

2024


# UB LAW *f*ORUM

The Magazine of the University at Buffalo School of Law | The State University of New York

## UB LAW IMPACT

*Shaping our future  
through scholarship,  
advocacy, policy  
and service*



 University at Buffalo  
School of Law

## A MESSAGE FROM DEAN S. TODD BROWN



Dean S. Todd Brown  
21st dean of the law school

**87.41%** OF THE CLASS OF 2024  
PASSED THE JULY 2024 NEW YORK STATE  
BAR EXAM ON THEIR FIRST ATTEMPT

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**92.99%** OF THE CLASS OF 2023  
OBTAINED FULL-TIME LEGAL EMPLOYMENT,  
AND EVERY GRADUATE WHO SOUGHT  
FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT ACHIEVED IT

Dear Friends,

Many people pursue a law degree because they hope to make a difference—for the clients they will eventually represent, in their communities and the world around them, and in their personal lives and those of the family members they care for and support. Legal education is a pathway to opportunity and impact.

That is especially true at the State of New York's law school, where access to education is central to our mission and where every member of our law school community—students, faculty, staff and alumni—strives to do work that has meaning and effect. Looking back at this past year, I've witnessed numerous examples of how our community works together in meaningful ways to yield undeniably impressive results.

That includes our new Rally the Pass Program, a community effort to prepare our graduates for the New York State bar exam. In its inaugural year, the program helped yield the highest first-time bar pass rate in our recorded history.

We saw similar successes stemming from our growing partnerships with law firms and other employers in Western New York and beyond. In the past two years, those relationships have propelled us to some of our most impressive placement rates ever.

At the same time, our prolific faculty have produced research and scholarship on cutting-edge topics, from artificial intelligence to land reform to copyright protection for Native American legal traditions. Our clinics continue to serve access to justice needs, confronting issues such as fair housing, domestic violence, immigration and so much more. And our alumni and friends helped us surpass our goals in the university's largest fundraising campaign in UB and SUNY history. Thank you!

We've had an incredible year and I am very proud of all we have accomplished together, much of which is highlighted in this issue. I hope you enjoy learning more about the many ways our law school community has impact and the many people who are instrumental to our success.

Wishing you a healthy and happy new year!

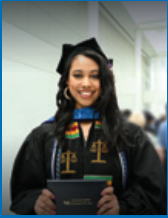
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Todd Brown'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**S. Todd Brown**  
Dean and Professor of Law

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The Magazine of the University at Buffalo School of Law The State University of New York

**ON THE COVER**

Ariyana DeWitz, Class of 2024



*“The law school gave me opportunity. With that opportunity, I have been able to realize my dreams. I*

*plan to use my education and my position in the legal community to lift as I climb, just as others have done for me.”*

Photo by Nancy Parisi

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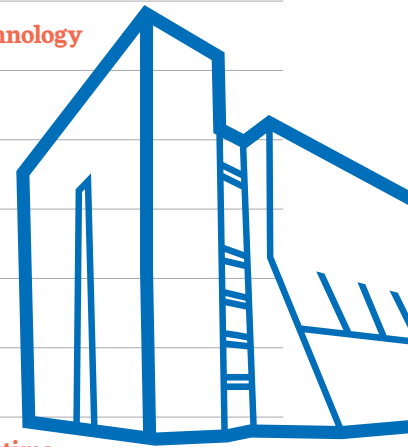
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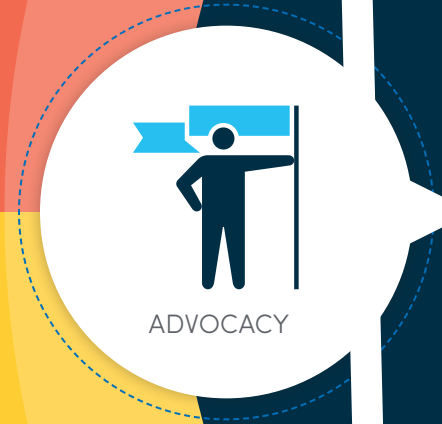


# A WORLD OF IMPACT

**N**o one knows the influence of a UB School of Law education better than our students—and those they go on to serve as graduates of our law school. The tools and inspiration of a legal education pay dividends in the lives of many.

In this issue of the *UB Law Forum*, we celebrate how the law school and its students, alumni, faculty and staff create positive change. They bring their skills and passion to bear through a variety of channels: scholarship and research that engages cutting-edge legal topics; advocating for the public on issues that affect their lives; advancing important public policy and legislation; and providing practical service that responds to human needs locally and globally.

Read on for a sampling of the many ways the law school is leveraging its impact for societal good.







SCHOLARSHIP



POLICY



SERVICE

Associate Professor Mekonnen Ayano



SCHOLARSHIP

## Challenging the effect of land reform

“One cannot overstate the importance of land in rural economies,” writes **Associate Professor Mekonnen Ayano** of his native

Ethiopia. “Across the whole of sub-Saharan Africa ... whether one can eat or not may depend on whether one has a plot of land to cultivate.”

And top-down strategies to develop the African nation’s economy, he says, imperil the delicate balance that has kept small farmers able to provide for their families—as well as maintain a people’s way of life.

**“Life does not have meaning if you don’t have community,”** Ayano says.

**“There is also culture. Culture is symbols, rituals; those are also linked to land. If you isolate people from land, one of the things that disappears is culture.”**

Ayano is wielding his expertise in land use law to push back against reforms in Ethiopia, some of them advanced by international development organizations, that privatize land rights in the service of economic progress. What has been presented as reform, he argues, may increase tensions between ethnic and economic groups, and make it easier for rich speculators to buy out family farms in a way that undermines community stability.

His recent paper, published in the academic journal *Law & Social Inquiry*, is a reminder that good intentions don’t necessarily produce the intended results. Reforms meant to allow landholders to buy and sell their land free of government restriction, he says, may in practice make small farmers more vulnerable to predatory speculators. Further, he says, such efforts put too much faith in formal law at the expense of the handshake agreements that have allowed landholders to buy and sell for decades in a kind of shadow market, using such mechanisms as gifts, bequests, loans and leases.

Ayano brings to the issue both careful study of the laws of land reform—his doctoral dissertation at Harvard Law School examined

similar issues of agrarian law in Ethiopia—and the gravitas of his deep connection with his home country. Not long after receiving his bachelor of laws from Addis Ababa University, he served on the trial bench of the Supreme Court of Oromia, a vast, mostly rural and agrarian district of central Ethiopia.

As he weighs in on land reform, Ayano knows that the stakes are high. Conflicting claims over land by various ethnic groups have fomented war and violence in the country, especially in rural areas.

“Reformers seem to lack humility,” he says. “They seem to overplay the idea that we can fix the problem. But one problem leads to another. You fix one problem, then find a bigger problem. It can be a process of trying to catch up with our problems without actually addressing them.”

## Probing the promise, and implications, of technology

**Professor Mark Bartholomew, vice dean for research and faculty development**, is thinking, among other things, about the living dead.

Deceased celebrities, that is, and the legal issues that arise when “anyone can be reanimated and made to behave in a manner indistinguishable from their living presence.” At a time when newly available technology can produce a convincing version of long-deceased luminaries, reviving them to appear in new movies, sing new songs and market modern consumer goods, Bartholomew has proposed “A Right to Be Left Dead” commensurate with the Supreme Court’s finding of a “right to be left alone.”

His paper of that title, appearing in the *California Law Review*, suggests that narrowly construed protections for such a right would be good for society. But they need to be narrow—longstanding privacy and property protections give the dead fewer rights than the living, and this understanding should be part of any new safeguards against digital necromancy.

It’s the latest influential thinking from the law school’s resident specialist in the ways new technologies, including artificial intelligence, are reshaping intellectual property law. A frequent presence in the media and at leading conferences in the field, Bartholomew has been a prolific voice in this emerging area of law and policy.



For example, in his most recent book, *Intellectual Property and the Brain* (Cambridge University Press), Bartholomew suggests that the tools of neuroscience—such as MRI imaging and EEG readings—can bring new clarity to the terms of the legal tests that apply in IP disputes.

**“Practitioners should be aware of what neuroscience is doing to alter longstanding beliefs about creativity, aesthetic appreciation and consumer capabilities—all questions at the heart of intellectual property law,”** he says. “This knowledge can help them advocate for changes to assist their clients while simultaneously pushing the law toward a more accurate assessment of human behavior.”

And in an article recently published in the *Trademark Reporter*, Bartholomew and his co-authors presented “a new addition to the trademark litigator’s tool kit,” using neuroscientific techniques to measure how much consumers are confused by similar trademarks—the linchpin to a claim of trademark infringement.

Most recently, Bartholomew has written about the First Amendment implications of a Supreme Court decision involving pop

artist Andy Warhol’s appropriation of a copyrighted photograph of the musical artist Prince. Both copyright law and publicity rights law immunize appropriations that are “transformative,” and the Warhol case defined that term more narrowly than in the past. His article argues that celebrity has a different role in public discourse than the works of art and music governed by copyright, leading to the conclusion that the transformativeness standard should be developed independently in the separate legal terrain of publicity rights.

Technology isn’t invariably good for the law. In a piece forthcoming in the *Houston Law Review*, Bartholomew raises a cautionary note about using neurological insights to understand consumer behavior. What’s needed, he says, is “a considered balance of trademark law’s descriptive aspects with its prescriptive ones”—and a healthy humility when faced with the complexities of the brain and human behavior.

“I’ve always been fascinated by psychology,” he says. “And psychology naturally connects with law. In general, my scholarship investigates how new technologies shake up existing legal assumptions and categories.”



Professor Mark Bartholomew serves as the law school's vice dean for research and faculty development.





## Empowering the consumer

**Professor Tanya Monestier** has taken on some of the biggest economic interests in the nation. Her work sheds light on misleading or unnecessarily complicated industry practices, tilting the scales toward fairness and transparency for the consumer.

