Message From the Dean

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Message from the Dean
UB Law School is thriving: Planning has begun for a major renovation of O'Brian Hall; our recruitment efforts are attracting significant increases in applications; continued innovation by our faculty is shaping a rich curriculum for our students; our placement programs are being strengthened; and our national reputation for excellence in scholarship is growing. Indeed, by any measure, we are advancing our performance to unprecedented levels.

I am particularly pleased to report such good news in light of the difficult financial environment for the State University of New York. Decreases in state funding for SUNY have required a much greater reliance on alternative sources of support. You, our alumni and friends nationwide, are rising to this challenge. Your generous participation in our annual fund has helped to keep us moving forward on many fronts. Soon, we will be announcing a major capital campaign envisioning the UB Law School of the future and providing the financial resources to secure that future for decades to come.

As we prepare to ask for major new investments in our Law School, I believe it is critical for all of us to listen to our alumni. I have enjoyed my travels around the country, meeting with our alumni in California, Florida, Washington, D.C., New York City, Rochester and Syracuse, as well as those here on the Niagara frontier. In small group meetings, cocktail parties, dinners, and firm events, I have received invaluable feedback from countless alumni and friends who care deeply about our Law School. These discussions and the ideas they have generated will inform our agenda as we move forward.

Next time you visit us, the Law School will undoubtedly look very different. An elegant new student lounge opened last year to rave reviews by students. With alumni and University support, the cavernous Moot Court room is scheduled for transformation into a state-of-the-art courtroom with a number of high tech classrooms. Federal, state and local judges have already expressed enthusiasm for bringing their trial and appellate proceedings to our new facility.

As exciting as these physical changes may be, it is the people in our Law School community who make UB Law so unique. All of us together — students, faculty, staff and alumni — must continue to build and sustain this dynamic institution.

R. Nils Olsen