he said, "and it is hard not to feel warm about it."

Income from the endowment will help to fund faculty positions in the clinic, as well as make it possible to bring in adjunct faculty from time to time. "If I am running

the program alone," Hezel said, "there are a limited number of students I can work with and a limited number of clients we can serve. We want to continue the good work we have done over these 20 years, and we want to magnify that."

Administrative support and guidance for the endowment campaign, which will continue over several years, are being provided by Deborah J. Scott, vice dean for development.

The effort has already secured more than \$100,000 in gifts and pledges, and five corporations have provided substantial support:

Citizens Bank, which also gave a grant of \$75,000 to support the Community Homeowners Resource Center at the Clinic.

- Community Preservation Corp.
- Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP
- Local Initiatives Support Coalition/National Equity Fund Inc.
- R&P Oak Hill Development, LLC

In addition, two Law School faculty members – Hezel and an anonymous donor – have each pledged \$25,000 toward the endowment.

The development effort on behalf of the clinic to which he has devoted much of his professional life is a new endeavor for Hezel. He has done fund-raising for Canisius High School, where he served on the board, and for other not-for-profits, but never with this ambitious scope. But he is enthusiastic about the possibilities.

"What we are doing in the clinic is a great service to the community," he said. "In our clinics generally we are providing a very valuable service. The people who are working on the programs know the best and know what the benefits are for the community, so it is only natural that we should be working to ensure their future."



George M. Hezel  
Clinical Professor

1987  
St. Ann's Apartments

1990  
Princeton Square

Hope House

1991  
Ellicott Town Center

Francis John Apartments

Benedict House

1996  
Gratwick Manor

St. Patrick's Village

Thomas Wojnar Apartments

1997  
Trinity Park Senior Apartments

2001  
Heritage Christian Home

2005  
Carolyn's House, YWCA of Niagara

2006  
Cornerstone Manor, Buffalo City Mission



University at Buffalo Law School  
The State University of New York

# Affordable Housing Clinic

Celebrating 20 years of creating high-quality, low income housing



UB Law students have leveraged more than \$165 million in the past 20 years funding 2,000 units of affordable housing in Western New York for low income families, the elderly, targets of domestic violence and persons with disabilities.

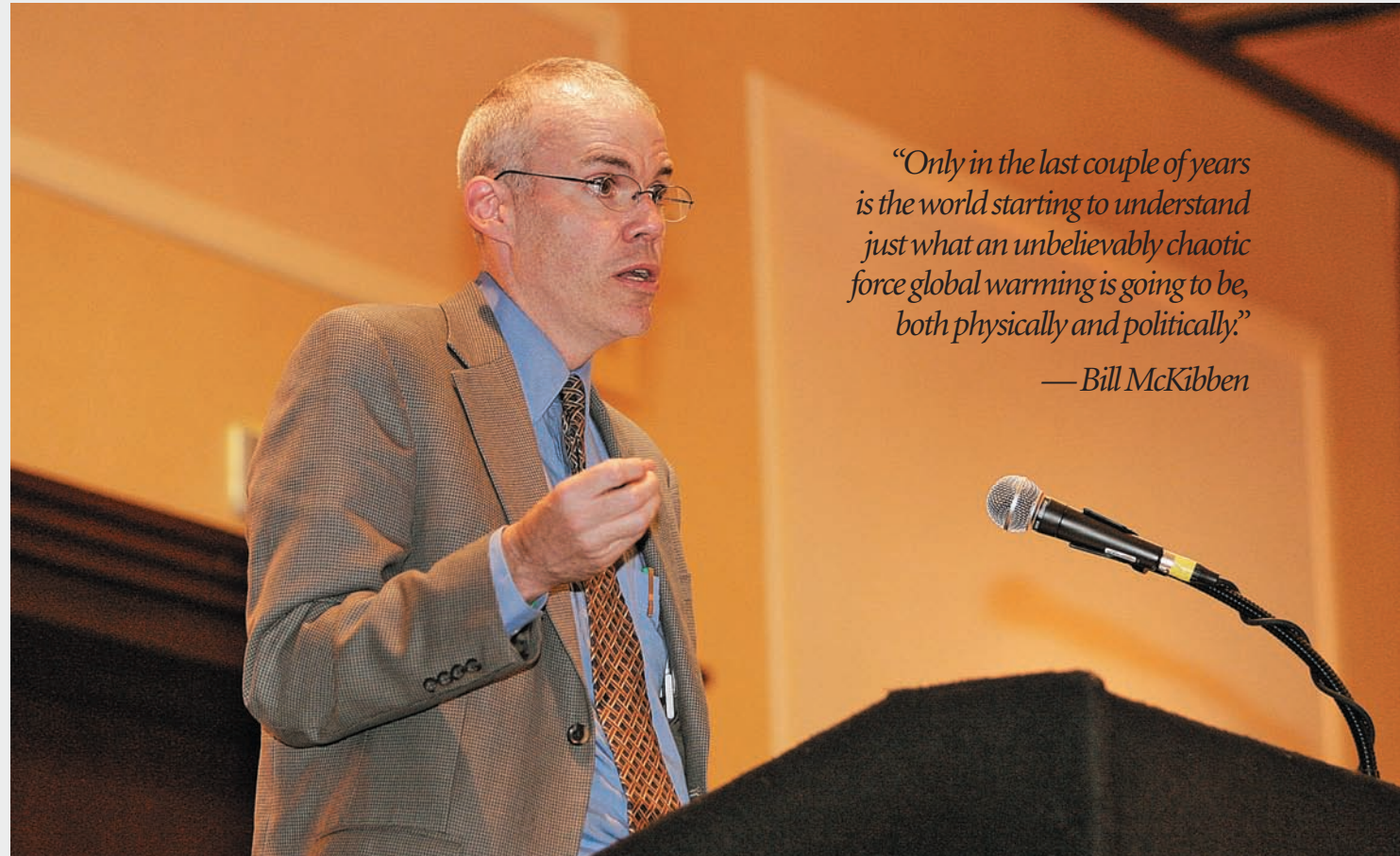
THE UB LAW SCHOOL'S CELEBRATION OF 20-YEARS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:





## Seeking economic justice

*Author McKibben sees climate change as an opportunity for transformation*



*“Only in the last couple of years is the world starting to understand just what an unbelievably chaotic force global warming is going to be, both physically and politically.”*

— Bill McKibben

An acknowledged prophet of the environmental movement gave a stirring call to action in delivering the keynote address of a UB Law-sponsored economic justice forum on Sept. 28.

Bill McKibben, whose book *The End of Nature* first brought the threat of global climate change beyond the scientific community and into the public debate, spoke on the second day of the conference, called “The High Road Runs Through the City.” About 175 activists, academics, students

and concerned citizens heard his address at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Law School’s Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy and the Industrial Labor Relations School of Cornell University, focused especially on the health of cities and featured speakers on the living wage, worker protection laws and accountable development.

McKibben’s most recent book, *Deep Economy*, addresses the shortcomings of the growth economy and envisions a tran-

sition to local-scale enterprise. But his remarks were couched in the urgency of the global climate change crisis as he explored how it might affect humanity’s social, political and economic life.

“Only in the last couple of years,” he said, “is the world starting to understand just what an unbelievably chaotic force global warming is going to be, both physically and politically. The main thing we have learned in the last 20 years is that it is happening way faster and on a way larger scale than we would ever have guessed. We

have set in motion enormous forces, and those forces, as they play out over the course of this century, will constitute the greatest single injury we will ever inflict on poor and marginalized people around this country and around the world. If we are not able to control this, the prospects for most of the world’s and the country’s cities, certainly those situated on the coast, are grim.”

But, he said, not all is bleak. “There are both enormous pitfalls and enormous opportunities afforded by this physical fact,” McKibben said.

“The energy transformation demanded by the fix we find ourselves in offers more possibility for change in a positive direction than we have seen in a long time. This transition to different forms of energy can be the next great driver for the economy.” For example, he said, retrofitting existing homes with solar panels will be a big job, and there is money to be made.

The key issue, he said, is the increasing scarcity and cost of petroleum-based energy. “We are on the verge of losing our magic fuel,” he said – the oil and natural gas that has been cheap, plentiful, and relatively easy to obtain and transport.

And as the world realizes that its oil supply is not infinite, economic and political change will surely follow. “There are reasons to think,” McKibben said, “that what we are now undergoing will, in very profound ways, change the course of economic gravity and cause it to work differently than it has worked in the last few generations. The logic of a world that took global warming seriously is the logic of a world where fuel becomes more expensive.”



Top: Professor Martha T. McCluskey, William J. Magavern Fellow and Professor. Above: Sara Faherty, Clinical Professor.



to become the first people on earth who had no practical need of our neighbors. There have never been human beings before like us.

“The transition has to be back toward a world that takes community at least as seriously as it takes individualism.”

And so, for example, he said, it is good news that farmers’ markets are proliferating – not only do they feature local produce, which takes less energy to bring to market than foodstuffs from across the country or across the world, but they also foster human community. One sociologist’s study, he said, showed that shoppers at farmers’ markets have 10 times as many conversations with each other as supermarket shoppers do.

McKibben concluded with a call to activism by people concerned about official inaction on climate change. “The scientists tell us that we have only a few years

to succeed in this effort,” he said. “And I have to tell you, I am not completely certain we are going to make it. The name of the book I wrote 20 years ago was *The End of Nature*, so I am not the most incredibly optimistic person in the world. But I am heartened by the action I have seen on this.”

As one example of that transformation, he said, “It is quite possible to contemplate that the ascendance of the suburb in our society may be coming to an end. The suburbs were built on cheap fuel – 4,000-square-foot houses, and people driving 60 miles each way to work in semi-military vehicles. That is the world that cheap fuel built. Over time, the economic force of gravity will work in the direction of more localized economies with much more real work being done.”

Besides the economic shift, he said, “we need a real philosophic shift in how we understand ourselves. Cheap fuel produced a certain kind of mass affluence, it filled the atmosphere with carbon, and it allowed us



# Law School Report

BALDY CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY

## A controversy in context



Left to right: Mary Nell Trautner, assistant professor of sociology, Lucinda M. Finley, vice provost for faculty affairs and Frank G. Raichle Professor of Trial and Appellate Advocacy, and author Eyal Press.

### *Baldy conference explores many sides of the abortion debate*

Cut short in 2006 by the freak October snowstorm, a Baldy Center conference on a perennially contentious issue, “Abortion Controversy in Context: Protest & Policy,” came together a year later with sunny skies and a diversity of viewpoints.

“Everyone who came last year came back,” reported Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Lucinda Finley, co-organizer of the conference with UB Law Professors Athena Mutua and Martha McCluskey, “and additional people came who were not able to be here last year.”

The 2007 gathering, held Oct. 11 and 12 in the fifth-floor conference room of O’Brian Hall, expanded on the original premise, Finley said. “The initial idea was to explore why Buffalo had become so much of a center of the storm in the abortion controversy,” she said. “We expanded that to look at the larger context, to shed

light on why abortion is so controversial, to look at the impacts on health care providers, and to look at the legal restrictions that have emerged from this controversial issue.” The interdisciplinary conference included academics, health care providers, practicing attorneys, clergy and journalists.

In contrast to other law school symposia that have focused on the legal doctrines surrounding abortion, Finley said the Baldy Center effort took an approach that included the perspective of the social sciences. “One purpose of the conference was to look at social and religious movements and international activism around both sides of the issue, to get a perspective on why abortion has been an issue of such enduring controversy in our society,” she said. “There was also a subtheme centering around why, at a time when governments in the United States are more and more restrictively regulating abortion, the trend in

other countries is going in the other direction.

“This broad mix of distinct perspectives was thought-provoking and helped advance our understanding of some of the reasons abortion is contentious and the import of different legal regimes around the world.”

Diverse panel discussions dealt with Buffalo’s position as a focal point of abortion protest: whether legal change is more doable through courts or legislatures; the new limits on Roe v. Wade; the rhetoric of the abortion discussion; human rights and reproductive rights; and the experiences of health care providers.

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#### Some voices from “Abortion Controversy in Perspective”:

Eyal Press, journalist and author: “Depending on the poll, between 60 and 80 percent of Americans support keeping abortion legal some or all of the time. There is a broad center that abortion should be regarded more or less as it is regarded in Europe: as a medical service that is a part of life.

“Two generations of women and men have grown up thinking this is secure. There is a sense that they may chip away at the protections, but I will not have to be in a panic situation if I get pregnant. On the other side, the existence of Roe, the idea that this is ultimately in the courts’ hands, has enabled Republicans in Congress and the Senate to speak rhetorically in favor of a goal they do not actually support. This political support for abortion means legislators do not really want to overturn Roe.”

• • •

Betsy Cavendish, executive director of Appleseed, a non-profit network of 16 public-interest justice centers: “There can be strategic and tactical questions about when to go for a big win and when to go for incremental wins. It overstates the explosion of Roe to think it came out of nowhere. There was a progression of cases, and there was some thought behind it.

“A judicial decision has more finality than a legislature. You do not have to pay attention to every committee chair in all 50 states every year to see if you are going to



Left to right: Martha T. McCluskey, William J. Magavern Fellow and professor, and Athena D. Mutua, associate professor

lose the right to choose.

“There is a misperception that the pro-choice groups are all abortion, all the time. They are about sex education, exercising moral agency, oriented toward a broader agenda. But nobody wants to talk about pro-choice groups doing that.”

• • •

Sanda Rodgers of the University of Ottawa Law School: “Abortion is included in the universal, state-provided health care we enjoy in Canada. Sixteen percent of hospitals provide the service. Coverage and provision varies by province.

“Barriers to the service include misleading information given by anti-choice doctors and hospital switchboard operators. Doctors sometimes also delay access, or direct women to anti-choice organizations. Also, RU-486 has not been approved for use in Canada.

“To focus on abortion rights without focusing on those women who cannot access abortion is an insufficient focus – women who are young, who are poor, who have to travel large distances. Our attention has to be there as well.”

• • •

Corinne Schiff of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Reproductive Freedom Project, on the U.S. Supreme Court’s affirmation in Gonzales v. Carhart of a ban on “partial-birth” abortion: “This does not come out of nowhere. It is the next step in a very carefully planned long-term strategy to take Roe apart bit by bit. In Carhart, the court gives a strong boost to the anti-abortion side. Throughout the opinion, women are referred to as ‘mother’ – even women who have never had children. Specialists are called ‘abortion doctors.’ The fetus is repeatedly referred to as an unborn child or a baby.

Left to right: Rev. David Selzer, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Buffalo, Isabel Marcus, professor, and Johanna Schoen, Women’s Studies, University of Iowa.

of life and motherhood in the abortion debate”: “Abortion rights opponents have attempted to cast the fetus as a person, with some success. The rhetoric portrays women as mothers, therefore abortion is seen as slashing the bonds of motherhood. Legislation is portrayed as protecting women from exploitation by abortion providers.

“I argue that defenders of abortion rights should begin head-on by addressing the issue of the fetus as a person and affirmatively reject it as a basis for legislation. This requires that we examine this language of life and motherhood and fetal personhood. They use these terms, and rarely is it demanded in the public discourse that they define the terms. Once fetal personhood is no longer the centerpiece of discussion about abortion, a very different discussion of abortion can begin.”

• • •

Mark Steiner, a professor of communication studies at Christopher Newport University: “It really does upset me when I look at what passes for critical engagement and public dialogue, as someone who identifies with the pro-life movement.

“The rhetorical strategies are really very similar on both sides. If you look at the way the National Organization for Women argues publicly, it is almost identical to the way Operation Rescue argues. In my rhetoric class, I brought in copies of direct mailings from NOW and from Operation Rescue, and all my students had a eureka moment: Wow, all you have to do is change the labels and it is the same letter.

“Each side tries to monopolize the symbols of the debate; present your side as the defender of American values; portray the other side as extremist; and use hyperbolic discourse.”

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Caitlin Borgmann, of City University of New York Law School, on “the rhetoric



W I N T E R 2 0 0 8



# Law School Report

GOING GLOBAL

## LEGAL THAIS

*Professor Engel teaches in Thailand – and UB Law students were there*

“The trip of a lifetime” is how some students are characterizing an unprecedented venture for the Law School: a January bridge course in northern Thailand led by a UB Law professor.

The Law School has a long-established relationship with Chiang Mai University (CMU), located more than 400 miles north of Bangkok. Director of International Programs and SUNY Distinguished Service Professor David M. Engel, who served in the Peace Corps in Thailand and speaks Thai, has for many years taught CMU students such courses as torts and research methods during UB Law’s bridge term. Other UB faculty have done the same, teaching through Thai interpreters.

But until now, no UB Law students have studied at CMU, because instruction is in Thai and the language barrier seemed insurmountable. Then, Engel said, “It finally dawned on me that if I took a group of law students over there, I could be their instructor, and I could teach them in English. My wife, Jaruwan Engel, was born in Thailand and is a former UB Thai language instructor and certified translator. She and I can serve as interpreters when our students hold discussions with Thai LL.M. students, professors, lawyers and judges.”

That is what happened



*“Going to another culture or another society is the very best way to see your own more clearly.”*

— Professor David Engel



UB Law students converse with village monk in Thailand.

starting just after New Year’s, when the Engels accompanied 10 UB Law students to Chiang Mai University for a two-week course, taught in English, on “The Legal Culture of Thailand.” There they participated in an intensive learning experience, including an exploration of the city of Chiangmai and some travel in this mountainous, culturally diverse area of northern Thailand that Engel loves.

Before offering the course, Engel was not sure there would be sufficient interest among the students. But 40 showed up at an information session in the spring, and a rigorous application process involving essays, transcripts, references and interviews produced the final class.

Why 10 students? Engel laughs. “It was for a very practical reason,” he says. “That is how many we can fit into a van to drive everyone around.”

It is said that travel is broadening; beyond that, Engel says, studying the Thai legal system can pay benefits for law students. “I cannot think of anything better for our students than to gain exposure to legal systems, lawyers, scholars, judges, and law students in other countries,” he says. “Going to another culture or another society is the very best way to see your own more clearly. Here, everything about our own legal system seems inevitable. But once you look with fresh eyes, you start to see that, ‘Oh, our system represents this set of choices rather than this other set of choices.’”

The Thai legal system, like many legal systems of the world, is based on civil law rather than common law, although it has been influenced in some ways by the English and American systems. Buddhism is a pervasive influence in all aspects of Thai culture, including the behavior of actors within the legal system, yet in the formal sense Thai law is resolutely secular. This disjunction between official law and its cultural context presents a fascinating issue for

students to explore in particular subject areas, such as tort law or environmental law.

Of the students chosen for the course, Engel says, “They are just an outstanding group. Some have extensive international experience, but a substantial number have never been abroad and most have not been to Asia. Some of the students bring particular interests with them” – such as public health, human rights and women’s rights – “and I am working to tailor the course to include those interests.”

Dean Nils Olsen, he said, has provided some scholarship support to help defray the cost of airfare, and alumni contributions are welcome as well. Engel’s hope is that other UB Law faculty will adopt this model and lead teaching excursions of their own.

For their part, the students packed their bags expecting a life-changing experience.

Juneko Robinson, a third-year student, has a personal interest in Thailand. Her father, she said, was in Thailand on a military assignment in the early 1960s and brought back some mementos – including a model of a Thai ceremonial barge in a glass case.

They kept it next to the couch in her California home.

“As a kid I was so fascinated by this,” Robinson says. “I thought, what kind of a magical place would produce such a magical-looking boat? So when I heard about this program, I knew I wanted to go.”

Robinson, who is pursuing a doctorate in philosophy in addition to her law degree, is interested in international human rights law, and says, “It is important for anyone going into international law to get a working knowledge of civil law countries. Since they are so widespread, it’s most likely that human rights violations will occur in civil law settings.”

And, she says, “It is tremendously personally empowering to go to a place where no one knows you and you are thousands of miles away from everything that is familiar, and still find a way to be able to connect with people. It allows you to look at your own personal experiences and realize how much you have not questioned about your own culture. You really learn how American you are when you leave America.”

For second-year student Jason Wand, the experience was a chance to broaden his travel horizons. “I always wanted to study abroad when I was an undergraduate,” he says, “but I never had the opportunity to do so. I have always wanted to experience something of a different culture. I have traveled in Europe and been to Israel, and I thought Thailand would be an amazing opportunity.”

In addition, he hoped to extend the trip in order to see Bangkok and maybe Tokyo, and to visit a friend who is teaching English in China.

Says second-year student Brenna Terry, “I call myself a human sponge as far as culture goes. And it really helps to have someone who knows so much about the area and is able to give an insider perspective.”

Terry says the Dalai Lama’s visit to UB Law School widened her horizons. “I had realized that culture does have an effect on law, but it had not really hit me until I heard the Americans asking questions from the perspective of retribution and punishment, and the Dalai Lama responded from a Buddhist perspective. It is important to have a cross-cultural experience in general, and if you are going to work in the international community, it is a fascinating area. This was a once-in-a-Law School opportunity that I thought was unique.”



Law students in Wat Phra Sing.

## Making UB into an international university

A faculty task group has recommended that UB build upon its leadership in international student recruitment, overseas education and study abroad to create a comprehensive international strategy and identity.

With more than 4,000 international students, UB is ranked 10th in international student enrollment among U.S. colleges and universities. It is known for pioneering overseas programs, particularly in Asia, and for having one of the most entrepreneurial international education offices in the country.

Making UB into an international university would enable it to better train students for “the challenges and promises of the global community, facilitate globalized research and enhance understanding among the world’s peoples,” according to the report.

*With more than 4,000 international students, UB is ranked 10th in international student enrollment among U.S. colleges and universities.*



## Building bridges to activists



Left to right: Brazilian prosecutor Eduardo Muchado, former General Attorney of the Minas Gerais region of Brazil Epaminondas Neto, Brazilian prosecutor Lais Silveira and UB Law Clinic Co-Director and Clinical Professor Suzanne E. Tomkins.

### Training global lawyers to fight domestic violence

**B**uild a better mousetrap, it is said, and the world will beat a path to your door. Develop expertise in identifying, preventing and prosecuting domestic violence, and the same thing happens.

That is what members of UB Law School's Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic are discovering as they continue to build bridges to activists against domestic violence worldwide. The world has come to UB Law in the person of a prosecutor from Brazil, Eduardo Muchado, and a young activist from the former Soviet

republic of Georgia, Maia Jaliashvili. They are learning all they can, with the expectation that the conversation will continue after they return to their home countries to try to make the world safer for women and children.

"We are talking about some ongoing collaboration," says Clinical Professor Suzanne Tomkins, a specialist in issues of domestic violence. "As a result of Eduardo's experience a program has been formalized where more prosecutors would come to UB from Brazil. This has been a great experience on both sides."

"We are not training academics," says

Professor Isabel Marcus, a member of the law faculty specializing in international human rights and domestic violence. "These are people who can take back the things that they learn here and use them in training others. We become an ongoing resource for them."

In addition, Tomkins and Johanna Oreskovic, director of post-professional education, have been invited to travel to Brazil in March and present to interested parties there on policies and programs that have proved effective against domestic violence. And Jaliashvili has asked Tomkins and Marcus to do work with the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, the NGO for which she advocates for domestic violence issues.

More than the nuts and bolts of legal and social-assistance structures, though, the professors say working effectively against domestic violence in other cultures may mean changing deeply held attitudes. "It is about the transformation of consciousness," Marcus said. "It is not just a law-and-order question. It is a much broader question about changing the consciousness of families and family relationships."

Jaliashvili is in Buffalo under a fellowship that Marcus has privately endowed for scholars from nongovernmental organizations, believing that NGOs "are the watchdog for governments living up to their international obligations." She is hoping that others on the faculty will fund similar fellowships in their own areas of specialization.

"In Eastern Europe there are a number of young, dedicated people who really want to accelerate social change," Marcus said. "Maia is very clear on what it means to deal with these issues in a patriarchal society."

But beyond the imparting of knowledge, the professors said, the presence of international visitors has enlivened classroom discussion of these issues. "This has opened up new doors for our students that would never be opened otherwise," Tomkins says, citing for example Jaliashvili's interest in and knowledge of human trafficking.



*"Something is starting to happen in the domestic violence area in Brazil. The*

*government is so excited about this that we received two prosecutors this month in order to build a bridge to UB."*

— Eduardo Muchado, a prosecutor from Brazil



*"As a result of Eduardo's experience a program has been formalized where*

*more prosecutors would come to UB from Brazil. This has been a great experience on both sides."*

— Clinical Professor Suzanne Tomkins, a specialist in issues of domestic violence

"They are a very valuable resource for us," Marcus added. "We are learning enormous amounts from them."

Muchado works as a prosecutor – a kind of public advocate – in the Minas Gerais state of Brazil. He said his government sent two prosecutors abroad for training – one to Italy to study organized crime, and himself to Buffalo. The Institute of Brazilian-American scholars, he says, "pointed me to UB as a good option."

Now, he said, is an opportune time for his training. "Something is starting to hap-

pen in the domestic violence area in Brazil," he says. "The government is so excited about this that we received two prosecutors this month in order to build a bridge to UB. We just had the first public prosecution office open in Brazil to take care of domestic violence cases" – an office like an American district attorney's office.

Prosecutors, he said, are in a position to effect real change. "We can sue the government in order to really pursue changes in many areas," Muchado says. "That is our major job today, to sue the government to make sure human rights are working. For example, we want to create some shelters, and we can sue the government in order to oblige the government to make these shelters."

"We are pretty naïve about domestic violence in Brazil," he says. "We have treated domestic violence like an anger management program. That is not working. We are spending money on these kinds of programs, and we have to change our focus so we focus more on the criminal act."

Jaliashvili works on domestic violence issues for the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, founded in 1994. With 600 members, it advocates for the rule of law and against human rights abuses, and provides free legal services to needy persons in Georgia. It also hopes to establish a law school in the former Soviet republic.

Jaliashvili helped to create a shelter there – the only one so far. She also works as a consultant on human trafficking, representing both victims of domestic violence and victims of trafficking.

"Domestic violence law is really new in our country, only about one year old," she says. "The experience of people in our country with this is not very high. I am trying to get as much information as I can, to use for my country."

Her organization advises the Georgian government on the drafting of laws, and Jaliashvili said what she has learned at UB Law will help her to recommend how to address shortcomings in the current domestic violence law. "As the law gets older, you understand where the gaps are," she says. "As soon as I go back home, I know what I have to offer the government."



## LAW INTERNS IN AFRICA



Brian McCarthy '07, above, served as a law intern at the Kenya Human Rights Commission and is now pursuing a master's degree in public health at UB.

*Human rights interns tell of a rewarding summer's work*

For two third-year UB Law students who traveled abroad on international human rights internships, summer 2006 was one of high emotion and culture shock – and one when they learned firsthand how badly human rights work is needed.

Nicole Parshall and Aminda Byrd, members of the Class of 2007, lived together in Nairobi, Kenya, as they pursued separate internships in Africa – Byrd working for Urgent Action Fund – Africa, which dispenses targeted grants to women's human rights organizations on the continent, and Parshall with the Kenya

Human Rights Commission.

They detailed their experiences in a March 26 forum in O'Brian Hall, in a program designed to attract the next generation of law students to international human rights work.

It was, they said, strange at first to find themselves in Nairobi, a cosmopolitan city a world apart from what they had known. "We got stared at a lot," Parshall said frankly. "A bus would go by, and every face would turn and look at us. But we got used to it quickly."

Byrd worked in the Urgent Action Fund – Africa headquarters in Kilimani, a suburb of Nairobi. The organization, she said, provides urgent grants up to \$5,000 to women's organizations throughout Africa – "rapid-response grantmaking" with the goal of building peace, seeking justice against gender-based violence, and increasing the security of women and girls.

For example, she said, UAF-Africa has provided grants to help shelter women and girls from sexual violence in northern Uganda, where millions of people have been internally displaced into unsafe refugee camps.

Her own work, she said, "was more focused on collaborative initiatives," especially on behalf of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. This movement, Byrd said, is in its early stages in Africa; advocacy groups exist, but as yet public support is minimal.

During her internship, Byrd attended the first East Africa conference on LGBTI rights, a four-day gathering that brought together advocates to define common goals and attracted funders looking for a targeted way to provide grants. She also was at the second Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights, where the Kenyan vice president spoke and where LGBTI issues also drew wide interest.

Primarily, though, her task was to work on a training manual on the International Criminal Court from a gender-based perspective. The manual, she said, is being used to train judges and lawyers in African countries.

Parshall spoke of her work with the Kenya Human Rights Commission, a non-

governmental organization founded in 1992 partly by UB Law Professor Makau Mutua to address civil and political violations under the government of former Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi.

Her internship, she said, centered on a lawsuit filed against the British government, which previously ruled Kenya as a colony, by survivors of torture imposed on native rebels in what is now known as the Mau Mau rebellion. The British government in 1953 declared a state of emergency in Kenya in response to several tribal uprisings, and put up concentration camps where thousands of people died – perhaps as many as 90,000. "This history is very much buried," Parshall said.

Her work involved traveling out of Nairobi to gather statements from survivors of sexual violence from this time, women who now are in their 70s and 80s. "These were intense sessions," she said, "because you were talking to women who had never spoken of the type of sexual torture they went through." It was, she said, difficult to listen to these tales of inhumanity, and there were plenty of tears on both sides – though some of the women were fiercely proud of having survived these atrocities.

Parshall also worked on media aspects of the case, trying to get media coverage of the lawsuit in Britain as well as Kenya, and wrote grant proposals seeking funding to finance the lawsuit.

Life in Nairobi, the former interns said, could be harrowing – especially in traffic. There are no traffic lights or yield signs; "Kenya has the highest rate of traffic fatalities in Africa," Byrd said.

There was also time for a little R&R, in the form of a four-day trip to a coastal resort called Tiwi Beach, where for \$35 apiece per night they enjoyed comfortable accommodations and, for a couple of dollars more, the services of a talented Swahili chef, who cooked them a lunch and dinner feast featuring fresh tuna, crab and prawns.

UB Law's international human rights internships are sponsored by the Buffalo Human Rights Center. Both Byrd and Parshall received partial support for their internships through the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program.



Nicole Parshall '07

*"These were intense sessions because you were talking to women who had never spoken of the type of sexual torture they went through."*



Aminda Byrd '07

*Byrd worked in the Urgent Action Fund with the goal of building peace, seeking justice against gender-based violence, and increasing the security of women and girls.*





*“Pakistan is going through a lot right now in terms of its democracy. It is trying to find its democratic voice. My role with this organization was to provide knowledge and advice, and to answer questions.”*

—Emily Conley '08, above left, in Pakistan

## How I spent my summer

*Students' public-interest internships range far and wide*

From Buffalo to Europe, the Middle East and Africa, more than two dozen UB Law students spent the summer exploring the byways of public-interest legal work. All benefited from cash grants made by the student-run Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, which raises money to make it possible for students to take unpaid or low-paying internships in public service.

UB Law Forum conversed with a handful of students about the lessons of the summer, and found that the richness of the experience was greater than any paycheck.

...

The work that Alex Karsten '08 did for the International Justice Network was notable not only for its content, but for its form. The IJC is run out of New York City, but Karsten said the start-up organization is pioneering an essentially paperless office. So he bought a laptop and, for 35 hours a week, telecommuted from Buffalo.

The group's stated goal is to “lead human rights initiatives around the world by providing direct legal assistance and expertise to victims of human rights abuses and by creating a global network of legal professionals, non-governmental organizations and community-based human rights advocates in order to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law.” In his summer work, Karsten worked on several projects, including filing habeas corpus petitions on behalf of detainees at the U.S. air base in Bagram, Afghanistan; creating a “contact point” for justice advocacy groups in Namibia; and working on the IJC's Web site and extranet, which allows interested parties to share documents.

“I am getting hands-on training in areas of technology that I really feel has begun to revolutionize the public-interest area,” he said. “We really do not have simple locational issues, and locational limitations are not going to be a stumbling block. We have attorneys in California, and it is not a big deal. I really am getting in on the ground floor not only of an amazing new organization, but using this new technology every day. It puts me in a great position for any other projects or organizations that use this technology.”

Working remotely, he said, is no handicap — in fact, it made it possible for him to hold down a paying job at the same time. “I do not necessarily feel that I am missing out on anything,” Karsten said. “I communicate with my boss multiple times a day via e-mail, we have a staff conference every week that we do through a conference call, and quite honestly, the amount that the attorneys are out of the office anyway, it really does not make much of a difference. Plus I am able to get

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my research done at midnight when I am ready to do that. It allows me to be employed and do this really important work that I love to do without having to swamp myself by taking out another loan. “It has really been a great and rewarding summer.”

• • •  
The long arm of the U.S. Navy sometimes gets stung with civil lawsuits, and they end up in the small Maritime and Admiralty Law office in Washington, D.C. That’s where **Ericka Ensign ’09** spent her summer as one of 28 interns nationwide in the Navy’s Judge Advocate General Corps. The office, she said, dealt with legal action arising from “any incident on navigable waters involving the U.S. Navy.” For instance, she said, if a visitor to a decommissioned vessel serving as a floating museum breaks his arm, her office would handle the claim. Or maybe an aircraft carrier was in the wrong place at the wrong time in the Persian Gulf, or a fisherman off the coast of South Korea has his ship damaged by a Navy vessel. International law often comes into play in these civil claims.

She and the lawyers in Maritime and Admiralty Law determine the legitimacy of each claim, evaluate whether the requested relief is reasonable, and examine whether the claimant has some culpability in the situation. The work, she said, involves drafting letters to be sent, writing releases that will indemnify the U.S. government following a payout, and dealing with government representatives around the world about claims.

Part of the office’s culture, she said, is that there is a lot of teaching and training going on, and even some of the staff attorneys are quite new to the job. “They are very used to people learning as they go and asking a lot of questions,” she said.

“It is a great experience directly out of my first year of law school,” Ensign said. “I am doing so many different things.” She cites the diversity of the work and its depth – “It is trial by fire. You are given things to do that are worth doing.” And, she said, she is

impressed by the caliber of the people she works with. “The nature of the selection process is competitive, and it selects for a good diverse work force to begin with. There is something in them that makes it so they want to do it. They are not in it for the money. These are good people working toward a common goal.”

The unpaid internship has left Ensign with a goal of her own: a permanent commission as a Navy JAG officer after law school. She has submitted her application.

• • •  
**Darice Dinsmore ’09** grew up in Utah and for the summer lived with her mother in the tiny town of Bluff, Utah. But her internship with DNA Legal Services Inc. in Mexican Hat exposed her to a culture unlike she had ever known.

DNA (the name is an acronym for Indian words meaning “Lawyers for the Revitalization of the People”) serves Navajo, Ute and Hopi people on the largest Indian reservation in the United States, called the Navajo Nation. Working there enabled her to live at home and do meaningful legal work in this underserved community. Budget cuts have reduced a four-attorney office to a single lawyer, so Dinsmore came into a situation where dozens of open cases had languished.

She worked on some contracts and guardianship cases, she said, but mostly she tackled a pile of pending divorces, contacting clients to see whether they wanted to proceed with the divorce, and arranging to file the necessary paperwork.

That was more difficult than it might seem. Many on the reservation have no telephones, and often she had to work with a translator. “It is pretty easy to disappear” on the reservation, she said, so finding both parties in an action proved challenging.

“The hardest part,” she said, “is hearing about their situation now. A lot of these women are coming to us because they are losing their benefits. They cannot locate the father, the father’s name is not on the birth certificate, and social services agencies say, ‘If you do not show us your divorce papers, you are cut off from benefits.’”



Left to right:  
With native Africans,  
**Stefanie A. Svoren ’09**,  
**Jodi-Kay Williams ’09**  
and **Sarah B. Brancatella ’09**

And the poverty of her clients, she said, was shocking. “You realize that a lot of people live without running water,” she said. “There is a gas station, and they bring their trucks to the gas station and fill up their water tanks. A lot of people do not have electricity. We hear every day about Third World nations in such poverty, but it is happening right here.”

“But I definitely learned a lot about how the Navajo Nation works and how they have their own legal system and it does work. They would rather the parties would talk it out than go straight to court. I think it is a good approach to law.”

And the drive to and from work, she said, could not be beat. “It is a 30-minute commute,” Dinsmore said, “but it is probably one of the prettiest commutes you will ever have.”

• • •  
As BPILP’s vice president for fundraising last year, **Emily Conley ’08** knows how big a part alumni contributions play in enabling public-interest internships. Many who have worked in such internships, she said, now give regularly to the organization.

Her own summer experience this year took an unexpected turn when Islamabad,

Pakistan – where she worked for the Human Development Foundation – was rocked by suicide bombings.

“In light of all the violence that broke out in Islamabad in July, I was very lucky to be living with a family,” she said. “They were able to tell me where I should go and where not to go. From the day they picked me up at the airport, I was very well taken care of.”

The Human Development Foundation works in community development in a number of countries. In Pakistan, the group runs literacy programs, sponsors immunization and malaria prevention programs, and establishes schools for girls in remote villages where often education is reserved for boys.

The work, she said, was not traditional legal work. “Last year I worked in a law office, and I was going to court,” she said. “That is clearly legal work. Working at an NGO is a little harder because it is more about policy. I taught workshops about American democracy and how it works. Pakistan is going through a lot right now in terms of its democracy. It is trying to find its democratic voice. My role with this organization was to provide knowledge and advice, and to answer questions.”

After violence struck Islamabad, Conley

spent the last four weeks of her internship working from home. “One of the suicide attacks took place two blocks from my office, two hours after I left work that day,” she said. “After that we decided, no more office for me. That was part of the learning experience for me. Not everywhere in the world is safe, and part of working over there was adapting to the climate so I could be safe.” She also adopted traditional Pakistani dress so as not to stand out as an American.

But despite the turmoil, she said, “I had one of the best summers of my life, because I lived with wonderful people who took me in and made me a member of their family. Everyone made me feel so welcome and so at home, and they really went out of their way to make sure I was happy and comfortable.”

“I left feeling like I had a second family and a second home.”

• • •  
**Jodi-Kay Williams ’09** learned a little Swahili and a lot of international law during the summer she spent in Nairobi, Kenya, working for Urgent Action Fund-Africa, a grant-making organization for women’s human rights.

Her work was mostly research-oriented, she said, exploring Kenyan and internation-

al law on issues that affect women’s health.

“Because a lot of the African nations were colonized,” she said, “many of their laws originated in Europe. There is a lot that is antiquated and needs to change to meet the changing needs of the people there.”

A major project revolved around the issue of maternal mortality – the many women who die each year because they seek out abortions, which are illegal in Kenya. Williams researched abortion law and statistics, and took part in a mock tribunal in Nairobi around the question, should abortion be legalized in Kenya?

The tribunal addressed other possible solutions to maternal mortality as well, she said, such as adoption, orphanages and better sex education. But the issue of abortion – dramatized by the tales of four women who underwent “back-street” procedures – was what drew major press coverage, and protests from Kenya’s religiously conservative community. Activists even stormed the stage at one point before order was restored. One of their objections was the suspicion that legalized abortion is a “foreign agenda” being thrust upon Kenya.

Williams will now write a paper issuing a “judgment” in the mock tribunal, which will be released to the public in February.

Another eye-opening experience was visiting the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which is prosecuting the mayors and other government officials who administered rape as a tool for genocide during the conflict between that country’s ethnic Tutsis and Hutus. At that tribunal, which meets in Tanzania, Williams met some of the judges and prosecutors.

Overall, she said, the summer solidified her interest in international law as a career. “It was extremely useful for me,” she said. “You can write briefs and memos anywhere. This is the real hands-on experience. You are meeting victims, international judges, talking about how laws can be reformed. You are actually doing things here, as opposed to getting assigned things to do.”



# Law School Report

FELLOWSHIPS

## Public Interest Law Program funds 22 projects

The 12th Annual Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Auction held last year raised nearly \$26,000 to be used toward providing UB Law School students the opportunity to accept unpaid public-service summer positions. Through the combined dedication and support of Dean Nils Olsen, the UB Law Alumni Association, our generous public interest-minded alumni donors, the Student Bar Association, and the members and leadership of BPILP and co-sponsoring student groups, 22 projects in total received funding for the summer. In addition, six students were awarded national fellowships.

### Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellows:

Yasmin Adamy '09 – Neighborhood Legal Services, Family Law Unit – Buffalo, NY.  
Co-sponsored by the Domestic Violence Task Force  
Sarah Brancatella '09 – Kenya Human Rights Commission – Nairobi, Kenya  
Michael Hecker '09 – US Attorney's Office, Western District of New York – Buffalo, NY  
Rebecca Hoffman '09 – Vive, Inc. – Buffalo, NY  
Amy Kaslovsky '09 – Empire Justice Center – Albany, NY  
James Lonano '08 – US Attorney's Office, Western District of New York – Buffalo, NY  
Sunny Noh '08 – Legal Aid Society of Hawaii – Honolulu, HI  
Stefanie Svoren '09 – Kenya Human Rights Commission – Nairobi, Kenya  
Olga Vinogradova '09 – Legal Services for New York City – Brooklyn, NY

### Dean's Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellows:

Darice Dinsmore '09 – DNA (Diné beiná Náhiilna be Agha'diit'ahii) Legal Services, Inc. – Mexican Hat, UT  
Lauren Welch '09 – Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía – Cádiz, Spain  
Carrie Ann Wilkins '09 – Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc., Public Defender Unit – Buffalo, NY  
Jodi-Kay Williams '09 – Foundation for Sustainable Development – La Plata, Argentina

### Thomas' Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellow:

Victoria Meyer '09 – Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Family Law Unit – Rochester, NY

### UB Law Alumni Association's Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellows:

Ernest Hinman '09 – Erie County District Attorney's Office – Buffalo, NY  
Brenna Terry '09 – Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. – Buffalo, NY

### Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Grant Recipients:

Roopa Chakkappan '09 – Tuckner Sipser Weinstock and Sipser – New York, NY  
Ericka Ensign '09 – US Navy, JAGC – Washington, DC  
Rebecca Town '09 – Center for Justice and Democracy – New York, NY

### Kaplan & Reynolds Fellows:

Emily Conley '08 – Human Development Foundation – Islamabad, Pakistan  
Alexander Karsten '08 – International Justice Network – New York, NY  
Shelly Pet-Lun Tsai '08 – Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, Health Consumer Center – Pacoima, CA

### Charles H. Revson Law Student Public Interest (LSPIN) Fellowship Grants:

Roopa Chakkappan '09 – Tuckner Sipser Weinstock and Sipser – New York, NY  
Jesika Gonzalez '09 – Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem – New York, NY  
Rebecca Green '09 – Sylvia Rivera Law Project – New York, NY  
Sarah Karpinski '09 – US District Court, SDNY – Pro Se Office – New York, NY  
Rebecca Town '09 – Center for Justice and Democracy – New York, NY

### Equal Justice Works Summer Corps Program:

Sunny Noh '08 – Legal Aid Society of Hawaii – Honolulu, HI



Larissa Shahmatova '08 on violin and Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann on accordion raised money for BPILP at a lively concert.



