

# UB Law Forum

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## Getting Real

UB Law Forum

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# Law School Report



Left to right: Barbara L. Schifeling '84, Jennifer Muca '08, Sarah Norton '08 and Sheri L. Mooney '96

*“Each mentoring relationship is unique. It has been our experience that it is a valuable extra component to our students’ legal education in which they go from backpack to briefcase.”*

– Vice Dean Melinda R. Saran

“Real education. Real opportunities. Real profession” is the catchy way the organizers of UB Law’s mentoring program describe the series of meetings and activities that are designed to introduce and integrate law students into the legal profession. The program is composed of a continuum of unique opportunities that enable UB Law students to interact with practicing attorneys and judges on an individual basis.

For first-year law students, the mentoring program matches each one with an experienced attorney or judge in the Western New York community. A committee of alumni and law school administrators makes the matches in

January, after the students have completed their first semester of Law School, including a course in Legal Profession and Ethics.

On Tuesday, Jan. 17, mentors and their student “mentees” will be treated



Far left, left to right:  
Ralph L. Halpern '53  
and Heidi M. Spalholz  
'07.

Left, left to right:  
Dale A. Ehman '75 and  
Terry M. Bagia '07



Above, left to right: Mickey H. Osterreicher '98,  
Stephanie Seitz '08 and Angela Miller '98.

Left, left to right: Melissa M. Piotrowicz '07,  
Kelly A. Connors '07 and Kyle C. DiDone '07

to a networking cocktail party to meet, mix and mingle. From there, each mentoring relationship takes an individual path. Some students want to observe their mentor in a practice setting, or are eager to discuss their lifestyle and satisfaction with a legal career; others want to network in a social setting with attorneys, or seek advice about possible areas of practice.

"Each mentoring relationship is unique. It has been our experience that it is a valuable extra component to our students' legal education in which they go from backpack to briefcase. It is, however, an introduction into the profession, not a job service," says Vice Dean Melinda R. Saran, who is coordinating the mentoring program.

Who are the mentors? "For the first-

year mentoring program, we seek attorneys with at least five years of practice," she says. "You do not have to be a UB Law School graduate to become a mentor." Mentors are eligible to attend a new training program for which they can earn one CLE ethics credit.

**A**t the upper-class level, UB Law's Career Services Office provides the resources of alumni around the country to meet the individual needs of interested law students. Second- and third-year students choose mentors based on practice area and geographic location.

The Law School also works with the Bar Association of Erie County Young Lawyers Committee to provide mentors

to support law graduates studying for the bar examination.

For more information – or if you are interested in becoming a mentor to a first year student – please contact Melinda R. Saran, Vice Dean for Student Affairs, UB Law School, at 645-6223.