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## Good Advice: the Dean's Advisory Council Grows in Numbers and Ambition

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# Alumni Profiles



## GOOD ADVICE

### *The Dean's Advisory Council grows in numbers and ambition*

**I**n the elegant confines of the University's Poetry and Rare Books Room, the gathering had all the seriousness of a board meeting and all the camaraderie and enthusiasm of a barn-raising. Everyone was pulling together to get something done for the Law School. The presenters – two law profes-

sors, the Law School dean and the School of Management dean – were looking for reactions to an initiative to place UB Law School students for a semester in

new international-law educational institute in New York City. The ideas came fast and furious:

Have you thought about Toronto as well?

Maybe this could be a summer session so that it would integrate with the normal cycle of the job search?

We should look at employment opportunities beyond law firms, opening up a lot of opportunities and contacts

outside the typical law firm group.

How can we take advantage of employers who offer tuition assistance programs?

How will we make sure that site visits to investment banking firms are meaningful and not just touristy?

This is the Dean's Advisory Council, a group of 46 prominent UB Law School alumni (and 14 emeritus members) who volunteer their time, resources, energies

Thomas R. Bremer '79, immediate past chair, left, and Kenneth B. Forrest '76, chair

and brainpower to advance the mission of the school.

Established in 1990 during the deanship of David B. Filvaroff and led by Gerald S. Lippes, the Council has grown into a formidable force for leveraging the Law School's influence in the wider legal community. It meets twice a year – once in Buffalo and once in New York City.

"The Dean's Advisory Council provides me with informed and meaningful input into the decision-making process on issues ranging from curriculum development to the financing of the Law School," said Dean Nils Olsen. "Council members have been extraordinarily helpful throughout. They have a broad range of sophisticated experience and are willing to share that experience and knowledge with us as we move forward. "They have become indispensable."

Two recent initiatives of the Dean's Advisory Council demonstrate how the group is making a difference.

The first is an effort to develop an alumni leadership group in the Washington, D.C., area, where three Council members live and work. In the spring of

2005, those three members, plus two members from Buffalo, the dean and a number of staff members visited D.C. for a networking and education project. They had one-on-one meetings with UB Law alums who were partners in major law firms, and joined 18 of these attorneys at a lunch with the dean.

"We have found that alumni often do not have up-to-date detailed knowledge of the workings and accomplishments of the Law School," said Deborah J. Scott, UB Law's vice dean for development, who works extensively with the Dean's Advisory Council. "We are planning to replicate this model elsewhere in the country. New York City will be next."

**T**he second recent effort is the establishment of the Dean's Advisory Council Scholarship, a full-tuition scholarship designed to attract a top student to the Law School who might otherwise go elsewhere.

"Private law schools are making very attractive scholarship offers," Scott said. "Until now, we have had few admissions scholarships, and that has made it difficult to compete for the very best students."

Outgoing Council chair Thomas R. Bremer '79 asked members to contribute \$500 each, and the scholarship fund was established. Its initial beneficiary is first-year law student Priscilla E. Hampton.

Also, a mentoring program established by the Council under the direction of Robert B. Conklin '68, former president of Hodgson Russ LLP, is going strong in its third year, providing each incoming law student with a professional mentor from the Western New York legal community.

"The Dean's Advisory Council as a group has considerably evolved," Scott said. "Until 1998, our time was spent educating members about the school's curriculum, finances, administration, faculty and student life. Council members then wanted to be involved in more hands-on ways."

Bremer, whose term as chair ended this year, says the group's national membership is a strength. "We have reached out to alumni all over the country, including Texas and California," said Bremer, retired senior vice president and general counsel of U.S. Surgical Corp. who lives in Fairfield, Conn. "One of the things that makes the Council so valuable is that it



Barbara D. Klippert '75, top, and Michael C. Banks '89, above

*Complete list of the Dean's Advisory Council, Page 10*

gives a broad perspective to the Law School. When I was in law school, graduates practiced either in Western New York or in New York City. I am living proof that you can practice elsewhere."

