



Fast Facts

Data as of August 21, 2023

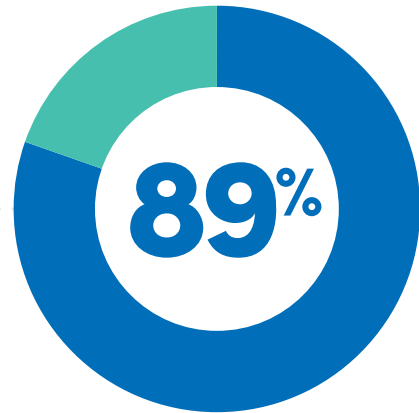
\$26,170

in-state tuition*

\$31,160

out-of-state tuition*

*Tuition does not include fees and additional expenses.



of incoming three-year
JD students receive
merit-based scholarships

7.9:1



student-to-faculty ratio

Named
**A Top School for
Environmental Law**

by *preLaw Magazine*



Named
**A Best Value
Law School**

by *preLaw Magazine*

Named
**A Best School for
Practical Training**

by *preLaw Magazine*

A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM DEAN S. TODD BROWN

This is an exciting time to pursue a legal education, and Buffalo is a great place to do it. Whether your interests lie in the courtroom, in the corporate world or on the legislative floor, UB School of Law will prepare you to launch a rewarding career.

If you're undecided about your path forward, the breadth and depth of our curriculum, activities and experiential offerings provide avenues for exploring different interests in a supportive and engaging environment. You'll be guided by nationally renowned faculty, dedicated staff, and outstanding alumni and members of the bar who care deeply about the law school and share our commitment to justice.

I invite you to learn more about our innovative programs and the exceptional community at the heart of the State of New York's law school.

Sincerely,



S. Todd Brown
Interim Dean and Professor of Law







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Our Law School

The University at Buffalo School of Law—the only law school in the State University of New York system—is a premier public law school, situated on the campus of a flagship university. As one of the oldest law schools in New York State, UB School of Law draws on more than 135 years of experience and innovation in legal education.

THREE KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Affordability



As a public law school, we are committed to ensuring access to a high-quality education at an affordable price.

Community



Students, faculty, staff, loyal employers and a wide-ranging network of alumni share a distinct sense of place and pride. They go out of their way to ensure that our students achieve more than they ever thought possible.

Outstanding Faculty



Many of our nationally prominent faculty members have a PhD in addition to their law degree, and they offer a wide range of interdisciplinary courses that provide a better understanding of how the law works in society.





Academics

Academic life at UB School of Law is engaging from the start. You'll learn to think like a lawyer thanks to our innovative and intensive Legal Analysis, Writing and Research program, growing your skills and knowledge through one-on-one coaching and small classes. A wide menu of concentrations, curricular programs and dual degrees lets you follow your curiosity, going deep with experts in the field. Creative faculty and teaching assistants will challenge you to see the law in new ways.



DISTINGUISH YOURSELF

Selecting one of our optional concentrations and curricular programs in our JD program will deepen your understanding of the work lawyers do and train you in how to approach complex legal problems. You'll be equipped to work on major problems and transactions from the start of your legal career. Completing the requirements of a concentration or program will distinguish you as someone with an unusual level of knowledge and mastery in your field.

Concentrations

Concentrations consist of a sequence of required and elective courses selected from a substantial menu of course offerings in the chosen field.

- » Advocacy
- » Criminal Law
- » Cross-Border Legal Studies
- » Family Law
- » Intellectual Property and Privacy Law
- » International Law
- » Sports Law

Curricular Programs

Curricular Programs are designated in fields in which the law faculty offers an exceptional degree of strength and expertise and a rich variety of courses. Programs culminate in a small, intensive capstone or senior colloquium course designed to pull together students' knowledge and expertise.

- » Environmental Law
- » Finance and Development

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH CONCENTRATION](#)

DEGREES & PROGRAMS

Three-Year JD

The Juris Doctor degree, the basic U.S. law degree, is held by the vast majority of practicing U.S. lawyers, as well as businesspeople, policy makers, academics and other professionals.

Advanced Standing Two-Year JD for Internationally Trained Lawyers

This innovative program is intended for students who already hold a law degree from a jurisdiction outside the United States and who would like to earn a Juris Doctor degree and seek admission to the New York State Bar.

3+3 Accelerated BA-JD

The School of Law recognizes that qualified undergraduate students are ready and able to complete their undergraduate education and their law degree in less time than the seven years of study typically required. Students can accelerate their course of study by completing their BA and JD in just six years of full-time study.

Dual Degrees

Dual degree programs give you a career advantage and reduce the total time required to earn two degrees by up to a year. Many of our students pursue both the JD degree and a master's degree simultaneously.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DUAL DEGREES](#)

LLM

Students who already have a first degree in law may pursue a Master of Laws or LLM degree. Our three LLM programs provide highly specialized courses of study designed to match a student's intellectual interests and advance their career to the next level.