She has raised troubling questions about Amazon, for one. In a scathing article in the *Villanova Law Review*, Monestier called out the retail giant for a practice called commingling—“the same goods from different sellers are stored together and then sold interchangeably,” she writes. “The theory is great, as long as these goods are truly interchangeable. All it takes, however, is for some bad actors to co-opt the commingled supply chain and those goods are no longer interchangeable.

“Some goods are real. Some are fake. Some are junk. Some are dangerous. When you order something on Amazon, you don’t know what you are going to get.”

Most recently, Monestier has raised serious objections to the billion-dollar settlement of a class-action lawsuit against the National Association of Realtors (NAR). Under the settlement, NAR and other defendants agreed to pay damages to home sellers who say the agents’ commission structure violated antitrust rules. The association further agreed to changes in how those commissions—which forced selling agents to advertise compensation for buyer’s agents in their listings—are handled.

But Monestier’s 136-page formal objection to a U.S. District Court judge’s approval of the settlement argues that the complainants will get a pittance in awards, and that agents can easily skirt the proposed changes in the commission structure, leaving home sellers to pay inflated commissions. She also objects to the massive attorneys’ fees in the years-long case.

“The settlement makes sense—but only on paper,” she writes. “It is an example of something concocted by lawyers without a full appreciation of how this would play

out in the real world. In the real world, the implementation of the settlement has been a disaster.”

Monestier has done a lot to educate homeowners on the practices surrounding the sale of what is often an individual’s biggest asset. After the California Association of Realtors (CAR) revised its standard forms in response to the class-action lawsuit, she found that the revisions were full of complicated and inconsistent language, incomprehensible to the average home seller. Monestier compiled her own model buyer representation agreement as an alternative.

Shortly after the release of her critique, the U.S. Department of Justice launched an inquiry into the California forms. CAR then released a new version of the listing agreement that implemented many of the changes which Monestier suggested.

“I do this sort of work because I want to help people,” she says. **“You shouldn’t need a law degree to understand basic contracts and transactions. Industry players have made things way too complicated—and in doing so, have completely disempowered the consumer. I hope to put some of the power back in their hands.”**



Professor Tanya Monestier

SCAN HERE TO READ MONESTIER'S RECENT REPORTS AND FORMAL OBJECTIONS. →



## Doing Justice, “InDeed”

If you own a home, your deed is a detailed source of information about your property’s past. But it might include an unwelcome element: racially discriminatory language about who can own or occupy the property.

Student attorneys in the law school’s **Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic** have been conducting original historical research into the use of racially restrictive covenants in the deeds of many Buffalo-area homes. While the provisions can’t be enforced, they represent a troubling persistence of legally sanctioned racism.

“The use of these covenants has had widespread implications for our society,” says **Associate Professor Heather Abraham**, the clinic’s director. “It is one of the ways that property law has been used to separate people, and those patterns have calcified. We see the consequences on our neighborhoods today—they’re fairly easy to trace.

**“Courts have recognized that there’s unique and irreparable damage when someone encounters written or published evidence that another person seeks to deny them housing because of their race or ethnicity.”**

Clinic students **Chris Fynn ’25** and **Khalia Muir ’26** are working to bring public attention to these deed covenants. They have conducted original historical research at the Buffalo History Museum’s Research Library, which maintains a repository of copies of historic deeds.

The racial covenants typically specify that “no person of any race other than the Caucasian race shall use or occupy any building” on the property, with an exception carved out for “domestic workers.” Such language seems like a remnant from the Civil War era, but the students say many restrictions were written in the mid-20th century.

“Even though it’s not enforceable, we think it’s still important to highlight these covenants,” says Muir, a second-year law student. “As a society, we are working toward moving past those ideas, and we would not want the remnants or physical embodiments of such dark beliefs and outlooks to still be on the books.”

Fynn, a 2-year JD student, points out that the practice was especially evident in deeds for houses in Buffalo’s suburbs—part of a string of historical practices, including real estate



Associate Professor and Director of the Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic Heather Abraham with student attorneys Khalia Muir ’26 and Chris Fynn ’25.

redlining, that contributed to an acute degree of racial segregation in Western New York that continues today.

The New York State Legislature is considering a bill that would require deeds to be amended to remove discriminatory language before a property is sold. Michigan has adopted a similar law. As a next stage of their research, students are evaluating the language of the bill and determining how they can help to amend the law to streamline the deed-amendment process.

Homeowners can look for restrictive covenants in their own deeds. “We’re looking for individual people to take a stand with us,” Fynn says. “It’s possible to have the deed amended. We would research those avenues and communicate with individuals who find these deeds in their homes.”

“I was surprised by what we found,” Muir says. “I never really knew the history of the community at large. You can read about it but seeing the physical copy of these words, that personalized it for me.”

*If you find a racial covenant in your own deed, please scan the QR code below to complete a short form that contributes to the clinic’s research.*



ADVOCACY



## Shaping New York State law

Perhaps no application of law is more important than the work of democracy. Now, UB School of Law is ramping up its study of public policy with a new academic center, an idea proposed by **New York State Senator Shelley Mayer '79** and her husband, **Lee Smith '80**.

**The State and Local Policy Institute** will bring renewed attention to the question of how state and local governments can function more effectively to preserve and protect the rights of its citizens, while exposing students to the possibility of having impact through a legislative career. Mayer secured initial state funding of \$500,000 for the pilot program.

Proponents of the new institute say recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have returned important questions to the states—making it imperative to develop a generation of lawyers with expertise in state constitutions and laws, and the legislative process. They foresee increased pressure on state courts to interpret the meaning and constitutionality of state laws and point to expected legal challenges to major legislative initiatives in New York on

voting rights, climate change and criminal justice. Building an institute around state and local policy at the State of New York's public law school will build capacity for such work in a multitude of ways:

- Expanding opportunities for law students to engage in cutting-edge policy advocacy, litigation and research, and exposing them to career options in state regulatory agencies and legislatures.
- Growing the pool of practicing lawyers, academics and clinicians who are focused on state and local policy research and advocacy.
- Extending the general knowledge base of state and local law and creating new opportunities for research through support for visiting scholars, lectures, publications and conferences.
- And building community partnerships with on-the-ground advocates in the areas of environmental justice, labor, health care and racial justice, in order to craft policies and legislation that catalyze progress in those areas.

**“I am thrilled that new generations of future lawyers will have the opportunity to concentrate on and gain this expertise,”** says Mayer, who served in the Assembly before her election to the State Senate in 2018. “New York has already begun to step into this space, and I am pleased UB law students will be a part of shaping New York State law, serving as a model across the country. Thank you to Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Governor Kathy Hochul for their support for this important initiative.”



New York State Senator Shelley Mayer '79 and her husband, Lee Smith '80.



The New York State Capitol



## Ensuring safety in sports

When Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin suffered a life-threatening cardiac arrest during a *Monday Night Football* game, everyone watching held their breath. But the Bills' medical staff executed their safety plan flawlessly, saving Hamlin's life.

That prompted students in the law school's sports law program to ask: shouldn't all athletes enjoy that same level of protection?

Three students in the Class of 2024—**Madeline Drechsel, Matthew Pickard and Shelley Payne**—took up the cause. They researched policies around automated external defibrillators and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, then broadened the scope of their research to include traumatic brain injuries and concussions, heat stroke, cold injuries and anaphylactic shock.

Drawing on that research, they produced a seven-page model law, proposed legislation that would require schools, health clubs and venues to create an emergency action plan for dealing with life-threatening sports injuries and designate a safety officer responsible for implementing the plan. The proposal, called Damar's Law, also mandates training for emergency response and includes an indemnification clause for emergency responders. Their paper was published in the American Bar Association's *Entertainment and Sports Lawyer* journal.

The goal, Payne says, is to formalize the response so that bystanders aren't paralyzed when there's a problem. **“There needs to be someone who knows: Where is the AED in this rink? Who's calling 911 if we need to do that?”** she says. **“In the heat of the moment, it's so hard to make decisions. You want to take away the guesswork.”**

That safety orientation should become part of the culture of sports at all levels. “Over time, these procedures get established,” Drechsel says. “You put these emergency kits and plans in place at the level of youth sports and high school athletics, and people start to know them. Then when you get to the higher levels, it becomes expected. It's almost like a fire drill.”



Professor Helen "Nellie" Drew '88

The next step, says **Professor Helen “Nellie” Drew '88**, who directs the **UB Center for the Advancement of Sport**, is to start putting those formal plans into place. Toward that end, in collaboration with School of Medicine faculty, she is seeking grant support to improve access to AEDs throughout Erie County, develop widespread emergency response protocols, and train 15 percent of the county's population in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The intent, Drew says, is to create a system of safety plans that will make emergency response a well-practiced routine. “We want everybody to know their role and what needs to happen, and to be thinking about it in advance,” she says. “Oftentimes people don't feel empowered to act because they just don't know. We want to develop strategies to close some of those gaps.”

POLICY



## Responding to the immigration crisis

The political debate over immigration policy has sometimes obscured the real needs of desperate migrants trying to navigate a complex asylum system. That reality was brought home early in 2023 when New York officials reached out to the state's only public law school to help guide a sudden influx of migrants with their legal status.

Under the direction of **Melinda Saran '86, vice dean for undergraduate student affairs,** the School of Law stepped up.

"Immigrants and asylees have to fill out certain forms to seek asylum, and these forms are very complicated and very long," Saran says. "They often need help with understanding how to make a case for

asylum. Our students were able to research the conditions in their country of origin—whether there are risks of imminent death or life-threatening harm if they returned.

Our students filled the role of getting that information so attorneys can work on the actual cases in immigration court."

Responding to the state's plea for help, Saran was able to place UB School of Law students with JustCause,

a legal services provider in Rochester, as well as longtime

partners in Buffalo like Volunteer Lawyers Project, Journey's End Refugee Services and Jericho Road Community Health Center.

