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Judge Dillon Receives Jaeckle Award

President Steven B. Sample presents the award to Judge Dillon.

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At its 11th Annual Law Convocation last year, the University at Buffalo Law School and Law Alumni Association honored Justice Michael F. Dillon, class of 1951, presiding justice of the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department, and former Erie County District Attorney.

University President Steven B. Sample presented Justice Dillon with the prestigious Edwin F. Jaeckle Award for 1987. Named for UB Law alumnus Edwin F. Jaeckle, class of 1915, the award is the highest honor the Faculty of Law and Jurisprudence and the UB Law Alumni Association can bestow. It is given annually to an individual who has distinguished himself or herself and has made significant contributions to the Law School and the legal profession.

In announcing the award, UB Law Alumni President Douglas S. Coppola cited Justice Dillon for his dedication to the law and public service: "As Erie County District Attorney, he demonstrated a commitment to professionalism in the administration of the criminal justice system. As a jurist, he is recognized by his peers for his knowledge of the law, judicial temperament and leadership. His achievements bring credit to our profession and our school."

Justice Dillon, presently an Orchard Park resident, was born in the City of Lackawanna in 1927. After his high school graduation in 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged in 1946. He studied prelaw at Canisius College before entering UB Law.

After he was admitted to the bar in 1951, he practiced general law and served as Corporation Counsel of Lackawanna from 1958 to 1960.

He was elected District Attorney of Erie County in 1963 and held that office for ten years. He was elected president of the New York State District Attorney's Association in 1968 and served as chairman of its executive committee in 1969. He was also a vice president and member of the executive committee of the National District Attorneys Association.

Justice Dillon was elected to a 14-year term on the Supreme Court, Eighth Judicial District, in 1973. Former Governor Carey designated him as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department in 1976, and as presiding judge of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department in 1979.

Justice Dillon also was awarded a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Law Alumni Association in 1974. He was then cited for "his long years of public service."

The Jaeckle Award ceremony followed a symposium that was designed to provide information to lawyers who undertake representation of the mentally disabled. Joseph G. Makowski '79 chaired the event, which was held in the Center for Tomorrow on the Amherst campus.

Come one, come all!

Members of the Alumni Association are busy planning more centennial-year events. Invitations and information will be mailed to you shortly. On the docket for spring are:

• Centennial Convocation. The morning symposium will give you the latest information on hiring and firing and other problems of employment relations. Luncheon follows at noon, after which the Jaeckle Award will be presented. Plan to join us on Saturday, March 5th, at 8:50 a.m. at the Center for Tomorrow, Amherst campus.

• 26th Annual Dinner. Renew acquaintances and help us honor our Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. This year's dinner will be held in the Buffalo Hilton Hotel on Friday, April 29th starting at 6 p.m.