- » Cross-Border LLM
- » Criminal Law LLM
- » General LLM

JSD

The Doctor of Juridical Science is the law school's most advanced degree. It makes full use of our creative and interdisciplinary faculty to prepare students for careers as law professors, in judicial and other public offices, as well as in high-level policy positions in international organizations.

MEET OUR FACULTY

UB School of Law enjoys a nationwide reputation as an innovator in the interdisciplinary study of law. Many of our professors have advanced degrees in complementary academic fields, enabling unique perspectives on how the law works in society. But they focus first on great teaching—guiding students through intellectual trials that will change their lives. Meet a few of our extraordinary educators.

Christine P. Bartholomew (she/her)
Professor; Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

Background:

Professor Christine P. Bartholomew teaches in the areas of evidence, antitrust and civil procedure. Her scholarship focuses on the interplay of these topics, particularly in complex litigation. She is a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and is a six-time winner of the law school’s teaching award, the Faculty Award.

“My courses focus on the fundamentals of legal practice. Admittedly, my classes are rigorous. I hold students to a high standard, with the hope that when they achieve, they leave with a passion for this field of study and are well-prepared for the challenges of a career in law.”



Luis E. Chiesa (he/him)

Dr. Teresa A. Miller Professor of Law; Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Director, Buffalo Criminal Law Center

Background:

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Professor Luis E. Chiesa is a highly regarded scholar in criminal law and social justice. He also leads the law school’s diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. His scholarly interests focus on substantive criminal law, criminal procedure, comparative law and animal cruelty law.

“Regardless of the course I’m teaching—be it criminal law, criminal procedure, or contemplative practice, meditation and law—my aim is to offer law students a textured and evocative vision of their chosen field. Through this, I aspire for them to embrace a practice of law that is not merely competent, skillful and excellent, but more important, one that is deeply imbued with soul.”



Angelyn McDuff '12 (she/her)

Director of the Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Program

Background:

Professor Angelyn McDuff brings several years of practice to her classroom, including in compliance and regulatory analysis and immigration law. She previously worked as a staff attorney at Journey's End Refugee Services, on Buffalo's West Side. She has taught courses in international advocacy and has coached the law school's team in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition.

"The LAWR Program teaches foundational legal analysis, writing and research skills. Our small class sizes and supportive faculty foster an environment in which students acquire and practice essential skills. From conducting legal research and arguing in front of judges to drafting legal documents and counseling clients, you will be prepared for real-world success in any field of law."

Jorge Luis Fabra-Zamora (he/him)

Associate Professor of Law

Background:

Born and raised in Colombia, Professor Jorge Luis Fabra-Zamora brings to the classroom decidedly global experience and scholarship. With a PhD in philosophy, he explores philosophical questions in legal settings. He teaches torts, conflicts of law, and a new course, Law and Jurisprudence.



"The University at Buffalo School of Law is a supportive community characterized by genuine collaboration, intellectual curiosity and inclusiveness. I'm always available to talk about your research, courses and plans during my office hours. You belong here!"

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR FULL FACULTY DIRECTORY](#)

Our Kent Research Scholars

UB School of Law's James Kent Faculty Research Scholar Program provides an opportunity for students with excellent academic credentials to serve as research assistants (RAs) for members of the law school faculty.

Many law students find that serving as a faculty RA is among the most valuable experiences of their law school career. These paid positions enable students to explore interesting and important topics under the guidance of law faculty working on the frontiers of legal scholarship and law reform. RAs develop subject matter expertise and skills in legal research and writing.

Moreover, faculty who work with an RA often serve as mentors and provide support and guidance as their RA prepares to enter law practice. Finally, the work schedule for RAs is tied to the academic calendar, so it is often more flexible than most other work options available to law students.



Throughout law school, **Maura Kutnyak-Smalley '23** (she/her) worked as a research assistant to Professor Heather Abraham, researching how the federal government has contributed to entrenched housing segregation. Her research involved:

- » Exploring the power and influence of federal spending over local housing patterns.
- » Building a network of fair-housing leaders to facilitate communication.
- » Researching the effects and efficacy of executive orders.

“The informal conversations where Professor Abraham shared her knowledge of, vision for and passion about fair housing were some of the most meaningful aspects of our work. Put another way, it was extremely valuable to work closely with a leader and emerging expert in their field. Learning through Professor Abraham’s example and being swept up into her fiercely driving purpose was pivotal for me.” –Maura Kutnyak-Smalley '23

Extending the Classroom



Study Abroad

The practice of law has become increasingly global, with attorney and client often located in different countries. As a law school located within minutes of an international border, the UB School of Law keenly recognizes the value of studying law in another country.