Further, to address the need in the state capital, Saran worked with the pre-law adviser at SUNY Albany to recruit and train undergraduates there to do intake and other immigration-related work. More than three dozen students stepped up—a significant lifeline in a time of crisis.

**"We react to crises, and we have the capacity to gear up when it's needed,"** Saran says. **"Pro bono work is part of who we are. If local agencies need help, they know that**

**they can contact us, and if we ask them, the students will answer our call."**

The law school has long placed students in immigration-related organizations, including formal externships. It's one more way the law school reaches beyond the campus to leverage faculty and student legal expertise and address areas of critical need.

**Sean Hannan '26** spent his 1L summer working with Journey's End in Buffalo, supported by a Catalyst Public Service Fellowship. He says the experience only deepened his intention to work in the immigration area. "It's one thing to study immigration law from a theoretical perspective, but interacting with clients and seeing their resilience and determination up close brought a new depth to my understanding," he says. "Hearing clients' stories firsthand and assisting in navigating the complexities of their cases highlighted the real-world significance of our work. It was inspiring and reinforced why I'm passionate about this field."

His classmate **Jermaline Catul '26**, who worked at Cornell University's Farmworker Legal Assistance Clinic on a summer fellowship funded by the Dean's Advisory Council, found similar rewards. "The struggles the farmworkers faced were the same struggles I had to witness growing up," says Catul, who emigrated with her family to the United States from Haiti. "Being able to help the farmworkers gave me an immense feeling of satisfaction."

## Doing critical work for domestic violence victims

The rising tide of domestic violence in Western New York has made the work of the law school's **Family Violence and Women's Rights Clinic** especially needed. Clinic students and faculty have responded by leveraging their legal knowledge to prevent partner violence and help victims find safety.

One key to stemming the tide is helping advocates and direct service providers coordinate their efforts. Toward that end, a major conference co-sponsored by the clinic this fall brought together stakeholders, with a focus on recognizing systemic obstacles faced by survivors of domestic violence. There may be



Melinda Saran '86, vice dean for undergraduate student affairs, was named on the 2024 American Association of Law School's Pro Bono Honor Roll for her exceptional work providing pro bono legal services.

language or cultural barriers, for instance, and survivors may be bewildered by the range of organizations offering help, from law enforcement to human services to legal providers.

“There are still a lot of communities and populations that are underserved because traditional services haven’t been fully available to them,” says **Tiffany Pavone ’02**, director of victim services for Child and Family Services–Haven House, co-organizers of the event. **“We are a very diverse community, and we want to make sure every survivor can access those services.”**

Other targeted trainings include semi-annual sessions for Buffalo Police Department recruits conducted by clinic students and clinical faculty member **Kelley Omel ’89**. The trainings emphasize the double message of prevention and remediation. Sessions cover the basics of civil orders of protection—which police officers typically deliver to offenders—and educate officers about the services available to domestic violence victims they might meet. That initial encounter can then become a lifeline.

Additionally, clinic students, many of them just a few years older than their audience, continue their work on the prevention side with programs they present in Western New York high schools. Their curriculum reflects the environment of high schools today, addressing such issues as controlling friendships, isolation, sexting and revenge porn.

And in a pilot initiative, clinic staff and student attorneys held an event called *Do-It-*

*Yourself Uncontested Divorce*, co-organized with Neighborhood Legal Services, and open to members of the public with limited means. Designed for those seeking uncontested and relatively uncomplicated divorces, clinic staff and students helped attendees complete the legal forms that initiate divorce proceedings and answered questions about the process.

**Elizabeth Vinal-Adams ’22**, a family and matrimonial attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services, presented at the event held downtown in Buffalo’s Central Library. Though the law doesn’t require the help of an attorney to execute a divorce, she says, “these forms aren’t easy to understand without help.” The goal was to assist estranged spouses through the process at no cost, including applying for a waiver of the \$335 court filing fee.

A clean break after what may have been a long-delayed divorce proceeding, says **Clinical Professor Judith G. Olin ’85**, can uncomplicate people’s lives in such matters as inheritance and estate issues, Social Security survivor benefits and health insurance coverage. As well, she says, “for a lot of people, it can hold them back from feeling like they can move forward with their lives if they’re still legally married. Even for people who don’t want to get remarried, it can be an emotional barrier.”



Professor Judith G. Olin '85

SERVICE



Family Violence and Women’s Rights Clinic Student Attorneys (left to right): Mark Bassett ’25, Kailyn Lane ’26, Lillian Brown ’25, Anna Chung ’25, Natalie Quevedo ’25 and Jahna Mott ’25.





# THE INFLUENCERS

LUKE BELLOCCHI '95 JONATHAN COYLES '05 JUDITH GERBER '84  
HEATHER GRESHAM '96 ENAM HOQUE '06 CHERYL KRAUS '04 KENNETH LANDAU '80  
EMMANUEL NNEJI '89 SHATORAH ROBERSON '12 KATHI WESTCOTT '94

Rarely do smart, talented people set out to become influential in their field. Instead, they find their calling in what they do best, then use their gifts to the fullest. Their impact on the public good grows from there.

That's true for our alumni in many ways. In Western New York, the nation and the world, UB School of Law graduates at every stage of their careers are taking what they've learned into situations of critical need and boundless potential.

From government service to philanthropy, corporate responsibility to activism, meet a few of our many graduates who are working at the highest levels and using their skills for the greatest good.





## SAFEGUARDING THE INTEGRITY OF AMERICA'S GAME

When **JONATHAN COYLES '05** joined Major League Baseball in 2007 as director of the league's drug programs, baseball was in the midst of an investigation into players' use of steroids.

The league is still focused on maintaining the integrity of America's game. But Coyles, now vice president of drug, health & safety programs, has much more to work on. "My role has grown into not just drug programs but all issues of player health and safety," he says.

That means offering programs to quit smoking and treatment options for players who are abusing recreational drugs. It means developing and administering the league's concussion protocol. And it means thinking about how to cope with the societal problem of opioid abuse; the league now mandates the lifesaving treatment naloxone at all its ballparks.

Over the past couple of years, Coyle says, Major League Baseball has intensified its focus on workplace safety. Like the National Football League, he says, MLB has been working with team medical directors to develop emergency action plans—"making sure that we have emergency medical personnel at all workouts and games and ensuring that an appropriate number of individuals are CPR and AED certified."

"Baseball is a relatively safe sport," Coyles says. And even though health and safety measures typically come to the table when negotiating the players' collective

bargaining agreement, **"when your goal is to keep professional baseball players healthy, safe and out of harm's way, you are not going to get a lot of disagreement from their legal representatives."**



READ MORE



## TEACHING OUR NATION'S TOP MILITARY

**LUKE BELLOCCHI '95** has never shied away from interesting opportunities.

That approach has taken him around the world—with particular expertise in Taiwan—and into influential U.S. government positions dealing with immigration and border security, foreign affairs, transportation and terrorism.

"I'm used to moving around," Bellocchi says, "and I've always been willing to take chances."

Most recently, he's drawing on a career's worth of real-world experience as a professor at the National Defense University, the nation's top military staff college. Bellocchi's students include senior officers from the U.S. armed forces and high-ranking foreign military officers.

He's focused on the fraught relationship between China and Taiwan and its implications for U.S. national security, and advocating for better coordination between government agencies and the military in formulating a strategy for averting conflict in the region.

"It's a great opportunity to think in public about how government could work better," Bellocchi says.

**"It's a changing world; we can't count on simply having overpowering military force like we had in World War II. It's important that strategists are taking a whole-of-government approach."**

His teaching and publishing in academic journals build on his long and varied career in government service. He has been an attorney adviser for the State Department and worked with the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Homeland Security Committee on immigration issues. He subsequently moved to the Department of

Homeland Security (DHS) for a series of roles, including serving as DHS' first immigration detention ombudsman, where he conducted autonomous investigations and made reform recommendations.



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## GIVING A VOICE TO THE YOUNGEST CLIENTS

Decades ago, as a student in the law school's Special Education Law Clinic, **JUDITH GERBER '84** stepped into the world of children's law. She has been an impassioned voice for children and youth ever since. Now, as chief attorney for the Attorneys for Children Unit at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Gerber cultivates the next generation of children's lawyers.

She leads a team of lawyers and social workers who stand side by side with children, from newborn to 21, facing trauma, adversity and disruption. Together, they navigate the child welfare, juvenile justice, education and related systems. "Even at a young age," Gerber says, "children are experts in their own lives. We are privileged to build relationships with them, to hear their stories and to bring their voices to the fore." Sometimes, she adds, "a small step taken on a child's behalf can change their entire life trajectory."

After years practicing special education law—including a stint early on teaching the law school clinic at UB—in 2002, Gerber spearheaded an initiative for the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, addressing the educational needs of children in foster care. She crisscrossed the state, training judges, lawyers, professionals and families. In 2009, she joined the Legal Aid Bureau and launched its Education Advocacy Program, which is now integral to its representation of children.

**"I tell our lawyers," Gerber says, "how lucky we are to know, when we lay our heads on our pillows at night, that we have made a difference in even one child's life."**



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## ON A MISSION TO RECLAIM DEMOCRACY

In an organization full of creative people separated by geography but united by idealism, corporate culture matters. A thriving workplace is what holds the enterprise together.

Fortunately for RepresentUs, which works to rid American governments of corruption, **HEATHER GRESHAM '96** is there to make that culture a place of fertile ground.

Gresham is counsel for the organization and vice president for people & culture. She has a passion for making the working environment a place where good ideas can grow. "There's a common theme in my career trajectory," she says, "of designing a system or making space for people to advance their careers or move from one place to another."

RepresentUs, she says, is a special kind of place: "I really have a heart for mission-driven work. I need to work for an organization or company where I believe in their mission and I can see the impact of how my work can support that mission."

