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Charlie Dougherty Steps Down

UB Law Forum
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Charlie Dougherty, an instructor in the Law School's Trial Technique Program for many years and its director from 1990 to 1996, was honored on Jan. 28, 1997, for his significant contributions to that program. He was presented with a plaque at a dinner at Chef's restaurant in Buffalo. The dinner was attended by Dougherty, his wife, Ann, a number of current and former instructors in the program and members of the Law School administration.

Alan Carrel, vice dean of the Law School, spoke about the high quality of the Trial Technique program since its founding more than 30 years ago. He commented that it provides an excellent vehicle for learning step by step how to effectively try a lawsuit.

"Trial Technique has provided the first introduction to a courtroom for many of Western New York's best trial lawyers and also for many outstanding trial lawyers who practice elsewhere," he said.

Carrel reflected on the good fortune of the Law School in attracting someone of Dougherty's ability and stature to head the program. "Charlie has long been one of the best trial lawyers in our area and is also one of the most highly respected members of our legal community." Carrel said. "His professionalism, his organizational skills and his outstanding leadership ability have greatly enhanced the program."

One of his greatest contributions, according to Carrel, was convincing the Law School to participate in the National Trial Competition. Carrel noted that the competition has proved to be an extremely valuable experience for the participating students and has given the school widespread visibility, recognition and prestige.

Barry B. Boyer, dean of the Law School, praised Dougherty's accomplishments within the legal community, mentioning his service as president of the Bar Association of Erie County, the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association and the Erie County Bar Foundation and his selection as the Bar Association of Erie County's Lawyer of the Year in 1989.

"Charlie has shared his talent, energy and experience with our students for many years," Boyer said. "Only an accomplished practitioner can give students what Charlie and the other instructors do — the skill to handle the fast-moving reality of a trial."

Boyer also commended Dougherty for spearheading and coordinating the school's participation in the National Trial Competition. "Wealthier schools devote considerably more resources to the competition. Yet we compete effectively, and win."

Visibly moved by the presentation, Dougherty expressed his heartfelt appreciation to everyone in the room for attending.