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# Public Interest Law Program Funds Summer Interns

UB Law Forum

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## ■ Public Interest Law Program Funds Summer Interns

The National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL) honored the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program (BPILP) at UB for its 300 percent increase in contributions raised over the last year — the largest growth of any law school program raising less than \$25,000. The BPILP was cited for this outstanding achievement at the NAPIL Student Public Interest Law Conference and Career Fair held in Washington, D.C. in October.

BPILP fosters careers in public service by providing stipends to fund full-time summer positions with public interest agencies in Buffalo and Rochester. NAPIL member organizations, such as the BPILP, are found on 92 campuses — approximately half the law schools in the country.

Also during the conference, third-year UB Law student Kathleen Welch was elected president of the NAPIL Board of Directors. Welch, a Rochester native, served as vice president last year.

Tara Burke, of Buffalo, a second-year UB Law School student, was also presented with an award for her outstanding work at the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Erie County. She was one of only three students honored at the conference.

The BPILP fund-raising drive last spring, "Work a Day in the Public Interest," raised a record \$20,734 in pledges, an increase of \$9,881 from last year's total, and \$734 more than its goal.

The law student-run drive encouraged law faculty and students to pledge the amount of money they expected to earn in one day of work over the summer break.

The money which BPILP raised was

used to provide stipends of \$2,000 each. This year's positions were with the Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues in the New York State Division of Human Rights; Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged; the Volunteer Lawyers Project; Farmworkers Legal Services; the Family Unit of Neighborhood Legal Services; and Legal Aid of Buffalo, Criminal Appeals Bureau.

"The drive was an outstanding success," said Dean David B. Filvaroff. "BPILP, a student program, set itself an ambitious goal — double the amount raised last year and equal to what has been done at significantly larger law schools.

## ■ Local Law Firm to Fund Minority Scholarships

The law firm of Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine and Huber, and Dean David B. Filvaroff announced that the firm will fund two new scholarships for minority and disadvantaged students beginning in the fall of 1990. Phillips, Lytle is the first local law firm to sponsor scholarships of this nature at the Law School.

"Phillips, Lytle is very pleased to initiate this scholarship program," said Robert Greene, managing partner at the law firm. "We hope the scholarships will not only benefit the individual recipients, but that over the years they will help to enrich our community by encouraging minority lawyers to stay and work in Buffalo."

The scholarships will be awarded to minority and disadvantaged students entering their second year of law school. Based on academic standing, community

"Special recognition is due to the co-chairs, Karen Doeblin '90 and Paula Eade '90, as well as to graduate assistants Kathleen Welch and Chris Thomas," said the dean.

A portion of the money came from sources outside the Law School. A grant proposal resulted in an award of \$5,000 from Interest on Lawyers' Accounts, marking the first time a student organization has ever received IOLA funding. In addition, the National Association of Public Interest Law, of which BPILP is a charter member, contributed \$2,000.

involvement, financial need and commitment to Western New York, the scholarships will cover a substantial percentage of the students' tuition for their second and third years of law school.

Filvaroff praised the efforts of the law firm: "By establishing this scholarship, Phillips, Lytle demonstrates its commitment to Western New York and its desire to maintain a strong minority bar in our community. It is highly commendable that one of Buffalo's most prominent firms is helping our law students in this way. I hope other law firms will follow their fine example."

Greene commented on the quality of UB Law School and noted that although the existing minority bar in Western New York is quite small, "the University does a good job helping minority law students graduate." He emphasized that the firm will encourage scholarship recipients to settle and practice in Buffalo.

Phillips, Lytle employs 140 attorneys and has offices in Buffalo, Jamestown, New York City, Rochester and Wilmington, Del.