The organization is nonpartisan, with supporters including a roster of A-list Hollywood celebrities. It creates ads, produces videos, organizes demonstrations—whatever it takes to draw attention to such issues as voting rights, gerrymandering, the outside influence of lobbying, and campaign finance reform.

For Gresham, it's a laboratory for her ideas on how to create a welcoming corporate culture. **"Here there's a combination of board and leadership that's committed to ensuring that employees are heard and responded to,"** she says. **"We're able to take a lot of that feedback and design programs and culture that incorporates it."**



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## WELCOMING AI INTO THE LAW

The first business plan **ENAM HOQUE '06** ever wrote was for a high school competition: a plan for an online law firm. It was the dawn of the digital age and even then Hoque was seeing potential for how law practice could evolve.

Now, after successful stints in Big Law and finance, he has reimagined his own career. As a legal technology consultant at LawBeta, he explores the possibilities of the newest digital revolution, artificial intelligence, in transforming the field of law.

"The mission is to accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies into the law," Hoque says. **"We are on the cusp of a cognitive industrial revolution, where the shift from mechanical processes to AI-enhanced systems can drive innovation and enhance human decision-making in unprecedented ways."**

Based in Silicon Valley, Hoque has become deeply embedded in the region's AI ecosystem, serving as a consultant to global law firms, an adviser to legal tech startups, and an angel investor. His work spans from developing innovative legal tools to identifying promising new technologies that could reshape the profession.

He dismisses fears that AI could someday entirely replace lawyers. "It's going to take some part of what we consider the practice of law today away from a human and make it better," he says. "But that creates an opportunity for forward-thinking lawyers to elevate their practice through technology. The key is having the curiosity and initiative to tinker with these new tools and shape the future of legal practice."



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## AN ADVOCATE AT LIFE'S END

Early in her career, **CHERYL KRAUS '04** litigated a domestic violence case that she felt ended unjustly. When the judge told her, "If you don't like the law, change it," it sparked her journey into legislative and policy advocacy.

Today, as the first vice president of government affairs and director of policy for the Hospice & Palliative Care Association of New York State, she promotes compassionate and holistic care for serious illnesses both statewide and nationally.

Kraus emphasizes that hospice care was a pioneer in addressing health care holistically, integrating medical, social work and spiritual support for patients and their families. "Hospice isn't about curing an illness; it's about healing," she says. Much of her work involves educating legislators and the public on the importance of Medicare coverage for hospice care, which is often underutilized.

She has celebrated numerous innovative legislative victories, including a recent bill mandating a statewide campaign to promote advance planning for end-of-life care. Recognizing the cultural stigma surrounding hospice, Kraus advocates for a shift in understanding that hospice care is a philosophy, not a physical location.

Kraus has built her association's government affairs practice from the ground up and has collaborated with leaders like U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand on a federal Master Plan for Aging. A first-generation high school, college and law school graduate, she embodies the spirit of advocacy: **"I do this work because it needs to be done."** Her commitment to justice and equity drives her to ensure that all patients receive the care they choose, aligned with each individual's goals and beliefs.



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## DEMYSTIFYING THE LAW ON THE AIR

**KENNETH LANDAU '80** knows a thing or two about the law—and he likes to share that knowledge.

So on Wednesday afternoons, WHPC-FM, the radio station of Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y., airs *Law You Should Know*. In a tight half-hour, Landau interviews a guest, typically an author or someone with legal expertise, and brings listeners up to speed.

And he's done it for 35 years.

"The idea is to educate people about a variety of issues and what some of their options may be," says Landau, who is semi-retired from his civil litigation work with his longtime firm. "They may not need a lawyer at all. There might be alternatives like small claims court, or the Better Business Bureau, or some consumer agency, or they might just want to chalk it up to experience."

The station formats each episode as a podcast available for download at its website ([nccradio.org](http://nccradio.org)).

Some recent shows include "Electric Vehicles and the Law," "Fighting Bill Collection" and "All About Sales Tax." And Landau doesn't confine himself to law-specific topics. Other experts have discussed "Digital Career Consulting," "More Success With Less Stress," "Speaking With Impact" and more.

"I feel I'm producing a product that is helping," he says. **"Part of our mandate as lawyers is to do pro**

**bono work, so I'm trying to help other lawyers share information. Sometimes the show becomes a valuable tool for them. And for the public, sometimes a little knowledge can go a long way."**



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## TACKLING CRIME AT THE ROOT

"One life only." That's the message **EMMANUEL NNEJI '89** works to convey as the district attorney of Ulster County, in New York's Hudson Valley.

Its meaning: Everyone has one precious life, with the opportunity to make of it what you will—but if you use that freedom to take the life of another, you can expect the full weight of the law.

Nneji was elected DA in November 2023, taking charge of an office he had served as a prosecutor for more than three decades. He has spent his first year in office hiring and training new attorneys to replace veteran prosecutors who have left and planning for a move to a new central building. He has also personally tried four high-profile murder trials in just one year, winning convictions in all four.

Public prosecutors respond to incidents of lawbreaking. But Nneji also sees a role for himself in inspiring young people to choose a better way. He speaks to youth groups, schools and community organizations, emphasizing, "When you take somebody's life, that life is gone forever but your life is gone, too, because you'll be spending life in prison."

Originally from Nigeria, he imparts similar lessons of working hard and choosing the right path to the teenage boys and girls he coaches in the Kingston

Area Soccer League. "It means a lot to me," he says. **"I've benefited from the kindness and graces of other people. I want to pay those back. It's a silent reward to see these kids do well."**



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## PROTECTING AND PRESERVING CIVIL RIGHTS

There are two ways, **SHATORAH ROBERSON '12** points out, in which lawyers can make the world better.

One is case by case. And then there's the high-level work that can make a difference on a broad scale. "If I can do it, I prefer to work on a more macro basis—to effectuate change on a policy level and to be creative in doing that," she says.

Roberson found space to exercise that philosophy as chief diversity officer for the City of Buffalo. She took it into private industry as well, helping to move the needle on clean energy as managing policy adviser for Tesla.

Now, as senior policy counsel at Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, she is part of the organization's Public Policy Project, bringing her expertise to the federal level.

The Washington, D.C. agency—nonprofit and nonpartisan—uses law to further racial justice through litigation, public policy and advocacy. It was founded in 1963 as a catalyst for the emerging civil rights movement.

Its agenda is broad, using a racial justice lens to address issues around employment, fair housing, education, voting rights, health care and the criminal justice system. Roberson is focused on the Digital Justice Initiative, examining civil rights in such rapidly evolving areas as consumer privacy protection, biometric scanning and artificial intelligence.



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**"This is an important time to make sure that we're making good laws,"** she says, **"keeping the protections that we have and looking out for our American values."**

## SUPPORTING AN INVESTMENT FOR THE BETTER

Every day, **KATHI WESTCOTT '94** sees the effects of the programs she supports at the Pew Charitable Trusts. Conservation initiatives to keep plastics out of the world's oceans. Efforts to streamline access to state and local courts. Support for biomedical research and broadband connectivity.

As deputy general counsel and senior director of legal affairs at Pew, Westcott oversees legal guidance for the public charity's programs at home and abroad. The goal, she says, is "to find areas of impact that are under-resourced, where money can make a difference, but also where there's an ability to bring constituents together to move the needle."

With a staff of nine attorneys and support staff in her D.C. office, Westcott also provides legal advice for the organization's government relations work.

Previously, as a staff attorney and then legal director with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, she represented members of the U.S. military in administrative personnel matters. In that role, she also was instrumental in lobbying Congress on the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the law prohibiting gay and lesbian service members from being open about their sexual orientation.

The work is less hands-on legal services now, but with even greater potential for influence. **"Pew allows me to support a mission that is intended to directly impact people's lives, whether that's water conservation or suicide prevention,"** Westcott says. **"I don't know that I could have scripted a better career than what I've had, and I feel really grateful for that."**



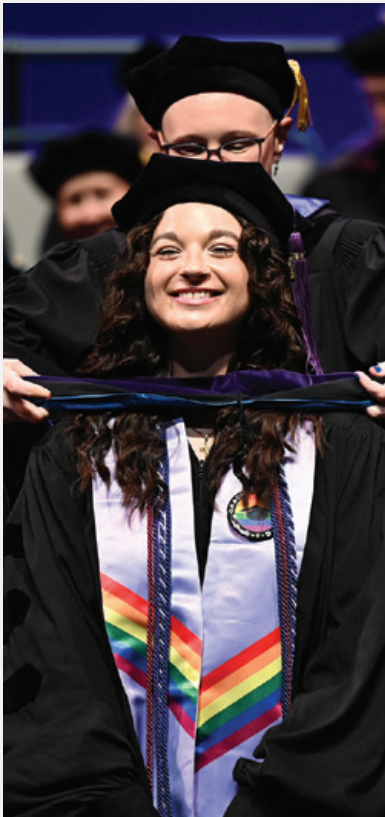
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# THE NEXT GENERATION OF INFLUENCERS

Our newest alumni, members of the **Class of 2024**, are riding a wave of accomplishment. With a record-high bar passage rate and employment success, they're working in private practice and the corporate sector, federal and state courts, federal law enforcement, and in vital roles widening the public's access to justice. And their real-world impact will only grow from here. At Commencement, there was plenty to celebrate as these new graduates take their places in the world of legal practice.



Lindsey G. Hornung '24



Brenden Kyle Diaz '24



Deja Renee Graham '24

# CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2024



### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

#### Hon. Trini E. Ross '92

U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York

"Don't be afraid to follow your heart, because law is about passion, and passion comes from doing what makes you feel satisfied at the end of the day, month and year. And time moves fast. So there is no time to waste."



