

# UB Law Forum

---

Volume 7  
Number 1 *Summer 1993*

Article 28

---

4-1-1993

## Jacob Weissfeld Scholarship Fund Established

UB Law Forum

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub\\_law\\_forum](https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum)

---

### Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (1993) "Jacob Weissfeld Scholarship Fund Established," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 7 : No. 1 , Article 28.

Available at: [https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub\\_law\\_forum/vol7/iss1/28](https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol7/iss1/28)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Alumni Publications at Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in UB Law Forum by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. For more information, please contact [lawscholar@buffalo.edu](mailto:lawscholar@buffalo.edu).

# 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