Mickey H. Osterreicher '98 at the microphone was the auctioneer.



Left to right: Caroline B. Brancatella '07 and Nicole K. Parshall '07



Stephen K. Trynosky '05



Far left, William F. Savino.

At left: Jennifer P. Stergion '07



# Law School Report

## JD/MSW: Dual degree with clout and heart

Sara Meerse (JD/MSW '96) developed “a sense of outrage” in law school, where she learned how to fight back and how to persuade. In her social work program, she broadened her perspective as she further explored critical issues in child welfare.

Meerse is one of a cadre of—depending on their occupations—lawyers with social work training or social workers with legal training. These dual-degree graduates function where the two fields intersect. The UB Law School produces a wide variety of dual-competent alumni.

Meerse won a prestigious two-year Skadden Fellowship which funds graduating law students who plan to provide legal services for the poor. She first went to work in Presque Isle, Maine, where she'd been an intern the summer before with Pine Tree Legal Assistance (PTLA), a statewide non-profit legal corporation serving low-income clients. In 2004, now in Portland, Maine, she was a founder of the PTLA subsidiary, Kids Legal.

As its directing attorney, Meerse represents teens and parents in cases where an attorney is not provided by the state. Kids Legal handles cases concerning access to and participation in appropriate school programming for special-education, truant or disciplined students; homeless or unaccompanied youth; and health-related matters.

“Social work is about improving quality of life for individuals, families and groups,” Meerse says. “Law is about ensuring not only that laws are enforced, but also that citizens know what their rights are—definitely a quality of life issue.”

In dual-degree programs, students can count some courses toward both programs



*“Social work is about improving quality of life for individuals, families and groups. Law is about ensuring not only that laws are enforced, but also that citizens know what their rights are — definitely a quality of life issue.” — Sara Meerse '96*



*“I try to integrate my social work degree into my legal profession. I'm able to help my clients as well as defendants who appear in front of me.” — Andrew Radack '97*

and reduce the total time required to earn both degrees. By carefully selecting courses, students can shorten their program for two degrees by up to a year. For example, UB's JD/MSW students take the first year of one program, then the first year of the other, and then two years of coursework in both, finishing with the dual degree in four years. Field placement, a standard part of social work education, is replaced in the JD/MSW program with a full year of law clinic work and a law and social work colloquium. During law school, UB's Law and Social Work Clinic places students with legal service agencies, social service agencies, prosecutor offices, and in therapeutic courts.

...

Andrew Radack (JD/MSW '97) came to law from an extensive social work background, so combining the degrees was a natural. He now practices criminal and family law in Buffalo, and sits as a village justice in Silver Creek, N.Y. “I try to integrate my social work degree into my legal profession,” he says.

“I'm able to help my clients as well as defendants who appear in front of me. I often suggest that people get the treatment they need, especially those with addictions. It is in their best interest to show the court that they're doing something regarding counseling or treatment.”

Says Carolyn Siegel (JD/MSW '99), an education policy specialist and Colden, N.Y., town justice, “I figured I would either end up as a social worker with clout or an attorney with a heart.”



# Law School Report

GERALD S. LIPPES SPEAKER SERIES

## Conscience of the company

*Author argues that corporate America is a force for good*

A high-profile book author and *Fortune* magazine writer came to the University at Buffalo to make a provocative argument: that corporate America is changing for the better, and making a better world in the process.

The appearance by Marc Gunther, author of *Faith and Fortune: How Compassionate Capitalism Is Transforming American Business*, drew an enthusiastic crowd, mostly students, to the Screening Room of the Center for the Arts on March 27.

Gunther cited companies as diverse as Nike, McDonald's and the Texas energy company TXU – which canceled eight planned coal-fired power plants in response to environmental concerns – as evidence that American companies are embracing sustainability.

"You cannot run a business successfully today in the 21st century if what you are doing has values that are out of sync with the wider society and your customers, suppliers and employees," he said. As well, Gunther said, companies are finding that it helps their bottom line to be responsive to consumers' concerns. For example, McDonald's, after complaints about the nutritional value of its food, discovered that "if you offer salads, the suburban mom will bring the kids and have a salad, and the kids will eat burgers."

Fraud scandals and sky-high executive pay grab the headlines, but Gunther said corporate America is becoming more environmentally friendly, more diverse, more open and more compassionate.

The author's interest in this subject stems from 2001, when he wrote a cover story for *Fortune* examining the role of spiritual values in business. "I found that people who live their faith and values, who brought their whole selves to work, were successful," he said. "I believe there is often alignment between living your highest values and success in the workplace."

That article led to the book *Faith and Fortune*, an examination of several "values-driven" companies including Southwest Airlines, Timberland, United Parcel Service and Starbucks.

But isn't profit the final arbiter of corporate behavior? Not according to Gunther.

Quoting a priest who teaches business at the University of Notre Dame, he said, "The purpose of a company is to enable human flourishing. Profits are essential to a company the same way air and water and food are to us. But companies have a meaning and purpose about their work, in the same way that people have a meaning and purpose for our lives."

Google, for example, expresses its purpose as "to organize all the world's information and make it accessible to everyone."

"That's a reason to get up and go to work in the morning," Gunther said.

In substance, the transformation has been from looking at the work of a company as a series of win-lose transactions, oriented to maximize profit today, to a series of relationships and longer-term, win-win transactions. Forces that are pushing this transition, he said, are the need to motivate employees; the power of activist groups such as Greenpeace and Amnesty International; the transparency of the Internet; pressure from socially responsible investors; and pressure from customers.

The lecture was peppered with real-world examples, such as Dell, the computer giant. In 2003, Gunther said, investors approached the company over the issue of the toxic waste generated when computers are thrown away. Dell thought little of the issue, but agreed to organize a computer recycling day in Denver, in the parking lot outside Mile High Stadium. "By the end of that Saturday," Gunther said, "that parking lot was literally full of computers. Michael Dell realized that there was a constituency out there that cared about their computers when they are done with them." Now, he said, customers can ship their old computers to Dell postage-paid; "the company is taking responsibility, but also connecting with customers at the end of the computer's life and trying to sell them a new one."

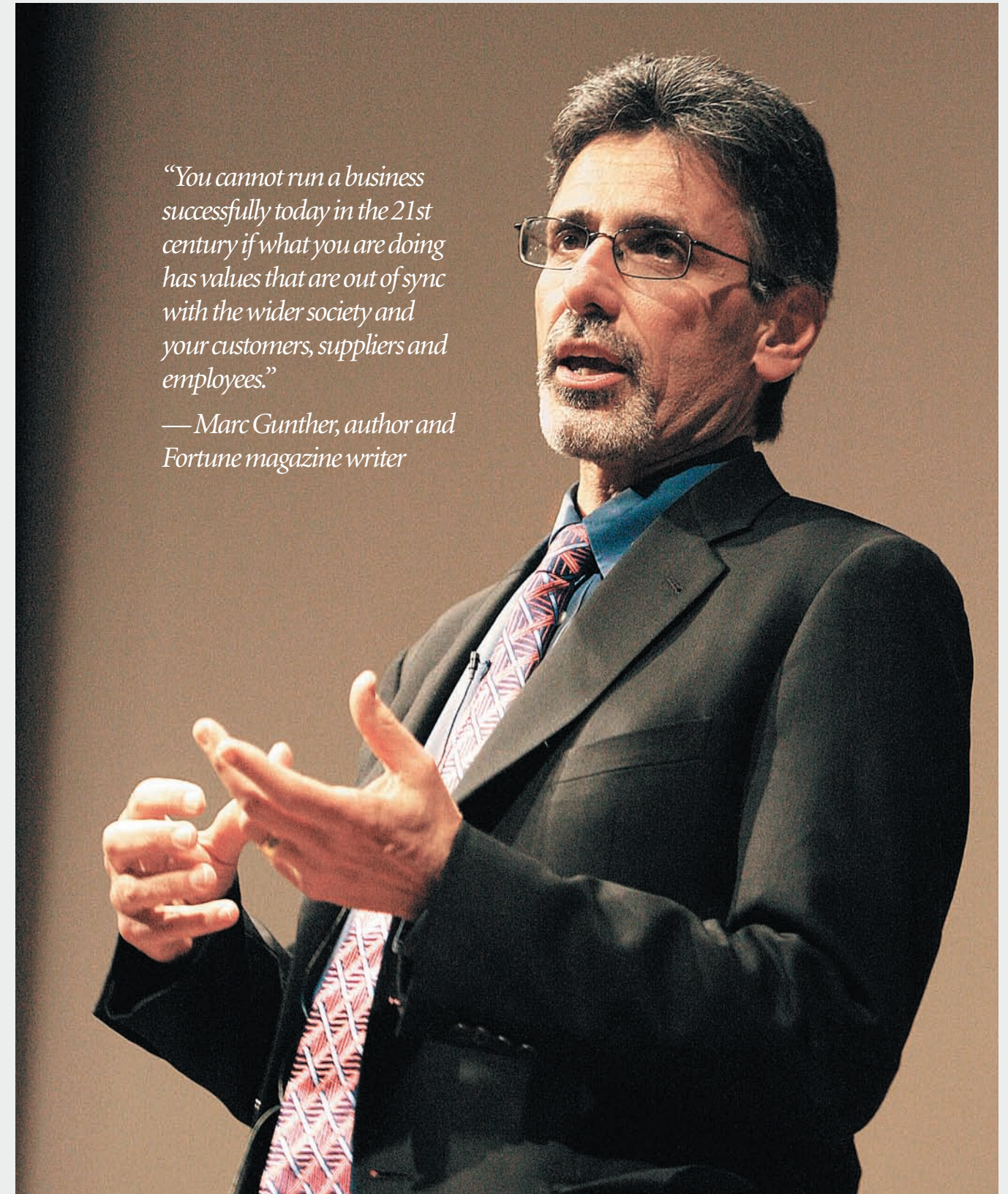
Another example is Wal-Mart, which saw that standard liquid laundry detergents, which are mostly water, take up voluminous shelf space, are expensive to ship and produce lots of waste plastic. The retailer approached manufacturer Unilever, commissioned it to develop a smaller, more concentrated product now called Small and Mighty All, and featured the product prominently in its stores – a "win" for manufacturer, seller and consumer.

In the end, though, Gunther said, "There are limits to what companies can do, and those limits essentially are set by us. Ford, for example, would like to sell more hybrids, but the market is for sport utility vehicles. For these changes to continue to happen, we all need to be part of it. The way for this to happen is that all of us need to live our values every day."

The lecture was the second annual event in the Gerald S. Lippes Speaker Series, a joint venture of UB Law School and UB's School of Management. It is funded by Buffalo attorney Lippes, a 1964 graduate of the Law School.



Left to right: Clinical Professor Thomas F. Disare and Marc Gunther.



*"You cannot run a business successfully today in the 21st century if what you are doing has values that are out of sync with the wider society and your customers, suppliers and employees."*

*— Marc Gunther, author and Fortune magazine writer*



Growing into the job

Placement statistics find UB Law grads ranging far and wide

How to improve on success? That has been the challenge facing UB Law School’s Career Services Office, which for two years has seen more than 97 percent of graduates either find work in the legal field or go on to further graduate education.

Now the placement statistics are in for the Class of 2006 – the industry standard is to look at the numbers nine months after graduation – and some interesting trends have emerged.

For one thing, grads’ average starting salary has increased for two years running; for ’06 graduates, that number jumped by \$11,000, to \$69,000. This came even though a larger proportion of graduates took jobs in public-interest and government work, not always the highest-paying options.

Also, the proportion of grads taking jobs outside Western New York is rising. Among the 2006 class, 45 percent went beyond the Western New York area for their first positions. Large concentrations migrated to New York City and Washington, D.C., but 18 states and several countries have new UB Law grads working there. Five years ago, only one-third of graduates left Western New York.

Thirty-one percent of 2006 graduates started their careers at firms of 100 attorneys or more, an increase from 19 percent the previous year. Among the employers represented were such well-known firms as Sullivan & Cromwell, Weil Gotshal & Manges, Shearman & Sterling, Ropes & Gray, Fried Frank and Skadden Arps.

Among those choosing public service, graduates have accepted positions as Presidential Management Fellows and at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the National Labor Relations Board and the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

These results are the fruit of much labor as Career Services officers build relationships with potential employers and leverage their contacts with helpful alumni.

“We have established relationships with all sorts of employers across the country,”

said James R. Newton, associate dean for national outreach and strategic planning. “Our experience has been that when they hire one UB Law graduate, that person turns out to be a star, and they want to hire more.”

Newton said entering students are surveyed as to the type of practice they want to pursue, and in what geographical region. The Law School, he said, measures its suc-



“We have established relationships with all sorts of employers across the country. Our experience has been that when they hire one UB Law graduate, that person turns out to be a star, and they want to hire more.”

—James R. Newton, associate dean for administration and national outreach

cess by how closely those students’ jobs upon graduation match their initial hopes. “I think the theme of my job is to open up the best opportunities for the students as they define them, across the spectrum,” he said.

Said Lisa M. Patterson, associate dean for career services, “When we have the opportunity to talk to students about what we do, we look for opportunities not to equate the biggest firm with the best job, necessarily. For somebody who wants to go back to their hometown and set up shop and practice family law, probably they will do very well, and that is a success.”

Behind the statistics are individual stories of hopes and dreams. Patterson, for example, tells of coaching a student who, visiting her hometown in upstate New York, happened upon an ad for her dream job, practicing family law with a small local firm. She had no resume, no materials with her; Patterson suggested she just call the firm

and try to make an appointment. “She called me back,” Patterson said, “and she was so excited; they already had an interview set up for her.”

“I have been seeing students who are kind of surprised by their own success,” Newton related. “They are shocked at how well they are doing.”

Supporting the placement effort is UB Law School’s National Career Network, a supplemental mentoring program for students job-hunting in different areas of the country. The program connects students with alumni in particular cities who can help them network and give them a sense of the employment market in that area. “Part of the challenge of looking for a job in a market elsewhere is how to saturate yourself in that market,” Patterson said. “These mentors give suggestions about things to read,

people to meet and opportunities to join groups in a certain market.” (The office is always looking to expand its network of mentors; if you are interested, e-mail jrnewton@buffalo.edu.)

Also, the Washington, D.C., Leadership Board, comprising more than two dozen UB Law alumni in the nation’s capital, has helped connect recent graduates with both private and government placement opportunities. The hiring process in government service especially can be confusing, Patterson said.

“Students can be intimidated at applying to these institutions,” Newton said. “Having someone on the inside increases the number who apply, and we now have more students interviewing at many federal agencies.” The goal, he said, is not for anyone to pull strings, but to help the applicant get her resume “out of the pile” and into the hands of those who make hiring decisions.

Class of 2006 employment statistics



Are You Hiring?

Does your organization have hiring needs? Whatever your needs—law clerk, part-time, entry-level or lateral—we hope you will turn to UB Law School for legal recruiting.

We offer several services free of charge to employers, from interview arrangements to resume collections and job postings. If you would like to discuss any opportunity, please contact us:

Jim Newton,  
Associate Dean for National Outreach  
(716) 645-5997 or jrnewton@buffalo.edu

Lisa Patterson,  
Associate Dean for Career Services  
(716) 645-2056 or lpatter@buffalo.edu

Are you looking to make a move?

The Career Services Office is happy to announce that access to our online job postings is now free. Last year, we posted approximately 700 entry-level and/or lateral jobs via our on-line portal, Symplicity. Please call the CSO at (716) 645-2056 to request access to our system.

Geographic Distribution

Last year, over 45% of our new lawyers accepted positions outside of Western New York in New York City, Washington, D.C., 18 states and several countries.

WITHIN NEW YORK STATE

Region	Distribution
Buffalo	48%
New York City & Boroughs	22%
Rochester	15%
Syracuse	5%
Southern Tier	4%
Albany	3%
Other	3%

OUTSIDE NEW YORK STATE

Region	Distribution
DC	11.3%
CA, International, PA	9%
FL	8%
OH	5%
AK, CO, CT, MA, MI, NC, NV, OR, TX, VA & Military	3.7%
IL, KT, NM, VT	2%

Practice Areas

Practice Area	Distribution
Private Practice	52%
Corporate	11%
Public Interest	11%
Government	11%
Judicial Clerk	6%
Degree Seeking	4%
Military (JAG)	2%
Academic	2%
Not Specified	1%

Firm Size Distribution

Firm Size	Distribution
Very Small (2-5)	35%
Very Large (101-250)	17%
Mega (251+)	14%
Small (11-25)	12%
Large (51-100)	11%
Medium (26 + 50)	5%
Unknown	5%
Solo	1%

Firm Size Salaries

Private Practice	Median	High
501+	\$145,000	\$145,000
251 to 500	\$145,000	\$160,000
100 to 250	\$77,000	\$140,000
51 to 100	\$67,000	\$83,000
26 to 50	\$50,000	\$120,000
11 to 25	\$46,500	\$145,000
2 to 10	\$45,000	\$80,000

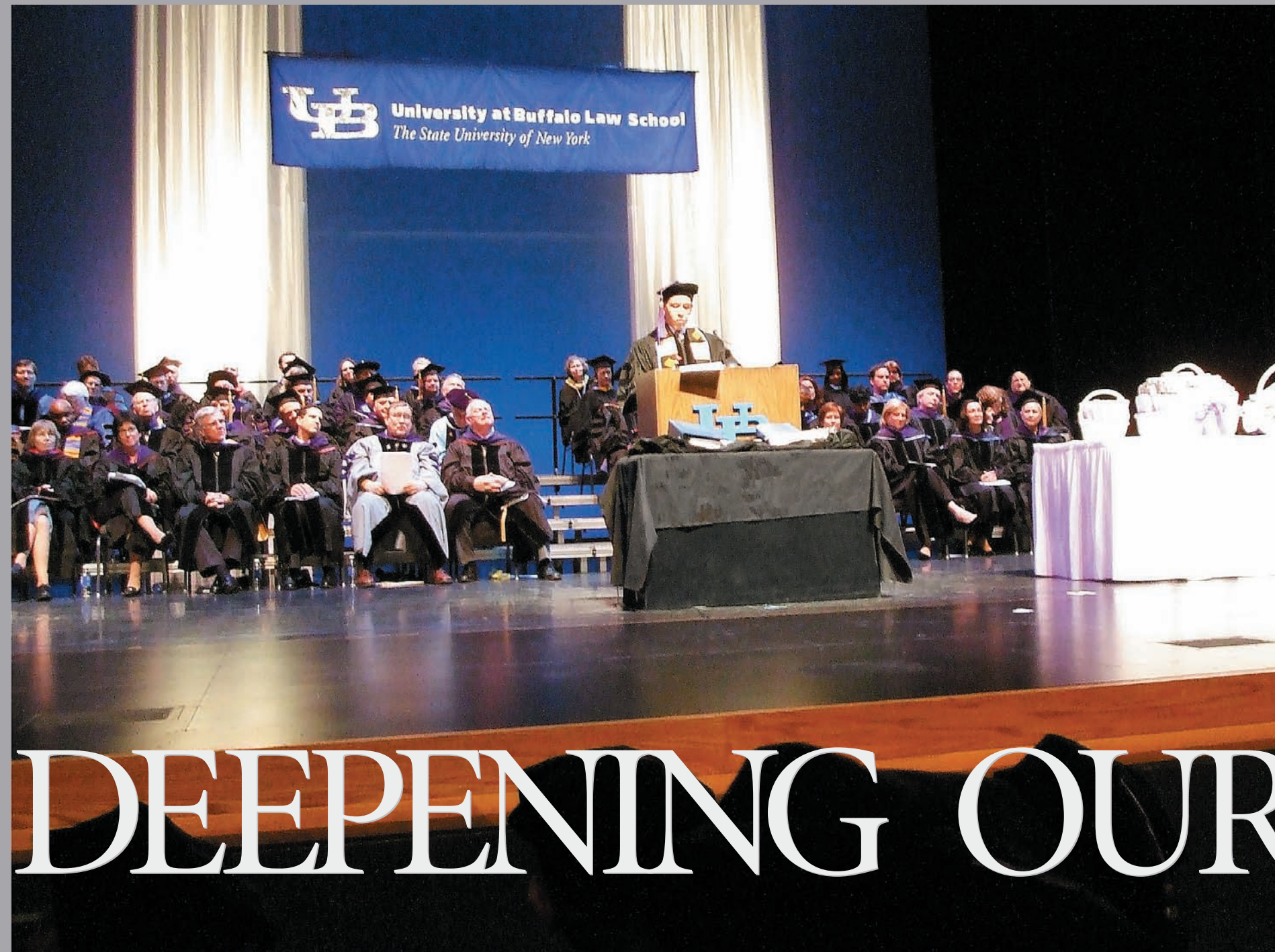
Practice Area Salaries

Practice Area	Median	High
Government	\$47,200	\$80,000
Business & Industry	\$63,500	\$120,000
Judicial Clerkship	\$56,000	\$100,300
Public Interest	\$45,000	\$74,800



# Law School Report

COMMENCEMENT 2007



Jason Joaquin Almonte '07 at the podium.

## 118TH Commencement honors continuing connections

The Law School's 2007 Commencement ceremonies, held May 19 in the Center for the Arts, were all about relationships – the friendships that the students formed during their three years in O'Brian Hall, their continuing connection with the school as alumni, and the promise of relationships to come as these new lawyers pursue justice in all its human dimensions.

Two hundred fifty-five Juris Doctor Candidates, as well as 19 master of laws students, received degrees in front of an appreciative audience of friends and family. The ceremony was inaugurated by Professor Kenneth F. Joyce, who noted that the academic mace he carried was a version of the first weapon used by human beings against each other. This, he said, pointed up the responsibility of the new graduates as practitioners "dedicated to the rule of law and the supremacy of law over violence."

Dean Nils Olsen called the 2007 graduates "a special class for me," given that these were

*Continued on Page 57*

“In today’s world law school can present an extraordinary challenge. But the Law School at the University at Buffalo is much more than merely a place on the North Campus.”

—Dean Nils Olsen

”

# DEEPENING OUR TIES



# Law School Report

COMMENCEMENT 2007



Hon. Eugene F. Pigott Jr. '73

*Continued from Page 55*

his last Commencement ceremonies as dean. "In today's world," he said, "law school can present an extraordinary challenge. But the Law School at the University at Buffalo is much more than merely a place on the North Campus." He cited the opportunities these students had realized for forming deep friendships and exercising focused intellectual growth.

UB Provost Satish K. Tripathi saluted Olsen for offering his "professional and life's experience" to students under his care. Under Olsen's leadership, Tripathi said, "UB Law School has become nationally recognized for its curriculum and the quality of its graduates, and as a bastion of academic scholarship."

Noting visits to the University during the past academic year by the Dalai Lama and Al Gore, Tripathi said the new graduates must consider the impact of their actions on the world as a whole. "We must ask how our education has prepared us to improve our local and global communities?" he said. "What responsibility do we have to contribute to the sustainability of our world and our communities?"

Following a welcome by Dennis R. McCoy '77, president of the UB Law Alumni Association, Jason Joaquin Almonte gave the student address.

"Winters in Buffalo are very, very cold, and there is lots and lots of snow," Almonte said. "But even the grayest sky over Lake Erie could not dim the light in these students. As you graduate from law school, I ask you to remember the ambition that got you here in the first place. Use that ambition to follow your

*Continued on Page 61*

“My classmates are my family, and they taught me some of the most important lessons of law school.”  
— Jason Joaquin Almonte who gave the student address ”



Sister and brother Kelly Connors '07 and Marc Connors '07.



# Law School Report

COMMENCEMENT 2007

## UB Law students receive commencement awards

University at Buffalo Law School students received honors and awards at the school's 118th commencement ceremony held on May 19. The award recipients are:

• **David P. Shaffer**, of Geneseo, the *Max Koren Award*, given to the graduate who exemplifies the highest standards of the profession by virtue of scholastic achievement, leadership and dedication to the ideals of the law. Shaffer also received the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs Award for Labor and Employment Law.

• **Stacy A. Tromble**, of Buffalo, the *John N. Bennett Achievement Award* for the highest scholastic achievement in the graduating class. Tromble also received the *Judge William J. Regan Award* for estates and surrogate's law.

• **Thomas M. Tuori**, of Rochester, the *John N. Bennett Achievement Award* for the highest scholastic achievement in the graduating class.

• **Jason Joaquin Almonte**, of Nanuet, the *Dale Margulis Award* for having contributed the most to the Law School and the community. Almonte also received a *Law Faculty Award*, presented to graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community, and the Minority Bar Association of Western New York Award.

• **Cheryl Louise Nichols**, of Oswego, the *Birzon Prize in Clinical Legal Studies*. Nichols also received a New York State Bar Association/Law Student Bar Association Achievement Award.

• **Cindy P. Navarro**, of Sunnyside, the *Charles Dautch Award* for real property.

• **Monica Campbell**, of Amherst, the *Justice M. Dolores Denman scholarship/award* for



Jacia T. Smith '07 is hooded by David M. Engel, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor.

a custodial single parent.

• **Paul E. Colinet**, of Brooklyn, the *Edith and David Goldstein Award* for debtor-creditor and bankruptcy law.

• **Michelle A. Daubert**, of Buffalo, the *Justice Philip Halpern Award* for writing on the Buffalo Law Review. Daubert also received the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs Award for Health Law.

• **Beverley S. Braun**, of Amherst, the *Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award* for appellate advocacy. Braun also received a Law Faculty Award, presented to graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community, and a Robert Connelly Trial Technique Award. In addition, she was elected a member of the Order of Barristers, a national honor society for oralists.

• **John M. Godwin**, of Buffalo, the *Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award* for appellate advocacy. Godwin also

was elected a member of the Order of Barristers, a national honor society for oralists.

• **Kristin L. Paulding**, of Depew, the *James M. Kieffer Award* for outstanding trial advocacy. Paulding also received the *Ryan J. Mullins Award* for criminal law, and *The Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award*.

• **Jennifer A. Mucha**, of Lewiston, the *David Kochery Award* for service to the student community and courses in procedures and remedies.

• **Robert L. Mullin**, of Rochester, the *Albert R. Mugal Award* for future interests and estate planning.

• **Joshua K. Lawrence**, of Kingston, the *Harry A. Rachlin Prize in Property and Real Estate Law*.

• **Rachel M. Hezel**, of East Aurora, the *Professor Louis DelCotto Award* for taxation.

• **Michael J. Pacifico**, of Hamburg, the *Professor Louis DelCotto Award* for taxation.

• **Linda V. Rampertab**, of the Bronx, the *Maurice Frey Award* for family law.

• **Rachel Xiyuan Sun**, of Amherst, the *Tom Headrick "Trees and Forest" Award* for corporate finance.

• **Brian J. McCarthy**, of Buffalo, the *Milton Kaplan Law and Social Development Award* for exceptional commitment to the study of law and social development in an American, comparative or international context. McCarthy also received a *Virginia Leary Award*, presented in honor of Leary, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emerita in the UB Law School, who taught international law and developed the sequence of courses and externships in international law at the school.

• **Aminda L. Byrd**, of Buffalo, a *Virginia Leary Award*, presented in honor of Leary, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emerita in the UB Law School, who taught international law and developed the sequence of courses and ex-

ternships in international law at the school. Byrd also was elected a member of the Order of Barristers, a national honor society for oralists.

• **Leah R. Mervine**, of Buffalo, the *Linda S. Reynolds Award* for commitment to equal justice for the poor. Mervine also was elected a member of the Order of Barristers, a national honor society for oralists.

• **William P. Johnson**, of Scottsville, the *Adolf Homburger Law Alumni Association Award* for civil procedure.

• **Hee Chung Choi**, of Amherst, the *Laidlaw Law Alumni Association Award* for commercial law.

• **Jacia T. Smith**, of Rochester, the *UB Law Alumni Association GOLD Group Award* for leadership and excellence. Smith also received a *Law Faculty Award*, presented to graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community.

• **Alfonzo I. Cutaia**, of Clarence Center, the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs Award for Intellectual Property Law.

• **Andrew E. McLaughlin**, of Buffalo, the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs Award for Intellectual Property Law.

• **Paul J. Roman Jr.**, of North Tonawanda, the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs Award for Intellectual Property Law.

• **Kara L. DeAngelo**, of Jamestown, a *Law Faculty Award*, presented to graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community.

• **Peter Adam Militello**, of Rochester, a *Law Faculty Award*, presented to graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community.

• **Leah A. Bouquard**, of Buffalo, a *New York State Bar Association/Law Student Bar Association Achievement Award* and the *Western New York Women Lawyers Award*.

• **Melinda J. Gullo**, of Lakeview, a *New York State Bar As-*



Graduates get ready to march.

• **Jeffrey A. Davis**, of Williamsville, the *Carlos C. Alden Award* for service to the Buffalo Law Review.

• **Carolina M. Felix** of the Bronx, the *Kenneth A. Gomez Memorial Award* for equality and justice for minorities.

• **Kim-Alla Swanton**, of Amherst, the *Moot Evidence Award*.

• **Jennifer P. Stergion**, of Buffalo, the *New York State Bar Association Ethics Award*. Stergion also received a *Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award*.

• **Dana L. Leier**, of Amherst, the *National Association of Women Lawyers Award*.

• **Kara L. DeAngelo**, of Jamestown, a *Law Faculty Award*, presented to graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community.

• **Peter Adam Militello**, of Rochester, a *Law Faculty Award*, presented to graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community.

• **Leah A. Bouquard**, of Buffalo, a *New York State Bar Association/Law Student Bar Association Achievement Award* and the *Western New York Women Lawyers Award*.

• **Melinda J. Gullo**, of Lakeview, a *New York State Bar As-*

sociation/Law Student Bar Association Achievement Award.

The *Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award* was presented to:

• **Trevor J. Barr** of Jamestown.

• **Danielle J. Barrett**, of Queens Village. Barrett also was elected a member of the Order of Barristers, a national honor society for oralists.

• **Jessica A. Bielecki**, of Ballston Lake.

• **Steven A. Clark**, of Buffalo.

• **Brian R. Liebenow**, of Rochester.

• **Michael L. Nisengard**, of Buffalo.

• **Lindsay P. Quintilone**, of North Tonawanda.

• **Daniel A. Sikka**, of Williamsville.

• **Trevor M. Torcello**, of Pavilion.

Newly elected members of the *Order of Barristers*, a national honor society for oralists, are:

• **Geanne Blazkov**, of Amherst.

• **Christina A. Cassillo**, of Amherst.

• **Hannah E. Moore**, of Buffalo.

• **James M. O'Keefe**, of Liverpool.

• **Alicia R. Sim**, of Hamburg.

## 2007 Latin Honors

### Juris Doctor

*Summa Cum Laude*  
David Patrick Shaffer  
Stacy Ann Tromble  
Thomas M. Tuori

*Magna Cum Laude*  
Curry D. Andrews  
Jessica Ann Bielecki  
Geanne Blazkow  
Beverley S. Braun  
Candace Marie Curran  
Alfonzo Ivan Cutaia  
John Michael Godwin  
Melinda Jean Gullo  
Joshua K. Lawrence  
Rachael Marie MacVean  
Jennifer Anne Mucha  
Kristin Leigh Paulding  
Paul Joseph Roman Jr.  
Thomas D. Seaman  
Erin Elizabeth Sylvester  
Richard Thomas Tucker  
Jason G. Ulatowski  
Raymond W. Walter

*Cum Laude*  
Colleen Mary Allen  
Justin Randall Atkinson  
Nikki Lee Baldwin  
Trevor James Barr  
Michael F. Barrett  
Brian Scott Bennett  
Jennifer M. Brace  
Adam J. Bushey  
Aminda Leigh Byrd  
James Lee Cerwinski  
Justin Choi  
Michelle Amanda Daubert  
Jeffrey A. Davis  
Kara Lynn DeAngelo  
Johnnie El-Gharib  
Brian M. Epstein  
Umar Farooq  
Mark Elliot Frankel  
Rachel M. Hezel  
Jennifer Lee Howland  
Jeffrey L. Hulet  
Deanne Michelle Jeffries  
Sungyeol Kim  
Melissa Ruth Klepack  
Joseph William Kovac  
Richard Lam  
Jonathan James Leahy

Jason Lee  
Dana La Rhea Leier  
Brian Richard Liebenow  
Ryan Andrew Lown  
Richard Joseph Marinaccio  
Michael Peter McClain  
Leah Ruth Mervine  
Peter Adam Militello  
Timothy James Minter  
Hannah Elizabeth Moore  
Robert L. Mullin  
Cheryl Louise Nichols  
Heather Emily Nikiel  
Michael Laurence Nisengard  
Sarah E. Norton  
Kathleen Nicole O'Neill  
Michael Joseph Pacifico  
Nicole Kierstin Parshall  
Michael George Paul  
Adam Paul Rissew  
Lawrence Seldin Rosenthal  
Patricia Claire Sandison  
Dean C. Schneller  
Lauren Elizabeth Schroeder  
Lisa Beth Shulman  
Alicia R. Sim  
Xiyuan Sun  
Keon Carl Weigold  
Donald A. Young  
Azra Batool Zaidi

### Master of Laws

*With Honors*  
Rafael V. Valverde-Ramirez

### Master of Laws Criminal Law

*With Honors*  
William R. DiCenzo  
Keliann Elniski  
Yukiko Ishida  
Mark DeWitt Thrasher  
Aminie Lyn Woolworth  
Robert Clifford Wrong



# Law School Report

COMMENCEMENT 2007



Dean Nils Olsen congratulates Shannon E. Filbert '07.

Susan V. Mangold, professor  
and Dennis R. McCoy '77

*Continued from page 57*

dreams. Promise me that you will not ever let your music die."

Almonte also noted the depth of friendships that developed among his classmates. In his second year, he said, he was very ill and almost dropped out of school; his fellow students bombarded him with calls, letters and flowers, and even took up a collection to help pay his medical bills. "My classmates are my family," he said, "and they taught me some of the most important lessons of law school."

He concluded by quoting John F. Kennedy: "Your time is limited. Do not waste it living someone else's life. Do not let the noise of other people's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And do not forget the power of law to change the world. I have seen what you can do as law students. Now go show the world what you can do as lawyers."

Delivering the afternoon's keynote address was Hon. Eugene F. Pigott Jr. '73, associate justice of New York State's highest judicial body, the Court of Appeals.

Pigott began with a story from early in his private practice, when a client came to him with a compelling hard-luck story. As a college student, the young man had rented a car to drive to Daytona Beach, Fla., for spring break. Because he was under 25, the rental firm required him to promise that he would not take the car out of state. Knowing his plans otherwise, he signed anyway, drove the car south with some friends – and broke down in Georgia. They left the car there and hitchhiked to Florida, where the FBI promptly arrested him for motor vehicle theft and interstate flight to avoid prosecution. He served seven years in prison.

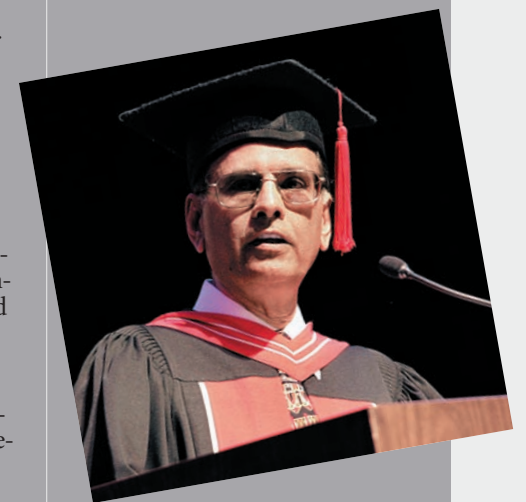
After his return to Buffalo, this man finished at the top of his class at a local college, graduating summa cum laude, and was seeking to become a registered nurse – but was denied a license to practice nursing because of

*Continued on Page 63*

“Under Olsen’s leadership, “UB Law School has become nationally recognized for its curriculum and the quality of its graduates, and as a bastion of academic scholarship.”

—UB Provost Satish K. Tripathi

”



UB Provost Satish K. Tripathi



# Law School Report

COMMENCEMENT 2007



Left to right: Class of 2007 graduates Joseph A. Scalzo, Kyle C. DiDone, Lauren A. Williamson and Brian P. McGuire



Nikki L. Baldwin '07

Hadijat Balogun '07, her son Caiden Collins, and Jason Joaquin Almonte '07

*Continued from Page 61*

his felony conviction. With Pigott's help, he was able to obtain a presidential pardon and went on to become very successful in his profession.

The point, the judge said, was that proper representation at the point of this man's arrest could have brought some proportionality to his punishment and not deprived society of his skills and talents for so long. That, he said, is the power of law to exercise true justice.

Pigott spoke to the quality of the graduating class, which, he said, represented more than 100 undergraduate institutions and collectively held more than 50 advanced degrees.

And he left the graduates with what he called a "borrowed thought": "We will not change what is wrong with our culture through laws. We will change it by small acts of courage and kindness. Aspire to decency, ethics and morality, and if periodically you fail, adjust your lives and not your standards. There is no mystery here. You know what to do, so now go and do it."

Members of the Commencement Committee were Jamie L. Codjovi, Harven V. DeShield, Richard J. Friedman, Leah Mervine, Matthew J. Makowski, Jacia T. Smith, Michael P. Sullivan and Marguerite F. Walker.

“Hon. Eugene F. Pigott Jr. '73, associate justice of New York State's Court of Appeals, with a “borrowed thought”:

“We will not change what is wrong with our culture through laws. We will change it by small acts of courage and kindness.”

”



# Law School Report

ADMISSIONS

## The Class of 2010

*Hearing some of the 246 unique stories*

Statistics tell a lot about UB Law School's new first-year class, but behind the numbers lie 246 individual stories of students who bring a wealth of diversity, talent and experience to O'Brian Hall.

That's the number enrolled in the Class of 2010, out of a pool of 1,518 applications, reports Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, vice dean for admissions and financial aid.

More numbers: 29 percent of the entering class is age 25 or older; 54 percent are male; and 12 percent arrive at UB holding an advanced degree. Their median grade-point average of 3.45 and their median LSAT score of 156 continue to help grow the Law School's reputation as academically selective.

Beyond the statistics, Wiley-Upshaw says, lie a host of "intangible qualities that admissions committees are looking for," such as dedication and persistence. "It takes more than being academically gifted to succeed in life and in law school," she says. "We have realized over time that applicants' ability to reveal those intangibles about themselves is a great predictor of success in law school and beyond.

"The hallmark of our program is that we are able to admit a talented group of people with interesting backgrounds," Wiley-Upshaw says. "What is always unique about our class is that when you dig through the statistics, you find individuals with unique life experiences."

*"The hallmark of our program is that we are able to admit a talented group of*



*people with interesting backgrounds. What is always unique about our class is that when you dig through the statistics, you find individuals with unique life experiences."*

— Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, vice dean for admissions and financial aid

**"In journalism, you learn Associated Press style... But legal style is even more strict and exacting."**



Jenny Rizzo has seen some of the world, and a lot of the United States, having worked as on-air talent in television news for six years. A Western New York native and a graduate of Ithaca College, she found she gravitated to crime and courts stories and the chance to interact with victims, judges and lawyers. In 2006 she lived in Germany on a Bosch Foundation fellowship for journalists, reporting for the Ger-

man public radio service Deutsche Welle. She had to learn German to do the job.

"That was an amazing opportunity," Rizzo says, "but I realized I had wanted to be a journalist since I was 12 years old. I was doing exactly what I wanted to do, and I thought, this is really cool—but it is not what I want to do with the next 20 years of my life. I tried to think about what I was interested in. I wanted to be more grounded. As fun as it is to travel around the world, I had been doing that for six years."

So she flew to Munich to take the LSAT, interviewed at UB Law, and joined the Class of 2010. One of her first lessons was about the exactitude of legal writing. "In journalism, you learn Associated Press style," she says. "TV and radio writing are very specific. But legal style is even more strict and exacting. I had some difficulty adjusting to that."

She also has been freelancing for Buffalo's ABC-TV affiliate, WKBW-TV, occasionally. That's important, she says, because she wants to keep open the option of returning to television after law school. "You cannot leave TV for three years," Rizzo says. "You would have to start over. I need to somehow fit this into my life. I think I can marry my two interests and be very happy."

And she keeps those German language skills sharp—going online to watch German news and soap operas.

...

**"I wanted to know how the system worked so I could help people."**

Mary Schlarb traveled to UB Law from Ithaca, where she was working with international students and faculty at Cornell University, advising them on immigration and visa issues and helping them to get acculturated to American life. Dealing with 3,000 students from 120 countries, she often worked with them on issues involving immigration and tax requirements. Often she had to refer her students to immigration attorneys, and after a while, she said, "I became interested in what these attorneys were doing."

Next stop: law school. A friend, Mary Idzior '84, director of the Office of Visa Services at Princeton University, recommended UB Law. "She talked about it as being humane—not always a word that you associate with law school," Schlarb says. "I have never been a person who thrived in a cutthroat environment. I was looking for a place that is more supportive, that inspires you to push yourself."

