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Faculty

New vice dean for academic affairs is a children's advocate, scholar and teacher

Professor Susan Vivian Mangold

Professor Susan Vivian Mangold, UB Law School's new vice dean for academic affairs, says of her administrative responsibilities: "This is an exciting time. Vice Dean Peter Pitegoff worked with Vice Dean Dianne Avery to establish a template for the job. Because the curriculum is dynamic, it is always a challenge. But the registrar, Karen Cowart, and the dean for student affairs, Melinda Saran, do such a fantastic job, I am looking forward to working with them and Dean Olsen on our academic program."

Mangold has managed to think creatively and work effectively with a team in the past. As a children's advocate, scholar and teacher, she continues to pack plenty into her daily 24 hours. As vice dean, she will carry a reduced teaching load, though she still will teach the first-year Civil Procedure class and a course on Child Welfare Law, and will team-teach the Family Law Colloquium course.

The administrative position has responsibility for operation of the Law School's curriculum, including leading faculty planning and hiring adjunct professors and the practitioners who teach the school's "bridge" courses.

"I am in the fortunate position of walking in here with an excellent dean. We have happy students, alumni who are supportive and energized, and a good reputation in the community and among other law schools," she says.

Besides her teaching, she will continue with scholarly research and writing,



One project, drawing on her longtime interest in children's welfare, looks at amendments to child abuse reporting laws in all 50 states in the wake of the sex abuse scandals that have swept the Catholic Church.

Another project starts an exciting collaboration for the Law School. Working with oncologist Dr. Kerry J. Rodabaugh at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Mangold is applying for a five-year National Institutes of Health grant to study whether providing end-of-life legal services to people with terminal illnesses will improve the quality of life in their remaining time, and improve their families' lives as well. A pilot study of 50 patients and their families, she says, found more than 30 areas of unmet need.

"Our hope is that we can have students in UB Law's advanced mediation program work with the families of these patients," Mangold says. "We are the only law school and cancer institute working together."

Mangold came to Buffalo in 1992 from Philadelphia, where she practiced at the Juvenile Law Center and taught as an adjunct at Haverford College. But her interest in the welfare of children began much earlier, when she was a student at Har-

vard College and was looking for a summer job. She had volunteered for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program in Cambridge during the school year, and got to know a number of the kids who lived in a nearby housing project called Roosevelt Towers.

One summer the pool at Roosevelt Towers was closed, so Mangold and another student asked Harvard for work-study money to reopen the pool and run a recreation program for the kids. The university liked the idea, but asked, could it be expanded? So expand it they did, to four counselors and a program that included taking vanloads of kids camping, as well as school supplies and art supplies. The second summer, they expanded the program to three housing projects.

Soon, Mangold was hired to open a girls club in Holyoke, Mass., where she ran a day camp and came into contact with children needing "protective day care" – care for foster children and others needing a secure system to regulate who was allowed to pick them up. She dealt with lawyers, social workers and all aspects of the child protective system.

"I saw it all," Mangold recalls. "I realized how much needed to be done for these kids. That was what made me ultimately decide to go to law school and become a child advocate."

At Harvard Law School, she served as executive director of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau and co-founded the Children's Rights Project. From there, she went to Philadelphia, and then to Buffalo.

Amid the scholarly work and now administrative responsibilities, the memories of those formative years with a crowd of children remain vivid. Mangold recalls a night of camping in the New Hampshire woods with her charges, when a bear wandered through their campsite.

"These tough kids were scared beyond belief," she says. "It changed their points of reference."

In the programs she developed, "I loved working with 500 kids at a time," she says. "I just thrived on that energy." She takes on this new challenge with that same level of anticipation and looks to the alumni, fellow faculty and students to continue to provide the positive energy to make this new position a welcome challenge.