### DEAN'S ADDRESS

#### Professor Christine Pedigo Bartholomew

Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, on behalf of Dean S. Todd Brown

"You have chosen a field that is unique. Its focus is both academic and practical, oriented around the individual while advancing the goals of our society. It emphasizes grace while ensuring accountability."



### STUDENT ADDRESS

#### Kelly Marie Tripi '24

"We are not defined by the hard times that we have faced or the challenges that we have had to overcome. Instead, we are defined by our perseverance, by our unwillingness to give up and our desire to succeed. It is this unwavering determination that we will take with us into our communities and into the world."

### TOP HONORS

#### KEN JOYCE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD



**William M. Murray, Esq.**, Senior Counsel, Cheryl Stein Law Firm PLLC

**228**  
GRADUATES

- 4 LL.M.s
- 159 J.D.s
- 65 B.A.s in Law

### TOP STUDENT AWARDS

**MAX KOREN AWARD**  
Steve Burke and Jack William Weisbeck

**JOHN N. BENNETT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Mathew Biondolillo

**DALE S. MARGULIS AWARD**  
Deja Renee Graham

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LAW ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Emily Henninger

### FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

**FACULTY AWARD**  
Professor Christine Pedigo Bartholomew and Professor Angelyn McDuff '12 (JD), '18 (LLM)

**STAFF AWARD**  
Lisa Bauer, Director of Career Strategies, and Lisa M. Patterson, Director of Externships and Access to Justice Initiatives



TO VIEW THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY  
SCAN HERE:

# WIDENING *the* PATH

**H**istorically, the path to the profession of law hasn't been easy to navigate. From the high cost of legal education to the lack of guidance for first-generation students, talented potential law students often face an uphill path.

1

Those barriers remain. But the law exists to serve everyone—and as New York State's public law school, UB School of Law works on multiple fronts to make a legal education accessible to everyone. It's an access to justice issue because the justice system works best when it draws widely from an expansive pool of future advocates.

So as the law school goes about the business of educating the next generations of lawyers, faculty and staff continue working to deepen that pool. The law school has grown its impact in many ways: by actively working to expand pathways to an affordable legal education, making sure its programs are fully accessible, and building networks across the state and beyond.

## A Fast Track to Success *New 3+3 Partnerships*



Benjamin Rogers, assistant director of admissions

Extending its reach across New York State, the law school has forged several new agreements with undergraduate schools to offer 3+3 accelerated degree programs. The partnerships allow students to begin law school after completing three years at their undergraduate institution. The arrangement compresses their overall education into six years, saving on tuition and living expenses.

In the past year, the law school has entered into four new partnerships, bringing the total number of 3+3 partnerships to 13. The most recent agreements include two top-tier State University of New York schools, at Geneseo and Old Westbury, as well as two

private colleges, the Rochester Institute of Technology and Hilbert College in Buffalo.

"It's just a fantastic opportunity to build strong partnerships with these institutions and students," says **Benjamin Rogers, assistant director of admissions**. "The program allows students to get engaged with the law school early on in their undergraduate studies. I think it's especially impactful for first-generation and historically underrepresented students because it gives them a really clear idea of what law school is like and the path to get there."

And these motivated students have proved highly successful in their chosen field as well. **To date, nearly all UB School of Law graduates admitted through 3+3 partnerships have passed the bar and are working in the legal field.**



BA Class of 2024

2

## The Cohort on Campus *BA Program Continues to Grow*

Another point of entry into the legal field is what has quickly become a UB mainstay, the BA in Law program. The degree program, which launched in 2019, is now one of the more popular choices among UB undergrads, and the School of Law has responded by devoting more faculty resources and course offerings to it. UB also offers a minor in law.

The aim of these programs is twofold: to give students a broad exposure to the theory and practice of law, helping them to decide whether law school is right for them; and to prepare them for law-adjacent careers that don't require a JD but offer meaningful opportunities in such fields as regulatory compliance, human resources and government service.

And UB undergraduates have responded. **The university now counts 165 alumni with the law bachelor's degree and an additional 130 with a law minor.** As of the fall of 2024, 343 current students are pursuing the bachelor's in law and 114 have declared a law minor. Among current



UB Law JD students, 29 have come to law school from the BA in Law program.

“Their No. 1 reason to do this is curiosity,” says **Melinda Saran, vice dean for undergraduate student affairs**. “You can take political science or history, but you don’t get to see what law is about before law school. Here you can learn about the law and really expand your horizons.”



Our 2024 Discover Law Scholars with Dean S. Todd Brown; Professor Luis Chiesa, vice dean for diversity, equity and belonging; and Kristen Kelly, director of the Discover Law Program.

## A Decade-Plus of Discovery

### Discover Law Completes Its 11th Season

An innovation that has taken on a life of its own, the law school’s Discover Law Undergraduate Scholars Program recently graduated its 11th cohort of potential law students.

The effort seeks out historically under-represented students as undergraduates and invites them to O’Brian Hall for an immersive four-week program in June. About 20 promising prospective law students live on campus, participate in courses taught by law professors, and attend networking and mentoring events. That busy month gives them a taste of the law student’s life and how it feels to be part of the UB Law community.

The goal is to help these talented students decide if law school is right for them. Some apply to UB School of Law, some to other law schools, and some pursue other graduate education or an alternative career path.

**Of the 204 students who have completed the program, approximately 68 have applied to law school or are in the process.** At least two dozen are now practicing attorneys, and a similar number are working in other roles in law.

**Kristen Kelly, director of the law school’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Belonging**, oversees the program. “Working with such bright individuals who come from all different facets of life, and watching them blossom, renews your faith in the future,” she says. “There’s an immense amount of growth that happens, and afterwards, you can see a new sense of achievement and confidence.”



## New Avenues to New York

### Expanding Our Presence Downstate

Like the Thruway, the law school’s relationship with New York City works both ways. The school increasingly produces graduates with the interest and talent to land positions in the nation’s biggest legal market. But the law school is also working to amplify its presence downstate to attract promising students from the big city to Buffalo.

The long-established New York City Program in Business and Law (formerly the New York City Program in Finance and Law) has been a foot in the career door for dozens of students who take advantage of the program’s insights and professional connections. It’s not always easy to crack the downstate job market,

but as **Marc A. Alpert ’86**, senior vice president, general counsel and secretary of Loews Corp. and an instructor in the program puts it, “Buffalo students tend to work harder. It only takes one job, and once you’re in, you’re in.”

The school has also worked to make it more affordable for its law students to take advantage of the program, with donor support that offsets high housing costs and assistance with finding economical housing options. And the law school continues to build relationships with downstate alumni—the best advocates for our students.

**Efforts to increase enrollment from downstate target multiple fronts, with the priority of increasing donor support for admissions scholarships to attract bright applicants who often are courted by New York City-area law schools.** The Office of Admissions has redoubled its recruitment efforts in the area, with targeted digital marketing campaigns and Manhattan-based coffee chats and information sessions. And the new 3+3 partnership with SUNY Old Westbury, on Long Island, also adds to the pool of potential students.

“We are, after all, the only law school in the SUNY system,” says **Professor David A. Westbrook, director of the New York City Program**, “and it’s important that we serve the entire state.”



Hon. Kathy King '84; Emilie Rosenbluth, director of advancement; and Marc Alpert '86.



# IMPACT STATEMENTS

*#UBLawResponds through clinics and practicums*

Access to justice and legal representation is not readily available to all. The law school steps in to fill that gap through the work of its clinics and practicums. Student attorneys, faculty and staff serve a wide range of clients, addressing the community's most relevant needs. Here are just a few examples of how our clinics make a real difference and the notable numbers that make their impact clear.

**22,107+** PRO BONO HOURS PROVIDED BY CLINIC STUDENTS DURING THE 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR.

NEARLY  
**600**  
HOURS DEDICATED TO VOTER REGISTRATION AND VARIOUS OTHER COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

**24+**  
EVICTIONS PREVENTED SINCE SUMMER 2023

**4**  
LIFE-IN-PRISON SENTENCES REDUCED TO DATE THROUGH SUCCESSFUL RELEASE ON PAROLE

OVER  
**\$790,000**  
IN NON-JOB ECONOMIC IMPACT SINCE THE CLINIC'S INCEPTION

**200+**  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND ADVOCATES WERE PROVIDED FREE TRAINING AT THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUMMIT HOSTED IN OCTOBER

**24+**  
HOURS OF TRAINING CERTIFYING STUDENTS TO WORK AS MEDIATORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE COURT SYSTEM

**THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE CLINIC** provided community outreach and education on New York's Equal Rights Amendment ballot initiative this fall.

**THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND TRANSPARENCY CLINIC** steps up for tenants facing eviction in Buffalo City Court as part of the Eviction Prevention Project.

**THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY CLINIC** represents clients seeking resentencing under the 2019 Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act.

**THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAW CENTER CLINIC** supports businesses including those that are minority and/or women-owned and conducts research on making venture investing more accessible to entrepreneurs.

**THE FAMILY VIOLENCE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS CLINIC** regularly delivers trainings on legal issues to domestic violence responders and law enforcement officers throughout Erie County.

**THE MEDIATION CLINIC** works on cases referred by the courts or other mediation agencies to help resolve family law disputes, small claims cases, and whistleblower cases brought to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.



## And new this year

Society's needs are ever evolving. With innovative new clinics and practicums, UB School of Law responds, preparing our students for the future of legal practice.



Students in the new **ASYLUM APPELLATE ADVOCACY PRACTICUM** conduct legal research and are drafting a model brief to support a petition for review pending at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.



**THE SPORTS LAW CLINIC** augments the work of UB's Center for the Advancement of Sport, with emphasis on developing policy and proposed legislation. Topics include improving the player experience and removing barriers to access to proper athletic equipment such as sports bras, a major factor in injuries to female athletes.



**THE HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICUM** advocates for human rights in collaboration with immigrant and refugee communities, partner organizations in Buffalo and international human rights groups abroad.



