Class Action

UB Law Forum
CLASS ACTION

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1920s

At UB Law School's commencement exercises, three generations of the Barth Family were recognized for a 60-year legal tradition which began with Buffalo practitioner Philip C. Barth '27. His son Roger Barth '63 now practices in Washington, D.C. Roger's daughter Mary Katherine Barth graduated in '87.

1940s

Ross Runfola '49 has a Ph.D. as well as a law degree and is a professor of social sciences at Medaille College. Last summer, a reporter included him as one of the top ten college teachers in the area in a Buffalo News Sunday magazine article.

1950s

Robert B. Fleming '51, former dean and professor of law at Pace University Law School, has become counsel to the firm of Cohen, Swados, Wright, Hanifin, Bradford, & Brett in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, New York.

1960s

Roger A. Olson '63 has joined the Buffalo firm of Barth, Sullivan & Lancaster.

Albert Dolata '64 is president of the Gannett Pacific Newspaper Group, which consists of the Honolulu Star Bulletin and the Agana Guam/Pacific Daily News.

Gerald S. Lippes '64, senior partner in the law firm of Lippes, Kaminsky, Silverstein, Porter, Mathias & Wexler, is serving on the policy council of the university's new Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership. The Center provides programs for entrepreneurs who have made a commitment to the business community but wish to enhance their skills and broaden their experience.

Harold J. Brand, Jr. '67 was presented with the Special Service Award at the 100th Annual Dinner Meeting of the Bar Association of Erie County held June 10, 1987.

Carl J. Montante '67 is serving on the policy council of the university's new Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

Hon. John D. Doyle '68, a Supreme Court Justice for the Seventh Judicial District, has been elected chairman of the New York State Bar Association's 1,100-member Municipal Law Section. He previously served as secretary and vice-chairman of the Section. Judge Doyle lives in Rochester.

Hon. John D. Doyle '68 was honored recently as "man of the year" by the Israel Bonds Organization of Buffalo. He served as vice president of the Jewish Federation in 1986 and chaired a Federation mission this year to Washington, D.C. where he met with

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Robert Moriarty ’68, senior partner with the Buffalo law firm of Moriarty & Condon, has been appointed chairman of the American Bar Association Section of Family Law’s Continuing Legal Education Committee. He is co-author of the New York State Domestic Relations Practice Guide published by Matthew Bender and Co. in September, 1987.

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Richard J. Lippes ’69 is chairman of Buffalo’s Environmental Management Council. “There are ways to protect the environment that are good for the city and good for the economy,” Lippes says. An environmental attorney and former chairman of the state Sierra Club chapter, Lippes took on Occidental Chemical Corp. and won a $20 million settlement for about 1,500 Love Canal residents of Niagara Falls.

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Charles A. Zielinski ’69 is a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Rogers and Wells. He resides in Arlington, Virginia.

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1970s

Jerome M. Hesch ’70 has written a law school casebook, co-authored with Professor Lewis D. Solomon of George Washington University, entitled Federal Income Taxation, Problems, Cases and Materials. The casebook was published in 1987 by West Publishing Co. “Many of the questions and approaches I was exposed to in Professor DelCotto’s and Professor Joyce’s classes as a student in law school found their way into my book,” he says. Hesch, his wife Andrea and two children live in Montvale, New Jersey.

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Ralph Cessario ’72, who practices law in Buffalo with Mark G. Farrell, was elected Amherst Republican Town Chairman and an Erie County Republican Executive Committee member.

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Richard M. Salsberg ’70 has merged his practice with the New Jersey law firm of Sills, Beck, Cummins, Zuckerman, Radin, Tischman & Epstein. Salsberg’s firm comprises their labor and employment department. He is a visiting instructor of labor relations at the Rutgers Institute of Management-Labor Relations. He and his wife Eileen and children in Coral Gables, Florida.

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Michael A. Marra ’73 of Lexington, Kentucky is director of qualified plan administration and employee benefits counsel for Ashland Oil, Inc. Marra joined Ashland in 1980. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy as well as UB Law.

