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We Make Our Case

UB Law Forum

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The Campaign for UB Law:

WE MAKE OUR CASE

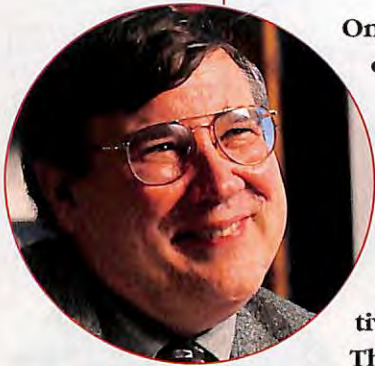
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Graduating class
of 1915

Dean R. Nils Olsen Jr.



On Oct. 20, 2000, the Law School launched its first-ever capital fund-raising campaign. Never before have UB Law alumni had this chance to affect, in a very direct and real way, the future quality of their alma mater.

"Our campaign represents a very fine opportunity for people to give back to the institution," said R. Nils Olsen Jr., dean of the Law School.

"It also provides an opportunity for people to reflect on the importance the Law School has played in their professional development and accomplishments. We are asking our alumni to help us effectively educate future generations of lawyers."

The capital campaign plans to raise \$12 million in donations from alumni and friends by June 30, 2003. It is part of a university-wide effort called The Campaign for UB, with a goal of \$250 million. And there is already excellent news: Following a four-year "silent" phase of the campaign, in which a small segment of the alumni population was offered the opportunity to donate, the tally stands at better than \$6 million.

Why should alumni support this ambitious and groundbreaking outreach effort? Its effects will be complex and far-reaching – launching new academic programs, developing and improving our faculty, attracting and supporting deserving students, and upgrading our instructional setting. We are in this together. In an increasingly competitive law school environment, continuing and advancing the quality of the school not only enhances the value of a UB Law degree, but ensures that future generations of UB-trained attorneys will have the opportunity to be the best legal practitioners and scholars they can be.

"UB Law School now has the opportunity to achieve a new level of excellence and to carve its distinctive signature among the nation's most eminent law schools," says the case statement for the campaign. "Building our financial base will directly support our commitment to excellence and enhance our ability to provide the best possible education to all of our students, regardless of means.

"Improving our programs, faculty, students and facilities will sustain and advance the national reputation of the Law School, probably the most critical element in the professional opportunities available to our graduates. We invite you to take part in this endeavor to build a capital foundation for excellence in the new century."

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Campaign goals at a glance

Priority	Goal	Raised to Date
Academic program	\$2,000,000	\$817,000
Faculty excellence	\$4,000,000	\$800,000
Student scholarships	\$4,000,000	\$1,513,000
Building and technology	\$2,000,000	\$1,125,000
Unrestricted		\$1,850,000*
Campaign grand totals:	\$12,000,000	\$6,105,000

* (includes annual fund)

CAMPAIGN COMPLETION: *June 30, 2003*



The Campaign for UB Law:

Our Case

The campaign seeks to bolster the Law School's excellence in four key areas.

The Campaign for UB Law School is an ambitious one, to be sure, yet its planners are confident that the effort will be successful. May we count on you? Please call Development Director Mary Ann Rogers at (716) 645-2113, or write to her at UB Law School, 408 John Lord O'Brien Hall, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260. She will provide the full campaign brochure and information on the myriad opportunities for the named endowments and capital gifts that make up the campaign.

The academic program

Building on the widely acclaimed New Curriculum that was introduced in 1996 – a feature that was praised by the Princeton Review's popular student guide to law schools when it ranked UB as "the finest public law school in the Northeast" – the campaign seeks \$2 million to build UB Law's academic program. **The New Curriculum emphasizes the essential practice skills that legal education too often ignores, and centers on a yearlong intensive program of research, writing and oral argument for first-year students.**

Opportunities to support this basic skills training include endowments for the Research and Writing Program, the Moot Court program and the Trial Technique program. Upper-division skills development can be supported with gifts to endow one of our 10 concentrations, such as civil litigation, environmental law, health law, and law and social justice.

In addition, benefactors may endow specialized journals, distinguished visiting professorships and lecturers, conferences, clinics and public service fellowships.



The faculty

UB Law School has long been renowned for its excellence and innovation in scholarly research and teaching, and we continue to draw talented young legal scholars. Of 10 recently hired faculty members, seven graduated from Harvard or Yale law schools, seven held federal judicial clerkships and five have doctoral degrees. They have already organized 10 conferences, founded two journals and published more than 50 scholarly works.

But the Law School must compete against other institutions – public as well as private – with much larger endowments. The public law faculties ranked ahead of UB in research productivity have an average endowment of \$75 million; UB Law's is currently \$12 million. These other institutions have an average of 25 endowed chairs; UB has none. The challenge of attracting and retaining the best legal scholars is thus made much more difficult.

To address this, the capital campaign seeks \$4 million for a Faculty Excellence Program that would endow 10 named professorships, 10 senior research fellowships and six junior research fellowships – support that will be crucial to enhancing the long-term quality of the faculty.

Building and technology

John Lord O'Brien Hall, opened in 1973, is somewhat worn at the seams because of its extremely heavy use. The capital campaign seeks \$2 million to make the Law School building more attractive, hospitable and up-to-date; to distinguish it from its surroundings in the University; and to establish an environment that reinforces the students' pride, professionalism and identity as lawyers.

This process has already begun, with a beautifully refurbished first-floor student lounge, and now nearing completion, construction of a state-of-the-art courtroom in O'Brien Hall (see accompanying article).

In addition to the new courtroom and the five new classrooms that will result from reconfiguring space, the campaign will support redesigning and renovating the fifth-floor faculty lounge into a comfortable and modern academic meeting center. **Many other public spaces will be upgraded to give them a fresh look, ensure accessibility to individuals with disabilities, and increase students' enjoyment of and identification with their Law School.** Also planned are updates and improvements to the second-floor Law Library.



Student scholarships

As New York's only state law school, UB Law must continue to provide an affordable, first-rate legal education to highly qualified students regardless of their financial status. We take this obligation very seriously.

But changes in the State University's funding system have forced substantial increases in tuition. Therefore, it is imperative that UB Law raise considerable endowment income to support a needs-based scholarship program that will allow all qualified students to pursue their educational dreams.

Competition for the best law students has intensified. A merit scholarship program will help UB Law attract the best and brightest each year, ensuring the continuing high quality of the student body.

The capital campaign seeks \$4 million for a Faculty Excellence Program that would endow 10 named professorships, 10 senior research fellowships and six junior research fellowships – support that will be crucial to enhancing the long-term quality of the faculty.