

UB Law Forum

Volume 11
Number 1 *Spring 1998*

Article 43

4-1-1998

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UB Law Forum

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Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (1998) "Professor Louis A Del Cotto 51 Wins Jaeckle Award'," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 11 : No. 1 , Article 43.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol11/iss1/43

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Professor Louis A. Del Cotto '51 wins Jaeckle Award

A UB Law School professor who has balanced scholarship and teaching, practice and mentoring, with consummate skill was the recipient of the 1997 Jaeckle Award, the highest honor that the Law School and the UB Law Alumni Association can bestow.

Professor Louis A. Del Cotto, a 1951 graduate of the Law School and a teacher of tax law nearly continuously since his graduation, accepted the award at a luncheon following the 22nd annual Alumni Convocation on Nov. 8, 1997.

Del Cotto is highly regarded as an expert in the intricacies of the tax code and the policies behind them. He taught as an adjunct professor for a decade after graduation, while practicing with the Buffalo-based law firm Jaeckle, Fleischmann, Kelly, Swart & Augspurger (now Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel), then returned to academia full time. Except for a year at Pace University, he has been with UB Law School continuously since then. He has published widely and is known as an extremely effective communicator in the classroom.

"Over these years, Lou helped to keep his students and his fellow faculty members focused on the important legal skills we are trying to give our students," Dean Barry B. Boyer said at the luncheon. "Most of all, what comes through is that Lou cares deeply about the craft of lawyering and the development of his students as legal practitioners. These are very, very important values for any law school, and I think we all owe Lou a debt of gratitude for keeping them in the forefront."

Professor Kenneth Joyce, his close colleague in tax law, referred to Del Cotto's "pedagogical integrity": "It is primarily seen in this dogged pursuit of the right analysis, and the flip side of that dogged pursuit, the willingness to throw your teaching notes away when you come to a different conclusion."

Said Samuel L. Shapiro '65, president of the UB Law Alumni Association: "I learned an awful lot of tax from



Professor Louis A. Del Cotto '51



Professor Del Cotto. Lou not only taught us the statutes, but he explained why the statute was there, how it got there, who put it there, what mistakes they made and how they should correct them!"

University Provost Thomas E.

Headrick read a letter from President William R. Greiner, calling Del Cotto "my best teacher." He cited "his enormous dedication to the tax law. He has an enormous capacity to link the small details and changes to the larger picture. He had the highest and clearest of standards for students and colleagues. And he has always had enormous devotion to the school."

Del Cotto himself reminisced at the podium, recalling that when he entered the Law School in 1948 it had just eight full-time faculty members and was located on Eagle Street in downtown Buffalo. Much has changed since then, of course; but, said Del Cotto, "This school has been the best part not only of my professional life, but of my life.

"More than anything, it is the students who make teaching such a rewarding business. The students have always displayed an enormous amount of goodwill toward me. It's been, not only fun, but educational. I think I have received as much education as I gave." ■

Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Courtland R. LaVallee '66 and Harry F. Mooney '75