Where can you go?

- » Australia: University of New South Wales Law
- » Scotland: University of Glasgow School of Law
- » Spain: Escola Superior d'Administració d'Empreses (ESADE)

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD](#)



Clinical Legal Education

Our clinics offer diverse and sophisticated practice opportunities to second- and third-year JD and LLM students, all working closely with skilled supervising attorneys. Our clinical offerings involve cutting-edge issues and complex matters in which creativity and innovation play key roles in serving clients effectively.

21,014

CLINIC HOURS PROVIDED
BY THE CLASS OF 2023

- » Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic
- » Community Engagement Legal Clinic
- » Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic
- » Entrepreneurship Law Center Clinic
- » Environmental Advocacy Clinic
- » Family Violence and Women's Rights Clinic
- » Mediation Clinic
- » Puerto Rico Recovery Assistance Clinic

Clinics within clinics

- » Recognizing access to justice needs as they occur, our clinics often take on targeted projects to benefit our community and provide students broader exposure.
- » Our Environmental Advocacy Clinic works to protect animals through national, state and local policy that addresses animal welfare issues.
- » Our Community Engagement Legal Clinic helps students and their families in school suspension cases where students have been subjected to systemic inequities. This clinic will also undertake unemployment benefit work, thanks to new funding from the New York State Legislature.
- » In partnership with other local legal services agencies, the Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic created the Western New York Eviction Prevention Program to serve clients in Buffalo Housing Court dealing with eviction.



12

MOCK TRIAL
TEAMS

4

MOOT COURT
TEAMS

4

ADR/
MEDIATION
TEAMS

Advocacy Institute

Our Advocacy Institute helps students cultivate the skills, discipline and ethics necessary to become creative and principled litigators. In our popular trial technique classes, students prepare and try a civil or criminal case under the tutelage of highly experienced trial lawyers and judges. Students can test those skills against other law schools in nationwide scrimmages and competitions through our trial advocacy and competitions.

The art of appellate advocacy is taught in an Introduction to Appellate Advocacy class, which includes participation in our intramural Charles S. Desmond Moot Court Competition. Based on that experience, students are selected to represent the law school on teams that participate in prestigious national appellate moot court competitions.

Future practitioners in the growing field of alternative dispute resolution can hone their advocacy skills by taking part in our intramural Representation in Mediation Competition. Select students represent our law school in national and international mediation, negotiation and arbitration competitions.

UB School of Law hosts two national competitions: the Buffalo Niagara Mock Trial Competition, one of the largest in the nation, and the Herbert Wechsler National Criminal Moot Court Competition.



Practicums

These four-credit experiential courses are based around hands-on fieldwork assisting and observing practicing attorneys. They explore the related subject area in depth and work on other skills (such as interviewing and counseling clients, access to justice, and writing) through weekly classroom work. Practicums are taught by a team consisting of a full-time professor and experienced practicing attorneys. Students have a chance to observe and reflect on the process of becoming an attorney.

Practicum in Sports Law

Students enrolled in our Practicum in Sports Law tackle topics in the cutting-edge area of sports law, including name, image and likeness deals, player injury and concussion protocols, as well as the local Buffalo Bills stadium construction project.





Externships

Law students earn academic credit in a variety of placements in the judiciary, government and non-profit organizations. Students learn from practice at their placements, as well as a seminar focused on practice skills, ethics and professional identity formation. Most externships are in Western New York, including Rochester, with select offerings in New York City and Washington, D.C.

100+
EXTERNSHIPS

100%

OF OUR 2023 PRO BONO SCHOLARS PASSED THE NEW YORK STATE BAR EXAM

Pro bono scholars

Students must perform 50 hours of pro bono legal service before they're admitted to the New York State bar. Our highly competitive Pro Bono Scholars Program gives select third-year law students the opportunity to take the New York State Bar Exam in February before they graduate. They then work full time in a pro bono placement during their final semester of law school, exploring access to justice issues while developing their lawyering skills and fulfilling their service requirement. Students may also accrue pro bono hours through credit-bearing clinics and externships, volunteer work with legal services agencies or at court help desks, summer legal service fellowships, and placements as judicial law clerks or at government law offices.

New York City Program in Finance and Law

Let Manhattan be your classroom! Our New York City Program in Finance and Law enables select students to spend a semester at the heart of the high-stakes world of corporate finance.

Through the program's innovative curriculum, students learn law and business in context through immersive conversations with practitioners from across the financial industries, guided by UB professors. Students also visit investment banks and other financial institutions, and usually complete externships to sharpen their practical skills. Social events and mentorship help students develop their career skills and provide many opportunities to network with the professional community.



