1-1-1990

Judge Curtin Wins 1989 Jaeckle Award

UB Law Forum

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/iss1/23

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Alumni Publications at Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in UB Law Forum by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. For more information, please contact lawscholar@buffalo.edu.
logical developments have accelerated interest in the fields of licensing and protection law. Computer software programs, for example, join the somewhat familiar field of technological works that can be guarded by copyright protection.

Licensing is also another active field, especially with regard to technology transfers where intellectual property rights may be licensed out with protection against infringement claims. She pointed to some of the research centers based at UB as examples of “compelling evidence” that the Buffalo area is going to be a successful participant in technological transfer spinoffs.

The theme of the convocation was set by Dr. Andrew J. Rudnick, president of the Greater Buffalo Development Foundation, who discussed major trends in Buffalo’s economy.

COMING SOON:

“Marriage, Divorce and Death: The Impact on Business and the Professions” is the topic for our 1990 convocation. The program will be held on Saturday morning, March 10, at the Center for Tomorrow. Please plan to attend!

Judge Curtin Wins 1989 Jaeckle Award

As he stepped to the podium in the Center for Tomorrow on March 11, U.S. District Judge John T. Curtin, UB Law Class of 1949, beamed the smile that he often flashes when he crosses the finish line in one of the many races he runs every year. This time, Judge Curtin was being honored by UB Law School, which presented him with the 1989 Jaeckle Award — one of the most distinguished citations of the legal profession.

“The racing world doesn’t give many of these,” Judge Curtin said, smiling at President Steven B. Sample, who had just read the Jaeckle Award inscription: “A courageous man of conscience who cares deeply about civil rights and human dignity.”

Dr. Sample joined Law School Dean David B. Filvaroff, University Provost William R. Greiner, Alumni Association officers and members, faculty and friends in honoring the judge at the award luncheon that followed the 13th Annual Alumni Convocation. The morning-long symposium focused on the topic “Directions for the 1990s: The Impact of Buffalo’s Changing Economy on the Legal Community.”

“I can’t think of any award I’d appreciate more,” Judge Curtin told the gathering. A federal judge of 21 years, Judge Curtin praised the Buffalo legal community and recalled advice espoused by the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo.

“I thank my family and friends and also the attorneys in the Buffalo courts,” Judge Curtin told the audience. “The Buffalo Bar has been distinguished by the vigorous representation it manifests in court during the day and by the fact that at the end of the day friendship is maintained after the confrontation ends.”

Judge Curtin recounted advice from Justice Cardozo, especially Cardozo’s suggestion that “the human equation not be omitted” from the courts of justice.

That very sensitivity has been cited as among Judge Curtin’s contributions to the legal community in Western New York. He has been in the forefront of some of the most controversial issues on the federal court dockets — ranging from school desegregation to affirmative action — and his handling of those issues has been widely lauded. His continued handling of the Buffalo schools’ desegregation efforts has been credited with helping to pave the way for the city’s development of an outstanding network of “magnet schools.” And the ability of blacks, Hispanics and women to gain public jobs in such areas as police and fire service has been significantly improved in the wake of Judge Curtin’s affirmative action decisions.

As the most recent recipient of the Jaeckle Award — which is named for UB Law School’s nationally distinguished alumnus Edwin F. Jaeckle — Judge Curtin joined a select group of only 12 previous honorees.