



Erma Hallett Jaeckle '36 leaves \$1 Million bequest

W I N T E R 2 0 1 5

# SUNY BUFFALO LAW PHILANTHROPY

SUNY BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



# OUR STUDENTS NEED YOU!

*Alumni support funds scholarships*

BY INTERIM DEAN JAMES A. GARDNER



# How philanthropy keeps on giving

## *My family's story*

As my first anniversary as interim dean approaches, I find myself thinking frequently about the word from which this magazine takes its title – *philanthropy*. I think about it as the deadline looms for completing our \$30 million capital campaign. I think about it as a dean who occasionally is called upon to ask people to indulge their philanthropic impulses in favor of the Law School. But I also think about philanthropy as one of its beneficiaries, and that is the story I wish to share.

My grandfather, Samuel Gardner, arrived in this country as an infant in 1891. Some alert person soon discovered that this child of a tailor and a housekeeper possessed a prodigious musical talent, and efforts somehow were made to secure its development. By the time he was a young man, Samuel had become a virtuosic violinist, well-known and highly regarded in his time as a soloist and composer.

Then, as now, musical performance was not a lucrative career. Samuel faced constant financial pressures. By a stroke of luck, the struggling Samuel came to the attention of Herbert Straus, son of Isidor Straus, an enterprising immigrant who founded Abraham & Straus Department Stores, from which he earned a substantial fortune. Herbert, an amateur musician and supporter of the arts, took a keen interest in my grandfather's career, and eventually served as Samuel's patron, a relationship that continued through the Great Depression until Herbert's death in 1933. My grateful grandparents the next year named their newborn son – my father – Herbert Straus Gardner, and my father can remember as a child visiting



*“When you contribute to or endow a scholarship for a deserving student, you make it possible for that student to become a lawyer – a life-changing event.”*

– Interim Dean James A. Gardner

the Straus mansion in Wilton, Conn.

Men of my grandfather's generation did not discuss money, so we don't know the details of how this great and generous family supported my grandfather, but this much seems obvious. By supporting Samuel during hard times, the Straus family enabled Samuel to focus entirely on his art; he never had to stop playing or composing to put food on the table. The measure of financial stability my grandparents consequently enjoyed enabled them to raise my father in an environment that allowed him the luxury of focusing on school and cultivating his own musical talents. This put my father in a position to obtain a secure, middle-class job as a music teacher in the New York City public schools. The stability of that career in turn allowed my parents to offer me the benefits of a solid, middle-class upbringing and, ultimately, a terrific education at outstanding schools.

The point is that philanthropy keeps

on giving. A comparatively small intervention in one life changed the fortunes of an entire family, for three generations and more. Your philanthropy can do the same. When you contribute to or endow a scholarship for a deserving student, you make it possible for that student to become a lawyer – a life-changing event that gives individuals the kind of agency in shaping their own lives, and the lives of their families and clients, that comparatively few people have the privilege of enjoying. So please give generously. Your gift will have a more powerful, positive impact, for a longer time, than you can possibly imagine.



## CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

**ELEVATE:** *Support For Our Students*

# Lucy and David Smith '78 offer scholarship help



*"We've just been very happy with the scholarship program, and we want to keep it going." – David Smith '78*

It wasn't until his third year in law school that **Lucy and David Smith '78** got their first credit card.

They promptly maxed it out. There wasn't much choice. They were young marrieds, the first of their children had already arrived, and she was in school at Buffalo State College as well. There were student loans, grants, part-time jobs. You do what's necessary to make ends meet.

It's an old story – the struggling early years laying the groundwork for a long marriage and professional success, he at National Fuel Gas Corp., she in teaching. And it's one that is repeated as new generations of young people enter SUNY Buffalo Law School eager to make their way in the world.

David Smith earned his J.D. in 1978 and has continued to be active with the Law School, serving on the Dean's Advisory Council and on the Law School's Campaign Steering Committee. He retired as executive chairman of National Fuel last year, having served as the company's general counsel, president and CEO.

The Smiths previously funded a

scholarship for a deserving law student, support that followed her through her three years in Buffalo. Now, with a \$250,000 commitment for student financial aid, they are expanding their support, to provide a \$15,000 annual tuition scholarship for one student in each class. Their intent, they say, is to make that arrangement permanent – to have a Smith Scholar in every class from now on.

"All of us owe an awful lot to the Law School," Smith says. "We've just been very happy with the scholarship program, and we want to keep it going. We've been extremely happy with the quality of the candidates that the Law School committee sends for us to review. Many of them do need help, and those are the kind of people we want to provide an opportunity to."

It has been rewarding, too, they say, to get to know the students who benefit from their support. "They invariably write us very nice thank-you notes," Smith says. "We want to be able to establish long-term relationships, maybe have a dinner for them. There are a lot of ways to give to the Law

School, but this is what we decided to do because it focuses on the individual."

The scholarship program is named for Smith's mother, Phyllis Smith, who he says inspired him – and his five brothers – to work hard and reach high. "My father was the disciplinarian," Smith says. "He gave us the work ethic. His job was to keep us in line. But my mother was the inspiration. She always told us that we could be whatever we wanted to be. Every mother says that, but she made us believe it."

"You need an opportunity. We were given that opportunity because we had such a strong family."

Lucy Smith's father, Edgar F. Viggiani, a Class of 1954 Law School graduate who worked for Allstate as a trial lawyer, was also an early inspiration. After they married as sophomores at Fredonia State College, Smith looked to his new father-in-law and said, in effect, if he can do it, I can do it.

So he did, following an early job at National Fuel into a long and successful career with the energy company. Lucy Smith, who has a bachelor's degree in clothing and textile design and a master's degree from Buffalo State, used her gifts as a seamstress and her eye for design as a teacher of home and careers subjects in middle and high school.

Now, in retirement, they are spending some time in Arizona. Smith is on the executive committee of the New York State Business Council, having just stepped down as chairman, and he continues as a board member of the Gas Technology Institute. SUNY Buffalo Law, though, is not far from their thoughts.

"For so many people in my class, without the opportunity that was provided by the Law School, who knows what we would be doing?" Smith says. "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."

**ELEVATE:** *Support For Our Students*

# Out of empathy, a hand for students with children

**S**ometimes things just fall into place. For **Barbara Schifeling '84**, they pretty much had to, or else law school would have been impossible.

Schifeling had two young children when she decided on Buffalo Law, in pursuit of a lifelong dream of becoming a trial lawyer. The state-school tuition price helped; so did the fact that, at that time, the Law School allowed some students to attend part time. Schifeling graduated in four years, even holding a senior position on the *Buffalo Law Review* and doing research on land issues for a professor.

"Our children were 3 and 6 when I started, so that was the only way I could have done it and still been half the parent I wanted to be," she says. "So I am forever grateful to the Law School."

She took that then-revolutionary idea of work-life balance to Damon & Morey, where she worked full time but served as a vigorous advocate for allowing women with young children to bill fewer hours and not pay a huge professional price for that.

