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Commencement 1997 Awards and Honors

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Class of 1997 receives awards at Commencement

Congratulations to the 52 students who received awards at the University at Buffalo Law School 1997 commencement ceremony.

Craig Anthony Hurley-Leslie, of Amherst, N.Y., received the Max Koren Award, which honors the senior judged by the faculty to be the outstanding member of the graduating class. This award is supported by a gift from M. Robert Koren, Class of 1944, and son of Max Koren.

Anita Coles Costello, of Amherst, N.Y., received the John N. Bennett Achievement Award, presented to the member of the graduating class, who, in the judgment of the faculty and the dean, has exemplified the highest standards of the profession by virtue of scholastic achievement, leadership and dedication to the ideals of the law school. The award is named in honor of John N. Bennett, Class of 1934.

Martha Sue Ehman, of Rochester, N.Y., received the Dale S. Margulis Award, presented to a member of the graduating class who has contributed the most to the Law School and the community. Dale S. Margulis, a member of the Class of 1982, died suddenly in August 1982. To honor his memory, his classmates, family and friends established this award.

Candidates are nominated by members of the graduating class, and the recipient is selected by the deans.

Leslie Meredith Platt, of New York City, received the National Association of Women Lawyers Award, presented to the outstanding law graduate who has shown superior academic achievement and has contributed to the advancement of women in society. The recipient of the award, which consists of a one-year honorary membership in the NAWL, is jointly selected by the Dean and the membership of the Law School's Association of Women Law Students.

James Michael Gerlach, of Williamsville, N.Y., received the Adolf Homburger Law Alumni Association Award, given to a graduating senior whose academic achievements in civil procedure and whose compassion for people best exemplify the qualities that Adolf Homburger sought to instill in his students. Professor Homburger, a native of Austria, practiced law in Vienna before coming to the United States in the late '30s. He then attended UB Law School and graduated in 1941. He served the Law School with exceptional distinction as a member of the faculty from 1980 to 1977. The Law Alumni Association supports the award.

Karen Elizabeth Richardson, of Amherst, N.Y., received the Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award, presented to the graduating senior who in course work and Moot Court competition has shown outstanding achievement in appellate advocacy. The award is given in honor of Judge Jasen, Class of 1939, and is supported by his friends and former clerks.

Ting-I Li, of Etobicoke, Ontario, received the David Kochery Award, provided by the family and friends of David Kochery, who taught at the Law School from 1953 to 1980. It is presented to the graduating senior who has taken an active part in the student community through service and involvement in one or more student organizations, and who has performed exceptionally well in courses in civil procedure and remedies.

Susan Heidorf Poole, of Buffalo, and Jeffrey Charles Stravino, of West Seneca, N.Y., received the Laidlaw Law Alumni Association Award, which commemorates William Laidlaw, a beloved professor and practitioner. Professor Laidlaw taught on the law faculty from 1926 to 1962. The award is given to the student who has the best performance in the area of commercial law, as described by the faculty, and is provided by the Law Alumni Association.

Dr. Sylvia Valentin, of Buffalo, received the Kenneth A. Gomez...
Memorial Award, presented in memory of Kenneth A. Gomez of the Class of 1990 who died suddenly in the summer of 1989. The award is presented to the law student who exemplifies Kenneth's ideals of equality and justice for all minorities. The recipient is chosen by the Latin American Law Students Association.

Lisa J. Maslow, of Hamburg, N.Y., received the Birzon Prize in Clinical Legal Studies, presented in honor of Israel and Irene Birzon, parents of Paul Birzon, distinguished lawyer and adjunct faculty member at the Law School. The prize recognizes a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated excellence in the Law School's clinical and trial advocacy program.

The Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Awards are presented to

Kimberly M. Hayes, of Clarence, N.Y.; Marianne Alexis Pansa, of Buffalo; Robert Scallone, of Liverpool, N.Y.; Thomas Nicholas Schleif, of Katonah, N.Y.; Peter Joseph Thompson, of Skaneateles, N.Y.; Roxanne Luella Williams, of New York City; Kevin Donald Wilson, of Hamlin, N.Y.; Elizabeth Rose Wright, of Amherst, N.Y.

