Gordon R. Gross '55 and William E. Mathias II '71 Join Campaign Steering Committee
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The Campaign for UB Law Steering Committee is composed of our top 10 campaign leaders who provide guidance in the planning and shaping of the Campaign. The Law School is grateful to these prestigious Law School graduates, and to our honorary chair, Professor Jacob D. Hyman. All provide invaluable support to the campaign and serve as wonderful examples of our most loyal and generous alumni.

A look back and a look forward impelled Gordon R. Gross ’55 to join the steering committee of UB Law School’s Capital Campaign by making a generous gift of $250,000.

“The Law School provided me with a good legal education. I am appreciative of it and proud of the school,” says Gross. He is semi-retired as a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Gross, Shuman, Brizdle & Gillfillan, where he concentrates his practice in venture capital transactions and acquisitions. “I think alumni should help the school provide an even better legal education for people in the community. The Law School must continue to build up endowment funds so it can recruit excellent faculty and make more scholarships available.”

At the same time, Gross says, the Buffalo legal community in particular owes a debt to UB Law for the overall quality of the legal system. He points to the school’s recent reductions in the size of its entering classes, a move made to ensure the uniform quality of the students and facilitate introduction of the acclaimed New Curriculum.

“Most of our clerks and our new associates come from UB Law,” Gross says. “The quality has been excellent, and I think that reflects very favorably upon the Law School.

“When you look around, and see the school as it exists today, they are doing a good job and should be encouraged by their alumni to further their efforts. The school’s success then reflects favorably on past graduates.”

The Law School was just ending its tenure on West Eagle Street when William E. Mathias II graduated in 1971. Now the physical needs of O’Brien Hall, as well as the school’s evolving practice-oriented curriculum, have inspired Mathias, a partner in the Buffalo law firm of Lippes, Silverstein, Mathias & Wexler, to make a generous gift and join the steering committee of the Campaign for UB Law.

“I felt very strongly that I wanted to do something special for the Law School,” says Mathias, who is also a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council. “I am extremely impressed with Dean Nils Olsen. He has a great number of goals for the Law School — not only academically, but also for improving the physical plant and for building closer ties between the Law School with the working bar.

“Dean Olsen’s mission is to maintain the highest possible academic standards while providing a positive learning environment for the law students. In order to accomplish that, he has become involved in creating new student lounge areas, student work areas, and finishing the new courtroom that will be used by the 8th Judicial District.”

Mathias says he would urge fellow alumni to “take the opportunity to revisit the Law School and learn about the developments that are happening out there. A very large need exists for private fundraising to allow the dean to implement programs and make the kind of physical improvements to the Law School that are absolutely necessary.”

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