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Newhouse Plans to Stay

Wade J. Newhouse, who served as dean for the past year and has been a member of the law faculty since 1958, has reassured alumni that he will be staying on at the Law School.

According to President Steven B. Sample, “All of us at UB are very grateful to Wade Newhouse for the superb leadership he has provided to the Law School. He has worked tirelessly and effectively for and with the students, alumni and faculty.”

Alumni applauded at the Dean’s Dinners when Newhouse said, “I think I’ll stay a little longer.

“My choice to remain is grounded in a loyalty to the institution and community of which I have become a part. But that loyalty is easy to come by, because of the very special qualities of the institution and the strengths of the community.

“From a perspective gained by 34 years of participation in legal education, I do not hesitate to say that the Buffalo Law School is among the leaders in legal education in many ways, and has been for many years and through a succession of deanships. For we do tend to record the history of law schools by reference to the periods of service of the deans.

“Since before World War II, UB Law School has been a leader in developing innovative approaches to teaching. But this has not been innovation for innovation’s sake. There has been a consistent tradition of concern for developing ways in which to improve the method of educating prospective lawyers. While members of this faculty have been deeply involved in studying theories of law, a parallel theme has been consistently present: theory does not have to be, and should not be, divorced from the practical. We are a professional school. As such, we are responsible for the education and training of those persons who will make up the legal profession.

“But we are also a professional school in a university setting, and, as such, we have a large responsibility for scholarship. The two are not in conflict. Teaching and scholarship are mutually reinforcing, for in any respectable law school students must be taught to understand why and how law changes, to anticipate change, and to understand how to use change to effectively represent their clients. Did I say ‘any respectable law school?’ Rest assured, Buffalo is ‘respectable’ in this regard.

“The strength of any law school must be measured in its faculty and its students – and, of course, its former students. Buffalo ranks high on all counts.

“We can proudly say that the Buffalo faculty is an unusual and creative mix. We have a significant number of faculty who are trained in disciplines in addition to law, and we have faculty who represent practically all the current approaches to legal education. But there is a genuine effort to mesh these diverse approaches into an educational program which will not only adequately prepare our students for practice, but will also instill in them a sense of professional responsibility.

“Our students continue to make us proud of them. Their quality is illustrated by a letter I recently received. A judge in the state of Washington employed one of our graduates last May. He wrote me to tell me what an excellent job she is doing and to express his gratitude for the legal education we must have given her.

“But I have said that the strength of a school is also measured by its former students – its alumni. We can modestly acknowledge that your accomplishments are a strong indicator of the quality of the Buffalo Law School – its quality in both recent and more distant past.

“One more item about our strength and our future. It is a sign of our strength and quality, and a promise of continued progress, that David Filvaroff has joined us and will become dean in January 1988.”