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Steering Committee Leaders Give Generously

UB Law Forum

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The Campaign for UB Law:

The Campaign for UB Law Steering Committee was formed in 1996, during the first year of the “quiet” phase, and continues to be assembled as the Campaign moves forward into a more “public” or active stage. The Committee is composed of our top campaign leaders who provide guidance in the planning and shaping

Steering committee leaders



Hilary P. Bradford '53

Hilary P. Bradford '53 has specified that his gift be added to the Jacob D. Hyman Scholarship Fund, which he created several years ago out of concern that New York's only public law school continue to remain affordable.

“UB Law School is an institution without which many of us could not have had careers as lawyers,” says Bradford, of the Buffalo firm Cohen Swados Wright Hanifin Bradford & Brett. “I think that is important to remember. The school is now acquiring a national reputation, and we are placing our graduates in major firms throughout the country.

“For many students, entering UB Law School represents an opportunity to receive a first-class legal education. Of course, no one's career is guaranteed; you have to do that yourself. But after graduating from UB, the door is open.”



Thomas M. Bremer '79

“If alumni have any doubts about giving,” says Thomas M. Bremer '79, “they should think back to when they were struggling and just starting out. By giving, they can help lessen the burden on new lawyers, and they should do so purely as a philanthropic gesture.”

Bremer, retired senior vice president and general counsel of U.S. Surgical Corporation, notes the school's changing fiscal picture: “With the state cutting back on education funding, it is important for people like myself who have been very successful to step up and make sure that funding is there for the future.

“We should take pride in where we went to school, and help the school provide an opportunity for those who want to go to UB Law.”



Terrence M. Connors '71, Chair

“Not a day goes by that I do not reflect on the Law School and the lessons I learned, either in the classroom or in the library or with other students exchanging ideas,” says Terrence M. Connors '71, national chair of UB Law's Capital Campaign. “Those days have yielded a lot of benefits. There is a strong relationship between those benefits and one's time in Law School, and that comes with a responsibility to give something back.”

Connors, a Buffalo trial attorney in the firm Connors & Vilardo, says “a successful campaign will enable UB Law to maintain its position as a leader in providing innovative and accessible legal education of the highest caliber. It will provide the critical financial resources that will allow us to compete with other law schools.”



Kenneth B. Forrest '76

Kenneth B. Forrest '76 is a partner in Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in New York City, focusing his practice primarily on commercial litigation. “I have always felt that it is important for alumni of a professional school to support that school, even years after graduation,” Forrest says. “It becomes even more important where the institution has a genuine need for funds, as is the case with UB Law.

“Another reason I am supporting this effort is that I have great confidence in Nils Olsen and the leadership of the Law School, and for that matter of the University.

“As the Law School and its reputation continue to improve, more doors will be opened to Law School graduates. It is that simple.”

of the Campaign. The Law School is very grateful to these eight prestigious Law School graduates, and to our honorary chair, Professor Jacob D. Hyman. Through their invaluable support to the Campaign, they serve as wonderful examples of our most loyal and most generous alumni.

give generously



James L. Magavern '59

"I talk a lot about the spirit of the Law School," says James L. Magavern '59, of the Buffalo firm Magavern, Magavern & Grimm, LLP. "I feel it when I teach there, and I think the students feel it, too. The school is diverse in many ways. It has quite a few people who do not come to law school right out of college, who have other experiences in life that they bring into the classroom. There is a collegiality among the students, and between faculty and students, that is quite unusual."

He points also to the New Curriculum as unique. "Certainly the New Curriculum should be very attractive to students," Magavern says. "It gives them both a very interesting education and the chance to become accomplished in a concentration. That gives them a competitive edge."



William Niese '61

"A major part of the effort here is to expand the University's reputation so that it will no longer be simply a Western New York institution," says William Niese '61, retired vice president and general counsel of The Times Mirror Company. "The strong graduates from the University at Buffalo Law School are fully capable of practicing anywhere in the country. It is vitally important that UB Law School be recognized throughout the nation as a very strong and top-rated law school."

Niese adds: "Historically, the number of alumni who have financially supported the Law School is very small. The institution is deserving of our support. Giving is not simply altruistic, it is the right thing to do."



Anthony J. Renaldo '50

"A UB Law education means even more to those of us who were veterans of World War II," says Anthony J. Renaldo '50. "With the education we received there, we were able to build successful careers. Most of the students in my class went to school under the GI Bill. Our law careers became possible because of UB Law School."

A senior partner practicing business law with the Buffalo firm Renaldo, Myers & Palumbo, he adds: "It is important for the law profession that we have well-trained lawyers. As a practitioner having my own firm here for 50 years, we look to the Law School to provide us with qualified graduates, and they have indeed been very qualified."



Arthur A. Russ Jr. '67

"I was kind of a late bloomer," says Arthur A. Russ Jr. '67. "Law School was a great experience for me, and because I did well, it opened a lot of doors."

Russ, a partner in the Buffalo firm Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber, says: "You have to look deep in your heart and see there is no such thing as a free lunch. If you have benefited from your education and the experience, I think we all owe it to the school to give to the extent we can."

He notes that the UB Law campaign is part of an overall University effort: "My allegiance is to the Law School, but I look at this gift as part of the entire University. It is extremely important to the wider community."