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President's Message

Douglas S. Coppola

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Douglas S. Coppola

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doug Coppola". The signature is fluid and cursive.

It is with much excitement and anxiety that I take over the reins as this year's president, as it is a great challenge to equal, much less exceed, the many accomplishments of your Law Alumni Association during the past year. These include record attendance at the 1986 Convocation and our Annual Dinner. Alumni membership has never been greater and financial contributions are at an all time high.

We welcome new board members: Nelson Cosgrove, Vincent M. Gaughan, Carol White Gibson, Arthur Russ, Jr., Elaine Salvo, Michael Swart, and Oliver Young. We extend a special "thank you" to those members of the board of directors who have completed their terms of service this year: J. Glenn Davis, Bernard B. Freedman, Maryann S. Freedman, Sue S. Gardner, Carl A. Green, Leslie M. Greenbaum, and Peter J. Martin.

Our Association has benefited from the many talents of our executive director, Ilene

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DOUGLAS S. COPPOLA

Fleischmann, who, together with your board of directors will focus on three key areas: Association activities and programs; planning for our 100th anniversary celebration in 1987; and the establishment of alumni chapters in other metropolitan areas.

Your board of directors is already hard at work in planning the year's activities. Dates have been selected for the Convocation — March 7, 1987 — and the Annual Dinner — May 8, 1987 — and committees are hard at work planning the details of these major events. Please don't forget to mark your calendars.

Under the able chairmanship of Peggy Lillis-Snajczuk, our Centennial Steering Committee is hard at work planning the Law School's 100th anniversary celebration, which will be kicked off in the fall of 1987. Peggy and her committee worked in cooperation with the Erie County Bar Association on a joint centennial exhibit. On the unprecedented occasion of the New York State Bar Association's first General Meeting held in Buffalo, the Alumni Association sponsored a cocktail reception on Sept. 26 at the Hyatt Regency. It certainly was a pleasure to see many of our out-of-town alumni who were in Buffalo for this event. During this time, our alumni had occasion to view our centennial exhibit, a photographic display that depicts the rich history of both our Law School and the Erie County Bar Association. Peggy is to be congratulated for having secured the necessary funding to make this exhibit possible. We were fortunate to receive grants from area foundations to supplement the dollars provided by the Bar Association and the Law Alumni Association.

It will again be the goal of our Association to assist the Law School in raising critically needed funds. Thanks to the continuing efforts of Associate Dean Alan S. Carrel, each year has seen greater and greater results. I cannot overstate that much more needs to be done to enrich the pro-

grams at the Law School in ways that can't be provided by a publically funded university system. Our contributions assist the Law School in curriculum development, programming, student activities and faculty research. Alumni gifts also help meet administrative needs, including the salary of our executive director and publication costs of the UB Law Forum.

Lastly, the officers and board of directors thank Dean Jack Schlegel for his assistance and support this past year and welcome Dean Wade Newhouse with whom we have already established a strong working relationship. Dean Newhouse is intent on bringing the Law School and alumni closer together and in correcting any misconceptions about the School. There exists today a warm chemistry and balance between a well-regarded legal faculty and a student population from a true cross-section of backgrounds and interests from all over the state and outside the state. UB Law School remains one of the most successful law schools in the country in job placement after graduation. In the face of continued competition for quality students, our school has nonetheless maintained consistently high academic standards and remains one of the most sought after state university law schools by top undergraduate students today. None of this would be possible if UB did not maintain an emphasis on traditional legal courses while still presenting law students the opportunity to examine how law functions in society, what the laws might be in the future and how legal, political and social change may ultimately affect our clients in the years to come.

Your Association depends upon alumni becoming members and continuing to support Association activities which enhance the growing national reputation of our Law School. More than just your dollars, the Association is in need of your input and support. We welcome your suggestions. ■