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Volunteers Lead Annual Fund Drive for 1988-89

For the first time in its 101-year history, volunteers — including both alumni and non-alumni — are heading the University at Buffalo Law School’s Annual Fund Drive for 1988-89.

In announcing the initial membership of what will be a continuing board of directors, UB Law Dean David B. Filvaroff said, “There is not a law school in the United States today, private or public, of even minimum quality, which is not crucially dependent on support from its alumni and friends. Current and expected cuts in state funding only increase dramatically our dependence on our donors.

“Fortunately, I have found in Buffalo a community spirit, warmth and commitment to the Law School, and a great willingness to help,” he said.

Peter J. Fiorella, Jr., senior partner in the Buffalo law firm of Fiorella, Aman & Vance, and a prominent matrimonial attorney, has been named chairman of the new lay cabinet. A 1963 graduate of the UB Law School, he has served as a board member for the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Erie County Mental Health Association and the UB Law School Alumni Association.

“While the Law School is state assisted, it is not entirely state supported,” said Fiorella in announcing a campaign goal of $225,000. The Annual Fund Drive provides private gift support for programs for which state funds are either limited or unavailable. These include the moot court programs, trial technique, legal clinic programs, student financial aid, student publications, student and faculty research projects, student organizations and activities, and law library acquisitions, to name a few.

At a recent organizational dinner, Fiorella announced that the theme for the fund drive is “Renaissance 1988-89.” The drive will run through June, 1989. “As we begin our second century, we are committed to setting new standards of support for our law school,” Fiorella said.

Other attorneys named to the Annual Fund Board are: Joseph G. Makowski (Computer Task Group, Inc.) president of the UB Law Alumni Association; Richard E. Heath (Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear), John H. Stenger (Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel), Neil A. Goldberg (Saperston & Day), and Paul J. Cambria (Lipsitz, Green, Fahnreiter, Roll, Schuller & James), co-chairs for special gifts.

Also, Joseph V. Sedita (Moot & Sprague) and Marvin T. Dubin (Dubin, Sommerstein & Hunter), co-chairs for the Jacob D. Hyman Club; Douglas S. Coppola (Saperston & Day) and Diane Bennett (Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear), co-chairs for the Dean’s Club; Linda J. Nenni (Falk & Siemer) and Arthur F. Dobson (Parrino, Cooper, Butler & Dobson), co-chairs for the Carlos Alden Club.

John Curran (Albrecht, Maguire, Heflin & Gregg) and Edward D. Peace (Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear), co-chairs for the Century Club; William F. Savino (Damon & Morey) and John J. Aman (Fiorella, Vance & Aman), co-chairs for the annual phonathon.

And John F. Donovan (Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber) and Paul A. Vance (Fiorella, Aman & Vance), non-alumni; and David E. Parker (Record Theatre), president-elect of the Law Alumni Association, and at-large representative.

Dean’s Dinners Held

The Law School has traditionally hosted a series of Dean’s Dinners, held at the Rue Franklin West, 341 Franklin St., Buffalo. Each of the three dinners this year was chaired by a volunteer. Robert P. Fine (Hurwitz & Fine) headed the dinner that was held Monday, Oct. 31; Anthony J. Colucci, Jr. was in charge on Monday, Nov. 14; and Sue S. Gardner (Kavinoky and Cook) was chair on Monday, Nov. 21.

The Dean’s Dinners enabled Dean Filvaroff to meet personally with alumni and friends to discuss the current status of the Law School and his expectations for the future. Invitations were extended to those who are enrolled in one of the three Law School’s special gift categories.

A gift of $1,000 or more qualifies the donor for membership in the newly established Jacob D. Hyman Club, honoring
former dean "Jack" Hyman. Dean Hyman has devoted more than 40-years to the Law School and continues on the faculty as a popular teacher. A gift of $500 or more qualifies for membership in the Dean's Club. Names of Hyman Club and Dean's Club members will be prominently displayed on plaques mounted outside the Moot Court room in John Lord O'Brian Hall.

Those who are not currently a member of one of the clubs and who wish to join should contact Alan S. Carrel, Associate Dean, UB Law School, John Lord O'Brian Hall, Room 316, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260, or call him at (716) 636-2054.

Seymour L. Schuller Scholarship Fund

A $10,000 scholarship fund has been established to honor the memory of Seymour L. Schuller, who died Feb. 25, 1988. Schuller, 66, of Eggertsville, was a founding member and managing partner of the law firm of Lipsitz, Green, Fahringer, Roll, Schuller & James. A native of Toronto, Schuller was a member of the UB Law School class of 1947 and specialized in business and corporate law.

During World War II, he served as a bomber pilot in the Pacific Theater and maintained his pilot's license after the war. He also maintained an association with the American Civil Liberties Union. A recipient of the United Jewish Appeal's Outstanding Leadership Award, he was a past president and director of the Buffalo Hebrew Social Club and the club's credit union.