Beginning this spring, students in **THE VETERANS LAW PRACTICUM** will work with veterans who need critical legal assistance to get the benefits they deserve, and assist with navigating disability claims and pursuing discharge updates.

## New needs, new clinics



A year into her role as director of Clinical Legal Education, **Vice Dean Bernadette Gargano** sees only greater need for the legal services offered through the law school's clinics.

So the program is responding with new clinics that address emerging demand. She's personally teaching a reinvigorated Access to Justice Clinic, for example, with cases involving

federal civil rights and constitutional claims, and with a new focus on equal rights for women and vulnerable populations, including issues around reproductive health.

She also points to the school's Sports Law Clinic, newly established this year, and plans for an Immigration Law Clinic that will provide direct service to immigrants and asylees.

Additionally, the law school now offers practicums in human rights law and asylum appellate advocacy work, and a veterans law practicum is planned for a spring launch.

"We're looking to continue the good work that has been done in clinics, expand our clinical offerings and bolster our endowment," Gargano says.

Now in the quiet phase, an expected endowment campaign, she says, will help insulate the clinical legal education program from the vagaries of year-to-year budgeting. "We can't fully function on what the state can budget to the law school," she says. "Endowment funding allows us to be fairly independent; if budgets get tight, we can still run our programs. One of my goals is to ensure that the clinics can function no matter the political climate and no matter what budgets or grants are available in the future."



← TO MAKE A GIFT  
TO SUPPORT **THE  
CLINICS' GREAT  
WORK**, SCAN HERE:



# NEW DEPTH IN OUR FACULTY ROSTER

New perspectives, fresh thinking, renewed energy—as the School of Law continues to attract top-quality faculty members, these new additions bring all those attributes into the rich mix of scholarship and teaching that is at the heart of UB. Meet this year’s incoming group of educators and scholars, whose work is already contributing to the university and the law school community and enriching the lives and learning of our students.



**PROFESSOR MANOJ MATE**  
Election Law and Constitutional Law



**PROFESSOR SEVAL YILDIRIM**  
**UB VICE PROVOST FOR INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**  
Law and Religion



**GEORGE P. BROWN JR. '17**  
Legal Analysis, Writing and Research



The Legal Analysis, Writing and Research (LAWR) program also benefits this year from the return of lecturer **STEPHEN PASKEY**, who has taught LAWR and Advanced LAWR courses at the law school since 2009 and served as coordinator of the program from 2021 to 2023. Paskey’s return comes after a professional break in which he traveled extensively, visiting 15 countries on five continents over a span of nine months.

**PROFESSOR MANOJ MATE**, a scholar of election law and constitutional law, comes to the law school from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago. He has taught or held visiting positions or fellowships at law schools including Berkeley; Whittier College in California; the University of California, Irvine; Harvard; and the University of Windsor in Ontario.

Mate did his undergraduate work at the University of California, Berkeley, earned his JD from Harvard Law School, and returned to Berkeley to earn a doctoral degree in political science. He has published widely on constitutional law, comparative constitutional law and election law, and has become a go-to source for popular media as the nation wrestles with how the courts increasingly intersect with the electoral system.

His turn to academia, from private practice, came after the U.S. Supreme Court's 2000 decision in *Bush v. Gore*, which effectively decided that year's razor-close presidential election. *"Only now are we realizing the full implications of courts intervening in elections and politics,"* Mate says. *"It's critical that we think about whether it's always a good thing for courts to be involved—and when they get involved, are they bolstering our democracy or are they undermining it?"*

**PROFESSOR SEVAL YILDIRIM** serves as the University at Buffalo's vice provost for inclusive excellence and chief diversity officer, in addition to her law school appointment.

As vice provost, she draws on her extensive administrative experience in higher education, including in diversity, equity and inclusion; faculty and student recruitment and retention; promoting inclusive pedagogy and classrooms; community outreach; and fundraising. She previously held senior leadership roles at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and at California State University, San Bernardino.

A scholar of law and religion, Yildirim earned both a JD and LLM degree at New York University School of Law, and also has a master's degree in international affairs from George Washington University. She studies and writes about issues related to human dignity, secularism in comparative contexts, Muslim identity and the law, populism and free speech. Her current research explores patterns and formations of populism in comparative contexts, as well as the diminishing scope of free speech protections in the United States.

In addition, Yildirim has served as pro bono counsel and legal consultant on individual rights cases across the United States, working with grass-roots organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union.

**GEORGE P. BROWN JR. '17** returns to his law school alma mater as an instructor in the foundational Legal Analysis, Writing and Research program.

He has worked in private practice and as a corporate counsel but welcomed the opportunity to get back into the classroom. "I've always been a lifelong learner," Brown says, "and I had always been interested in academia. This is a place where scholarship is encouraged, and I love being in that environment."

Brown studied psychology as a UB undergraduate, and that laid the groundwork for his interest in narrative arguments. Storytelling, he says, can be an effective tool in all types of legal writing.

*"While many may understand the practical applications of storytelling in briefs and memorandums before a court,"* he says, *"it is just as important to implement storytelling skills in transactional drafting. Thinking of the business relationship in this manner allows you to imagine the different risks and outcomes this contract could create and allows you to protect your client before the business relationship begins."*

## NEW LEADERSHIP FOR THE BALDY CENTER

*"Locally rooted but globally conscious."* That's one way **Professor Matthew Dimick** describes The Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy.

The law school's signature interdisciplinary research center brings scholarly light to some of the most pressing issues of our time: immigration, nationalism, world trade, international law and human rights. It's a far-reaching agenda, and one with the distinctive perspective of the UB School of Law model, drawing on faculty and visiting experts in both law and the social sciences.

Dimick, whose scholarship is rooted in economics, sociology and law, took over leadership of The Baldy Center this past summer. In addition to a JD, he holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He has been a member of the UB law faculty since 2011.

The center wields its influence in multiple ways: inviting scholars to present their research and get feedback from faculty and students; funding research and hosting conferences; and supporting scholars at all stages of their careers as they pursue their inquiries.

*"The Baldy Center is one of the best things about being a faculty member at UB,"* says Dimick. *"I want to build on what we do to make sure the center and UB get recognition for this amazing work."*

The mission, he says, from Western New York to the world, is to go deeper into the role of law in people's lives.

*"Legal scholars want to know if the law is actually working for everyone in society,"* Dimick says.

*"Is it helping society be more equitable and prosperous? Is it*

*helping everyone reach their individual potential?*

*The social sciences provide the tools to help legal scholars study those questions."*



# INFLUENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

*Faculty and staff honors and accomplishments*

The influence of UB School of Law’s faculty and staff extends far beyond the classroom. They take their legal and practical expertise into the wider community in a variety of ways. From serving on nonprofit boards, to providing advice on policy initiatives, to breaking down complex issues in emerging areas of law, they are leveraging their knowledge for real-world results.



**Ashley Abbott**, director of student life, received the National Association of Law Student Affairs Professionals 2024 DEI Award.



**Rebecca Chapman**, senior assistant law librarian, collaborated with other scholars to formalize a protocol for citing tribal court documents that will be incorporated into the next edition of the *Bluebook*.



**David Coombs**, lecturer in law, was appointed to the advisory committee of the Veterans Treatment Courts for New York State.

**Heather Abraham**, associate professor and director of the Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic, was appointed to the Affordable Housing Task Force for the City of Buffalo.



**Helen “Nellie” Drew ‘88**, professor of practice and director of the UB Center for the Advancement of Sport, received the 2024 Jim Ruskin Award, presented by the New York State High School Athletic Association’s Section VI Girls Varsity Ice Hockey League.



**John Harland Giammatteo**, associate professor, was recognized by the Association of American Law School’s Section on Civil Procedure and Section on Federal Courts for outstanding scholarship by a junior faculty member.

**Farina Barth ‘17**, Legal Analysis, Writing and Research faculty member, was elected to the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo’s board of directors.



PHOTO BY MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI



Professor Nojin Kwak, UB’s Vice Provost for International Education; Professor Meredith Kolsky Lewis; and UB President Satish K. Tripathi.

**Meredith Kolsky Lewis**, professor and vice dean for international and graduate programs, received the 2024 Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education, presented by UB’s Council on International Studies and Programs.



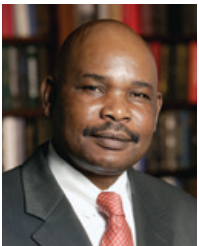
**Patrick Long ‘00**, Legal Analysis, Writing and Research faculty member and assistant dean for professional development, was appointed to the New York State Bar Association’s Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar.





**Jamila Lee '15**, vice dean for student affairs, was recognized with several community awards:

- A 2024 Black History Month Award in Law, presented by former Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown
- The Minority Bar Association of Western New York's 2024 Outstanding Member Achievement Award
- 2024 Women Who Walk in the Footsteps of Greatness honoree



**Makau Mutua**, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Margaret W. Wong Professor, was named a Top Scholar in General Law and Human Rights by ScholarGPS.



**Lisa Patterson**, teaching faculty and director of externships and access to justice initiatives, was named dean of the Bar Association of Erie County's Erie Institute of Law.



**Jennifer Scharf '05**, associate dean for career services and director of trial advocacy, was elected a fellow of the New York Bar Foundation.

