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National Search Yields New Legal Research and Writing Instructors

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Chris O'Brien of
O'Brien Boyd

Erie County Court
Judge Thomas P.
"Tim" Franczyk

vinced that legal research and writing skills are critical to our students' success in the job market and as lawyers once they are hired," he said. "The program that I inherited is already strong and solid, but my goal is to make it one of the best in the country."

Litigation Skills includes basic courses in trial technique – teaching such basics as how to make an opening statement, examine and cross-examine a witness, and make a closing statement – and more advanced trial advocacy courses, most of which are taught by judges and legal practitioners. This area also covers trial and other non-appellate moot court competitions.

Ewing is hoping to integrate the trial technique and trial advocacy offerings into a single program, and to build stronger ties between the Law School and the adjunct faculty teaching in this area. "To me, this is a hugely important part of our program," he said. "A large percentage of our students go on to become trial lawyers, and I would like to see more of a continuum of education." For example, he said, while continuing to teach trial techniques in small class sections, it might be profitable to bring those sections together for demonstrations by experts in various aspects of the field.

To co-direct the school's trial offerings, two well-known figures in the Buffalo law community have been enlisted: Erie County Court Judge Thomas P. "Tim" Franczyk, a longtime champion of the Law School's mock trial program, and Chris O'Brien of O'Brien Boyd, an experienced teacher of trial advocacy.

"The most immediate changes in this program will be some new faces among the judges and attorneys who teach trial techniques to our students, new, improved and more challenging case problems for the students to grapple with, and a set of demonstrations for our students by master trial lawyers that will supplement what they are learning in class," Ewing said.

Appellate Advocacy Skills. This area comprises appellate-style moot courts and other writing-based competitions, as well as courses designed to teach the basics of brief-writing and appellate oral advocacy. Ewing said the school will carefully evaluate the dozens of moot court competitions available nationwide, as well as several sponsored by the Law School, with an eye toward maximizing student participation while prudently investing the time of faculty who advise UB Law's teams. Professor George Kannar will be the director of Moot Courts.

The *Non-Litigation Skills* component of the program includes courses in negotiation, alternative dispute resolution, mediation and counseling. Students also will have the opportunity to participate as an editor for UB Law's wide array of scholarly journals. Associate professor Rick Su will serve as director of journals. "It's important for students to understand that it's not all about litigation," Ewing said. "And there is not enough concern with the counseling aspect of practice, which is what most lawyers should really do."

The final piece of the Legal Skills Program, *Professional Development*, covers a wide range of opportunities for students to grow into the profession. It includes the work of Director of Academic Support Barbara A. Sherk, other programs to support students and new graduates preparing for the bar exam, the vast array of externship and clerkship placements available to students, and the important area of legal ethics.

"A legal skills program is crucial to the success of any law school," Ewing said. "The business of law is requiring more skills from young lawyers, and the energy that we are putting into our program will help them to leave here ready to go to work right from the start."

National search yields new legal research and writing instructors

Johanna Oreskovic, who will coordinate the new program, earned her B.A., M.A. in History, Ed.M. and



J.D. from UB, graduating from the Law School in 1997. At UB, she served as Book Review Editor of the *Buffalo Law Review*. She has been associated

with the Buffalo law firms of Hodgson Russ and Rupp, Baase, Pfalzgraf, Cunningham, and Coppola. Her practice concentrated on commercial and employment litigation. She has taught at the Law School since 1998. Her courses have included Legal Research and Writing, Adoption Law: Domestic and International, and the LL.M. Colloquium. She also administered the Law School's LL.M. programs from 2000-2008. Her publications include articles on labor law and adoption law. Prior to entering the legal profession, she taught History and English and served as an administrator at several independent secondary schools, including The Buffalo Seminary, The American School in Switzerland, and John Burroughs School in St. Louis.

Christine Pedigo Bartholomew received her B.A. from San Francisco State University in 1997 and her J.D. from University at California, Davis, in 2000. Upon graduation,



Professor Bartholomew worked in the San Francisco Bay Area as an attorney, practicing in the areas of antitrust and consumer protection. In 2004, she helped open a branch office of a Washington, D.C.-based class action boutique.

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Seven research and writing instructors – some new to the Law School, some with continuing ties – will teach in this area.

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During her legal career, Professor Bartholomew worked on several significant antitrust actions, including *Rodriguez, et al. v. West Publishing Corp.* For the last three years, Christine has been a member of the Law School's adjunct faculty, teaching Private Antitrust Suits, Complex Civil Litigation and Antitrust.

Nan L. Haynes graduated from UB Law in 1992. As a student, she was appointed a teaching assistant to Professor Lucinda Finley, and then to Professor Nils Olsen when each taught first-year students research and writing. She practiced full time at Lipsitz & Ponterio in Buffalo from 1995-2002 as an associate and a partner, where she focused in plaintiffs' environmental, occupational and civil rights litigation. She gave up a partnership in Lipsitz & Ponterio 10 years after graduating so she could again teach research and writing at UB Law. She continues to practice in the areas of childhood lead paint exposure litigation and civil rights litigation in her role of "as counsel" to Lipsitz & Ponterio.



Patrick Long spent four years in the Navy following his graduation from Harvard College. He then joined the faculty of the Nichols School, a private high school in Buffalo, where he taught English for four years, before enrolling in UB Law School. Following his graduation in 2000, Patrick practiced for five years at



Hodgson Russ in Buffalo focusing on litigation, especially products liability, construction and maritime law. In 2006 he returned to Nichols, where he taught English and coached football and wrestling, before returning to UB as a member of the Research and Writing faculty.

Chris Pashler earned his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Iowa. Prior to teaching at UB, he practiced in the area of civil litigation for eight years, including four years as an Assistant County Attorney in Montgomery County, Md., where he defended the county in administrative litigation of construction contracts. He also was an attorney with the Social Security



Administration in Chicago, where he worked with administrative law judges on the adjudication of disability applications. He began his teaching career as an adjunct lecturer in the legal studies program at Montgomery College in Germantown, Md. Since 2007 he was an adjunct professor in the Legal Analysis, Research and Communication program at the DePaul University College of Law, in Chicago. He is the author (with Brian Lambert) of *At the Crossroads of Age and Disability: Can Practitioners Rely on the Amended ADA and the ADEA to Provide Adequate Recourse for the Older Disabled Individual* (2009).

Stephen Paskey graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1994 and then clerked for the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.



From 1995 to 2007, he served as a litigating attorney at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., first with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and then as a Senior Trial Attorney in the Office of Special Investigations, the unit that investigates Nazi collaborators and other immigrants who participated in genocide, torture or extrajudicial killing. From 2007 to 2009, he taught research and writing at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. In November 2008, he received the Assistant Attorney General's Award for Human Rights Law Enforcement.

Laura Reilly earned her B.A. from Washington University in 1988 and her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law in 1994. After clerking for the Denver District



Court in Denver, Laura practiced civil litigation at firms in Denver and Buffalo. She joined the Law School's Research and Writing faculty in 2002.