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Benjamin A. Wiech ’73 has formed a law office in North Tonawanda with John F. Batt. Wiech previously practiced with the firm of Schnell and Salmon. He is a director of the Niagara County Council on Alcoholism and is a past president of the Tonawandas Bar Association and the Tonawanda Lions Club.

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Carl R. Reynolds ’74, a sole practitioner in Rochester, New York, has been appointed to the board of directors of the First National Bank of Rochester. He is secretary/treasurer of New Sky Communications, Inc. and associate producer of the feature film, "Lady in White." He also gives senior citizens legal and financial advice in a column he writes for the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle.

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Richard C. Schisler ’74 has formed a partnership with David B. Sall in Poughkeepsie, New York. The practice is now known as Schisler & Sall.

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Linda C. Fentiman ’75 was promoted to associate professor at Suffolk University Law School where she teaches criminal law, contracts, and law and psychiatry. She is the mother of a new daughter, Rachel Elizabeth, sister of Jamie.

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Pamela Davis Heilman ’75 of Snyder has been named vice chairman of the Fund Distribution and Community Services Committee of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. She is a partner in the law firm of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods and Goodyear.

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Officers of the State University College at Buffalo Alumni Association are all UB Law School graduates. Benjamin Zuffranieri, Jr. ’80 has been elected president. Serving with him are Susan Bring Tobe ’74, vice president, and Mark Klein ’82, treasurer.
Michael A. Marra '73

Bruce D. Steiner '75 is now with Kleinberg, Kaplan, Wolff & Cohen, P.C. in New York City. He lives in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

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Louis P. DiLorenzo '76, a partner in the Syracuse law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, has been elected chairman of the New York State Bar Association's 2,000-member Young Lawyers Section.

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Sue S. Gardner '76, a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Kavinoky & Cook, was honored by the YWCA of Buffalo and Erie County for her leadership role model for women at the ninth annual Leader Luncheon held on June 3, 1987. Among Mrs. Gardner's accomplishments was heading a "Women and Money" educational series, developed with other members of the Taxation and Legal Committee of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies. She is a board member of the city Landmark and Preservation Board, Greater Buffalo Chapter of the American Red Cross, and is a past board member of the UB Law School Alumni Association, among others.

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Clark W. Lackert '76 has been named a partner in the New York City law firm of Nims, Howes, Collision & Isern. The firm specializes in intellectual property. He is currently chairman of the American Bar Association's International Trademark Law Committee.

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Richard M. Miller '76 has accepted the position of corporate counsel for Prince Manufacturing, Inc. in Princeton, New Jersey. He now resides in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

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Rodney O. Personius '76, an assistant U.S. attorney, has been appointed a new civil division chief by U.S. Attorney Roger P. Williams. He is responsible for representing the government in suits by or against federal agencies.

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Sanford C. Presant '76 is a partner in the New York City law firm of Finley, Kumble, Wagner, Heine, Underberg, Manley, Myerson & Casey. He was appointed national chairman of the American Bar Association's subcommittee on Partnership Tax Allocations and is a regular guest on the Public Broadcast System's "Nightly Business Report."

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Peter D. Conrad '77 is a member of the New York City firm of Proskauer, Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn. He specializes in labor and employment law.

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Paul M. Edgette '77 has been named executive vice president and director of corporate development at Empire of America Federal Savings. He is responsible for capital acquisitions and bank mergers and acquisitions. He had been a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Moot & Sprague.

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Matthew J. Leeds '77 has become a partner in the New York City law firm of Robinson, Silverman, Pearce, Aronsohn & Berman. He resides in Chappaqua, New York.

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William F. Shields '77, an International Law Officer in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, is serving in Japan.

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Maryann Foley '78, a sole practitioner in Anchorage, Alaska, has been elected president of Alaska Legal Services.

