Fellowships Funded by Faculty and Students

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Recommended Citation
UB Law Forum (1989) "Fellowships Funded by Faculty and Students," UB Law Forum: Vol. 4 : No. 1 , Article 27. Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol4/iss1/27

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Martin A. Feinrider Scholarship Fund

A new scholarship fund will memorialize Professor Martin A. Feinrider. A graduate of UB Law School’s class of 1978, he was a teacher at Nova Law School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida at the time of his death in 1986.

Friends and family members have thus far contributed $12,000 to UB Law School in Feinrider’s name. The annual earnings from this gift — approximately $1,000 — will be awarded to a needy law student who has demonstrated a strong commitment to human rights and/or disarmament. Contributors include: Richard Ascher ’70, Feinrider’s college roommate at SUNY Buffalo, and Ascher’s wife Barbara; Donald and Morleen Novitt, also close friends from college; Nancy, Feinrider’s wife; David, Feinrider’s brother; and Seth Sahr ’85, who is employed by the firm of Ascher and Novitt in Kew Gardens, New York.

“Until his tragic death, Martin Feinrider was always a passionate voice in the struggle for human rights as demonstrated by his activities with Amnesty International as well as numerous public and private causes that he championed,” says Richard Ascher. A sociologist as well as a lawyer, Feinrider utilized both disciplines to fight against social injustice.

A similar $12,000 scholarship fund has also been set up at Nova Law School, where Feinrider’s friends have already donated an additional $4,000. Says Ascher. “I hope others at UB Law School will also contribute to this fund to further its goals.”

Fellowships Funded by Faculty, Students

A new fellowship program funded by law students, faculty and graduates is the hoped-for source of a significant increase in the number of law students working in public interest jobs next summer — and for many summers to come — in the Western New York area. Leaders of this drive, called Student and Faculty Initiated Internships (SFII), ask UB law students, faculty members and graduates to contribute one day’s worth of their income to the cause.

Sponsored by the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program (BPILP), a student group that encourages careers in public practice, the fundraising effort has so far netted $7,067 in pledges, according to Karen Comstock, a third year law student who heads the drive. Of that amount, $5,547 came from student pledges, she reports.

“The money raised through this pledge drive allows BPILP to begin the 1988-89 school year with enough funds to finance four internships next summer. We hope that our usual fundraising activities (happy hours, T-shirt sales, and grant writing) will double this amount so that we may offer as many as eight to ten summer internships for law students in the summer of 1989,” Comstock wrote in a letter to students and faculty.

“This will be a happy supplement to our own Law School funded fellowships which began this summer,” said Dean David B. Filvaroff. “We know from the experience of other schools that individual contributions can fund a sizable program.

“I’m especially pleased that our students have taken the initiative to develop their own program in addition to that funded directly by the Law School,” said the Dean.

“It reflects a real commitment to the highest values of the profession — the responsibility of all lawyers to serve the community, especially its less fortunate members — and to stand in firm defense of our fundamental rights and freedoms,” he added.

“It is a warm and fitting reminder of what we try to convey to our students.”

Those wishing to make a contribution should send a check to Comstock c/o the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, John Lord O’Brien Hall, North Campus, Buffalo, New York 14260.