Contents

UB LawForum
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3 Message from
Dean Nils Olsen

ALUMNI PROFILES

4 Four alumni named to Black Enterprise list of top attorneys
6 J. Mason Davis Jr. ’59 honored by UB Alumni
8 Gerald S. Lippe ’64 creates interdisciplinary learning opportunities

LAW SCHOOL REPORT

10 Clinic highlights
14 New General LL.M. program launched for international students
16 New exchange programs extend our global reach
18 Baldy Center addresses issues surrounding looted artworks
20 Rebecca French aims to build foundation for study of Buddhist law
22 Mentoring program draws national attention
24 Vintage law school building becomes a law library
25 Introducing the Class of 2007
26 Commencement 2004: Professor Leary gives keynote address
32 Desmond moot court has something in common with the big leagues
34 Innovative course in trial technique
36 Dean’s Advisory Council members bring their expertise to class
38 Career Services Office knocks on new doors
40 Law and psychiatry program debuts with University of Rochester Medical School
41 E-mail newsletter creates alumni links
42 Panel addresses surveillance and the arts

STUDENT EVENTS:

44 Buffalo Law Review dinner celebrates four issues and Judge Howe
46 Outlaw speakers make the legal debate over same-sex marriage concrete
48 Buffalo Public Interest Law Program’s auction raises record take
49 Students of Color hear NYS Assistant Attorney General Carlos Rodriguez ’76

FOCUS ON FACULTY

50 Dr. John B. Simpson and Dr. Satish Tripathi usher in new era at UB
54 David M. Engel, and Elizabeth B. Mensch named SUNY Distinguished Professors
56 Susan V. Mangold new vice dean for academic affairs
57 Karen L. Spencer wins the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship
58 “Who Gets In?” topic of Mitchell Lecture
62 Faculty propose revisions to the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law
64 Graduates establish fund in honor of Professor Louis Del Cotto

FACULTY BOOKS

66 James A. Wooten publishes major book on ERISA
68 David A. Westbrook’s book focuses on making sense of globalization
Message from Dean Nils Olsen

In October, I was privileged to participate in the investiture of the 14th president to take the helm at the University at Buffalo. Dr. John B. Simpson has a vision for UB that will lead to our becoming a great public research university. He and his new provost and executive vice president, Dr. Satish Tripathi, have already come to the Law School to reach out to our faculty, who are excited and enthusiastic at the opportunity to help create a strategic plan that eventually will position UB Law as one of the premier public law schools in the United States. I am delighted to be working closely with their senior team of advisers. This issue of UB Law Forum features articles on both of these extraordinary academic leaders.

The overwhelming generosity of our wonderful alumni and friends continues to help us provide a myriad of Law School programs, courses and scholarly activities which would not happen without your critical supplemental dollars. Our Annual Fund has now grown to an unprecedented $718,000 in 2003-04, during which 24 percent of our alumni made a gift to the UB Law School. That is one of the highest alumni participation rates of any law school in the country, and we are proud of the vote of confidence that it represents. Planned gifts are becoming popular and effective charitable giving tools that many of our supporters are utilizing to increase their gifts and save taxes.

I take great pride in the new students who make up the Class of 2007. Diverse in age, geography, origins and life experience, they share a crucial ingredient for success in law school: They are very smart. Only 38 percent of our applicants were accepted this year. Nearly one in 10 already holds an advanced degree. This semester, I am teaching a section of Civil Procedure, and I can attest to the excellent academic skills of this newest group of UB Law’s future alumni.

Finally, it is with great warmth and pleasure that I welcome back to O’Brian Hall one of our best-regarded law professors, Bill Greiner, who will be teaching this spring. It’s great to have him, and Carol, home again.