PARTICIPANTS OF THE NEW YORK CITY PROGRAM IN FINANCE AND LAW ARE **3X MORE LIKELY** TO LAND A JOB IN NYC AND **2X MORE LIKELY** TO OBTAIN A JOB IN THE FINANCIAL FIELD.

GET INVOLVED



Student Government

- » Student Bar Association

Affinity Groups

- » Asian Law Students Association
- » Black Law Students Association
- » Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council
- » First-Generation Law Students Association
- » Jewish Law Students Association
- » Latin American Law Students Association
- » Law Students With Disabilities and Neurodivergencies
- » Native and Indigenous Law Students Association
- » OUTLaw
- » Parents and Law Students

Moot Court

- » Buffalo Moot Court Board
- » Jessup International Moot Court Board

Law Journals

The School of Law's wide array of scholarly law journals provides students with the opportunity to develop research and writing skills and make important contributions to legal scholarship.

- » *Buddhism, Law & Society*
- » *Buffalo Environmental Law Journal*
- » *Buffalo Human Rights Law Review*
- » *Buffalo Law Review*

Special Interest and Social Groups

- » Alternative Dispute Resolution Society
- » American Constitution Society for Law and Policy
- » Buffalo Environmental Law Society
- » Buffalo Health Law Society
- » Buffalo Public Interest Law Program
- » Buffalo Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- » Domestic Violence Task Force
- » Intellectual Property Law Society
- » International Law Students Association
- » Labor and Employment Law Society
- » Law and Business Association
- » Phi Alpha Delta—Alden Chapter
- » Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- » Student Wellness Society

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH ORGANIZATION](#)

Centers

- » The Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy
- » Buddhism Law and Society Center
- » Buffalo Criminal Law Center
- » Buffalo Human Rights Center
- » Center for the Advancement of Sport
- » Cross-Border Legal Studies Center
- » Entrepreneurship Law Center
- » Jaeckle Center for Law, Democracy and Government



Student Success

At UB School of Law, your success is our success. Our students enjoy unparalleled support throughout law school, making a rigorous academic journey—from your first day of class to your first professional position—a positive and productive experience.

STUDENT SUPPORT

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) provides a broad canopy of advising, support, engagement and resources for law students and the law school community. The OSA's goal is to form a community of belonging and support while promoting each student's academic achievement, professional development and resiliency.

Under the leadership of Professor Bernadette Gargano, vice dean for student affairs, the law school has always made caring for its students a priority. Now, the OSA has expanded, with two new assistant deans and a student life coordinator, with the goal of extending that support and making it seamless.

CHECK OUT THEIR EXPANDED SERVICES:

Academic Planning and Advising

With targeted programs and information on academic requirements, the OSA team guides students' progress through law school and is always available for individual advising.

Building a Positive and Diverse Community

Enhancing student experience outside the classroom, the OSA team works to build a positive community of belonging. For example, the Peer-to-Peer Advocate Program matches new students with upper-level students to foster structured and purposeful relationships. The law school's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and other university partners, are important allies in building an ever more inclusive environment.

Supporting Student Organizations and Events

The OSA team is the law school's liaison to the student government and student organizations. We help students create new organizations, navigate School of Law and university policies, and coordinate events large and small.

Promoting Students' Well-Being

Several important initiatives focus on equipping our students with tools and strategies to maintain the pillars of well-being, with topics including stress management, building connections, financial and career preparation, mindfulness and self-care. Our Fall Into Wellness and 12 Weeks of Wellness series run throughout the semester; Wellness Week focuses on stressors during final exam weeks.

Providing Individual Support

As a go-to resource, the OSA team is available to students who need advice, guidance, referrals, help in managing emergencies, or general support. We also collaborate with university and community partners to make resources, such as our in-house counselor, readily accessible.



"With this expansion, we have broadened what we offer, providing more service to our students, and making sure we always have more than one person available to respond to needs," —Bernadette Gargano

BECOME CAREER READY



Career Services Office: Inspiring Individuals from Orientation to Bar Admission, and Beyond

The Career Services Office (CSO) educates and empowers students, alumni and employers based on decades of diverse experience, along with genuine compassion and understanding of how to develop long-lasting employment relationships. The CSO takes a mindful approach to career development, collaborating with legal professionals to achieve unparalleled career outcomes for our students and our employers.

THE CSO IS A SOURCE FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING AND PURSUING SUMMER, ACADEMIC YEAR AND POST-GRADUATION OPPORTUNITIES.

Individual Career Counseling

Every student meets individually with a CSO career counselor at least once per semester and then as often as needed. Each job search is unique, and the CSO provides the highest-quality support by tailoring its services to each student.

Professional Development Programs

The CSO provides many programs to develop our students' professional identities, including lectures from experienced practitioners and new lawyers, career panels with alumni, and in-class career guidance, giving students the inside story about legal jobs across the country.