"As a law firm we want the smartest and the best lawyers. My argument was, why are we taking a whole pool of talented people off the general partner track just because for a certain number of years they can't work full time?" Damon & Morey then developed policies which allowed part-time attorneys to progress to partnership.

Now Schifeling, who retired this year from the firm now known as Barclay Damon, is extending that same care to the next generation of would-be lawyers. The Barbara L. Schifeling '84 Scholarship Fund, endowed with her \$100,000 gift, will fund a scholarship earmarked for students with financial need and children at home.

"I empathize with anyone who is going to law school and has young children," Schifeling says. "If I can give any help to someone in that situation, I really want to."

The arc of her own career began



*"I empathize with anyone who is going to law school and has young children. If I can give any help to someone in that situation, I really want to."*  
— Barbara Schifeling '84

back in high school, in Nebraska, when she visited the office of the county attorney as part of a school mock election. After earning a master's degree in English at the University of Chicago, she taught high school English before she and her husband, Rev. Dan Schifeling, moved to Western New York.

**T**hat teaching experience, she says, carried over in two ways to her practice. First, there's nothing like standing in front of a roomful of teenagers to sharpen your skills in oral argument. But also, she says, in law as in literature, it's all about the stories.

"I discovered that telling the story to a jury was so similar to teaching high school kids," she says. "It's all about stories and people and motivations. I just love the psychology involved in that. And I didn't realize how much I would love talking to a jury until I took trial technique. It was just like a light bulb. I thought, I really want to do that."

There were fewer women doing litigation back then, and even fewer who became law firm partners as litigators. But at Damon & Morey, Schifeling tried her first case within two years,

and over the course of her career held first chair in a number of high-value cases locally and nationally, specializing in medical malpractice defense and cases involving environmental insurance coverage.

"One of the things that makes being a lawyer so fascinating is that every case is different," she says. "And you have to keep learning, keep really working at understanding."

She also has been active with the Women's Bar Association and remains deeply involved with SUNY Buffalo Law, serving on the Dean's Advisory Council and teaching depositions in the January-term bridge session. In January she will become president of the Western New York chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, which works to preserve the jury system and to help trial attorneys achieve excellence in their practice.

"Some people become lawyers and they find it's not really the best fit for them," Schifeling says. "To me it was a perfect fit, and for 30-some years I've done work that I just loved. So how could I not be grateful to the place that made that possible?"

## CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

**ELEVATE:** *Support For Our Students*

# DAC scholarship recipient learns the language of success

On Graduation Day, some students earn the distinction *cum laude* or one of its intensifiers, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*. Maybe there should be a new distinction, *sine magno debitum*—without great debt.

That happy label will apply to first-year student **Alexander P. Hoffman '18**, a student of classical Latin as an undergraduate and the newly named recipient of the Dean's Advisory Council Scholarship, a full-tuition scholarship award.

The scholarship, which totals just under \$25,000 annually, is funded by generous gifts from members of the Dean's Advisory Council. The group, which provides input to Law School administrators about curriculum and the changing legal employment scene, includes some of the school's most committed alumni. Since 2006 its members have reached deep into their pockets to fund the DAC Scholarship for some of O'Brian Hall's most academically promising students.

Hoffman graduated *magna cum laude* from Colgate University and says that the Law School's initial offer of tuition support—now supplanted by the new scholarship—was a major factor in his return to his hometown for law school. "Like a lot of students, debt was in the forefront of my mind" he says. "I feel very fortunate."

A product of City Honors, a Buffalo public school, Hoffman says he was surprised by how much he came to love Latin: "It's a really cool integration of history, linguistics, even the law. Some of the most famous early lawyers were Roman scholars, like Cicero. Instead of doing the practical 'what kind of degree will get me a job,' I went with something that really interested me. I received an awesome education studying Latin."

He took the LSAT in his senior



*"The law degree was attractive to me because it facilitates my ability to make meaningful change in the community. . . . That really appeals to me. My goal is to effect positive change in Buffalo." — Alexander P. Hoffman '18*

year at Colgate, but even then knew he needed a break from school. After almost a year as a corporate paralegal, he took a job as an account executive for the New York City advertising firm BBDO, working with one of the agency's biggest clients, Visa, to discern their marketing goals, negotiate budgets and then bring that information to the agency's creative team. The 3½ years he spent there, Hoffman says, taught him some valuable skills: "I learned a lot about business and professionalism, and about global TV and digital marketing."

"Living in New York City was great, it was fun, it was very dynamic, and I learned this whole new skill set," he says. "But I always knew in the back

of my mind that I wanted to go back to school. Buffalo's resurgence and the incredible momentum it has experienced over the last few years, as well as the scholarship offer, persuaded me to move home and be part of it. I'm really hoping to stay here."

And do what? "I don't have a concrete plan at this point," Hoffman says. "The law degree was attractive to me because it facilitates my ability to make meaningful change in the community. Lawyers have always been in a unique position, as experts in law and the process of the law, to effect that change and advocate for the public in general. That really appeals to me. My goal is to effect positive change in Buffalo."



**EDUCATE:** *Invest In Our Faculty*

# A scholar, a teacher and an inquirer

**A** law school is only as strong as its faculty, and alumni support is crucial to attracting and retaining the best legal minds. One way this plays out is in the creation of named faculty positions.

We sat down with **Professor Guyora Binder**, who holds the title of Hodgson Russ Faculty Scholar, to ask him about that designation and about the body of work he has compiled since he joined the Law School faculty in 1982. Binder also serves as vice dean for research and faculty.

**Q:** *You've been on the faculty here for more than 30 years. What are the advantages and disadvantages of spending so much of your academic career in one place?*

**A:** The advantage is the opportunity to build the institution. I've chaired the Appointments Committee 10 times and so participated in the hiring of most of our faculty by now. I've tried to carry on the legacy of the founders of our research faculty, New Dealers who had broadly interdisciplinary ambitions and wanted to train public servants. It's a wonderful institutional identity that Buffalo has.

At the same time, if you don't circulate in the broader academy, you can lose touch with new ideas. I've managed to avoid that by visiting at several other law schools – the University of Michigan, Stanford, Georgetown, Vanderbilt. Also, if you go to conferences and collaborate with people at other law schools, you can have the best of both worlds.

**Q:** *What happens when you do a visiting professorship – is that time built around a research project?*

**A:** Sometimes you're going because you want to collaborate with somebody. Sometimes it's to fill a teaching need. Sometimes, frankly, it's other schools trying to recruit you.

In my role as vice dean for research and faculty I'm sort of a career counselor for other faculty, and I encourage them to go on visits. They can develop and get stimulation by moving from one job to another, but we'd rather they get that exposure and then come back to us.

**Q:** *You are designated as the Hodgson Russ Faculty Scholar. What practical effect has that designation had on your situation?*

**A:** The support from alumni and other donors to the Law School for faculty scholarship is very important. In our first fund-raising campaign, which was started during the 1990s, this was one of our major goals. Pretty much every law school in the country that is at a research university incentivizes and rewards faculty scholarship by providing modest summer stipends. We didn't have that, and this was important for us to be able to recruit strong faculty.

