Alumni Update

Inside the Beltway

Michael A. Battle ’81 takes charge at top Justice Department post

A nd the traffic and tourists of Washington, D.C., Michael A. Battle ’81 is settling into a major new job at the right hand of power. Battle, who served for more than three years as U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York, began work June 6 as director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, at the Department of Justice. His office oversees the work of 94 U.S. attorneys offices across the country and is the liaison between the U.S. attorneys and other federal agencies and Department of Justice components.

It is a position with enormous importance and a broad range of areas of responsibility. Battle deals with issues of policy development, helps to communicate those developments to field offices, comments on provisions such as sentencing guidelines and the USA Patriot Act, and worries about “budgets, personnel and a whole lot in between.”

In Buffalo, where his office’s high-profile cases included the Lackawanna Six terrorism prosecution, he had administrative responsibilities, too, Battle said. The difference: “I get about 15 administrative responsibilities, too, Battle says. “On Tuesday I was invited to a meeting, ‘but you can’t be there - the assistant director has to be there. But I drove up to the 17th floor, welcomed me. John Negroponte welcomed me. (CIA Director) Porter Goss welcomed me. (Director of National Intelligence) John Negroponte welcomed me.

“I said to my wife later. ‘Never in a million years would I have expected this.’

A sobering responsibility came with the establishment of a Katrina Fraud Task Force, dedicated to investigating and prosecuting fraud related to the Gulf Coast hurricane. The task force is co-located in Washington and Baton Rouge, La., and Battle went there and to New Orleans to help establish the office.

“I was on the ground in a Ford F-150,” he said. “I drove up to the 17th Street levee, stood on top of it and got a bird’s-eye view of what happened. For historical purposes, I put my hand on the barge that broke through the levee. The devastation was incredible. It was a frightening scene.”

Battle and his wife, Sheila, have three children, only their son, Michael II, is still at home. They have maintained a residence in Western New York so he can finish high school (he is in his junior year), and Battle commutes home from Washington generally twice a month.

Not that his workdays would allow for much of a family life anyway. “I get here at 7:15 in the morning, and I generally work until 7 at night. My day here at 7:15 in the morning, and I generally work until 7 at night. My day,” he said. “I get up every day and I love politics. I get up every day and I love policy issues. We talk about government, sometimes finds himself in high-profile situations.

“I started this job on a Monday,” Battle says. “On Tuesday I was invited to be with the president that Friday morning – at a location about which I could not even give anybody directions. I stood within five feet of him on stage to talk about the Patriot Act. Before that, five of us were in a holding room, and I chatted with the president, walked around with him, greeted staff with him. As I was getting on line to go out to the stage, Attorney General Gonzales welcomed me. CIA Director Porter Goss welcomed me. (Director of National Intelligence) John Negroponte welcomed me.

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Not that his workdays would allow for much of a family life anyway. “I get here at 7:15 in the morning, and I generally work until 7 at night. My day goes very fast, and a lot of things happen over the course of the day,” he said.

“I have been real lucky. The staff is wonderful. We talk about all kinds of policy issues. We talk about government, politics. I get up every day and I love coming to work.”

OFF-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS are held once a year in New York City and Washington, D.C. Employers find each program is a cost-effective means of reviewing candidates each fall for permanent and summer positions. Pre-selection of resumes is permitted.

RESUME COLLECTION SERVICE is available at any time. The Career Services Office will collect and forward student resumes as a group to employers. Pre-selection of resumes is permitted.

ONLINE JOB BANK is a year-round service that posts employer job listings on the Web. Students, new grads and experienced attorneys are able to access your information 24/7 at www.eattorney.com. CSO’s monthly Employment Bulletin publishes the listings appropriate for law graduates. The Bulletin is sent to over 500 alumni/ae and exchanged with over 100 law schools.

Hundreds of talented law students and graduates are available right now for part-time, entry-level and lateral positions.

The University at Buffalo Law School, the most respected public law school in the Northeast, provides excellence in legal education. This excellence in academic and clinical training can be an asset to your office.

Contact us in the Career Services Office to post a job or internship, request resumes or schedule interviews. Let us take the worry out of legal recruiting.

The University at Buffalo Law School Career Services Office has several programs available to assist employers in meeting their hiring needs. Candidates for law clerk, entry-level and experienced attorney positions can be found through our office. Select the service that suits your anticipated hiring needs. There is no fee for services.