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Noel Guardi '78 is a sole practitioner in Denver, Colorado specializing in securities law. He recently completed his 30th successful public offering: Hawkeye Entertainment, Inc., a company formed by singer/songwriter Harry Nilsson, to engage in entertainment production.

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Richard A. Keenan '78, of Rochester, New York is a special assistant district attorney in charge of the pre-trial division for the Monroe County District Attorney's office.

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Cynthia Howard Peterson '78 has become a partner in the Jamestown, New York law firm of Moot & Sprague.
Janice R. Trybus '78 has been appointed corporate counsel by Delaware North Companies, Inc., a diversified international holding company with revenues in excess of $1 billion from subsidiaries engaged in the food service, parking management, publishing, typography, pari-mutuel and metals processing industries.

John F. Batt '79 has formed a law office in North Tonawanda, New York with Benjamin A. Wiech. He teaches business law at Niagara Community College and is a director of the Niagara County Legal Aid Society.

J. R. Drexelius, Jr. '79 has been appointed chief counsel and director of district operations for Sen. Walter Floss, Jr. R.-Erie-Geneese. Drexelius had been Floss’ legislative counsel and was with the Erie County District Attorney’s office.

Michael H. Ranzenhofer '79 is now a partner with the Buffalo law firm of Mattar, D’Agostino, Kogler and Runfola. He specializes in civil trial practice. An associate with the firm since 1983, he is a member of the Amherst South Rotary Club and the Amherst Republican Committee and serves as a director of the Amherst Youth Foundation, Inc.

Roger L. Ross '79 has been named a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Hurwitz & Fine. He specializes in business and corporation law, as well as real estate transactions.

Paul J. Suozzi '79 has been named a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Hurwitz & Fine. He specializes in litigation.

Charles C. Swanekamp '79 has become a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Saperson & Day, P.C.

Ronald J. Tanski '79 is an assistant vice president of Empire Exploration Inc., a National Fuel Gas System company located in Buffalo.

1980s

Ann B. Bermingham '80 was elected secretary-treasurer of the Estate Analysts of Western New York for 1987-88. She is a trust officer with Manufacturers & Traders Trust Company. EAWNY is an organization of attorneys, certified public accountants, chartered life underwriters and bank trust officers who engage in estate planning.

Timothy C. Cashmore '80 has become a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Saperson & Day, P.C.

Charles G. DiPasquale '80 has been named a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Grosse, Rossetti, Chelus and Herdzik. He handles personal injury litigation and general areas of the law.

Stuart P. Gelberg '80 recently moved to Glen Cove, New York, and is now a sole practitioner in Garden City, New York. He is the father of a new daughter, Jeanne Nadine.

Kenneth J. Landau '80, an associate attorney with Shayne, Dachs, Stanisci & Corker in Mineola, New York, has been appointed chairperson of the Young Lawyer Economics Committee of the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division and was elected secretary of the Bar Association of Nassau County, Academy of Law. His busy speaking schedule included: “Introduction to Legal Research,” at Marymount Manhattan College, Center for Legal Studies; “Buying and Selling a House,” at SUNY at Farmingdale; “How to Find a Lawyer,” at SUNY at Farmingdale; and “Legal Analysis,” at Citicorp.

William A. Lundquist '80 has become a partner in the firm of Saperson & Day, P.C.

Karen L. Mathews '80 has been named general counsel of Fairground Farms, Inc. located in West Palm Beach, Florida.

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Ricky Samuel, Jr. '80 is employed by Ziskind, Greene & O'Briant, a legal search firm in Beverly Hills, California. He is also pursuing a career as a guitarist and songwriter in his spare time.

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Henry J. Simon '80 has been named vice president of communications of Tavco Marketing and Media, Inc. of Buffalo. He previously was director of public relations for Empire of America Realty Credit Corp. Before that he was a producer and reporter of business news on WGRZ-TV and WEBR-AM.

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Kenneth C. Turek '80 has become a founding partner of Endeman, Lincoln, Tureck & Ulter, a new San Diego, California law firm. He is a specialist in civil and appellate litigation.

