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Four Presented With Distinguished Alumni Awards

Four outstanding Buffalo attorneys were honored at the 27th Annual Meeting and Dinner of the Law Alumni Association in May. Joseph G. Makowski, president of the Association, presented 1989 Distinguished Alumni Awards to Hon. John J. Callahan, who was cited “for his conscientious performance in the judiciary.” David G. Jay was honored “for enhancing the image of the private practitioner,” State Senator Dale M. Volker received an award “for his leadership and commitment to public service,” and Sue S. Gardner “for her many contributions to the betterment of our community.”

Justice Callahan is senior associate justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department. A 1951 graduate of St. Bonaventure University and a 1954 graduate of UB Law, he was a trial lawyer for 20 and a confidential clerk to Hon. Ann T. Mikoll before he was elected a Supreme Court justice for the Eighth Judicial District in 1975. In 1978, Gov. Hugh Carey appointed him an associate justice of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department. This year, he was re-elected a Supreme Court justice and reappointed by Gov. Mario Cuomo.

Justice Callahan was a founding member of the Executive Committee of the Buffalo Naval and Servicemen’s Park and was chairman of the Children’s Court Committee and Family Law Committee of the Erie County Bar Association, among numerous other activities.

Jay, a private practitioner, has been a champion of civil liberties in Buffalo over the past two decades. A 1964 graduate of the University at Buffalo and a 1966 graduate of UB Law School, he is currently a director of the New York Civil Liberties Union and the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project.

State Senator Volker (59th District) graduated from Canisius College in 1963. He worked as a police officer in the Village of Depew while attending law school, from which he graduated in 1966. He was elected to the Assembly in 1972, then won a special election to the State Senate three years later. Currently chairman of the Standing Committee on Codes, he is also a member of various Senate task forces on volunteer emergency services, asbestos and drunken driving.

Mrs. Gardner is a partner in the law firm of Kavinoky & Cook. A 1952 graduate of Smith College and a 1976 graduate of UB Law, she was chairperson of the American Red Cross, Buffalo Chapter, from 1984 to 1986. She is on the Board of Managers of the Erie County Historical Society, a director of the Red Cross, and a member of the Woman’s Group, the Women’s Financial Planning Committee Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, and the National Executive Council American Jewish Committee. She is also on the volunteer committee for the Law School’s Annual Fund Drive and served as chair for one of the Dean’s Dinners.