David Ross Pfalzgraf Jr., of Buffalo, received the Carlos C. Alden Award. Carlos C. Alden was dean of the Law School from 1904-1936 and Professor of Law from 1904-1955. The award is presented to the senior who made the greatest contribution to the Buffalo Law Review, as decided by the Law Review members.

Abbie J. Chesser, of Clifton Park, N.Y., received the 1997 Justice Philip Halpern Award. Prior to becoming a justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Justice Halpern was dean of the Law School and a member of the faculty for 27 years. The Halpern award is given to a graduating senior for excellence in writing on the Law Review. The winner is determined by the members.

Lori Michele Goldstein, of Bayside, N.Y., received the Edith and David Goldstein Award, presented for outstanding performance in courses involving debtor-creditor and bankruptcy law. It is supported by the friends and family of Edith and David Goldstein. Edith graduated from the Law School in

the students who have the best performance record in the course in trial technique, as selected by their instructors. The award is presented in honor of Robert J. Connelly, who was an exceptionally able trial lawyer prior to his tragic and untimely death at age 44. The awards are presented by the Erie County Trial Lawyers Association. The Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Awards for 1996-97 are presented to: Rosanna Berardi, of Lancaster, N.Y.; James Stephen Flanders, of Scotia, N.Y.; Robert Harold Flynn, of Amherst, N.Y.; Craig Anthony Hurley-Leslie, of Amherst, N.Y.; Daniel Michael Killelea, of Buffalo; Thomas Shea Lane, of Kenmore, N.Y.; Scott Dickinson Lovelock, of Amherst, N.Y.; Denise Rae Neuhaus, of East Hampton, N.Y.; Janet F. Neumann, of Williamsville, N.Y.; David Pfalzgraf, Jr., of Buffalo; Michael Eric Plochocki, of Marcellus, N.Y.;
1924. Her husband, David, an accomplished practitioner in the areas of
debtor-creditor and bankruptcy law,
taught at the Law School from 1944 to
1969.

Lori Michele Goldstein, also won
the American Bankruptcy Institute
Medal for Excellence in Bankruptcy,
designed to encourage students to study
bankruptcy law.

The purpose of the annual
Lavender Gavel Award is to recognize
outstanding efforts and accomplish­
ments in the pursuit of lesbian and gay
visibility, dignity and civil rights. The
Lavender Gavel Award is presented by
the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Law
Students. The 1997 Lavender Gavel
Award recipients are: Martha Sue
Hirtelen, of Rochester, N.Y.; and Lori A.
Hirtelen, of Rochester, N.Y.

in legal profession and professional
responsibility based on either the best
"written article, essay or other expo­
sition on the subject of legal profes­
sional responsibility or legal ethics" or "a
substantial action or activity in furtherance
of legal professional responsibility or
legal ethics."

Selwyn Nelson Bartholomew, of
New York City, received the Minority
Bar Association of Western New
York Award, presented to a member of
the graduating class, who in the judg­
ment of the Minority Bar Association
and the Law School, has exemplified
high standards of the profession by
virtue of scholastic achievement and
leadership and who has demonstrated a
significant commitment to effectuating
changes within the legal system that
addresses the needs of the minority
Association's GOLD Group Award,
presented to a graduating law student
who has demonstrated outstanding lead­
ership skills in advancing the mission
of the Law School and enhancing its repu­
tation for excellence in legal education.
The winner's name is inscribed on the
GOLD Group plaque, which will be dis­
played in the Law Library. The recipi­
et also receives a special GOLD Group
watch and a small commemorative
plaque.