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Benjamin M. Zuffranieri, Jr. '80 has recently co-authored an article entitled, "Appeals to the New York Court of Appeals," which will be published by the Matthew Bender Service on New York Tax Law.

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Carla J. L. Gersten '81 has taken a job with Edwards & Angell in Providence, Rhode Island. Recently married to Andrew C. Spacone '77, she has changed her name to Carla Spacone.

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Linda J. Kaumeyer '81 of Buffalo is among the winners of this year's President's Pro Bono Service Awards presented by the New York State Bar Association. Twelve other lawyers were also recipients.

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William C. Moran '81 has been named a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear. He is a business law and tax attorney.

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Lewis Rose '81, who works for the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. was recently promoted to attorney-adviser to Commissioner Terry Calvani. He specializes in consumer protection.

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Robert J. Schreck '81 has become a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Mattar, D'Agostino, Kogler and Runfola. He specializes in civil and criminal trial practice and real estate. At UB Law School, he received the Connelly Award for trial technique.

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Cory J. Ciambella '82 has opened a law office in Long Beach, California.

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David S. Kimpel '82 has joined the Syracuse office of Bruce W. Peters P.C. as associate attorney. Kimpel will represent Spectrum Home Mortgage Corp. and specialize in residential and commercial real estate transactions, title insurance and general practice.

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Judith A. Schwendler '82 was named a partner with the Williamsville, New York law firm of Ward and Brenon. She will be featured with other members of the Schwendler family in a national advertising campaign for Matthew Bender & Co., publishers, on the occasion of their centennial.

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Catherine M. Venzon (Sacco) '82 specializes in matrimonial and family law in Buffalo. Married to William Z. Reich '74, she gave birth last year to a daughter, Zabrina Venzon Reich.

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Colleen A. Brown '83, the first person to serve as assistant U.S. Bankruptcy Court trustee in the 17 counties of Western New York, opened offices in August in the U.S. Courthouse in Buffalo and Federal Office Building in Rochester. She is responsible for monitoring operations of U.S. Bankruptcy Court in both cities and for appointing trustees to sell off the assets of the bankrupt or to oversee business reorganizations.
Jeffrey S. Eisenberg '83 is an associate with the Wall Street firm of Hawkins, Delafield & Wood.

Joyce E. Funda '83 has become a partner in the firm of Siegel, Kelleher & Kahn.

Murray Levine '83, who is a professor of psychology at UB, was presented the 1987 Distinguished Contribution Award of the American Psychological Association's Division of Community Psychology for his "outstanding service and dedication." He also has been elected a fellow of the Law and Psychology Division of the APA. Levine is director of the clinical/community graduate program and co-director of the Research Center for Children and Youth at UB.

Michael Patrick James McGorry '83 has become a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Silverberg, Yood, Sellers & Ramm. The firm's name has been changed to Silverberg, Yood, Sellers, McGorry & Ramm.

Rochelle A. Reback '83 is now a member of the Florida and New York bars and is associated with Barry A. Cohen in the practice of criminal defense litigation in Tampa, Florida.

Ellen A. Sinclair '83 is a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps in San Francisco, California.

Wayne Wisniewski '83, deputy staff judge advocate with the U.S. Air Force, is stationed at San Vito Air Station in Italy.

Michael S. Gawel '84 of Niagara Falls, New York, has joined the newly formed firm of Tooney & O'Toole for the general practice of law.

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Rose Sconiers '73, left, and Barbara Howe '80, were recently elected City Court Judges in Buffalo.

Lenore A. Houck '84 has become a law partner of Edwin R. Schneider in Blue Hill, Maine.

Neil M. Leibman '84 is recruiting coordinator for the law department for Exxon Corporation. He resides in Houston, Texas.

Kimberly Copeland Sheehan '84 is an associate attorney with O'Connor, McGuinness, Conte, Doyle, Oleson & Collins in White Plains, New York. Her husband, Timothy Sheehan '84 is an associate of Martin, Clearwater & Bell in New York City. They both specialize in medical malpractice defense work and reside in White Plains.