Mentor Programs

Every member of the first-year class is matched with one of more than 200 mentors who are practicing lawyers or judges, and the relationship grows throughout their law school career.



Summer Fellowship Funding

Through the vigorous fundraising of our student-run Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, as well as the support of alumni and friends, a variety of fellowships are available to law students who wish to advocate for justice in a typically unpaid summer internship.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FELLOWSHIPS](#)

OUR STUDENTS FIND JOBS IN ALL SECTORS BASED ON THEIR SKILLS AND CAREER GOALS. FROM PRIVATE PRACTICE TO GOVERNMENT WORK, THE CSO HELPS STUDENTS FIND THEIR PERFECT FIT.

Judicial Clerkships

Our experienced team of career services professionals includes counselors who have dedicated decades to learning the judicial clerkship process and practitioners who have appeared before judges seeking clerks. Our extensive faculty and alumni connections provide students with access to the best possible opportunities to gain clerkships.

Government and Public Interest Opportunities

As a public law school, our faculty and students highly value government and public interest work. Each year, a large percentage of our graduates—30 percent in the Class of 2022—are employed in public interest and government organizations, with several receiving prestigious fellowships from organizations like the New York State Excelsior Office and Immigrant Justice Corps.

Private Practice

Big Law to solo practice, Buffalo to New York City and beyond, our students are placed in desirable positions at a variety of law firms. From summer law clerk experiences that give a sneak peek into the real-life practice of law to postgraduate positions, the CSO team helps find the right fit for you.

In-House Counsel Opportunities

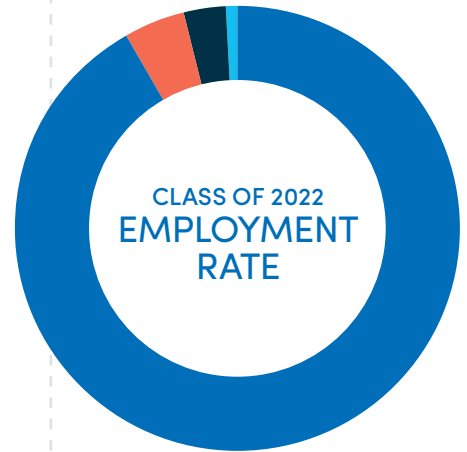
Our students participate in meaningful work with some of the largest employers nationwide, learning what it means to be in-house counsel in roles from corporate and transactional practice, to human resources and employment law, to risk management and litigation.

Law-Adjacent Positions

Not everyone who excels in law school wants to be a lawyer. The CSO understands that, and helps students who desire a non-traditional path to find the right work. UB School of Law teaches our students to think like lawyers, and that serves them in every walk of life. From non-profits to politics, we help our students find the right job—even if that job is not as a practicing lawyer.

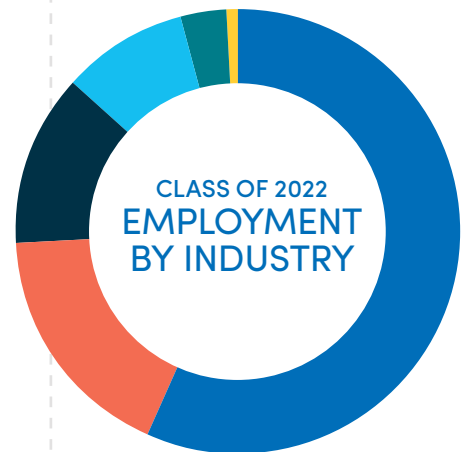
Student Interview Program

The CSO facilitates connections between law students and employers in both on- and off-campus interview programs. Each fall, over 50 employers choose our students to work with them.



- 90.2%** Employed*
- 4.5%** Seeking Employment
- 3%** Not Seeking Employment
- 0.7%** Pursued Further Graduate Studies

**84.9% employed in full-time, long-term positions requiring bar passage or JD advantage*



- 56.7%** Private Practice
- 17.5%** Public Interest
- 12.5%** Government
- 9.2%** Business/Industry
- 3.3%** Judicial Clerkships
- 0.8%** Education

MEET OUR STUDENTS

There's no such thing as a typical UB Law student. At Buffalo, people from all sorts of academic and personal backgrounds take the law school journey together—learning from each other in a rich, diverse environment. And many of our students come from careers in other fields. But one thing they all share is being a part of the close-knit, collegial community that's one of our school's greatest strengths.





Background

Deja is a native of Queens—New York City’s superior borough, in her unbiased opinion. She attended a small liberal arts college in New Rochelle, N.Y., before coming to UB Law. Here, Deja is very involved. She serves on the executive board of the Black Law Students Association, as editor in chief of the *Buffalo Human Rights Law Review*, and as a member of various clubs and organizations.