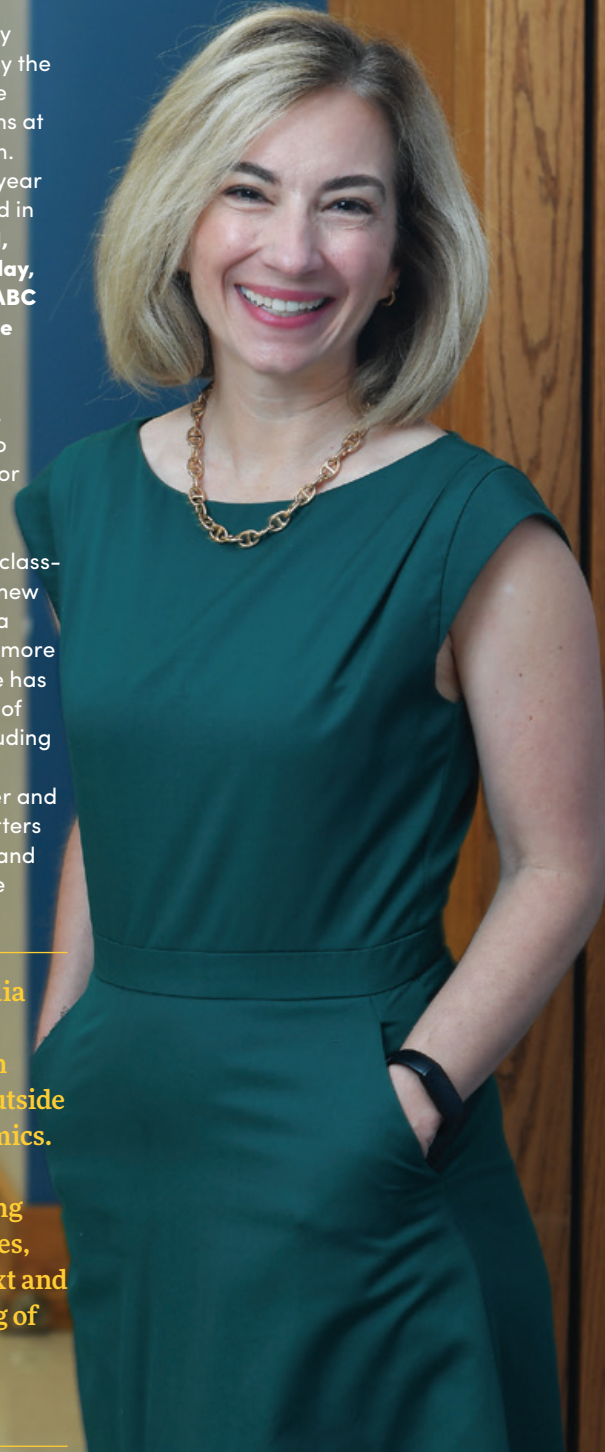
## IN THE MEDIA

The public's appetite for understanding complex legal matters is great, and media outlets often call upon UB School of Law faculty to make sense of emerging issues. In both commentary and analysis, they bring light to topics ranging from the everyday impact of new decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court, to the status of union negotiations at the Starbucks coffee chain. Among many others, this year our faculty have appeared in **The New York Times, CNN, Business Insider, USA Today, Forbes, The New Yorker, ABC News, Yahoo! Finance, The Washington Post and Bloomberg News.**

One notable example is Professor Christine Pedigo Bartholomew, vice dean for academic affairs. A go-to expert in antitrust law, consumer protection and class-action lawsuits, Bartholomew has been quoted by media outlets across the nations more than 60 times in 2024. She has addressed a wide variety of industries and topics, including the proposed merger of supermarket giants Kroger and Albertsons, as well as matters involving Google, JetBlue and American Airlines, and the National Football League.

**“Speaking with media outlets allows the law school faculty to reach different audiences outside of lawyers and academics. It can also act as a springboard for getting scholarship to new eyes, thereby adding context and deeper understanding of nuanced issues.”**

—Professor Christine Pedigo Bartholomew







# A HOLISTIC APPROACH to STUDENT SUCCESS

Ashley Abbott, director of student life

**I**N UB LAW'S new dedicated wellness room, the vibe is tranquil and the many stresses of law school seem far away. There's group yoga on Thursdays, as well as a plant wall, comfortable furniture, a meditation area, a mini-waterfall—all the better to help students reconnect body and soul after the rigors of studying.

"Law students carry an intense workload and have to be able to manage stress," says **Ashley Abbott, director of student life** (and certified yoga instructor).

The wellness room, new this academic year, is in Room 640, adjacent to the

Charles B. Sears Law Library. UB School of Law is one of the first law schools in the nation to create this kind of dedicated wellness space. It's part of the law school's ongoing commitment to providing students with holistic support through what might be the most trying time of their lives.

"Wellness is one of our primary initiatives, and we have a lot of events related to students' overall well-being," Abbott says. Those include weekly wellness programs offering coffee and hot chocolate, tabling with community wellness organizations, visits by therapy

dogs, and a focused Wellness Week each semester.

That support extends of course to students' academic lives as well. The School of Law provides all students with dedicated faculty advising, professional development courses, a bar skills and strategies course, peer and professional mentoring, and other forms of both group and one-on-one support. No one goes it alone. From orientation through graduation and bar exam preparation, student success is a product of a full community effort, and the outstanding accomplishments of our students are proof of its effect.

# SUCCESS Stories

With the right supports in place, good things are bound to happen. There's much to celebrate in the awards, honors and accomplishments that our students continue to achieve. Here's a brief sampling:



**Tyonna Acoff '26**  
Recipient of the 2024 Future Legal Scholar Award presented by the Minority Bar Association of Western New York.



**Andrew Cegielski '25 and Lachlan Macintosh '26**  
Winners of the Best Movant's Brief at the National Pretrial Competition held at Stetson University College of Law.

**Allen Greer '25, Khalia Muir '26 and Emmanuel Wright '26**  
Recipients of the Judge Hugh Scott Scholarship Award presented by the Minority Bar Foundation of Western New York.



**Cassidy Jensen '26 and Skyler Rehbein '27**  
Winners of the law school's 2024 Representation in Mediation Competition.



**Michael Perrone '25**  
Recipient of the 2024 Law Student Award presented by the Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project.



**Caila Wager '25**  
Inaugural recipient of the 2024 Michael F. Anthony Health Law Scholarship presented by the American Health Law Association.

## AN OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE



**Nour Jaber '25 (left), BA in Law and Criminology**  
Recipient of a UB Academic Integrity Award presented by Dr. Kelly Ahuna, director of the University's Office of Academic Integrity (right).



**Gianna Palumbo '26 and Gavin Zmuda '26**  
Winners of the 2024 Charles S. Desmond Moot Court Competition.



# SOMETHING SPECIAL

*Exceptional achievements and signature events*

When the UB School of Law community rallies for special events, it's more than a good time. It's a chance to celebrate excellence in our students, honor the great work of our alumni and watch the wheels of justice turn. The result is a reminder of the inspiration at the heart of legal practice and a renewed dedication to using the tools of law to make an impact where it's most needed.

## Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Annual Auction February 16, 2024



BIPILP E-Board: Jenna Wojdan-Price '24, Bailey Hughes '25, Ron LaPort '24 and Steve Burke '24.



Hannah Sullivan '26, Taylor Welsch '26 and Rachel Golden '24.

## OUTLaw Awards Dinner March 8, 2024



Honorees James J. Zawodzinski, Jr. '18, Hon. Grace M. Hanlon and Sean Brosius.



Lisa Patterson, director of externships and access to justice initiatives; Daniel Kahl '24; and William MacDonald, assistant dean for academic and bar success.

## Annual Students of Color Dinner April 4, 2024



Keynote speaker Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres '98; Professor Jorge Fabra-Zamora, Jacob D. Hyman Professor of the Year and his wife, Laura Sofia Guevara-Espitia; Stephanie Calhoun '08, Trailblazer Award Honoree (far right) with her husband, Jamar Calhoun.



Natalia Marte '20, Distinguished Alum Honoree; and Vice Dean for Student Affairs Jamila Lee '15, Administrator of the Year.



Our Class of 2024 graduating students: Deja Graham, Analiese Vasciannie, Jéla Paul, Jodaliza Gloder, Ariyana DeWitz, Tia Elliston, Nicholas Ogam, Lensa Abdukadir, Glenaida Mercado and Christian Soto.

## Oral Arguments by the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals in the Francis M. Letro Courtroom September 26, 2024

U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals judges:  
Col. James Ewing,  
Col. Tiffany Pond  
and Col. Peter Juetten.





## Law Students with Disabilities and Neurodivergencies (LSDN) Brunch

April 13, 2024



Director for Diversity, Equity and Belonging Kristen Kelly, Advocacy Award Honoree; and Ron LaPort '24, LSDN president.



Representatives from Hurwitz Fine P.C., recipient of the Allyship Award: Amber Storr '06, Carolyn Batt, Anastasia M. McCarthy '15 and President/Managing Partner Jody Briandi.

## Buffalo Law Review Annual Dinner

April 26, 2024



Distinguished Alumni Honorees: Hon. John L. Sinatra Jr. '96 and Hon. Eugene M. Fahey '84.



Nicia Bottini Morales '25, Marissa Torcello, Michalina Suchomski and Dakota Penkalski '25.

## Presentation of the 2024 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award to Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75, U.S. Court of Appeals

Held January 19, 2024, at the Union League Club in New York City

In celebration of a longstanding partnership with a member of the judiciary who opened doors and expanded access to dozens of promising young UB School of Law students, the law school and the UB Law Alumni Association presented its highest honor to **Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75**, U.S. Court of Appeals judge for the Third Circuit. The Edwin F. Jaeckle Award is given annually to a person who exemplifies the highest ideals of the law school and its alumni association and who has made significant contributions to the school and the legal profession.

Judge Fuentes has had a long and revered judicial career, including serving on the U.S. Court of Appeals bench since 2000 when he became the first Hispanic judge to sit on the Third Circuit. In 2016, he assumed senior status before retiring earlier this year.

For many years, Judge Fuentes facilitated opportunities for UB School of Law students to serve in summer clerkships at the highest level. Eleven of those students have gone on to become federal or state law clerks, and 18 of them have pursued careers in Big Law. Nine UB Law graduates have served Judge Fuentes as one of his elbow clerks.

