

Here
IS HOW
YOU CAN INVEST
IN STUDENT
SUCCESS

Our Advocacy Institute relies on the support of alumni and friends for its existence and growth. But the pace and scope of sustaining and advancing the Institute requires securing additional resources.

Our goal of \$2.5 million to establish a permanent endowment would bring a level of funding certainty to the Institute's vital work, and help us on our path to being recognized as a premier, state-of-the-art, nationally-ranked advocacy center.

To make a gift to the Institute, contact:
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Making the Case for Advocacy



University at Buffalo
The Advocacy Institute
School of Law

Our Institute and Our Mission

Launched in 2014, the Advocacy Institute is dedicated to helping students cultivate the skills, discipline, and ethics necessary to become creative and principled advocates for their future clients. The Institute serves as host to the law school's Innocence and Justice Project as well as its programs in Trial Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy, and Alternative Dispute Resolution. These programs provide students with training from leading judges, trial attorneys, and faculty, with the goal of helping our students become superior advocates; enabling our students to excel and pass the bar; and serving as a pathway for employment in the careers of their choice. We also offer a Certificate of Concentration in Advocacy that is nationally unique in exposing students to a diverse set of experiences essential to the development of skilled litigators.



Trial Advocacy

The fundamentals of Trial Advocacy are learned in the law school's Trial Technique course, in which students spend a semester preparing and trying simulated cases under the tutelage of experienced trial lawyers. The law school also sponsors multiple student teams, coached by dedicated faculty and volunteer trial lawyers, in competitions throughout the United States.

Appellate Advocacy

Students begin appellate training in their first year when, after extensive preparation, they make an appellate argument before a panel of judges. Students may advance to upper level Appellate Advocacy courses and compete in the Desmond Moot Court Competition as well as prestigious national and international competitions coached by highly skilled practitioners.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

After taking a course on Mediation Theory and Practice, students may participate in a Mediation Clinic. Students progress from simulations and recorded role-playing exercises to serving as volunteer mediators for small-claims cases in local town courts. Teams participate in a rigorous in-house competition and compete in ADR competitions nationally and abroad.

Innocence and Justice Project

Our Innocence and Justice Project (IJP) channels the energy of students and faculty toward litigation, research, and advocacy that address over-incarceration, racial disparities in access to justice and the criminal legal system, and wrongful incarceration. Central to our mission is the idea that justice means that people, including those who commit violent crimes, ought not to be condemned to life in prison. Partnering with the law school's Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic, IJP has been representing clients in applications for resentencing under New York's recently enacted Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, and in parole hearings as part of a strategic initiative to transform New York state parole.



Our Successes

Trial Advocacy (2022/2023)

- Best Advocate** - Stetson National Pretrial Competition
- Best Memorandum of Law** - Stetson Pretrial Competition
- Best Direct Examination** - Syracuse National Trial Competition
- Best Closing Argument** - Queens DA Mock Trial Competition

Host to the popular **Buffalo Niagara Trial Competition**
28 schools from across the country competed in 2022

Appellate Advocacy (2022/2023)

- Advanced to Semi Finals** - ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition
- Host to the **Wechsler National Criminal Moot Court Competition**, the **largest** national criminal law moot court competition

Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation (2022/2023)

- Placed 2nd** - NYS Bar Association Mediation Tournament

Our 2023 NYS Bar Association Mediation Team and Judges



Our National Board of Advisors

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