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## David M. Engel and Elizabeth B. Mensch Named SUNY Distinguished Professors

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## Mensch, Engel named SUNY distinguished professors

*The rank of distinguished professor is the highest faculty rank in the SUNY system.*

**T**wo faculty members at the University at Buffalo Law School have joined the ranks of distinguished professors appointed by the State University of New York board of trustees. ELIZABETH MENSCH has been named a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in recognition of her outstanding teaching on the undergraduate and professional levels. DAVID M. ENGEL has been named a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor in recognition of extraordinary service to the community, region, state, nation or world.

The rank of distinguished professor, the highest faculty rank in the SUNY system, is an order above full professorship and has three co-equal designations: distinguished professor, distinguished service professor and distinguished teaching professor.

**Elizabeth Mensch** joined the UB law faculty in 1980 after a stint on the faculty of the University of Miami Law School. She teaches courses in legal history; church/state relations; abortion; law, morality and politics; and contracts and torts – the latter courses are required of all first-year law students. She also teaches a section of the undergraduate course American Pluralism.

Mensch co-authored, with her late husband, Alan Freeman, also a UB professor of law, the book *The Politics of*

*Virtue: Is Abortion Debatable?*, which advocates introducing theological thought into the public debate on abortion to bring about a compromise between the two sides of the volatile issue. They also co-authored a text on property law. She has authored and co-authored numerous book chapters, articles in legal journals, essays, reviews and commentaries.

She also serves as chair of the board of editors of the *Journal of Law and Religion*.

Mensch received a bachelor's degree from the New School for Social Research, a master of arts in teaching from Cornell University, a law degree from UB and a master's degree in law from Harvard University. She resides in Buffalo.



Elizabeth B. Mensch '79



David M. Engel

Director of international programs in the UB Law School, **David Engel** is the faculty adviser to the Asian Law Students Association and is a member of UB's Council on International Studies and Programs and its Asian Studies Advisory Council, which he chaired from 1999 to 2001.

His research focuses on law and society in the United States and in other countries, particularly Thailand, where he has lived, worked and taught for more than 35 years. He has studied litigation, conflict and legal consciousness in communities in the American Midwest and in Thailand, where he currently is working on an interview-based study of injuries and social change in the country.

Engel also has conducted research

on the impact of special education law on the families of children with disabilities and their interactions with school district administrators. He has co-authored with Frank Munger, a former UB professor of law, an award-winning book, *Rights of Inclusion: Law and Identity in the Life Stories of Americans with Disabilities*, that examines the effects of legal rights created by the Americans with Disabilities Act on the lives and careers of those with disabilities.

Engel, who joined the UB law faculty in 1985, was director of the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy from 1991 to 2001, and also served as vice dean for interdisciplinary studies.

He is an active member of the Law & Society Association, an international

membership organization of which he served as president in 1997-98. He also has served as a member of the advisory panel of the National Science Foundation Program for Law and Social Sciences.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Harvard College and master's and law degrees from the University of Michigan. Engel lives in Amherst.