"I also was attracted to UB for the extern-



ship and clinical programs, particularly in immigration. There are a lot of schools where you can get work with immigrant advocacy organizations, but it will be interesting to see from the government side how they address this. I thought I could get some practical experience that way."

A Stanford University graduate, Schlarb spent three years in Indonesia working on small-scale economic development projects and teaching English, and then earned a degree in international agriculture and worked in Cornell's Program on Environmental Conflict Management. Through it all, she says, "lawyers had the information and the knowledge. Lawyers were the ones who knew how the system worked. I wanted to know how the system worked, too, so I could help people."

Her husband, Michael Richardson, is an associate professor of modern languages and literatures at Ithaca College, so they are doing a lot of driving these days.

...

**"We need to take advantage of the opportunities we have in life."**



Jeremy Richards' initial interest in law school was piqued when he spent two years doing missionary work in Brazil after high school. Graduating from Utah Valley State College, he married at age 22 and deferred his dream of legal education while pursuing a sales career to support his growing family. "The thought of giving up a career I was successful at, moving my family across the country and starting over, was daunting," he says.

Then personal tragedy intervened: Richards and his wife, Rachel, lost an infant son, their fourth child. For Richards, it was a turning point. "That reopened my eyes to how we need to take advantage of the opportunities we have in life," he says. "I did not want to look back on my life and say, 'I really wanted to go to law school and become an attorney, but I did not do it.' I wanted to set an example for my children and pursue that dream."

Now he and his family are settled in Amherst, and Richards is thinking about labor and employment law, or maybe international law, as areas of practice. UB Law, he says, is opening his eyes in a lot of ways. "The college I attended in Utah was not diverse, and it had a narrow-minded curriculum," he says. "It frustrated me, to say the least. I knew that coming East and getting a more open-minded education would help me acquire different views on life, the law and the world. That is one of the main reasons I came here."

"I love law school. It is everything I expected—and then some."

...



# Law School Report

ADMISSIONS

## The Class of 2010

**“I never envisioned myself as a marathon runner.”**

**E**d Bartz is an athlete who came to it later in life. Bartz took up running in a serious way several years ago as he approached age 50. He was talked into running the Corporate Challenge race, he says, and “got instantly hooked.” Now he has run five marathons, including New York City and Boston.

“I never envisioned myself as a marathon runner,” he says. “But it has helped me to realize that if you really put your mind to something, you can pretty much accomplish anything you want to do.”

Now, with the demands of law school, he is sticking to half-marathons and 10-mile races. But he still runs four days a week, including a long run on weekends.

A graduate of St. Lawrence University, Bartz had a successful career in investment banking. He worked in the trust department of M&T Bank for seven years, earning an MBA from UB at the same time; spent a like period at Key Bank, where he headed the trust department in the Buffalo office; and from 1990 to 2007 worked for an old-line private investment advisory company in Buffalo, Harold C. Brown & Co., becoming a part-owner of the firm.

But the idea of legal training nagged at him all those years. He had been accepted at the University of Miami Law School right out of college, but “it just seemed like the time was not quite right.”

But “I kept on thinking about the law in the back of my mind,” he says. “And at some point I decided, if I am ever going to do it, now is the time.”

He applied again and was accepted at Miami, and at Penn State. But “the more I looked at UB in terms of the quality of the education, being able to stay here and keep my friends, and the cost, it just made too much sense to stay here as opposed to going elsewhere.”

Now, as the senior member of his section, he has found “a great group of people.”

“It is an awful lot of work,” he says. “I was prepared for it, because you hear these horror stories from your attorney friends over the years, and it really is that much work. It just never ends. From the



time you wake up in the morning until you go to bed at night, if you are not doing it, you are thinking about it. I am even dreaming about it.

“But I am really enjoying it. I thought it would be a bit drier than it has turned out to be. The courses are incredibly interesting.”

• • •

**“I grew up with hitting and physical contact. It was hard to make the switch to girls hockey.”**

**D**ina McCumber spent her undergraduate career at Princeton University, and made her mark on the ice as well as in the classroom. As a member of the Princeton Tigers women’s ice hockey team, she put to good use the skating and stick-handling skills she learned growing up playing with the boys on the Wheatfield Blades team. In her junior year at Princeton, her team went to the Final Eight for the first time and also won the Ivy League championship.

In her senior year, she played in all 33 games, led all Tigers defensemen with 24 points (three goals and 21 assists), and was ranked second among league defensemen in scoring. She also was selected to an all-star team that played the U.S. Olympic team in an exhibition game.

NCAA women’s hockey is a no-check game, but McCumber had a difficult time with that. “I grew up with hitting and physical contact,” she says. “It was hard to make the switch to girls hockey.” She notes with perverse pride that she holds an NCAA record for most penalty minutes, in a game against Minnesota.

Having interned with the U.S. attorney’s office in the summer after her junior year, and with a private defense attorneys firm this past summer, she knew that law school was her next step and that UB was the right place. “After being away at Princeton for four years,” she says, “I wanted to come home to my family. And I love the people here. It is a different mentality than Princeton. The Ivy Leagues are pretty intense. The students and the professors here are a little bit more laid-back. They are very willing to help you. It is not as cutthroat here. Everyone is willing to share and help each other out. I really like that.”

And she still straps on the skates, coaching a girls 16-and-under team, playing in men’s “bar leagues” with some of her old hockey buddies, and learning to referee games.

• • •





# Law School Report

BUFFALO LAW REVIEW



## Looking up, reaching out

Barbara D. Klippert '75 was an honoree.

### *Law Review Dinner marks community initiatives and scholarly work*

A year of accomplishment and outreach for the staff of the *Buffalo Law Review* was celebrated at the journal's 18th annual year-end dinner. Managing editor Leah R. Mervine emceed the event, held in the elegant Buffalo Club on April 17. Anshu S.K. Pasricha, editor in chief, noted that five issues of the *Law Review* were published in 2006-07. The Class of '07, he noted, was the first to publish 10 issues of the journal over two years. Pasricha also said that the *Buffalo Law Review* has improved its rankings among the nation's law reviews, and that upcoming issues will include a tribute to the late UB Law Professor Lou Del Cotto and the text of the 2008 Mitchell Lecture, a scholarly examination of the writ of habeas corpus, by U.S. District Court Judge James Robertson.

In keeping with UB President John Simpson's initiative to make the University a greater force for good in the Western New York community, *Law Review* staffers formed a partnership with the law magnet program at Buffalo's Bennett High School, conducting workshops for the students, teaching them about legal research and writing, and giving them a taste of what they might expect in law school.

As it has in the past, the *Law Review* staff honored UB Law alumni who honed their craft while working on the legal journal. This year's honorees were Barbara D. Klippert '75, a partner in the New York City law firm McKee Nelson, and Dennis R. McCoy '77, a partner in the firm Hiscock & Barday, in Buffalo.

Klippert, reflecting on her life at UB, remembered coming to the North Campus in

its earliest stages, when the Law School was the first department to move into its building. "Nothing was there but mud," she said, "and the wind was horrible. We had just moved to Amherst from downtown. The *Law Review* office was the only place we could sit down outside the classroom."

A former case and comment editor of the *Law Review* and currently a member of the Dean's Advisory Council, Klippert has worked with UB Law students to help them find that crucial first job in the field. "It has been very important to me to do my best to help students at UB Law School to get jobs," she said. "It has been an incredible honor for me, and a pleasure, to interact with the students. You are incredible, each and every one of you."

Further, she said, UB Law training serves its graduates well because "we appreciate things, and know what it is to work hard," Klippert said. "You will ask questions, you will think about what you are doing, you will put in that extra effort, and not just go in to work and put in your hours and ignore everything around you. You value thinking,

and being a person, and being a part of something much larger than you."

McCoy, a former case and comment editor of the *Law Review* and 2006-07 president of the UB Law Alumni Association, said, "As an alumnus, it makes me proud to see folks like you who are continuing and enhancing a tradition I was a part of. You certainly have made our Law School a much better place, and one with a better reputation, because of your presence there."

Noting that Dean Nils Olsen has announced his intention to step down at the end of the calendar year, McCoy said that this time of transition at the Law School brings with it opportunities to strengthen the school's ties with its graduates. "We want to bring the Law School closer to the alumni," he said. "Your role does not end at



Editor Anshu S.K. Pasricha '07 presents an award to Michelle A. Daubert '07.

graduation.

"All of you in the *Law Review* have been leaders," McCoy said. "The *Law Review* is the premier publication of the Law School. Our challenge is not only to take the *Law Review* in a good direction, but the Law School as well."

Three student awards were presented to *Law Review* staff members. The Carlos C. Alden Award, presented to the senior making the greatest contribution to the publication, went to Jeffrey A. Davis. The Justice Philip Halpern Award, which goes to a senior for excellence in writing on the *Law Review*, was given to Michelle A. Daubert. And four Associate Publication Awards, for excellence in writing, went to Andrea B. Ott, Jeffrey P. Gleason, John T. Lynch and Regina L. Readling.

New this year, the staff members presented the Bennett Casenote Award, to a Bennett High School student demonstrating excellence in writing. The recipient was Justin Szewczyk.

The incoming editor in chief of the *Buffalo Law Review* is Amy C. Frisch '08.

## THE ART OF THE ESSAY

### *Annual Buffalo Law Review issue draws national attention*

The *Buffalo Law Review* is distinguishing itself among its peers – and taking a chance – by publishing an annual issue almost unique among American law journals: the essay issue.

The December 2007 issue will be the fourth devoted solely to essays. Whereas many law reviews feature an essay or two among the copiously footnoted articles and legal notes that are their bread and butter, *Buffalo Law Review* has pioneered the all-essay issue.

Essays, says Sachin Kohli '06, editor-in-chief of the journal in 2005-06, tend to be shorter than articles, so the issue can incorporate more voices. And in style, he says, they distinguish themselves: "The arguments are not really as built up and solidified. You want people to be creative and explore. We were definitely going for a more colloquial style, more informal."

Kohli, who now does merger and corporate acquisitions work at Weil, Gotschal & Manges, in New York City, says the editors called upon UB Law professors – including David Westbrook, who has advised the journal on its essay issue and wrote the introduction to the first one – to identify authors who might be invited to contribute to the issue. "They helped us identify who would give us an essay and not just a law review article dressed up as an essay," Kohli said.

Anshu S.K. Pasricha, editor in chief in 2006-07, says the essay issue – one of five issues published in a typical *Law Review* year – helps to distinguish the *Buffalo Law Review* in the crowded law review field.

"The *Michigan Law Review* has an annual issue devoted to book reviews, and it is really prestigious to have a book reviewed in that issue," Pasricha said. "There is a spotlight cast on that book. We are doing the same sort of thing. What we are looking for are nascent ideas for people to throw out to the legal community, and they basically tear it to pieces. The author is really putting forth his ideas rather than just an analysis of a problem."

The writers of these essays are taking a risk, he said, because the legal academic community still sees articles, not essays, as the test of a legal mind. "In legal scholarship, especially when you are a young professor, you cannot put things on paper without worrying

about the impact on your reputation," Pasricha said. "But people should not be afraid of thinking on paper. They should not worry that their reputations will be sullied."

"An annual essay issue is exciting to someone who is not necessarily interested in the name of the journal, but wants an audience to read the ideas."

The *Buffalo Law Review* has improved its rankings in recent years, said Pasricha, who now practices corporate law at Sullivan & Cromwell, in New York City. In the most recent rankings by Washington and Lee University Law School, Buffalo's law review was the 44th most cited based on impact and total citations, and the 37th most cited based on impact.

But the essay issue, he said, "actually hurts our rankings. The rankings are based on how many times people cite us, and how many footnotes are in our issue." Essays, because they use fewer footnotes, do not fit into that formula.

Nevertheless, he said, "Rankings by themselves do not mean anything. The more important point is how we do in terms of our reputation among schools, and how law professors think about the *Buffalo Law Review*."

Amy C. Frisch '08, the *Law Review*'s current editor in chief, says, "Different law reviews have different perspectives on what an essay is. The point of an essay is to intrigue the reader, to have an open discussion about a certain topic."

"In an article, you set up a legal dilemma, discuss what has been done in the past, then propose a solution. The *Buffalo Law Review* has gone back to the traditional roots of what an essay is – not just 'an article with fewer footnotes.' We try to encourage our essay authors to get back to the traditional essay, which is intended to take a risk about a legal topic that they may not have explored before, to try to give it new light."

The editors still ask UB Law professors to recommend potential authors. They also, Frisch said, do "a little bit of research on the authors to see what they have written in the past and see what their style is. We allow them to write on a topic of their choice, and we never really know what we are going to get."

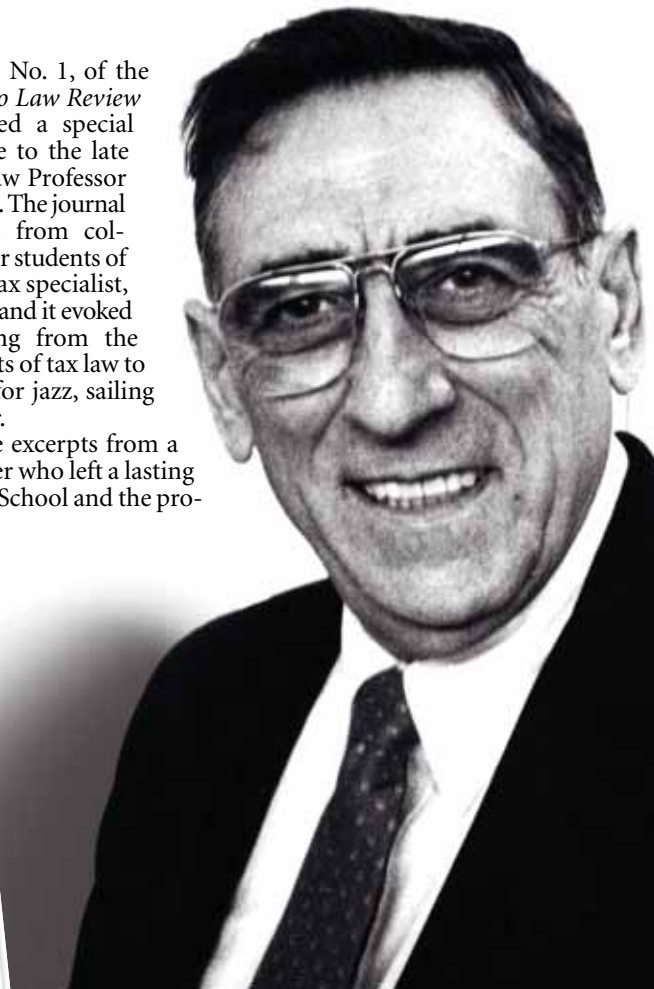


## A teacher's tribute

*Law Review special issue remembers Lou Del Cotto, 1923-2005*

**V**ol. 55, No. 1, of the *Buffalo Law Review* featured a special tribute to the late UB Law Professor Louis A. Del Cotto. The journal featured tributes from colleagues and former students of the much-loved tax specialist, who died in 2005, and it evoked memories ranging from the most arcane points of tax law to Del Cotto's love for jazz, sailing and classical guitar.

Here are some excerpts from a tribute to a teacher who left a lasting mark on UB Law School and the profession.



**Dianne Bennett '75**,  
retired Managing Partner of  
Hodgson Russ LLP:

“**T**here had to be more to Lou's teaching than his passion. He had to convince us of his regard for, and the worthiness of, the subject. I know that tax sometimes is considered on a lower rung of the law school curriculum. Some would say it is technical, it is black letter law, it is not conceptual, it is not socially relevant. Perhaps Lou's greatest lesson to us was putting the lie to this trivialization of tax law. Lou taught us to regard tax law as a high form of the social compact in at least three ways: he taught us to look for what is right, to understand the basic concepts in ways few can imagine, and to appreciate beautiful writing.

“If you parse the basic principles, then you can ascertain what the answer should be. People may disagree over whether taxation should be progressive or not, how progressive it should be, or whether it should give incentives or not. But, one can analyze a particular statute in terms of whether it serves a particular purpose well, properly, and efficiently. Lou taught us to look first at that correctness, and then to look for the Code answer (which more times than not is not the 'right' answer, as we all know). In looking for the right answer, one also can understand the political influences in the tax law, in ways that are much more illuminating than simply being told those influences.”

**Cheryl D. Block '79**,  
Professor of Law at George Washington  
University Law School:

“**I**n addition to opening my eyes to the big picture, Professor Del Cotto also provided a role model for my approach to teaching and to my students. Professor Del Cotto used what might be referred to as a 'modified' Socratic method very effectively. As I tell my students today, student mistakes in working through problems and cases can often be more pedagogically useful than correct answers. If one student misunderstands something, chances are that others do as well. Often the incorrect answer reflects an alternative way that Congress might have written the statute. Such 'mistakes' can serve as a useful opportunity to discuss the larger policy issues at stake.

“Professor Del Cotto was challenging but not intimidating in the classroom – at least he never meant to be intimidating. I must admit to being terrified when he called on me in Corporate Tax. This was entirely due to the overwhelming complexity of the subject matter, however. Professor Del Cotto was always gentle and patient with students who were as confused by the material as I was.”

**UB Law Professor Kenneth F. Joyce**,  
SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor  
of Law:

“**I** thank my esteemed colleague publicly for the intellectual ride we had together, both in class and on paper. It began with that first summer before I started teaching tax, when he spent countless hours giving unselfishly of the insights he had gained over many years of thinking and teaching. It continued until the end, and although my debt to him may be non-recourse, it is – as he taught us that Crane taught – every bit as real as is the debt my wife Rita and I owe Lou's wife Bea for, inter multa alia, the meatball recipe, and as are the debts my children Mary and Michael owe 'Aunt Bea' and 'Uncle Lou' for being their proxy godparents and for being a loving part of their Buffalo family.”

**Donald C. Lubick**,  
former partner at Hodgson Russ LLP and former  
U. S. Treasury Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy:

“**H**is time in law practice prepared him well for the switch to a career where he achieved nonpareil status as an academician. He wrote a number of articles that were meticulous and thoughtful contributions to tax law learning. But his real place and most lasting achievements were as an inspirational teacher. In the classroom his care and helpfulness to young students were matched with his clarity and effectiveness in conveying understanding. As a practicing lawyer in Buffalo during the time he was teaching, I relied upon his imprimatur in recruiting the best, and best prepared, law students for my law firm. Almost all of them became my partners and stack up with the best practitioners of tax law in the country. All arrived with unlimited awe and admiration for the learning they had acquired from Lou Del Cotto.”

“[Del Cotto] wrote a number of articles that were meticulous and thoughtful contributions to tax law learning. But his real place and most lasting achievements were as an inspirational teacher. In the classroom his care and helpfulness to young students were matched with his clarity and effectiveness in conveying understanding.”

– Donald C. Lubick

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# Law School Report

## Trial run

*Moot court competitions get future litigators on their feet*



Left to right: Hon. Jonathan W. Feldman, Magistrate Judge US District Court for the Western District of NY (Rochester), Hon. Eugene M. Fahey '84, NY Appellate Division 4th Department (Rochester), and the Hon. Marian W. Payson, Magistrate Judge US District Court for the Western District of NY (Rochester).

One of the Law School's best tools for teaching litigation skills is its extensive moot court program. From competitions in Buffalo to contests nationally and even internationally, UB Law students are putting heart and soul into briefs and oral advocacy that are the next-best thing to actual litigation. The highlight of the year is the Desmond Moot Court Competition, held Oct. 29 to 31 at the Law School. Twenty-seven teams of second- and third-year UB Law students competed in arguing both sides of a federal appellate case, *U.S. v. Michael Williams*. The case concerns the constitutionality of the Protect Act of 2003, which prohibits the pandering of child pornography.

A panel of real-world judges – U.S. Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroeder '61, U.S. Magistrate Judge Jonathan Feldman, Hon. Eugene M. Fahey '84, NY Appellate Division 4th Department and U.S. Magistrate Judge Marian W. Payson – judged the finals, in which second-year UB Law students Mark Welchons '09 and Anthony Rogers-Reeves '09 emerged victorious. Matthew Kibler '09 and Sydney Probst '09 took first place in the Best Brief category, and Taiymoor Naqi '09 was named Best Oral Advocate.

"It was reassuring to me to know that people who are professionals, who have excelled in this field, thought we did a good job, and it made me feel affirmed in career

choices and decisions that I am making," Rogers-Reeves said. "It made me realize that I really do enjoy the heck out of that kind of arguing."

The case, he said, was actually argued in front of the U.S. Supreme Court during the week of the Desmond competition. The appellant had been convicted of child porn pandering, but the Court of Appeals overturned his conviction because it found the law overbroad and thus unconstitutional.

"The part of the law in question in this case said essentially that anybody who even represented that they had child pornography to sell or trade over the Internet would be guilty of pandering," Rogers-Reeves said. "It becomes a matter of perhaps punishing

someone for just talking big or trying to rip someone off. Somebody who is just bragging about something they have, that is not a crime under our system."

The competition, he said, was an investment in time and effort: "I was not prepared for how much extra work it was going to be. It required me to give up some weekends and some evenings that I had not thought I was going to have to give up."

For his partner, the Desmond competition identified a growing edge. "I was not planning on going into litigation as a career," said Welchons. "Now I am seriously considering it."

"To be completely honest, I was terrified throughout the whole process. But it increased my confidence in speaking before people and in making oral arguments. Especially before the real judges in the finals – every question that I had hoped they would not ask me, they did. But overall it was a great experience."

The fourth annual Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Tournament, coordinated by Erie County Court Judge Thomas P. Franczyk, was held in city courtrooms and at UB Law School from Nov. 9 to 12.

Thirty-six law schools were represented, sending a total of 140 students to argue a fictional murder mystery about a wealthy tycoon who was poisoned with cyanide. A two-person team from Syracuse University Law School won the competition's final round, held in the Francis M. Letro Courtroom in O'Brian Hall. Other schools participating included St. John's, Temple and Michigan State.

Although two UB Law teams did not advance to a regional competition, two students, Joshua Hurwit '08 and Benjamin Carlisle '08, won the Best Direct Examination and Best Cross-Examination awards.

An awards dinner was held at Pettibones Grill at Dunn Tire Park.

In the National Trial Team Competition, UB Law's team of Kristin Paulding '09, Matt Schnirel '08 and Lisa Ball '08 placed fifth out of 20 teams in the regional contest. Paulding was named Best Overall Advocate, and



Left to right: Mark Welchons '09 at podium, and Anthony Rogers-Reeves '09, seated. Foreground, Emina Poricanin '09 and Taiymoor Naqi '09.

Schnirel was fifth overall among the 60 students competing.

UB Law sent two teams to the American Bar Association Regional Representation in Mediation Competition, held at Hofstra University on Long Island. Students Crystal Rodriguez '08, Danielle Barrett '08, Dwight Kanyuck '08 and Jennifer Jones '08 made the trip for the two-day competition, accompanied by coach Steve Sugarman '85, a UB Law faculty member. Kanyuck and Jones placed first in the semifinal round.

UB Law's four-person team of Mindi Byrd '09, Dan Christiansen '08, Greg Stein '08 and Jackie Bain '08 reached the semifinal round of the Jessup International Moot Court Regional Competition in Boston. The team went 3-1 in the preliminary rounds, advancing to the semifinals against Boston College.

The UB team's only loss in the preliminary rounds was against Harvard; however, the brief written by Greg Stein and Jackie Bain outscored Harvard.

The team was coached by Jennifer Mucha '07 and James O'Keefe '07.

In the Herbert Wechsler National Criminal Law Moot Court Competition, run by UB Law School's Criminal Law Center and held in Amherst, 24 two-person teams competed, with the winners coming from Chicago-Kent Law School. Competing for UB were Shannon Elwell '08, Christina Cassillo '08, Lauren Charles '08 and Kevin Habberfield '08.

Named after the drafter of the Model Penal Code, the Wechsler Competition is the only national moot court competition in the United States to focus on topics in substantive criminal law.

In the spring 2007 semester, UB Law's team of first-year students in the Fasken Martineau contest competed in Toronto against schools from New York and Ontario. UB, Cornell, Syracuse, Osgood, Queens and the University of Toronto were all represented. This invitation-only tournament, open to first-year law students, focuses on International Law issues. These UB Law students competed: Darice Dinsmore '09, Josh Dilk '09, Mike

Hecker '09, Gabby Petersen '09, Noel Mendez '09, Jodi-Kay Williams '09, Patrick Fitzsimmons '09, Carolyn Miller '09, Kevin Espinosa '09 and Mark A. Foti '09.

Also in spring 2007, UB Law's Niagara Cup team competed in Cleveland. That team comprised Jason Joaquin Almonte '07, Nicole Parshal '07, and current third-year students Theo Nickerson and Adam O'Brien.

In the Albert R. Mugel National Tax Moot Court Competition, held at UB Law School, two teams represented UB Law: Rachel Hezel '07 and Ray Walters '07, and Joshua Lawrence '07 with current third-year student Daniel Kuhn '08. The problem, written by Professor Kenneth F. Joyce, involved an appeal from a decision of the Tax Court regarding taxation of a compensatory damages award to a patron at a comedy club who was subjected to a tirade by a washed-up comic. Overall winners of the competition were Carrie Masters and Robert Cassity from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University.



# Law School Report

## Outside chances

*Expanded externship program provides practical experience*

In UB Law's growing externship program, the work is genuine; the pay is in academic credit, not dollars; and the experience is priceless. Twenty-five to 30 students each semester take advantage of the opportunity to work in externship placements, said Lise Gelernter, a member of the teaching faculty and director of the program. Students can take only one externship in their Law School careers. Placements involve eight hours of work each week on site and regular reports to a faculty supervisor.

Gelernter, who has run the program since the summer of 2006, said new semester-long opportunities continue to be added to a list of options that includes dozens of possible judicial clerkships, legislative externships, and other non-profit and government work. Most are in Western New York, but the option to arrange summer externships means students have worked in Rochester, Philadelphia, New York City, even Chicago and Seattle.

"We network at every opportunity," Gelernter said. "It may be that a judge hears from one of his colleagues how well an externship has worked out in his office, and calls us. Sometimes alumni hear about the program and call us. Or a non-profit calls the Career Services Office and says, we do not have a paying job but we can host a student for credit. This is part of the University's and the Law School's civic engagement mission as well."

Second- and third-year students are eligible, though judicial clerkships are offered only to third-years, she said. Not everyone who applies to the program is accepted; students have to maintain a B average, and there is a screening process that includes a review of the student's transcript and resume.

In addition to Gelernter, faculty who supervise externships include Barry Boyer, Makau Mutua, Dianne Avery and Jim Milles. The administrator for the program is Donna McClellan, assistant to the dean for special programs.



Lise Gelernter counsels a student.



*"They work hard, but it is a very different kind of work from academic work."*

*– Lise Gelernter, adjunct associate professor and director of the externship program*

The school also offers a field placement in Social Security disability law, in which students work in federal District Court to review administrative decisions by the Social Security Administration regarding disability benefits. Unique in the externship program, this placement requires that students be enrolled in the bridge-term course Social Security Disability Law and Practice. The work takes place during the bridge term: 24 hours a week in chambers for four weeks.

Spring 2008 offerings include placements with the City of Buffalo and the Town of Wheatfield, the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, the UB Law Library, the International Institute, and more.

"They work hard, but it is a very different kind of work from academic work," said Gelernter, who welcomes contacts (gelernt@buffalo.edu) from alumni who know of placement opportunities in non-profit or government situations.

Conversations with a handful of students who have benefited from externship placements reveal enthusiasm for the experience.

"It was definitely worth it," said Alex Colicchio, who with two other UB Law students worked in the bridge-term Social Security placement in January of his second year. "If I could take all externships, I would. You learn a lot more being around lawyers than sitting in a classroom and being a passive observer."

Colicchio explained that the work involves examining appeals by individuals who have been denied Social Security disability benefits by an administrative law judge, and have appealed the denial in federal court. Students helped plow through a huge caseload by reading the appeal petitions, drafting possible decisions, and discussing those drafts with Judge Michael Telesca and the judge's law clerk.

"He trusted us a lot," Colicchio said of the judge. "By the time we got to the Social Security program, we knew what we were doing."

"The administrative law judges' caseload is enormous. For them to go through all the cases and examine them in depth – sometimes they can just miss something. You really have to keep a very critical eye."

In the fall semester of 2007, third-year student Brad Lachut indulged his passion for politics through an externship with the Erie County Legislature.

Working directly with the legislature's chief of staff, Sean Ryan, Lachut said the work is varied: everything from doing re-



Extern Shannon Elwell '08 at the Federal Courthouse with, left to right, George C. Burgasser, assistant U.S. attorney, and Michael DiGiacomo, assistant U.S. attorney.

search to sitting in on committee meetings and legislative sessions. He has worked on issues related to the county budget, he said, such as preparing questions to be asked at the budget committee, and checked proposed revisions to local laws before they went before the lawmakers for approval.

"Mr. Ryan has been great," he said. "He gives me a lot of guidance, but also lets me do my own thing. The time involved is more hours than in the classroom, but there is not really any outside reading or outside exams, so it probably works out to be about the same amount of work."

A bonus, Lachut said, is that he has made a lot of contacts for the future. "You do make connections," he said, "so it is good experience, and you are meeting a lot of people in your field."

"I am disappointed I can only do one externship."

For third-year student Shannon Elwell, who spent the fall semester of 2007 working in the U.S. Attorney's office in Buffalo, her externship was a point of entry into the world of federal prosecution that she hopes to join after graduation. In the company of a half-dozen other UB Law students, she has seen firsthand the work involved – and done her share of it.

"I got to argue in federal court before I

even graduated from Law School," she said. "The externship is really a great way to get your feet wet, because they literally say, 'Here are the files' and throw you in there."

The experience, she said, has included attending proffer agreements, where the government offers a plea deal to a defendant in exchange for information in another case. ("It is like stuff you would see in the movies," Elwell said.) And there are research projects in which the students look at case law and write a memo proposing a course of action in a given case.

"What is cool," she said, "is they have work for us to do, but also when there is not work to do, they say, come along with us on whatever. They primarily like for us to learn by doing. They will take us with them wherever they go and whatever they do."

Elwell has applied to the Department of Justice's honors program – the only way to work in federal prosecution right out of law school. She's also interviewing at district attorneys' offices for prosecutorial positions.

Even in those applications, she said, the externship experience helps, because she has passed a background security check. "Going into the interview," she said, "that is a huge plus."



# Law School Report

CAPITAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

## Inside the walls

*For opponents of the death penalty, deeply personal perspectives*

**A** lively discussion on the American system of justice—its strengths, its limitations and how it might be improved—was the result of a provocative O’Brian Hall forum on capital punishment. The April 19 event, “Inside the Walls: Three Perspectives on Life in Prison and the Death Penalty,” was hosted by UB Law School’s Capital Advocacy Project. Co-sponsors were the Prison Task Force, Witness to Innocence, and New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty.

**Jim Michalek**, president of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, noted that the state currently does not have a death penalty, but now has two new members of the Court of Appeals whose positions on the issue are unclear, raising the possibility that capital punishment could be reinstated. He briefly stated some reasons for concern about the death penalty, pointing to the conviction of innocent persons; the penalty’s disproportionate imposition on persons of color; and the enormous cost of administering the capital system. In the years that the death penalty existed in New York, he said, more than \$200 million in taxpayer money was allocated to capital cases.

Forming the center of the presentation were comments by three individuals who have had direct contact with the prison system. The first was **Gary Beeman**, who spent three years on death row in Ohio for aggravated murder before he was exonerated and freed.

Beeman asked those in attendance to remember a time they had been wrongly accused of some wrongdoing, perhaps as a child. “Think about the feelings that go along with that,” he said. “Fear, anger, betrayal, resentment, rage. It is a horrible experience. There is nothing I know to compare it to.”

Beeman told the story of his wrongful conviction, which came after a fellow inmate testified that Beeman had confessed the crime to him. His court-appointed attorney, he said, did no investigation and very little trial preparation, and Beeman was swiftly convicted of murder.

“I thought that innocence was all I needed,” Beeman said. “One thing I learned from this case is that innocence is irrelevant. It is a battle between two sides, and whichever side has the most power and the most maneuvering, that is the side that wins. Too often, if you are not affluent, you do not have a chance.

“I swore at that time I would never put my life and liberty in the hands of lawyers. I have recanted that attitude. I know a lot of good lawyers. But that is the point at which I started working on my own case.”

He was sentenced to die in the electric chair. But an Ohio appeals court reversed his conviction, partly on the grounds of inadequate counsel, and in a second trial at which he represented himself, Beeman was found not guilty.

“My case shines a light on the lack of effective assistance of counsel in capital cases,” he said. And of those who are on death row: “They live every day on the edge of fear that their name will be called next.”

*“I thought that innocence was all I needed. One thing I learned from this case is that innocence is irrelevant. . . . Too often, if you are not affluent, you do not have a chance.”*

*— Gary Beeman, who spent three years on death row in Ohio for aggravated murder before he was exonerated and freed*



Left to right: Jim Michalek, Nora Massey, Rev. Tim Buss and Gary Beeman

The **Rev. Tim Buss**, a former advocate of the death penalty, spoke next on his change of heart on the matter. “I spent 12 years as a youth pastor in the Niagara Falls area,” he said, “and I saw how easy it was for kids to slip through the cracks, how easy it was for them to get the short end of the stick in terms of academic and educational opportunities. I began to hear the facts, and suddenly I began to realize that, wow, we have got a real problem.”

Those who advocate the death penalty as a deterrent to murder, Buss said, ignore the fact that most murders are either crimes

of passion or committed when another crime, such as a robbery, goes wrong. And fairness, he said, is a problem: “If you are poor, a person of color or mentally handicapped, the chances of your being wrongly convicted of a capital crime skyrocket. The people who are most often wrongly convicted are those who are least able to defend themselves.”

As a pastor, he also says it is a myth that executing the killer brings closure to a victim’s family. “Say it takes 12 years to finally terminate the life of this person who killed your daughter,” Buss

said. “That means you have got to hold it in for 12 years until you can finally say, we got you, buddy. That will eat you alive.

“No amount of vengeance is ever going to bring the victim back. What we need to be doing is helping these families with forgiveness. Typically it is found that people who do carry this until the time when their person is actually executed turn out to be sour, miserable, mentally unstable people. They have literally been drinking their own waste.”

Instead of the death penalty, Buss argues for the option of life imprisonment without parole. “I am not only here for those who were wrongly convicted, I am here for those who were rightly convicted,” he said. “By giving them a sentence of life in prison, you give them the rest of their lives to make something of themselves, albeit behind prison bars where we will always be safe from them.

“If you kill this person who did this horrible thing, then that person’s family, too, is victimized. We need to provide for life imprisonment for those who have been involved in a crime, no matter how hideous. That way there are no innocent killed. That way we minimize the damage, we minimize the victims, and we give them the opportunity to create meaning in their own lives.”

**T**he final speaker was **Nora Massey**, an Amherst resident whose teenage son Terrell Massey was awaiting sentencing the next day on his conviction for killing an elderly woman as part of her daughter-in-law’s plot to collect \$150,000 in insurance money.

Mrs. Massey told the story of that fateful night in May 2005 when her son went straight from school to a party and ended up in the Amherst town jail. Five people including her son were charged in the killing; only Terrell, she said, was denied access to a lawyer. She was never notified of his arrest; she learned of it while watching the 11 p.m. news. While she waited in the police station, Terrell was told that if he signed a statement, he could see his parents.

She contends that he was given drugs and alcohol at the party, and was dragged into a murder plot against his will.

“My question is, how just is our justice system?” Massey said. “I spent over \$30,000 for an attorney. I did most of the footwork. I could have kept my \$30,000 in my pocket and defended him better than she did.”

She also saw elements of racism in the process; her son was the only black defendant, and he was convicted by an all-white jury, “some of them the same age as the victim.”

To the students in attendance, she said, “I want you to be able to distinguish between justice, fairness and injustice. If you are going into this field, you need to know that people are human beings first. If you think you cannot defend someone whether they are guilty or innocent, you are in the wrong profession. You should stop being a lawyer and be a prosecutor.”

The day after the forum, sentence was handed down for Terrell Massey: 20 years to life in prison.



*“During the boom, companies that could not have otherwise gotten a meeting at Goldman Sachs or Morgan Stanley a few years earlier were being sold to the public.” —Jonathan Knee*

## Troubling trends

*Ethics scholar tackles increasing privatization of the U.S. prison system*



An Israeli scholar and professor at Jerusalem's Hebrew University came to UB Law School on March 28 to address what he sees as a troubling trend: the increasing privatization of the U.S. prison system and other non-governmental sanctions, such as shaming penalties.

Alon Harel, currently a visiting fellow at the Centre of Ethics at the University of Toronto, discussed his recent paper on the subject with faculty and others in the Law School's new fifth-floor meeting room.

Responding to an ever-increasing number of criminals sentenced to serve time, the penal industry has been responding to the argument that private enterprise can accomplish this incarceration cheaper and more efficiently than governments can. One estimate says about 100,000 inmates are currently held in privately operated prisons, mostly in the South and the West.

A separate trend involves shaming penalties, imposition of which has grown substantially since the late 1980s. These “scarlet letter” penalties address offenses such as drunken driving, larceny, embezzlement, burglary and assault. Such penalties may include requiring petty thieves to

wear T-shirts or fluorescent bracelets announcing their crimes; displaying special license plates or bumper stickers revealing their conviction status; and posting warning signs on their property.

Harel, whose areas of research include moral and political philosophy, criminal law, law and economics, and human rights, argued that both trends circumvent an important connection: the link between the state's judgment of the wrongfulness of the action and the appropriateness of the sanction.

Privately run prisons, he said, are responsible for only one piece of that formula: the infliction of punishment. “Privatization undermines the very foundations of the criminal justice system,” he said. “Criminal sanctions should be grounded in the state's judgment of the wrongfulness of the act. Privatizing the punishment severs the link between the state and the sanctions it imposes.”

When courts impose shaming penalties, Harel said, “privately inflicted sanc-

tions are grounded in the private beliefs of those who inflict them.” When the state asks “A” to impose sanctions on “B” – for example, by ostracizing him or limiting social interactions with him – it invests “A”

with a moral authority that properly belongs to the state.

Officials of the state – such as judges, prison guards and executioners – do not need to form private judgments of the appropriate punishment for an offender, Harel said; they are citizens functioning as an agent of the state's judgment. But shaming penalties, he said, impose that duty on average citizens who come into contact with the offender. Except for those acting in an official capacity, he said, “It is immoral to inflict sanctions unless you exercise independent judgment.”

Questions from those in attendance dealt with plea bargaining, which enters into the vast majority of U.S. criminal cases; the power of victims to influence what sanction is imposed; and the role of non-profit entities, such as faith-based groups, in the criminal justice system.



*“Privatization undermines the very foundations of the criminal justice system.”*  
—Alon Harel

## Banking on change

*Author Jonathan Knee dissects a changed world of investment banking*

The *Accidental Investment Banker* was an accidental best seller for author Jonathan Knee, and he regaled a Center for the Arts audience on Oct. 25 with the story of the book, how it came to be published, and the anything-goes atmosphere of modern investment banking about which he wrote.

His talk, co-sponsored by UB Law School and the University's School of Management, was titled “Is Investment Banking a Profession?” He answered that question early on – “The concept of a profession is still very, very meaningful to the legal community and is still meaningful to parts of the investment banking community, although I think the notion of a profession as such is not as ingrained in the investment banking culture” – and then proceeded to tell the story of *The Accidental Investment Banker*.

“Writing is a much more integral part of legal training than business training,” said Knee, who is senior managing director of Evercore Partners, a New York City investment management and advisory firm. “Learning how to tell a good yarn is probably among the most important skills that anybody in either of those professions can learn.”

But, he said, “the difference between writing a thousand words and writing 100,000 words is monumental. A hundred thousand words is a big deal, and I never thought that I had a story that was worth that many words. But being an investment banker for over a decade, and watching several generations of people enter and leave the business, I was really struck by just how little the people who think they wanted to be investment bankers knew about what investment bankers do.

“I decided I could write a history of investment banking that used my story, of dropping into the business accidentally right at the beginning of the boom-and-bust period at the two most prestigious investment banks, as a way to tell that part of a history that would be more accessible and meaningful to a general audience.”

Knee had worked at the old-line investment banking houses Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. He also teaches media mergers and acquisitions and strategic management of media at the Columbia



University Business School.

The book was published by Oxford University Press, an academic publisher. But a New York Times reporter got hold of a review copy, Knee said, and wrote a piece for the newspaper's Sunday book review section. The review, he said, compared his book to *You'll Never Eat Lunch in This Town Again*, a Hollywood expose, and *The Devil Wears Prada*, which skewered the fashion industry. For *The Accidental Investment Banker*,

the rest was history – it shot up to No. 34 on the Amazon best-seller list, and sold a phenomenal 35,000 hardcover copies.

The story, Knee said, is of a very conservative traditional business undergoing rapid change. At the old-line banking houses, he said, “the culture of client loyalty and integrity, you could not believe it if you heard it today. The idea was not just that you were joined at the hip for life, but you had an obligation to the public. There were whole classes of industries they would not underwrite because they did not think it was appropriate for the public to own stock in those industries, such as gambling, and advertising agencies.”

Then a series of culture changes in the 1980s and '90s rocked the investment banking community. The merger-and-acquisition business entered into investment banking, creating partnerships with “pre-

viously unwelcome clients.”

Then investment banking houses began to deal in junk bonds. “Who issues junk bonds? A lot of people you wouldn't take public,” Knee said. Again, the industry's ethic of protecting the public was eroded.

Finally, he said, the “big jump” came when investment bankers moved from acting as agents, connecting corporations with capital, toward investing their own money in an attempt to make exponential returns. Today, he said, at some firms traditional investment banking represents less than 10 percent of the business at some firms; the rest is investing its own assets.