**“My hope is that the interns and clerks who have passed through my chambers will continue to be a resource to one another and to future generations of law students. I would encourage students and new lawyers to reach out to people in the community and make connections. I would encourage established attorneys to give back to their communities and to mentor promising young lawyers, especially from a great law school like the State University of New York at Buffalo.”**

— Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75



← WATCH A VIDEO OF THE AWARDS PRESENTATION.

2023–24 LAA President Michael J. Hecker '09, Dean S. Todd Brown and Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75.



# CREATING OPPORTUNITIES IN PERPETUITY

The UB Law Alumni Association, always a steadfast supporter of UB law students, has taken steps this year to ensure its support is everlasting.

Under the leadership of its 2023–24 president, **Michael J. Hecker '09**, and current president, **Robert C. Brucato '90**, the association has significantly augmented its contributions to fund scholarships and other student-focused initiatives.

**Among the ways the association has put its resources to work:**

- **It established a \$250,000 endowment** to support UB Law Alumni Association Scholarships, which are awarded to first-year students and renewable for all three years.
- **It created a similar endowment of \$100,000** to help fund the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group's Scholarship.
- **It expanded its contributions** to the school's endowed Social Justice and Racial Equity Fund, which provides a summer fellowship for eligible law students.
- **And it made a substantial donation** to help pay for bar prep support and incentives as part of the law school's new **Rally the Pass initiative**, a comprehensive and community-based effort that has helped boost the law school's bar pass rate for first-time bar takers in New York State.

All of those investments came on top of the Law Alumni Association's robust roster of events and activities, including CLE programs, social and networking events, mentoring activities and the annual gala presentation of its Distinguished Alumni Awards.

It makes a difference to have alumni so committed to the school's continuing success. "The Law Alumni Association has been a dedicated partner to the law school for many decades," says **Dean S. Todd Brown**. "The association's generous contributions have enabled us to expand the level of student support we provide, contributing to significant improvements in our most recent placement and bar passage rates. We are very grateful for their commitment to our school and our students."

## Making connections, season by season

*A brief look at some of the many Law Alumni Association events and activities that took place this past year.*



**STARTING THE YEAR OFF STRONG**

**1L Mentor Reception in the Law Library**  
February 13, 2024

Liz Bove '14 (right) with mentees, Maeve Morley '26 and Sarah Moore '26.

**SPRINGTIME IN MANHATTAN**

**Network New York Reception**

March 21, 2024

Associate Dean for Career Services Jennifer R. Scharf '05 and David B. Teigman '04.



**MID-YEAR CELEBRATION IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL**

**D.C. Alumni Reception at the U.S. District Courthouse**

July 10, 2024

Hon. Paul L. Friedman '68 (center) continued his tradition of hosting the law school dean, S. Todd Brown, law school staff and friends, and members of the D.C. Alumni Chapter at this highly anticipated annual event.

**SUMMERTIME REUNION FOR OUR GOLDEN GUESTS**

**50+ Alumni Reunion Luncheon**  
August 7, 2024

LAA Executive Director Stephanie Mack '08, Dean S. Todd Brown (both last row, far left) and LAA President Robert Brucato '90 (last row, far right) joined a prestigious group of alumni—those who graduated 50 or more years ago—for a special reunion in O'Brian Hall.



FOR THE JUDICIARY  
**Hon. Henry J. Nowak '93**  
 Associate Justice, New York State  
 Supreme Court, Appellate  
 Division, Fourth Department  
 Buffalo, NY

FOR BUSINESS  
**Bruce Karpati '96**  
 Partner and Global Chief  
 Compliance Officer  
 KKR & Co., Inc.  
 New York City

FOR PUBLIC SERVICE  
**Erin M. Barclay '98**  
 Acting Director  
 U.S. Department of State's  
 Office of Civil Rights  
 Washington, D.C.

## Distinguished Alumni Awards recognize excellence and impact

May 8, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Buffalo

Established in 1963, the UB Law Alumni Association's annual dinner for the presentation of its Distinguished Alumni Awards recognizes the valuable contributions made by UB Law graduates to their profession and their community. This year, five outstanding graduates and one non-alum were recognized by their peers at the association's signature event.



FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE BY A NON-ALUM  
**John V. Elmore**  
 Partner and Founder  
 Law Office of John V. Elmore, PC  
 Buffalo

FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE  
**Hon. Stephanie A. Saunders '00**  
 Judge, New York State  
 Court of Claims  
 Buffalo

FOR PRIVATE PRACTICE  
**Terrence M. Gilbride '88**  
 Senior Vice President  
 and Chief Legal Officer  
 Buffalo Bills LLC  
 Buffalo



← **WATCH A VIDEO**  
 OF THE AWARDS  
 PRESENTATION.



**BACK IN THE CITY**  
 New York City Alumni  
 Reception  
 September 18, 2024  
 Dean S. Todd Brown with NYC  
 Alumni Chapter co-chairs  
 Daisy Tomaselli '13 and  
 Patrick Reinikainen '12.



**BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER**  
 All-Alumni Reunion  
 Celebration at the  
 Reikart Hotel  
 September 28, 2024  
 Members of the Class of  
 1989: Kelley Omel '89,  
 Daniel Boeck '89,  
 Hon. Brenda Freedman '89  
 and Karen Kaczmarek '89,  
 vice dean and senior director  
 of advancement.



**FALLING INTO FUN**  
 GOLD Group's Annual Fall Social  
 October 30, 2024  
 LAA President Robert Brucato '90, LAA Executive  
 Director Stephanie Mack '08, Dean S. Todd Brown  
 and GOLD Group President Todd Potter Jr. '15.

**A KICKOFF EVENT**  
 Sports Law Tailgate Event  
 September 14, 2024

UB Law alumni, students, faculty,  
 staff and friends assembled  
 off-field for some informal  
 networking and football fun.





# BOLD IMPACT

School of Law alumni and friends were instrumental in the success of the University at Buffalo’s biggest-ever fundraising effort—and our students are already benefiting.

**M**ore than 7,700 UB School of Law alumni and friends responded to the university’s Boldly Buffalo appeal, contributing significantly to the \$1.1 billion raised. The law school’s campaign goal was increased three times as organizers aimed ever higher and each time our donors came through to meet it.

The result: substantial growth in endowment funds, including those that support student scholarships and fellowships, and in named faculty positions, all critical in attracting top students and top scholars.

“This was a multi-year campaign, first started under **Dean Makau Mutua**,” says current **Dean S. Todd Brown**. “Every dollar raised for the law school has been invested in our priorities, including increasing scholarships for talented students, expanding our access to justice work and signature programs, building on our bar prep initiatives and retaining our world-class faculty.

“The support provided by our generous law school community has been central to all we have accomplished so far, and it remains critical as we look forward. I am very grateful to the many alumni and friends who share our

commitment to our students and to the future of our law school.”



Christopher A. Wightman '99  
Chair, Dean’s Advisory Council  
Member, Boldly Buffalo Campaign  
Steering Committee

“As a dedicated UB School of Law alum and supporter of the Boldly Buffalo campaign as a steering committee member, I am thrilled to see the possibilities this campaign has created for the students and faculty of our law school. It will have a profound benefit for years to come.”

—Christopher A. Wightman '99

## Law School’s Campaign Highlights

**7,784**  
TOTAL DONORS

**>200%**  
INCREASE IN ENDOWMENT

**159%**  
INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR  
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS





**\$47,122,788**

RAISED

**200%**

INCREASE IN NAMED  
FACULTY POSITIONS

**1,700%**

INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR  
ENDOWED FELLOWSHIPS

THANKS  
**A BILLION!**

**One historic campaign,**  
over **82,000 donors** and  
more than **\$1 billion** raised

The University at Buffalo is celebrating the largest fundraising campaign in university history! Because of the generosity of alumni and friends, more UB students will realize their dreams. More faculty will discover solutions to complex challenges. And UB will continue to change our world for the better. Learn more at [buffalo.edu/campaign](http://buffalo.edu/campaign).

**BOLDLY  
BUFFALO**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UB





# INVESTING IN OUR **FUTURE**





Thanks to a major investment by the university, extensive renovations to the fourth floor of O’Brian Hall are set to begin this spring—an effort that will transform the multi-use space, both within and outside of the law library.

The yearlong project features an extensive new suite for the Clinical Legal Education program, creating an in-house law firm environment, with a reception area for clients, multiple conference rooms and offices for clinical faculty and staff.

Also planned are six new classrooms of varying sizes and adjacent “learning landscape” areas where students can meet before or after class to relax or discuss what they are studying.

Inspired by the high aspirations of the Boldly Buffalo campaign, it’s a bold reimagining of O’Brian Hall and an innovative atmosphere for legal education.



## SUPPORT OUR BRIGHT STUDENTS AND BOLD NEW INITIATIVES

Designate a gift where it **means the most to you**, including:

- Admissions Scholarships
  - The Advocacy Institute
  - Discover Law Undergraduate Scholars Program
  - Social Justice and Racial Equity Fund
  - New York City Program in Business and Law
  - UB Law Clinics
  - Summer Fellowship program
- and many more

### CONTACT:



**Karen R. Kaczmarzski '89**  
*Vice Dean and Senior Director of Advancement*

716-645-6429 or [krkacz@buffalo.edu](mailto:krkacz@buffalo.edu)

OR



**Emilie Rosenbluth**  
*Director of Advancement*

716-645-2113 or [ebrosenb@buffalo.edu](mailto:ebrosenb@buffalo.edu)

[law.buffalo.edu/giving](http://law.buffalo.edu/giving)



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**CONGRATULATIONS TO**

**HON. E. JEANNETTE  
OGDEN '83**

Associate Justice  
New York State Supreme Court  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department

Recipient of the

**2025 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award**

The highest honor the University  
at Buffalo School of Law and the  
Law Alumni Association can bestow

**Thursday, February 6, 2025**

**6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Statler Buffalo**

**107 Delaware Avenue**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**

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