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# Meiselman Scholars Excel

*First-year achievers go on to greater success*

**C**heryl D. Block '79, now a tax professor at George Washington University National Law Center, recalls that during her first year at UB Law, she was delighted — and amazed — to learn she had won a Meiselman Scholarship.

"It was a total surprise," she says.

"At the time (1977), I was struggling financially and thinking about working part-time. The scholarship was sorely needed, to say the least. It made law school — and life in general — much, much easier.

"Being able to devote myself full-time to my studies allowed me to work harder and do better, which multiplied into greater success later on."

First awarded to William Barker in 1974, the Meiselman Scholarship is given to first-year students on the basis of financial need and academic excellence. One of the Law School's three privately funded scholarships, it was established by Mr. and Mrs. William Meiselman in memory of their son, Ira "Sandy" Meiselman '71.

Sandy died in an airplane crash at the age of twenty-four. Over the years, friends of the Meiselms have contributed to the fund and helped to strengthen the endowment.

As Sandy Meiselman's memory lives on, a number of diverse and talented law students have benefitted from the generosity of his family and friends: students like Block, who have gone on to achieve substantial career success.

Block, for instance, has spent the last 10 years at George Washington

University, where she teaches classes in legislation and political science for lawyers, in addition to tax. Prior to joining the faculty at GWU, Block spent two years at the University of Missouri and another as a visiting professor at the University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque.

Immediately upon finishing UB Law, she clerked for a federal district court judge in the southern district of New York and then worked as an associate tax attorney at Lord, Day & Lord, a large law firm in New York City.

"I never set out to do tax work," she says with a chuckle. "I always wanted to do something in the area of civil rights."

Another Meiselman recipient, Virginia A. "Muffy" Seitz, won the award in 1983. Today, Seitz is a partner in the 25-member law firm of Bretthoff & Kaiser, in Washington, D.C., where she represents labor unions. She was recently appointed by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders as one of five directors for the Office of Compliance, which is responsible for overseeing Congress' compliance with all federal labor statutes. "But the most important thing I am doing right now is raising my two children," she says.

After graduating first in the Class of 1985, Seitz became a clerk for Justice William J. Brennan in the United States Supreme Court. She also was a clerk for Judge Harry Edward on the Federal Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit, and she spent a year with the Migrant Legal Action Program, where she assisted migrant farm workers with

legal issues.

Mary Anne Bobinski '87, who won the Meiselman Scholarship in 1985, is now an associate professor at the University of Houston (UHLC) Law Center. She also serves as associate director for J.D. Programs at the Health Law & Policy Institute at UHLC, a program ranked third in its area by faculty experts in U.S. News & World Report.

Bobinski recently was elected chair-elect of the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Law, Medicine and Health Care. After graduating from UB Law, she clerked for Hon. Max Rosen, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She then received her L.L.M. from Harvard Law School in 1989.

"I was well-prepared for Harvard," Bobinski said. "There really were no new perspectives that I hadn't already encountered at UB.

"Now that I'm in legal academia, I try to use the diverse viewpoints presented in my SUNY education."

Among other outstanding Meiselman Scholarship recipients are Erik D. Lindauer, Class of '81, a partner in the New York law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell; Wendy K. Fechter, Class of '82, a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear; and Ronald I. Meltzer, Class of '89, special counsel to the Washington, D.C., law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. ■

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