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## Law Library Benefits From Memorial Gifts

**T**wo major gifts have added depth and strength to the Charles B. Sears Law Library, at a time when such support can make a world of difference.

Ellen M. Gibson, associate dean for legal information services and director of the Law Library, noted that these gifts will go directly for programs that help the library better support UB Law's missions of education and community service.

"These days, the margin of excellence really has to be provided by private donations," Gibson said. "Increasingly, even public universities no longer can rely on public funding."

The M. Robert Koren Center for Clinical Legal Education, housed on the fifth floor of John Lord O'Brien Hall, was established in 1984 to support legal education using new media. Koren died this year, and his wife, Hilda, asked that donations in his memory go to the Koren Center. More than \$8,000 was donated by friends and associates of the well-known Buffalo attorney and UB Council chair.

That money went to good use. It purchased camcorders, a video editing deck, a video projector and an audio recorder for the media center, according to Gibson.

The projector has made it easier for large classes to see video presentations because instructors are no longer limited to showing material on small television-type monitors. "The faculty have become very fond of using video to supplement their teaching," Gibson said, adding that these materials "are often the same things that members of the bar

would use for their own continuing legal education."

And students, having grown up in a media-savvy world, are making use of video technology in their own class presentations. Gibson noted that students in an environmental law seminar videotaped examples of pollutants in the Buffalo River; in a labor law course, some students interviewed pickets at a Buffalo hospital during a strike. These video segments enhanced their project presentations and sparked more lively discussion than words ever could have alone.

The addition of a video editing deck, essential for adding polish to what otherwise would be raw footage, will improve the quality of such presentations, she added.

And just for fun, a free "Crime and Punishment" film series organized by Professor Lou Swartz made use of the video projector for a few evenings' diversion. Hollywood's idea of the legal system was highlighted in showings of such titles as "A

Clockwork Orange," "Twelve Angry Men," "Boyz N the Hood," "To Kill a Mockingbird" and Akira Kurosawa's "Rashomon."

A \$10,000 gift from Margaret Cohn in honor of her husband, Michael Cohn '12, has been used to create the Cohn Community Service Collection. Mrs. Cohn has been a vital force in charitable and civic affairs throughout her life, and is widely recognized for her fund-raising efforts for Camp Lakeland, a children's camp in Franklinville, N.Y. In making this gift to the Law School,



Left to right: Associate Dean Ellen M. Gibson '80, Margaret Cohen and Hilda Koren.

# Jacob Weissfeld Scholarship Fund Established

Mrs. Cohn recalls that her husband, Michael, always was "extremely fond" of the Law School. In particular, she recalls, he appreciated the school's attention to students, tolerance for different points of view and rigorous standards.

The Cohn gift makes it possible for the Law Library to buy materials that support the work of the Law School clinics, Gibson said. She noted as an example that the Low-Income Housing Development Clinic has been able to obtain some otherwise unaffordable looseleaf services — the *CCH Exempt Organizations Reporter* and the *BNA Housing and Development Reporter* — and extra copies of a useful book on forming not-for-profit organizations in New York State, *Getting Organized*.

The Cohn gift also has enabled the library to reinstate subscriptions to environmental treatises such as *The Law of Wetlands Regulation, Environmental Impact Review in New York*, and *Environmental Regulation of Land Use*. Gibson invites suggestions from members of the bar for additional book purchases for the Cohn Collection.

Gibson said looseleaf services and other periodicals — including court reporters and legal journals — are increasing in price at an annual rate of about 11 percent, putting the squeeze on financially strapped law libraries. The inflation rate for law books is even worse, she said — about 15 percent.

"That's why private donations can really make a difference in the quality of services we can offer," she said. ■

A family of lawyers with a strong UB Law School tradition has established a scholarship to benefit current and future students with an interest in trial law.

The Jacob Weissfeld Scholarship

Fund was created with a generous donation by Richard Weissfeld '65 and his brother Adrian R. Weissfeld. The scholarship honors their late father, Jacob Weissfeld, a 1927 graduate of the Law School who practiced for more than half a century in Buffalo.

"We thought it would be nice to perpetuate something, where it would be a continuing benefit to the students," said Richard Weissfeld. He noted that Jacob Weissfeld's practice concentrated on trial litigation, so the stipulation was made that the scholarship — which should yield about \$500 annually — go to a student "who exemplifies skills as a trial lawyer."

Jacob Weissfeld, in fact, was litigating cases right up until the time of his death. His son notes that he participated in more than 1,000 court sessions and was known in judicial circles for winning the case of *Holmes vs. The County of Erie*, in which a 1935 Court of Appeals decision overturned the traditional rule that municipalities cannot be sued.

"He represented a sizable number

of minorities," Richard Weissfeld said. "He started off doing criminal work, as many people did during the Depression. Then he switched and became basically a plaintiffs' personal injury lawyer," representing the victims of automobile accidents and other tort cases.

Associate Dean Alan S. Carrel, in a letter of thanks, wrote of Jacob Weissfeld: "He was one of the most accomplished trial lawyers in the area and was also kind enough to give young attorneys such as me guidance and assistance whenever asked. He was a master in the courtroom who served his clients well and was a tremendous credit to our profession."

Also surviving Jacob Weissfeld is his wife, Ann Schreiber Weissfeld, who became a legal pioneer by graduating from UB Law School in the early 1930s, at a time when few women took legal training. Mrs. Weissfeld practiced as an associate for a couple of years, her son said, but gave up her career when she married. There was, however, plenty of legal talk around the dinner table, he said.

Adrian and Richard Weissfeld, who practiced in partnership with their father, continue on without him under the firm name of Weissfeld, Weissfeld & Weissfeld. ■



Jacob Weissfeld