I was in charge of the faculty committee for that fund-raising campaign, and I wrote the case for support. Over the years, in that campaign and the current campaign, we've done that. Even modest support is a way of showing that the Law School, and its wider community of students and alumni and the legal community, support and are proud of the Law School's research mission and the faculty's achievements.

**Q:** *How did you get interested in criminal law?*

**A:** My interests have always been on the public law side. I'm interested in how we justify state power, and criminal law is the most dramatic exercise of state power, at least in the domestic sphere, that we have. During the years that I was in law school the Supreme Court at least temporarily abolished the death penalty, then it reversed itself, so there was a great deal of controversy about criminal punishment.

My career has witnessed one of the most dramatic changes in American history, which is the dramatic expansion of the criminal justice system – the increase in the incarcerated population by about 600 percent. That's a huge change in American social history.

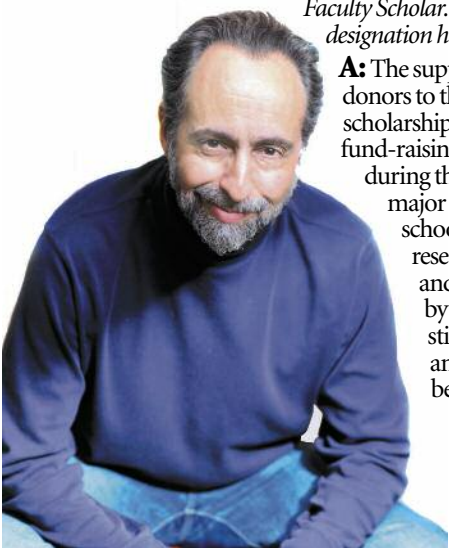
**Q:** *You've written widely in criminal law, including casebooks and teacher's materials. How does one make the transition from scholarship to teaching?*

**A:** I didn't have any teaching experience. Just the other day I was at a reunion of the first class I taught, in 1982; they graduated in 1985, so this was their 30th reunion. They were telling me stories about things I did in the classroom that amused them in those first classes.

A teacher has to teach the material, but even more important than that, it seems to me, is stimulating their curiosity and enthusiasm. I think that it's crucial for teachers to present themselves as part of the curriculum. What makes them passionate about what we're all studying together? How do their own minds work? How do they deal with confusion? What do they do when they don't know?

**Q:** *What do you do for fun?*

**A:** I'm a passionate and slightly better than mediocre tennis player. Now that I live in the city, I play in Delaware Park.



## CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

**EDUCATE:** *Invest In Our Faculty*

# Recognitions well earned

*Holders of named professorships and other named faculty positions at the Law School:*



**Guyora Binder,**  
*Hodgson Russ*  
*Faculty Scholar*



**Lucinda M. Finley,**  
*Frank G. Raichle*  
*Professor of Trial and Appellate Advocacy*



**James A. Gardner,**  
*Bridget and Thomas Black*  
*Professor*



**Martha T. McCluskey,**  
*William J. Magavern*  
*Faculty Scholar*



**Errol E. Meidinger,**  
*Margaret W. Wong*  
*Professor*



**Athena D. Mutua,**  
*Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst*  
*Faculty Scholar*



**Makau W. Mutua,**  
*Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst*  
*Faculty Scholar*



**John Henry Schlegel,**  
*Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst*  
*Faculty Scholar*



**Robert J. Steinfeld,**  
*Joseph W. Belluck and Laura L. Aswad*  
*Professor of Civil Justice*



**David A. Westbrook,**  
*Louis A. Del Cotto*  
*Professor*

## *Funding faculty excellence*

The Law School has four types of named faculty positions – Chair, Professorship, Faculty Scholar and Faculty Fellow. Gifts to establish these positions endow additional support for the holder's legal scholarship beyond his or her salary. Giving levels to establish these positions include:

**Chair:**

\$1.5 million

**Professorship:**

\$1 million

**Faculty Scholar:**

\$500,000

**Faculty Fellow:**

\$250,000

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## ADVOCATE: *Building Our Curriculum*



Left to right: Brandon White '16, Farina Mendelson '17, Elizabeth Parsons '16, Jesse Pyle '16, John R. Nuchereneno, Kelly Pettrone '17, Taylor Baker '17, Brian Barnes '17 and Matthew Paris '17.

### *The Advocacy Institute's new initiative*

After the conviction and the appeals are over, **John Nuchereneno** says, most convicted persons find themselves without a lawyer. Typically they have no money, and most lawyers know little about post-conviction remedies. They may plead with the court to look at their case again, but usually those pleas amount to little more than "I didn't do it."

That's where the **Innocence and Justice Project**, a new initiative of the Law School's Advocacy Institute, picks up the story. Under the direction of adjunct professor and trial attorney John Nuchereneno, of the Buffalo law firm Nuchereneno & Nagel, a select group of second- and third-year law students will identify cases in which there is strong evidence of a miscarriage of justice and, in their role as student attorneys, press the case for redress.

"I'm really excited about this project," says SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Charles Patrick Ewing, who oversees the Advocacy Institute. "With the current focus on mass incarceration and flaws in the criminal justice system, this only makes sense."

Student attorneys will take on two types of clients: those claiming they did not commit the crime of which they were convicted, and those who were not afforded the due process of law.

"Most people in jail are guilty of something," says Nuchereneno, who has won exoneration for four wrongfully convicted persons in his private practice. "But many of those people are guilty of something less than they were convicted of. There are some who are completely innocent, and the biggest number really didn't get due process and were wrongly convicted. If you're going to be convicted and spend years in jail, that should be done by the book."

The classic case, he says, is "a guy sitting in jail, his appeal is over, it's three years after the crime, and he files a Freedom of Information Act request—and here are documents, names, witnesses he never knew existed. He starts investigating this, and realizes if he had known this information, it would have changed the outcome of the trial."

Under Nuchereneno's direction, the students chosen for the project will examine so-called 440 motions, which

are filed by inmates asking the court to vacate their convictions. He will then assign each case to two students, who will then pursue a post-conviction remedy. That might involve talking to the petitioner's attorney or his appellate attorney, examining the appeal record, talking to family members and the prisoner himself. "In some cases we will withdraw from the case without filing papers," Nuchereneno says, "but in some we'll prepare a motion, file it with the court, and the students will appear in court as the client's attorneys."

The Innocence and Justice Project spans both fall and spring semesters. Thirty students are now enrolled in Nuchereneno's fall-semester course in State and Federal Post-Conviction Remedies. He recently chose eight for the spring semester when they will begin processing claim-seeking post-conviction relief. Practical considerations will limit the cases they will consider, he says. For example, they will look at petitions resulting from convictions only in Erie and Niagara counties, and only from inmates serving their sentences in Western New York.

Students in the project will receive course credit, and the hours that they work will count toward the state-mandated requirement of pro bono service in order to be licensed as lawyers.



**INNOVATE:** *Update To The Building*

# Making the point with pixels

*Electronic technologies are integral to learning*



Tech-heavy classrooms are the new normal for the next generation of lawyers.