“During the boom,” Knee said, “companies that could not have otherwise gotten a meeting at Goldman Sachs or Morgan Stanley a few years earlier were being sold to the public. People on the commitments committee (which decides what to invest in) stopped asking, ‘Should we underwrite this start-up company?’ and started asking, ‘Can we?’ The fundamental choice is, do I lower my standards or do I lower my market share? Nobody failed to lower their standards, and lower them dramatically.”

The same danger threatens the legal profession, he said: “Once short-term revenue maximization becomes the way you are judged, it is very hard to maintain a culture.”

But to the students in the audience thinking about the profession, he had these words of encouragement: “There is no other job like investment banking in terms of giving you access to and the ability to influence decision makers. I would submit that CEOs are a lot more important than your average congressman or bureaucrat. CEOs run villages that are called companies, some of which have hundreds of thousands of employees and have great impact on the world around them.”



# Law School Report

## Mentoring program a win-win

**T**he first-year mentoring program provides law students with a personal introduction to the legal community. It's a win-win for everyone: For students, mentors provide invaluable guidance, advice and feedback on everything from interview etiquette to law office politics. Law students are able to ask their mentors questions and obtain information that they could not elsewhere or would be afraid to ask.

Mentors also benefit by having a firsthand view of UB Law School, current legal education and the new associates of the future.

Attorneys received a free CLE, including training on mentoring, and met their mentees at a January reception in the Center for Tomorrow hosted by the Law School. Mentors are admitted attorneys who have been in practice at least five years. If you would like to volunteer, please call the Career Services Office at (716) 645-2056.



Left to right:  
Ginger D.  
Schroeder '90  
and Sabrina  
Hill '09

Left to right:  
Harvey Asiedu-  
Akrofi '09  
with Stephen L.  
Yonaty '94



Jenna Bichler  
'09 speaks with  
Mickey H.  
Osterreicher '98



Left to right:  
Stacyann  
Freckleton '09  
and Candace  
Jackson '09



Left to right:  
Nicole Kim '09  
and Aparnaa  
Bhatt '09



Above, left to right: Ericka Ensign '09 and  
Amil Sarfaz '09 with Hon. Craig D. Hannah '95

Left to right:  
Serra Aygun '09  
and Stephanie  
Williams Torres '00



Left to right:  
Rob Santoto  
'09 and Bruce  
A. Ikefugi '89



# Law School Report

## Standing on principle



Jordan Marks '09

### *Federalist Society event examines driver's licenses for illegal aliens*

One of the most vocal critics of New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's controversial plan to issue driver's licenses to illegal aliens found an audience both receptive and perceptive as he spoke about the issue Nov. 13 in an O'Brien Hall lecture room.

Robert Christman, Allegany County clerk, came to UB Law at the invitation of the Federalist Society, an association of conservative and libertarian students.

"I was really, really pleased," Christman said. "I was a little hesitant at first, because I was not sure what kind of reception I would get in the big city and the University. But I was warmly received, there was a great turnout, and the students asked a lot of really positive questions. I did not have to

inform them of all the nuances. They were very well versed and educated in the issue, and we could really get into the nitty-gritty of it."

Christman spoke of what he saw as the political payback behind Spitzer's driver's license initiative, and detailed the difficult position he and other county clerks were in if they opposed the expansion of licenses. For one thing, he noted, Spitzer is the boss; but county clerks are sworn to uphold state vehicle law, which he believes conflicts with the governor's directive.

Spitzer had argued that issuing driver's licenses to undocumented aliens would reduce the number of uninsured motorists, help keep track of immigrants and bring in new fee revenue. But critics, including

Christman, feared that there would be security risks if the plan went through, and bristled at the apparent violation of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, which requires driver's license applicants to provide a Social Security number.

The UB Law audience was far from one-sided on the issue, Christman said. "A few people asked me some very tough questions," he said. "I talked about the legal aspects of the issue, the application and the procedures and how I was going to have to actually proceed with non-issuance of these licenses. It is easy to say you are not going to do something, but what will get you is the details."

As it turned out, the governor blinked first. The day after Christman's appearance, in the face of vehement public opposition, Spitzer backed down on his controversial plan.

Jordan Marks, a second-year student who was president of the Federalist Society during the first semester, turned over the gavel to fellow second-year Seth Pullen because Marks is heading to New York City for a semester in the international finance transactions program.

"This organization was started to spark debates that do not take place in the classroom, and to really challenge people's ideas about certain issues," Marks said. "We are dedicated to the Federalist Papers, and the importance of judicial restraint and strict interpretationism."

He said they invited Christman to speak because the issue had generated much heat but little light. "On the face value of the issue, I had an established view, but I did not know enough about the issue," Marks said. "I noticed a lot of people were taking positions without knowing enough about the issue."

Christman, he said, "explained what he faced as an employee of the state and the pressure he faced. No matter what your political party, the plan itself was just ridiculous."

For example, Marks said, the plan



would allow applicants to supply foreign identity documents, which would be scanned and sent electronically to the Department of Homeland Security, and within 120 seconds would be translated and verified. "I can barely get my credit card to go through that fast," he said.

Also at the forum was David Pullen, Seth's father, an Allegany County legislator and municipal attorney. The event also included a fund-raiser for Kiva.org, a Web-based microlender. "We wanted to support democracy through our dollars," Marks said.

He said the Federalist Society "tries to stay away from political bashing. We are not Republican, we are not Democratic; we are open to all members." He also said that alumni would be welcome to speak to the group if there is an issue they would like to address. "We would love to have a lot more discussion on our campus," he said.

*"I did not have to inform [the students] of all the nuances. They were very well versed and educated in the issue, and we could really get into the nitty-gritty of [New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's plan to issue driver's licenses to illegal aliens]."*

*—Robert Christman, above, Allegany County clerk*



# Law School Report

STUDENTS OF COLOR



Left to right: Jodi-Kay E. Williams '09, Aparnaa J. Bhatt '09 and Dino P. Peragallo '09.

## Rising stars

*Students of Color Dinner looks to a bright future*

In keeping with the theme “Lifting as We Climb,” the Law School’s annual Students of Color Dinner brought together graduating students, continuing students, faculty and a wide variety of friends to celebrate achievement and call for a commitment to serve others as only lawyers can.

The April 12 dinner, held at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott, is a joint venture of the Asian American Law Students Association, the Black Law Students Association and the Latin American Law Students Associa-

tion. It mixed solemnity – the annual candle-lighting ceremony in which seniors symbolically pass the torch of achievement to the next generation – with laughter, as distinguished alumni, faculty and others were honored for their achievements.

With a slide show of smiling Law School faces running continuously in the background, those honored shared words of thanks and advice with those who will soon be their colleagues in the legal profession.

“Looking out at this room, I see the future of this country as every room should

look like,” said Clotilde Bode-Perez Dedecker, president of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, the evening’s keynote speaker. Dedecker, who immigrated to the United States from her childhood home in Cuba, recounted some of her life experiences – “in hopes,” she said, “that these might give insight and inspiration of your rights and responsibilities to be a player in the great experiment of our American democracy.”

She remembered the rationing of food in Cuba, and the long lines at government





*"Looking out at this room, I see the future of this country as every room should look like."*

– Clotilde Bode-Perez Dedecker, president of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

stores. The black market flourished, despite the threat of prison. In 1964, Dedecker said, her parents asked the Cuban government for permission to leave, then had to endure three years of close scrutiny – including wiretapped phones – before they were allowed to leave the country. They had to relinquish all their possessions, allowed to take only 30 pounds of clothing apiece.

They arrived in Miami with \$10 and began anew. When the family moved to Buffalo so Dedecker's father could study at UB, "the community provided for us for two years," she said. "I know the power of community resources, because I have experienced them as a beneficiary."

Dedecker has wide experience in public service and serves on several boards, and she challenged her listeners to tackle such problems as high poverty rates among African-American and Latino children in Buffalo. "I am very fortunate to tell you that I love my work and know that it matters," she said. "Speaking to the 2007 graduates, I wish the same for you. I believe that only in giving to others do we discover our true selves. Only then can the promise of America be the practice of America on a day-to-day basis."

Three graduates of UB Law School received Distinguished Alumni Awards at the dinner. They are:  
*Hon. Rose H. Sconiers '73*, justice of the New York State Supreme Court for the 8th District. Justice Sconiers was delayed in New York City by canceled plane flights. Cecelia Henderson accepted the award on her behalf.

*Bradley Gayton '91*, assistant tax officer and director of tax operations for Ford Motor Co. Gayton said he had expressed reservations about the award to his mother, who responded: "This is not about you. People of color need to celebrate successes not for the individual's sake, but so people can point to them and say, 'If he can do it, so can I.'"

*Nicole Lee '02*, executive director of



TransAfrica Forum, the leading advocacy organization for African and the African diaspora in the United States. Said Lee: "I wish someone had said to me and my class more, do what is in your heart, because that is what you are going to be good at. That is what you are going to be successful at."

The Trailblazer Award was presented to Rochester lawyer *Michael R. Wolford '68*, managing partner of Wolford & Leclair. As president of the Monroe County Bar Association, Wolford initiated a program to develop lawyers of color, now entering its third year with 13 summer clerkships. "This profession of ours is only going to succeed if we become more diverse, right up through managing partners and the judiciary," he said.

*Professor Dianne Avery '82* was honored

with the Jacob D. Hyman Professor of the Year Award, and used the occasion to speak of the accomplishments of Hyman, who died April 8. Avery cited Hyman's tolerance and compassion as a teacher, and his "absolute passion for and commitment to social justice," including a law review article four years before *Brown v. Board of Education* that argued for the dismantling



Above, SUNY Distinguished Professor Makau Mutua and Nicole C. Lee '02

At left: left to right, Carolina Felix '08 and Evelyn Abiola '08

of segregation in American education.

Finally, the Lift as We Climb Scholarship was awarded to Maryland native *Patrice Harris*, a senior at UB majoring in biomedical sciences and pre-law studies.

The 14-person Students of Color Dinner Committee was chaired by Carolina Felix '07, with representatives from each Law School class.



# Faculty

## Building a new Kenya

*Professor Makau Mutua works to develop the next generation of 'civil society'*

As the world watches the struggles of newly democratic Iraq, another nascent democracy is working through its own growing pains – and a UB Law professor is wielding his considerable influence in that process.

A native of the East African nation, Professor Makau Mutua traveled last summer to Tanzania and Kenya, working to build up non-governmental organizations that he says will grow the next generation of Kenyan political leaders.

It was only in 1992 when Kenya first achieved democratic, multiparty elections. Daniel arap Moi served two five-year terms as president, then was succeeded by Mwai Kibaki.

Kibaki faced a stiff challenge from one-time ally Raila Odinga at the polls on Dec. 27. The campaigns were bitter and stoked ethnic tensions. Kibaki was declared the winner by several hundred thousand votes amid credible allegations of vote rigging. Odinga refused to concede defeat and called on his supporters to protest the outcome.

The result has been violence in opposition strongholds in which groups supporting Odinga have killed hundreds of Kibaki's supporters. In response, the government has killed scores of protesters. As the country threatens to melt down, international mediators, including Kofi Annan, the former U.N. secretary-general, have rushed to Kenya to broker peace.



Kenya will elect a new president in 2012, and in Mutua's eyes, it is time for a new generation to take power.

"The political class in Kenya is very resilient," he says, because they were reared in the old one-party system in which the state was "treated as a piggy bank." In the 15 years since arap Moi's election, "there has been a more open political process," Mutua says. "But the same people who controlled the one-party state have migrated to the various political parties and now run these parties."

This, he says, has meant that governing continues to be based on patronage, not merit, and has spawned an "anti-intellectualism" in which "the parties do not encourage big-picture discussions about the long-term interests of the country, about the problem of corruption, and even about the purpose of politics."

Further complicating the Kenyan politi-

cal picture, Mutua says, each party has identified itself with one of the country's ethnic groups, so that political discussion has been "fractured and balkanized along ethnic lines."

And as Kenyans debate who might succeed President Kibaki, Mutua and others have been working to develop leaders in "civil society" – the wide network of human rights organizations, women's groups, bar associations and other non-governmental organizations. The current administration, Mutua says, has recruited the best and brightest from civil society into government service. "The most senior people are gone," he says. "You have toddlers in civil society who have to learn how civil society works."

So, for example, the Kenya Human Rights Commission, an NGO that Mutua chairs, has over the past two years pulled away from the Kibaki government to re-

establish itself as an independent voice (and frequent critic of the administration), and while Mutua was in Nairobi in August, a new executive director and deputy were named. As other NGOs regroup, Mutua says, the hope is that their leaders will form the nucleus of a new political generation, ready to govern with integrity and energy.

"We want to create a state that is sensitive to differences, a state that is open and transparent, a state that takes into consideration the advantages and disadvantages that different groups enjoy and sees the disadvantages reduced, a state that is fair to everyone," Mutua says. "And we hope that whoever runs the state helps to form a Kenyan national identity that transcends ethnic and regional identities. The purpose of civil society is to be the guardian of the national identity" – a purpose it fulfilled before 1992 but now has ceded to the political class.

After spending time in Tanzania, where the Kenya Human Rights Commission held a staff retreat, Mutua crossed into Kenya with no small degree of tension. He had put out feelers to some government officials he knew, asking them whether he might risk being arrested for his vigorous criticism of the Kibaki administration if he entered Kenya. They had assured him that if he lay low, he should be safe – the presidential campaign was claiming most of the spotlight. Nevertheless, he said, the 10 days he spent in Nairobi were an anxious time.

Mutua, a prolific academic writer and director of the Buffalo Human Rights Center, continues to write a column for a major newspaper in Nairobi. He also is publishing a book on the Kenyan constitutional review process, as well as the proceedings of a 2004 conference on NGOs operating in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

And he continues to monitor the progress of civil society in his beloved homeland, knowing that helping its key players to develop leadership skills may be the key to Kenya's future.

"This is a very, very tall order," the professor concedes. "But no country can rise to prosperity without a visionary political class. Our sense is that the current political class is myopic, visionless and very self-interested." He points out that, in a country where half the citizens live on less than a dollar a day, the 224 members of the Kenyan National Assembly are the highest-paid in the world – better-paid even than members of the U.S. Congress.

"Kenyans," Mutua says, "are hungry for non-traditional politicians. In 2012 there has to be a clear reformist candidate."

## SUNY Distinguished Professor Makau W. Mutua named interim dean of the Law School

Makau W. Mutua, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the University at Buffalo Law School, has been named interim dean of the Law School, effective Dec. 17. Mutua replaces Nils Olsen, who announced last spring that he would step down in December as dean to attend to personal and family health issues.

Mutua, who also is Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar in the UB Law School, directs the Human Rights Center in the Law School. He joined the UB faculty in 1996 after serving as associate director of the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School. In addition, he was director of the Africa Project at the Lawyers

Committee for Human Rights.

One of the world's foremost authorities in the area of human rights law, he has conducted numerous human rights, diplomatic and rule-of-law missions to countries in Africa, Latin America and Europe, and has spoken at public forums in many parts of the world, including Japan, Brazil, France and Ethiopia. He is a member of the Executive Council and the Executive Committee of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), the most prestigious and largest organization of international lawyers in the world.

Mutua is the author of *Human Rights: A Political and Cultural Critique* (2002), and his most recent books, *Kenya's Quest for Democracy: Taming Leviathan* and *Human Rights NGOs in East Africa: Political and Normative Tensions*, will be published this spring. He has written numerous scholarly articles on topics that include international law, human rights and religion. He also has written human rights reports for the United Nations and leading nongovernmental organizations, as well as dozens of articles for such popular publications as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Mutua has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, the University of Iowa College of Law, the University of Puerto Rico School of Law and the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica. In addition, he served as chair of the Task Force for the Establishment of a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission appointed under the authority of President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya in 2003.

He was educated at the University of Nairobi, Kenya; the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; and at Harvard Law School, where he obtained a doctor of juridical science degree in 1987.





# New Faculty

## A sense of place

*Associate Professor Irus Braverman explores the nexus of law, geography and anthropology*

These days, Irus Braverman is learning her way around Buffalo, having moved here in early June. But knowing east from west is proving to be somewhat difficult. It is, she says, mostly a question of acquired geography: “I grew up in Jerusalem and am used to having mountains around to keep me oriented. Here I mostly get lost.”

Indeed, it is that sense of inner-connectedness between the natural and the social worlds that informs Braverman’s work, which travels between the disciplines of law, geography, and anthropology. She joins the UB Law faculty from Harvard University, where she was an associate at the Humanities Center and previously a visiting fellow at Harvard Law’s Human Rights Program. She has also just defended her thesis for a doctorate in juridical science at the University of Toronto.

Braverman (her first name is pronounced Ee-rous) wrote her M.A. thesis in criminology on housing regulations in East Jerusalem, and about the governmental practice of house demolitions in particular. In her doctoral thesis, Braverman’s focus of attention has shifted from the space of the house to that of trees.

“In a way, one is no less of a human construction than the other,” she explains, “only that with trees people seem to believe that they are natural and therefore are not social or political constructs, which is precisely why trees provide such a fascinating research project.”

Her doctoral thesis, titled “Tree Wars: A Study of Natural Governance in Israel/Palestine and in Four American Cities,” deals with what she calls “the politics of nature.” Her awareness of the political power of natural things dates back to her practice as an environmental lawyer in Tel Aviv some ten years ago. Accordingly, the first part of her thesis focuses on the politics of pine and olive landscapes in Israel/Palestine.

“Trees there play a very important national role,” she explains. The pine was the main tree planted by the Jewish National Fund for decades and has come to be identified with the Jewish people, while the olive tree has become a symbol of Palestinian clinging to the land and resistance to the Israeli occupation. Tensions between the two groups have manifested themselves also in the burning of forests and the uprooting of olive groves.

At the same time, Braverman also clarifies that there is more to the picture than this binary tree affiliation. She explains that the dual identities can also be bypassed and confused by a set of sometimes surprising connections. For example, “the olive tree is used in various instances as a symbol of the Israeli state and Jewish settlers have increasingly been planting olive trees,” she says.

The second part of her thesis discusses the role of trees in certain American urban settings, and in four North American cities in particular, including Toronto and Boston, Mass. She explores the way human traffic is controlled through the placement of trees on city sidewalks, as well as the dynamic between tree management on city sidewalks and urban crime control.

Now that she is in Buffalo, Braverman is considering studying the October 2006 storm and its social and spatial effects. “Having trees play such an important role in Buffalo since the storm is a very interesting coincidence with my own research interests,” she states. She has already started interviewing various tree officials in town.

Buffalo’s location near an international border is another topic that triggers her interests, and there she finds further evidence that geography and politics go hand in hand. Her border experience dates back to

her years in Israel, where she was active in a women’s group that routinely monitors Israeli soldiers’ behavior at various check-points in the West Bank.

Braverman has worked as a community organizer in low-income communities in Washington, D.C.; Boston; and San Diego, as well as in Israel. Now, at UB Law, she is excited at the prospects of legal scholarship that cuts across disciplines, and she admires the unique and eclectic scholarship of her new colleagues at the law school. She mentions the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy as an excellent place for scholars from different disciplines to come together. She wants to develop ties with other departments at UB, especially with the departments of geography, anthropology, and sociology.

She is also excited about teaching. This will be her first time teaching law to American students, and she is looking forward to the challenge. “When someone practices law, it is important that they are reflective about their work,” she says. “Teaching in general—and teaching in a law school in particular—is about providing law students with tools for critical thought and reflexivity, making law a living thing rather than something passive or stagnant that students feel they have no influence over.”

As she begins teaching, her courses will include topics such as Law and Nature and Law and Geography. Those courses will begin in the spring because of a personal blessing: Braverman and her partner, Gregor Harvey, a classical and folk guitarist and Irish mandolin player, had their first child at the end of August.

*“Teaching in general—and teaching in a law school in particular—is about providing law students with tools for critical thought and reflexivity, making law a living thing rather than something passive or stagnant that students feel they have no influence over.”*

*—Associate Professor Irus Braverman*



## Thinking local

*Associate  
Professor  
Rick Su  
focuses on  
immigration  
and local  
government law*

**R**ick Su knows how to make a summer internship pay off. In the summer after his first year at Harvard Law School he worked as a research assistant for Professors David Barron and Gerald E. Frug. The end result was a book that he co-authored with Professors Barron and Frug, called *Dispelling the Myth of Home Rule*. Although Su was initially considering a career in litigation, this experience changed his mind. Su discovered that he had found his niche.

"That summer really solidified not only my interest in legal scholarship but my interest in local government law," he says. "I just fell in love with it."

"It is not just how local issues get resolved, or how local democratic institutions work, but also how localities affect each other," Su explains. "Issues like urban segregation, and the allocation of resources, are based on the geography of how we lay out our neighborhoods. The allocation of power between local governments and the state, and the kind of legal presumptions that go into those decisions, contribute or become a primary cause of a lot of problems."

After graduating magna cum laude from Harvard Law, where he was also articles editor for the *Harvard Law Review*, Su clerked for a year in the California-based Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. He then returned to Harvard Law on an academic research fellowship, exercising a new interest in immigration law scholarship. Next, he joined the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in Boston, where he worked on litigation involving fraud and HUD-insured mortgages.

Throughout his career, teaching and scholarship remained Su's primary goal. Su joined the UB Law School faculty in the fall, and he taught immigration law in his first semester and will teach local government law in the spring. He continues to work on immigration issues as well, and is working on several articles dealing with the intersection of immigration and local government law.

Having interviewed at a number of law schools, he says he was attracted by UB Law's people and programs. "A big part of my decision was the kind of work, especially the interdisciplinary work, that people are involved in at UB," he says. "The Baldy Center is a great resource, and it is exciting to see that the Law School and the rest of the social sciences are heavily integrated. Sociology plays a big part in my work, and from the immigration side, political science plays a big part as well."

Su lives in Buffalo with his wife, Jessica Houston Su, a sociologist who continues to do welfare research for the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

*"It is not just how local issues get resolved, or how local democratic institutions work, but also how localities affect each other. Issues like urban segregation, and the allocation of resources, are based on the geography of how we lay out our neighborhoods."*

*—Associate Professor Rick Su*



# New Faculty

## Behind the legal culture

*Associate Professor  
Mateo Taussig-Rubbo  
brings the tools of  
anthropology to  
UB Law*

UB Law School's reputation as a place where the law and the social sciences mix it up took a step forward last fall when Mateo Taussig-Rubbo joined the faculty.

Taussig-Rubbo is an anthropologist, having just completed the dissertation for his doctoral degree in anthropology at the University of Chicago. He is also a lawyer,

having earned the J.D. at Yale Law School in 2001. He practiced for two years in the area of cross-border transactions at a New York City firm, and clerked for a U.S. District Court judge in the Southern District of New York.

That combination of disciplines, he says, will be at home at UB Law. "It turned out to be a great fit for me," says Taussig-

Rubbo, who has been teaching at the New School for Social Research, in New York City. "My work has been moving between anthropology and law, and everyone I met at UB with seemed open and interested in an approach to law that was serious in engaging with other disciplines. The openness to a variety of approaches impressed me."

Taussig-Rubbo, whose father is an an-

*"Anthropology is no longer only about far-flung locations and times and places. It is also a study of any human community, and that includes the United States and modern legal orders." — Associate Professor Mateo Taussig-Rubbo*

thropologist, saw a lot of the world while he was growing up. The family lived in Sydney, Australia; Colombia; New York City; and Michigan. It was good training for a social sciences discipline that studies the ways of humanity and human cultures.

"Anthropology is no longer only about far-flung locations and times and places," Taussig-Rubbo says. "It is also a study of any human community, and that includes the United States and modern legal orders. The discipline has a very rich tradition based, on one hand, on empirical ethnographic research and field work, and on the other hand, theoretical tradition that spans over a century and brings many categories and questions that can be brought to bear in the study of law."

Traditional anthropological concepts such as gift, sacrifice and consecration, he says, can be ways of understanding the law and legal systems outside the usual tools of legal analysis.

For example, Taussig-Rubbo's recent paper "Outsourcing Sacrifice: Rethinking Private Military Contractors" looks at a private legal relationship – military contractors hired by the U.S. government to work in war zones – and discusses in what sense such workers embody the American ethos. The paper discusses a deadly attack on March 31, 2004, on contractors in Fallujah, Iraq, in which the bodies of four private security guards were burned and hung on a bridge. "This was a very spectacular, grotesque ambush," Taussig-Rubbo says. "The status of these people for an American audience was transformed. Somehow America became visible again in their destroyed bodies."

"How are we meant to talk about what happens in that kind of attack? Is it just meaningless, grotesque violence? We can get much more precise and in-depth in our thinking about our reception of that kind of consecrating violence, as I call it."

Privatizing such dangerous functions of government as military service, he says, is a way to make the nation's sacrifice less immediate and personal. But highly publicized attacks like the Fallujah ambush makes it impossible for the American public to ignore that these workers, too, are sacrificing their lives in the war effort. As Taussig-Rubbo puts it, "This spectacular attack rediscovers the body politic in the bodies of these individuals and demonstrates the difficulty that a policy of outsourcing sacrifice is likely to encounter."

Taussig-Rubbo also has an interest in detention; his Ph.D. work dealt with U.S. immigration detention camps and the question, how does the state expel and eject people? He spent some time at detention centers in Los Angeles, interviewing guards, prison officials and detainees – non-citizens and legal immigrants who were in removal or deportation proceedings. "In a lot of court opinions around issues of detention, detention is really phrased as an act of beneficence," he says – described in terms of what he calls he "sovereign's gift" bestowed by an all-powerful state on an undeserving recipient.

He describes one telling detail: In one detention center, officials had installed one-way mirrors, but accidentally faced them the wrong way. The guards could see only their own reflections; the detainees could see the guards. Officials decided to keep it that way.

"To me, this spoke in powerful ways about the relationship between officials and detainees," Taussig-Rubbo says. "For the guards, it was the position of seeing only yourself, the strange pleasure in other people looking at you and wanting to join you."



# Faculty

## A former dean moves on

*Professor Filvaroff, civil rights advocate, transitions to retirement*

Before joining UB Law School in 1988 as its 15th dean, David B. Filvaroff already had a broad career in the law.

He had been in private practice, was a law clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court, served as a high-ranking adviser in the U.S. Department of Justice and had been on the law school faculties at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Texas.

Throughout Professor Filvaroff's career, two constants have remained: his love of teaching and his commitment to advancing civil rights.

"It gives me great pleasure to look back on my 40 years as a teacher, half of them here at UB," says Filvaroff, who is transitioning into retirement by reducing his teaching load to part time. "UB Law students are very smart, and they get smarter and more sophisticated all the time. I enjoy challenging students and having them challenge me. I know I'll miss the excitement I feel every time I walk into the classroom."

...

At UB, Filvaroff has taught torts, international law, civil rights, federal courts, constitutional law and international human rights.

He came to UB from the University of Texas School of Law, succeeding Wade J. Newhouse as dean and occupied the post for four years before returning to full-time teaching.

"I was attracted to Buffalo for a variety of reasons," he explains. "Chief among them was the quality of the law faculty and its breadth of interests and willingness to challenge orthodoxy; its emphasis on the role of law in society; and not least of all, the diversity within the faculty and the student body."

"It has been satisfying to witness the increasing presence of women and students of color in the classroom," says Filvaroff,

commenting on changes which have occurred since he began teaching in the 1960s. "Law schools and legal education have changed – all for the better – as the U.S. Supreme Court recognized in a recent case involving the University of Michigan Law School. It is not surprising that Buffalo was an early leader in bringing these changes about."

...

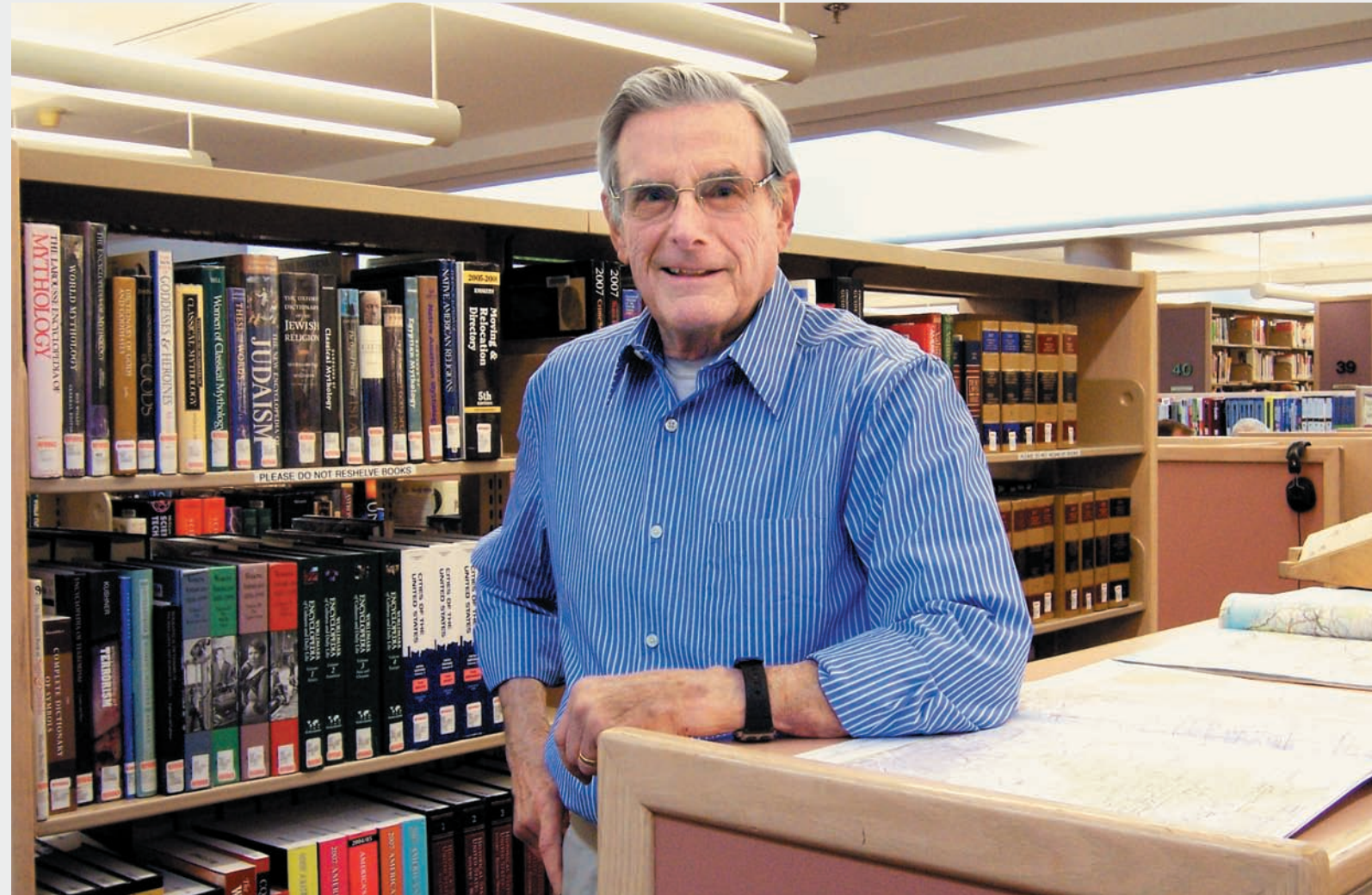
It was during Filvaroff's deanship that the Dean's Advisory Council was created. The purpose was to establish a forum for continuing communication with bench and bar. "We wanted to bring together a group of outstanding lawyers and judges who, along with our alumni association, could give us the benefit of their advice," says Filvaroff. "It helps to bring the practitioner's point of view very usefully and visibly to the Law School."

An economics major as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin, Filvaroff was a 1958 magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, where he served on the *Law Review*. He practiced with a Cleveland law firm for four years and then served as law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justices Felix Frankfurter and Arthur Goldberg.

Following his clerkship in 1963, Filvaroff joined the Department of Justice as special assistant to the deputy attorney general. After the assassination of President Kennedy and the subsequent resignation of Robert Kennedy as head of the Justice Department, Filvaroff became special assistant to the acting attorney general.

Filvaroff spent nearly all of the next year working on what was to become the Civil Rights Act of 1964. "It was exciting to participate in the shaping of the bill and to work with the Congress to get it passed," says Filvaroff.

"There is often a tendency to romanticize the past. I try not to," he says. "But at



that time, and even now, I feel very privileged to have been able to work on such significant legislation."

The resulting landmark act – the first major federal civil rights legislation since the Civil War – outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex and national origin in employment, in places of

public accommodation (such as hotels, motels, restaurants, and theaters), and in federally funded programs. It also established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to enforce its provisions.

In retirement, he says, "I have a good deal of reading that I want and need to catch up on. And I want to review what has

been happening in constitutional and international law in the midst of the war on terror and to assess the effects on fundamental rights."

He and his wife, Nancy Tobin, hope to travel widely, including trips to San Francisco and Chicago, to visit grandchildren.

“UB Law students are very smart, and they get smarter and more sophisticated all the time. I enjoy challenging students and having them challenge me. I know I’ll miss the excitement I feel every time I walk into the classroom.”

—Professor Emeritus

David B. Filvaroff



## Corporate law as theater

*‘Mysterious’ social structure of the corporation brought to light in new book*

It is not unusual for a law professor to write a book about corporate law, but it is unusual that such a book would be so well received by social scientists and legal scholars alike.

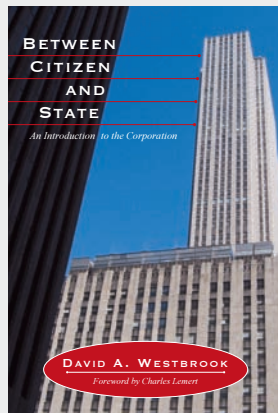
This is the case with *Between Citizen and State: An Introduction to the Corporation* (Paradigm Publishers, 2007) by David A. Westbrook, the Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law at UB Law. The book is now available in paperback.

Westbrook’s work is a departure from traditional corporate law books, which typically use statutes, cases and other texts to present the law as an object, if sometimes a tool of “policy.” Westbrook instead focuses on how corporation law presumes and creates a very familiar, yet somewhat mysterious, social structure.

In Westbrook’s view, the corporation can be seen as theater, as a play with three main characters — stockholders, directors and managers — who act out traditional corporate roles, each with their own set of complementary and conflicting motivations, goals and powers. From this perspective, Westbrook provides a unique and accessible account of how corporations are governed, and a way to begin understanding what corporate law means for society at large.

“Recent shenanigans at Enron, Adelphia, Worldcom and numerous other companies illustrate that while people do interesting and often funny things inside their companies, their actions are rarely truly surprising,” Westbrook writes. “Corporate actors have typical motivations and conflicts, and their conflicts tend to be solved in customary ways.”

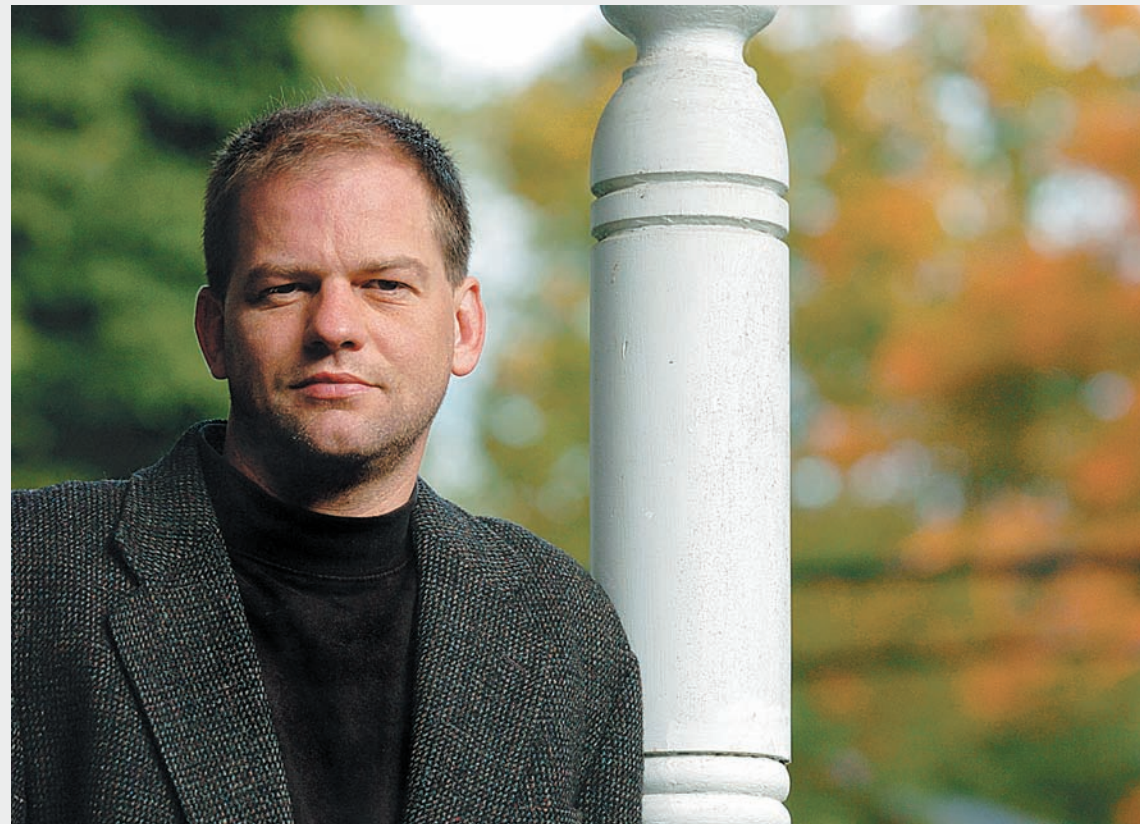
It is these interactions and customs, as described by Westbrook, which have stirred the interest of sociologists and anthropologists seeking a window on the inner workings of the corporation. Colum-



bia University sociologist Saskia Sassen, for example, writes that “Westbrook makes visible the diverse logics that organize actors even in settings, such as the corporation, where we might assume one single such logic. . . . In this author’s hands, corporate law reveals its logical complexity.”

Westbrook explains, “I wrote the book primarily for law students, so I have been delighted, and a little surprised, at the enthusiastic reception *Between Citizen and State* has received from social scientists. I think it is useful for them because, instead of a single, monolithic entity, they begin to see the corporation as dynamically composed of many parts. The book gives them a much more detailed view of the actors within the corporation and an understanding of their roles in relation to one another.”

Sociologist Charles Lemert, in a foreword to Westbrook’s book, praises the author for helping to define the “mystery” of what exists “between” an abstract social structure, like the institution of the corpo-



ration, and people’s often deeply felt understanding or imagining of their own lives in a society in which corporations play such vital roles. Corporate law — and law in general — is a “pathway through which the social becomes personal,” according to Westbrook.

From this perspective, the corporation is neither the villain depicted by the politi-

cal left nor the hero depicted by the political right. Westbrook is careful not to inject ideology or policy into this introductory account of the corporation.

“Unless one is a revolutionary or simply a yes-man, it’s a bit foolish to cheerlead for one side or the other of a social institution in the abstract,” he says. “What we’re really talking about with the institution of the corporation in general — as opposed to some particular corporation — is a set of embedded, and often conflicting, cultural commitments that span our society,” he says. “The purpose of this book is not to preach my political view on particular issues. Instead, I am trying to present the ideas surrounding the corporation, at least as taught to lawyers, maybe with a wry smile. I want to let people decide for themselves how they feel about how the social commitments reflected in our laws are likely to work out, which is not unconnected to how they feel about what is, after all, their own society.”

Although the book is intended primarily for law students as a coherent account of corporation law, a “forest for the trees” overview, Westbrook says anyone with an interest in the corporation would benefit from the book’s approach. “Corporation law is not nearly as difficult as lawyers like to think it is,” he says.

“Sociologists and others outside of the legal profession often have an abstract image of ‘the corporation,’ but are unsure about how it works, and have no idea how their academic conception hooks up with people’s actual lives,” he adds.

“But there is no need to be so abstract. Corporation law tells stories, or presents plays, that people actually live through in their economic lives. What *Between* tries to do is make those characters and their plots accessible. If you understand the plays, then you understand some important things about how our society gets constructed, which after all is what the social sciences are all about.”

“Corporation law tells stories, or presents plays, that people actually live through in their economic lives. What ‘Between’ tries to do is make those characters and their plots accessible.”

—Professor David A. Westbrook



# Faculty

## Making the case – better

*Gardner's revised textbook emphasizes storytelling and professionalism*



*“When a lawyer presents a case, he is trying to win an audience. The way people communicate is by telling stories. Even scientists tell stories when they are trying to communicate. It is all a matter of appealing effectively to the contextual expectations of your audience.”*

— UB Law Professor and Vice Dean James A. Gardner, above left

To paraphrase Rod Stewart, every legal case tells a story. UB Law Professor and Vice Dean James A. Gardner wants to help lawyers-in-training communicate better. That means thinking more clearly, constructing logical arguments, and making their case precisely and vividly – that is, telling the story.

Those are the goals of Gardner's labor of love titled *Legal Argument: The Structure and Language of Effective Advocacy*. A revised and expanded second edition of the legal textbook has just been released by LexisNexis (suitable, Gardner notes, for law firm in-house training for junior litigators, as well as for classroom use).

Gardner, who is the Joseph W. Belluck and Laura L. Aswad Professor of Civil Justice at the Law School, says the new edition was 15 years in the making. He says he wrote the original, published in 1993, because “the students I was teaching had the same questions over and over. I had honed my answers, and I realized it would save me a lot of time to have them in book form.” Since then, he says, the publisher “had been after me for years to do a second edition. Finally I felt like I had something new to say.”

*Legal Argument*, which Gardner uses in his classes and which has been adopted as a textbook at Duke Law School among others, focuses on civil law and the written advocacy that makes up so much of the business of civil litigation. “Most of what a civil lawyer does is front-loaded,” Gardner says. “Only 1 or 2 percent of cases actually go to trial. Most are either settled or dismissed on some motion.”

