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## Class of 2012 Among the Best Ever

UB Law Forum

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# Class of 2012 among the best ever



Left to right: Edward J. Wixted III, Marie Lampropoulos, Brian K. Prince, Bridget A. Kleinfelder, Erin B. Delancy, Scott T. Ptak '12, Emily M. Ciulla, Elizabeth J. Henschel

Recently, the *National Jurist* ranked UB Law the 29th "best value" in the nation looking at law school tuitions, employment rates and bar passage rates.

The University at Buffalo Law School this semester welcomes one of its most accomplished and selective classes in its 122-year history, a group of students that Law School Dean Makau W. Mutua called "a singular accomplishment" for UB Law and the foundation on which to make UB one of the finest law schools in the country.

The school's Class of 2012 was chosen from a national application pool of over 2,104. Only 31 percent of the applicants were admitted, making this year's class one of the most highly selective in recent years.

"It is undoubtedly one of our strongest classes ever," according to Mutua. "It raises our selectivity and places UB Law in a strong position to



Left to right: Tamara S. Wright, Erica C. Smith, Marcus T. Smith, Shatorah N. Roberson, and Monique A. Tronchin.

further enhance our reputation in the profession, in the legal academy and among prospective applicants."

The 208 first-year law students had a median LSAT score of 157, with 25 percent of those enrolled scoring 159 or better. The class earned a median

grade-point average of 3.52, an increase from last year's GPA of a 3.48; however, 25 percent of the class earned a 3.73 GPA or better.

"Recently, the *National Jurist* ranked UB Law the 29th 'best value' in the nation looking at law school tuitions, employment rates and bar passage rates. These students recognized this value and made a great decision. In turn, we were able to land a very accomplished and impressive class," said James R. Newton, vice dean for administration.

Mutua praised the law school's ad-

missions office for doing an excellent job and attracting a class with "character, talent and top credentials." The students come from some of the top universities and colleges in the nation, including Brown University, New York University, Boston University, Univer-

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# Dean Mutua says:

sity of Pennsylvania, University of Texas, University of Maryland, Spelman College, Georgetown University and Cornell University.

Their average age is 25, with 35 percent over age 25 – the oldest class to date. Eleven percent hold advanced academic degrees. Fourteen percent come from out of state, and 49 percent are females.

According to Lillie V. Wiley-Upshaw, vice dean for admissions and financial aid, “The Class of 2012 is impressive. Their previous fields of study include film production, accounting, foreign languages, journalism, theology, mathematics and biochemistry. Many of the students have either lived or worked abroad in such places as Australia, Africa and Korea. “Our students made a smart choice. They will be surrounded by other exceptional students and will earn a law degree that will allow them to fulfill their professional dreams - without having to mortgage their future.”

Mutua said, “An accomplished and selective law class is central to the academic excellence and overall reputation of any law school, and is particularly crucial to UB at this point in its development. An aggressive campaign for recruitment scholarships among alumni helped the Law School enroll this fantastic class.”



*James R. Newton,  
Vice Dean for Administration*

*“I could not do what I do as dean without the indefatigable Jim Newton. His emotional intelligence and people-centered approach is a godsend. He is the perfect Vice Dean for Administration.”*

• Jim Newton oversees the Law School’s administrative units: alumni and communications, development, admissions, career services, student services, records and registration, human resources, budget, facilities and information technology.



*Marlene Cook,  
Vice Dean for Resource Management*

*“She is the quintessential professional – a master of her craft who has unparalleled integrity and sense of service. She is unflappable even in the face of the most challenging conditions. She is a dream to work with.”*

• Marlene Cook is a careful and creative steward of the Law School’s financial resources. Her work demands budgeting and allocations so that every dollar supports the school’s mission.



*Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, Vice Dean for  
Admissions and Financial Aid*

*“Her knowledge of law school admissions and attention to the indexes of excellence are unsurpassed. She combines a keen sense of justice and fairness that permits us to aspire put together a great student body that looks like America.”*

• Lillie Wiley-Upshaw is a familiar face in O’Brian Hall and nationwide. Wiley has been instrumental in attracting incoming classes of students who are successively smarter, more accomplished and more diverse.



*Alan S. Carrel, Vice Dean*

*“He is unquestionably our guru of development. He is a walking encyclopedia of our alumni. He loves them and they love him back. Without Alan, we would not have made as much progress in just one year. Self-effacing and completely absorbed in his work, Alan is every dean’s gift.”*

• Alan Carrel works to build relationships with Law School alumni far and near, with special emphasis on (and uncommon success with) the development of major gifts in support of the school’s educational program.