To access these services, contact:

Lisa M. Patterson
Associate Dean for Career Services
University at Buffalo Law School
609 John Lord O’Brian Hall
North Campus
Buffalo, NY 14260-1100
Phone: (716) 645-2056
Fax: (716) 645-7356
E-mail: law-careers@buffalo.edu
or visit www.law.buffalo.edu/cso to submit requests online.
Thursday, January 5.
Networking event for Washington, D.C., alumni. Zaytinya, 701 Ninth St. N.W., 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. $20 for alumni and their guests. Sponsored by the UB Law Alumni Association. Contact: Ilene Fleischmann, 645-2107, or fleisch@buffalo.edu.

Tuesday, January 17.
Mentors can earn one free CLE credit in ethics, at the Center for Tomorrow, Amherst Campus, 5 p.m. Immediately followed by reception for mentors and first-year law students, 6 p.m. To mentor a student, call Melinda Saran at (716) 645-6223, or e-mail saran@buffalo.edu.

Thursday, February 16 – Friday, February 17.
Albert R. Mugel National Tax Moot Court judges. For more information or to judge, call Amber Storr, president, (716) 645-2037, or e-mail aestorr@buffalo.edu.

Thursday, February 23.
Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Auction, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Statler Towers. To buy a ticket or donate an auction item contact Mindy Byrd, president, at alhyrd@buffalo.edu.

Saturday, March 4.
The Buffalo Criminal Law Society will host the Eighth Annual Herbert J. Wechsler National Criminal Law Moot Court Competition at the Erie County Courthouse. Wechsler judges can receive CLE credit for their participation. For more information or to judge, please contact Liz Tertinek, president, at ubcrimlaw@gmail.com.

Friday, April 21 – Saturday, April 22.
Dean's Advisory Council meeting, New York City. Contact Deborah Scott, (716)645-2113, or e-mail djscott@buffalo.edu.

Friday, May 5 – Saturday, May 6.
Class of 1996 10th Reunion. Check www.law.buffalo.edu/reunions. Contact Amy Hayes Atkinson at (716) 645-6224 or aatkins@buffalo.edu.

Saturday, May 20.
Law School Commencement. Center for the Arts, 3 p.m. Reception to follow in the Atrium.

Saturday, June 2 – Sunday, June 3.
Class of 1976 30th Reunion. Check www.law.buffalo.edu/reunions. Contact Amy Hayes Atkinson at (716) 645-6224 or aatkins@buffalo.edu.

Saturday, June 3.
Class of 1966 40th Reunion. Check www.law.buffalo.edu/reunions. Contact Amy Hayes Atkinson at (716) 645-6224 or aatkins@buffalo.edu.

Friday, June 16
Appreciation lunch and photo for directors and past presidents of the UB Law Alumni Association and GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group. Photos at noon, 12:30 p.m. lunch. The Buffalo Club, 388 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. E-mail Ilene Fleischmann at fleisch@buffalo.edu.

August 16, 2006.
50+ Reunion Luncheon. Check www.law.buffalo.edu/reunions. Contact Amy Hayes Atkinson at (716) 645-6224 or aatkins@buffalo.edu.
Jeremiah J. Moriarty was the first to utilize the Francis Letro Courtroom in the Law School for his swearing-in ceremony as a judge on Saturday, Sept. 10. Nominated to serve on the state’s Court of Claims by Gov. George E. Pataki, Moriarty will hear civil cases in Buffalo. The oath of office was administered by the Honorable Richard E. Sise, Presiding Judge of the New York State Court of Claims. Congressman Thomas M. Reynolds and Honorable Eugene F. Pigott Jr., Presiding Justice, Fourth Dept., offered remarks. Francis M. Letro, for whom the courtroom is named, served as master of ceremonies.

A Southern Tier attorney, Moriarty represented many municipalities and was chairman of the Cattaraugus County Republican Party. His father, the late Jeremiah J. Moriarty Jr., also was a Court of Claims judge. Moriarty graduated from Georgetown University in 1965 and received his law degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law in 1968. He has been in private practice for the past 36 years and has served as administrator for the Assigned Counsel Program of Cattaraugus County for more than 20 years.
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UB Law School is on the move. We are always looking forward. We have an excellent faculty, a talented and diverse student body, a cutting-edge curriculum, and a strong alumni network. To compete with the top schools, your support is crucial as we take our Law School to even greater heights. To learn more about giving back, contact Deborah Scott, Vice Dean for Development, at (716) 645-2113 or e-mail her at djscott@buffalo.edu.