Now that he has taught for 20 years, Gardner says, he is noticing a new set of challenges for today's law students. They involve both how to think and how to present a written argument.

“People are not usually trained or placed in an environment where they need to think systematically,” he says. “People know what they think, but they do not always know why they think that.” Again and again in *Legal Argument*, the author comes back to that question: What's the thinking behind the argument?

As well, he says, students often need help in using the most effective techniques for pressing a legal argument. And because human beings think in terms of stories, he says, a certain type of storytelling is the best way to make a case.

“When a lawyer presents a case,” Gardner says, “he is trying to win an audience. The way people communicate is by telling stories. Even scientists tell stories when they are trying to communicate. It is all a matter of appealing effectively to the contextual expectations of your audience.”

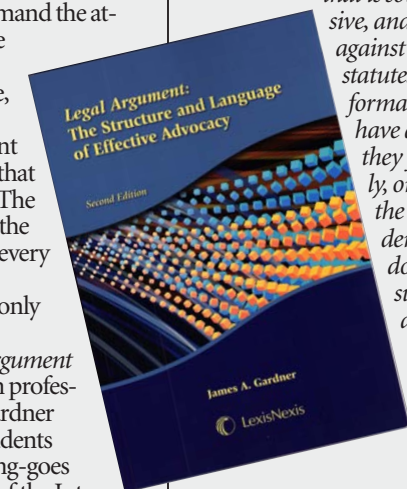
An effective lawyer, he says, will tell the narrative of the case clearly; have a beginning, middle and end to the story; introduce the characters before they speak; tell the tale in a transparent way; and command the attention of the audience. But the lawyer's technique is different from the novelist's; for example, Gardner says, a fiction writer sometimes withholds important information until the end, but that would be suicide for a lawyer. “The judge needs to be satisfied that the law has been complied with in every facet,” he says. “If your story is opaque or misleading, you are only hurting your case.”

The new edition of *Legal Argument* also includes an exhortation on professional behavior – necessary, Gardner says, in part because today's students have been raised on the anything-goes communications atmosphere of the Internet. “There is a certain informality that pervades communicative relations now,” he says. “A lot of students come in not understanding that there are boundaries and that as a professional you need to develop a reputation for doing always excellent work. Part of the perception of excellence comes from being thorough, being timely, being concise.”

“A lot of people think that being a good lawyer is about being brilliant. But being careful and workmanlike every day is really what it means to be a professional.”

### **From the introduction to *Legal Argument*:**

*For students who feel confused by their legal education, the missing part often lies in the middle. These students can read and understand cases and statutes, and they can write up and defend sound legal arguments. The difficulty lies in producing the arguments. I can read and understand the cases, they say to themselves, and I would be delighted to write a brief making the best possible arguments, but what are those arguments? How do I identify them? How do I build an argument that is sound, and persuasive, and well-fortified against attack? Cases and statutes don't yield this information. Once you have assembled them, they just lie there, inertly, on the desk. How, the ambitious law student wants to know, do I make those little suckers stand up and dance?*





## Podcasts look at law and society

*Law School's unique project brings legal scholarship to broader audience*

By John Della Contrada  
UB News Services

As a conversation starter, legal research may seem too esoteric of a topic. But add to the discussion a little atmosphere – lunch at an Italian café, the chattering of fellow diners, a touch of jazz music in the background – and now you have the makings of an Internet talk show.

James Milles, vice dean and director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library, is producing podcasts of discussions with Law School faculty members and other prominent legal scholars. More specifically, you have a podcast on important ideas in law and society.

Within the niche world of podcasting, nearly anybody with the right digital recording equipment can inexpensively produce and post on the Internet a podcast on any topic under the sun. Likewise, nearly anyone with the right PC software can download and listen to a podcast from anywhere at anytime.

Debuting last semester among this eclectic mix of podcasts and audiences was a UB Law School podcast, “UB Law Faculty Conversations,” <http://ublawpodcast.com/>, featuring discussions with UB Law School faculty and other prominent scholars.

Produced by Law Professor James Milles, the podcasts often are recorded during an informal dinner or lunch at an area restaurant and consist of one-on-one conversations between legal scholars. The intellectual exchange is lively and friendly, with Milles sitting silently alongside recording the conversation. The restaurant’s ambient sounds are pleasing and create a sense of place.

The UB Law podcast may be one of the only law school podcasts of its kind in the country, according to Milles, an expert on the intersection of law and technology, who also serves as a vice dean and director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library.

“The Law School is home to incredible legal scholars who are doing some very cutting-edge legal research,” Milles ex-

plains. “The podcast is one way to bring their scholarship outside of the academy.

“You won’t find too many people outside of law schools willing to sit down and read a 100-page law review article,” he adds. “The conversational format of our podcast, on the other hand, makes these topics more accessible to law and non-law communities. Plus, the podcasts underscore our law school’s emphasis on civic engagement and public policy.”

Previous podcasts have focused on an array of legal matters, including workplace equity, pensions, economic development, transracial adoption and even Russian

*“The Law School is home to incredible legal scholars who are doing some very cutting-edge legal research. The podcast is one way to bring their scholarship outside of the academy.”*

*—James Milles, vice dean and director of the UB Law Library*

forestry. Scholars from law schools at Columbia University, Emory University, Rutgers University and St. John’s University have participated in the UB podcasts, usually as a follow-up to research they presented at UB’s Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy.

On a recent Thursday afternoon at the Romeo & Juliet Bakery Café on Hertel Avenue in Buffalo, UB Law Professors Susan Mangold and Martha McCluskey sat down to record a podcast on Mangold’s latest research, which takes a critical look at federal requirements that say an abused or neglected child must be poor to be eligible for foster-care maintenance funds.



“I came to the podcasts as a skeptic, and now I am an evangelist,” says Mangold, who occasionally hosts the podcast discussions as well.

“I have had perfect strangers say they’ve listened to me on their iPods when they went for a jog. This made me realize, vividly, that this is a completely new form of communication capable of reaching a wide audience.”

Milles, who produces a second podcast on “law, libraries and life in a northern border town” called Check This Out! (<http://checkthisoutpodcast.com>), says he is growing the audience for “UB Law Faculty Conversations” by posting it on several Internet lists.

“I have about 300 regular listeners each week for Check This Out! Most are librarians, but also quite a few are law professors, lawyers, law students, and anyone who happens to come across one of my episodes through Google. I am building

my audience for both podcasts by posting notices of new episodes to listservs, comments on blogs, and old-fashioned networking at conferences and other events.”

Upcoming installments of “UB Law Faculty Conversations” will include such widely diverse topics as strategic planning for community development, anthropological approaches to personal injury law in different cultures, and gender-based barriers to economic development.

• • •

To listen to “UB Law Faculty Conversations,” visit:  
[ublawpodcast.com](http://ublawpodcast.com)

## MILLES RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

James G. Milles, vice dean for legal information services, director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library and professor of law at UB Law School, has been selected as the 2007 recipient of the Kenneth J. Hirsh Distinguished Service Award of the Computer Science Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (CS-SIS). Milles was nominated by a group of CS-SIS current and past chairs. The award is presented to a member who has made outstanding contributions to the organization and who is well regarded for their service to the profession.

Milles was chair of CS-SIS in 1996–97 and was also American Association of Law Libraries Special Interest Section Council chair the following year. According to his nominators, “one of Jim’s most important contributions to law librarianship has been the role of mentor he has played for many colleagues and newcomers to the field and mentors students in his library school classes. He makes it a point at every annual meeting to set aside time to meet with new librarians and introduce them to the section.”

Milles received this prestigious award on July 15 during the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting in New Orleans.





JACOB D.  
HYMAN  
1909-2007

## Fond goodbyes

*Amid music, UB Law memorializes former Dean Hyman*

With tenderness and words of appreciation, flute interludes and intervals of laughter, the UB Law School community gathered to pay tribute to a man whose work influenced the school for more than half a century.

Jacob D. Hyman, who came to the Law School in 1946 and would teach there through 2000, spent a critical 11 years as dean beginning in 1953. He died April 8 at his home in Edgewater, Fla., at age 97.

The Oct. 13 gathering in his honor featured colleagues, former students and friends of all stripes, led off by current Dean Nils Olsen.

"In his 54 years of faculty service at the University, Jack more than any other person exemplified the values that we seek to achieve at the University of Buffalo Law School," Olsen said. "He was a good and decent man with a lifelong commitment to apply the legal skills first learned at Harvard Law School to achieve the betterment and advancement of society."

Hyman was "passionately committed to real diversity in the bar and in the student body," Olsen said, and was a pioneer in teaching and studying the law in its social and political context. "He was loved and respected by his former students in a manner that the rest of his colleagues could only aspire to. In many ways, the efforts of those of us who followed him were informed by his values, contributions and aspirations for the school."

Hon. Hugh B. Scott '74 pointed to Hyman's interest in the civil rights movement, and to his care for students of color as the Law School become more diverse. "He would always stop me and ask, 'Just how are things going?' That was not just 'How is it going?' He really wanted to know. He showed that kind of interest, and I will never forget it."

"Jack Hyman made us learn how to learn. He taught us to seek objectivity and reasonableness, and how to advocate with a respectful voice. If you took any time to



Richard F. Griffin '57 eulogizes Dean Hyman.

observe Jack Hyman the teacher, the lawyer, the mentor, the friend, you saw the person each of us as lawyers should strive to become, and that is lawyers with the highest standard of professionalism, decency, compassion, wisdom and, above all, civility."

Professor Thomas E. Headrick, himself a former UB Law dean, spoke of a school that was in trouble when Hyman became dean, with a sparse, poorly paid faculty and sinking enrollment. In Hyman's first report to the University administration, he discussed moving away from the case method as the only teaching construct; foresaw the advent of legal topics growing from new public policies; emphasized the changing role of lawyers in society; and argued that legal education had to incorporate the understandings of the social sciences and other disciplines.

"Most law schools have a culture, a set of shared desires and beliefs that shape their development and their place in legal education," Headrick said. "UB today is

smile and say, 'Hi, man!' Walking that tall walk of his, he would smile back every time. He never commented on whether the appellation was novel, I think because he saw how pleased I was with how funny I thought I was."

Later, Hyman asked her to co-teach with him a legal reasoning course for non-traditional first-year students. "As I watched him in action in the classroom," she said, "I gradually learned the full measure of the substantive breadth of what he was teaching. I learned something every time Jack spoke. These were the students who had not met all the traditional standards for Law School admission. Most of them thought that a shot was all they needed. Jack always made sure that they, and I, always thought that way."

Law Professor and former UB President William R. Greiner said he met Hyman when he first interviewed at the Law School in 1967: "I was charmed, but I was impressed. I was impressed by intelligence, which was on display at a very high order.

Dean Hyman's Law School, much larger, more expansive, better financed than the one he led in the 1950s and 1960s. It is the Law School of his vision, with the culture of the unconventional, of the borderless understanding of the law. His spirit inhabits its very essence; it sits at its very core."

Vivian Garcia, who served as an associate dean during the Hyman era, told a self-effacing story: "Believing myself to be the only person who ever thought of doing so, I would greet him with a big



And I was also impressed by the dignity of the individual. He combined great humanity with great wisdom."

Greiner cited Hyman's commitment to social justice, both in fostering diversity at the Law School and in larger contexts. For example, he said, when the building of the North Campus was to begin, Hyman wrote an open letter insisting that a portion of the construction contracts be awarded to minority-owned firms.

"On a regular basis, Jack demonstrated personal qualities that were extraordinary. He leaves us a legacy of that," Greiner said. "More than anything else, I think of the dignity and the human compassion that Jack would display even-handedly and equally. He was always the formidable presence, the dignified Dean Hyman, but you knew that underneath that somewhat austere de-

meanor, there was this great human being ready on a personal level to help if he could."

Buffalo attorney Richard Griffin '57 followed the theme of Hyman as "investor extraordinaire," saying the dean "invested big time in the law, its practice, civil and human rights, our students and our alumni." That extended, he said, to attending Law School class reunions, even into his 90th year – and he was a drawing card to get people to come.

He also invested in his health, Griffin said: "How do you live such a long and full life? In addition to his great intellectual health and constant exercise of the mind in his activities, he was physically fit. One day by coincidence I was walking along the beach over in Canada. I looked out and who

emerges from the lake but Jack Hyman, probably 88 or 90. I said, 'Jack, I didn't know you were such a famous swimmer!' And we had a great chat."

Finally, Professor John Henry Schlegel said of Hyman, "Ours was a love affair of the head, not of the heart."

"Jack was one of my wrestling partners, someone with whom I could wrestle about ideas. The object was doing something as well as one could. Jack always pushed me to think as well as I could, and in that way he tried to be not just a wrestling partner, but a teacher. Like most good teachers, he could never stop teaching."

"It is fun to play seriously with ideas. Jack loved to play with ideas. He played quite seriously. The playing was fun for him, as it was for me. The point was always improving each other's thought. Ours was an activity that each could engage in separately that somehow worked better together."



Clarice Lechner-Hyman accepts condolences.



# Faculty

## Karen Cowart, Vice Dean for Records and Registration, retires

**K**aren Cowart, Vice Dean for Records and Registration, retired from the Law School on Jan. 1. A Law School administrator since 1989, she has provided exceptional, professional service to the Law School community during times of significant change and challenge, according to Dean Nils Olsen.

“Without her flexibility and ability to work outside of the box, the Law School’s New Curriculum would have remained a dusty and unimplemented plan,” he said.

“Karen and her staff have managed the academic functioning of the Law School and ensured that the trains arrive and depart on time. She also has kept abreast of and compliant with an ever-growing list of central University requirements and timetables that do not conform to traditional practices within the Law School. She has successfully performed these pressure-packed, deadline-laden tasks with competence, good will and professionalism.

“Please join me in wishing Karen the very best in her retirement and in thanking her for the often behind-the-scenes service that she has provided all of us,” he said.

Beginning in 1994, Cowart worked in an environment that required her to modify the Law School’s calendar from two 14-week semesters to two 12-week semesters, complicated by a four-week bridge period in January with 30 to 40 one-credit courses offered to a large subset of students. She adjusted to a change in the scheduling of courses as well, as three-credit courses morphed from three 50-minute classes per week to three one-hour sessions. She also was challenged by a significant increase in the number of courses offered, growing from approximately 100 to a high-water mark of 200.

In addition to implementing these significant changes in the scheduling of courses, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that the instructional policies of the school are



complied with. This includes, but is certainly not limited to, a broad range of responsibilities, such as: accommodating six dual-degree programs that operated under separate and distinct scheduling and graduation requirements; scheduling, seating and administration of Law School final examinations; employing, training and supervising outside examination proctors; respecting and complying with the specific demands of faculty for time and location of individual courses; identifying and monitoring enrollment in all course offerings; working to ensure appropriate access to courses for LL.M. students; ensuring that transfer students complied with our course requirements while maintaining access to popular upper-division offerings; monitoring our returning enrollment so that appropriate admissions decisions could be made to ensure meeting but not exceeding enrollment targets; assigning and registering new first-year students in their sections; administering the Law School’s drop/add policies; auditing third-year students’ grades from five semesters to determine who is qualified to graduate; keeping a separate listing of top academic performers to inform faculty assignment of honors and awards; identifying missing grades required for third-year students to graduate and sit for the Bar exam; receiving all examinations, to ensure timely submission; entering all grades in both University and Law School databases for 760 students; conducting a final audit of graduation requirements to ensure that every third-year student qualifies to graduate; processing official transcripts for students taking the New York State Bar examination; preparing the orientation schedule for new incoming students in cooperation with Dean Melinda Saran; scheduling summer session courses; compiling and publishing fall, spring and summer course files; and certifying students for admission to a broad range of state bars.

*“Without Karen Cowart’s flexibility and ability to work outside of the box, the Law School’s New Curriculum would have remained a dusty and unimplemented plan.”*

*— Dean Nils Olsen*



# Leadership Giving

## Thanks for the memories

*Harvey L. Kaminski '77 gives back with a major donation*

**H**is UB Law School experience has stayed with Harvey L. Kaminski '77. Perhaps it could not be otherwise — one of his gifts is a comprehensive and detailed memory, and those years in Buffalo are fresh in his mind three decades later.

"My experience in Law School was a very warm experience in terms of people being very friendly and helpful, and I also received a first-rate education," Kaminski says. "I did not lack for anything. Because of my training in the Law School, as I started to move on, nothing appeared so novel or so foreign that it baffled me. I had a very good background and training, so anything I did not know in depth, I could learn.

"Law School was not easy, but I enjoyed it very much — and that is why I give back to the school."

For Kaminski, that giving has come in both dollars and time. A member of the Dean's Advisory Council, he has served as a mentor for UB Law students and fielded plenty of calls from students seeking career advice. He also taught last year at the Law School's New York City Program in International Finance & Law, educating students about the intricacies of the finance work he does through his company, Prestige Capital Corp. in Fort Lee, N.J.

Now Kaminski has made a major gift to the Law School, and in recognition the school will name one of the major lecture classrooms in O'Brian Hall, the Harvey L. Kaminski Classroom.

"People should not forget the roots of their success or how they got there," Kaminski says. "It is critical to just give thanks and show gratitude for the positive experiences you have had in your life and what has made you successful. Life is short. You have to leave a legacy."

It is a lesson, he said, handed down



*"People should not forget the roots of their success or how they got there."*

*—Harvey L. Kaminski '77*

from his parents, Holocaust survivors who emigrated from Poland in 1949. "They always gave me opportunities for education, and they were very supportive of me in Buffalo," Kaminski says. "I was very fortunate. I was always taught to be positive and to look on the bright side."

That attitude has served him well in the professional journey he has taken since graduating from UB Law. He practiced corporate law in Buffalo for a year and a half, and then decided to return to New York City to be near his family. "I was basi-

cally languishing until I developed a niche and an expertise in bankruptcy in the early '80s," he says. "Then, in an ironic way, I got lucky. Interest rates rose dramatically, the economy crashed, and as a young lawyer specializing in bankruptcy I became a valuable commodity with many job offers."

He took a position with a finance company, learned the business of secured "asset based" lending, and in 1984 set out with a partner on an entrepreneurial venture. Kaminski bought out his partner in the

late 1990s, and the company began to increase dramatically in business volume as it opened six national sales offices. From an annual business of \$30 million to \$40 million, it has grown to the point that Prestige Capital now handles \$150 million each year.

**T**he business deals in factoring, also called accounts receivable purchasing. It helps clients improve their cash flow; Prestige Capital purchases their accounts receivable at a discount from the face value of the invoices, then collects the payments owed by the vendors. Prestige assumes risk in the transaction, but mitigates that risk by checking the background and credit of the client and calling the vendors to make sure that the receivables are actually due. Fraud is always a possibility.

"It is a very hands-on operation," Kaminski says. "We are content doing less volume than a bank or finance company because our yields are much higher."

The business is high finance, but his legal training "benefits me to no end," he says. "We document the deals ourselves. The fact that we do not have to go to outside lawyers is utilized as a marketing tool. That means we can close deals faster. We are selling our quick response time.

"And in terms of collection issues, my knowledge of the Bankruptcy Code is invaluable. I am not going to be fooled or expend unnecessary time. I know the ins and the outs. My legal background is critical to what I do."

Kaminski and his wife, Helene, a gynecologist, live in Bedford, N.Y. They have two children: daughter Frances, an Emory University graduate who hopes to become a veterinarian, and son Philip, a George Washington University senior who just took his LSATs and is considering his choices for law school.

His father has some thoughts about that decision. "My son is still young," Kaminski says. "I do not want him to go into a mill. Law school is hard enough that you want to have camaraderie."

Like, perhaps, the warmth he found 30 years ago at UB Law. He has not forgotten.

## Members of The University Founders Society

The University at Buffalo created The University Founders recognition society in 1994 to honor individuals who have given a least \$50,000 to the university over a lifetime. The names of University Founders whose gifts have benefited the Law School are listed below

Hon. Michael A. Amico  
Brian D. Baird  
Thomas R. Beecher Jr.  
Thomas E. Black Jr. and Bridget Black  
Hilary P. Bradford  
Thomas R. Bremer  
David Brown  
Lawrence P. Castellani and Joan J. Castellani  
Ross M. Cellino Sr. and Jeanette E. Cellino  
Terrence M. Connors  
Kenneth B. Forrest and Ellen Katz Forrest  
Gordon R. Gross and Gretchen S. Gross  
Erma R. Hallett Jaekle  
Roger J. Jones  
Harvey L. Kaminski  
Hilda S. Koren  
Francis M. Letro and Cindy Abbott Letro  
Erik D. Lindauer and Lisa D. Lindauer  
Gerald S. Lippes  
James L. Magavern  
William J. Magavern II  
William E. Mathias II  
William A. Niese  
Reginald B. Newman II  
Robert I. Reis and Ellen S. Reis  
Anthony J. Renaldo\*  
Charles Shabsels and Susan Shabsels  
Orin C. Smith  
Mark K. Suzumoto  
Thomas F. Wolfe and Barbara Wolfe

\*Deceased





## A 'life-changing' gift

*David F. Smith '78 funds one student's full-tuition scholarship*

David F. Smith '78 knows what it feels like to work your way through law school. The coursework is tough enough; add in a job and a family, and three years can feel like an eternity at hard labor. Smith and his wife, Lucy, were married and had a son by the time he started studying at UB Law School. He attended part time for a while, holding down a job as well, before the Law School began requiring all students to be full time. As a full-time student, he worked as a law clerk at National Fuel Gas Supply Corp.

Now David and Lucy Smith have made a major gift that will carry one student through her Law School years on a full-tuition scholarship. He says he intends to repeat the gift once the current scholarship recipient, Tonya R. Lewis, graduates.

"Without UB Law School," he said, "I would have never had an opportunity to become a lawyer, to be in the situation I am in. My success is really as a result of the Law School and the opportunities provided by the Law School."

"For so many people in my class, without the opportunity that was provided by UB Law, who knows what we would be doing? At this point there are a number of prospective law students that I think those of us who are able to help should help, if and when we can."

From that early job as a law clerk, Smith stayed on at National Fuel, becoming general counsel for the natural gas supplier. His legal training, he said, was most useful. "Especially in a regulated environment, in utilities which are very heavily regulated, a legal background is critical," he said. "I think lawyers tend to have a certain thought process that they go through that is very helpful in business."

Now, as National Fuel's president and



Tonya Lewis '10 is the first recipient of the Phyllis G. Smith Scholarship.

chief operating officer, Smith sees the value of paving the way for the next generation of legal practitioners. His gift establishes the Phyllis G. Smith Scholarship, named in memory of his late mother. "She was the one who always said that you can be whatever you want to be," he says. "She really provided me and my brothers with our work ethic and the mindset to get out and succeed."

A side benefit of the scholarship is that it can become part of the process of recruiting talented students who otherwise might not be able to afford a UB Law education. One criterion for awarding the scholarship is financial need.

But for first-year student Tonya Lewis, the first recipient of the Smith Scholarship, the news came after she already had arrived in Buffalo.

A 2006 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Lewis is married and has two daughters, ages 8 and 4. She studied physical geography and environmental studies as an undergraduate, doing field work in the rain forests of Belize, and was attracted to UB Law largely for its clinical program in environmental law. "UB just seemed to be the right fit for me," she said. "I really like it."

She and her husband had sold their home in Wisconsin, moved to Western New York and bought a house here. Then Lillie V. Wiley-Upshaw, associate dean for admissions and financial aid, called with good news: Lewis had been named the first Smith Scholar, and her three years at the Law School would be tuition-free.

"It is really a life-changing event," Lewis said. "Prior to receiving the scholarship, I may have had to take a position that is high-paying in order to pay back my student loans from Law School. Now I have the freedom to take an environmental po-



*"My mother was the one who always said that you can be whatever you want to be."*

*— David F. Smith '78*

sition that may not be so high-paying."

Beyond that, she said, to be free of loan debt means her family will be better able to save for their children's college education.

David and Lucy Smith had a voice in the selection process, and he said he hopes his fellow alumni will consider similar gifts. "It is important for the Law School," said Smith, who is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council. "I would encourage them to look at what the Law School has done for themselves and how they could help repay that."

## Your stock may pay more dividends than you thought possible

If your shares are only producing low annual dividends and you need more income, consider giving your stock to the University at Buffalo Law School to fund a charitable gift annuity. Your gift may provide you with income for life, a charitable deduction and reduce or eliminate taxes. And for the Law School, your gift can mean additional support for the annual fund, more scholarships for needy students or other programs you may wish to designate.

To learn how your gifts of stock can benefit you and the Law School, please call either Deborah Scott at (716) 645-2113, Alan Carrel at (716) 645-6222 or Karen Kaczmariski at (716) 645-6429, or e-mail them at [law-development@buffalo.edu](mailto:law-development@buffalo.edu).





# Leadership Giving

## Retired Starbucks CEO honors Professor Bill Greiner with major gift to the Law School



Professor William R. Greiner and benefactor Orin Smith

A single undergraduate course, taught half a lifetime ago, has resulted in an extraordinary gift to UB Law School in honor of one of its best-loved professors.

The course was Constitutional Law, and it was taught not at UB but at the University of Washington. The instructor was a young Bill Greiner, who of course became a law professor, the 13th president of UB, and now continues to teach in the Law School.

The student? A senior by the name of Orin Smith, who would go on to a distinguished career in finance. He served as chief policy and finance officer of the state

of Washington, and completed his career as chief financial officer and then president and CEO of the coffeehouse pioneer Starbucks.

Now retired, Smith has designated a major gift of \$200,000 to UB Law in honor of his long-ago professor. In recognition, the Law School named its elegant new faculty reading room, on the fifth floor of John Lord O'Brien Hall, the Professor William R. Greiner Law Faculty Reading Room.

The newly renamed reading room was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting Nov. 30. "We happily made our toasts with Starbucks coffee," says Dean Nils Olsen.

"This is a nice recognition of Bill Greiner and his teaching. It is very special, and it is particularly appropriate because Bill has played such a role in building up the campus, adding to the quality of student life through the departments and all the other building that happened during his tenure as president," says Olsen.

"It was completely and totally unexpected – almost dumbfounding, really," Greiner said. "I remember Orin as a student, when I was in my early teaching days. We had lost touch for a long time, then he dropped me an e-mail. He wrote me this overwhelming note, and I was blown away.

"What more can a teacher ask than to have a student say, 'You made a great deal of difference for me'? It is really quite stunning, and it is a great honor."

It was in 1965 that Smith, in his final year at the University of Washington, happened upon an honors course in constitutional law, and enrolled. "It was class of 10, 11, 12 people, a pretty intimate setting," he says. "We had a great time in that class. The interaction was terrific, and we had a great instructor. He challenged us with the issues of constitutional law, forcing us to think and speak and articulate our position. It was such a challenging course, like nothing any of us had had before."

Great experiences, including surviving the Socratic method, build camaraderie, and the students became friends as well. Greiner came to their parties. He invited Smith to his house a couple of times, and a friendship developed. Greiner served as a mentor to the young business and political science major in his senior year.

The course also jolted Smith into thinking more deeply about his future. Where before he had expected to graduate and plunge immediately into the working world, he found himself aiming higher.



Professor William R. Greiner and Orin Smith cut the ribbon.

"People in that class were applying to law schools or to graduate business schools," he says. "I had been thinking about going to law school but had not done anything about it. But it was really as a result of that class that I ended up applying to Harvard Business School. I was a late applicant, so I charged in and took the admission test at the next opportunity. I was accepted in June."

They kept in touch for a little while. Greiner moved on to Yale Law School, and Smith once or twice made the trip from Cambridge to New Haven for a visit.

But then they went on to their respective careers. Smith returned to the Pacific Northwest, worked at the accounting firm Touché Ross & Co. for 12 years, served the state of Washington as chief policy and finance officer, then took a pay cut to join the fledgling Starbucks Corp. and its entrepreneurial young leader, Howard Schultz.

It was a natural fit. Where Schultz was all ideas, Smith was all execution – the steady, experienced hand behind the scenes of the company's meteoric rise to an international food service company. In his business memoir *Pour Your Heart Into It*,

Schultz calls Smith "an executive who can build the infrastructure the company needs without sacrificing the need for innovation. But [he is also] someone who understands the value of unconventional thinking."

Smith was known for always carrying a pen and notebook in his pocket, to capture good ideas. But at a company like Starbucks, it was not always conventional business. He got his share of whipped cream in the face, for example, at the company's annual pie-throwing contests to build employee morale.

He was promoted from CFO to president in 1994, and helped guide the company through its period of most explosive growth before retiring in March 2005.

"I had wanted to get away from 70- and 80-hour weeks," he says. "The travel was pretty constant. I wanted to spend more time with my family, and travel a little bit where I could see something other than the inside of hotel rooms."

In retirement, he has continued his involvement with charitable causes, particularly educational institutions. Having made several substantial donations to the University of Washington, he is chairman of the UW Foundation and is on the uni-

versity's School of Medicine board. He also serves on the boards of Disney and Nike, and chairs the philanthropic Starbucks Foundation, carrying on the push for social responsibility that he championed at the company. He also is on the board of Conservation International, which funds the work of about 1,000 scientists in tropical areas, trying to establish ways to draw sustainable income from rainforest areas and so protect them against clear-cutting.

But as he thought back over his remarkable life's journey, Smith began to wonder about his old professor. "I had thought about him a number of times but really did not know exactly where he had gone and what he was doing," Smith said. "When I retired, I Googled him, and there he was. I had no idea he was president of the University. I had heard that he had gone to teach in a law school, but I was not sure where that was."

"Because he had had such an influence on my life and career, I decided that I would contact the school and make some kind of contribution, so I called the development office."

Now Smith's gift will put Professor Greiner's name before his colleagues as they use the reading room, with its collections of legal periodicals and faculty publications. For Smith, it is a fitting use for his donation.

Greiner, he says, was able to make constitutional law "a great experience."

"My impression was that he thoroughly enjoyed being in the classroom," Smith says. "Unlike a majority of the professors I had, he took a lot of time outside of class; he was always available and always interested, and always imaginative in his presentation. Taking that class was a really influential experience in my life that I wanted Bill to know about."





## Parting accolade 2007 Jaeckle Award goes to departing Dean Olsen

Left to right: President John B. Simpson, Dean Nils Olsen and Provost Satish K. Tripathi.

In the waning months of his tenure as dean, Nils Olsen had some loose ends to tie up. UB Law School and the UB Law Alumni Association tied up one of their own: They honored Olsen with the Edwin F. Jaeckle Award, UB Law's highest honor. The award came Nov. 13 at the Twentieth Century Club in downtown Buffalo. The Tuesday evening dinner and presentation was a departure from the traditional Saturday-morning event that is coupled with a Continuing Legal Education opportunity. Emceed by Margaret P. Gryko '77, president of the Law Alumni Association, the event featured a succession of speakers who discussed aspects of Olsen's life and work – everything from his accomplishments as dean to his famously rumpled style of dress.

Erie County District Attorney Frank J. Clark '67 told of a Dean's Advisory Council meeting at which University President John B. Simpson said, "I cannot imagine the Law School without Nils Olsen as dean."

"No one said anything. It was silent," Clark said. "Everyone just nodded. It was a given. It was black letter. Whenever you thought of the Law School, you thought of Nils. I cannot think of a higher compliment than that."

"When I think of him and the Law School, I see how the Law School reflects his personality in so many ways. Everything he has done, in whatever he does, he puts his

own personality into it. It is not just the school and the curriculum that is important to him, it is the students.

"If he has always been there for me, I can imagine over the years how many students have turned to him for those very same things, always to find him right there, more than supportive, more than encouraging. And what a wonderful legacy that is, perhaps his greatest legacy. A personal relationship, teacher to student, year after year."

School of Management Dean John M. Thomas, a 1976 UB Law graduate, spoke about the collaboration between the two schools, which includes a thriving JD/MBA

joint degree program and a joint program in international finance and banking in New York City. A third program, in arts management, is run in conjunction with the College of Arts and Sciences, and in that Thomas highlighted the contributions of "the other celebrated Olsen at UB" – Dean Olsen's wife, Sandra, director of the UB Art Galleries.

"Nils' legacy at the University has been his leadership in linking the professional schools to other schools and departments," Thomas said. "Nils has led the way in making sure that UB is a university that can take great pride in the extent to which it values collaboration across academic boundaries."

Speaking on behalf of the law faculty, Charles Patrick Ewing, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, noted that scholarly productivity and community service by the faculty have reached all-time highs. "With your guidance and your motivation," he said to the dean, "we have become one of the most intellectually productive and respected law faculties in the country. That is no exaggeration. Nils has figured out exactly what strings

to pull to motivate us, to reward us; he knows when to prod us; and most important of all, he knows when to get out of our way. He is not a boss but a colleague."

Ewing also noted Olsen's success in rebuilding the loyalty and involvement of the school's alumni: "He has done everything imaginable to make our alums feel part of their alma mater. He was able to reach out to the alumni in large measure because he is a lawyer and has been in the trenches. Nils is someone who speaks the language of practicing lawyers, knows his way around the courtroom, can tell and appreciate a good legal war story, and is a true professional role model for our students and our alums."

UB President Simpson, calling Olsen a "transformational" dean for the Law School, expressed appreciation for Olsen's guidance. "I have been here now nearly four years," he said, "and during that time I have almost without fail, when I have needed a wise friend, a colleague, to help me unravel the University's mysteries or to understand various aspects of how Buffalo works, I have turned to Dean Olsen. He has been for me a remarkable colleague and mentor as well as being a friend." Simpson also cited Olsen's participation in the development of the UB 2020 strategic plan, and his support for the University's renewed commitment to civic engagement. "If I could have a faculty with a hundred people the equivalent of Nils," he said, "I would have an absolutely remarkable university."

It was University Provost Satish K. Tripathi – saying, "For the University, he has truly been dean of deans" – who presented the Jaeckle Award to Olsen, with a sustained ovation from an appreciative audience.

Dean Olsen told of the first deans meeting he attended. "I had shown up at work as usual in a Grateful Dead shirt, blue jeans and running shoes," he said. "I ended up borrowing a jacket, a button-down shirt with a collar, and boots from Phil Halpern. The provost at the time was heard to mutter that he could not believe that the acting dean of the Law School dressed so poorly. He actually muttered it to me."

But more seriously, Olsen said, "This institution has nurtured me, supported me, and certainly taught me everything I know about teaching, about educational administration and the practice of law."

He added, "A great law school does not stand in isolation, nor is it the product of individual administrative excellence. It is a unique organization that is the result of the symbiotic relationship of a number of dis-

## Some highlights of R. Nils Olsen's tenure as dean of the UB Law School:



Dr. Sandra H. Olsen congratulates her husband after he receives the 2007 Jaeckle Award.

- Appointed dean effective for the academic year 1998-99, after 21 years on the faculty. He is the 18th dean in the school's history.
- Expanded the academic administrative ranks of the school by naming several vice deans.
- Spearheaded an overhaul of the Law School's signature building, John Lord O'Brien Hall, including a refurbished student lounge and the recent additions of the Francis M. Letro Courtroom – one of the only working law school courtrooms in the nation – and an elegant faculty reading room and conference facility, as well as six new classrooms. Made O'Brien Hall the first building on campus to offer wireless Internet access.
- Greatly expanded the number of joint degree programs in which the Law School participates, established the school's first two Master of Laws programs, and grew the number of academic concentrations offered.
- More than doubled the number of applicants, raised median LSAT scores and GPAs significantly, and attracted more applicants both from top undergraduate schools and from outside New York State. Increased student enrollment by 25 percent.
- Oversaw full implementation of the groundbreaking New Curriculum, designed to help bridge the gap between law school and practice.
- Greatly increased alumni support for the school, reducing dependence on state funding. The Annual Fund, with a stellar participation rate of nearly 26 percent, now raises about \$1 million each year. Oversaw successful \$13 million capital campaign.
- Created the Law School Village and other on-campus apartment housing reserved for law students.
- Grew and developed the Dean's Advisory Council to draw on the expertise of distinguished alumni in guiding the Law School's academic program.
- Established a mentoring program that pairs each first-year student with an alumni mentor.
- Held leadership positions for several key University initiatives, including serving as chair of UB's Intercollegiate Athletics Board and the Corrigan Committee, which is studying the future of UB's intercollegiate athletics programs. Provided leadership to the UB 2020 strategic planning group charged with strengthening UB's focus on civic engagement and public policy.
- Successfully lobbied New York State for professional-school tuition for the Law School, and reinvested tuition revenues into new services and facilities for students.
- Among many alumni initiatives, began an annual luncheon for all alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago from the Law School.
- Oversaw the inauguration of UB Law's New York City Program in International Finance and Law, a partnership with the School of Management.
- Championed the Law School's thriving clinical legal education program, which combines the University's missions of education and service to the community.
- Among professors hired: Mark Bartholomew, Irus Braverman, Rebecca French, James Gardner, Jeffrey Malkan, Lynn Mather, James Milles, Athena Mutua, Rick Su, Winnifred Sullivan, and Mateo Taussig-Rubbo.

crete elements." Those elements, he said, include "an extraordinarily talented and gifted community of scholars and teachers"; the support of the wider University community, and of students and alumni; and the talents of a series of administrators and staff members, many of whom he named individually. "When you honor me," he concluded, addressing the alumni in attendance, "you are in fact honoring our faculty, our students, the great research university we are a part of, our administrators and, not inconsequentially, yourselves. I will always treasure

and keep close your kind words and generous support."

The Jaeckle Award is named for UB Law alumnus Edwin F. Jaeckle '15. It is given annually to an individual who has distinguished herself or himself and has made significant contributions to the UB Law School and to the legal profession.

The 2007 Edwin F. Jaeckle Dinner Committee was co-chaired by Laurie S. Bloom '83 and Mary M. Penn '99.



# Alumni Association

## Check out law.buffalo.edu/GetLinked

The University at Buffalo Law School and the UB Law Alumni Association announce the launch of its new online alumni community, **Get Linked!** **Get Linked!** provides an online forum where UB Law alumni can stay connected to their law school and their former classmates.

The community features an alumni directory of over 9,500 law graduates. Alumni can update their online profile or search for and network with other alumni throughout the world. “It’s a great method to keep in touch with friends and colleagues or find a lost classmate and reconnect,” says Ilene R. Fleischmann, executive director of the UB Law Alumni Association.

The community’s Class Notes tool enables users to share professional accomplishments, personal news and photos with just a few clicks on the keyboard. Most notes submitted electronically are posted daily, and may also appear in the Law School’s annual magazine, *UB Law Forum*, or the quarterly e-mail newsletter, *UB Law Briefs*.

**Get Linked!** makes registration for UB Law alumni events much easier by utilizing the university’s events calendar which resides within the University at Buffalo’s alumni community (called UB Connect). The UB events calendar provides information on upcoming social, networking and educational programs at the Law School and throughout the University with convenient online payment options.

**Get Linked!** is a password-protected community, free and accessible for all UB Law graduates. Law School alumni will receive registration information by mail, or may request information on how to become a member at [www.law.buffalo.edu/GetLinked](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/GetLinked).


# Get Linked!

with UB Law’s new online alumni community

To register:

1. Visit [www.law.buffalo.edu/GetLinked](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/GetLinked)
2. Click on “Register Now” under “First time visitors”
3. Follow the simple instructions

Note: Your ID number for your initial registration is the last four digits of your Social Security number. You will only need this number the first time you enter the community. Once registered, you will choose your own user ID and password. If you do not have a Social Security number, or if you experience any difficulty registering, contact Lisa Mueller at [lmueller@buffalo.edu](mailto:lmueller@buffalo.edu).



*“It’s a great method to keep in touch with friends and colleagues or find a lost classmate and reconnect.”*

*— Ilene R. Fleischmann, executive director of the UB Law Alumni Association*

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DUES FOR 2008 – 2009:

- Classes of 2004 to 2007 \$25
- Classes of 2004 to 2007 \* \$50
- All prior classes \* \$50
- Life membership \* \$1,000

Joint membership with UB Alumni Assoc.  
• All classes \* \$75  
\*Includes three one-hour CLE programs per membership year

Make your check payable to:

UB Law Alumni Association and mail to:

UB Law Alumni Office  
312 O’Brian Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260

Contact us at (716) 645-2107 to pay with MasterCard or Visa, or pay online at [www.law.buffalo.edu/alumni](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/alumni)

## UB Law alumni services

**Continuing Legal Education Programs** – Your \$50 membership includes free CLE credits, valuable written handouts and breakfast at three “UB Law Downtown” seminars. GOLD Group members pay just \$15 per seminar. Non-members pay \$20 per seminar.

**Networking is easy!** – Need a printout of alumni/ae in your area? Give us the ZIP codes, and we will send you a list. Contact the Law Alumni office for assistance. Look for our new online alumni community coming shortly.

**Career Assistance** – Association members receive a reduced rate on the employment newsletter published by the Career Services Office. The CSO will also help alumni find mentors in their practice areas who can offer invaluable career advice. And our alumni office provides lists of alumni/ae by geographic area to assist alumni with their networking efforts.

**Regional Events** – Every January we sponsor a New York City alumni luncheon in conjunction with the State Bar meeting. Among our celebrity speakers have been



**Law School Oral History Project** – The lives of UB Law alumni and the Law School’s history will be preserved and celebrated in the Law Alumni Association’s ongoing digital Oral History Project.

Chief Judge Judith Kaye, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, former New York Attorney General Dennis Vacco and Gov. Eliot Spitzer. The Association also underwrites events in Rochester, Washington,

D.C., Syracuse and Chicago.

**Recognize Distinguished Law Alumni twice a year** – The coveted Jaekle Award, the highest award the Law School and the Law Alumni Association can bestow, is presented to an outstanding alumnus/a in the fall. Five alumni are recognized at the Annual Meeting and Dinner in the spring. Awards are presented in the categories of private practice, judiciary, community service, business and public service.

