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## The Baldy Center at 25

UB Law Forum

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# Law School Report:

# Center Stage



Christopher Baldy '10

## Two appreciations of the Baldy Center at 25

**A** quarter-century ago, a remarkable bequest created a remarkable institution at UB: the Baldy Program in Law and Social Policy, now the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy. It was a time of educational innovation, but this radically interdisciplinary approach was highly unusual – maybe even unique – among American law schools.

In those 25 years, the Baldy Center has been the driving force behind

conferences, courses, critical publications, joint efforts among various academic specialties, and hundreds of speakers and visiting scholars. No one knows how to count the benefit; intellectual ferment is a quality that's difficult to quantify. But one thing is for sure: By challenging scholars to cross the lines of their disciplines and engage each other in honest, free-thinking discussion, the Baldy Center has done much to further the University's mission – and the Law School's reputation as a place where serious inquiry doesn't stop between the covers of black-letter law books.

In honor of the anniversary, UB Law Forum here reproduces portions of two addresses given by people who have giv-

en much of themselves to the Baldy Center's mission. The first is from Professor David M. Engel, director of the Baldy Center; the second is by Paul B. Zuydhoek, managing partner of the Buffalo law firm Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber. Both were presented at a 25th anniversary celebration held in March at the Buffalo Yacht Club.



Joe Hill and Hilary Weaver



Ann Floyd

David Floyd



### Professor David M. Engel:

Christopher Baldy's generous bequest has made it possible for UB to place itself among a small and elite group of universities that are world-renowned for teaching and scholarship involving the interdisciplinary study of law and social policy. Today, the program at UB is mentioned in the same breath with programs at Berkeley and Wisconsin, NYU and Oxford. It is



David M. Engel

widely acknowledged that something very special is happening at UB, and that this is a good place to come if you are a prospective student, faculty member or visiting scholar.

If you were a student at UB Law School or UB Graduate School over the past few years, you would have come into contact with the Baldy Center on many occasions.

When you first were considering where to apply to law school, if you had outstanding grades and LSAT scores, you would have received a Baldy Center brochure explaining that UB is one of the top five universities in the country for the interdisciplinary study of law and social policy. You would have learned that students who pursue both a J.D. and a Ph.D. are eligible for prestigious fellowship support through the Baldy Center. You would have discovered that UB students who received those fellowships have gone on to important positions as policy specialists, lawyers and law professors. You would have learned about the dual degree programs the Law School offers in cooperation with the School of Social Work and the School of Management.

After you arrived as a student at UB, you might have received invitations from the Baldy Center to take part in one of our Discussion Circles. Later, you would have been encouraged to enroll in our Baldy



Professor John Henry Schlegel and James M. Gerlach '97





Sally Hezel '73

Kenneth A. Manning '77



Dean R. Nils Olsen Jr.

Professor Robert S. Berger



Laura Mangan, assistant director of the Baldy Center, and Professor Murray Levine

Center Short Course series taught each fall by distinguished visitors, such as the first black woman justice on the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Yvonne Mokgoro, or the U.N. Ambassador from Slovenia, Danielo Turk. If you registered for the short courses, you would have experienced one of the most intense and exciting classes of your life, each compressed into a single week of readings and discussion. You would also have had the chance to talk about your own interests and your career plans with these distinguished visitors over a plate of chicken wings or a glass of beer.

As a student, you probably would have attended some of the conferences sponsored each year by the Baldy Center. You might have been particularly attracted to the conference on the New York State death penalty, or the one on poverty, low-wage labor and social retrenchment, or the conference on collaborative interventions in family violence cases in Western New York. You might have been one of the individuals selected as student editor for the Baldy Center's widely read journal, *Law and Policy*. Even if you weren't one of the few hired to work on the journal, the chances were pretty good that you were one of the 60 or so student research assistants funded by the Baldy Center each year. This small army of talented students work one-on-one with professors from the Law School and from 15 other departments outside the Law School. As a research assistant, you might have collaborated with a faculty member conducting research on worker's compensation or international human rights, on tort litigation or women of color in the military, on community development and industrial organization in Western New York or on the prosecution of juveniles in criminal courts. Your work with an individual professor certainly would have enhanced both your education and your job prospects.

As faculty members, we see some additional benefits flowing from the Baldy endowment. The Baldy Center has organized a new network of scholars from Western New York and Canada who gath-

er each spring, in Buffalo or in Toronto, to compare research and teaching on interdisciplinary legal studies. This network, administered by the Baldy Center, now numbers more than 75 American and Canadian scholars. One outgrowth of these regional meetings has been collaborative teaching with Canadian colleagues and their students. This cross-border experience is another activity that enhances the reputation and the quality of education UB can deliver.

All of these activities make us more visible throughout the country and around the world and help us to draw outstanding students and faculty members to our campus. We thought it was high time to honor the memory of the man, Christopher Baldy, whose generosity led to the creation of the Baldy Center and made it all possible.

### Paul B. Zuydhoek, Esq.:

When Christopher Baldy died 1959 at age 73, he was mourned by his partners at Kenefick, Bass, Letchworth, Baldy & Phillips (soon to be Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber); by the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York; by a plethora of community organizations for which he had been a leader; by clients that he served so diligently; by politicians who noted his passing in the Congressional Record; by his family; and by the University to which he was so loyal. A year prior to his death, he had been given to the Samuel P. Capen Alumni Award with these words from Chancellor Clifford Furnas:

During the past 50 years, (Christopher Baldy) has been so closely associated with the growth and history of Buffalo that we might say that the history of Buffalo could not have happened without him.

He was born in 1885 and graduated from Buffalo Law School in 1910. In 1911, he joined the firm where he spent his entire career, rising to managing partner. He was a generalist when there still was such

a thing, and a specialist in his later career when it became obvious that specialties would be the wave that would wash over the profession. As a lawyer, he served on many corporate boards of directors. He was a stickler for detail; as a senior partner, he is still famous for proofreading every single letter written by the firm's attorneys.

His leadership in the Bar and in the community was unsurpassed. Among others, consider his service to the following:

- Director of the Legal Aid Bureau
- President of the Erie County Bar Association, the Lawyer's Club and the Marshall Club
- Elected member of the American Law Institute
- Chairman of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Legal Education and Admissions
- Member of the Committee on Character and Fitness, 8th Judicial District
- Lifelong member of St. John's Episcopal Church, which he served in just about every position available to a layman
- Appointee of Gov. Lehman to the Allegheny State Park Commission
- Member of the New York State Board of Social Welfare
- Active member of the Erie County Democratic Committee
- Member and benefactor of the West Side Rowing Club
- Master of his Masonic Lodge

As an alumnus of the University, he was a member of the University Council, serving as its secretary from 1951 until his death. He was instrumental in revisions to the UB charter and its ordinances, and was an active participant in the Committee on General Administration, the Committee on Bequests and Endowments, and the Buildings Committee. His obituary mentioned that he was "active in planning the recent expansion of the university."

When he passed away, he was missed immediately by his colleagues in the Bar, his partners in the firm, his family and friends in the community, and the University to which he had devoted so much of his time.



Paul B. Zuydhoek