In choosing its members, Bremer said, "we look for exceptionally capable alumni who are very interested in the Law School and want to help the dean with new programs, alumni matters, questions regarding seminars and academic issues.

"It is a fair amount of work, but the payback is helping students get a strong start. We all remember what that was like to start out."

Judith B. Ittig '71, who practices construction law in Washington, D.C., was Bremer's immediate predecessor as chair. She is excited about the initiative to develop a regional leadership group in the

nation's capital.

"Initially it is an educational effort: what the school is doing, how it has changed in so many ways since they were students," she said. "We have seen a lot of large changes in the last couple of years, in the curriculum, the faculty, the students. Our current effort is aimed at re-connecting alumni. Once people find out what the school is doing, we try to develop their interest in a particular area and encourage them to work with us."

The Dean's Advisory Council also seeks to identify prominent alumni who might help with placing students in promising legal positions. "We are particularly looking for people who are outstanding in their own right," Ittig said. "Since they left the Law School, they have developed in their own expertise and their own area. As the alumni find out about how the school is doing, they will naturally be responsive when those students are looking for positions. Opportunities for clerkships and similar positions should open up."

And the Washington initiative, she said, demonstrates the Law School's increasing attention to its national reputation.

"One thing that was really important to me," Ittig said, "was that the school would really make an effort to connect with those of us who are outside of New York State and use the talents that we have to help the school and give us an opportunity to participate, even from a distance. It was so important to me to watch the school reach out to those of us who cannot be there on a full-time basis.

"The Council reflects not only the national geography, where our home bases are, but also the very strong differences in what we do for a living. It is a very broad base of background and location. I think that is the strength of the Council."

For his part, incoming chair Kenneth B. Forrest '76, a partner in the New York City law firm Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz, expects the group to continue broadening its membership. "I would hope that over the next several years the Dean's Advisory Council can expand and reach out to alumni, particularly those of younger generations, and have a fuller participation by prominent UB Law graduates around the country," he said.

# Alumni Profiles

## Members of the Dean's Advisory 2005-06

**Frederick G. Attea**

*Partner*  
Phillips Lytle LLP

**Michael C. Banks '89**

*Partner*  
Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCoy

**Leora Ben-Ami '84**

*Partner*  
Kaye Scholer LLP

**Thomas E. Black Jr. '79**

*Managing Partner*  
Black Mann & Graham

**Diane F. Bosse '76**

*Partner*  
Volgenau & Bosse LLP

**Anthony S. Bottar '76**

*Partner*  
Cherundolo Bottar & Leone, PC

**Thomas R. Bremer '79**

*Retired Senior Vice President and General Counsel*  
U.S. Surgical Corporation

**Hon. Elena Cacavas-Schietinger '85**

*Administrative Law Judge*  
New York State Public Employment Relations Board

**Frank J. Clark '67**

*District Attorney*  
Erie County District Attorney's Office

**Robert B. Conklin '68**

*Partner*  
Hodgson Russ LLP

**Hon. John M. Curran '84**

*President, UB Law Alumni Association*  
*Justice*  
New York State Supreme Court  
Eighth Judicial District



Brent L. Wilson '76



Thomas E. Black Jr. '79



Carol M. Matorin '76 and Vikki L. Pryor '78

**Gary A. DeWaal '80**

*Senior Executive Vice President and Group General Counsel*  
Fimat Group

**Louis P. DiLorenzo '76**

*Partner*  
Bond Schoeneck & King LLP

**Arthur F. Dobson Jr. '72**

*Partner*  
Parrino, Cooper & Dobson

**Vincent Dunn '89**

*Partner*  
Chadbourne & Parke, LLP

**Richard S. Feldman '76**

*Partner*  
Rivkin Radler LLP

**Kenneth B. Forrest '76, Chair**

*Partner*  
Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz

**Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75**

*United States Circuit Judge*  
United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

**Bradley M. Gayton '91**

*Director of Global Trade*  
Ford Motor Company

**Christopher T. Greene '74**

*Partner*  
Damon & Morey LLP

**Richard C. Heffern '69**

*Partner*  
Bond, Schoeneck & King, LLP

**Pamela D. Heilman '75**

*Partner*  
Hodgson Russ LLP

**Judith B. Ittig '71**

*Partner*  
Ittig & Ittig, P.C.