**All alumni receive UB Law Forum, UB Law Links, and UB Law Briefs** – Our annual award-winning magazine provides news of the Law School, faculty, graduates and students. Don’t be left out: Be sure to send your news in or submit your news online. We also publish an electronic newsletter, *Law Links*, four times a year, and a brief print newsletter, *Law Briefs*, six times a year. All our publications are available online.

**The Buffalo Alumni Mentor Project** – A program designed to help law students and recent graduates make the transition from law school to the legal community.

**Assistance with Reunions** – We do class mailings, hire photographers, order favors and offer other support to alumni/ae who organize reunions. Class pictures and directories are provided free of charge to all reunion attendees.

**Student Support** – We help underwrite a printed photo directory for first-year law students, and host a welcome reception for the entire first-year class providing an opportunity for students to meet practitioners, faculty and members of the judiciary. Students are invited to many alumni events as guests of the Law Alumni Association.

**Free parking** – Paid members enjoy free parking in the Center for Tomorrow lot. O’Brian Hall is just a short shuttle bus trip away.

**Online Services** – Join our new online community **Get Linked!** and check out the host of services available through UB Law’s on-line home at [www.law.buffalo.edu](http://www.law.buffalo.edu). Alumni can e-mail our faculty and staff, search our library collections, visit Career Services, join the Law Alumni Association or make a gift to the Law School. Subscribe online to UB Law Links, our e-mail newsletter, to receive the latest Law School and classmate news.

**Bookstore Discounts** – Paid members for the current membership year receive a 20 percent discount on UB Law logo and UB Law Alumni logo merchandise available at the Law School bookstore.



# Alumni Association

## IN IT FOR LIFE



*"It was a very difficult period in my life, but it was the best educational experience I can imagine. That's why whenever the Buffalo Law School name is mentioned, I have nothing but absolute affection for it."*

—Dr. Changse L. Kim '75, First Law Offices of Korea, in Seoul

## 1975 graduate is the Law Alumni Association's first lifetime member

It was 35 years ago that Changse L. Kim, a native of South Korea with a brand-new doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Rochester, came to UB Law School, the first Asian student ever admitted there. His first course: Torts, with Professor Jack Hyman. "That was really a wonderful experience for me in terms of my introduction to U.S. jurisprudence," he said. "I still remember almost every case from that course. I enjoyed my life at the Buffalo Law School tremendously."

That affection has stayed with him – and has led him to establish another "first." Kim, a 1975 graduate of the Law School, has become the first lifetime member of the UB Law Alumni Association. Other life members are Eric Ian Robins '03 and Karen Mathews '80.

"It was a fun atmosphere," Dr. Kim remembers. "The professors, even if they saw me at a far distance, they raised their hands – 'Hey, Mr. Kim!' I think they did this to almost every student."

Not that life in the classroom was stress-free. These were the days of relentless Socratic method. "I hated each moment of being called on to answer questions," Kim says. "But I decided not to yield to the pressure. I always took the very front seat, so I was called upon in almost every class."

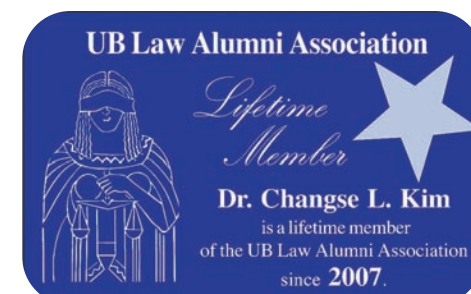
He speaks also about his struggles with writing, even as a member of the *Buffalo Law Review*. "My articles were always the very last piece," he says. "I never learned how to compose well, even in Korean. One of the senior students, who was sympathetic to my plight, told me how to write. He spent just a little time with me: 'Let me read one page of your sample. Have you ever learned how to write? Do you know what "topic sentence" means? Do you know what "connecting sentence" means?'

Do you know about paraphrasing?' It took him just a few minutes to explain it all to me, and after that I could write an essay that passed without any rejection. This was in 1974, and I was 32 years old. So at age 32, writing can be taught!

"It was a very difficult period in my life, but it was the best educational experience I can imagine. That's why whenever the Buffalo Law School name is mentioned, I have nothing but absolute affection for it."

Following Law School, Kim worked for Exxon Corp. for three years in the United States before returning to Korea. Now he practices mainly intellectual property law with the First Law Offices of Korea, in Seoul. "We are the second-largest IP firm in volume," he said, "and we like to think we are the first in quality."

### Why write dues checks?



*The fee for lifetime membership in the UB Law Alumni Association is \$1,000.*

Contact Ilene Fleischmann at [fleisch@buffalo.edu](mailto:fleisch@buffalo.edu) or call (716) 645-2107 for more information.



Ginger D. Schröder '90, Lisa M. Mueller '93 and Marc W. Brown '99



Jack Trachtenberg '02 and Kevin D. Szczepanski '95



Christian M. Lovelace '06, Andrew O. Guglielmi '06 and Melissa N. Subject '06

## Discovering GOLD

*Alumni enjoy The Sample, in Buffalo*



Left to right: Hon. John M. Curran '84 and Hon. John F. O'Donnell.



Brendan J. Rich '05, Amber Storr '06 and Brent Nowicki '06



Lawrence M. Ross '79 and John W. Looney '99



# Alumni Association



The Distinguished Alumni, from left to right: Law School Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel '67, Frederick G. Attea, Richard Lipsitz '43, Margaret W. Wong '76, Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck '73 and William E. Mathias II '71

## Celebrating our stories

*Law Alumni Association dinner recognizes career achievements*

Law School stories past and present were the focus as members of the UB Law Alumni Association gathered for their 45th annual meeting and dinner.

Highlighting the May 3 gathering at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo was a special presentation of the Harry Rachlin '26 Oral History Project, a massive effort to collect and archive the voices and wisdom of dozens of Law School alumni and faculty to make them available to the generations that follow them.

The project was co-chaired by Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden '83 and Robert L. Boreanaz '89, and Boreanaz played some excerpts from the oral histories that have

been collected. "Lawyers like to tell stories and to hear war stories," he said. "It is important for young lawyers to have that opportunity as well. We are trying to capture as many distinguished individuals of the Law School and the legal community as possible, and lay down their insight, their perspective, their advice, so they can be retrieved sometime in the future."

For example, he said, a future law student might see an interview with famed trial lawyer Herald Price Fahringer '56, then access the Oral History Project and hear Fahringer's voice recounting his days at UB Law. Ditto with Hon. Ann T. Mikoll '54, former Professor Lou Del Cotto, and former dean Jacob Hyman.

Boreanaz said the organizers hope to make the completed project accessible at such venues as Law School functions, the downtown public library, the UB Law Library and online.

The dinner was a special one for members of the Class of 1947, marking the 60th anniversary of their graduation, and the Class of 1957, marking their 50th. It was also bittersweet for UB Law Dean Nils Olsen, who is stepping down from administration in order to return to full-time teaching. Of all the things he did as dean, Olsen said, getting to know the alumni – some of whom he first met as law students

– has been the most enjoyable.

Following dinner, six Distinguished Alumni Awards were conferred. The recipients' acceptance remarks were included in the evening's printed program, and are excerpted here.

Dennis R. McCoy '77, president of the UB Law Alumni Association, presented the judiciary award to Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck '73, a New York State Supreme Court justice in the 7th District. Van Strydonck, who serves on the Dean's Advisory Council, is a former Monroe County Bar Association president and established a fund in that county to aid lawyers with addiction or mental illness issues.

"When I was elected to the Supreme Court in 1999," he wrote, "one of my partners suggested that I would find growing old as a judge was much easier than as a practicing lawyer. She was so right. I have tried to keep that in mind as I interact with the lawyers who appear in front of me. The pressures that come with the practice of law should not be exacerbated by unnecessary and unyielding demands from the bench."

Mary M. Penn '99 presented the award for private practice to Margaret W. Wong '76, managing partner of Margaret W. Wong and Associates. Wong's firm, with offices in Cleveland; Columbus, Ohio; New York City; and Detroit, specializes in immigration law. She herself emigrated from Hong Kong as a teenager.

"I feel so blessed that I am able to help thousands and thousands of immigrants to settle in the United States and to fulfill their dreams of living here," Wong wrote. "Not only to survive, but to thrive. I would not have been able to do this without the UB Law School and the scholarship foundation."

Boreanaz returned to the podium to present the Distinguished Alumni Award for community service to Richard Lipsitz '43, who is of counsel with the Buffalo law firm Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria. Lipsitz built his career on labor law, and serves as counsel and president of the Coalition for Economic Justice.

"I have spent substantial non-billable time with a number of not-for-profit organizations, mostly involved in the advance-



Mary M. Penn '99, co-chair of the dinner.



Dennis McCoy '77, president of the Law Alumni Association, presents a surprise award to Executive Director Ilene R. Fleischmann on behalf of all the past presidents.

ment of civil liberties and civil rights, and in programs for assistance to economically disadvantaged persons," he wrote. "That time was made possible by my partners' indulgence and support, for which I thank them."

McCoy made the next presentation, the award for public service to Law School Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel '67. Carrel has spent 30 years at the Law School, among other achievements founding the Dean's Advisory Council and the alumni magazine, UB Law Forum. He also built the UB Law Alumni Association substantially as its director, and has been instrumental in the success of the school's development efforts.

"The best thing about my job," Carrel wrote, "is that it has enabled me to interact

with thousands of terrific students, alumni and co-workers, whom I respect, whose company I have enjoyed and from whom I have learned much. They are an important part of my life, and many have become close friends."

Penn presented the award for achievement in business to William E. Mathias II '71, managing partner of Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman. His firm focuses its practice on corporate business loans and equity and debt issues, representing businesses from small family firms to large publicly held corporations.

Wrote Mathias: "Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with many of the highly regarded national corporate law firms, yet I continue to be impressed by the skill and professionalism of my fellow members of the local corporate bar, many of whom are UB graduates."

The award for service by a non-alumnus, presented by Laurie S. Bloom '83, went to Frederick G. Attea, a partner in Phillips Lytle and a member of the Dean's Advisory Council. Through the state Bar Association, Attea is working to include the Law School on an initiative to overhaul the state's Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

"Those of us who, for many years, have been a part of the legal community in Western New York are fortunate to have had a law school which has taken such an active and vital role in shaping our legal community," Attea wrote. "Unquestionably, Phillips Lytle's capabilities have been greatly enhanced by the Law School's alumni."

To close out the honors, McCoy presented UB Law Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann – who is marking her 23rd year as executive director of the Alumni Association – with a special award, a Steuben glass sculpture inscribed with appreciation for her "tireless and exemplary service."

Bloom and Penn were co-chairs of the Annual Dinner Committee, whose members also included Hilary C. Banker '96, Richard F. DiGiacomo '76, Gayle L. Eagan '85, David P. Flynn '87, Donald W. O'Brien Jr. '77, Raymond J. Stapell '75, Kevin D. Szczepanski '95 and Mark W. Warren '83.



# Alumni Association



The GOLD Group rocks out to the music of alumnus Michael Bly at the Pearl Street Brewery in downtown Buffalo.



From left to right:  
Elizabeth M. Tertinek '06,  
John P. Feroletto '07,  
Megan E. Misiti '06 and  
Sara T. Wallitt '06

Lisa M. Goodberry '06 and  
Michael Bly Santamaria '99

Paul Jones and Kevin  
Hunt, sponsor

## UB Law alumni mark 15 years of going for GOLD

By Annie Deck-Miller  
Buffalo Law Journal

A group founded 15 years ago to meet the needs of recent UB Law School graduates has been a boon for the Law School as a whole.

"They are a volunteer organization that is completely integrated into the life of the Law School. They help with admissions and recruiting, and since they are young and recently graduated from law school, they can talk to our applicants about life at UB Law," Ilene R. Fleischmann, a law school vice dean and executive director of the UB Law Alumni Association, said of the Graduates of the Last Decade, or GOLD Group.

"GOLD Group members also serve as volunteers for our moot court and mock trial," Fleischmann said. "They are invaluable in that way, and also help with our development efforts, mentoring program and our class reunions."

Originally based on a similar program at Hamilton College, the GOLD Group was founded by a group that included Doug Dimitroff, Mark Brand, founding President Catherine Wettlaufer and Fleischmann, among others, as a way to ease the transition from law school into practice for new UB Law graduates.

"It became increasingly apparent to us 15 years ago that we needed a different kind of alumni structure to benefit our younger alumni," said Fleischmann. "They

needed opportunities to network with each other, and they wanted less formal, less expensive events than our older alumni."

"There's a wonderful camaraderie in law school, and students form seminars or study groups. The idea was to capture and retain that. Part of it was also to support our graduates and help them become successful members of the legal community," said Wettlaufer, now a partner at Hiscock Barclay LLP.

Continuing legal education seminars are a core of the GOLD Group's mission, and its UB Law Downtown Breakfast Series has presented a number of one-hour, one-credit courses skewed toward newer practitioners, as well as longer trainings.

Some seminars have taken the GOLD Group to Niagara and Wyoming counties.

And opportunities for socializing in no-pressure, low-key settings such as cafes, sporting events and the Fort Erie Race Track and Slots help to gel the friendships among recent UB Law alums.

The GOLD Group marked its 15th anniversary this year with a party at the Pearl Street Grill and Brewery. The event featured UB Law alumnus Michael Bly and his band. Says former President Marc Brown, an associate at Phillips Lytle LLP, "It's really just a group that likes to have fun, to extend their fun years."

Reporter Jodi Sokolowski contributed to this story.

*"The GOLD Group is a volunteer organization that is completely integrated into the life of the Law School. They help with admissions and recruiting, and since they are young and recently graduated from law school, they can talk to our applicants about life at UB Law."*

—Ilene R. Fleischmann, vice dean and executive director of the UB Law Alumni Association



# Alumni Association



**Front row, left to right:** Anthony J. Colucci III, Executive Director and Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann, President Margaret P. Gryko, Dennis R. McCoy, Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Lawrence M. Ross, Paula M. Ciprich, Phillip Brothman, Marion K. Henderson, Gayle L. Eagan and Lisa J. Allen.  
**Second row, left to right:** Samuel L. Shapiro, Dean Nils Olsen, Mary M. Penn, Brian M. Melber, Lynn A. Clarke and Mark J. Stuhlmiller.  
**Third row, left to right:** Hon. Gail A. Donofrio, Toni L. Frain, Carmen L. Snell, Hon. Erin M. Peradotto and Hon. Lenora B. Foote.  
**Fourth row, left to right:** Richard F. DiGiacomo, David P. Flynn, David M. Hehr, Kenneth W. Africano, Hon. Leslie G. Foschio, Laurie Styka Bloom and Catherine E. Nagel.  
**Fifth row, left to right:** Terrence M. Gilbride, Richard A. Grimm III, D. Charles Roberts, Robert P. Heary, Mark W. Warren, Kevin D. Szczepanski and Marc W. Brown.

## Officers, directors elected for 2007-08

**M**argaret P. Gryko '77 has been elected president of the UB Law Alumni Association for 2007-08. Gryko is assistant general counsel for Delaware North Cos. Inc. A past president of the Niagara Frontier Corporate Counsel Association Inc., she will be installed in November into the prestigious College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden '83, of Buffalo City Court, is the new president-elect. Vice presidents are: Laurie S. Bloom '83, of Nixon Peabody LLP; Robert L. Boreanaz '89, of Lipsitz, Green, Scime & Cambria LLP; Brian M. Melber '96 of Personius Melber LLP; and Hon. Erin M. Peradotto '84, of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

Treasurer is Gayle L.V. Eagan '85, of Jaeckle Fleis-



Margaret P. Gryko '77

chmann & Mugel LLP; assistant treasurer Paul M. Ciprich '85, of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp.; secretary is Marion K. Henderson '65, retired; assistant secretary is Richard F. DiGiacomo '76, of Nesper, Ferber & DiGiacomo.

Immediate past president is Dennis R. McCoy '77, of Hiscock & Barclay LLP. Ilene R. Fleischmann, vice dean in the University at Buffalo Law School, continues as executive director. New directors elected for terms ending in 2010 are: Marc W. Brown '99, of Phillips Lytle LLP; Terrence M. Gilbride '88, of Hodgson Russ LLP; Robert P. Heary '91, of Hiscock & Barclay, LLP; Catherine E. Nagel '98, of Nuchereneno & Nagl; David R. Pfalzgraf Jr. '97, of Rupp, Baase, Pfalzgraf, Cunningham & Coppola LLC; D. Charles Roberts '97, of Delaware North Cos.; and Mark J. Stuhlmiller '99, of Computer Task Group.

## UB Law GOLD Group 2007-08 Officers and Directors



**Front row, left to right:** Executive Director Ilene R. Fleischmann, Assistant Director Patricia Warrington, Pietra G. Lettieri, Danielle Shainbrown, Stephanie Williams-Torres and Jennifer M. McCann.  
**Second row, left to right:** Catherine E. Nagel, Natalie A. Grigg, Jesse Baldwin and Bethany J. Gilbert.  
**Third row, left to right:** Christopher D. Smith and Marc W. Brown.  
**Fourth row, left to right:** Amber Storr, David W. Polak, Brent J. Nowicki, Jack Trachtenberg and Jeffrey Lloyd Kingsley.

## Shouldn't you be a member of the UB Law Alumni Association?

For more than 100 years, the UB Law Alumni Association has served our alumni/ae by sponsoring and/or assisting with events and programs that enhance the education and quality of life within UB Law School. We help to raise the national reputation and visibility of the Law School and provide invaluable opportunities to all of our graduates.

For more recent graduates, the UB Law Alumni Association's GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group provides additional low-cost educational and social programs and services designed to assist new graduates with the transition

from student to attorney. Membership in the GOLD group is automatic and free upon graduation, and remains in effect during the graduate's first 10 years out of Law School. The Law Alumni Association helps underwrite their activities. We encourage GOLD Group members to enjoy the full benefits of the UB Law Alumni Association by joining.

For more information on why you should join, please call our Executive Director Ilene Fleischmann at (716) 645-7347.





## Professor James A. Gardner tells NYC alumni:

*“New York’s judicial selection process is fine – it’s the party system that needs fixing.”*

James A. Gardner, Joseph W. Belluck and Laura L. Aswad Professor of Civil Justice, spoke on “Judicial Selection in New York After Lopez-Torres” at the annual alumni luncheon last January at the Union League Club. Since then, the Supreme Court issued a ruling in Lopez-Torres. The Court reversed the 2nd Circuit and upheld the present system. The following is a summary of his remarks:

New Yorkers have long been dissatisfied with their judicial elections. In a sad parody of democracy, the real decisions are made not by the electorate, but by local party bosses who decide who will run and whether judicial elections will even be contested.

Last year a federal court pushed judicial election reform onto the state legislative agenda by invalidating the existing system. Unless that ruling is reversed by the Supreme Court, which recently took the appeal, the state must craft a new system or face judicial imposition of open primaries for judicial offices.

While public and judicial concern over New York’s dysfunctional judicial selection process is understandable, it is misplaced. There is nothing wrong with the structure of New York’s judicial selection institutions. The real dysfunction lies in New York’s party system, which is utterly moribund.

Judges typically are chosen either by appointment or election. Judicial appointment can yield outstanding judges, but is susceptible to abuse in the form of patronage. New York switched in 1846 from appointive to elective judgeships partly to prevent exactly this abuse.

Electing judges, however, has its own drawbacks. The public may be unable to evaluate the qualifications of judicial candi-



Joseph W. Belluck '94 and Professor James A. Gardner

dates. And judges who run for election must raise money, opening them to the influence of special interests.

New York’s present system is a reasonable hybrid meant to combine the advantages of appointment and election, while avoiding their respective risks.

The state’s system of electing Supreme Court judges proceeds in three stages. First, voters from each party elect delegates to a judicial nominating convention. The delegates then convene and select their parties’ judicial candidates. The final selection of judges is referred back to the people at the general election.

By including the people, this method guards against patronage appointments. Yet by leaving the identification of judicial

candidates to elected delegates, the system gains the benefits of appointment by well-informed observers. On paper, then, New York’s method for selecting Supreme Court judges ought to work as well as any other.

The problem today is that the state’s judicial selection system isn’t working as intended. Although the public continues to perform its role, the parties have badly perverted the system. They extort donations from judicial candidates. They enforce an extralegal system of judicial promotion from lower to higher courts. They drive away qualified candidates who are unwilling to play ball. And they collude to thwart popular choice by cutting deals about whom to run, when, and where.

In short, the parties are not competing,

as they should, for the approval and votes of the electorate. Why not? The short answer is that New York’s party system is dead. Although the reasons are complex, much of the present dysfunction can be traced to the bipartisan gerrymander of the state legislature.

In a modern democracy, the people control government indirectly by replacing one set of rulers with another. Alternate sets of rulers are supplied by political parties competing for the people’s votes. But in New York, party democracy has been thwarted by the parties’ collusive legislative gerrymander, which for thirty years has allocated control of the Assembly to Democrats and of the Senate to Republicans.

This gerrymander fatally undermines party democracy because it prevents the electorate from holding any party accountable for the actions of the government. Because of the gerrymander, no party can be voted out of the chamber it controls, nor can a single party take control of the entire government. Since neither party can be disciplined by the voters, neither party has any incentive to be responsive to their wishes.

Most proposals for reforming New York’s judicial selection process would substitute either gubernatorial appointment or open primary elections. Yet neither reform is likely to make a difference until the party system is fixed.

Virtually all proposals for appointment would limit the governor to appointing candidates who have been cleared by a bipartisan screening commission. But if the parties are not accountable, there is no reason to expect screening commissions under party control to stop treating judicial appointments as party patronage.

Open primaries wouldn’t fare much better. Insider candidates supported by the party organization would have a huge advantage over outsiders because of their access to party campaign resources and expertise. And the parties could still make cross-nomination and noncompetition deals to crush outsider campaigns or co-opt serious independents.

Real party accountability will not be possible until, at a minimum, the bipartisan gerrymander of the state legislature is broken up. Only when political parties are forced actually to compete with one another for control of the legislature can New York voters influence the operation of their government and the content of its policies.



From left to right: Jo Welch Faber '82, Rosemarie A. Wyman '81 and Hon. Barbara Howe '80



Above: Phillip Brothman '62 and Hon. Erin M. Peradotto '84



Left: Hon. Lenora B. Foote '97 with Bruce F. Zefitel '77



# Alumni Association

## Regional grips & grins

*Alumni say “cheese” at Washington, Rochester and New York City events*

**ROCHESTER:** Chambers of Hon. Thomas Van Strydonck



Judge Eugene F. Pigott Jr. '73 and Joshua Agins '10



Left to right: Mark C. Ferraro '10, Adam P. Deisinger '10, Hon. Patricia Marks, David J. Simoni '10, Matthew A. Motiwala '09



Left to right: Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck '73, Hon. Kenneth R. Fisher and Michael R. Wolford '68

Left, left to right: Craig K. Beiderman '10, Michael T. Birkby '10 and Gordon Hepworth '10

**NEW YORK:** The Brasserie



Assistant Dean Karen R. Kaczmariski '89 and Douglas W. Dimitroff '89



Left to right: Sheikh Ahmad '09, Danielle M. Wanglien '09, Candace M. Jackson '09 and Tyrone A. Wilson '09



Left to right: Vice Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann, Candace M. Jackson '09, Michael D. Mann '06, and Anshu Pasricha '07



Left to right: Sachin Kohli '06, Keith J. Gross '06, Enam Hoque '06 and Shane Kiernan '06

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** Zaytinya



Christine H. Farley '94 and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Frank G. Raichle Professor of Trial and Appellate Advocacy Lucinda M. Finley



Michael J. Surgalla Jr. '82 and Lucy P. Weaver '05



Joseph A. Kresse '95 and wife Andrea



David E. Franasia '78 and Eric I. Robins '03

**NEW YORK:** The Lotos Club



Hon. Elena Cacavas-Schietinger '85



Christopher A. Wightman '99 and wife Diane



Neal H. Lipschitz '73 and wife Geri



Thomas R. Bremer '79 and wife Sandy



# Alumni Briefs



1st Row – Richard M. English '53, Herbert Shafer '50, Hon. James Kane '53, David A. Doll '50, Hon. Joseph J. Sedita '50

2nd Row – Hon. John P. Lane '53, Harry D. Maynor '57, Richard Lipsitz '43, John J. Barone '57, Hon. Charles R. Newman '50, Wells E. Knibloe '50, George M. Zimmermann '49

3rd Row – Philip H. Magner Jr. '49, John W. Rickers Jr. '52, Andrew Diakun '52, Alexander J. Russ '52, Frank R. Papa '52, Robert J. Plache '57

Richard Lipsitz '43, Robert J. Plache '57, and Frank R. Papa '52

## The Law School hosted its fourth annual 50+ Reunion Luncheon

The Law School hosted its fourth annual 50+ Reunion Luncheon, an event that welcomes alumni who have graduated 50 or more years ago. Alumni and guests joined Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel '67 as this wonderful tradition continued on Aug. 8. In attendance were alumni ranging from the classes of 1943 to 1957. The event took place in the newly renovated Law School Conference Center in O'Brien Hall. In addition to the lively conversations between alums, May 2007 graduates Renee M. Rozier and Jacia T. Smith joined the group and briefed attendees on new developments at the Law School from the perspective of recent students.



Andrew Diakun '52, Harry D. Maynor '57, Robert J. Plache '57, and John W. Rickers Jr. '52



Wells E. Knibloe '50, John W. Rickers Jr. '52, and Alexander J. Russ '52



## What's new?

Keep in touch with your former classmates, professors and friends by sending us your personal and professional news for publication. Please make sure the news you submit is accurate, complete and legible. Include a color picture if you wish.

### Three ways to submit

**Clip-out coupon:**  
For your convenience, a clip-out coupon is printed on the back cover flap.

**Add a photo:**  
Include a non-returnable color portrait with your press release and mail to:  
Cynthia Watts, Class Action Editor, *UB Law Forum*, 312 O'Brien Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260.

**Via the Web:**  
Fill out the form at [www.law.buffalo.edu](http://www.law.buffalo.edu).  
To include a hi-resolution color portrait (300 dpi minimum) e-mail a jpg to: [clwatts@buffalo.edu](mailto:clwatts@buffalo.edu).  
For questions call (716) 645-2107

## '40s

Richard Lipsitz '43 received the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was honored for his many contributions to the betterment of the community at the association's 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and dinner on May 3 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Lipsitz is of counsel in the Buffalo firm Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria.

John Canale '47 has been included in *Best Lawyers in New York State*. Canale is special counsel at Bouvier Partnership in Buffalo. He practices in bodily injury litigation.

Joseph C. Vispi '49 was awarded the Charles H. Dougherty Civility Award from the Bar Association of Erie County at its 120<sup>th</sup> annual

dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Vispi is in private practice in Buffalo.

## '50s

Hon. Mary Ann Killeen '52 received the Women in Law Award from the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's Gender & Racial Fairness Committee on May 23 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Killeen is a retired Erie County Family Court judge.

Robert J. Plache '57 has been named one of the best lawyers in America in the Woodward White 2008 listing. He is a partner in the firm Damon & Morey, specializing in probate, trust and estate law in the Buffalo office. Plache is a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York



# Alumni Briefs

and a former lieutenant in the U.S. Navy.

Ronald D. Anton '58 has published his second book, *God's Seven Ways to Ease Suffering*. The book is dedicated to late UB Law Dean Jacob Hyman. Anton served on the UB Law faculty from 1960 to 1962. He is an attorney in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Maryann Saccomando Freedman '58 was named president of the Buffalo Geological Society and was elected to the board of directors of Western New York Heritage Press for a three-year term. She is of counsel in the Buffalo firm Cohen & Lombardo.

## '60s

Hon. Charles F. Graney '61 was honored by the Appellate Division, 4<sup>th</sup> Department, in Rochester, N.Y. He received a special award for his more than 20 years of service to the Law Guardian Advisory Committee. Graney is a retired Genesee County Family Court judge.

William A. Niese '61 of Bonsall, Calif., has been named to the board of the University at Buffalo Foundation for a three-year term. Niese is retired from the Times Mirror Co. of Los Angeles.

Robert D. Kolken '65 has formed the Buffalo firm Kolken & Kolken with his son, Matthew Kolken. The firm specializes in immigration and nationality law. Kolken is a Buffalo resident.

John A. Cirando '66 was named to the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Department judicial screening committee. He practices in the Syracuse, N.Y., firm D.J. & J.A. Cirando.

Alan S. Carrel '67, vice dean at UB Law School, received the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award. Carrel was honored for his commitment to public service at the association's 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo on May 3.

# SAVE THE DATE for YOUR REUNION:

1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988 and 1998

With gratitude, the Law School recognizes those alumni and friends that have given their time and energy to help organize, plan and attend their reunion event. Although every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the reunion pages, we apologize for any inadvertent errors or mistakes. If you have any questions or wish to report an inaccuracy, please contact: Amy Hayes Atkinson, Assistant Director of Reunion and Special Programs, 315 O'Brien Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260-1100 at (716) 645-6224 or e-mail [aatkins@buffalo.edu](mailto:aatkins@buffalo.edu)

Thank you! And we hope to see everyone at their next reunion.

Check out all the information at [www.law.buffalo.edu/reunions](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/reunions). Contact Amy Hayes Atkinson at (716) 645-6224 or [aatkins@buffalo.edu](mailto:aatkins@buffalo.edu).

50+ Reunion Luncheon	Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008
Class 1953	55th Reunion June 26, 2008
Class 1958	50th Reunion May 16 & 17, 2008
Class 1963	45th Reunion June 28, 2008
Class 1968	40th Reunion June 6 & 7, 2008
Class 1973	35th Reunion June 6 & 7, 2008
Class 1978	30th Reunion June 6 & 7, 2008
Class 1983	25th Reunion May 2 & 3, 2008
Class 1988	20th Reunion May 2 & 3, 2008
Class 1998	10th Reunion May 2 & 3, 2008



Above: Robert E. Walter '67, Sheldon B. Benatovich '67, and Alan S. Biernbaum '67



Above: Denise E. O'Donnell '82, Prof. Dianne Avery '82



Below: Hon. Mark G. Farrell '72, Arthur E. Jackson Jr. '72, June Bates, and Larry D. Bates '72



# Class of '52

Continuing with their reunion tradition, the Class of 1952 gathered on June 21 to honor their 55-year reunion from UB Law School. The dinner was held at the historical Mansion on Delaware Avenue. Folks from Florida and Pennsylvania made the trip to visit with friends and classmates honoring this milestone.



Above, Dominic J. Terranova and Andrew Diakun

Hon. David J. Mahoney Jr. and Hon. John J. Gruber



Alexander J. Russ and Andrew Diakun



Patrick T. Hurley, Hon. John J. Gruber, and Phyllis H. Wilkinson

1st Row – Hon. John J. Gruber, David H. Lund, Hon. Mary Ann Killeen, Phyllis H. Wilkinson, Anthony J. Spann

2nd Row – Hon. David J. Mahoney Jr., Thomas J. Kelly, Morton H. Abramowitz, John A. Krull, Patrick T. Hurley, Alexander J. Russ

3rd Row – Hon. Mary K. Carr, Harry P. Weinrib, Andrew Diakun, Nicholas A. Pierino, Dominic J. Terranova



# Alumni Briefs

**Frederick A. Wolf '67**, special counsel in the Buffalo firm Damon & Morey, was included in the land use and zoning law category in the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Wolf also concentrates his practice in municipal, banking and business law.

**Robert P. Fine '68**, managing partner in the firm Hurwitz & Fine in Buffalo, was named to the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Department judicial screening committee. He was also named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2007. Fine is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award and is an adjunct faculty member at UB Law School.

**Giles P. Manias '68**, a Buffalo attorney, was appointed vice president of the Bar Association of Erie County. He chairs the association's senior lawyers' committee and the international sister cities committee.

**Vincent J. Moore '69** was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2008. Moore is a senior partner in the Buffalo firm Damon & Morey and is chair of the firm's real estate department.

## '70s

**William E. Mathias II '71** was recognized for his exemplary performance in business by the UB Law Alumni Association. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the association's 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and dinner on May 3 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Mathias is managing partner in the firm Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman in Buffalo and a member of UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Council.

**Joseph B. Mistrett '71** has retired as chief federal public defender in Buffalo. He held this position since 2004 and previously served as a federal public defender for 15 years. Mistrett will move to Washington, D.C., to be near his family.

**Anthony M. Nosek '71** was named village attorney in Depew, N.Y. He is of counsel in the Buffalo firm



Maryann Saccomando  
Freedman '58



Robert P. Fine '68

Cohen & Lombardo and concentrates his practice in civil litigation, corporate, environmental, estates and trusts, and municipal law. Nosek lives in Lancaster, N.Y.

**Paul A. Battaglia '72** is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2008. He is a partner in the firm Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel in the Amherst, N.Y., office. In addition, he is an adjunct instructor at UB Law School.

**Peter J. Battaglia '72** was elected treasurer of the Bar Association of Erie County. He is underwriting counsel at Tigor Title Insurance Co. in Buffalo.

**David G. Brock '72** was named vice chair of Planned Parenthood of Western New York. He is also included in the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* and is listed in "Who's Who in Law" 2007

by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*. Brock is a partner in the Buffalo firm Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel and former vice president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**Hon. Mark G. Farrell '72** was appointed to the Special Commission on the Future of the New York State Courts. He also was installed as president of the New York State Magistrates Association for 2007-08. Farrell is Amherst, N.Y., town justice and president-elect of the New York State Magistrates Association. He is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award and a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**Samuel Fried '72** has retired from the practice of law and founded Flights of Fancy Adventures, a birding and golf travel company. He runs the company with his wife, Donna Mages, also a retired attorney. Fried has run tours to 10 states, seven Canadian provinces and territories, eight Latin American countries and Australia. He has published 35 feature articles in magazines, including the United States Golf Association environmental section, and over 1,000 of his photographs have been published worldwide. Fried is a resident of Bloomfield, Conn.

**Anthony J. Latona '72** spoke at the National Business Institute program "The Art of Settlement" in Buffalo. Latona is a partner in the Buffalo firm Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel in the litigation practice group.

**Thomas F. Segalla '72** and **Susan E. Van Gelder '97** co-authored a chapter, "Causation in Mold Cases: Practice Pointers for Defending Exposure Claims," for the Defense Research Institute Library Series 2007 on *Exploring Toxic Tort and Environmental Liability Claims*. Segalla also was appointed chair of USLAW NETWORK's insurance committee. He is a partner in the Buffalo firm Goldberg Segalla and a member of the Defense Research Institute's Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Committee.

**John C. Spitzmiller '72** was named program coordinator of Estate

Analysts of Western New York. He is a partner in the firm Phillips Lytle in the Buffalo office.

**Hon. Lawrence Brenner '73** was named to the board of the Public Service Commission. Brenner is deputy chief administrative law judge for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C.

**James W. Gresens '73** has become a partner in the Buffalo firm Duke Holzman Photiadis & Gresens. He was a former member of the firm Gresens & Gresens in Buffalo.

**Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck '73** received the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award on May 3 at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. He was honored for his conscientious and diligent performance in the judiciary. Van Strydonck is a New York State Supreme Court justice for the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in Rochester, N.Y. He is a member of UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Council and a trial technique instructor.

**Frank J. Buffomante '74** was named Practitioner of the Year at the annual Attorney Recognition Reception of the Bar Association of Erie County's Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society. Buffomante is a partner in the firm Labin & Buffomante in Williamsville, N.Y.

**Christopher T. Greene '74**, senior partner in the Buffalo firm Damon & Morey, has been included in the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Greene is a member of UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Council and a former recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is a Buffalo resident.

**Michele O. Heffernan '74**, a Buffalo resident, is listed in the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the employee benefits category. Heffernan is a partner in the Buffalo firm Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel.

**Helen Osgood '74** has become a partner in the firm Damon & Morey in the Buffalo office. She is a member of the firm's real estate and banking department. Osgood handles matters involving



Left to right: William F. Keenan, Richard A. Grimm, Jr., Dr. Charles S. V. Telly, Harry D. Maynor, Thomas J. Shanahan, Mark Klafehn, Grace Marie Ange, Weston B. Wardell Jr., Robert J. Plache, Sanford M. Silverberg, Richard F. Griffin, F.B. Hamsher, Paul Shatkin

## Class of '57

The weekend of May 18-19 brought the Class of 1957 together for their milestone 50-year reunion. The weekend was met with beautiful weather, which further enhanced the momentous weekend.

On Friday, the acclaimed Rue Franklin restaurant was the setting for the Class of 1957's reunion dinner. Classmates became reacquainted with each other over cocktails and a sit-down dinner in the Rue's beautiful atrium.

Saturday afternoon, several classmates gathered at the Law School with the dean for lunch in the recently rehabbed Law School Conference Center on the fifth floor. After the lunch, the class was seated on stage with faculty, VIPs and other dignitaries for the Class of 2007 commencement exercises at the Center for the Arts. As part of the ceremony, the Class of 1957 was honored for their accomplishments.



Kate Wardell, Weston B. Wardell Jr., and Harry D. Maynor



Harry D. Maynor and Sanford M. Silverberg



Robert J. Plache, Richard F. Griffin, and Dr. Charles S. V. Telly



Richard A. Grimm Jr., William F. Keenan, and Thomas J. Shanahan



# Alumni Briefs

commercial lending and credit restructuring.

**Gregory C. Yungbluth '74**, a senior partner in the Buffalo firm Damon & Morey, was included in *The Best Lawyers in America 2008*. Yungbluth is co-chair of the firm's corporate department.

**Dianne Bennett '75** was appointed chair of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Department judicial screening committee by New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer. Bennett is of counsel in the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ. She is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumna Award.

**Dale A. Ehman '75** was named "Who's Who in Law" 2007 by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*. Ehman practices in the Buffalo firm Bouvier Partnership in personal injury litigation. He is a resident of Amherst, N.Y.

**Pamela Davis Heilman '75** has been elected to the board of governors of the Shaw Festival, one of the largest repertory companies in North America. Heilman is a partner in the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ in the corporate & securities and nonprofit law practice groups. She is also a member of UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Council and is a Buffalo resident.

**Charles G. Humphrey '75** has become a partner in The Wagner Law Group in Boston. The firm specializes in ERISA/employee benefits, and Humphrey will serve clients in Boston and Buffalo.

**Edward D. Manzo '75** is the lead author and editor in chief of *Claim Construction in the Federal Circuit* (Thomson West, March 2007). Manzo writes this annually in conjunction with members of the litigation committee of the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago. He also appeared on the television program *First Business Morning News* on WCIU and MeTV in Chicago. He discussed the music industry's winning a major digital piracy copyright case. Manzo is a founding partner in the firm Cook Alex in Chicago, concentrating his practice in intellectual property litigation and counseling. He is a resident of Lake Forest, Ill.



Anthony M. Nosek '71



Hon. Mark G. Farrell '72



Harry F. Mooney '75

**Harry F. Mooney '75** received the 2007 Robert Kiebal Memorial Award from the Defense Trial Lawyers Association of Western New York. He is also listed in "Who's Who in Law" 2007 by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*, and was selected for

inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2007*. Mooney is a member of the firm Hurwitz & Fine in Buffalo, practicing product liability, professional liability, and large loss and catastrophic injury litigation.

**Thomas A. Palmer '75**, a partner in the Amherst, N.Y., office of Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel, is named in *The Best Lawyers in America 2008*. Palmer practices business and corporate law.

**Hon. Janice M. Rosa '75** was re-elected to the board of trustees of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Rosa is a New York State Supreme Court justice, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, in Buffalo, and is supervising judge for matrimonial matters.

**William F. Savino '75** was recognized in the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. He is a senior partner and chairman in the business litigation and insolvency department in the Buffalo office of Damon & Morey. Savino is also a bridge course lecturer at UB Law School and a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**Diane F. Bosse '76** was named to a two-year term on the law school accreditation committee of the ABA section of legal education and admissions to the bar. Bosse is chair of the New York Board of Law Examiners and is of counsel in the firm Bender, Crawford & Bender in Buffalo.

**Patrick J. Brown '76** was selected by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to serve a three-year term on the attorney advisory group to the Second Circuit criminal justice act committee. Brown is a partner in the firm LoTempio & Brown in Buffalo.

**Richard F. DiGiacomo '76** was named assistant secretary of the UB Law Alumni Association. He is a partner in the firm Nesper Ferber & DiGiacomo in Amherst, N.Y.

**Louis P. DiLorenzo '76** was inducted into the Litigation Counsel of America. DiLorenzo is managing partner in the firm bond Schoeneck & King in the firm's New York City and Garden City offices. He is co-chair of the firm's labor and employment law department.

**Cheryl Smith Fisher '76**, a partner in the firm Magavern Magavern Grimm in Buffalo, has been selected for the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. She was honored in the area of ethics and professional responsibility law, the first time the publication recognized this specialty. Fisher is president of the Bar Association of Erie County.

**Edward J. Kelly '76** of Jonesborough, Tenn., was named a Senior Fulbright Specialist and spent the summer teaching alternative dispute resolution in Baku, Azerbaijan. Kelly is university counsel at East Tennessee State University and Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City, Tenn. He also teaches law at Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Va.

**Richard M. Miller '76** is a partner in the firm Fox Rothschild in Princeton, N.J., where he has been named co-chair of the international business practice group. He previously practiced in the firm Miller Mitchell, which merged with Fox Rothschild.

**Rodney O. Personius '76** was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers at its annual meeting in Chicago. Personius is a partner in the firm Personius Melber in Buffalo.

**John Stuart '76** was reappointed to a four-year term as state public defender in Minneapolis, where he resides. Stuart has held the position since 1990.

**John M. Thomas '76** is resigning as dean of the University at Buffalo School of Management. He will continue to work with the school's global business programs as a faculty member. Thomas has helped to establish the school as a leader in international business education. The school was named by *BusinessWeek* as one of the country's top five business schools for the fastest return on MBA investment. Thomas is a Buffalo resident.