William D. Berard III '85, an associate with the Niagara Falls, New York law firm of Gold and Gold, is Niagara County Attorney for the Aging.

Gary S. Kaminisky '85 works for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C., where he is a staff attorney for the enforcement division.

Barbara White '85 is an associate professor of law at the University of Houston Law Center, Houston, Texas.

Michael G. Zapson '85 of Long Beach, New York, has opened his own New York City practice. He is also counsel to the firm of Kirschenbaum, Fleischman & Spigler.

Alan Butterworth '86 earned a masters of law in taxation from the University of Florida. He practices with the firm of Gray, Harris & Robinson in Orlando, Florida.

Kathleen J. Crocoll '86 is an attorney for the U.S. Department of Labor – Benefits Review Board in Washington, D.C.

Karen Hassett Du Waldt '86 is now working with the Denver, Colorado law firm of Sherman and Howard.
MARRIAGES

Cindy Anne Algase '85 and Wayne Robert Gradl '83. They are now living in Kendall, Fla.

Mary Katherine Barth '87 and Gregory John Kremer. The couple lives in Jamestown, N.Y.

Steven Jay Baum '86 and Ellen Randi Schwartz.

George F. Bellows '85 and Ann Elizabeth Duffy live in Amherst, N.Y.

Arrobe Town and Village Justice William C. Beyer '81 and Sheri A. Bell.

Stephen Richard Brady '82 and Diane Marie Kellick live in Buffalo, N.Y.

John G. Cansdale, a third year law student, and Jacqueline Ann Valvo.

Kathleen Ann Crowley '87 and Vincent DePaul Bamrick.

Randolph H. Donatelli '85 and Susan M. Haumesser. They live in Savannah, GA.

Christopher Lawrence Doyle '87 and Susan Elizabeth Laudenslager live in Youngstown, N.Y.

Susan A. Eberle '82 and Philip C. Barth III, a third year law student, live in Buffalo, N.Y.

Robert M. Graff '77 and Amy Jo Fricano '81.

Judith Holender '83 and Robert Loeb. The couple lives in Rochester, N.Y.

Juliana M. Isada '85 and Joseph P. Domkowski.

Claude Arthur Joerg '79 and Nancy Jayne Ogiony live in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Jeffrey Howard Katz '86 and Susan Beth Seidner live in Williamsville, N.Y.

Kenneth R. Kirby '82 and Susan Marie Cumbo.

Robert John Kreppel '83 and Susan Elizabeth Hourihan.

Mary Elizabeth Gregory '86 and Keith Douglas Perla '84.

Jeffrey Crozier Magavern, a second year law student, and Jeanne Marie Deck. The couple lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Catherine Ann Maxwell '85 and Brian V. McAvoy '85. They live in Rochester, N.Y.

Michael Edmund Maxwell, a third year law student, and Lisa Kathryn Johnson live in Buffalo, N.Y.

John W. Murray '85 and Mary Patricia Robinson '87.

William Edward Nowakowski '84 and Dr. Mary Louise Turkiewicz.

Mary Keefe Roach '83 and Scott David Miller '81. The couple lives in East Aurora, N.Y.

Hugh McMaster Russ III '87 and Linda Jean Small. The couple lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Donna Lynn Smith '87 and Joseph W. Burden III.

Mark R. Sokolowski '84 and Susan Marie Szatkowski.