Why did you choose UB Law?

It’s affordable. I come from a single-parent household, and UB Law is one of the few law schools in the country that is affordable. I applied to various law schools, and even with substantial scholarships, the cost was more than it costs to attend UB.

What have been some of your favorite courses?

My favorite courses so far have been Antitrust with Professor Christine Bartholomew, Intellectual Property Law with Professor Amy Semet and 20th Century American Legal History with Professor Samantha Barbas. Professor Bartholomew’s Antitrust course is my favorite. I found the topic very interesting, and almost immediately I began “seeing antitrust everywhere.” The thing that made this course my favorite, beyond trying to figure out how Amazon and Apple are not constantly in FTC trouble, is how much Professor Bartholomew enjoyed teaching the course. With all three of these courses, you could tell that the professors enjoyed the subject matter and loved to answer questions.

What professional opportunities have you had at UB Law?

I was a student attorney in the Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic during the 2022–23 school year, and will be returning this fall as a senior associate. Through the



Deja Graham '24
(she/her)

clinic, I have been able to help so many and get real experience with the practice of law. I have been able to draft litigation documents, attend client meetings, and assist trans and nonbinary persons in the Buffalo area with their name and gender marker change. My work with the clinic has been very rewarding and provided a real-life experience. I can’t wait to continue it this year.

What has been your best UB Law experience?

My best experience has been with the friends I’ve made. The experience of law school is what you make of it. My experience at UB would not have been the same without the friends and community I have made here.

Background

Nicia grew up in Buffalo before heading to American University in Washington, D.C., where she received degrees in women's, gender and sexuality studies, and law and society, with a minor in education. Over the summer, Nicia worked as a judicial intern in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and as a student attorney for UB Law's Clinical Legal Education Program. During the upcoming academic year, she will be an associate editor for the *Buffalo Law Review*, a student attorney for the Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic, a DEI officer for OUTLaw and treasurer of the Latin American Law Students Association.

Why did you choose UB Law?

UB offers several dual degree options, and I will be able to graduate with both my JD and MSW in four years, combining my interests from both fields. Additionally, I was born and raised in Buffalo, and after leaving the state for my undergraduate education, I was excited to come back to my hometown. Law school is challenging, and having familial support was important to me.

What professional opportunities have you had at UB Law?

Even before I started classes, I attended the Diversity Career Fair, meeting with various legal employers and fellow law students. I've also attended numerous networking events throughout my first year (1L). Lastly, I was able to secure a judicial internship with Hon. Julio Fuentes in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit for my 1L summer.

What has been your best UB Law experience??

Submitting my last exam during the spring semester was a really rewarding experience, because I had just completed my 1L year and was really proud of what I had accomplished. On a silly note, on the last day of my LAWR class, my entire section surprised our LAWR professor by dressing up as him (bald cap and all).



Nicia Bottini Morales '25
(she/they)

What advice do you have for incoming law students?

Law school is hard for everyone, even if some of your classmates seem like they have it all figured out. You are all learning as you go. Go to office hours. Professors are more than happy to discuss any questions you have, and it's a great way to make connections! Don't be afraid to ask for help. Also, get into a routine early and stick to it. Time management is extremely important during law school.



Michael Barry '26
(he/him)

Background

Michael grew up on the shores of Lake Erie in Angola, N.Y. He attended Fordham University in New York City, where he completed a BS in chemistry and an MBA in finance. He has worked in a variety of roles in finance, and more recently as a paralegal and a tax preparer. He has lived in New York City and Memphis, Tenn., and traveled to Asia, Europe, Africa and South America. Buffalo is home for him, and it consistently offers diverse opportunities to grow and expand. This summer before law school began, he discovered his latest passion: sailing with a club on Buffalo's beautiful Outer Harbor.

Why did you choose UB Law?

I am a native Western New Yorker seeking a fulfilling career as an attorney. My mother was a registered nurse and my father was a career firefighter in Buffalo; my hope is to continue my family's tradition of service to our community. I trust that law school will provide me with the knowledge and skills I'll need to make positive impacts and meaningful contributions. UB Law checks all the boxes for me!

What motivated you to pursue a career in law?

My family endured a difficult and tragic time a few years ago when my mom was diagnosed with ALS, a fatal, incurable disease. The attorney we relied on for help guided us through many of the unfamiliar, and frustrating, practical and legal aspects of our situation. He did so with compassion, grace and skill. After Mom passed away he offered me a job as a paralegal, and the opportunity to support other families navigating challenges of their own.

What are you looking forward to most in law school?

I am so excited to be part of the UB Law Class of 2026! I'm looking forward to learning from (and with) the many talented students, faculty and staff.

What advice do you have for students preparing to apply to law school?

