

1-1-2000

GOLD Group: Young UB Lawyers Have the Golden Touch

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Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (2000) "GOLD Group: Young UB Lawyers Have the Golden Touch," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 13 : No. 1 , Article 26.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol13/iss1/26

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The UB Law GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group continues as the Law Alumni Association's most precious asset. This year's board of directors has carefully crafted a gold mine of activities where young alumni can network with colleagues, relax with friends or polish their professional skills.

"The GOLD Group, a subset of the UB Law Alumni Association, is truly unique. Its efforts are solely dedicated to responding to the educational, social and professional networking needs of alumni who have graduated within the last decade," explains the current GOLD Group president, Wendy Irving '91, assistant dean for advancement and development, University at Buffalo.

"This year the GOLD Group is working hard to enhance its reach and visibility throughout the legal community so that we can effectively continue to identify and promote the concerns of GOLD constituents."

As an accredited New York State Continuing Legal Education provider, the GOLD Group has created a tradition of providing quality educational programs open to all members of the legal community. This year's UB Law Downtown Breakfast Series is composed of three one-hour lectures held at the Midday Club in downtown Buffalo. Attendees can start their day earning CLE credit and enjoying a delicious Continental breakfast.

While the program was originally aimed at attorneys in the early stages of their career, the lecture topics have consistently attracted lawyers with all levels of experience, from the rookie associate to the courtroom-savvy practitioner.

"The GOLD Group's board of directors is extremely pleased with the success of this year's and last year's education programs," says Gretchen Aylward '95, chair of the education committee. "Attendance has been up considerably and we believe that the consistent high quality of the programs in combination with their convenient time and location will ensure continued success in the future."

The series began this past November with a presentation by Paul I. Perlman, litigation partner at the Buffalo

law firm of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear and lecturer at UB Law. "The Do's and Don'ts of Taking and Defending a Deposition" offered invaluable advice from a well-respected expert to a standing-room-only audience.

New York State Supreme Court Judge Barbara Howe '80 continued the momentum with "How to Behave in Court: Attorney Civility and Courtroom Procedure." Howe presented a thorough lecture on the rules of courtroom procedure and the key to effective representation before the bench.

The series is scheduled to end in April with a presentation on rainmaking presented by Ginger D. Schroder '90, of Buchanan Ingersoll, P.C. Schroder will speak on a subject important to attorneys practicing in any forum: how to generate business and maintain a flourishing law practice.

In addition to the lecture series, the GOLD Group expanded its reach this year through the efforts of its recruitment committee. The GOLD Group has taken a lead role in the Law School's commitment to seek out the nation's brightest students for admission. Members of the recruitment committee assist in matching recently graduated attorneys with students considering UB Law.

"The recruitment committee was formed to help the law school obtain the best possible student applicants," explains Brian Gwitt '98, chair of the committee. "By working closely with the Law School admissions office, the GOLD Group hopes to serve as a contact between potential law students and the Law School to answer any questions the students may have about UB Law or about the practice of law in general. Because there are UB Law alumni located all over the country, the GOLD Group can serve as an effective tool for implementing the Law School's aggressive new admissions strategy."

Of course, no year is complete without the GOLD Group's usual array of informal activities designed to add luster to the social lives of GOLD Group members.

"The GOLD Group in conjunction with the UB Law Student Bar Association sponsored a Happy Hour at

The Shebeen, a popular Irish pub in downtown Buffalo," say Hilary Banker '96, chair of the GOLD Group social committee. "There was an excellent turnout and it was an opportunity for both students and alumni to meet over drinks, wings and pizza."

The social committee is working diligently to broaden the range of activities it offers to alumni who need a break from the office routine. In February, the GOLD Group participated in the University at Buffalo Professionals Night. UB Law graduates joined graduates of the UB School of Medicine and Dentistry at a cocktail reception at the UB Center for the Arts. After the recep-

tion, the networking continued court-side when basketball lovers from all of the professional schools joined forces at the Alumni Arena to cheer on the UB Bulls.

Plans are already in the works for avid hockey fans to reserve a GOLD seat when the Buffalo Sabres take on the Carolina Hurricanes on March 31, 2000, at Marine Midland Arena. And for those who prefer a less turbulent forum, the GOLD Group will host a night at Studio Arena this spring where theater lovers can forget about courtroom antics and enjoy acting of a whole different sort.

Officers and Directors

Officers of this year's GOLD Group include: Wendy M. Irving '91, of the University at Buffalo, as president; Natalie A. Schaffer '93, of Harrington & Mahoney, as immediate past president; David R. Pfalzgraf Jr. '97, of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear, as president-elect; Eileen P. Kennedy '94, formerly of Saperston & Day, P.C., as secretary; Gretchen P. Aylward '95, of Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber, as education chair; Hilary C. Banker '96, of Burgio, Kita & Curvin, as social chair; Alisa A. Lukasiewicz '95, of the Erie County Attorney's Office, as membership chair; Brian D. Gwitt '98, of Damon & Morey, LLP as recruitment chair; and James M. Gerlach '97, of the U.S. Naval and Marine Corp. Reserve Center, as communications chair.

Additional board members include: Glenn J. Bobeck '92, of Albrecht, Macquire, Heffern & Gregg, P.C.; Teresa C. Brophy-Bair '96, of Roach, Brown, McCarthy, Gruber & Chiari, P.C.; Min Chan '98, of Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP; Joseph N. Del Vecchio '96, of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp.; Susan M. Etu Eagan '96, of the Erie County District Attorney's Office; Julie Falvey '90, of the Law Office of Julie Falvey; Amy J. Fitch '96, of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear; Kenneth M. Gossel '91, of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp.; Christopher M. Marks '93, Buffalo Financial Associates; James W. Grable Jr. '96, of Connors & Vilardo; Venita A. Parker '95, of the Law Office of Venita A. Parker; Michael G. Radjavitch '93, of Cary and Radjavitch; Susan E. Van Gelder '97, of Saperston & Day, PC; and Stephen L. Yonaty '94, of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear.

The GOLD Group encourages interested alumni to become involved with the organization. Alumni graduating within the past 10 years are automatically GOLD Group members. For more information on upcoming GOLD events, or for information on becoming a member of the GOLD Group board of directors, contact Wendy Irving at (716) 645-3312. ■



*President-Elect
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