In Memoriam

William P. Bellas '54
Williamsville, New York
Sept. 24, 1986

Frank L. Bowen '35
Little Valley, New York
Nov. 27, 1986

George E. Burns '34
Amherst, New York
Nov. 7, 1987

Perry C. Coburn '81
Sinclairville, New York
Dec. 25, 1986

Mildred Bork Connors '27
Amherst, New York
Oct. 6, 1986

Peter Cuvillo '19
Town of Tonawanda, New York
March 28, 1987

Darwin DeMarchi '34
Eggertsville, New York
April 2, 1987

Hon. Charles S. Desmond '20
Eden, New York
Feb. 9, 1987

George P. Doyle '65
Buffalo, New York
Oct. 15, 1987

James T. Edwards '51
East Aurora
April 20, 1987

Leonard Finkelstein '29
Amherst, New York
April 19, 1987

Manly Fleischmann '33
Buffalo, New York
March 25, 1987

John H. Galvin '59
Alexandria, Virginia
April 24, 1987

Sunderland P. Gardner '28
Mulberry, Florida
Sept. 14, 1986

Michael F. Gautieri '83
Batavia, New York
Dec. 23, 1986

Edith S. Goldstein '24
Buffalo, New York
Aug. 17, 1987

Thomas L. Kelly '36
Salamanca, New York
Oct. 9, 1987

James F. Kogler '74
Buffalo, New York
Jan. 5, 1987

Wilfred M. Lacey '62
Niagara Falls, New York
Feb. 16, 1987

Mary Blakeley Lane '20
Williamsville, New York
May 12, 1987

L. Robert Leisner '50
Buffalo, New York
Oct. 27, 1986

Roland Logel '30
Williamsville, New York
June 16, 1987
Harry H. Wiltse '27
Buffalo, New York
July 27, 1987

Gordon F. Zimmerman '27
Pittsford, New York
Nov. 24, 1986

Correction: Nathan Reim passed away on April 15, 1985, not on Feb. 18, 1986 which was erroneously reported in the last Forum.

Manly Fleischmann
1909-1987

Manly Fleischmann, 78, a renowned attorney whose lengthy record of public service included high-level positions in Washington and Albany, died March 25, 1987 in his Buffalo home.

A senior partner in the Buffalo law firm of Jaekle, Fleischmann and Mugel, he was also a partner of Webster and Sheffield in New York and was a director of American Airlines and The Equitable Life Insurance Company, among others.

A Hamburg native and graduate of Harvard College and UB Law, class of '33, he was the son of a famous Buffalo trial lawyer, Simon Fleischmann. It was during World War II that John Lord O'Brien, who at the time was general counsel to the War Production Board, invited the young Manly Fleischmann to be his assistant general counsel.

He served in that post until 1943, when he joined the Office of Strategic Services. As a Navy officer, he was involved in espionage activities in Japanese-occupied Burma, for which he was decorated by the U.S. and Thai governments.

After the war, Fleischmann returned to private practice until 1950, when the outbreak of the Korean War drew him back to Washington as general counsel to the War Production Board.

President Harry S Truman appointed him defense production administrator in 1951. He also served Truman as U.S. chairman of the International Materials Conference.

President Truman later sent Fleischmann to Europe for discussions with allied governments that led to formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In 1965, Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller appointed Fleischmann a State University trustee and four years later named him chairman of the New York State Commission on the Quality, Cost and Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education, which became known as the Fleischmann Commission. The subsequent Fleischmann Report, published by Viking Press in 1972, stunned educators with bold and controversial proposals that seemed radical at the time.

He has received numerous honors, including the 1982 Distinguished Citizen Award of the State University of New York and the 1983 Red Jacket Award, given by the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society for long-term public service.

In the 1940s, he organized the Buffalo Council on World Affairs, serving as its first president. He was also a trustee of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

In 1978, Fleischmann received the State University's highest award, the Chancellor Norton Medal.

In the 50th Anniversary Report of Harvard University's Class of '29, he told classmates that he continued to lead a frenzied career because "I enjoy it. My only disappointment in life has been my inability to acquire a salmon stream."
Charles S. Desmond
1897-1987

Charles Stewart Desmond, Chief Judge of New York from 1960 through 1966, died Feb. 9, 1987. He was 90 years old and lived on a farm in Eden, New York, near Buffalo.

