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## Message from the Dean

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Dean David B. Filvaroff

## Message from the Dean

This has been a challenging year for the School. A great deal of time and energy has been devoted to grappling with the consequences of the State's financial problems. The University and the Law School have suffered severe budget cuts. In short, the impact of reduced support from the State is real and immediate and the consequences to the School have been serious. At the same time, we are somewhat relieved because the cuts were not as severe as originally projected: we will continue to offer a first-class legal education to our students and, overall, the School remains strong.

We did, however, lose both faculty positions and funding. Our response to the reductions was designed to minimize the long-range impact on the School. We have protected our core academic program. We will maintain our central course offerings, including Trial Technique and New York Practice, and we have preserved our important Legal Methods Program.

It was not necessary to release any of our full-time faculty, though the freedom to hire adjunct faculty, whose offerings enrich our curriculum, has been limited. Unhappily, we were required to make some very difficult choices. For example, we have had to cancel two of our clinical offerings — the Small Business Counseling Clinic and the Immigration Law Clinic. Though these have been innovative and exciting additions to our curriculum and provide immediate practical experience to our students, clinics are also the most expensive segment of our

program on a per pupil basis. Given the very low student-teacher ratio required in such classes, it was necessary to trim our clinics to maintain important larger class offerings.

In addition, we must reduce the amount of support provided to curricular-related student activities. The valuable Moot Court program, for example, will suffer and our students will not be able to travel to as many regional and national competitions as would otherwise be appropriate and desirable. There also will be limitations on our important public interest program. The law library's ability to maintain its outstanding collection — to purchase books and other source materials — is lessened and staffing problems increased, all with obvious negative consequences for students, faculty and the many practitioners who rely on its resources.

Our faculty and staff also bear a significant part of the burden. It is quite clear that there will be no salary increases in the coming year. In addition, funding in support of faculty scholarship, research assistance and travel to important conferences and meetings are reduced. While our faculty and staff fully understand the need for these measures and have responded with good grace, these necessary steps will significantly impair our ability to attract and retain people of the highest quality. They will also reduce our presence at the national level.

Of course, this is not a very happy picture. But a fair and balanced view is essential. The fundamental strength of the School has been preserved. The

quality of students continues to rise. We receive seven to eight applications for every space in the entering class. Our faculty is very strong and we have made excellent appointments at the junior level. We are pleased to welcome back to the School Professor Tom Headrick, who spent part of his sabbatical doing research in Australia. Virginia Leary is rejoining us after a period of time in Europe furthering her work in the international arena. The School benefitted during the past academic year from the presence of visiting faculty from Polish and Hungarian law schools.

Of course, we shall miss Professor Marjorie Girth who is leaving in January to become dean of Georgia State University Law School in Atlanta. Similarly indicative of the nationwide recognition of the quality of our faculty are Professor James Atleson's invitation to visit at Georgetown Law School this fall and Professor Victor Thuronyi's leave to work as counsel to the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. Professor Guyora Binder will visit at Stanford and Professor Errol Meidinger at Syracuse. Our regret at the announcement of Professor Lou Del Cotto's retirement as a full-time faculty member is tempered by the fact that he has agreed to continue teaching on a half-time basis. Lou's contributions as a teacher, a scholar and a colleague are substantial, and we are very pleased he will remain as a valuable presence in O'Brian Hall.

The School is benefitting from a sizable Ford Foundation grant designed to strengthen our International Law program and our faculty have been

## Dean Appoints Advisory Council

quite successful in winning funding for significant research and scholarship. We look forward to the newly-formed Dean's Council as an added source of organizational strength for the School, supplementing the important role played by our Alumni Association.

The budget cuts have hurt us, of course, but we can take some satisfaction in noting that the adverse consequences were not as great as they might have been. Indeed, damage to the School would have been much more serious were it not for the strong support which you, our alumni, have shown. Our annual fund drive set another record last year. For this, you have our great and sincere thanks. Alumni giving is an essential resource for us as it is for every public law school. No state law school of which I am aware could survive without substantial private giving.

Your past help has been key to the growth in the quality and national reputation of our School. The coming year will be an especially difficult one. Early restoration of the reductions in our state budget is highly unlikely. And further cuts remain a realistic possibility. Increased private help is necessary simply to maintain our stability.

Of course, we recognize that the impact of the economic downturn has not been limited to State government or public education. A number of those in our profession have also been hurt. At the same time, it seems important that you be made aware both of the present position of the School and the extent to which your continued generous support is truly critical. ■

**T**wenty-three prominent alumni and friends of the Law School have been named to a new Dean's Advisory Council. The group will review issues affecting the Law School and provide advice and counsel to the dean.

"The Council is composed of outstanding judges and lawyers who have demonstrated an interest in helping us to accomplish our goals," said Dean Filvaroff. "They have indicated a willingness to give of their time, to assist on special projects, to provide professional feedback and to serve as a sounding board for new or expanded programs. We are deeply appreciative of their commitment."

Membership of the council reflects both the growing national scope of the school and the diversity of its alumni. Because the Alumni Association has been such a vital force in the life of the Law School, one of the seats on the council is reserved especially for the current president. The substantial impact of women and minorities on the profession is also recognized in the selection of the members.

Council members will serve for a term of three years. Gerald S. Lippes '64, of Lippes, Kaminsky, Silverstein, Mathias & Wexler, will serve as the first chair of the new group.



*Gerald S. Lippes*

Other Advisory Council members are: Frederick G. Attea, Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber; Thomas R. Beecher, Jr. '59, Beecher Securities Corp.; Hilary P. Bradford '53, Cohen, Swados, Wright, Hanifin, Bradford & Brett; Anthony J. Colucci Jr. '58, Block & Colucci, P.C.; J. Mason Davis '59, Sirote & Permutt, P.C., Birmingham, Ala.; Donald S. Day, Saperston & Day;

Hon. M. Dolores Denman '65, New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Dept.; Andrew Feldman '68, Damon & Morey; Kenneth B. Forrest '76, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, New York City; Maryann Saccomando Freedman '58, Lavin & Kleiman; Paul L. Friedman '68, White & Case, Washington, D.C.;

Hon. Willard A. Genrich '38, state Board of Regents and Genrich Builders; Hon. Samuel L. Green '67, New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Dept.; Richard E. Heath, Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear; Sheldon Hurwitz '53, Hurwitz & Fine; M. Robert Koren '44, Koren, Bertel & Hoey;

Hon. Jacqueline Koshian '59, New York Supreme Court, Eighth Judicial District; Jean C. Powers '79, Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel, and president of the UB Law Alumni Association; Robert C. Schaus '53, Schaus & Schaus; William Shapiro, Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel;

Hon. Michael A. Telesca '55, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York, Rochester; Eugene C. Tenney '54, Law Office of Eugene C. Tenney; and Michael R. Wolford '68, Nixon, Hargrave, Devans & Doyle, Rochester. ■