Message from the President

This past June, I assumed the role of president of our association succeeding Robert W. Keller '66. On behalf of the Law Alumni Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob for his six years of service. His year as president was marked by the continued growth of the association, including the establishment of chapters in Rochester and New York City. His quiet leadership will be greatly missed.

This year will mark the continued transition of our association from a strong local alumni group to a regional association, with additional chapters planned for Albany and Washington, D.C. While we continue to steadily increase our membership, the number of sponsored events (and yes, the dollars in our treasury), we have also begun to realize our potential as a force to provide meaningful assistance to the mission of the Law School.

While the primary base of our alumni support remains centered in New York State, the association continuously attempts to expand geographically. This expansion mirrors the fact that 6,000 graduates of UB Law School now live throughout many different parts of the United States. It is our intention to continue this expansion of chapters. If you reside in any of our present chapter cities, please become involved in our events. If you want to think about establishing a chapter in your city, please contact our executive director, Ilene Fleischmann, c/o UB Law School, 723 John Lord O'Brian Hall, Buffalo, New York 14260, or call her at (716) 636-2107.

As we go to press, I am pleased to report that we have more than 800 dues paying members so far this year. We are excited about the prompt response given to our membership solicitation and hope that the association will attract over 900 dues paying members this year. If you have not yet mailed in your dues statement, please take the opportunity to do so at your earliest convenience.

As many of you are aware, this past year marked the 100th anniversary of the Law School. In conjunction with our centennial celebration, the History Subcommittee of the Law Alumni Association, in conjunction with faculty members, students and former Deans Jacob D. Hyman and Thomas Headrick, compiled an interesting book detailing the history of the Law School. The project truly has been a labor of love for Robert C. Schaus '53, James Arnone '85, New York Supreme Court Justice Thomas Flaherty '50, and others involved in the project. The manuscript is now undergoing final revisions prior to being sent to the publisher. We anticipate mailing a complimentary copy to you later this year.

During my tenure on the board of directors, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Associate Dean Alan S. Carrel on the Law School's annual fund campaign. This year the need for increased alumni giving is especially critical in light of New York State budget cuts to the State University of New York system. Dean David B. Filvaroff has informed me that Law School operations are already being adversely affected as UB President Steven B. Sample carries out mandated cuts.

While many of you may find it difficult to understand why a state supported institution needs alumni financial support, let me assure you that New York State funds provided to the Law School are insufficient to meet our school's program and operating needs.

Alumni contributions through our annual campaign make the all important difference in the quality of operations at the Law School. Money raised through alumni contributions has been used for such purposes as student financial aid, moot court programs, sponsorship of student and faculty scholarship, financing of student journals, the purchase of audio visual equipment, library acquisitions and the funding of the trial technique and New York practice courses. Considering the current budget crisis, the Law School needs our financial support today more than ever. I hope you will consider a substantial increase in your annual gift when you are contacted during the campaign.