"Charles Desmond's life spanned almost half the life of the United States Constitution," said Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, on whose judicial screening panel Judge Desmond served. "Few in all that history have done half so much to sustain and enhance a glorious constitutional tradition."

In his 26 years on the bench, Judge Desmond spent all but one year on the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court. He made the move from his Buffalo law practice to the Court of Appeals almost in a single stride.

A lifelong Democrat, he was appointed by Gov. Herbert H. Lehman to a State Supreme Court vacancy on Jan. 5, 1940, at the age of 44. His political sponsor was Paul E. Fitzpatrick, who was later to become Democratic state chairman. Mr. Fitzpatrick was unable to convince western New York Republicans to endorse the lawyer for a full elective term on the Supreme Court in 1940, but won him the Democratic nomination for a vacancy on the Court of Appeals.

He was elected to the Court of Appeals for a 14-year term and re-elected in 1954 with the support of both major parties. In 1959, he was elected chief judge of the Court of Appeals without opposition. In 1962, he became chief judge of New York State.

Judge Desmond was generally regarded as a leader of the liberal wing of the court. His decisions and opinions, which often defied easy categorization, were scholarly in content, thoughtfully written and widely quoted. On occasion, he was criticized for his judicial views by some of his fellow Democrats and Roman Catholics - critics he survived with equanimity.

Upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70 on Dec. 31, 1966, Judge Desmond stepped down from the court. He returned to private practice and to teaching appellate advocacy at University at Buffalo Law School. He also taught at Cornell Law School and occasionally conducted summer seminars for appellate judges from across the country.

He was the author of numerous articles and two books, Sharp Quilts of the Law and Through the Courtroom Window, and the recipient of honorary degrees from 13 colleges and universities.

Judge Desmond graduated from University at Buffalo Law School in 1920. Our Moot Court competition at the Law School, over which Judge Desmond presided for 24 years, was founded in his name, and continues today in his memory.

"He thoroughly enjoyed it," says Judge Michael F. Dillon. "It was one of the great joys of his life. Each year at the conclusion of the arguments he would proudly announce, 'This is my law school.'"  

Robert I. Millonzi
1910-1986

Robert I. Millonzi, Buffalo attorney and civic leader, died Sept. 27, 1986, at age 76. Millonzi's advice on public and cultural affairs was sought by presidents and governors during a brilliant career that spanned half a century.

Prominent in banking and corporate law, Millonzi was appointed to the Securities & Exchange Commission in 1951. Later, he served as a counsel and consultant to the federal Reconstruction Finance Corp. during the administration of President Harry S. Truman. Truman wrote at the time that Millonzi had done "a first class job."

The son of a classical musician, Millonzi was a major cultural benefactor. For more than 30 years, he served as a leader and patron of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

After finishing University at Buffalo Law School in 1935, Millonzi went to work in the family firm of fellow law student Charles R. Diebold. Later, when Diebold became president of Western Savings Bank, Millonzi was named the bank's general counsel.

Millonzi was a senior partner in the law firm, which became Diebold and Millonzi, from then until 1981, when it merged into Damon & Morey. At the time of his death, he was special counsel to the merged firm.

Millonzi held numerous business, civic and governmental positions. In 1967, he served as a member of a 1967 U.S. delegation to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and was a trustee of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter named him co-chairman of the Kennedy Center Advisory Committee on the Arts.

Gov. Hugh Carey also valued his abilities and named him a trustee of the State Power Authority and a member of task forces on the arts and judicial reform. In 1983, Gov. Cuomo called on him to head the blue-ribbon Millonzi Commission on the statewide allocation of inexpensive hydroelectric power generated by Niagara Falls, and in 1985 named him to the New York State Council on the Arts, among many others.

He was the recipient of many awards, including the State University of New York's Chancellor's Medal, presented in 1983; UB's 1981 Distinguished Alumnus Award; UB Law School's 1974 Distinguished Alumnus Award; the university's 1979 Samuel P. Capen Alumni Award; and its 1975 President's Distinguished Alumnus Award.