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UB LAW FORUM

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Dear Alumni/ae and friends:

UB Law School begins its 2001-2002 academic year with excitement and momentum. By the time you read this message, we will have completed a major renovation of John Lord O'Brian Hall, resulting in a beautiful courtroom and five new classrooms. The New York State Appellate Division, Fourth Department, will activate the courtroom with a daylong session in October. Subsequently, a New York State Supreme Court justice will be assigned to our courtroom to conduct judicial business on a daily basis through Spring 2002.

For the first time this fall, housing is available exclusively for UB Law students within walking distance of O'Brian Hall. Two buildings in the brand new Flint Village on the UB North Campus — with reasonably priced and furnished apartments — are reserved for UB Law students. Further construction plans are under way, as well, to build a student activity center and a sixth new classroom in O'Brian Hall.

An ever-improving curriculum remains central to our efforts. We have brought on board several new faculty members, including Rebecca French and Jim Gardner, experienced law professors and nationally renowned scholars who joined UB Law School this fall. In collaboration with other departments at UB, new interdisciplinary programs have been established in law and public health, and in law and library sciences, leading respectively to a master's degree in public health and a master's degree in library science, along with the J.D. A new concentration, in Labor and Employment Law, is now available for our students. And the faculty decided to replace the H/Q grading system with a new system that uses more conventional A/B/C grades.

We, of course, have many of our alumni/ae to thank for supporting these developments at the Law School. The generosity of the alumni/ae community, through both the annual fund and our capital campaign, continues to make our Law School a vibrant place to work and study. I hope you enjoy this issue of the UB Law Forum and stay in tune with UB Law School.

Best wishes,

Nils Olsen