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## **Bid High, Bid Often: Buffalo Public Interest Law Program's Ninth Annual Fund-Raising Auction Raises Record Take**

UB Law Forum

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# Student Events

## BID HIGH, BID OFTEN

*Buffalo Public Interest Law Program's ninth annual fund-raising auction raises record take*

A football autographed by the Buffalo Bills' Josh Reed. A high-end wine tasting with Professor Lucinda Finley. A Jacuzzi suite at the Hampton Inn. All those and more – much, much more – awaited bidders at the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program's ninth annual fund-raising auction at the Rich Renaissance Atrium on Feb. 27. From the sublime to the, well, kind of silly, the merchandise helped raise nearly \$22,000, a record take for the group.

The money, along with additional contributions from the dean, goes to provide fellowships for UB Law School students looking to work in the public sector over the summer – jobs that generally are unpaid. The organization provided nine such fellowships last summer and has set a goal of 15 for this summer.

The fellowships typically range from \$3,000 to \$3,500, said Andrew Montroy, a second-year law student who is co-director of BPILP with fellow student Paul Didio. He is a past recipient of the public-interest fellowships, having worked last summer at a Manhattan office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

More than 200 students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members attended the event, for which Ron Plants, weekend anchor for WGRZ-TV Channel 2, served as auctioneer for the live auction (there was also a silent auction). The auction is BPILP's largest fund-raiser; also coming up is a Faculty Jam, live music featuring UB Law faculty performers, sometime in April.

"All of us were just fully committed to making this thing go this year," Montroy said. "This year we had probably about a solid 25 students who wanted to participate; last year there were maybe 10. Everybody was just really gung-ho about talking it up, trying to get people outside the Law School to come."

The event's success, Montroy said, also came from its glamorous new venue; a vigorous advertising and marketing campaign that included a 4,500-piece mailing to alumni; and a broader array of goods and services at auction than in previous years.

He said also that more students are attracted to BPILP because the board that awards the fellowships is broadening the understanding of what constitutes public-interest law. It's not just working for Greenpeace – his own work in government, he said, is an example of that broader definition of public service.

The student group had substantial help from UB Law School's Career Services Office, including Associate Dean Lisa Patterson, the group's official adviser; Dawn Skopinski; and graduate assistant Bethany Gilbert, a third-year UB Law student.



## 2004 Summer Public Interest Fellows

**Joseph Antonecchia Fellow**  
Leslie Travis '05

### **Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellows**

Lisa A. Bailey '06  
Meredith A. Conner '06  
Allison T. Corey '06  
Ryan P. Crawford '06  
Danielle E. Dimitrov '06  
Jessica M. Keltz '06  
Brooke A. Kirkland '06  
Mary E. Little '05  
Andrea M. Love '06  
Meredith A. Vacca '05

### **Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Grant Recipient**

Julie K. Cserhalmi '06

### **Dean's Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellows**

Yookyung Choi '06  
Enam Hoque '06  
Andrea M. Pratt '05

### **Kaplan & Reynolds Fellows**

Teresa N. Chen '06  
Susan M. Cimini '05  
Amanda C. Conner '06  
Amy L. Kedron '06  
Leah R. Mervine '06  
Kyle P. Rossi '06