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# Raichle Foundation Creates Our First Endowed Professorship

UB Law Forum

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# Campaign for UB Law

## Raichle Foundation creates our first endowed professorship

### *Professor Finley named to post*

The first named professorship in the history of UB Law School has been established with a generous gift in memory of a celebrated Buffalo trial lawyer, with the goal of encouraging law students to examine the role of litigation and appellate advocacy in U.S. society.

The gift comes from the Frank G. Raichle Foundation, which was created from the estate of the UB alumnus who graduated with the Class of 1919. Raichle's death in 1986 ended a colorful career in trial courts nationwide that included twice winning acquittals for Roy M. Cohn, controversial aide to Sen. Joseph McCarthy during the senator's infamous Communist "witch hunting" affair in Congress.

Lucinda M. Finley, a UB Law professor who is founder and director of the school's civil litigation and appellate advocacy concentration, assumed the title of Frank G. Raichle Professor of Trial and Appellate Advocacy in the spring 2002 semester.

"Raichle was one of the country's great trial lawyers, and that was his great interest," said Ralph L. Halpern, who was Raichle's law partner for 28 years in the firm Raichle, Banning, Weiss and Halpern, and is a trustee of the Frank G. Raichle Foundation. "We feel this professorship will help law students interested in entering the field of litigation and appellate advocacy to better understand the positive role that the law and lawyers perform in the United States."

Law School Dean Nils Olsen, calling Raichle "one of our most distinguished and illustrious graduates," said the professorship will help fund instruction in trial and appellate advocacy, relevant faculty research, professional travel, and speakers, lectures and symposia related to litigation.



Left to right: Ralph L. Halpern '53, UB President William R. Greiner, Frank G. Raichle Professor Lucinda M. Finley, Dean Nils Olsen and Terrence M. Connors '71.

In addition, he said, endowed professorships significantly increase both the reputation and the visibility of the Law School, and greatly help the institution to recruit and retain top faculty.

Niece Joelle Raichle knew the celebrated attorney's personal side more than the professional. "He had some incredibly great stories, never surpassed even by comedy writers," she said. "He told some stories that I heard when I was very young and I still remember them — stories about the interesting people he had encountered."

She tells of one trial in which her uncle — who considered himself a poor speller — was trying a case in which he alleged that gas from an ice cream factory was damaging a neighborhood. The judge asked Raichle to write on a blackboard the names of the landscape plants that people claimed had been damaged. "He was making it an issue, but when he had to spell the names of those plants in public, he tried to back away from it," she said.

Professionally, Raichle was perhaps

best-known for his association with "Wild Bill" Donovan, a World War I hero and former U.S. attorney. He also served as special prosecutor in a payroll-padding scandal that rocked City Hall in the 1930s and as an attorney for the City of Buffalo in a 1984 federal court fight over school funding. His practice extended to both plaintiffs and defendants in all types of civil and criminal proceedings, including antitrust, public utilities, condemnation, corporate, negligence, torts, defamation, civil rights and federal securities law. He tried cases throughout the state, appeared in all four Appellate Divisions and the state Court of Appeals, and argued appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The gift from the foundation, which also funds organizations with interests in the arts and the sciences, is part of UB's \$250 million capital campaign, one of the largest ever conducted by a public university in New York and New England. The Law School's goal in that campaign is \$12 million.