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"Thank You Very Much"

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Holden Olsen

“Thank you very much”

— Nils Olsen

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I can't thank our wonderful alumni and friends enough for your extraordinary support. In 1995, when the New Curriculum was first envisioned, we believed a state-of-the-art program together with an upgraded facility could attract the best faculty and students. We also realized that shrinking state budgets would not provide the level of funding needed to ensure excellence. Our loyal donors have provided those critical supplemental dollars in ample measure. Our Annual Fund has grown to an unprecedented \$680,000 this past year alone. Simultaneously, the Campaign for UB Law raised over \$12 million in support as part of the university-wide “Generation to Generation” campaign. These remarkable achievements represent a strong vote of confidence in our innovative academic program from those closest to us. With our dynamic campaign chair Terry Connors on the cover, this issue of *UB Law Forum* features a lead article on the successful completion of the campaign, which surpassed our goal.

Also included in this issue are reports highlighting the rich array of Law School programs and activities, many of which are made possible through alumni support. Alumni are mentors for our law students, teach courses and skills, and serve as judges for our trial programs, among other contributions of time and expertise.

I am especially grateful to all of the judges who have brought trials and judi-

cial proceedings to the Law School's new Francis M. Letro Courtroom. Our beautifully designed, Mission-style courtroom has been utilized by some of our most distinguished alumni and area jurists. I am particularly appreciative to Federal Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott and State Supreme Court Justice Ralph Boniello, who presided over jury trials in the Law School. Both judges said they were very pleased with the venue and the hospitality extended to them. I also want to thank State Supreme Court Justices Vincent E. Doyle Jr., who has located his Erie County chambers within the Law School, and Barbara Howe, who conducted Article 81 proceedings in the Letro Courtroom. Our students were able to observe the proceedings – the process by which guardians are appointed for allegedly incapacitated persons. These proceedings dovetailed nicely with a course taught by UB Law Professor Ken Joyce, who helped draft the original statute when he was executive director of the Law Revision Commission. This kind of educational experience is possible only because of our new courtroom.

We look forward to building on our success and continuing to benefit from the active engagement of our alumni in the life of the Law School.

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