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## Commencement 1997 Awards and Honors

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# Class of 1997 receives awards at Commencement

**C**ongratulations 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

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

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 Etibicoke, Ontario,

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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.

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 1960 to 1977. The Law Alumni Association supports the award.

**Karen Elizabeth Richardson**, of

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 Valentín**, 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 Scalione**, 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. Chessler**, 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

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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.;



*Valerie Kenyatta Curry Bradley '97, left, and Lynn J. Wolfgang '97*

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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 accomplishments 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 Ehman**, 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 exposition on the subject of legal professional 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 judgment 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 leadership skills in advancing the mission of the Law School and enhancing its reputation for excellence in legal education. The winner's name is inscribed on the GOLD Group plaque, which will be displayed in the Law Library. The recipient also receives a special GOLD Group watch and a small commemorative plaque.

The **Law Faculty Awards** are presented by the faculty to those graduating seniors who have made outstanding contributions to the Law School community. Recipients are: **Peter Joseph Thompson**, of Skaneateles, N.Y., in recognition of his vigorous and sustained effort to strengthen student government; **Samuel Sgunghyub Chi**, of

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**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 to honor 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 community 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**, selected by the dean upon recommendation of the faculty members who teach courses

community.

The **Order of Barristers** is a national oralists honors society. The members include students who have shown dedication and who have excelled 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 Chestnut Ridge, 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 Pfalzgraf Jr.**, of Buffalo, received the **UB Law Alumni**

**Association's GOLD Group Award**, presented to a graduating law student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills in advancing the mission of the Law School and enhancing its reputation for excellence in legal education. The winner's name is inscribed on the GOLD Group plaque, which will be displayed in the Law Library. The recipient also receives a special GOLD Group watch and a small commemorative plaque.

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Auburn, N.Y., in recognition of his substantial and creative contributions to student 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 contributions to the UB Law School by challenging the institution to address issues of discrimination, inequality and intolerance; **Prudence Chung-Yen Fung**, of Chestnut Ridge, N.Y., for providing effective leadership to the Student Bar Association.

Five students who repeatedly served as "academic catalysts" were honored 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

**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. ■



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## 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**.

*Magna Cum Laude:* **Laurel Baum**, **Michael Chase**, **Anita Costello**, **Laurence Horvath**, **Michael Kotin**, **Ting-I Li**, **Rosalie Melisz**, **Amanda Meredith**, **Wendy Moore**, **M. Rogan Morton**, **Johanna Oreskovic**, **David R. Pfalzgraf Jr.**, **Jeremy Schulman**, **Nicholas Smith** and **Colman Welby**.

*Cum Laude:* **Daniela Almeida**, **Marybeth Barnet**, **Erin Brady**, **Kelly Byrd**, **Samuel Chi**, **David Clar**, **Colleen Farrell**, **Allison Fields**, **James Flanders**, **Michael Fruchter**, **James Gerlach**, **Tamsin J. Hager**, **Kimberly Hayes**, **Lori Hirtelen**, **Wendy L. Irvine**, **Scott Johnson**, **Daniel Killelea**, **Thomas Lane**, **Kathryn Lee**, **David Leone**, **David Luzon**, **Lisa J. Maslow**, **Craig Matanle**, **Leela Mookerjee**, **Michelle Navin**, **Sharon Nolan**, **Allison Puglisi**, **Mary Comeau Raymond**, **Karen Richardson**, **D. Charles Roberts, Jr.**, **Christopher Rodeman**, **Shirin Saks**, **Jeffrey Stravino**, **Thomas Trbovich**, **Julie VandeVelde**, **Sebastian Windgassen** and **Catharine Wolff**.

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