Talk up your legal aspirations! Talk to everyone—friends, classmates, colleagues, neighbors, family, even your little brother. Many people have some connection to law school, lawyers and/or the law in general, and may be happy to offer advice, perspective, support and encouragement.

Our City



BUFFALO IS THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN NEW YORK STATE



LOCATED ON THE U.S.-CANADA BORDER



AMONG THE TOP 10 MOST AFFORDABLE CITIES, *FORBES* MAGAZINE

FUN FACTS:

History Everywhere

Workers flocked here. Inventors thrived here. Tycoons got rich here. What are your plans?





UNDER 90 MINUTES BY AIR TO NEW YORK CITY, WASHINGTON, D.C., CHICAGO, BOSTON, AND PHILADELPHIA



THE ONLY LAW SCHOOL WITHIN A TWO-HOUR DRIVE OF BUFFALO



The Waterfront

The Waterfront – in Buffalo, “the lake effect” means four full seasons of waterfront festivals and cultural events.

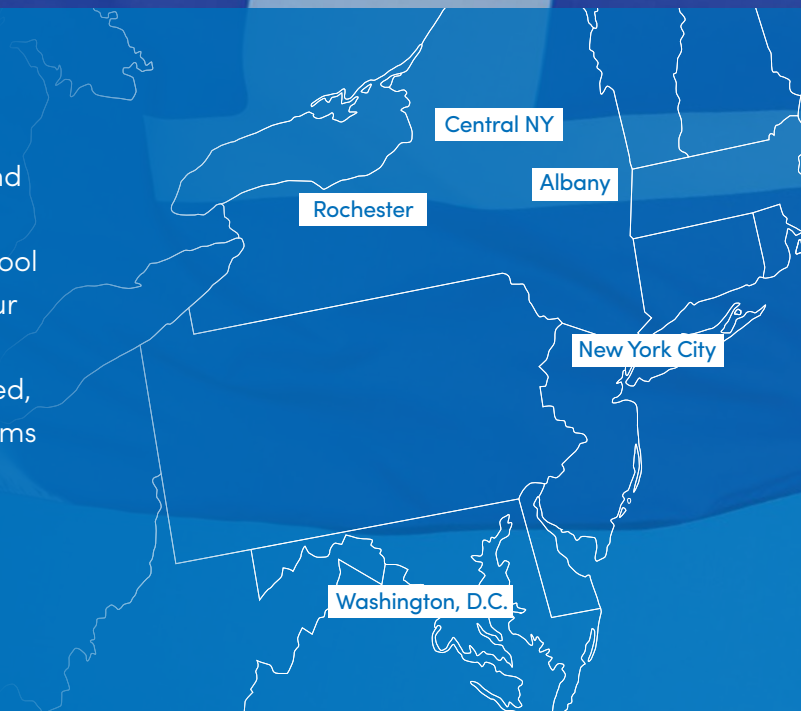



Bikes and more bikes

By commute or Slow Roll, cyclists rule 300+ miles of lanes, paths and frozen canals. (Yes, ice bikes are a thing here.)

Our Alumni Community

With alumni connections and newfound confidence, you're poised to be the best. Your connection with the UB School of Law doesn't end at graduation. Our alumni are fiercely loyal to their alma mater, and they want to stay connected, both to the law school and to new alums making their way in the legal world.





FIVE WAYS ALUMNI WILL HELP YOU LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

1

A community partnership

UB School of Law graduates make up the vast majority of attorneys in the surrounding county, and they have an active role in your law school experience. They teach skills classes, coach trial teams, and participate in career panels and at student events to connect you from the start to the Western New York legal community.

2

An extensive global network

Our alumni network extends around the world, with graduates who work at firms and agencies in Buffalo, Tokyo, New York City, Washington, D.C., and other major cities. You'll find a UB connection wherever you choose to begin your career.

3

Watch and learn

With easy access to the downtown courts and major law firms, you'll have plenty of opportunities to learn from the best. Many of our students obtain summer positions with our community partners.

4

Meet your match

Every law student is matched with an attorney who will guide you along the way as you prepare for your future as a legal professional. From what to wear at your first interview to what to expect at your first deposition, your mentor will answer the questions you might not ask in the classroom.

5

Guidance from the GOLD Group

Our Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Group takes a special interest in our newly minted alumni, helping you bridge the gap between school and practice. The GOLD Group organizes social, educational and networking events designed to give you every advantage as you enter your new profession.

MEET OUR ALUMNI

Your UB Law pride doesn't end at Commencement. Our alumni, over 13,000 strong, practice nationwide and across the world, and they're passionate about supporting our school and each other. That means a robust (and fun!) bunch of alumni chapters, as well as practical help in making the connections that lead to professional success.