The room is dark save for the lushly photographed video beamed from a ceiling-mounted projector onto a 12-foot screen. The video, a National Geographic Society production called “Killing One Owl to Save Another Owl?” takes up a hard question of wildlife conservation: Should conservationists accept the killing of the barred owl in order to preserve habitat for the endangered northern spotted owl?

It’s the kind of question that provokes spirited discussion in Professor Irus Braverman’s class in Wildlife and Biodiversity Law. And on this Monday night, that issue is made concrete for her students in ways that no textbook can replicate. There’s nothing like seeing the googly-eyed face of an owl in the wild to bring home the idea that environmental law, and how it’s applied, matters.

The three-hour class would go on to include a student’s PowerPoint presentation about Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and later, a conversa-

tion via Skype – live from North Carolina – with the former coordinator of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s red wolf recovery program, which attempts to save this dwindling wolf population against all odds through integrating captive and wild management. (There’s also, during the break, a hilarious YouTube video called “True Facts About the Owl.”)

For these students, who presumably are studying wildlife and biodiversity law because they care deeply about the natural world, such technology-enabled experiences make for a deeper appreciation of the black-letter law that’s in the casebooks in front of them. It reminds them, as does all good teaching, that the law serves real ends.

Tech-heavy classrooms are the new normal for the next generation of lawyers. And a new generation of professors – as well as many longtime teachers who see new possibilities for getting their message across – are counting on having access to this kind of technology, from the PowerPoint

bones of a lecture to networking with experts worldwide. It’s expensive to keep up, but so effective that any law school that falls behind does so at its peril.

Building on donations from alumni and other friends, SUNY Buffalo Law School is moving to make electronic technologies an integral part of the students’ learning experience. Under the direction of Terrence McCormack, the Law School’s technology manager, two classrooms – O’Brian 104 and 106 – have been updated recently with new instructional technology systems. (Previously, audiovisual staff members would have to lug in equipment on carts and set it up on a case-by-case basis.)

The list of installed technology is long. It includes projection systems, a networked computer, video playback equipment and document cameras. For example, McCormack says, a professor could project a case from Westlaw, then use a digital touch panel to switch to an image of a physical document under the camera, then back to the computer-based Lexis database projection. The professor can also stream video from the Web as well as from the video collection of the Charles B. Sears Law Library, or play something from a Blu-Ray disc. Or the professor could bring his own laptop and project from that. He could even mark up anything on the screen with electronic “ink,” using an interactive pen. In Room 104, students can also connect their own laptops to the projection system, enabling them to present content from their seats in the lecture hall.

With thousands of uses tallied each academic year, it’s clear that this investment in technology is continuing to transform the way professors teach and the way students learn. The next generation of students will demand new kinds of collaborative learning. Building on the best tools for teaching, as always, great educators will lead the way.

# A centenarian's final blessing

*Erma Hallett Jaeckle leaves \$1 million bequest*

In death as in life, Erma Hallett Jaeckle made a difference. She was Erma Hallett back in 1936 when she graduated from what was then the Buffalo Law School. One of four women in her graduating class, she worked for a negligence attorney, then practiced patent law at Carborundum Co. before joining the Coast Guard during World War II in the legal department of the Merchant Marine Division. After the war, she began working in the real property department of Moot & Sprague, in Buffalo.

In 1950 her life took a difficult turn when her husband, a physician, died. She moved with her two young sons to St. Petersburg, Fla., to be near family, and there she practiced for a quarter-century as a trial lawyer specializing in matrimonial and child custody cases. She eventually formed Hallett, Ford & Thurman, the first law firm in that area all of whose partners were women.

During a visit to Buffalo late in her career, she renewed her acquaintance with Edwin F. Jaeckle, and that renewal of an old friendship led to their marriage in 1971. Mrs. Jaeckle returned to Buffalo and retired from the practice of law. The couple was always deeply involved with the Law School, including generous giving – such as the gift that led to the development of what is now the Jaeckle Center for Law, Democracy and Governance. Mr. Jaeckle died in 1992, and Mrs. Jaeckle passed away only recently, just short of her 102nd birthday.

Always a canny lawyer with an eye for making the best use of her resources, Mrs. Jaeckle included two provisions in her will that benefit her



law school alma mater. The first was an outright bequest on a percentage basis that totals just more than \$1 million. The second was to establish charitable remainder trusts for the benefit of her sons, with the balance in the future to benefit the Law School as well; that future gift may well total an additional \$1.25 million.

SUNY Distinguished Professor James A. Gardner, a scholar of governmental law, ran the Jaeckle Center for many years. Now, as the Law School's interim dean, he faces the happy task of allocating Mrs. Jaeckle's bequest. "We're so grateful for the generosity of Edwin and Erma Jaeckle and their long, steadfast support of the Law School. This generosity presents so many opportunities," Gardner says.

Though the details are not in final form, Gardner envisions using the gift in three major ways:

- To support faculty research and scholarship.
- To provide scholarship aid for our students, recognizing that not only does that aid ease the financial burden on current students, but that it also helps attract academically talented students to the Law School.
- To further strengthen the school's academic success programs. These widely used programs provide support and assistance to students as they navigate their law school years, and help develop and hone the skills – legal analysis, problem

solving, vigorous and clear writing – so necessary to passing the bar exam and succeeding in legal practice.

When Erma Hallett Jaeckle won the Law School's highest honor – the Edwin F. Jaeckle Award – in 1999, she accepted with these words: "I am amazed at the changes in the legal world and the manner in which the Law School is meeting these changes."

In the last legal document of her life, she made sure that that work would flourish.



# Respect for Justice Green brings help for students

A little goodwill can go a long way. A lot of goodwill – that just keeps on going.

Those feelings of affection and admiration were the genesis of the new **Hon. Samuel L. Green '67 Award**, established when Judge Green retired from the bench. He served for 38 years on the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, of the New York State Supreme Court.

Proceeds from a retirement dinner held in his honor raised over \$20,000 in seed money for an endowment that will provide scholarship aid for a SUNY Buffalo Law School student, with preference given to those from minority groups traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession.

The idea for the award came from Justice Green's wife, Ernestine, and friends Cindy and Fran Letro '79. In addition to proceeds from the dinner, contributions are still being accepted from those whose lives were touched by Judge Green's long service.

"Thanks to Mrs. Green and the Letros and so many who attended, this is a reality," says Karen R. Kaczmariski '89, the Law School's associate dean for philanthropy. Kaczmariski spent 15 years as a trial attorney, and donated to the fund herself in appreciation of Justice Green.

"Scholarships are vital to our progress, ensuring that bright,

deserving students are able to obtain an excellent legal education and achieve their dreams," Kaczmariski says. "The Hon. Samuel L. Green '67 Award will do just that, and is a wonderful and meaningful way of honoring him and paying tribute to his many accomplishments as a jurist, lawyer, mentor and friend."



Ariana L. Hoo '16, inaugural recipient of the Hon. Samuel L. Green '67 Award

The inaugural recipient of support from the fund, third-year student **Ariana L. Hoo '16**, says the \$2,500 award could not have come at a better time for her.