**Margaret W. Wong '76** was honored with the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumna Award on May 3 at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Wong was recognized for her leadership



Melvyn L. Hurwitz and Phillip Brothman



James R. Walsh and Robert A. Moeller

## Class of '62



1st Row – Phillip Brothman, Angelo F. LaDuca, Marvin T. Dubin, Robert D. Gunderman, Waldron S. Hayes Jr., Francis P. McGarry

2nd Row – Melvyn L. Hurwitz, Gerald J. Greenan Jr., Robert A. Moeller

3rd Row – James R. Walsh, William D. Schulz, Peter D. Cook, Roger T. Davison

Above: Angelo F. LaDuca, Roger T. Davison, and William D. Schulz



Above: Francis P. McGarry, James R. Walsh, and Phillip Brothman

The class of 1962 marked their 45th year reunion on June 8-9. The weekend brought old friends together for an opportunity to reminisce and catch up on current happenings. As in past reunion traditions, a classmates-only dinner was held on Friday evening. More than half the class gathered at the Rue Franklin restaurant for an evening of conversation and fine dining.

On Saturday morning, classmates and guests were invited by Dean Nils Olsen to the Law School on UB's North Campus. The class was treated to the unveiling of their class composite feature their senior pictures created from their yearbook – *The Advocate* – which now hangs on the third floor on the administrative wing with other class composites.



# Alumni Briefs

by example as a private practitioner. She is managing partner of Margaret W. Wong and Associates in Cleveland and is also a member of UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Council.

**Cynthia A. Falk '77** was honored by the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee at the Women in Law Awards luncheon May 23 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Falk is a solo practitioner in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

**Barry R. Fertel '77** was re-elected to a four-year term on the city council in New Rochelle, N.Y. In addition, Fertel opened his own practice in New Rochelle specializing in education law and litigation.

**Margaret P. Gryko '77** has been inducted as a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. She also was elected vice president of the Niagara Frontier Corporate Counsel Association. Gryko is assistant general counsel at Delaware North Cos. in Buffalo and is president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**R. Michael Tantillo '77** was named Prosecutor of the Year by the New York Prosecutors Training Institute and the New York State District Attorneys Association. Tantillo is Ontario County district attorney in Canandaigua, N.Y., where he resides.

**Garry M. Graber '78** served as a moderator for the New York State Bar Association's CLE program "Working Out and Litigating the Problem Loan" in Syracuse, N.Y. Graber is a partner in the firm Hodgson Russ, in charge of the firm's restructuring, bankruptcy and commercial litigation practice group. He is a past president of the Bar Association of Erie County and the UB Law Alumni Association, and a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

**Thomas Maligno '78** has been named executive director of the public advocacy center at the Touro Law Center in Central Islip, N.Y. He previously was executive director of Nassau Suffolk Law Services.

**Mark J. Moretti '78** was chosen to



Garry M. Graber '78



Ann E. Evanko '79

serve on the Monroe County Bar Association board of trustees in Rochester, N.Y. He is a partner in the firm Phillips Lytle in the Rochester office.

**Hon. Marilyn L. O'Connor '78** has retired as a Monroe County family court judge in Rochester, N.Y. She was honored at a retirement dinner at the Shadow Lake Golf & Racquet Club in Penfield, N.Y., where she resides.

**Mark G. Pearce '78** was appointed by New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer to the Commission on Increasing Diversity in the State Government Workforce. Pearce is a partner in the Buffalo firm Creighton Pearce Johnsen & Giroux and a past president of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York.

**Vikki L. Pryor '78** received the Education Award from the Minority Bar Association of

Western New York. Pryor is president of SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance in New York City. She is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumna award and is a member of the UB Law School Dean's Advisory Council.

**David F. Smith '78** has been named to the board of directors of National Fuel Gas Co. in Williamsville, N.Y. Smith is president and chief operating officer of National Fuel and president of National Fuel Gas Supply Corp. and Empire State Pipeline. Smith joined the company in 1978. He is a member of UB Law School's Dean's Advisory Council and a former recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

**Peter F. Brady '79** was appointed treasurer of the Bar Association of Erie County. He is a partner in the firm Brady & Schaefer in Amherst, N.Y.

**Richard W. Cole '79** has joined the Hamburg, N.Y., firm Shaw & Shaw as an associate. He concentrates in matrimonial and family law.

**Ann E. Evanko '79** was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2007. She is a partner in the Buffalo firm Hurwitz & Fine, is a member of the management committee and serves as vice president of the firm.

**Terrie Benson Murray '79** was elected for a two-year term to the Philanthropic Education Organization as guard for the CM Chapter based in Orchard Park, N.Y. She is one of the founding members of the chapter and is the project chairperson for Educational Loan Fund. Murray is an associate in the firm Cohen & Lombardo in Buffalo.

**Jean C. Powers '79** was appointed president of the Buffalo Niagara Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners. She also was named in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2008 and is listed in "Who's Who in Law" 2007 by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*. Powers is a partner in the Amherst, N.Y., office of the firm Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel, practicing in the real estate group. She is a member of UB Law

School's Dean's Advisory Council, a former recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumna Award, and a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**Raymond P. Reichert '79** has been re-elected president of the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, appears in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2008 and is listed in "Who's Who in Law" 2007 by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*. Reichert is a partner in the firm Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel, practicing in the tax and economic land development practice group in the Buffalo office.

**Michael B. Risman '79** was appointed to the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo. Risman is a partner in the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ and is a bridge course lecturer at UB Law School.

**Joseph M. Schnitter '79** has become a member of the board of directors of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. He is a partner in the firm Brown & Kelly in Buffalo.

## '80s

**Gerard Citera '80** has joined the firm Chadbourne & Parke as counsel in the New York City office. Citera is a member of the firm's securities litigation and regulatory enforcement practice group.

**Barry Ginsberg '80** has been named general counsel for New York State's Commission on Public Integrity. He previously worked in the New York County district attorney's office in New York City.

**Hon. Barbara Howe '80**, Erie County surrogate court judge, received the Women in Law Award from the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's Gender & Racial Fairness Committee. She was honored at the awards luncheon on May 23 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Howe is a past recipient of the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumna Award and

is an adjunct faculty member at UB Law School.

**Michael J. Lombardo '80** was recognized with the Special Service Award from the Bar Association of Erie County. Lombardo is a member of the association's real property law subcommittee. He is a partner in the firm Duke Holzman Yaeger & Photiadis in Buffalo.

**Michael A. Piette '80** has been named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2008 and is listed in "Who's Who in Law" 2007 by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*. He is a partner in the real estate practice group of the firm Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel in the Amherst, N.Y., office.

**Steven Schwartz '80** is chief of the District Court trial bureau and director of training for the Nassau County district attorney's office in Mineola, N.Y. He lectures nationally on trial advocacy, is on the faculty of the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, S.C., and recently spoke to the National District Attorneys Association executive conference in Park City, Utah. Schwartz resides in Bronx, N.Y.

**Hon. C. Randall Hinrichs '81** was named Suffolk County Criminal Bar Association Judge of the Year. Hinrichs is a Suffolk county court judge in Riverhead, N.Y.

**Jean T. Walsh '81** has been appointed chair of the New York State Bar Association's criminal justice section. Walsh is principal rule counsel for the New York Stock Exchange.

**Karla D. Wilsey '81** received the President's Award for Contribution from the Monroe County Bar Association in Rochester, N.Y. Wilsey is senior vice president and general counsel at Public Abstract Corp., in Rochester.

**Maureen T. Alston '82** of Rochester, N.Y., received the Champion of Diversity Award from the Rochester Black Bar Association. Alston is managing partner in the firm Harter Secrest & Emery in the Rochester, N.Y., office. She is the first woman to serve as the firm's managing partner. **Richard S. Binko '82** has been elected second vice president of the

## Births

To **Steven Schwartz '80** and Jane Manning, a son, William, on Feb. 17, 2007, in New York City.

To **Evan Shapiro '87** and Steven P. Count, a daughter, Lila, on Aug. 15, 2007, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

To **Hilary C. Banker '96** and Jeffrey Leichtnam, a son, William Stephen, on May 22, 2007, in Buffalo.

To **Lourdes M. Ventura '98** and Rene F. Solorzano, a son, Mateo Rene, on Sept. 26, 2007, in New York City.

To **Tara Johnson '02** and Michael Johnson, a daughter, Sydney, on Nov. 13, 2006, in Webster, N.Y.

To **Michael A. Chiantella '03** and Karen Chiantella, a son, Dylan John-Noel, on November 27, 2007

To **Andrea M. Rigdon '03** and Jay A. Rigdon, a son, Daniel Alexander, on June 5, 2006, in Snyder, N.Y.

New York State Trial Lawyers Association. Binko practices personal injury law in his firm in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

**Hon. Christopher E. Cahill '82** has been nominated by New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer to serve as a Supreme Court justice in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District in Kingston. Cahill served as law clerk to the late Hon. Vincent Bradley, who previously held the position.

**Paul J. D'Amato '82** was named Region 8 director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in Avon, N.Y. He has been acting director since June.

**Richard A. Denmon '82** was appointed chair of the disclosure and continuous reporting subcommittee of the Federal Regulation of Securities committee of the business section of the American Bar Association. He has also been listed in *Chambers USA Guide to America's Leading Business Lawyers* 2007-08 edition, *The Legal 500* and *The Lawdragon 500 Leading Dealmakers*. He was also selected for *Florida Super Lawyers* 2007. In addition, he was a panelist at the 2007 fall meeting of the New York State Bar Association business law section in Palm Beach, Fla.

Denmon is a shareholder in the firm Carlton Fields in Tampa, Fla. He has a transactional practice concentrated in securities regulation, corporation finance, and mergers and acquisitions.

**John P. Feroletto '82** was named to the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association board of directors. Feroletto is a Buffalo solo practitioner.

**John Giardino '82** has recently completed a \$22 million redevelopment project in Buffalo to beautify dilapidated property. He is also working to redevelop a continuing care retirement community in Buffalo with the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority. Giardino is CEO of Centerstone Development in Buffalo and a partner in the Buffalo firm Lippes Mathias Wexler & Friedman.

**Vincent O. Hanley '82** has been elected chairman of the Hilbert College board of trustees in Hamburg, N.Y. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2008 and in "Who's Who in Law" 2007 by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*. Hanley is a partner in the firm Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel in the Buffalo office. He practices in the firm's real estate,

economic and land development, business and corporate, and financial services practice groups.

**Kenneth R. Kirby '82** has accepted a position as an associate in the Buffalo firm Mattar D'Agostino & Gottlieb. He counsels clients regarding civil litigation, appeals, professional liability and insurance coverage.

**Brenda Levinson '82** was elected president of the Court Attorneys Association of New York City. The association is a labor union that represents court attorneys employed by the Unified Court System in New York City. Levinson is a special referee on matrimonial and election matters in Bronx Supreme Court.

**Denise E. O'Donnell '82** has been appointed commissioner of New York State's division of criminal justice services. She is a former partner in the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ and a former first assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York. O'Donnell is a Buffalo resident and a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**Mark W. Pedersen '82** has been appointed to a four-year term as a military judge to the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps. Pedersen is law clerk to Hon. Charles J. Siragusa, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York, in Rochester, N.Y.

**Catharine M. Venzon '82**, a Williamsville, N.Y., resident, was honored at the Women of Distinction Awards dinner sponsored by the Girl Scout Council of Buffalo and Erie County. She was recognized for her leadership and work with several troops in Williamsville. Venzon practices in the Venzon Law Firm in Buffalo.

**Laurie S. Bloom '83** was elected vice president of the UB Law Alumni Association. Bloom is counsel in the firm Nixon Peabody in Buffalo.

**James W. Everett '83** had his article "Are Promissory Notes Securities?" published in the *U.C.C. Law Journal*, Vol. 40, No. 2. The article critiqued the application of



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Uniform Commercial Code Article 8 to promissory notes. Everett works for the New York State Insurance Department in Albany, N.Y., where he resides.

**Diane M. LaVallee '83**, of Buffalo, was elected to the nominating committee of the Bar Association of Erie County. LaVallee is a trial advocacy and bridge course instructor at UB Law School.

**Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden '83** was named president-elect of the UB Law Alumni Association. She is a Buffalo City Court judge and a bridge course instructor at UB Law School. Ogden is also a past president of the Minority Bar Association in Buffalo.

**Robert W. Patterson '83** is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America 2008*. Patterson is a partner in Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel in the employee benefits practice group. He is a Buffalo resident.

**Hon. Sara Sperrazza '83** was honored at the fifth annual Women in the Law Awards luncheon May 23 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. She was recognized by the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's Gender & Racial Fairness Committee for her contributions to the bench, bar and community. Sperrazza is acting Supreme Court justice and Niagara County Surrogate Court judge in Lockport, N.Y.

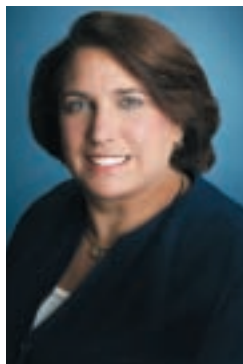
**Amy Ruth Tobol '83** has been named associate dean of the Hudson Valley Center of Empire State College in Hartsdale, N.Y. She is also a tenured associate professor.

**Perry Binder '84** co-organized and spoke at the Corporate Intellectual Property Institute at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga., where he is a Legal Studies professor in the Robinson College of Business. In addition, Binder nominated and introduced Mr. Truett Cathy, founder and chairman of Chick-fil-A restaurants, for the university's annual IP Legends Award, which honors attorneys and business people who have made significant contributions in the field of intellectual property.

**George W. Collins '84** of Amherst, N.Y., was re-elected for a second term as vice president of the board



Hon. Michael L. Hanuszcak '84



Donna L. Burden '87

of directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Buffalo. He also was named to the 2007 listing of "Who's Who in Law" by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*. Collins is chairman of the litigation group in the firm Bouvier Partnership in Buffalo.

**John P. Freedenberg '84** of Amherst, N.Y., was selected as the national chair of the Defense Research Institute's product liability committee. Freedenberg is a partner in the firm Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo, practicing in product liability, catastrophic personal injury and intellectual property litigation.

**Hon. Michael L. Hanuszcak '84** co-authored the article "Family Law" which appears in the 2005-06 *Survey of New York Law*, published in 2007 by the *Syracuse University Law Review*. Hanuszcak is an Onondaga County family court judge in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Patrick J. Higgins '84** has been named president of the Albany County Bar Association in Albany, N.Y. Higgins is a partner in the firm Powers & Santola in Albany, where he resides.

**Jennifer J. Parker '84** received the Business Person of the Year Award from the Minority Bar Association of Western New York. Parker is president and CEO of Black Capital Network in Buffalo, where she resides.

**Nancy W. Saia '84** received the Special Service Award from the Bar Association of Erie County. She is a member of the association's real property law subcommittee and was recognized for her efforts in creating the association's new real estate contract. Saia is a Buffalo solo practitioner and a member of the board of directors of the bar association.

**George F. Bellows '85** of Buffalo is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America 2008*. Bellows is a partner in the business and corporate and financial services practice groups in the firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel in the Buffalo office.

**Sandra Cassidy '85** has become corporate counsel and vice president of legal affairs for Plaintiff Support Services in Amherst, N.Y.

**Paula M. Ciprich '85** was selected as assistant treasurer of the UB Law Alumni Association. She is general counsel at National Fuel Gas Co. in Williamsville, N.Y.

**Victor J. D'Angelo '85** has joined the staff of the New York Liquidation Bureau as deputy chief of staff in the Manhattan office. D'Angelo was previously assistant attorney general in the claims bureau of the Office of the New York State attorney general, in Manhattan.

**Gayle L. Eagan '85** was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2008* in the trusts and estates category. She was also named to the 2007 listing of "Who's Who in Law" by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*. Eagan is a partner in the Buffalo firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel. She is treasurer of the UB Law Alumni Association and a past recipient of

the UB Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumna Award.

**Virginia C. McEldowney '85** was named vice president of the Healthcare Executive Forum of Western New York. McEldowney is special counsel in the firm Damon & Morey in the Buffalo office. She is a member of the firm's business and corporate department and the firm's health care group.

**Lisa Bloch Rodwin '85** was honored at the fifth annual It Happened to Alexa Foundation dinner on June 8, and also received the Susan Still Profile in Courage Award from the Erie County Family Justice Center. Rodwin is chief of the Erie County district attorney's office domestic violence bureau in Buffalo.

**Alberto Benitez '86** is listed as one of the top faculty members, based on student evaluations of courses, at George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. Benitez is a professor of clinical law and director of the immigration clinic.

**Deborah A. Kirby '86** was named special counsel in the firm Colucci & Gallaher in Buffalo. She concentrates her practice in health and business law.

**Kathleen A. Lynch '86** received the 2007 Liberty Bell Award from the Bar Association of Erie County. She is an attorney for the Western New York Law Center in Buffalo and coordinator of the Mayor's Anti-Flipping Task Force.

**Lisa McDougall '86** co-authored *The New York State Physician's HIPAA Privacy Manual*. McDougall is a partner in the firm Phillips Lytle in the Buffalo office and is coordinator of the firm's health care practice group. She is a Buffalo resident.

**Gregory Rabb '86** was elected city council president in Jamestown, N.Y. He is the first openly gay person to hold that position. Rabb is a Jamestown resident.

**Victor R. Siclari '86** became assistant general counsel for Mellon Financial Corp. in Pittsburgh, Pa., supporting the asset management business. Siclari was previously a



## Class of '67



Above, Harold J. Brand Jr. and Hon. Samuel L. Green



David F. Lawlor, Robert E. Walter, Paul E. Rudnicki, Hon. Samuel L. Green, and Arthur A. Russ Jr.



Ralph Morabito, Alan S. Carrel, and Hon. Frank J. Clark

The 40-year reunion of the Class of 1967 was celebrated on June 9. This momentous occasion brought together old friends and spouses in celebration of the accomplishments of the class.

The reunion was kicked off on Saturday morning at the Law School for a brunch hosted by Dean Nils Olsen. Dean Olsen welcomed the class to the Law School and treated them to a tour of the school's facilities. The Country Club of Buffalo played as the backdrop and location for the reunion dinner that evening. Harold Brand and Frank Clark acted as emcee for the evening with tales of Law School days and their escapades, which brought rave reviews from classmates and friends.

1st Row (seated) – Hon. Timothy J. Drury

2nd Row – Sheldon B. Benatovich, Hon. Samuel L. Green, Robert S. Pacholski, Carol J. Alaimo, Harold J. Brand Jr.

3rd Row – Hon. David A. Gerard, Alan S. Carrel, Ralph Morabito, Roger A. Pies

Stairs (top to bottom) – David F. Lawlor, Timothy M. O'Mara, Walter L. Rooth, Paul E. Rudnicki, Hon. Frank J. Clark, Frederick A. Wolf, Alan S. Biernbaum, Robert E. Walter, Michael A. Connors, Arthur A. Russ, Robert M. Kornreich



# Alumni Briefs

partner in the investment management group of Reed Smith in Pittsburgh.

**Candace Vogel-Yood '86** was awarded the International Association of Financial Crime Investigators Prosecutor of the Year Award for New York State. Vogel-Yood is an Erie County assistant district attorney in Buffalo. She is a member of the board of directors of the Erie County Bar Association and a past member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association.



Karen R. Kaczmariski '89

**H. Todd Bullard '87** has joined Harris Beach as an equity member in the Rochester, N.Y., office. He specializes in public finance and economic development and business and commercial litigation. Bullard also received the Trailblazer Award from the Rochester Black Bar Association.



H. Todd Bullard '87

**Donna L. Burden '87** has partnered with **Jonathan S. Hickey '01** to form the firm Burden Gulisano & Hickey in Buffalo. The firm will handle cases involving catastrophic personal injury, particularly in trucking/transportation negligence, as well as product liability, premises liability, labor law and municipal law. Burden has 20 years of experience as a trucking law trial attorney. She also addressed the ABA section of litigation products liability committee at its Women in Products Liability conference in New Orleans, and was reappointed chair of the Defense Research Institute's trucking law committee.

**David P. Flynn '87** was selected to the executive committee of the National Brownfield Association's New York chapter for a two-year term and is also event committee chair. He also was named vice chair of the ABA section of environment, energy and resources site remediation committee for a one-year term. Flynn is a partner in the firm Phillips Lytle in the Buffalo office and a past member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**Brian C. Mahoney '87** was elected to the board of directors of the Bar Association of Erie County. He is also treasurer of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. Mahoney is a member of the firm

Smith Keller Miner & O'Shea in Buffalo.

**Michael W. Reville '87** of Buffalo has been promoted to assistant vice president of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp. in Williamsville, N.Y. He is responsible for the utility's rate matters and compliance with state and federal rate-related regulations. Reville joined the company in 1991 as an attorney in the legal department.

**Evan Shapiro '87** is a principal in the firm Boundas Skarzynski Walsz & Black in New York City. She focuses her practice in commercial D&O and E&O insurance. She was also named in the *New York Times* "Super Lawyers" section for the second year in a row. Shapiro is a Brooklyn, N.Y., resident.

**David M. Stillwell '87** was re-elected to the board of directors of the Western New York Trial

Lawyers Association. He is a partner in the firm Anspach Meeks Ellenberger in Buffalo.

**D. Andrew Winston '87** has accepted a position as a trial attorney with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Denver. He writes: "Even after 20 years in the blood pits of the American legal system, I am yet to be disabused of the notion that government can be a force for good."

**Mark E. Brand '88** has been named to the Community Impact Council, a subcommittee of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. Brand is a partner in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle. He is a past member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association and a past president of UB Law School's GOLD Group.

**Terrence M. Gilbride '88** was elected to the UB Law Alumni Association board of directors. He is a partner in the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ.

**William E. Grieshaber Jr. '88** has been named managing director, new ventures division, at Rich Products Corp. in Buffalo. He was previously deputy general counsel in the corporation.

**Paul F. Hammond '88** was named "Who's Who in Law" 2007 by *Business First* and the *Buffalo Law Journal*. He is a litigation partner practicing in personal injury in the Buffalo firm Bouvier Partnership. Hammond is a Buffalo resident.

**Brian M. Martin '88** has become senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of KLA-Tencor in San Jose, Calif. He previously served as vice president, corporate law group, at Sun Microsystems in Menlo Park, Calif. Martin is also an adjunct professor at UB Law School.

**Hon. Forrest Strauss '88** has been appointed village justice in Monroe, N.Y. He is in charge of establishing one of the first justice courts in New York State in over 20 years. In addition, he serves as acting justice in the Village of Harriman. He continues as a staff attorney for the New York State Grievance Committee, 9<sup>th</sup> District, in White Plains.

**Gillian D. Brown '89** was named special counsel in the firm Colucci & Gallaher in Buffalo. He will focus his practice in housing and development law, municipal law, landlord-tenant law, estate law and criminal defense work. Brown previously served as general counsel to the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority. He is a Buffalo resident.

**Douglas W. Dimitroff '89** was elected president of the New York State Wireless Association, which he founded. Dimitroff is a partner in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle. He practices commercial real estate and telecommunications law.

**Vincent E. Doyle III '89** was appointed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Department judicial screening committee. Doyle is a partner in the Buffalo firm Connors & Vilardo and a member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**Karen R. Kaczmariski '89** has accepted a position as assistant dean for development at UB Law School. She formerly practiced in the firm Harter Secrest & Emery in Buffalo. In addition, she also has been named to the social services transition panel formed by Erie County Executive Chris Collins. Kaczmariski is a Hamburg, N.Y., resident.

**Dean P. Smith '89** and **Joseph R. Bergen '91** have opened the personal injury firm Smith Bergen & Schiffmacher in Buffalo. Smith previously practiced in the Law Offices of William Mattar in Williamsville, N.Y.

## '90s

**Stuart P. Gelberg '90** taped a two-part radio program for *The Law You Should Know* on radio station WHPC in Garden City, N.Y. He was invited to speak on "The Effect of the 2005 BAPCPA Amendments to the Bankruptcy Code." The show is hosted by **Kenneth J. Landau '80**. Gelberg is a solo practitioner in Garden City.

**Paula M. Eade Newcomb '90** was named to the board of directors of



# Class of '72

To mark their 35th reunion from UB Law School, the Class of 1972 gathered on the weekend of June 8-9.

The weekend commenced on Friday evening with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the old Law School at 77 W. Eagle St. Alumni came to see how their old law school was recently transformed into a marvelous library facility while having an opportunity to catch up with friends. The festivities continued as classmates made their way over to Dubois on Niagara Street – a familiar and favorite hangout from their law school days.

On Saturday morning, Dean Nils Olsen welcomed the class to the "new" Law School on the UB North Campus. As a special gift, the Class of 1972's senior yearbook pictures were compiled

into a class composite, framed and hung on the third floor of O'Brian Hall with other class composites. All class members also received their own copy at the reunion dinner as a reminder of their days in Law School.

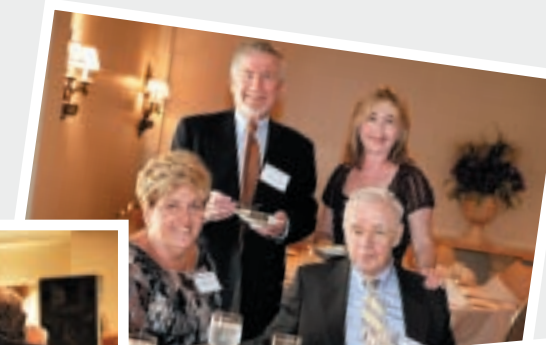
Classmates continued their reunion weekend with a stations dinner at Marinaccio's Restaurant in Amherst, with dance music provided by the Sid Winkler Band. It was a great opportunity for all to rekindle their Law School relationships and continue the class' reunion tradition.

1st Row – Angelo A. Buffomante, Hon. Eric L. Glazer, A. Sheldon Gould, Bernard M. Brodsky, Isaac Fromm, William Z. Reich, Jeffery A. Spencer, Timothy J. Kane, Larry D. Bates, Warren B. Rosenbaum

2nd Row – Michael L. Calvete, Samuel L. Newman, Hon. Mark G. Farrell, Ralph Cessario, Gerald B. Cohen, Hon. Margaret Anderson Montondo, Thomas F. Segalla, George E. Riedel Jr., Arthur E. Jackson Jr., Thomas G. Sellers

3rd Row – John J. Quakenbush Jr., Raymond H. Barr, David Brock, Charles J. Genese, John M. Anderson, Joseph W. Carosella, William C. Lobbins Jr.

Left: Seated, Helene Cohen and Gerald B. Cohen. Standing, Isaac Fromm and Jessica Fromm



William C. Lobbins Jr., Helen Newman, and Samuel L. Newman



Right: Arthur E. Jackson Jr., Lisa Dorato, and Joseph W. Carosella



Above: Jack Montondo, Hon. Margaret R. Anderson Montondo, Diane Quackenbush, and John J. Quackenbush Jr.



# Alumni Briefs

the Erie County Bar Foundation for a three-year term. Newcomb is special counsel in the firm Bouvier Partnership in Buffalo, where she handles matters involving toxic tort and personal injury litigation. She is a resident of West Seneca, N.Y.

**Hon. Wendy S. Ricks '90** has been elected town justice in Saugerties, N.Y., for a four-year term. Ricks previously practiced in the firm Rusk Wadlin Heppner & Martuscello in Kingston, N.Y., but recently opened her own practice in Saugerties.

**Tina Marie Stanford '90** has been nominated by New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer to serve as chairwoman of the New York State Crime Victims Board. Stanford is an Erie County assistant district attorney in Buffalo.

**Sean P. Beiter '91** of Amherst, N.Y., was named president of the Greater Niagara Frontier Council, Boy Scouts of America. He also is named in the 2008 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Beiter, an Eagle Scout, is a partner in the firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugal in Buffalo.

**Joseph R. Bergen '91** is a partner in the newly formed personal injury firm Smith Bergen & Schiffmacher in Buffalo, where he resides. Bergen and **Dean P. Smith '89** opened the firm in October 2007. Bergen previously practiced in the Law Offices of William Mattar in Williamsville, N.Y.

**Laurice A. Ghougasian '91** was a panelist for the American Bar Association Section on Business Law Spring Meeting program in Washington, D.C., called "First, Do No Harm: What Business Lawyers Need to Know to Represent a Nonprofit Organization." Ghougasian is a tax law specialist with the Exempt Organizations Division, Rulings and Agreements office of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C. The Rulings and Agreements office processes applications for tax exemption and provides direction through private letter rulings and technical guidance. Prior to her current position at the IRS, Ghougasian served for two years as an administrative law clerk for Judge Diane Gilbert Sybolt at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. She resides in Arlington, Va.



Robert P. Heary '91



LaMarr J. Jackson '92

**Robert P. Heary '91** is a member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association. He is a managing partner in the firm Hiscock & Barclay in Buffalo.

**Jane E. Hughes '91** has become associated with the Buffalo firm Watson Bennett Colligan Johnson & Schecter. She focuses her practice in matrimonial and family law.

**Lizabeth A. Martin '91** has been promoted to partner in the firm Hodgson Russ in the Buffalo office. She is a member of the firm's immigration practice group, concentrating on U.S. immigration and nationality law. Martin lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

**Steven I. Rubinstein '91** was named to Dopkins & Co.'s 2007 advisory board. Rubinstein is a partner in the firm Damon & Morey, practicing in the business and

corporate department in the Buffalo office. He practices in health care; prior to entering law, Rubinstein maintained a private practice in psychotherapy.

**Scott B. Schwartz '91** spoke at a panel discussion for the Intellectual Property Law Institute hosted by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. Schwartz discussed best practices for handling actions before the trademark trial and appeal board. He also co-hosted a discussion on trademark dilution for the International Trademark Association, and gave a lecture on "Anti-Counterfeiting Measures From the Trademark Administrator's Perspective" for the International Trademark Association's trademark administrators workshop series. He is a member of the intellectual property department in the firm Cozen O'Connor in Philadelphia.

**Laurie Ambrose Walsh '91** is a tenured professor and chair of the history and government department at Daemen College in Amherst, N.Y. She resides in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

**Steven J. Weiss '91** was elected co-chair of the low income and affordable housing subcommittee of the New York State Bar Association real estate committee. Weiss is a partner in the firm Cannon Heyman & Weiss in Buffalo, practicing in affordable housing and community development transactions.

**Thomas P. Cunningham '92** has become a managing partner in the firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola in the Buffalo office. He practices in insurance defense, insurance coverage and commercial litigation. Cunningham is a resident of East Amherst, N.Y.

**LaMarr J. Jackson '92** has become a partner in the firm Harris Chesworth O'Brien Johnstone Welch & Leone in Rochester, N.Y. Jackson is the first African-American female partner in the firm. She also received the Pioneer Award from the Rochester Black Bar Association. She practices in matrimonial and family law, labor relations, business law, trusts and estates, and criminal law.

**Russell J. Matuszak '92** was elected president of the Niagara Frontier Corporate Counsel Association. He is legal counsel for HealthNow New York, in Buffalo.

**Gregory V. Pajak '92** has joined the Buffalo firm Cellino & Barnes as a partner, representing victims of personal injury. He previously was a partner in the firm Chelus Herdzik Speyer Monte & Pajak in Buffalo.

**Edward Tirpak '92** has become associate director of technology and commercial development at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo.

**Christopher J. Belter '93** was named national vice chair of the Defense Research Institute's construction law committee. He is a partner in the firm Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo and lives on Grand Island, N.Y.

**Thomas J. Cannavo '93** has been named a partner in the firm Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak in Buffalo. He advises clients on matters regarding self-insured and insurance defense litigation, environmental and toxic tort litigation, and medical malpractice defense.

**Michelle M. Parker '93** has been appointed chair of the Erie County Bar Foundation 2007 campaign. Parker is a partner in the firm Anspach Meeks Ellenberger in Buffalo. She is vice president of the Defense Trial Lawyers of Western New York, treasurer of the Evans Democratic Club and a director of the Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce in the Town of Evans, N.Y., where she resides.

**Mary Q. Wydysh '93** has been named president of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. Wydysh is a partner in the firm Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo. She is a past president of the Defense Trial Lawyers Association of Western New York and a past member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**Sharon Angelino '94** has become a partner in the firm Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo. Angelino handles cases involving insurance coverage and health care law. She is a resident of Hamburg, N.Y.

# Class of '77



Alumni and friends from the Class of 1977 commemorated their 30th reunion June 8-9. The reunion got under way with a happy hour at Shanghai Red's overlooking Buffalo's picturesque waterfront. Even with an unexpected downpour and thunderstorms, spirits remained high as friends greeted one another and kicked off the reunion weekend.

Saturday morning the class gathered in the lobby of O'Brian Hall for a brunch hosted by Dean Nils Olsen. Following the brunch, classmates toured the Law School's facilities, which provided an opportunity for the alumni to see firsthand the advancements that the school is making.

The renowned Chop House in downtown Buffalo was the site for the Class of 1977's big reunion dinner. They were treated to scrumptious prepared food with plenty of opportunity for conversation about their lives today as well as remembering their days in Law School.

Leslie Kirschner Rauhala, Flora Miller Sliwa and Laurence K. Rubin



George A. Rusk and David J. Clegg

1st Row – Sharyn G. Rogers, Barbara J. Delgross, Leslie Kirschner Rauhala, Christine M. Carty, William D. Maldovan

2nd Row – Rebecca P. Dick, Kandace F. Melillo, Joseph M. Melillo, Flora Miller Sliwa, Gene A. Rauhala, Laurence K. Rubin

3rd Row – Mark C. Rodgers, George A. Rusk, Kenneth A. Manning, Steven J. Pheterson, Michael R. Tantillo, David E. Parker, Barry R. Fertel, John C. Doscher, Ronald B. Eskin

4th Row – David J. Colligan, Charles Chehebar, David J. Clegg, Bruce S. Zefel, Dennis R. McCoy, Margaret P. Gryko, Donald W. O'Brien Jr., Ronald C. Berger, Michael Cooperman



# Alumni Briefs

**Kevin E. Raphael '94** is joining the Philadelphia firm Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti. Raphael was previously a member of Miller Alfano & Raspanti in Philadelphia, which has merged with Pietragallo Bosick & Gordon. He was a guest speaker at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Health Law Institute in Philadelphia, and was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star for 2007. He was honored for his work in white-collar criminal defense. In addition, he spoke at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute's "A Day on Health Law" and at the Progressive Audio Conference on the topic "Non-FDA Use and Off-Label Promotion: Criminal and Civil Risks You Need to Know." Raphael practices white-collar criminal defense, criminal and civil health care fraud defense, complex commercial litigation, professional licensing litigation, health care law and liquor licensing litigation. He is a Philadelphia resident.

**Monica P. Wallace '94** was chosen as a local director of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York in Buffalo. She is employed by the U.S. District Court, Western District of New York, in Buffalo.

**Luke P. Bellocchi '95** has been appointed assistant commissioner, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, in Washington, D.C. He helps produce legislation and policy to protect the country's borders from dangerous items and persons. Bellocchi previously served as a staff member in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

**Hon. John J. Flynn '95** was appointed town justice in Tonawanda, N.Y. He is also an attorney in the firm Bouvier Partnership in Buffalo.

**Christine Keller '95** was named head of the health and welfare practice group of Groom Law Group in Washington, D.C. She has been a principal in the firm since 2006.

**Nicole M. Marro '95** has been named counsel in the firm Nixon Peabody in the Rochester, N.Y.,



Ranjana Kadle '96



Anita Coles Costello '97



David R. Pfalzgraf Jr. '97

office. She concentrates in estate planning and administration and is a member of the firm's private clients group.

**Sallie G. Randolph '95** and **Anthony N. Elia '00** were featured guests in a live 70-minute teleseminar on the law for writers. They discussed their book *Author Law A to Z: A Desktop Guide to*

*Writers' Rights and Responsibilities*. Randolph is a Buffalo solo practitioner.

**Eric W. Schultz '95** has joined the Buffalo firm Hiscock & Barclay as counsel. He concentrates in U.S. immigration and nationality law.

**Christopher J. Shea '95** has merged his solo practice and formed the litigation firm Thompson O'Connor & Shea in Meriden, Conn. Shea handles the firm's criminal defense practice.

**Joseph N. Del Vecchio '96** has been promoted to vice president of National Fuel Resources in Williamsville, N.Y. He is responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's energy marketing segment. Previously assistant vice president, he resides in East Aurora, N.Y.

**Daniel W. Gerber '96** has been elected chair of the torts, insurance and compensation law section of the New York State Bar Association. Gerber is a partner in the firm Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo, practicing in commercial litigation. He was listed in *Who's Who in Law 2007* and *New York Super Lawyers 2007*.

**Laurie A. Giordano '96** is a founding member of the newly formed firm Leclair Korona Giordano & Cole in Rochester, N.Y. The litigation firm concentrates its practice in commercial, employment, securities, ERISA, insurance and personal injury matters. Giordano was previously a partner in the Rochester firm Wolford & Leclair. She has been named Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year for 2007 by the New York State Bar Association and was selected as one of "The Best Lawyers in America."

**Ranjana Kadle '96** was elected to the board of managers of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Kadle is a partner in the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ, practicing in the intellectual property and technology group, and is a bridge course lecturer at UB Law School.

**Jonathan J. Kelly '96** has become a partner in the firm Sidney Austin in the New York City office. He practices in the insurance and financial services group.

**Benjamin D. Pierson '96** is a partner in the firm Cooley Godward Kronish in the New York City office in the business department. He practices corporate law.

**Anita Coles Costello '97** has been named president of the board of directors of Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center. Costello is a partner in the firm Hodgson Russ in the Buffalo office.

**Hon. Lenora B. Foote '97** was named a state director of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter. She also received the Legal Service Award from the Minority Bar Association of Western New York. Foote is Erie County Family court support magistrate in Buffalo. She is a member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association and a past member of UB Law School's GOLD Group. She is a Buffalo resident.

**Daniel M. Killelea '97** is practicing as an associate in the Buffalo firm Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria. He counsels clients regarding criminal defense. Killelea previously served as an assistant district attorney in Erie County.

**Craig A. Leslie '97** was chosen as special counsel in the firm Phillips Lytle in the Buffalo office. He focuses his practice in products liability, tort litigation, commercial litigation, and real property valuation and tax assessment.

**David R. Pfalzgraf Jr. '97** has been elected to the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association. He is a partner in the Buffalo firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola.

**Scott M. Philbin '97** joined the firm Bond Schoeneck & King as senior counsel in the Buffalo office. Philbin specializes in litigation and is an Amherst, N.Y., resident.

**Mary Comeau Raymond '97** has been selected as a 2007 Up & Coming Attorney by *The Daily Record* in Rochester, N.Y. She is special counsel in the Buffalo firm Damon & Morey, practicing in the business and corporate department.



Robert C. Schwenkel, Patrick J. Dooley, Edward M. Flint, Richard S. Binko, and in background, Joseph A. DeMaria



Johannah M. Farugia, Catharine M. Venzon, Karen Stifter Snow and Janet A. Savrin



Andrea Schillaci, Steven B. Getzoff, Thomas A. Catalano and Elizabeth I. Freedman



Robert C. Schwenkel, Janis Cohen, Howard C. Bluver and Guy A. Van Baalen

The Class of 1982 reunion tradition continued in grand fashion for their 25th reunion held on May 4-5. The weekend got under way with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and breathtaking views of Lake Erie and Buffalo's skyline at Shanghai Red's in the Buffalo Harbor. The night was spent mingling and swapping stories with former classmates in a grand setting.

On Saturday, the class gathered once again for a daylong celebration of their accomplishments. The day commenced with brunch at the Law School, followed by a tour. Dean Nils Olsen was there to greet the alums and show off the improvements to the school.

That evening, the class was treated to dinner back on the waterfront, but this time at the Buffalo Yacht Club. The outdoor deck was popular among classmates and guests due to the gorgeous weather.



# Alumni Briefs

**D. Charles Roberts '97**, corporate counsel for Delaware North Cos. in Buffalo, was appointed to the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association. He is a past president of UB Law School's GOLD Group.

**Michael P. Stuermer '97** was selected as a 2007 Up & Coming Attorney by *The Daily Record*. Stuermer is a senior partner in the firm Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria in Buffalo.

**Susan E. Van Gelder '97** and **Thomas F. Segalla '72** co-authored a chapter, "Causation in Mold Cases: Practice Pointers for Defending Exposure Claims," for the Defense Research Institute Library Series 2007 on *Exploring Toxic Tort and Environmental Liability Claims*. She is a partner in the Buffalo firm Goldberg Segalla and a member of the Defense Research Institute's Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Committee.

**Kelly V. Zarcone '97** is a local director of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. She practices at Zarcone Associates in Amherst, N.Y.

**Erin M. Barclay '98**, former executive director of the Network of East-West Women, was appointed to the position of deputy director of the Office of Africa, Asia and Europe in the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. Barclay resides in D.C. with her husband, **Daniel Ullman '97**.

**Jennifer L. Burke '98** has accepted a position at Shaw & Shaw in Hamburg, N.Y. She is an associate concentrating her practice in real estate and banking law.

**Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres '98** has been appointed a Buffalo City Court judge. She is the first Hispanic female judge in Buffalo's history. Calvo-Torres was most recently of counsel in the Buffalo firm Cantor Lukasik Dolce & Panepinto. She is president of the Hispanic Women's League and immediate past president of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York. She also received a Special Recognition Award at the Entre Nosotras 12<sup>th</sup>



Timothy P. Noonan '99



John A. Orlowski '99

annual awards luncheon in Albany, N.Y., and the Trailblazer Award from the Minority Bar Association of Western New York.

**Matthew Clabeaux '98** chose an "alternative career" as a public school teacher. He has written and cartoon illustrated a memoir about his experiences, *My First Year in Purgatory*. The book chronicles Clabeaux's misadventures in a crumbling urban school district. To preview or purchase the book visit [www.lulu.com/content/630141](http://www.lulu.com/content/630141) or [www.myfirstyearinpurgatory.org](http://www.myfirstyearinpurgatory.org).