Mike J.
Hecker '09

Background

Partner and Environmental Practice Leader at Hodgson Russ LLP in Buffalo; President of the UB Law Alumni Association

Why did you choose UB Law?

The depth of the faculty and the value of the education were two principal considerations. But, perhaps the most important factor was the camaraderie that I witnessed amongst the students when I visited the campus. The combination of these three things really stuck out to me.

What was your best learning experience from UB Law?

I really enjoyed a number of the second- and third-year classes offered in concert with the finance transactions concentration. Those courses focused on providing real practice-based learning opportunities that helped prepare me for my current career.

How have you used what you've learned in law school?

While there are clearly a number of tangible legal skills that I could reference, I think one of the most important things was developing a network. UB Law has a fantastic community, whether faculty, students, alumni or other supporters. I benefited early on from becoming an active participant in that community and continue to build strong relationships through it to this day.



Henry A.
Zomerfeld '14
(he/him)

Background

Senior Associate at Hodgson Russ LLP in Buffalo and President of the UB Law GOLD Group

What was your best learning experience from UB Law?

Participating in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition was by far the best learning experience during my time at UB Law. I spent two years on the competition team. I learned a lot about international law. More importantly, I learned vital skills about oral and written advocacy that I now use in practice as a litigator. Arguing for Jessup in Chicago and Washington, D.C., before experienced professionals from around the world is something I will never forget.



**Sarah
Washington '14**
(she/her)

Background

Senior Attorney at National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp. in Buffalo and inaugural chair of the company's Ethnically Diverse Group of Employees (EDGE) Employee Resource Group

Why did you choose UB Law?

I chose UB Law for several reasons. The first was that UB Law has a phenomenal reputation not only in New York State, but internationally as well. The second was that as a non-traditional student with a young child at home, I had the opportunity to pursue my legal career aspirations but also stay in Western New York, where I

had family support to help me care for my daughter. Lastly, I choose UB Law because of the cost of attendance. I wanted to pursue a legal degree without taking on a lot of debt, and UB Law made that possible.

What were the most useful skills you developed in law school?

I enjoyed the practical hands-on classes and experiences such as trial team, moot court competitions, my practicum experience with the civil courts, and my federal court externship with the late Hon. Hugh B. Scott. All of those experiences allowed me to be confident as a young litigator in the courtroom. My Legal Analysis, Writing and Research courses during my first and second years and working as a writing fellow to Dean Bernadette Gargano during my third year also equipped me with the skills I needed as a young attorney.

How have you used what you've learned in law school?

Although I am no longer a litigator, the skills I learned during law school and in my early years of practice have allowed me to have a unique viewpoint when dealing with outside counsel now as in-house counsel. I use my writing and analysis skills daily when reviewing contracts, drafting contracts or providing business departments with a legal recommendation. Additionally, the critical thinking and analytical skills I developed during law school provided me with the foundation to make sound legal determinations and to fully analyze a situation, which is something I do daily now as in-house counsel.

How have you used what you've learned in law school?

The intellectual analysis and reasoning, and persuasive advocacy (written and oral), are skills I use every day. Something even simpler, but perhaps taken for granted, is being courteous. Especially here in Buffalo, which is a tight-knit legal community where so many know each other, your reputation is most important. Opposing counsel, judges and clients will learn of your standing in the legal community.

What is the best thing about practicing law?

I enjoy the intellectual rigor and the strategy of litigation. I knew for years, even before college, that I wanted to litigate. I don't regret it for a second. Using my abilities as an attorney to help clients navigate complicated legal issues and accomplish their goals is very rewarding.



You Belong Here

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applying for admission can be seamless with the right tools and some advance planning. Start with this helpful checklist and be sure to give yourself plenty of time to prepare your strongest application.



- » Create a free LSAC account at LSAC.org.
- » Register and prepare for the LSAT or GRE.
- » Subscribe to LSAC's Credential Assembly Service (CAS).
- » Send official transcript(s) to LSAC.
- » Secure one to four letters of recommendation (academic and/or professional).
- » Review your Academic Summary Report for errors/inconsistencies.
- » Access our Application for Admission through your LSAC.org account.
- » Prepare and upload required attachments (e.g. personal statement, resume).

Learn more about the law school admissions process by scheduling a meeting with an admissions team member. For information on our Info Sessions and Open House dates, [click here](#).

law-admissions@buffalo.edu | 716-645-2907

UB School of Law is committed to a non-discriminatory admission policy and philosophy. We welcome applications from all persons, without regard to age, gender, race, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, military status or disability.

LSAT Prep

The School of Law offers virtual and in-person LSAT Prep Workshop and Practice Test events to help prospective applicants achieve the best LSAT score possible. Our LSAT prep events include instruction with Erin Decker '16, who earned a perfect LSAT score of 180.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



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