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# UB Law and Baldy Center Host Scholars

For many members of the UB Law School faculty, one of the annual rites of summer is attending the meeting of the Law & Society Association (LSA). The LSA is an international organization of lawyers and social scientists who study law and legal institutions from an interdisciplinary perspective. LSA researchers have done pioneering work in such diverse fields as the legal profession, comparative legal cultures, civil rights, dispute resolution, legal history, law and feminism, criminology, and legal globalization.

UB Law has historically maintained close connections with the LSA from its very beginnings. The first meeting ever held by the LSA took place in the then-new UB Law School building in 1975. Former Dean Richard "Red" Schwartz was one of the founders of the Association. He and UB Law Professors Marc Galanter (now teaching at University of Wisconsin Law School), and Frank Munger each served a term as editor of the *Law & Society Review*, a prestigious journal whose editorial office travels to the home institution of the individual chosen as editor.

During the summer of 1995, UB Law School and the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy had the unusual distinction of co-hosting both the reception for the Law & Society Association's Annual Meeting in Toronto and the Summer Institute in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Although these two conferences are quite different in scale and in purpose, their connection with UB Law School and the Baldy Center enhanced our research and teaching mission and brought international recognition to our faculty and alumni/ae.

## LSA Annual Meeting in Toronto

The Annual Meeting of the Law & Society Association in Toronto attracted more than a thousand scholars from around the world. Over a four-day period (June 1-4, 1995), 161 panels featured presentations of papers on an extraordinarily diverse range of national and international topics viewed from an interdisciplinary perspective.

University at Buffalo faculty members, students, and alumni/ae were prominent among the paper presenters. Among current faculty members, Professor Markus Dubber presented a paper on capital punishment; Christine Farley, a

recent graduate and a research and writing instructor, spoke on copyright law and photography; Professor Isabel Marcus participated in a roundtable discussion of the role of law in democratization; Professor Martha McCluskey presented a paper on the language of analysis associated with the worker's compensation insurance crisis; Professors David Engel and Frank Munger presented a paper on disability and employment after the Americans with Disabilities Act; and Professor Nancy Staudt spoke on the topic of taxing women's household labor.

UB Law School alumni/ae also were active at the Toronto meeting. Robin Barnes '89, a professor at University of Connecticut, served as moderator and discussant for two panels on legal professionalism and on women and work; Catherine Connolly '91, a professor at the University of Wyoming, presented a paper on plant closing notification laws; Sara Faherty '90, a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies, spoke on slave narratives; Amy Ruth Tobol '83, a research and writing instructor, presented two papers on law students in cause lawyering and on the categorization of legal work; James Meeker '78, a professor at the University of California, Irvine, presented two papers on the topic of procedural justice and institutional legitimacy; and Penelope Ploughman '89, a professor at Skidmore College, chaired a panel on criminal justice reform.

A highlight of the Toronto Law & Society Meeting was the reception, co-hosted by the UB Law School, the Baldy Center, and a group of Canadian sponsors which included the law schools of Osgoode Hall at York University, the University of Toronto, and the Law Society of Upper Canada. The reception featured a guided tour of the beautiful and historic Osgoode Hall in downtown Toronto, which is home to the Legal Profession and Superior Courts of Ontario.

## LSA Summer Institute at Niagara-on-the-Lake

For the past 4 years, the Law & Society Association has sponsored an intensive, 5-day Summer Institute designed to introduce 30 junior faculty members or advanced graduate students to the field of interdisciplinary

legal studies. The Summer Institute involves paper presentations and discussion guided by 12-15 senior members of the Association.

The UB Law School and the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy submitted a successful bid to host the LSA Summer Institute in 1995 and, with the assistance of a grant from the National Science Foundation, arranged for the Institute to be held at a picturesque inn at Niagara-on-the-Lake from June 28 to July 2, 1995.

Despite its grueling schedule, the Summer Institute was by all accounts quite successful. Younger scholars had the opportunity to meet one another and to discuss their work with senior researchers. There was a memorable picnic by the riverside, a Shaw Festival performance, and fireworks on Canada Day.

Especially notable was a poolside barbecue dinner

hosted by the UB Law School, which provided an occasion for Law School faculty members to meet colleagues from around the world (participants came from as far away as Britain, Hong Kong, and Sri Lanka).

UB faculty members and students were prominent at the Summer Institute as presenters (Frank Munger opened the Institute proceedings with a paper surveying the history and development of the Law & Society field) and as participants. Among the Law School and Baldy Center members involved in the Summer Institute were: David Engel, Sara Faherty, Christine Farley, Julia Hall, Teresa Miller, Brenda Moore, Frank Munger, Peter Morrow, Simon Singer, and Nancy Staudt. In addition, Laura Mangan, Assistant Director of the Baldy Center, contributed her extraordinary skills and efforts to the planning and arrangements for the Summer Institute and helped to ensure its success. ■

*Dean Barry B. Boyer (third from left) and Professor David Engel (far right) with visiting scholars.*

