High Honors: Court of Appeals Sits in for Alumni Association Awards

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Alumni Association

High Honors
Court of Appeals sits in for Alumni Association awards

I t was in the presence of some distin-
guished witnesses that the UB
Law Alumni Association held its
43rd annual meeting and dinner
on April 14. The seven-member
New York State Court of Appeals –
which had met in session in downtown
Buffalo that day – gathered with alu-
mni, friends and honorees for a celebra-
tion of the Law School’s best and
brightest.

Distinguished Alumni Awards for
2005 were presented to three hon-
orees. An additional highlight was the
presentation of the Hon. M. Dolores
Demman Scholarship Award by the late
Justice Demman’s best friend, Hon. Ju-
dith S. Kaye.

Distinguished Alumni Awards were
presented to

Diane F. Bosse ’76, for her commit-
tment to public service. A partner in the
Buffalo law firm Volgenau & Bosse, the
honoree serves as chair of the New
York State Board of Law Examiners,
which is responsible for preparing, ad-
ministering and grading the bar exam.
Hon. Robert S. Smith, now retired from the Court of Appeals, also joined them on the dais.

Left to right: Diane F. Bosse ’76, Hon. Judith S. Kaye and David R. Pfalzgraf ’88

Diane F. Bosse, spoke of the value of upholding the honor and stan-
dards of “the profession I love so
much.”

“I learned at UB Law School, a place
I love and a place that still has a home-
like quality to me that the law is a pro-
fession of shared values, and that
among the values we share as lawyers is
a commitment to the delivery of com-
petent and effective legal services to
trusting clients,” she said.

She accepted the award in memory of
Richard Manz ’94, legal assistant to
the Board of Law Ex-
aminers until his sud-
den death in March,
calling him “my men-
tor, my colleague and
my cherished friend.”

David R. Pfalzgraf ’68, for his many con-
tributions to the bet-
terment of the com-
munity. Pfalzgraf is of
counsel to the Cheek-
towaga, N.Y., firm
Pfalzgraf Reinhauer &
Menashe, where he fo-
cuses his practice on
elder law. He is highly
regarded for helping to
deliver the legal profesi-
on about alcoholism, chemical de-
pendency, stress, dep-
ression and other men-
tal health prob-
lems, and has helped
numerous bar associa-
tions and lawyer assist-
ance programs with
programs to address
such problems, al-
ways with the emphasi-
sis on compassion and
the goal of recovery.

Pfalzgraf recently
was named chair of the New York
Lawyer Assistance Trust, which brings
resources and awareness to the preven-
tion and treatment of alcohol and sub-
stance abuse among lawyers, judges,
law faculty and students. A past presi-
dent of the Erie County Bar Foun-
dation, he was named ‘Lawyer of the
Year’ by the Bar Association of Erie
County in 2002. In accepting the award, Pfalzgraf
noted that the founders of Alcoholics
Anonymous were attorneys, thus
“lawyers were at the root of the most
successful recovery program in the
world.” This is fitting, he said, because
whereas the alcoholism rate stands at
about 10 percent of the general drink-
ing population, the incidence of alco-
holism may be as high as 18 percent
among lawyers.

But, he said, “there is great hope,
and there is no such thing as a hopeless
case. I can report to you tonight that
never have there been more state and
local bar programs, financial resources
or committed recovering lawyers de-
voted to lawyers-helping-lawyers activ-
ities than there are today.”

Hon. Judith S. Kaye, for outstand-
ing service to the University and
community by a non-alumnus. As chief
judge of the New York State Court of
Appeals – the first woman to hold that
office – Kaye oversees the state’s vast
and complex court system. Her tenure
was marked by far-reaching ef-
forts to improve judicial administra-
tion. She also has published widely on is-
 issues such as legal process, state constitu-
tional law, women in the law, profes-
sional ethics and problem-solving
courts. Her bachelor of laws degree is
from New York University School of
Law, cum laude, in 1962.

“I am going to claim an additional
privilege as a recipient of this award,
and that is to claim myself as an alumnus
of this law school,” Kaye said.