"I had been looking at bar prep courses," says Hoo, a New York City native and Bryn Mawr College alumna who has been an active participant in Law School life. "I wanted to do BAR/BRI, but it's the most expensive one. The deadline

was coming up, and I didn't have the money."

She was in class when the email came. Subject line: "Congratulations!"

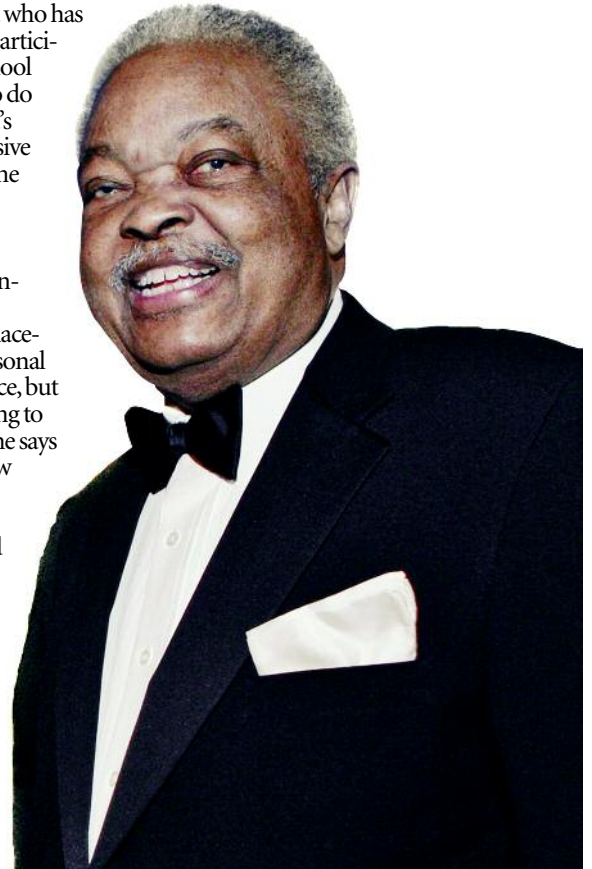
Hoo has spent summer placements in law firms doing personal injury work and at a DA's office, but her major interest is in working to prevent domestic violence. She says her time at SUNY Buffalo Law has gone by quickly.

"Buffalo is really great in terms of having supports and lots of resources," she says. Especially helpful, she says, was the guidance of a 2L student mentor to give her tips on how to study and

manage the workload. "That made things a lot easier, especially in the first year," Hoo says. "People here are willing to help out. You can ask any question and people are honored and happy to help you."

She didn't know about Justice Green, but read up on him and was struck by his story as a person of color who achieved great success. And the support she received in his name, she says, "makes me want to do the same for someone else who's in the same position."

For more information or to donate, visit [www.law.buffalo.edu/giving/scholarships](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/giving/scholarships).



# Fund honors human rights professor Virginia Leary

New generations of would-be human rights advocates are benefiting from the goodwill that a beloved professor grew during nearly two decades of teaching at SUNY Buffalo Law School.

The Virginia A. Leary Memorial Fund for Human Rights honors its namesake, who taught in Buffalo from 1975 until she retired as a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor in 1995. She died in 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland, where she had lived since her retirement.

The fund, established with donations from individuals whose lives were touched by Leary and her work, enables monetary awards to recognize high-achieving students interested in human rights law, who may use them to, for example, help pay the travel costs to attend a human rights conference overseas.

As the fund continues to grow, the next goal is to reach the \$100,000 level, which would make it possible to grant scholarships in Leary's name. Those scholarships will be earmarked for students participating in a human rights program, preferably involving international agencies.

Already the fund has provided benefits to current students, having provided summer fellowship money for students wanting to do human rights work domestically or abroad, and having funded fellowships to help students with the costs of participating in a bridge-term course in human rights lobbying that took place in Washington, D.C.

Professor David Engel, a close friend and colleague of Leary, called her "an extremely kind and generous person. She was a strong individual in many ways as a human rights advocate, but she always struck you as very humble and sweet-natured, and with a wonderful sense of humor. She was someone who everybody loved."

Engel says Leary, who earned the J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and had a doctoral degree in international studies from the University of Geneva, perhaps got a little of her spunk from her mother, an advocate of women's suffrage who at one point chained herself to the gates of the White House during a protest. Leary's father was the long-time dean of the University of Utah Law School.



*"It was easy for her friends and colleagues to forget how courageous she was and what a strong person she was. She was really a peacemaker."*  
— Professor David Engel



"Nowadays the field of human rights is quite well recognized and every school has at least one person in that field, but it wasn't always so," Engel says. "In the United States, human rights was understood mostly as civil and political rights. The so-called second- and third- generation rights, such as Virginia's particular interest, the right to health, were promoted more by non-North American scholars. So her interest in the right to health was really ahead of its time in North America."

Also notable, Engel says, was her courage in taking on sometimes-dangerous overseas missions in support of human rights. For example, he says, Leary went to Sri Lanka at the height of that nation's civil war – and the Sri Lankan human rights activist who hosted her was killed by a suicide bomber not long after she left the country. "It was easy for her friends and colleagues to forget how courageous she was and what a strong person she was," Engel says. "She was really a peacemaker. She brought people together and was able to promote dialogue and understanding."

For more information or to donate, visit  
[www.law.buffalo.edu/giving/scholarships](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/giving/scholarships).



# Your support powers their education... *Thank you!*

*Recent recipients of generous scholarship aid include ...*

Some give generously in support of awards that bear their name. Some give in the name of a loved one. Individual alumni give; organizations give. Their motivations are as varied as they are, but for those who fund named scholarships, one thing is constant: their essential participation in the training of the next generation of SUNY Buffalo Law attorneys.  
Thank you!



**Christopher Bitar**  
Margaret W. Wong Scholarship



**Yik Cheng**  
Margaret W. Wong Scholarship



**Brendan Conley**  
Kenneth B. and Ellen C. Forrest Scholarship



**James Dawson**  
Richard E. Gottlieb Scholarship



**Donell Gibson**  
Christopher A. and Diane L. Wightman Scholarship

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

### **Alden-Baldy Scholarship**

Anaiss Rijo '16  
Beatrice Ajaero '15  
Shelby S. Maroselli '15  
Erica Pandolfo '16