**Tasha Dandridge '98** was elected recording secretary of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, in Buffalo. Dandridge is an associate in the firm Hurwitz & Fine in Buffalo, where she resides. **Joan M. Fildes '98** has become associated with the Buffalo firm Wilder & Linneball. She practices in insurance defense, commercial litigation and personal injury.

Fildes was formerly a partner in the firm Kavinoky Cook in Buffalo.

**Denise Grey '98** has become an associate in the firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck in the Las Vegas office. She is a member of the firm's employee benefits, executive compensation and ERISA practice.

**Shannon M. Heneghan '98** has become a partner in the Sugarman Law Firm in the Syracuse, N.Y., office. She practices in the firm's litigation department.

**John J. Koepfel '98** was named a partner in the firm Nixon Peabody in the Buffalo office. He handles cases involving fund promotion, private equity, mergers and acquisitions, financial services and general corporate matters.

**Tasha E. Moore '98** has been named president of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, in Buffalo. She works for the New York State Division of Human Rights in Buffalo and is a member of the board of directors of UB Law School's GOLD Group.

**Catherine E. Nagel '98** was elected to the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association. She is a partner in the firm Nucherenen & Nagel in Buffalo.

**Bridget M. O'Connell '98** was elected secretary of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, in Buffalo. O'Connell practices matrimonial and family law in the firm Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria in Buffalo, where she resides.

**Jennifer Persico '98** was elected deputy treasurer of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. She practices and resides in Buffalo.

**Lisa D. Primerano '98** was appointed treasurer of the Women's Bar Association of New York, Western New York Chapter. Primerano practices in the firm Lippes Mathias Wexler in Buffalo, where she resides. She is a member of the board of directors of UB Law School's GOLD Group. **Max T. Raterman '98** is assistant special agent in charge for the Transportation Security Administration in Atlantic City, N.J. He is in charge of legal and

investigative training and also recently helped develop the administration's line-level supervision training.

**Stephen A. Sharkey '98** has accepted a position as senior counsel in the Buffalo firm Bond Schoeneck & King. He represents financial institutions and other businesses in complex commercial litigation involving banking law, Uniform Commercial Code and general contract law. Sharkey lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

**Heath J. Szymczak '98** was selected as a "40 Under 40" award recipient by *Business First* of Buffalo. Szymczak is a partner in the Buffalo firm Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel, handling cases involving business-related torts, complex commercial litigation and civil litigation. He is director of the Canisius College Alumni Association and a member of the Canisius College Pre-Law Advisory Council in Buffalo.

**Carlisle Toppin '98** has become an associate in the firm Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker in the Washington, D.C., office. He is a member of the firm's executive compensation, employee benefits and ERISA practice.

**Peter C. Trimarchi '98** has been named of counsel in the firm Whiteman Osterman & Hanna in Albany, N.Y. He specializes in environmental law and alternative energy development and siting. Trimarchi was previously an associate in the firm White & Case in Manhattan.

**Ayoka Tucker '98** received the Hon. Michael F. Dillon Law Guardian Award from the Appellate Division, 4<sup>th</sup> Department, Law Guardian Program in Rochester, N.Y. She also received a special Certificate of Recognition from the Bar Association of Erie County's Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society. Tucker is a Buffalo solo practitioner.

**Lourdes M. Ventura '98** was honored in March at the fifth annual Queens Women in Business Award Networking Event in Queens, N.Y., and the Latin American Cultural Center of Queens and the Latin American Women's Council Women's History Month Celebration.

Ventura is deputy chief of staff for the New York State Democratic Conference, with offices in Albany and New York City.

**Marc W. Brown '99** has been named by *The Daily Record* as a 2007 Up & Coming Attorney. He is an associate in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle, a member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association and a past president of UB Law School's GOLD Group.

**Jennifer K. Dorner '99** has joined the Hawaii State Legislative Reference Bureau. She was recently elected secretary of the government lawyers section of the Hawaii State Bar Association. Dorner lives in Honolulu.

**Damon M. Gruber '99** has joined the firm Goldberg Segalla as an associate in the Buffalo office. He concentrates his practice in workers' compensation claims.

**Amy C. Martoche '99** has been named a partner in the Buffalo firm Connors & Vilardo. She has been with the firm since 2001.

**Timothy P. Noonan '99** is writing a monthly column for *State Tax Notes*. "Noonan's Notes on Tax Practice" discusses practice and procedure issues for the state and local tax practitioner. Noonan is a partner in the firm Hodgson Russ in Buffalo.

**John A. Orlowski '99** recently gave a presentation, "New Environmental Law Affecting Lenders: EPA's All Appropriate Inquiry Standard," at a CLE program in conjunction with the banking law committee of the Bar Association of Erie County. Orlowski practices in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle and advises clients on the impact of environmental laws on real estate and business transactions and property development.

## Marriages

### Congratulations to the following newlyweds:

**Mahindra Maharaj '93** and **Melinda Joelle Gray**, Nov. 17, 2007  
**Selina A. Regan '93** and **Stephen M. Molineaux**, July 7, 2007  
**Colleen M. Farrell '97** and **Brett Rewakowski** on June 23, 2007  
**James M. Appler III '00** and **Carrie P. Parks '03**, May 12, 2007  
**Shannon S. Fuhrman '01** and **John G. Olivier**, July 21, 2007  
**Brendan Kelleher '01** and **Jennifer Bermel '07**, August 25, 2007  
**Amol K. Pachnanda '03** and **Ellen K. Poch '03**, July 21, 2007  
**Meredith J. Pelton '03** and **Dr. Christopher Clancy**, Aug. 26, 2006  
**Matthew J. Batt '05** and **Jamie L. Jasinski '05**, Dec. 1, 2007  
**John M. Cordon '05** and **Jennifer Rene Tata**, August 10, 2007  
**Julieann Mathis '05** and **Brian M. Swann '05**, October 20, 2007  
**Yadira A. Ramos '05** and **Jeffrey L. Herbert**, March 24, 2007  
**Meghann N. Carroll '06** and **Timothy Roehl**, Sept. 22, 2007  
**Kristen Houseknecht '06** and **Joseph Verciglio '06**, Sept. 2, 2007  
**Jennifer C. Tsai '06** and **Timothy James Nestler**, Sept. 1, 2007  
**Matthew J. Morton '07** and **Melissa M. Piotrowicz '07**, Sept. 1, 2007

**Marc A. Romanowski '99** has joined the firm Harter Secrest & Emery in the Buffalo office. He is an associate practicing in the firm's environmental group. Romanowski is a Buffalo resident.

**Daniel E. Sarzynski '99** was named a partner in the Buffalo firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola. He counsels clients regarding commercial and construction litigation.

**Amy E. Schwartz '99** was listed as a 2007 Up & Coming Attorney by *The Daily Record* in Rochester, N.Y. Schwartz is an attorney in the domestic violence department for the Empire Justice Center in Rochester.

**Kristopher A. Schwarzmueller '99** has joined the Buffalo firm Herschel Gelber. He concentrates his practice in litigation.

**Mark J. Stuhlmiller '99** was named to the UB Law Alumni Association board of directors. He is assistant general counsel at Computer Task Group in Buffalo.

## '00s

**James M. Appler '00** has been named a partner in the Buffalo firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola. He concentrates his practice in insurance litigation.

**Wynn L. Bowman '00** has joined Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola in the Rochester, N.Y. office. He is a trial attorney focusing his practice in insurance defense litigation matters and is a Rochester resident.

**Irene Chiu '00** has transferred from the New Jersey office in the firm Morgan Lewis Bockius to the New York City office. She had an article, "What You Need to Know About Doing Business in China," published in *New Jersey TechNews*. Chiu also addressed the China Panel at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's annual convention in Las Vegas and was invited by the Taiwan government

to speak at the Global Forum for Health Leaders 2007 in Taipei. She also had speaking engagements in Chicago, Atlantic City, N.J., New York and China. Her updated article on "Doing Business in China" was published in the second edition of Morgan Lewis' *Life Science Deskbook*.

**Anthony N. Elia '00** and **Sallie G. Randolph '95** co-authored the book *Author Law A to Z: A Desktop Guide to Writers' Rights and Responsibilities*. They discussed their book on a live 70-minute teleseminar on the law for writers. Elia practices in the New York City firm Silverberg Stonehill Goldsmith & Haber.

**Kimberly Girdlestone '00** has entered the social welfare Ph.D. program at the University at Buffalo. She is a Buffalo resident.

**Kelly J. Philips '00** has become president of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, in Buffalo. She is an associate in The Sugarman Law Firm in the Buffalo office.

**David W. Polak '00** has started his own practice in West Seneca, N.Y. Polak focuses his practice in personal injury, labor and employment discrimination claims, and insurance litigation, representing individuals and medical providers regarding no-fault matters to obtain reimbursement for services provided, vehicle and traffic, and minor criminal matters. He is a former member of the board of directors of the UB Law Alumni Association.

**Margot Schoenborn '00** joined the New York State Office of the Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, as a special assistant attorney general in the Buffalo office. She is assigned to the Special Projects Unit, which operates throughout New York State with the primary mission of investigating facilities, institutions and cost-based providers and participating in joint state-federal investigations of pharmaceutical pricing practices and Medicaid drug rebate underpayments.

**Jonathan S. Hickey '01** and **Donna L. Burden '87** have formed the firm



# Alumni Briefs

Burden Gulisano & Hickey in Buffalo. The firm will handle cases involving catastrophic personal injury, particularly in trucking/transportation negligence, as well as product liability, premises liability, labor law and municipal law.

**Roseanne McMorrow Lennon '01** has become an assistant attorney general in the Buffalo regional office of the New York State attorney general's office. She was previously an assistant district attorney in Erie County.

**Pietra G. Lettieri '01** was elected president of UB Law School's GOLD Group. She is an associate in the firm Harris Beach in Buffalo.

**Patrick A. Makin '01** has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Getman & Biryła in Buffalo. He handles cases involving commercial and construction litigation, corporate and business transactions as well as commercial and residential real estate transactions and estate planning and administration.

**Nicole B. Palmerton '01** became a partner in the Buffalo firm Brown & Kelly. Palmerton handles cases involving insurance defense litigation and the representation of municipalities and corporations. She lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

**Erin C. Duggan Pemberton '01** of Lincoln, Neb., is an associate in the firm Wolfe Snowden Hurd Luers & Ahl in Lincoln. She focuses her practice in medical malpractice defense, insurance defense and employment law.

**Robert J. Skutnik '01** is serving as academic liaison to the New York State Victim Assistance Academy. Skutnik is senior program coordinator for the Center for Health & Social Science Research Foundation at Buffalo State College.

**Sheldon Smith '01**, an Orchard Park, N.Y., resident, was named to the board of directors of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, in Buffalo. Smith is an associate in the firm Nixon Peabody in the Buffalo office.



Jonathan S. Hickey '01



Joanna Dickinson '02



Stephanie G. Elliott '03

**Ellen B. Sturm '01** is a business litigation associate in the firm Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom in Wilmington, Del., where she resides.

**Frank V. Balon '02** has become associated with the firm Hiscock & Barclay in the Buffalo office. Balon

specializes in torts, products liability, insurance coverage and professional malpractice. He lives in West Seneca, N.Y.

**Nadine C. Bell '02** joined the Syracuse, N.Y., firm Costello Cooney & Fearon. Bell practices municipal law, land use and zoning.

**Tracie L. Covey '02** has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Bond Schoeneck & King in the Buffalo office. She is a member of the firm's labor and employment law department, focusing on cases regarding the National Labor Relations Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

**Joanna Dickinson '02** is practicing as an associate in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle. She specializes in trial matters including motor vehicle accidents, real property valuation and tax assessment, personal injury, workplace accidents and insurance coverage. Dickinson lives in Buffalo.

**Hillary K. Green '02** has accepted a position as an associate in the Buffalo firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola. She practices in commercial and employment litigation and is a Buffalo resident.

**Natalie A. Grigg '02** is a state director of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter, in Buffalo. Grigg is a litigation attorney in the Buffalo firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham Coppola and a member of the board of directors of UB Law School's GOLD Group. She is a resident of Tonawanda, N.Y.

**Thomas Haidon '02** was appointed as a senior legal adviser to the United Nations Development Programme in Jakarta, Indonesia, from January to July 2007. Haidon provided legal advice on human rights issues, development assistance and the implementation of U.N. reform at the country level. He returned to New Zealand in July 2007 to an appointment as a senior policy adviser with the New Zealand government's immigration policy division, where he focuses on international legal

aspects of New Zealand's immigration law and policy.

**Scott T. Hanson '02** has joined the firm Harter Secrest & Emery in Buffalo. He practices in the firm's litigation group, specializing in commercial litigation, products liability defense, and intellectual property prosecution and litigation. Hanson is a member of UB Law School's GOLD Group and lives in Clarence Center, N.Y.

**Tara Johnson '02** has become associate counsel for Excellus Health Plan in Rochester, N.Y. Johnson lives in Webster, N.Y.

**Jeffrey L. Kingsley '02** has joined the Buffalo firm Goldberg Segalla as an associate. He specializes in commercial litigation, bankruptcy and restructuring insurance coverage, and extra-contractual liability litigation. Kingsley is treasurer-elect of UB Law School's GOLD Group.

**Kevin J. Kruppa '02** has become associated with the firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola in Buffalo. He concentrates his practice in insurance defense.

**Temi Ofuya '02** has become vice president of the legal-global wealth management group of Morgan Stanley in Purchase, N.Y. Ofuya was previously practicing in the firm Weil Gotshal & Manges in New York City.

**Jessica D. Owens '02** has accepted an attorney position with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Refugee and Asylum Law Division, in Washington, D.C. She will provide legal advice in domestic asylum law and practice, overseas refugee resettlement programs, temporary protected status, T and U visas, special immigrant juvenile petitions and the Convention Against Torture. Owens previously worked for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in San Francisco.

**Kimberly A. Stock '02** has been promoted to senior attorney in the legal division at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in Washington, D.C.



## Class of '87

The 20th reunion for the Class of 1987 was held on May 4-5 in Buffalo. An excellent turnout of more than 90 classmates and friends helped to create an ideal weekend for these alums reconnect.

On Friday things got under way with a traditional Buffalo happy hour at the class' former stomping grounds of the Steer Restaurant in the University District. The night provided plenty of laughs and opportunities to catch up with old friends.

Saturday morning brought the Class of 1987 together at the Law School. Dean Nils Olsen hosted a brunch to welcome many alums back to the Law School for the first time since their days of studying in the library and classes with their professors. After the brunch, the class was given a tour so that they could see firsthand just how much things have changed since their days at the school. A favorite of all classmates was the third floor of O'Brian, where the class' third-year composite hangs on the wall. Extra time was spent checking out all the pictures and seeing just how everyone has changed.

On the evening of May 5, the reunion was capped off at the historic Buffalo Club, where they were treated to a delicious meal with plenty of cocktails, food and great conversation.

1st Row – Kevin S. O'Shaughnessy, Colleen Rogers Losi, Doris A. Carbonell-Medina, Carol A. Fitzsimmons, Nancy Tantillo Holtby, Carol A. Flaherty, Paul W. Kullman, Paul K. Holbrook, Hon. Donna M. Siwek, Joan Casilio Adams, M. Katherine Kremer

2nd Row – Gerald R. Saffioti Jr., Peter H. Abdella, Steven J. Ricca, Mary M. Comerford, Amy J. Murphy, Karen M. Buckley, Carol Giarrizzo Bridge, Jay M. Lippman, Philip S. Chamot

3rd Row – Wilmer A. Rodriguez Nunci, Hon. George R. Villegas, Rosanne M. Gugino, Elaine M. Pers, Michael A. Benson, Jay D. Kenigsberg

4th Row – Lawrence M. Spaccasi, David M. Crosby, Louis Rosado, John J. Weinholtz, Dorothy H. Ferguson, Samuel M. Spiritos, Leslie Shuman Kramer, Judith M. Kubiniec, Hon. John L. Michalski

Stairs (top to bottom) – M. Mark Jacquinot, Eric J. Snyder, Hugh M. Russ III, Celia M. Spiritos, Martin J. Zuffranieri, Rachel A. Roth, Craig R. Watson, Paul J. Karp, Thomas C. Farley Jr., Margot S. Bennett, Robin E. Nackman, John P. Thielman, Mark G. Nackman, G. Steven Pigeon, Sharon J. Schwartz, H. Todd Bullard, Brian D. Bornstein, Tina L. Snee, Martha M. Anderson



Top: Joan Casilio Adams, Hon. Donna M. Siwek, and Amy J. Murphy  
Above: Mark G. Nackman and Robin E. Nackman



# Alumni Briefs

**Tiffany M. Szymanek '02** was named a state director of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, in Buffalo. Szymanek is a Buffalo attorney.

**James C. Thoman '02** won the U.S. Masters National Skiing Championship in Big Sky, Mont. Thoman is a member of the business restructuring and bankruptcy practice group and the commercial transactions practice group in the firm Menter Rudin & Trivelpiece in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Christopher G. Todd '02** practices as an associate in the firm Phillips Lytle in Buffalo. He focuses his practice in commercial litigation and product liability. Todd resides in Hamburg, N.Y.

**Jessica M. Baker '03** was elected to the board of directors of UB Law School's GOLD Group. She practices as an associate in the firm Hiscock & Barclay in Buffalo.

**Meredith Clancy '03** of Rochester, N.Y., has joined Harter Secrest & Emery in the Rochester office. She practices in the firm's real estate group as an associate. She previously practiced in the firm Sommer Udall Hardwick Ahern & Hyatt in Santa Fe, N.M.

**Aimana El-Bahtity '03** has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola in Buffalo. She practices in insurance defense.

**Stephanie G. Elliott '03** joined the firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola in Buffalo. Elliott concentrates her practice in insurance defense and commercial litigation including automobile liability, premises liability and labor law.

**Melissa Ann Foti '03** was elected a state director of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. She is an associate in the firm Kenney Shelton Liptak & Nowak in Buffalo.

**Richard A. Hall '03** has become associated with the firm Goldberg Segalla in the Buffalo office. He counsels clients regarding negligence, premises liability,



Bethany J. Gilbert '04



Lisa Danish '04



Melissa N. Subjeck '06

railroad litigation and general litigation. Hall resides in Buffalo.

**Bernadette M. Hoppe '03** was appointed president of the board of directors of the New York State Perinatal Association. Hoppe has a family law practice in Buffalo.

**Thomas M. Krol '03** joined the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle as an associate. Kroll specializes in commercial litigation. He is a resident of Lake View, N.Y.

**Langston D. McFadden '03** has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Harter Secrest & Emery in the Rochester, N.Y., office. He concentrates his practice in general litigation. He is a Rochester resident.

**Dia H. Nicolatos '03** was named to the board of directors of the Mental Health Association of Erie County. She practices in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle in pharmaceutical litigation.

**Marybeth Priore '03** of East Amherst, N.Y., has been named president-elect of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, in Buffalo. Priore is an associate in the Buffalo firm Colucci & Gallaher, practicing in products liability, intellectual property and general litigation.

**Jack Quinn '03**, a New York State assemblyman in the 146<sup>th</sup> Assembly District (R,C,I-Hamburg), has joined the Hamburg, N.Y., firm Shaw & Shaw as special counsel handling matters involving personal injury. Quinn is a resident of Hamburg.

**Mark A. Starosielec '03** has become an associate in the firm Hurwitz & Fine in Buffalo. He practices in litigation, focusing on automobile liability and tort defense.

**Joseph M. Tripi '03** has joined the Buffalo firm Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria as an associate, practicing in plaintiff's personal injury law. He was formerly an assistant district attorney in Nassau County.

**Jaclyn S. Wanemaker '03** has joined the firm HoganWillig in Amherst, N.Y. She practices in personal injury.

**Divitta M. Alexander '04** was appointed to the Buffalo Urban League board of directors. She is an associate in the firm Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman in Buffalo.

**Jesse Baldwin '04** was elected treasurer of UB Law School's

GOLD Group. He is an associate in the firm Damon & Morey in the Buffalo office.

**Lisa Danish '04** has joined the firm McGuireWoods in the Richmond, Va., office. She is an associate in the environmental litigation/toxic tort department and concentrates on complex litigation, with a focus on toxic torts and products liability. Danish also spent six weeks working with barristers in London, Edinburgh and Belfast as a recipient of an American Inns of Court Pegasus Scholarship.

**Bethany J. Gilbert '04** has been elected to an 18-month term on the board of directors of Kevin Guest House in Buffalo, the nation's first hospital hospitality house. Gilbert is an associate in the firm Hodgson Russ in Buffalo and is president-elect of UB Law School's GOLD Group.

**Jason W. Januszkiewicz '04** is an associate in the firm Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham & Coppola in the Buffalo office. He focuses his practice in real estate and mortgage lending.

**Christy Canali Lilley '04** accepted a position as assistant division counsel for Corning Cable Systems, a division of Corning Inc., in Hickory, N.C. She was previously an associate in the corporate transactions and securities group of Alston & Bird in Charlotte, N.C., where she resides with her husband, James Lilley '04.

**James J. Lilley '04** has become vice president, financial planner, in the executive financial planning services group of Wachovia Wealth Management of Wachovia Bank in Charlotte, N.C. He was previously a financial analyst for the Ayco Co., a subsidiary of Goldman Sachs, in Pittsburgh. Lilley and his wife, Christy Canali Lilley '04, reside in Charlotte.

**Jennifer M. McCann '04** was appointed to UB Law School's GOLD Group board of directors. She practices in the firm Hurwitz & Fine in Buffalo.

**Stephen J. McCann '04** has joined the Buffalo firm Duke Holzman Photiadis & Gresens as an associate. McCann was a former



## Class of '97

With a great turnout of over 80 alumni and friends, the Class of 1997 created a memorable reunion dinner commemorating their 10th reunion on May 5. Alumni from California to Canada made the trip to visit with friends and family from Law School days.

The one-day reunion started on Saturday morning in the lobby of O'Brian Hall for a brunch hosted by Dean Nils Olsen. Following the brunch, classmates toured the Law School's facilities, which provided an opportunity for the alumni to see firsthand the advancements that the school is making. The renowned Chop House in downtown Buffalo was the site for the Class of 1997's big reunion dinner. They were treated to scrumptious prepared food with plenty of opportunity for conversation about their lives today as well as remembering their days in Law School.



Top: Prudence C. Philbin, Scott M. Philbin and Julie M. Rosenberg

Left: David R. Pfalzgraf Jr., Debi Plochocki, Michael E. Plochocki and Colleen M. Farrell

1st Row – Katherine Gorham, Catherine Nugent Panepinto, Frank J. Longo, Allison Puglisi Tam, Kathryn K. Lee, Collen M. Farrell, Mark D. Arcara

2nd Row – Charles D. Roberts Jr., Michael E. Plochocki, Jeremy W. Schulman, Linda G. Rouse-Kelly, Thomas Tam, Caroline A. Wojtaszek, Kristina A. Karle, Julie M. Rosenberg, Prudence C. Philbin, Scott M. Philbin, David R. Pfalzgraf Jr.

Stairs (top to bottom) – Steven E. Laprade, Holly A. Beecher, Craig A. Leslie, Lynn Wolfgang Catalano, David J. Luzon, Nancy A. Pappal, Allison Fields Stravino, Jeffrey C. Stravino, Joanna L. Silver, Mary C. Raymond, Karen E. Richardson, Anne M. Peterson, Denise A. Yates, Michael P. Stuermer, Danielle M. Grimm, Jennifer S. McGinty, Robert A. Scalione, Bridget M. O'Connell, Jessica V. Murphy, Jennifer D. Bowen, Valerie Curry Bradley, Melissa Hancock Nickson, Mollybeth Kocalski McAlpine





# Alumni Briefs

associate in the Buffalo firm Damon & Morey and is a resident of Amherst, N.Y.

**Brian G. Manka ’04** has become associated with the firm Hiscock & Barclay in the Buffalo office. Manka concentrates his practice in professional malpractice and products liability defense. He is a resident of West Seneca, N.Y.

**Rita Nischal ’04** has joined the firm Watson Bennett Colligan Johnson & Schechter in Buffalo as an associate. She concentrates her practice in corporate and commercial law.

**Steven E. Peiper ’04** is an associate in the Buffalo firm Hurwitz & Fine. He concentrates his practice in insurance coverage, trucking liability and tort defense.

**Sarah K. Ranni ’04** has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Phillips Lytle in the Buffalo office. She practices in the corporate practice group, specializing in employee benefits law. Ranni is a Buffalo resident.

**Cory E. Barry ’05** is an associate in the firm Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe in Washington, D.C., specializing in structured finance and derivatives transactions. Barry was previously an associate in the firm Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft in New York City.

**Megan A. Gomez ’05** has accepted a position as associate counsel at Univera Healthcare in Buffalo. Gomez previously was an associate in the firm Brown & Kelly in Buffalo, where she resides.

**Melinda L. Grabowski ’05** has joined the firm Damon & Morey. She practices in the Buffalo office as an associate in general litigation.

**Joseph M. Hanna ’05** was honored by the American Bar Association, which named his article “Beware of Dawg, Beware of Owner, Too: Cleveland Fights for Its Beloved Dawg Pound and Wins” among the best published by the ABA’s general practice solo and small firm division magazine. He was also named the Defense Research Institute’s Atlantic marketing chairman for its October 2007 annual meeting. He will oversee marketing in New York, New



Carrie A. Christy ’06



Julie R. Carvotta ’06



Brent J. Nowicki ’06

Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. He also was accepted into Leadership Buffalo’s 2007 Rising Leaders class. Hanna is an associate in the firm Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo.

**Jamie L. Jasinski ’05** practices in the firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel in the Buffalo office. She is

an associate in the business and corporate practice group.

**Thomas L. Kennedy ’05** of Syracuse, N.Y., has joined the firm Bond Schoeneck & King in the Syracuse office. He practices in the firm’s business restructuring, creditors’ rights and bankruptcy practice group.

**Thad G. McMurray ’05** is associate intellectual property manager for the Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach at the University at Buffalo. His primary responsibility is to oversee the preparation and prosecution of patent applications for UB technology.

**Molly L. Mallia ’05** has been elected a local director of the Western New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York. Mallia is secretary-elect of UB Law School’s GOLD Group and is an associate in the firm Damon & Morey in Buffalo, where she resides.

**John G. Miskey IV ’05** joined the firm Bagwell Holt Smith Tillman & Jones in Chapel Hill, N.C. Miskey handles cases involving family law, real estate and civil litigation. He is a resident of Raleigh.

**Christopher R. Poole ’05** has become associated with the firm Chelus Herdzik Speyer & Monte in Buffalo. Poole will practice in general litigation and general practice matters.

**Brendan J. Rich ’05** was nominated for the American Diabetes Association Leadership Volunteer Development Program. He is an associate in the firm Phillips Lytle in the Buffalo office.

**Jennifer R. Scharf ’05** was named a state director of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter. Scharf practices as an associate in the firm Connors & Vilardo in Buffalo.

**Lt. Robert C. Whitaker ’05** is a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps. He is a deputy staff judge advocate at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, where he serves as prosecutor and assistant general counsel to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Logistics Group.

**David T. Archer ’06** is practicing as an associate in the firm Harter Secrest & Emery in the Buffalo office. He joined the firm’s litigation group and practices commercial litigation.

**Karla Braun-Kolbe ’06** has become associated with the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle. She specializes in corporate law.

**Marie Butchello ’06** has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Hiscock & Barclay in the Buffalo office. She specializes in real property tax and condemnation.

**Julie R. Carvotta ’06** is an associate in the firm Harris Beach in the Rochester, N.Y., office. She is a member of the corporate practice group representing businesses, not-for-profit organizations and health care providers.

**Carrie A. Christy ’06** has become an associate in the firm Phillips Lytle in Buffalo. Christy joined the firm’s commercial practice group. She is a resident of Williamsville, N.Y.

**Kimberly A. Colaiacono ’06** practices as an associate in the Buffalo office in the firm Harris Beach. Colaiacono handles cases involving business and commercial litigation, contract disputes, zoning and land use matters and general defense litigation. Furthermore, she represents clients in contested matrimonial actions in regards to equitable distribution and financial evaluation of assets.

**Christofer C. Fattey ’06** has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Hodgson Russ in the Buffalo office. He specializes in commercial real estate.

**Elizabeth Fox-Solomon ’06** practices in the firm Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel as an associate in the Buffalo office. She concentrates her practice in labor and employment law.

**Paul S. Fusco ’06** focuses his practice in tax and employee benefits law. He joined the firm Boylan Brown Code Vigdor & Wilson as an associate in the Rochester, N.Y., office.

**Joseph Gawlowicz ’06** has accepted a position as an associate in the firm Harter Secrest & Emery in the Rochester, N.Y., office. He practices in the firm’s labor and employment law group.

**Keith J. Gross ’06** is assistant general counsel at Local 6 UNITE HERE in Manhattan.

**Minryu Sarah Kim ’06** is an associate in the Buffalo firm Phillips Lytle. Kim focuses her practice in civil litigation including commercial, corporate and estate law.

**Colleen M. Malchow ’06** has joined the firm Lewis & Lewis in Buffalo, specializing in workers’ compensation law. Malchow is a former social worker who advocated for the rights of domestic violence victims. She is a resident of Cheektowaga, N.Y.

**Ryan K. Micklus ’06** practices as an associate in the firm Damon & Morey in the Buffalo office. He deals with business and corporate law.

**Carla J. Miller Montroy ’06** joined the firm Chelus Herdzik Speyer Monte & Pajak in the Cheektowaga, N.Y., office. She is an associate practicing in litigation and is a West Seneca, N.Y., resident.

**Brent J. Nowicki ’06** is an associate in the firm Hodgson Russ in the Buffalo office. Nowicki practices in the business litigation practice group, focusing in insurance coverage litigation. He is a member of the board of directors of UB Law School’s GOLD Group.

**Patrick A. Quinlan ’06** has joined the firm Hamilton Brook Smith Reynolds as an associate in the Concord, Mass., office. He practices in intellectual property, focusing on patent preparation and prosecution in electrical and computer technologies.

**Dana L. Rappa ’06** has joined the firm Harris Beach in the Pittsford, N.Y., office. Rappa practices as an associate in the public finance and economic development practice group. She is a resident of Batavia, N.Y.

**Crystal J. Rodriguez ’06** was recently appointed by Buffalo

## In Memoriam

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

William J. Diamond ’31, Getzville, New York  
William H. Earl ’37, Lockport, New York  
George R. Blair Sr. ’38, Elma, New York  
Crucian S. Messina ’38, Amherst, New York  
Vincent S. White ’39, Buffalo  
Robyn L. Dare ’42, Niskayuna, New York  
Robert W. Grimm ’47, Pendleton, New York  
Francis R. Whitcher ’49, Silver Creek, New York  
Charles D. Wallace ’51, Orchard Park, New York  
Hon. Edward J. Murty Jr. ’52, Falls Church, Virginia  
Hon. John V. Rogowski ’52, Amherst, New York  
Richard C. Kahl ’53, Youngstown, New York  
David M. Coffey ’54, West Seneca, New York  
Thomas M. Donovan ’54, Williamsville, New York  
John T. Frizzell ’55, Hamburg, New York  
Arnold E. Galbo ’55, Buffalo  
Ronald G. Gannon ’55, Grand Island, New York  
Pasquale C. Pace ’55, Orchard Park, New York  
George E. Henfling ’58, Midlothian, Virginia  
Hon. Edgar C. NeMoyer ’61, Buffalo  
Abraham Abramovsky ’70, New York, New York  
Donald H. Lischer ’72, Rochester, New York  
Anthony M. Miranda ’73, Hamburg, New York  
Michael J. Karger ’74, Manhattan Beach, California  
Robert B. Allen ’77, Buffalo  
Bette D. Patterson ’78, Amherst, New York  
Steven Meyer ’85, East Amherst, New York  
Robbie Billingsley ’88, Buffalo

Jacob D. Hyman, former dean of UB Law School and a longtime faculty member, died April 8, 2007, in his Edgewater, Fla., home after a brief illness. He was 97.

Milton Kaplan, a professor who taught at UB Law School for more than two decades, died Feb. 26, 2007. He was 91.

Mayor Byron W. Brown to the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority board of commissioners. She is also one of 15 New York State unified court system legal fellows and is currently assigned to Hon. Sharon S. Townsend, administrative judge, New York State Supreme Court, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, in Buffalo.

**Edward J. Snyder ’06** has moved his practice from the Rochester, N.Y., office of Harter Secrest & Emery to the Buffalo office. Snyder is an associate in the firm’s corporate group specializing in general business matters including mergers and acquisitions and securities. He lives in East Aurora, N.Y.

**Amber E. Storr ’06** has become an associate in the firm Damon & Morey in the Buffalo office. She practices in business litigation and is a member of the board of directors of UB Law School’s GOLD Group.

**Melissa N. Subjeck ’06** practices as an associate in the firm Hodgson Russ in the Buffalo office. She concentrates her practice in business litigation.

**Nikki L. Baldwin ’07** is practicing as an associate in the firm Hiscock & Barclay in the Albany, N.Y., office. She counsels clients in torts and products liability defense as well as insurance coverage matters.

Baldwin is a resident of Rotterdam, N.Y.

**Peter H. Brown ’07** has accepted a two-year position in the consulate in Johannesburg, South Africa.

**Anne M. Burak ’07** is an associate in the firm Hiscock & Barclay in the Syracuse, N.Y., office. A former resident of Camillus, N.Y., she focuses her practice in commercial litigation.

**Erica M. DiRenzo ’07** has become an associate in the firm Hiscock & Barclay in the Rochester, N.Y., office. She concentrates in insurance, professional malpractice, and torts and products liability defense. She is a Rochester resident.

**Monique E. Emdin ’07** has joined the firm Hiscock & Barclay as an associate in the Buffalo office. She handles cases involving real property tax and condemnation as well as torts and products liability issues. Emdin, formerly of the Bronx, N.Y., currently resides in Buffalo.

**Anshu Pasricha ’07** is moving from the New York City office in the firm Sullivan & Cromwell, to the Melbourne, Australia office. Pasricha will be working with clients in Australia and New Zealand as well as other areas in the pacific. He will be focusing on issuer side capital markets.

**Richard T. Tucker ’07** is practicing in the firm Phillips Lytle as an associate in the Rochester, N.Y., office. He counsels clients regarding litigation matters including business torts, construction, insurance coverage and premises liability. Tucker lives in Honeoye, N.Y.

**Thomas Tuori ’07** practices in the environmental practice group in the firm Harter Secrest & Emery in the Rochester, N.Y., office. He joined the firm as an associate and has 16 years previous experience as an environmental consultant. Tuori is a Rochester resident.





# True believer

*Ryan McPherson '02 guides UB Believers community outreach effort*

What is good for the University is good for Western New York. That is the core message of UB Believers, an ambitious effort to build a constituency of supporters that reaches far beyond the campus limits. Through the University's Division of External Affairs, the campaign has won the loyalties of more than 4,000 individuals – and counting.

"People will advocate for pre-K through 12 education, because they have kids," says Ryan McPherson '02, who coordinates the program. "They are attuned to issues around health care and the economy. But higher education seldom, makes it into that mix. People who see higher education as a critical investment in our future tend not to be as well organized as other groups."

UB Believers aims to change that, reaching out to the Western New York community with a message that emphasizes the University's incredible economic benefits for its region. When residents come to understand UB's current and future potential for revitalizing the area's economy, McPherson says, they will become advocates for the University and will make that support known to the community and their elected officials.

It is an easy argument to make, says McPherson, who serves as chief of staff for Marsha Henderson, vice president for external affairs. UB's economic impact for 2005-06 was estimated at \$1.5 billion; with full realization of the UB 2020 plan, which would increase the student body by 10,000 students, the impact is projected to be \$2.6 billion annually, in 2006 dollars. And that figure includes everything from direct spending by the University's students, faculty and staff, to construction spending, to the third of a billion dollars in annual research expenditures the University leverages. The number, however, does not take into account the thousands of jobs created by the commercialization of UB-developed technology.

No other economic engine, McPherson says, has anywhere near the University's potential to grow the region's financial health



and overall quality of life. "In my heart of hearts," he says, "I think the best strategy in moving Western New York forward is to support the University and its research base. This is the best investment people can make if they want to see Buffalo Niagara transition our economy and reach our potential."

Those who sign on as UB Believers ([www.buffalo.edu/YourUB](http://www.buffalo.edu/YourUB)) receive a bi-weekly e-mail with key news from the University and opportunities to advocate for UB as it moves toward its goal of becoming a preeminent public research university.

The goal is to have a ready core of supporters to lobby state lawmakers on legislation important to the University. That includes funding allocations, of course, but extends to policy decisions that affect UB as well. For example, McPherson says, the Legislature's decision to allow differential tuition for UB Law School, rather than follow in lockstep with general State University of New York tuition rates, has enabled major improvements to O'Brien Hall and has allowed the Law School to increase its student diversity with targeted financial aid.

If you live in Western New York, you have seen solicitations for UB Believers. The pitch is being made everywhere from billboards to direct mail to a major Internet

presence, including Facebook and MySpace pages. There are even videos in support of the cause; "we are trying to tell rational stories in emotional ways that increase resonance with our message and demonstrate the massive impact UB has," McPherson says.

The cause is a personal one for McPherson, a New Hampshire native who worked on developing and formulating public policy and then advocating those positions in New Hampshire and Washington, D.C., before coming to UB Law. During Law School he worked in UB's Office of Government Relations, then became assistant vice president for government and community relations.

What good was his legal education? McPherson says he gets that question a lot. But, he says, "I use the three years I was there, and the training, every single day. I use the skills in terms of judgment, looking at a problem, analyzing it, weighing different options and building coalitions. As a lawyer, you are trained to look at both sides of an issue. They teach you to ask the right questions and push where you need to push."

One other thing, he says: With such experiences as the seven-hour exam in Nils Olsen's civil procedure course, and studying for the Bar exam, Law School teaches something about stamina.

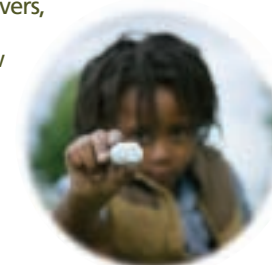
McPherson needs that for the triathlons he competes in, and for keeping up with a busy young family; he and his wife, Alexandra (who runs an environmental organization dedicated to designing cleaner products and manufacturing processes), have a 4-year-old daughter, Jasmine, and a 2-year-old son, Sayward.

But it also comes in handy in weeks like the one that led to New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer declaring, in his State of the State message, that "UB will become an economic engine for Buffalo, and a flagship institution for a world-class public university system." "That was a great moment," McPherson says, "to see the governor buy into the vision of UB 2020. It was something our university has been working on for a long time."



*Creating the future.  
Ours. His. Yours.*

Thanks UB alumni! You currently make up the largest group of UB Believers, which includes more than 4,000 members. But we still need your help to grow stronger. If you haven't already, please sign up. Then encourage your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors to join the UB Believers and advocate for a brighter future for the next generation. And for all of us.



*See what's new. Join up. Take action. Visit [www.buffalo.edu/YourUB](http://www.buffalo.edu/YourUB).*

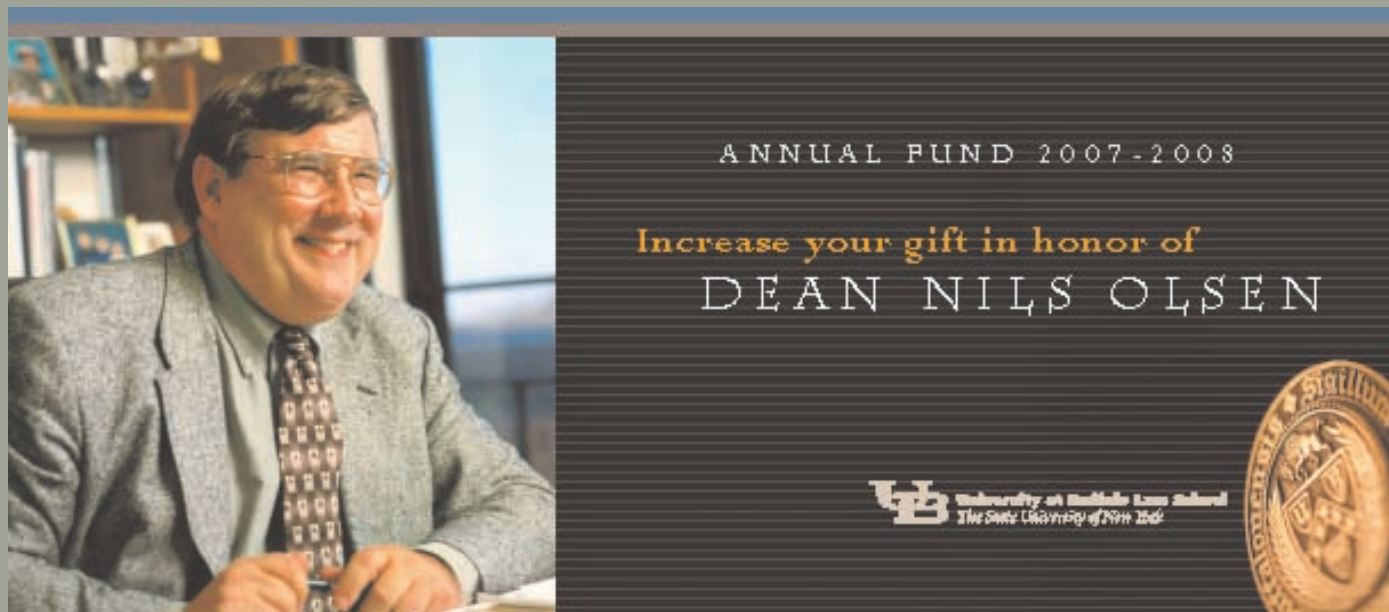
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*To learn more about giving back, contact Deborah Scott, Vice Dean for Development, at (716) 645-2113 or e-mail her at [djscott@buffalo.edu](mailto:djscott@buffalo.edu).*

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