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### Message From the Presidents

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# Alumni Association

## Message from the President



The Board of Directors of the Law Alumni Association has made a significant investment of professional time and money this year to build on the accomplishments of recent boards under the guidance of past presidents **Samuel Shapiro** and the **Hon. Barbara Howe**. It is our feeling that now is the right time for increased support of the UB Law School by its graduates. **Dean Nils Olsen**, who was selected by a search committee headed by Judge Howe, has shown open-mindedness to many suggestions made by both our established and many new Law Alumni members. Dean Olsen has put to good use the \$1.8 million secured through the efforts of **Sam Shapiro** and **Erin Peradotto**. Shortly, Dean Olsen will announce publicly the plans drawn by **Professor George Kannar** for the reconstruction of John Lord O'Brien Hall, increasing available classrooms and refurbishing the Moot Court room, so that courtroom proceedings may be conducted there again. The reconstructed student lounge at O'Brien Hall already is a reality, and law students have shown their appreciation by caring well for their new space. The dean has promised that the student lounge will be followed by new and comfortable space for Law School alumni as part of the reconstruction effort.

Much of the focus of the board has been on developing ways in which to harness the experience of our members and to make it more available to the law students. We show our appreciation for our adjunct faculty members, who provide so much needed training to the students, for a nominal stipend, in an annual reception that will be held this year in March.

**Diane Bosse's** Mentoring Committee has worked with **Judge Kevin Dillon**, **Judge Michael Battle** and GOLD Group board member **Jim Gerlach** to expand the talent pool available for the four annual Moot Court competitions. Because of the creation and publication of a color brochure prepared by the Mentoring Committee, we have generated interest in the Moot Court competitions from prominent jurists across the state. With the consent of the law students and Dean Olsen, the Law Alumni Association has taken over the solicitation and administration of judges for the preliminary rounds of Moot Court competitions and arranged for CLE credit. As a result, the Moot Court experience is now more effective and rewarding for those who take the time to judge or participate in the competitions.

We continue to participate in the orientation for new students at the Law School in September. This year, the orientation produced many requests by law students for tours of the downtown Buffalo courts. **Magistrate Judge Leslie G. Foschio**, **Lynn Clarke** and **Associate Dean Melinda Saran** coordinated the efforts of Law Alumni members to benefit the students.

Our executive director, **Ilene Fleischmann**, devoted a considerable amount of her time this year working with the Law School on the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first women graduates of the Law School. Following the celebration, we honored **Erma Hallett Jaeckle** with the Jaeckle Award at the luncheon following the 24th annual convocation.

**President-elect Patrick O'Reilly** moderated the CLE-approved program at the Convocation, which included presentations by **Terrence M. Connors, Hon. Patrick H. NeMoyer, Jeffrey A. Spencer, Rosalie Stoll Bailey, Grace Marie Ange and Stephen E. Barnes.**

Ilene will be devoting additional time this year to publishing the *Forum* magazine twice each year, rather than once. The increased frequency of publication was a direct result of suggestions from our Law Alumni members. The Law Alumni Association contributed \$20,000 for increased publications.

We have endeavored to expand the participation and recognition of our members geographically. Our various awards committees have recognized the contributions of graduates who reside in Buffalo, New York City and Rochester in New York State, and Washington, D.C., and Florida. We invited **Michael Wolford** to serve on our board from Rochester. Mike has attended board meetings and worked with our Rochester members to reinvigorate the organization in Rochester and has held a series of well-attended events. Those attending our New York City luncheon this year were fortunate to hear remarks by both our dean and New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani. **Larry Schwach** and I will be chairing the committee for our Annual Dinner on May 3, 2000, at the Hyatt Regency, in Buffalo.

**Hon. Denise O'Donnell**, the U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York, is chairing the new Oral History Committee, which the board created for the purpose of updating the written history of the Law School and preserving, in audio recordings, the remembrances and observations of those who have contributed to the development of the Law School. In designing the project Denise has worked with committee members to borrow from a similar effort at Columbia University, and has worked with Professor Michael Frisch, from the Department of American Studies at the University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences. We are accepting suggestions for interview candidates, and interviews are moving forward. Many of our board members will be doing the interviews. If you would like to contribute time or money to the effort, please let us know.

**Lynn Clarke's Membership Committee** has listened carefully to the many suggestions and constructive criticisms of the Law School offered by our members, particularly our newer members. Board members have followed-up on each concern and responded to every member. **Pat O'Reilly** and I look forward to hearing your point of view, and ask that you consider becoming more involved in your Law Alumni Association. The membership renewal application is on the back page. ■

**Kenneth A. Manning**  
*President*  
*UB Law Alumni Association*

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