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

Victoria L. Hahn '16

### **Henry W. Box Scholarship**

Ashley A. Czechowski '17  
Megan C. McGuiggan '17

### **Ross M. and Jeanette E. Cellino Scholarship**

Yuqing Tian '17

### **Charlotte Cuneen-Hackett Scholarship**

Matthew J. Deierlein '17

### **Harold A. Dauch Memorial Scholarship**

Andrew R. Mark '16  
Mark C. Murphy '15  
Kathleen T. Wysocki '15

### **Dean's Advisory Council Scholarship**

Benjamin Nelson '15

### **Diversity Scholarship**

Chidera N. Atuegbu '15  
Carin Gordon '15

### **Frederick C. Ebert Scholarship**

Jonathon J. Ling '16

### **Hon. John T. Elfvin Scholarship**

Oscar S. Kpota '15

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

Thomas Michael Enright '17

### **Martin A. Feinrider Scholarship**

Rebecca A. Fioravanti '15

### **Robert J. Feldman Scholarship**

Catherine Clare Pulvirenti '17

### **Ellen and Kenneth Forrest Scholarship**

Caitlin E. O'Neil '15

### **Richard E. Gottlieb Scholarship**

Thora Knight '17

### **Professor William R. Greiner Scholarship**

Kerry Q. Battenfeld '17

### **Stanley Grossman Scholarship**

Samantha R. Axberg '17  
George P. Brown Jr. '17

### **Pamela and Robert Heilman Scholarship**

Michael G. Marrero '17

### **Jacob D. Hyman Scholarship**

Kelsey A. Garlock '15  
Caitlin E. O'Neil '15  
Kristy J. Woodfield '15  
Alyssa A. Zongrone '15

### **Harvey L. Kaminski Scholarship**

Matthew A. Eldred '15  
Paul J. Bartlett '15

### **Barbara D. Klippert Scholarship**

Marcus Catlin '15

### **Korniczky Intellectual Property Law Scholarship**

Daniel R. Carosa '16

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

Katherine L. Wood '16

### **Norman B. Lewis Scholarship**

Michelle L. Cappellucci '17  
Emily T. Eckert '17

### **Lipsitz Green Scime & Cambria Scholarship**

Ashley C. Blahowicz '16

### **Joseph G. Mari Scholarship**

Joshua David Jansch '16



**Ember Holmes**  
*Phyllis G. Smith  
Scholarship*



**Jordan Sieracki**  
*Brent L. Wilson  
Scholarship*



**Jacob Sikora**  
*Kenneth B. and  
Ellen C. Forrest  
Scholarship*



**Tyleana Venable**  
*Law Alumni  
Association  
Scholarship*

# 2014-15

**James M. McMahon  
Memorial Scholarship**  
Nikolay Feodoroff '16

**Ira S. Meiselman  
Scholarship**  
Christine D. McClellan '17  
Catherine J. Minder '17

**Adelbert Moot Scholarship**  
Artur G. Jagielski '15  
Gregory C. Smith '16  
Anastasia M. Stumpf '15  
Tara M. Ward '15

**Albert Eli Moss  
Scholarship**  
Keli Iles-Hernandez '16

**Marie Nesbitt Promise  
Prize**  
Ninteretse Jean Pierre '16

**William M. North and  
Carolyn B. North  
Scholarship**  
Kaitlynn E. Walker '17

**Gerard J. O'Brien '52 Trial  
Excellence Scholarship**  
Amanda B. Cannavo '15

**Joseph P. Peperone  
Memorial Scholarship**  
Emily M. Rudroff '15  
Ryan G. Ganzenmuller '15

**Phillips Lytle Diversity  
Scholarship**  
Maisha M. Blakeney '16  
Emily T. Eckert '17  
Ninteretse Jean Pierre '16

**Phillips Lytle Scholarship**  
Todd J. Aldinger '16  
Jeffrey M. Lewis '15  
Mary A. Verdi '16  
Margaret H. Wydysh '15

**Thomas A. and Billie Davis  
Rodenberg Scholarship**  
Melanie J. Prasad '17

**Henry Rose Book  
Scholarship**  
Patrick D.R. Leavy '16

**Hon. Eugene W. Salisbury  
Scholarship**  
Cheryl L. Nielsen '16

**Savino-Martin Scholarship**  
Alexander Sinenko '16

**Matthew J. Schnirel  
Scholarship**  
Todd J. Potter Jr. '15

**Donald D. Serotte  
Scholarship**  
Erin R. Goldberg '17

**Phyllis G. Smith  
Scholarship**  
Amanda G. Brennan '17  
Jessica A. Diaz '16

**SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni  
Scholarship**  
Kelsey Marie E. Till '16  
Larry E. Waters Jr. '17

**SUNY Buffalo Law  
Scholarship**  
Andrew J. Clement '15  
Ann C. Dillon '15  
Aimee T. Hopkins '16  
Stacey L. Walker '15

**Carmen P. Tarantino  
Memorial Scholarship**  
John E. Minnick '17

**Hon. Michael A. Telesca  
Scholarship**  
Robert M. Zielinski '16

**Hon. Robert Foster  
Thompson Memorial  
Scholarship**  
Beatrice N. Costanzo '15

**Candace and James Vogel  
Book Scholarship**  
Thomas C. Katsiotas '15

**Jacob Weissfeld  
Scholarship**  
Elliot S. Raimondo '15

**Lawrence H. Wagner  
Scholarship**  
Daniel R. Carosa '16

**Brent L. Wilson  
Scholarship**  
Christopher A. Gibson '15

**Margaret W. Wong  
Scholarship**  
Michelle Yeung '15



# Leading the way for the Annual Fund

**T**wo alumni who have invested both time and money in the Law School are sharing the responsibility of chairing this year's Annual Fund drive, which attracts thousands of gifts from graduates and other friends of the school.

**Kenneth W. Africano '85**, together with his wife, Maura, and **Christopher A. Wightman '99**, with his wife, Diane, say their involvement stems from a belief that high-quality legal education is a cause worth supporting.

Africano, a litigation partner with Harter Secrest & Emery in Buffalo, says he supports the Law School because he appreciates what the Law School did for him. "The education I received at the Law School was



Maura and Kenneth W. Africano '85



Diane and Christopher A. Wightman '99



Students thank the Annual Fund donors. Left to right, Caitlin E. O'Neil '15, Mehwish Rasheed '15 and Samantha Yager '16

great. I loved the experience and it has proven to be invaluable to my career." As a former board member of the SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association, Africano has maintained his involvement and association with the school. "I have always found the Law School faculty to be very intellectual in their approach to the law, and very dedicated and open to the students as well as the alumni."

He also teaches a course in

intellectual property litigation during January, creating case studies that draw on his IP cases involving some well-known names in the music and motion picture industries. And to add a personal touch to their philanthropy, the Africanos have been the matching donors for the graduating class gift for the last two years. "That's been fun, because we get to interact with the various law students who are on the giving committee," Africano says, adding that they really enjoyed celebrating over pizza and beer with the student organizers.

Wightman is a partner at CamberView Partners in San Francisco. A start-up now in its fourth year and growing, the firm advises the management teams and boards of public companies about how to interact effectively with their investors.

Co-chairing the Annual Fund campaign is, he says, "a meaningful responsibility for me and one that's important to the future of the Law School. We're trying to reach graduates of the late 1990s and the 2000s by setting an example of giving. I hope to inspire more of my classmates and fellow alumni to get involved in the process."

"As alumni advance further into their careers, I believe it's important for them to give back," Wightman says. "Once SUNY Buffalo Law School graduates are 10 or more years into their careers, many have the opportunity to give significantly. As my fellow alumni think about their philanthropic activities, I'm hopeful that SUNY Buffalo Law is included in their giving. Both Diane and I believe it's really important to pay it forward."

