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Dean Olsen Praises Supreme Court's Admissions Ruling

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Texas, Florida, New York City, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Canada. “We always get applicants from places where we travel,” Wiley-Upshaw says. “Certainly it is very beneficial to have students from different regions. It adds a different flavor to the Law School community.”

As a result of that recruiting, 29 percent of the applicants were from outside New York State or were international students. A significant number of those were Canadians – “which definitely makes sense,” Wiley-Upshaw says, “because we are so close to the border.” Others hail from Korea, Taiwan and Italy.

In June, the Law School hosted a Career Perspective Program. Its purpose was to provide prospective law students with a realistic view of life as an attorney. Over a hundred prospective law students attended heard a keynote address entitled “A Profession for All Reasons” delivered by U.S. Magistrate Judge Leslie Foschino. According to one participant, the judge was “funny, informative and touching – a perfect choice.” Another commented, “Exceptional overview of life as an attorney and the impact one can make on another’s life.”

Wiley-Upshaw says her office plans a formal survey of entering students in the fall to pin down why they chose UB Law School. But anecdotal evidence, she says, points to three overriding factors: affordability, quality and enthusiastic support from alumni.

“Recruitment efforts made by our alumni – especially the young members of the GOLD Group – have been tremendous this year,” she says.

“Several alumni participated in our Open House events and made telephone calls to our accepted students, encouraging them to enroll. It truly makes a difference.”

Dean Olsen praises Supreme Court’s admissions ruling

Nil Olsen, the dean of the University at Buffalo Law School, the only law school in the State University of New York system, praised the Supreme Court’s affirmation of the University of Michigan Law School admissions policy, and said the ruling supports the “mission of inclusion” that is central to the ideals of a public law school.

“As New York State’s public law school, it’s appropriate that we reflect the diversity of New York State,” said Olsen, who has served as dean since 1998.

“It is our mission to provide access for all qualified applicants who might not otherwise be able to study law in New York State,” he added. “We’re extremely happy with the Supreme Court’s decision.”

Olsen said he has seen firsthand the positive effects of diversity in the Law School’s classrooms.

“You want to offer students the best learning environment possible,” he said. “When you enroll people with a variety of life experiences and backgrounds you give students the opportunity to experience different perspectives and ideas and put them in context in their personal and professional lives.”

According to Olsen, the UB Law School admits about 240 new students each year. The school’s admissions committee reviews each applicant individually, and considers a variety of factors when offering admission.