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Newsmakers

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NEWSMAKERS

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI HONOR LAW GRADS

While UB Law School accounts for a mere five percent of the State University at Buffalo's total number of alumni, three out of five Distinguished Alumni Awards went to UB Law School grads when the general UB Alumni Association held their 47th Annual Installation and Awards Banquet on June 6.

Recipients were Maryann Saccomando Freedman '58 of Buffalo, Thomas Maligno '77 of Huntington Station, N.Y. and Margaret W. Wong '76 of Cleveland, Ohio. They were cited "in recognition of distinguished careers and service to the community and other extraordinary achievements which bring credit to the individual and the university."

Mrs. Freedman, a confidential law clerk to State Supreme Court Justice William J. Ostrowski, became president-elect of the New York State Bar Association on June 1 and will be the association's first woman president in 1987. She was president of the Erie County Bar Association in 1981 and 1982 and served as secretary of the state bar association. Mrs. Freedman has also been president of the Woman Lawyer's Association of Western N.Y., Erie County Aid to Indigent Prisoner's Society Inc., and Pretrial Services Inc. Her honors include being named the Outstanding Woman in Law 1984 by the UB Community Advisory Council and the Supreme Court Clerk of the Year.

Mr. Maligno personally handles hundreds of cases each year and supervises more than a thousand legal matters that are disposed of without fee by 500 lawyers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, N.Y. He is associated with the Nassau-Suffolk Law Services Committee, a non-profit law firm organized to provide legal assistance to the indigent in civil matters, and coordinates the Pro Bono Project which has received

awards from the New York State and the American Bar Associations. In 1985 he was named Young Lawyer of the Year by the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations as well as by the New York State Bar Association.

Ms. Wong, a special counsel for the State of Ohio, is an entrepreneur who heads her own law firm specializing in immigration law and also owns a well respected Oriental restaurant in Cleveland. She was one of Glamour Magazine's Top Ten Young Working Women in 1983, YWCA's 1984 Career Woman of the Year, and recently earned the 1985-86 Leadership Cleveland designation. She maintains a full slate of civic activities including serving on the board of trustees for Women's City Club, YWCA, Womenspace, Council of Human Relations, and the Chinese Association of Greater Cleveland. ■

JUDGES ELECT CURTIN

U.S. District Judge John T. Curtin '49 has been elected by the more than 60 federal judges of the 2nd U.S. Circuit to a two-year term as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the body that sets policy for federal courts at all levels. The conference includes the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, the chief judges of the 10 federal circuits and 10 district judges.

"I'm really honored to be named," says Judge Curtin, who describes the conference as "a board of directors for the courts." Previously he served for six years on the conference's Probation and Parole Committee.

Judge Curtin is best known for ordering the desegregation of Buffalo's public schools and the police and fire departments. A U.S. Marine combat pilot during World War II, he served as U.S. Attorney in Western New York from 1961 until his appointment to the bench in 1967. ■

The presidency of the 2,800-member Bar Association of Erie County was assumed by yet another UB Law School grad when George M. Zimmermann '49, for the past year vice president (president-elect) took office June 12, succeeding Richard N. Blewett '51. Zimmermann is a partner with the Buffalo firm Albrecht, Maguire, Heffern & Gregg and an adjunct UB law professor.

Carol White Gibson '74, Robert S. Stephenson '72 and Stephen C. Townsend '74 were among those elected to three-year terms on the organization's board of directors.

At their 99th Annual Dinner held June 11, special recognition was given to the following 50 year ECBA members who are also UB Law School alumni: John B. Bean '35, Thomas E. Delahunt '33 and Charles R. Diebold '35.

* * *

Among those serving as officers of the Erie County Bar Foundation, Inc. are UB Law School alumni William R. Kneeland '55, treasurer; and Harold J. Brand, Jr. '67, secretary.

Elected to three-year terms on the board of directors are Philip H. Magner, Jr. '49, Barbara Howe '80, Brand, Ernest J. Norman '70 and Richard H. Gordon '61. ■

CORRECTION

In the Winter/Spring 1986 issue of The Forum, it was reported that Stuart Paul Gelberg graduated from UB Law School in 1981. He actually graduated in 1980.

CUOMO HAILS "THE CHIEF"

Gov. Mario M. Cuomo came to Buffalo April 29 to pay tribute to Charles S. Desmond '20 of Eden, the retired chief judge of the state Court of Appeals. Judge Desmond, 91, practices law with the Buffalo law firm of Damon & Morey and remains active in numerous civic and professional organizations.

Gov. Cuomo's appearance, combined with the popularity of Judge Desmond, drew an overflow crowd of more than 800 to the Hyatt Regency Buffalo for the annual spring luncheon of the St. Thomas More Guild, formerly known as the Catholic Lawyers' Guild, which honored the retired jurist.

In his speech, Gov. Cuomo affectionately referred to Judge Desmond as "the chief." A special, almost father-son relationship exists between the governor and Judge Desmond, who first became acquainted 30 years ago.

Cuomo told the luncheon guests that Desmond was "a model for judges and lawyers . . . a man of extraordinary intelligence, rock-solid judgement and unbendable convictions, not easily swayed by the whims of popular opinion." Cuomo also said Desmond was witty, possessed of "a quick and incisive mind and a pleasant sense of humor . . . a man with a love of people and integrity of person and purpose." ■

The Western New York Trial Lawyers Association elected the following UB Law School alumni as officers and directors for 1986: president, Eugene C. Tenney '54; vice president and president-elect, James J. Hagerty '50; secretary, Andrew Feldman '68; and treasurer, Eugene F. Pigott Jr. '73.

Gerald Grace Jr. '72, newly elected to the board of directors, joins current board members Mark G. Farrell '72, Douglas S. Coppola '75 and Donald T. Mahoney '53. ■



Gov. Cuomo converses with Judge Charles S. Desmond '20.