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# Five Law Professors Cited by UB for Excellence

UB Law Forum

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# Faculty

## Five law professors cited by UB for excellence

**T**wo longtime members of the UB Law faculty were named among the first University at Buffalo Distinguished Professors, highlighting a group of five significant awards conferred recently by UB upon Law School faculty.

Professors Alfred S. Konefsky and Guyora Binder were honored with the designation UB Distinguished Professor, created by the Office of the Provost "to recognize those full professors who have achieved true distinction and who are leaders in their fields," said UB Provost Elizabeth D. Capaldi.

Thirteen such awards were made University-wide. Honorees have achieved national or international prominence and a distinguished reputation within their field through significant contributions to the research and scholarly literature, or through artistic performance or achievement in the fine arts.

**Guyora Binder**, a UB Law faculty member since 1982, was honored for his work in constitutional law, criminal law, international human rights and international law. He has written textbooks and instructional manuals on criminal law, and serves on the editorial advisory boards for the *Buffalo Criminal Law Review*, *Buffalo Human Rights Law Review*, *Buffalo Law Review* and *Law, Language and Literature*. His recent books include *Literary Criticisms of Law* (Princeton University Press, 2000) and, as co-author, *Criminal Law* (Little, Brown, 1996). He also has published widely in scholarly journals. He was the Leah Kaplan Visiting Professor of Human Rights at Stanford Law School in 1991-92. Binder is a graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School.

UB Law School Dean Nils Olsen says Binder has an "unmatched record of consistent and high-quality scholarly publication of law review-length articles and significant book chapters. He has earned a national reputation and is a leader among American legal academics. The external reviewers are unanimous in their assessment of his national standing."

**Alfred S. Konefsky** joined the UB Law faculty in 1977 after terms at Harvard Law School and Dartmouth College. His research interests focus primarily on issues in 19th century American legal history, including the ideology and role of legal professional elites and groups in a democratic culture, the relationship between legal doctrine and its social context, and the intersection of legal history and literary history. He is currently working on a biography of Simon Greenleaf, a professor at Harvard Law School in the mid-19th century. Konefsky teaches contract law and a variety of courses in American legal history, including the subject areas of the 19th century — from the Revolution to the Civil War — the colonial period, law and American labor history, American constitutional history, and Melville and the law. He is a graduate of Columbia University and the Boston College School of Law.

Dean Olsen says that a dozen of Konefsky's law review-length articles "are remarkable for their broad interdisciplinary focus, their very high quality, and their influence upon the American legal history scholarly community." As well, he notes, that "Professor Konefsky has become one of the finest teachers on the faculty, a status well recognized by both his students and colleagues."

Two UB Law School faculty mem-

bers recently received the University's Sustained Achievement Award, in recognition of their work over an extended period of time.

Professor **Robert J. Steinfeld** was honored for his work in labor history and his outstanding record of publication in that field. The award cited his books *Coercion, Contract, and Free Labor in the Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2001) and *The Invention of Free Labor: The Employment Relation in English and American Law and Culture* (University of North Carolina Press, 1991). Steinfeld also has published widely in such journals as *Law and History Review*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, *American Historical Review* and *Labor History*. He joined the UB Law faculty in 1983. He holds a J.D. from Boston College School of Law, a master of laws degree from Harvard Law School and a doctorate in history from Harvard University.



Professor **David M. Engel** received the Sustained Achievement Award in recognition of his leadership role in the international Law & Society Association, of which he was president in 1997-98, and for his record of scholarship. Director of international programs for UB Law, Engel served as director of the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy from 1991 to 2001, and as vice dean for interdisciplinary studies. Professor Engel has published and co-published numerous books and articles. His research deals with law and society in the United States and in other countries, particularly Thailand, where he has lived, worked and taught over a



Guyora Binder, a UB Law faculty member since 1982, was honored for his work in constitutional law, criminal law, international human rights and international law. He was designated a UB Distinguished Professor.

period of nearly 35 years. He has studied litigation, conflict and legal consciousness in communities in the U.S. Midwest and in Thailand. He also has researched the effects of special-education law on the families of children with disabilities. Professor Engel and Professor Frank Munger have recently completed a book, *Rights of Inclusion: Law and Identity in the Life Stories of Americans With Disabilities*, which will be published by the prestigious University of Chicago Press, in 2003. Engel joined the UB Law faculty in 1982, and holds a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School and a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Michigan.

Receiving the Young Investigator Achievement Award was UB Law Associate Professor **David A. Westbrook**, who teaches courses on business and international topics. Westbrook's scholarly work wrestles with the problem of what he sees as a lack of an adequate political language for public discourse. Grounded in his experience in both European and American governments, private legal practices and educational institutions, he takes a critical and theoretical approach to the study of law. His book-in-progress is *City of Gold: An Apology for Capitalism in a Time of Discontent*. Westbrook's undergraduate work was at Emory University, and he holds the J.D. from Harvard Law School.



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