Message from the President

David E. Parker

1-1-1990

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol5/iss1/21
I am pleased to report that the book detailing the history of the Law School will be mailed to you during the 1989-90 academic year. This long-awaited manuscript, prepared by Robert C. Schaus '53 and James R. Arnone '85, will make extremely interesting reading and will be a wonderful conversation piece in your home or office. My thanks to New York Supreme Court Justice Thomas P. Flaherty and the rest of the history subcommittee, and faculty members, for all their help.

As president-elect last year, I had the pleasure of traveling and working closely with Dean David B. Filvaroff. Dean Filvaroff has proved to be the Law School's best asset. He has proven capability and combines administrative skills with a warm, outgoing personality that has captured the hearts and minds of not only the faculty and law students, but central administration, local attorneys and alumni alike. During his short tenure, Dean Filvaroff's leadership has navigated the Law School through some stormy waters and calm seas. I once again look forward to traveling to our regional chapters with Dean Filvaroff to give you the opportunity to meet this most talented and energetic individual.

This past year has been marked by several successful events. Our annual convocation, "Directions for the 1990s: The Impact of Buffalo's Changing Economy on the Legal Community," was extremely well attended and critically acclaimed. Our 1989 Jaeckle Award recipient, Judge John T. Curtin, was overwhelmed by the response. Our 26th Annual Dinner was attended by well over 400 alumni/ae, and our honorees, Hon. John J. Callahan, Hon. Dale M. Volker, David G. Jay and Sue S. Gardner, appreciated their awards.

At the Rochester Annual Luncheon, Hon. M. Dolores Denman, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, and Richard J. Evans, a member of the Rochester firm of Harris, Maloney, Horwitz, Evans & Fox, gave thoughtful and provocative speeches on "Attorneys' Ethics and Clients' Funds." The New York chapter's dinner featuring the witty and wonderful Herald Price Fahringer, and its August boat trip were also very well received.

In closing, I want to re-emphasize the need for increased gift giving to the Law School. We have all read of the continu-
Convocation Explores Regional Economy

To help practitioners take advantage of opportunities that are bound to arise in the 1990s as Buffalo's economy continues to develop and change, the Alumni Association's convocation committee designed a comprehensive program that examined five relatively new legal specialties: international trade, health care, real estate, environment and technology.

The 1989 event was held in the Center for Tomorrow. Margaret Lillis-Snajczuk, an associate in the firm of Saperston & Day, chaired the committee of volunteers. The program, called "Directions for the 1990s: The Impact of Buffalo's Changing Economy on the Legal Community," attracted more than 200 people.

Lauren D. Rachlin, of the Buffalo firm of Kavinoky & Cook, outlined basic concepts of international transactions. There are an increasing number of joint venture agreements involving U.S. and foreign firms. Rachlin pointed out, and the complexities of various laws in international affairs require careful attention. Letters of credit, he noted, are commonly used and "it is critically important to pay attention to the wording of the operative paragraph of letters of credit."

He pointed to prospects of increased foreign investment in the United States as underscoring the need to pay special attention to customs regulations, U.S. Commerce Department reporting requirements and immigration concerns.

Ellen Yost, of Saperston & Day, continued the theme of foreign trade, but in a U.S.-Canadian context. In examining the implications of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, she noted that there is expected to be freer movement of investments, services and businesspersons between the two nations.

"The U.S. prior to the free trade agreement did not generally restrict investment," Ms. Yost said. "Canada, however, had a history of restrictions." The dropping of many of those barriers will have a significant impact on the two trading partners, who already have the largest bilateral trade relationship in the world — $170 billion in 1986.

Ellen Weissman, of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear, spoke about the increasingly active legal field of provider and supplier services in health care. Although the field is heavily licensed and regulated, health care is attracting increasingly greater activity and interest. Weissman noted, for example, that the area of patient planning has involved such issues as "living wills" and other health care declarations. While there is a case law in New York State that encourages the use of living wills, she said there is no statute yet on the books. The Governor's Task Force on Life and the Law has endorsed a power of attorney bill — or "health care proxy" — over the idea of living wills, but neither has been enacted.

Professor Robert I. Reis, of UB Law School, predicted that opportunities for further commercial and office space development in Western New York will be bright. The attraction for real estate investors, he noted, is getting stronger, especially as plans unfold for the revitalization of the Great Lakes waterfront.

Alice J. Kryzan, of Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, examined the rapid and sometimes radical changes in environmental law requirements. It is not unusual, she said, to encounter environmental covenants in property transactions where, for example, a grantor would seek to retain the right to re-enter the land to deal with environmental remedial needs. The question of environmental suitability, she said, stands out as a major focus of land development today.

Tricia T. Semmelhak, of Saperston & Day and the recently established TechVenture Law Center, noted that techno-