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Albert R. Mugel '41 Wins Jaeckle Award

UB Law School recognized a long tradition of town-gown cooperation and service on March 6 when it honored practitioner and professor Albert R. Mugel with the Edwin F. Jaeckle Award.

Mugel, who graduated from the Law School in 1941, has taught both full and part time since 1948, with a brief timeout for service in the Korean War. He is a senior partner and a founding member of the Buffalo law firm Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel.

"We've built a great university by an unusual degree of university and community cooperation," UB President William Greiner said in presenting the award. "The Law School was built on volunteer faculty from the community. So when we honor Al Mugel, we honor many things, including that quality of volunteerism and community cooperation so important to this university over time.

"The smart institutions are the ones that can take advantage of people like Al Mugel, that can take advantage of the professionals who are the alumni and friends in the community. ... What we honor today is a great tradition and a great man and a great friend."

Dean Barry B. Boyer noted that Mugel was one of six faculty members at the Law School when he started teaching. "It's indicative," he said, "of the community that is established at this law school that we have individuals like Al who link us across generations of law students, who have taught — in Al's case — the great majority of students who have graduated from the Buffalo Law School, and who have at

all times held to a real model of professional responsibility, accountability and quality."

To Mugel, Dean Boyer said: "Through all the changes that the Law School and the faculty have gone through, you have been a rock on which we have built a lot of our program. We hope that you will be with us for many, many more years."

Professor Wade J. Newhouse, a past Jaeckle Award recipient, cited Mugel's work in revitalizing the Law Alumni Association and the establishment of the Mugel Tax Competition, which he said "has given the Law School national exposure."

"Talented, creative, brilliant, highly regarded by colleagues and clients — all the adjectives you hear today are true," Newhouse said. "He also has a sense of humor, with a bite."

The honoree indulged a little of that humor in his own remarks, confessing that some of the cases he cites in the classroom were his own invention. "And when some of my students became judges, they accepted them" as precedents, he laughed.

He also spoke with humor about his long Saturday-morning classes — "my two-hour class starting at 8:30 in the morning

and running until maybe 12 o'clock." For the students it has been, he said, "a real test of the kidneys."

Mugel, who has specialized in taxation, estates and trusts, future interests and estate planning, named with appreciation a long list of people he has worked with at UB Law School, including "every dean since 1940" and other faculty members. "I've worked with some wonderful people at this law school," he said.

The Jaeckle Award, created in 1976, is the highest honor bestowed by the Law School and the Law Alumni Association. It is named for Edwin F. Jaeckle, Class of 1915 — Mugel's partner and friend. ■



President William R. Greiner, left, and Albert R. Mugel '41.