As a member of the Law School's Dean's Advisory Council, Wightman will be in New York City in March for the DAC's meeting there. The trip will serve double duty, as plans are to host an alumni gathering in support of the Annual Fund on that same weekend.

# Making public service possible

**T**wo members of the Class of 1980 have stepped up in tandem to support students pursuing one of the Law School's signature strengths: public-interest legal work.

The idea for the gifts came out of a conversation between **Martha Krisel '80** and **Mary Joanne Dowd '80**, close friends from their law school years. Looking to make it easier for students to accept a summer placement in a not-for-profit or government setting – rewarding internships that typically are unpaid – they decided that gifts earmarked for that specific situation would make the giving that much more rewarding.

The student-run Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, of course, has a long history of providing similar support. This past summer, more than two dozen SUNY Buffalo Law students worked in public-interest positions with BPILP and other funding.

But Krisel and Dowd wanted to make a personal statement for the value of public-interest work for students and for society.

"I really am committed to getting students to continue the crucial work of government and not-for-profit work, and the only way is to help them get exposure to it," says Krisel, who has had a long career in municipal law in downstate New York.

"The debt that many law students carry is staggering – like a mortgage. SUNY Buffalo Law is still very reasonable, and because our students carry less debt than at other schools, govern-



**The Martha Krisel Fellow**  
Anaiss Rijo '16



*"I really am committed to getting students to continue the crucial work of government and not-for-profit work, and the only way is to help them get exposure to it." – Martha Krisel '80*



**The Mary Joanne Dowd Fellow**  
Volha Salavei '16



*"It is invaluable for students to do practical hand's on legal work while they're still in law school." – Mary Joanne Dowd '80*

ment is a viable career path for them."

Krisel also played a role in selecting the initial recipient of the fellowship: **Anaiss Rijo**, now a third-year law student. Rijo, a New York City native, worked at the juvenile rights division of the Legal Aid Society, in Manhattan.

As it turns out, that was where Krisel had her first job out of law school. "It was ideal because that \$2,000 made a huge difference in her ability to take that summer placement," Krisel says. "We had dinner together, and it was just a great experience. She is devoted to the work, and I was really glad to be able to be a part of it."

Rijo's classmate **Volha Salavei**, whose summer placement was with the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, was the initial recipient of the Dowd Fellowship.

"It is invaluable for students to do practical hand's on legal work while

they're still in law school, says Dowd, who practices bankruptcy and financial restructuring law as a partner with Arent Fox in Washington, D.C.

"Alumni can make a meaningful contribution to the Law School and our profession by funding summer internships." Dowd's gift also was influenced by the poverty law career of her sister, Susan Dowd, Class of 1983, an administrative law judge for New York State.

Dowd and other 1980 classmates are looking to fund a summer 2016 internship at the Western New York Law Center, a non-profit law firm that represents low income clients in foreclosure and debtor-creditor matters, and whose executive director is another member of the Class of 1980, Joseph Kelemen.



*No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted – Aesop*

# Thank you to our fundraising volunteers

**W**e are one community made of many members. What makes us a community is that our combined efforts make a significant impact on the Law School. Every display of kindness, no matter the size, is absolutely needed and appreciated.

Thanks to the collective efforts of our dedicated volunteers, our law school remains the pre-eminent leader in affordable public legal education. We are indebted to our volunteers and gratefully acknowledge their investment in the Law School's fundraising efforts.

Our seven-year *Campaign for SUNY Buffalo Law* has reached the \$26 million mark, thanks to the leadership, generosity and hard work of our Campaign Steering Committee, composed of some of the most highly regarded professional in their fields, and co-chaired by Thomas E. Black Jr. '79, Kenneth B. Forrest '76, Francis M. Letro '79 and Margaret W. Wong '76. With one year to go, we are \$4 million away from meeting our most ambitious fundraising goal ever – \$30 million. This is an historic milestone and one we look forward to celebrating with all of you when we cross the finish line.

Our yearly fundraising drive – the Annual Fund – is successful year after year thanks to the leadership of our dedicated, caring chairs. The 2014-15 Annual Fund – co-chaired by Ann E. Evanko '79 (Buffalo), Neil E. Botwinoff '82 (New York City) and Lawrence M. F. Spaccasi '87 (Washington, D.C.) – surpassed its goal, raising \$1.1 million for SUNY Buffalo Law. Every dollar donated to the Annual Fund also counted toward the Campaign goal.

Therefore, our co-chairs and Annual Fund supporters were able to count another million dollars toward the Campaign. What a great accomplishment!

Our chairs for this year's Annual Fund – Kenneth W. Africano '85 and his wife, Maura (Buffalo), and Christopher A. Wightman '99 and his wife, Diane (San Francisco and New York City) – have set another million-dollar goal for 2015-16. With their fresh perspective and positive energy, they will no doubt inspire many to participate in the Annual Fund. **The added bonus is that every dollar given to the Annual Fund will also count toward our \$30 million Campaign goal.** A win-win for all!

We also cannot forget all who participate in our Leadership Letter Signing, the GOLD group note signing and the phonathon. Additionally, we are grateful to those on our individual fundraising boards – for the Advocacy Institute, our Discover Law Summer Scholars Program, and the Women, Children & Social Justice Fund. These boards have also been successful due to the efforts of our talented and dedicated alumni and friends.

A special thanks to the volunteers listed below. We could not do it without your help!

## **Campaign Steering Committee**

Brian D. Baird '83  
Thomas E. Black Jr. '79  
Paul R. Comeau '73  
Kenneth B. Forrest '76  
Pamela D. Heilman '75  
Judith B. Ittig '71  
Harvey L. Kaminski '77  
Barbara D. Klippert '75  
Robert M. Kornreich '67  
Francis M. Letro '79  
William E. Mathias II '71  
Carol M. Matorin '76  
Christopher J. O'Brien  
Jean C. Powers '79  
Vikki L. Pryor '78  
Robert C. Schwenkel '82  
David F. Smith '78  
Mark K. Suzumoto '82  
Brent L. Wilson '76  
Margaret W. Wong '76

## **2014-15 Annual Fund National Co-Chairs**

Neil E. Botwinoff '82  
Ann E. Evanko '79  
Lawrence M.F. Spaccasi '87

## **2015-16 Annual Fund National Co-Chairs**

Kenneth W. Africano '85  
Maura Africano  
Christopher A. Wightman '99  
Diane L. Wightman

## **Leadership Letter Signing, GOLD Group Note Signing and Phonathon**

Kenneth W. Africano '85  
Richard S. Binko '82  
Elizabeth R. Blazey-Pennel '11  
Daniel Evans Brick '69  
Douglas W. Dimitroff '89  
Joshua E. Dubs '08  
Kevin J. Espinosa '09  
Ann E. Evanko '79

Robert J. Feldman '76  
 John P. Feroletto '82  
 Kathleen T. Feroletto '11  
 Jeffrey T. Fiut '10  
 Terrence M. Gilbride '88  
 Jeffrey P. Gleason '08  
 Garry M. Graber '78  
 Josephine A. Greco '81  
 Robert P. Heary '91  
 Michael J. Hecker '09  
 Marion K. Henderson '65  
 Anne E. Joynt '05  
 Jean C. Powers '79  
 Seth D. Pullen '09  
 Aaron M. Saykin '13  
 David B. Smith '93  
 Stephen L. Yonaty '94

**The Advocacy Institute**  
 Terrence M. Connors '71

**Discover Law  
 Summer Scholars Program**  
 Jodyann Galvin '98  
 Jessica Lazarin  
 Dennis McCoy '77

**Women, Children &  
 Social Justice Fund**  
 Erin M. Barclay '98  
 Sheila S. Dickinson '00  
 Tara M. Flynn '92  
 Mia M. McFarlane Markello '99  
 Professor Susan V. Mangold  
 Paige L. Mecca '99  
 Bridget M. O'Connell '98



Above, Shatorah N. Donovan '12 orients the volunteers.

