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## State Court Officials Honor Executive Director and Alumnae

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# State Court officials honor executive director and alumnae

Community and Justice.

Her contributions to the profession and community have resulted in awards from the Eighth Judicial District (Women in the Courts), Women Lawyers of Western New York (Lawyer of the Year), Planned Parenthood (William B. Hoyt Award), Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (Directors Award), and the Bar Association of Erie County (Criminal Justice). She is a member of the Western New York Women's Hall of Fame.

O'Donnell has extensive experience as an instructor, faculty member, and lecturer in various facets of legal ethics and trial advocacy. Her impact is best summed up by what her daughter, Maura, said at her swearing-in ceremony for U.S. attorney: "To us, she is Supermom. People often remark that we (she and her brother Jack) have big shoes to fill, but we prefer to think of it as having a great set of footprints to follow down the path."

She received her undergraduate degree from Canisius College, a master's degree in social work from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and a law degree, graduating summa cum laude, from the University at Buffalo Law School, where she was senior editor of the *Buffalo Law Review*.

**D**uring law school, she was a legal assistant for the plaintiffs in a landmark school desegregation case in Buffalo and later went on to serve as a confidential law clerk to Appellate Division Justice M. Delores Denman (1982-85), a prior recipient of the Schapiro Award.

Previous recipients of the Schapiro award, which was established in 1992, also include Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye and former NYSBA presidents M. Catherine Richardson of Syracuse and Maryann Saccomando Freedman of Buffalo.

The 72,000-member New York State Bar Association is the official statewide organization of lawyers in New York and the largest voluntary state bar association in the nation.



Ilene R. Fleischmann

**I**lene R. Fleischmann, executive director of the Law Alumni Association and associate dean of the University at Buffalo Law School, was presented with a Women in the Law Award from the Eighth Judicial District of the State of New York United Court System, Gender and Racial Fairness Committee. Hon. Sharon S. Townsend, chief administrative judge of the Eighth Judicial District, presented the award on May 25 at the fourth annual Celebration of Women in the Law luncheon in the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Fleischmann was recognized for her "pioneering achievements, outstanding leadership, dedicated commitment and service, which have significantly impacted the legal profession, women in the law, and the WNY community."

In addition to Fleischmann, eight Western New York female judges, court officials and lawyers, and a deceased Niagara Falls attorney, also were honored. All 10 recipients were selected by the local judicial and legal communities for their outstanding contributions to the bench, bar and community, Townsend said.

UB Law alumnae who were honored include Hon. Rose D. LaMendola '55, retired State Supreme Court Justice; Hon. Judith S. Claire '75, Chautauqua County Family Court Judge; Hon. Janice M. Rosa '75, State Supreme Court Justice who is the judicial overseer of Western New York divorce courts; Joann M. Wahl '81, Chief Clerk of the Fourth Department Appellate Court; and Anna L. Scott '83, a Buffalo attorney noted for free legal work for the poor.

Since 1985, Fleischmann has served the UB Law Alumni Association, Inc. as its first executive director, providing professional staff support for its officers, board of directors and committees in planning and implementing its events, programs and activities. Simultaneously, she has risen through the administrative ranks of the University at Buffalo Law School to become an associate dean, directing the Law School's alumni affairs, public relations, publications and communications.

She is editor of *UB Law Forum*, and UB Law Links, the Law School's quarterly e-mail newsletter. She works collaboratively with the Law School's faculty, professional staff, students and alumni to produce creative marketing and public relations materials for recruitment, career services, fund-raising and academic programs. She is responsible annually for dozens of special events that enhance the image and reputation of the Law School, and strengthen the relationship between the Law School and the broader legal community.

An East Amherst resident, She currently serves as a director of the WNY Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and as a director of the Jewish Family Service, in Buffalo. She is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Citizens Academy, class of 2005.