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Our Best And Brightest: Distinguished Alumni Awards Go To Six Who Have Made A Difference

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Our best and brightest

Distinguished Alumni Awards go to six who have made a difference

They are a tradition of 37 years' standing now, but the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Awards retain the exuberant optimism of youth — the certainty that hard work, public-spiritedness and a can-do attitude can change the world, or at least a little piece of it.

The six people honored on May 6, 1999, at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo have never lost that enthusiasm, either, and it showed in their words of acceptance. Each was honored for contributions to Western New York and its legal community, and each marveled that he or she was receiving an award for doing something they love.

The evening was kicked off with welcoming remarks by Hon. Barbara Howe '80, outgoing president of the UB Law Alumni Association, and by Kenneth A. Manning '77, the group's president-elect. R. Nils Olsen Jr., dean of the Law School, presided over what became a night of good feelings, fond memories and justifiable pride.

The honorees, and excerpts from their remarks:

**Hon. Patrick H. Nemoyer '77,** was honored for his commitment to public service. A New York State Supreme Court justice in the Eighth Judicial District, he was introduced by Hon. Denise E. O'Donnell '82. A former Erie County attorney and U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York, he has been active in the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and the U.S. Department of Justice, as well as a member of the U.S. Attorney General's Council on Crime and the Erie County Task Force on Child Support Enforcement.

"To be honored here for commitment to public service feels strange, because I have enjoyed every minute of my career. I am proud to be a State University of New York product. I went to SUNY Binghamton and I have my law degree from UB, but I also have my master's in economics from UB. I think it is important that the state and federal governments support education, because it is an equalizer in our society. With an educated populace, we can be sure we protect all our freedoms."

I believe government has an obligation and a responsibility that many of us take great joy in fulfilling. Without politicians, much of what we have in this community would not be there. Many of us shun politicians, and that is wrong, because we get the government we work for. I am proud to be a politician, I am proud to be from UB, and I am proud to be here tonight.

**Samuel L. Shapiro '65** was hon-
ored for his leadership by example as a private practitioner. A senior partner with Kavinson & Cook, LLP, he was introduced by Peter J. Fiorella Jr. '63. Shapiro, a specialist in corporate, banking, finance, leasing, construction and health care law, is past chair, co-chair and lecturer for the Practicing Law Institute's National Panels on Equipment Leasing. He is also immediate past president of the UB Law Alumni Association.

This alumni association, in partnership with the administration and faculty of the Law School, is having a positive effect on the quality of our Law School.