Above right, left to right:  
 Lucy Dadd '04, Douglas W.  
 Dimitroff '89, Interim Dean  
 James B. Gardner

Right, alumni volunteers  
 write letters to their peers at the  
 Letter Signing event.



## With pen and ink, making the case



Kenneth W. Africano '85 was host for the evening.

For many, it had been a long day already. But more than a dozen SUNY Buffalo Law alumni worked a second shift on the evening of Sept. 24, all to plead the case for giving to the Law School's Annual Fund.

The annual Leadership Letter Signing event brings together loyal alumni who hand-write letters to their classmates and their colleagues in the legal community, encouraging

them to invest in New York State's public law school.

"We invite specific alumni who are donors and can encourage other people to give, because they have specific reasons why they give," says Shatorah N. Donovan, who as assistant director of development (Annual Fund) oversaw the event. "If you get a handwritten note from your friend, your colleague, your mentor, somebody you really respect in the community, you're going to pay more attention to that than something that just comes from the Law School. One out of every three letters usually ends up in a donation, so it's highly effective."

The two-hour event, held at the Buffalo Club, was hosted by Annual Fund co-chair Kenneth W. Africano '85, who detailed the fund's importance for both the Law School and the legal community. All told, the letter-writers produced more than 500 mailings.



# Dean's leadership donor reception

*Honoring leadership donors and celebrating the Campaign for SUNY Buffalo Law*

Trini E. Ross '92 and Wendy M. Irving '91



Nicholas D. D'Angelo '17 and Shatorah N. Donovan '12



Robert P. Fine '68 and Robert B. Conklin '68



Left to right, Carol A. Greiner, Barbara J. Hole and Jean C. Powers '79



Left to right, Dr. Michael D. Hess '85, Stephen J. Schop '85, Ann Giardina and Joan Casilio Adams '87



Thomas F. Knab '88



Hon. Mark H. Dadd, Major Gifts Officer  
Lucille A. Dadd '04 and Margaret Dadd



Rose Mary J. Madejski and  
Hon. Margaret Quinn '70



Interim Dean  
James A. Gardner  
and Ann E.  
Evanko '79

# Student giving goes beyond the 3Ls

**S**amantha L. Yager has gotten used to asking people for money.

In her first year at SUNY Buffalo Law, she was a student caller in the annual phonathon, reaching out to alumni in support of the school's Annual Fund. In her second year, she helped run the phonathon. Now, in her third year, she is both a phonathon supervisor and co-chair of a new school-wide giving campaign, seeking to coax precious dollars from her fellow students in all stages of their Law School career.

The campaign is an expansion of the traditional class gift effort, in which members of the graduating class chipped in to leave behind a parting gift. "We decided we were going to expand to a student-wide giving campaign and try to attract people from each class who are interested in promoting giving within the Law School," Yager says. "We want to get students involved in the spirit of giving now so that this will encourage them to give as alumni. And because they're still here, they can see the impact of their giving right away."

The effort, whose co-chair is second-year student **Rebecca Alward**, involves a committee with representatives from each class year; they bear the title "student ambassadors of philanthropy." It's still being planned, but they've talked about working tables in the O'Brian Hall lobby to solicit donations, as well as upping the fun quotient with something like a students-vs.-faculty kickball game.

The goal is not necessarily a huge dollar amount, but a participation rate that shows the students are seeing giving as important. "How much



Co-chair Samantha L. Yager '16, right, with committee member Nicole M. Kousmanidis '16

people give is less important than that they do give," Yager says. "You're getting a really good legal education for what you're paying, and if you can help provide that to other students, why wouldn't you?"

They'll also survey the student body on how to use the money raised, whether it be for scholarship support, the Law School's clinics or the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program. "We want to get an idea of what's important overall to the students," she says.

Yager herself was a BPILP fellow, working in her 1L summer at Prisoners Legal Services. Last summer she worked at Neighborhood Legal Services.

In last year's giving campaign, the Class of 2015 raised \$4,115 for the Law School. Their 103 donors translated to a 46 percent participation rate. Kenneth W. Africano '85 and his wife, Maura, who are serving as co-chairs of this year's Annual Fund, added a matching contribution.

*"How much people give is less important than that they do give. You're getting a really good legal education for what you're paying, and if you can help provide that to other students, why wouldn't you?"*

—Samantha L. Yager '16



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**2016 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award**,  
the highest honor the  
SUNY Buffalo Law School and the  
Law Alumni Association  
can bestow.*

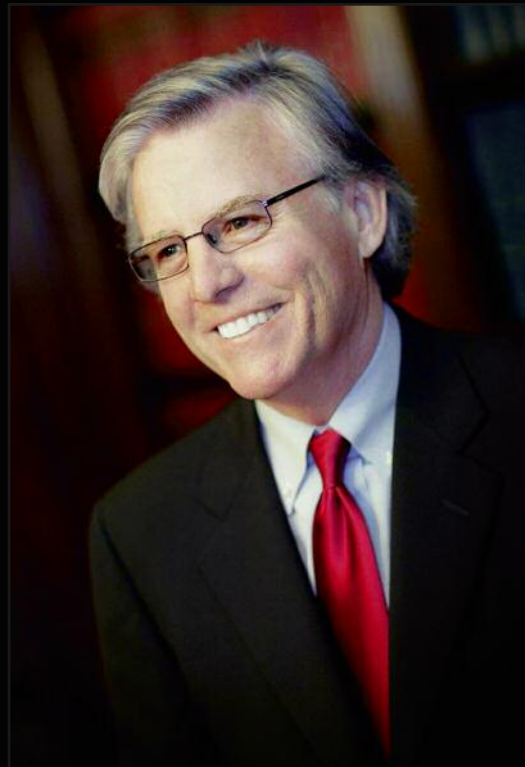
*Friday, Jan. 29, 2016*

*Noon to 2 p.m.*

*The Union League Club*

*38 E. 37th St.*

*New York City*



*For registration information, visit  
[www.law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent](http://www.law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent)  
or call the Alumni Office at (716) 645-2107*

