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GOLD Group attracts new attorneys with a glittering array of programs

The UB Law Alumni Association's GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group continues to shine brightly within the Buffalo legal community. "We provide low-cost, nuts-and-bolts educational programs, social and networking opportunities for recent graduates, as well as for law students and the general legal community," says Stephen L. Yonaty '94, an attorney with the Amherst, N.Y., law firm of Nesper, Ferber & DiGiacomo, and this year's GOLD Group president. "We also help law students and recent graduates integrate themselves into the legal community."

With these goals in mind, the GOLD Group participates in the Law School's practice interview program, which is designed to prepare law students for those first nerve-racking meetings with potential employers. Supervised by Audrey Koscielniak, assistant dean and director for career development at UB Law, GOLD Group members conduct mock interviews and offer students advice on how to put their best foot forward.

Recognizing that getting a job is just the first step, the GOLD Group maintains close ties with the Bar Association of Erie County, assisting the Bar's Admissions Committee with its annual Taskforce on Newly Admitted Attorneys Program.

"The Admissions Committee puts together a three-day seminar designed to educate new attorneys about the practice of law," explains Paula Eade Newcomb '90, a former president of the GOLD Group who now serves on the GOLD board as well as the Admissions Committee. "The GOLD Group helps the Admissions Committee secure speakers for the event, including UB

Law alumni."

Attorneys of all ages and levels of experience praise the GOLD Group's UB Law Downtown educational series. This year's program featured several well-attended morning lectures at the Midday Club, located in the Liberty Bank Building in downtown Buffalo. Local practitioners enjoyed breakfast with their colleagues followed by a lecture on legal topics. "Our Breakfast

Roderick Quebral, associate counsel to the Attorney Grievance Committee, Appellate Division, Fourth Department. Garry M. Graber, of the Buffalo-based law firm Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear, spoke to a packed room on "Bankruptcy for Non-Bankruptcy Attorneys." Estate and trust practice was the topic of Peter J. Brevorka's lecture on "How to Work with the Surrogate's Court." Brevorka is



Left to right: Christine D. Uba '94, Stephen L. Yonaty '94 and Mimi C. Meng '95

Programs enable those entering a new practice area to hear firsthand some meaningful, practical advice from those who have developed an expertise in some of the more complex specialty areas," explains Wendy Irving, chair of the GOLD Group's Education Committee.

The first of the morning series, "Avoiding Attorney Grievances," was presented by Richard T. Sullivan, of the Buffalo law firm Sullivan & Oliverio, and

an attorney with the Buffalo-based law firm Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel. The series concluded with a lecture on "Mediation and Arbitration" presented by Steven Sugarman of the Kenmore, N.Y., law firm Posatier, Sherman & Abbott, and UB Law's own Clinical Instructor Suzanne Tomkins.

The GOLD Group's social committee, chaired by Christine D. Uba '94, provided new graduates with ample networking opportunities. "The GOLD



Stephen L. Yonaty '94

Group's social functions are always quite popular," says Uba. "Recent graduates enjoy the chance to meet with friends and colleagues in a relaxed atmosphere." Highlighting this year's social events was an informal gathering at Spot Coffee, a trendy coffee shop located in downtown Buffalo. Guests assembled over a hot cup of java and enjoyed a presentation on reducing stress through massage therapy.

Yonaty attributes the success of the organization to the cooperation and hard work of his officers, including: Natalie Lesh Schaffer '93, of Harrington & Mahoney, as president-elect; Colleen P. Doyle '92, of the Attorney Grievance Committee, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, as immediate past president; Terrance P. Flynn '88, of Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, as secretary; Christine D. Uba '94, of the Law Offices of Christine D. Uba, as social chair; Wendy Irving '91, of SUNY at Buffalo, as education chair; Ken Gossel '91, of National Fuel Gas Company, as membership chair; John Licata '92, of Corey J. Hogan & Associates, as communications chair; and Carlton Brownell '89, of the Law Offices of Kevin D. Walsh, as finance chair.

Additional board members include: Richard P. Krieger '90, of Gossel, Krieger & Newcomb, as secretary-elect; Amy Wendt '96, of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear, as social-elect; Jeremy Toth '96, of the Offices of Assembly Member Sam Hoyt, as education-elect; Eileen Kennedy '94, of Saperston & Day, as membership-elect; Andrew Isenberg '92, of Offermann, Cassano, Greco & Slisz, as communications-elect; Chris Marks '93, of Buffalo Financial Associates, as finance-elect.

Also, Mark Brand '88, of Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber; Jean Brenner '95, of Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber; Doug Dimitroff '89, of Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber; Julie Falvey '90, of the Law Offices of Julie Falvey; Sebastian Fasanella '91, of Merrill Lynch; Marianne Mariano '94, of the Federal Public Defenders Office; Joe Marris '93, of Albrecht, Maguire, Heffern & Gregg; Mimi Meng '95, of University at Buffalo; Paula Eade Newcomb '90, of Volgenau & Bosse. ■

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