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Five Distinguished Alumni Honored

The University at Buffalo Law Alumni Association honored five alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards at its 29th Annual Meeting and Dinner held on May 17 at the Buffalo Hilton. This year's recipients were Hon. Joseph S. Mattina '56, Erie County surrogate and acting Supreme Court Justice; Joel L. Daniels '63, of the Buffalo Law Office of Joel L. Daniels; Clarence J. Sundram '72, chairman of the New York State Commission on Quality Care for the Mentally Disabled, in Albany; Thomas R. Beecher '59, president of Beecher Securities Corp., and Gerald S. Lippes '64, a partner in Lippes, Kaminsky, Silverstein, Mathias & Wexler.

In addition, Anthony J. Colucci Jr., president of the Law Alumni, cited Anthony J. Renaldo '50 and Robert C. Schaus '53 for their dedication and longtime service to the Alumni Association. "Both were founders of the organization and have served their alma mater diligently and loyally throughout the years," noted Colucci.

"There's no more important or better time to be a lawyer," said law professor and University interim President William R. Greiner in his remarks. "Lawyers have a major role to play in every one of the major agenda items of the day — civil rights, human rights, business, health and education. We help solve those problems through a genuine commitment to service," Greiner said.



Left to right: Clarence J. Sundram '72, Joel L. Daniels '63, Gerald S. Lippes '64, Thomas R. Beecher '59 and Hon. Joseph S. Mattina '56.



Robert C. Schaus '53, left, accepts award from Anthony J. Colucci Jr. '58.

"The people who are being honored this evening are committed to service in addition to their expertise as lawyers. The Law School and the University intend to be partners with the legal community in Buffalo when working on these great issues of the day."

Dean David B. Filvaroff commented on the close and warm relationship among the Alumni Association, the alumni and the Law School. "It's a relationship all of us cherish," he said.

He also noted the accomplishments of the honorees: "We are proud and pleased to claim them as alumni," he said.

Colucci conferred the awards.

Hon. Joseph S. Mattina was honored for his conscientious and diligent performance in the judiciary.

In his 35 years as a lawyer, Mattina has been an assistant district attorney, a Buffalo city court judge, an Erie County court judge and a New York State Supreme Court justice, in addition to his current positions as surrogate judge and acting Supreme Court justice.

He has been named an "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" by The Buffalo News, selected by Time magazine as one of the "400 Young Citizens of the United States" and inducted as a charter member of the Hall of Honor at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.

Joel L. Daniels was recognized for his leadership by example as a private practitioner.

A solo practitioner, Daniels has been in practice for more than 27 years, specializing in criminal cases. Over the years he has defended numerous clients charged with homicide, including Donald O'Connor, who was charged with the brutal killing of his mother; John Justice, a teen-ager charged with murdering his family; and Barbara James, a mother charged with killing



Former Alumni Association officers Linda J. Nenni '83 and Arthur A. Russ Jr. '67.

her infant daughters.

Immediate past president of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association, Daniels also has represented local police officers, white-collar defendants and defendants in narcotics cases.

Clarence J. Sundram was cited for his commitment to public service.

He served as an assistant counsel to former New York Gov. Hugh Carey, senior law clerk for Judge Lawrence H. Cooke of the New York Court of Appeals and Appellate Division Third Department, and a law research assistant for the justices of the Appellate Division, Third Department.

He has published numerous articles, and a book, *Legal Rights of Persons With Narcolepsy*, is due to be published soon.

Thomas R. Beecher was honored for "his many contributions to the betterment of the community."

A private practitioner, Beecher is a trustee of the Messer Foundation, the Buffalo Philharmonic and Buffalo General Hospital; managing trustee of the LeBrun Foundation, and a director of Westlink Corp., Waterfront Health Care Center and the Arts Council of

Buffalo and Erie County.

He also serves on the board of numerous corporations, including Albany International Corp., Eltec Instruments Inc., Enidine Inc., Globe International Inc. and Norstar Bank, N.A., and Norstar Trust Company.

Gerald S. Lippes was recognized for his exemplary performance in business.

In addition to his position at Lippes, Kaminsky, Silverstein, Mathias & Wexler, Lippes is secretary and director of Mark IV Industries Inc; chairman of the board and director of Captex Inc. and a director of Monroe Abstract & Title Corp., Barrister Information Systems Corp. and City Mattress.

He also serves as a director or trustee of the Greater Buffalo Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Buffalo Development Foundation Inc. the UB Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Also honored were those alumni from the Class of 1931 celebrating their 60th reunions and those from the Class of 1941 celebrating their 50th. ■