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Letter from the President

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Letter from the President



1992-1993 in Review

Our Association continues to prosper as we pursue our commitment to service both the Law School and our fellow alumni. Despite difficult economic times throughout the state university system, our new dean, Barry B. Boyer, is setting a course to take our alma mater through the '90s and into the next century, at the same time maintaining the school's well deserved reputation for excellence and creativity.

One of our most critical concerns over the next few years will be providing an adequate Law School building. Our current facility is aging and maintenance costs are high. In addition, overcrowding on campus has made it necessary for several other graduate and undergraduate programs to be located in O'Brien Hall. As a result, we do not have enough law classrooms and our law students do not have much of a sense of identity. We are currently looking into the possibility of constructing a new building complex to house the Law School towards the end of this decade.

Our continued success as an Association is largely due to the excellent planning and programming of our immediate past president, Jean C. Powers, and the immediate past dean of the Law School, David F. Filvaroff. Both of these individuals were truly special in their perseverance and dedication to a productive working relationship between the Law School and its alumni.

We have progressed very successfully in our board and chapter involvement, as well as having excellent attendance at both our fall and spring convocation events. On Homecoming week-end in October, the Law School, the Law Alumni Association and Roche Biomedical Laboratories co-sponsored a program entitled, "A Question of Identity: Biological Testing and the Law." This program reviewed and discussed the rapid changes in biomedical sciences and related technologies along with the profound implications that identity testing has not only on the criminal justice system, but also other areas of the law as well. Also in October, the Greater New York Chapter of the Law Alumni Association in concert with the General Alumni Association sponsored an alumni reception at the Yale Club which was attended by 250 people.

Chapter development also is moving along. In January, Associate Dean Thomas Headrick hosted an alumni reception in Los Angeles, Calif. Our chapters in Albany, New York City, Rochester and Washington, D.C. also continue to support our activities. Once again, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the New York State Bar Association in January, we sponsored a luncheon in New York City which was well attended by alumni throughout the state. Those in attendance voiced tremendous interest in being kept abreast of current events of the Law School and promised enthusiastic support to continue its well being.

In addition to our commitment to full communication with our alumni, our Association has begun an ambitious legislative relations program together with the University's General Alumni Association to create a viable program that can advocate on behalf of the Law School and the University as a whole. This is a year-round venture to enhance relations not only with our legislators but also with the Governor's office. Past President Jean Powers is ably coordinating this effort.

On Saturday, March 6, 1993, our Annual Convocation and Jaeckle Award Luncheon was held at the Center for Tomorrow. This year's topic, chaired by Catherine Wettlaufer, reviewed the current status of the bankruptcy law and its effects on many areas of general practice. After the morning program and lunch, President William R. Greiner presented the 1993 Jaeckle Award to Professor Albert R. Mugel, Class of 1941. In addition to an outstanding reputation within the profession, Al has been a full and part-time faculty member in the Law School for over 45 years and in some way or another has touched most of our lives.

This year we have also seen the publication of the long awaited history of the Law School — *University at Buffalo Law School 100 Years 1887-1987* — written by long time Association Secretary Robert Schaus '53 and James Arnone '85. The book was formally introduced at a reception held at President Greiner's home on Friday, March 12, 1993.

Our Awards Committee has met and five Distinguished Alumni received plaques from the Association at our Annual Meeting and Dinner on Friday, May 7, 1993, at the Hyatt Regency here in Buffalo. Congratulations are extended to Hon. Beryl McGuire, who won the Judiciary Award; Harold J. Boreanaz, the Private Practice Award; Richard M. Tobe, the Public Service Award; William Niese, the Business/Corporate Award; and Pamela Davis Heilman, the Community Service Award. Dinner Chair Paul Suozzi and Co-Chair Samuel Shapiro have done an outstanding job in arranging this event.

Once again the Association acknowledges the exceptional efforts of the GOLD Group — Graduates of the Last Decade — as they continue their efforts to foster enthusiastic cooperation on the part of our young alumni.

As can be seen from the foregoing, your Association is busy on your behalf. Our level of involvement and programming requires a large measure of devotion and commitment on the part of a great many people. We are very fortunate this year to have as the President of the University, Bill Greiner, who has a long history of involvement with the Law School and is providing able and progressive leadership for the University as a whole.

Like his predecessor, Dean Barry Boyer has been totally supportive of our Association and is dedicated to excellence in legal education. The last component of our working partnership is the officers and directors of your Board. President Elect Bill Savino capably chaired the Long Range Planning Committee while Vice Presidents Dianne Avery, Peter J. Fiorella, Jr., Garry M. Graber, and Paul Suozzi each took a strong leadership role in coordinating Committee activities. The secretarial duties formerly handled by long time Secretary Robert Schaus were undertaken by Sharyn Rogers, while the financial dealings of the Association were managed by Treasurer Phillip Brothman and Treasurer Elect Juan Irene. The Association recently moved to a new accounting system to streamline its financial dealings and has established a standing committee for fiscal affairs.

This letter would not be complete without recognition of the support and coordination of Ilene Fleischmann, our executive director; Alan S. Carrel, the associate dean for external affairs; and Pat Warrington, the alumni office's administrative assistant.

As this administration's year comes to a close I can state unequivocally that it has been both an honor and pleasure to represent this Association and its alumni. We have an outstanding alumni program that has garnered enthusiastic support not only from our alumni but from the profession and the University community as a whole. Collectively the alumni of this Law School are a powerful voice on behalf of the profession, not only within the Western New York area but statewide — and as we are discovering, even nationwide. As we enhance communication with our alumni, it is this Administration's goal to encourage our graduates to have greater involvement in the affairs of the Association and the well being of the Law School. By letting our collective voices be heard and by making a strong financial investment, we can insure that the tradition of excellence that has made our Law School great will continue for generations to come.



Mark G. Farrell
President