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Karen Kaczmarski ’89 to Head UB Law’s Development Office

As a student at UB Law School, Karen R. Kaczmarski ’89 learned to be a vigorous advocate for her clients. Now, as the school’s newly appointed associate dean for development, Kaczmarski is using her people skills and her persuasive powers to advance the Law School’s mission.

“I raise funds to help educate the next generation of leaders,” says Kaczmarski, who has served in the Law School’s development office since April 2007 after 15 years as a successful trial attorney. “I think that’s one of the best forms of advocacy. I am using what I learned in law school and in practice to help UB Law.”

As associate dean, Kaczmarski will oversee the school’s overall fund-raising efforts and will work personally on cultivating major gifts to support Law School initiatives, including scholarship support and establishing named faculty chairs and professorships. Dean Makau W. Mutua has identified major gifts as a key component of his vision to strengthen the school’s nationwide reputation.

“The dean’s vision is one of excellence,” Kaczmarski says. “Excellence in our students, our faculty and our program — and perhaps most importantly, in our relationships with our alumni, whose support is critical to enhancing the Law School.” Whether it’s a major gift or a gift to the Law School’s Annual Fund, “every gift is important and no gift is too small, since all help advance the school’s mission.” Her role is to develop relationships and identify graduates who have an affinity for the school and a desire to give something back. “It’s our job to connect our alumni with what they are most passionate about at UB Law,” she says. “That’s what philanthropy is all about, being in a position to help others and make a difference.”

Before returning to the Law School as a member of the development staff, Kaczmarski practiced law in Buffalo, as an associate with Philip H. Magner Jr. ’49, as a partner with Saperston Day, P.C., and as counsel with Harter, Secrest & Emery, LLP. She litigated and tried complex commercial cases in federal and state courts throughout the United States. Kaczmarski began her legal career as a confidential court attorney with the New York State Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

“Over the past three years, Karen has demonstrated that she is a wonderful fundraiser and advocate for the Law School,” Dean Mutua says. “She plays a lead role in the Law School’s development efforts with the rest of our highly skilled development team.”

“If I was not accepted into UB Law, I would not have been able to afford law school,” Kaczmarski says. “We’re striving to be the best we can be, and at the same time we are making sure that talented people have the opportunity to obtain a legal education. To do that, we recognize that we need more support from more people, we need to do more outreach, and we need to build more relationships — and we are working every day to do just that.”

Kaczmarski succeeds Deborah J. Scott, who became executive director of advancement at Victoria University in Toronto.

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