4-1-1997

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Hon. Samuel L. Green receives Jaeckle Award

He began as a $35-a-week defense attorney in a tiny, windowless office on Genesee Street. Now, the Hon. Samuel L. Green '67 has received UB Law School’s highest honor.

Green, senior associate justice of the Appellate Division, 4th Department, State Supreme Court, was presented with the law school’s Edwin F. Jaeckle Award following the 21st annual Alumni Convocation. The honor is awarded jointly by the Law School and the UB Law Alumni Association.

Green’s wife of 36 years, Ernestine, and daughter, Beth, were among those who spoke before a record crowd attending the awards luncheon in the Center for the Arts.

Last year he received the Erie County Bar Association’s Outstanding Jurist Award.

“No matter how high he has risen and no matter how much he has achieved in the profession, he’s always reaching out to help those who are coming behind,” UB Law School Dean Barry B. Boyer told the attendees.

“Sam is a man who cares passionately about how we deal with young people in our society and how to straighten out those who get into trouble.”

The Hon. M. Dolores Denman, a past recipient of the Jaeckle Award and now presiding justice of the 4th Department, noted that during Green’s tenure on the City Court bench he worked hard to dissuade young women from prostitution - “he was very suc-

cessful in getting many of them to go to school and turn their lives around,” she said.

“I’ve served with Sam for 13 years on the Appellate Division,” said Denman, citing the honoree’s emergence as a legal scholar as well as a jurist. “Like all fine judges, he approaches his work very seriously, yet he doesn’t take himself too seriously. He’s passionate about those issues that are close to his heart, and he argues well about each one of them.”

University at Buffalo President William R. Greiner, a former UB Law professor, said, “Sam is a person who demonstrates formal but easy grace and good humor. He’s a lawyer’s lawyer and a judge’s judge, and for me he is an exemplar of the public practice of law in Western New York.”

In accepting the award, Green, who spent his early childhood in Alabama, noted that he was the first in his family to graduate from high school, and looked back fondly on his law school education in the old Eagle Street location.

“Law school was tough, but I enjoyed every minute of it, every course I took, because I knew that one day I would need to use that as a lawyer,” he said.

“This law school means so much to me. This is a great law school. In the Appellate Division, we get lawyers from across the state coming in there arguing. And when you look at the briefs and you look at the oral arguments, the lawyers from the University at Buffalo don’t take a back seat to any of the Ivy League schools.”

He added wryly: “To get this honor from the alumni association has special meaning, because it comes from the people I deal with on a day-to-day basis, many of whom didn’t get the decision they were seeking from the appeals court.”
Hon. Samuel L. Green '67

Hon. Barbara Howe '80, left, and Marguerite Collesano

Hon. M. Dolores Denman '65

Hon. Rose H. Sconiers '73 and Phillip Brothman '62

Photos by K.C. Kratt