The Law Faculty Awards are pre­
sented by the faculty to those graduat­
ing seniors who have made outstanding con­	ributions to the Law School community.
Recipients are: Peter Joseph
Thompson, of Skaneateles, N.Y., in
recognition of his vigorous and sus­
tained effort to strengthen student gov­
ernment; Samuel Sung-hyub Chi, of

Debra McCulle Baird, of Buffalo,
received the Prentice-Hall Award,
given to the student whose academic
performance in the area of taxation is
outstanding, as recommended by the
faculty. The award is composed of books
on taxation provided by Prentice-Hall.

Valerie Kenyatta Curry Bradley,
of Rochester, N.Y., received the
Maurice Frey Award, given annually
to that member of the graduating class
whose academic performance in the area
of family law is most exceptional. It is
named in honor of the memory of Maurice
Frey, a prominent attorney who cared
deeply about legal education and taught
at the Law School for a number of years.
He also worked tirelessly in the com­
unity to ensure that our legal system
served and protected all members of our
society.

Lori A. Hirtelen, of Rochester,
N.Y., received the Ethics Award, select­
ed by the dean upon recommenda­
tion of the faculty members who teach courses
community.

The Order of Barristers is a
national oralsists honors society. The
members include students who have
shown dedication and who have ex­
celled in the art of oral advocacy and service to
the Moot Court Board. Each year, 10
students are elected to membership in
the organization. The newly elected
members of the Order of Barristers are:
Holly Adams Beecher, of Buffalo;
Colleen Mary Farrell, of Syracuse,
N.Y.; Prudence Chung-Yen Fung, of
Oswego, N.Y.; Melissa Lyn
Hancock, of Syracuse, N.Y.; Kathryn
Kelleher Lee, of Clay, N.Y.; Scott
Dickinson Lovelock, of Amherst, N.Y.;
William James McDonald, of
Smithtown, N.Y.; Scott Michael
Philbin, of Camillus, N.Y.; Karen
Elizabeth Richardson, of Amherst,
N.Y.; and William Alfred Santmyer, of
Williamsville, N.Y.

David Ross Pitzgraf Jr., of
Buffalo, received the UB Law Alumni
Auburn, N.Y., in recognition of his sub­
stantial and creative contributions to stu­
dent publications; Leslie Meredith
Platt, of New York City, for playing a
central role in the Buffalo Public Interest
Law Program and serving as editor of
the journal In the Public Interest; Martha
Sue Ehman, of Rochester, N.Y., in
recognition of her outstanding con­	ributions to the UB Law School by chal­
cenging the institution to address issues of
discrimination, inequality and intoler­
ance; Prudence Chung-Yen Fung, of
Oswego, N.Y., for providing
effective leadership to the Student Bar
Association.

Five students who repeatedly
served as "academic catalysts" were hon­
ed with Law Faculty Awards: Laurel
Elise Baum, of Amherst, N.Y.; Mary
Coneau Raymond, of Batavia, N.Y.;
Johanna Oreskovic, of Williamsville,
N.Y.; Wendy S. Moore, of
Williamsville, N.Y.; Michelle Kathleen
Navin, of Chittenango, N.Y.; and

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Michael Joshua Kotin, of Buffalo.
Nicholas Jay Smith, of Rochester, N.Y., received a Law Faculty Award for being an extraordinary student in both the Law School and the Philosophy Department. He put his ideas about pluralism and tolerance to work in the classroom, on the Law Review and on the new Buffalo Criminal Law Review, to raise the level of discourse and decency in each setting.

A Law Faculty Award was presented to David Ross Pfalzgraf Jr. As editor-in-chief of the Buffalo Law Review, David’s leadership produced a high-quality scholarly journal that represented UB Law School very well.

Also receiving a Law Faculty Award was Lynn Jessica Wolfgang, of Youngstown, N.Y.

UB Law Latin honors graduates are named for 1997
The following members of the 1997 graduating class at the University at Buffalo Law School received Latin honors.

"These students have demonstrated not only exceptional talent, but also outstanding commitment and self-discipline," said UB Law School Dean Barry B. Boyer. "We expect them to make a major contribution in their communities."

Summa Cum Laude: Craig Hurley-Leslie and Denise Neuhaus.