**Roger J. Jones '84**

*Partner*  
Lantham & Watkins LLP

**Harvey L. Kaminski '77**

*President and CEO*  
Prestige Capital Corporation

**Barbara D. Klippert '75**

*Partner*  
McKee Nelson LLP

**Joseph A. Kresse '95**

*Associate*  
Covington & Burling

**Kenneth A. Manning '77**

*Partner*  
Phillips Lytle LLP

**Brian M. Martin '88**

*Vice President and General Counsel*  
Sun Microsystems Inc.

**William E. Mathias II '71**

*Partner*  
Lippes Mathias Wexler & Friedman LLP

# Council



Harvey L. Kaminski '77 and Jeffrey L. Tanenbaum '76

**Carol M. Matorin '76**  
*Vice President and Senior Counsel*  
Limited Brands Inc.

**Hon. Ann T. Mikoll '54**  
*Retired Justice*  
Appellate Division, Third Department  
New York State Supreme Court

**Hon. Eugene F. Pigott, Jr. '73**  
*Presiding Justice*  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
New York State Supreme Court

**Jean Carol Powers '79**  
*Partner*  
Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel LLP

**Vikki L. Pryor '78**  
*President and CEO*  
SBLI USA Mutual Life

**Hon. Rose H. Sconiers '73**  
*Justice*  
New York State Supreme Court

**Hon. Hugh B. Scott '74**  
*Magistrate Judge*  
United States District Court  
Western District of New York

**Samuel Shapiro '65**  
*Senior Partner*  
Kavinoky Cook LLP

**David F. Smith '78**  
*President*  
National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation

**Mark K. Suzumoto '82**  
*Partner*  
VanEtten Suzumoto & Becket, LLP

**Jeffrey L. Tanenbaum '76**  
*Partner*  
Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP

**Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck '73**  
*Justice*  
New York State Supreme Court

**Hon. Dale M. Volker '66**  
*New York State Senator*

**Paul J. Wessel '87**  
*Partner*  
Dewey Ballantine LLP

**Brent L. Wilson '76**  
*Partner*  
Elarbee Thompson Sapp & Wilson LLP

**Michael R. Wolford '68**  
*Partner*  
Wolford & Leclair LLP

## EMERITUS MEMBERS

**Thomas R. Beecher '59**  
*Of Counsel*  
Phillips Lytle LLP

**Hilary P. Bradford '53**  
*Of Counsel*  
Underberg & Kessler LLP

**Robert P. Fine '68**  
*Partner*  
Hurwitz & Fine PC

**Hon. Paul L. Friedman '68**  
*United States District Court Judge*  
District of Columbia

**Sue S. Gardner '76**  
*Partner*  
Kavinoky Cook LLP

**Hon. Samuel L. Green '67**  
*Senior Associate Judge*  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
New York State Supreme Court

**Jacob D. Hyman**  
*Professor Emeritus*

**Erik D. Lindauer '81**  
*Partner*  
Sullivan & Cromwell

**James L. Magavern '59**  
*Partner*  
Magavern Magavern & Grimm

**William A. Niese '61**  
*Retired Vice President and General Counsel*  
Times Mirror Company

**Denise E. O'Donnell '82**  
*Partner*  
Hodgson Russ

**Anthony J. Renaldo '50**  
*Partner*  
Renaldo & Palumbo

**Daniel T. Roach '53**  
*Partner*  
Roach Brown McCarthy & Gruber

**Hon. Michael A. Telesca '55**  
*United States District Court Judge*  
Western District of New York