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Hon. William J. Regan Honored At Ninth Annual Alumni Convocation

Former Erie County Surrogate William J. Regan was the 1985 recipient of the Edwin F. Jaeckle Award, presented at the 9th Annual UB Law Alumni Convocation held February 2.

The annual convocation is the forum for both the presentation of the distinguished Jaeckle Award and a morning program and panel discussion on a selected area of the law. The topic of this year’s event was “Products Liability: An Overview.” The convocation was held at the Amherst Campus’ Center For Tomorrow.

UB Law Alumni Association President Rose H. Sconiers noted that Judge Regan, who served for 18 years as Erie County’s Surrogate, was a guiding force in the Alumni Association. The award recipient, a past Alumni President, was hailed as “a caring, just man gifted with extraordinary common sense and a sensitivity to those appearing before him... a credit to the judiciary... a person of vision... responsive to citizens’ needs.”

The award was presented by Edwin F. Jaeckle, Class of 1915, after whom it is named. It is the highest honor conferred by the Alumni Association and the Law School.

Last year’s Jaeckle recipient was Professor and former Law School Dean Jacob Hyman. The first non-alumnus to receive the distinction, Hyman was honored for his leadership and dedication over the course of 38 years at the School.

The discussion on products liability, which started the convocation, was conducted by a panel of area experts. Justice M. Delores Denman spoke on general theories of recovery, Philip H. Magner Jr on lawsuit strategy, Leo J. Fallon and Daniel T. Roach on disclosure, and George “Mike” Gibson on “evidentiary traps for the unwary.”

The annual program, moved this year from its traditional November date, presents local practitioners with the opportunity to hear formal lectures and group discussion on the state of the law in a particular area. Last year’s convocation featured “Retirement Basics: Financial Planning For Your Clients and You.”

The Chairman of the 1985 event was Douglas S. Coppola.