Her remarks then turned to her late
crime, the first woman
to be named presiding
justice of the New
York State Supreme
Court’s Appellate Di-
sion. Justice Demnan,
with a career
marked by mentoring
and helping others
while insisting on the
highest and best of
our noble profession,”
Kaye said. “Always
Dolores Demman was
a commanding pres-
ence. She was a per-
son who commanded
respect and gave
meaning to the ideal
of justice.”

It was fitting, then,
that Kaye then served
as presenter for the
Justice M. Dolores
Demman Scholarship
Award, given to a
graduating senior at
the Law School who is
a single custodial par-
tent, as Demman her-
self was. The award is
intended to offset the
costs of day care and
other child-rearing expenses in connec-
tion with preparing for the bar exam.

Funded largely by an annual grant
from the Western New York Chapter of
the Women’s Bar Association, and se-
lected by that group, the award this
year was given to UB law
student Tara A. Milkil of East Aurora,
N.Y.
In her remarks, Bosse spoke of the value of upholding the honor and standards of “the profession I love so much.”

“I learned at UB Law School, a place I love and a place that still has a home-like quality to me, that the law is a profession of shared values, and that among the values we share as lawyers is a commitment to the delivery of competent and effective legal services to trusting clients,” she said.

She accepted the award in memory of Richard Manz ’94, legal assistant to the Board of Law Examiners until his sudden death in March, calling him “my mentor, my colleague and my cherished friend.”

David R. Pfalzgraf ’68, for his many contributions to the betterment of the community, Pfalzgraf is of counsel to the Cheektowaga, N.Y., firm Pfalzgraf Beinhauer & Meneses, where he focuses his practice on elder law. He is highly regarded for helping to educate the legal profession about alcoholism, chemical dependency, stress, depression and other mental health problems, and has helped numerous bar associations and lawyer assistance programs with programs to address such problems, always with the emphasis on compassion and the goal of recovery.

Pfalzgraf recently was named chair of the New York Lawyer Assistance Trust, which brings resources and awareness to the prevention and treatment of alcohol and substance abuse among lawyers, judges, law faculty and students. A past president of the Erie County Bar Foundation, he was named “Lawyer of the Year” by the Bar Association of Erie County in 2002. In accepting the award, Pfalzgraf noted that the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous were attorneys, thus “lawyers were at the root of the most successful recovery program in the world.” This is fitting, he said, because whereas the alcoholism rate stands at about 10 percent of the general drinking population, the incidence of alcoholism may be as high as 18 percent among lawyers.

But, he said, “there is great hope, and there is no such thing as a hopeless case. I can report to you tonight that never have there been more state and local bar programs, financial resources and committed recovering lawyers devoted to lawyers-helping-lawyers activities than there are today.”

Hon. Judith S. Kaye, for outstanding service to the University and community by a non-alumnus. As chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals—the first woman to hold that office—Kaye oversees the state’s vast and complex court system. Her tenure has been marked by far-reaching efforts to improve judicial administration. She also has published widely on issues such as legal process, state constitutional law, women in the law, professional ethics and problem-solving courts. Her bachelor of laws degree is from New York University School of Law, cum laude, in 1962.

“I am going to claim an additional privilege as a recipient of this award, and that is to claim myself as an alumna of this law school,” Kaye said.

Her remarks then turned to her late friend, the first woman to be named presiding justice of the New York State Supreme Court’s Appellate Division, Justice Denman, a member of the Class of ’55, had a career “marked by mentoring and helping others while insisting on the highest and best of our noble profession,” Kaye said. “Always Dolores Denman was a commanding presence. She was a person who commanded respect and gave meaning to the ideal of justice.”

It was fitting, then, that Kaye then served as presenter for the Justice M. Dolores Denman Scholarship Award, given to a graduating senior at the Law School who is a single custodial parent, as Denman herself was. The award is intended to offset the costs of day care and other child-rearing expenses in connection with preparing for the bar exam.

Funded largely by an annual grant from the Western New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association, and selected by that group, the award this year was given to third-year UB law student Tara A. Milikid of East Aurora, N.Y.