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Jaeckle Society honors two faithful alumni

Longtime friends of UB Law School have been honored by the creation of the Edwin and Erma Jaeckle Society, an honorary society to recognize individuals who donate more than \$5,000 in one year to the Law School's Annual Fund.

The late Edwin F. Jaeckle '15 is among the Law School's most distinguished graduates. Founder of the prominent Buffalo law firm that bears his name, Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel, Mr. Jaeckle practiced in the areas of corporate, insurance, utility and estate law. He served as Erie County Republican chairman from 1935 to 1948, and as New York State Republican chairman from 1940 to 1944. He launched the political career of New York State Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, running all three of the governor's victorious statewide races as well as his unsuccessful candidacies for president of the United States in 1944 and 1948.

Erma Hallett Jaeckle, a 1936 graduate of UB Law, has lived for more than half a century in Florida, where she carved out a highly successful career as a trial attorney. But she has maintained close connections with the Law School.

Mrs. Jaeckle has contributed at least \$25,000 annually to the Law School for many years. In addition, she and Edwin jointly made a major gift that resulted in the creation of the Edwin F. Jaeckle Center for State and Local Government. Mrs. Jaeckle also serves as honorary co-chairperson of the school's ongoing capital campaign.

"The Jaeckles personify the highest level of the legal profession and of humanity," said Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel. "The Law School is taking this step because of our enormous respect and admiration for both of them."

Reached at her residence in St. Petersburg, where she maintains an active life in retirement, Mrs. Jaeckle said her continuing connection with the Law School stems from



Edwin F. Jaeckle '15 and Erma Hallett Jaeckle '36.

the satisfaction she took in her legal career. "It was a wonderful field for me," she said. "It was so gratifying to have clients say, 'Oh, thank you. We did not know what to do.' It is a wonderful feeling."

Mrs. Jaeckle was in law school at a time when women were rare in the legal profession, especially in the South. Consistent with national trends, more than half of UB Law's entering class for the past two years have been women, and they are a substantial proportion of practicing lawyers. Mrs. Jaeckle tells of a time recently when she was up in the stacks of a law library, looking down and seeing dozens of women doing research. "I am amazed at all the secretaries that the offices now send over to the library," she told her companion. "Erma, those are not secretaries," her companion replied. "Those are women lawyers."

In accepting this honor, Mrs. Jaeckle affirmed her enthusiasm for the Law School's new curriculum and its ability to prepare students for the world after Law School. She also expressed her admiration for the vision and leadership Dean Nils Olsen has provided.