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Achievements recognized
Law Review Dinner deepens bonds

Two legal lights with deep connections to UB Law School had that bond grow even deeper when they recently received the Buffalo Law Review Award.

Eugene Pigott ’73, associate justice of the Court of Appeals, New York State’s highest court, and longtime UB Law Professor David Engel were honored at the Law Review’s annual dinner on April 21 at the Park Country Club.

The Law Review board, about five dozen students strong, made the selections based on an open nomination and election process. “Professor Engel and Judge Pigott were the unanimous decisions once they were nominated,” says third-year student Scott Iseman, managing editor of the journal.

Engel, a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, teaches a first-year torts course that many Law Review members took, Iseman says. “Many people enjoyed him as a professor and thought he was one of our favorite professors,” he says. “He’s such a kind, intelligent man, and that makes for a good professor.” In addition, Iseman said, some members have taken Engel’s bridge-term course involving travel to Chiangmai, Thailand, for intensive study of Thai legal culture.

Of Judge Pigott, Iseman said, “He is one of the more recognizable faces of the Law School throughout the state and the legal community as a whole. He’s a great role model for our members to follow. His career path is more than just the bench—he served in private practice, and in the Army during the Vietnam War. That kind of professional dexterity and flexibility is something we like to emphasize with our membership.”

The Law Review Dinner, for which Iseman served as emcee, celebrated a strong year for the journal, which publishes five issues annually. “It has been a good year for landing articles,” he says. “We have a number of cases that we’re excited about publishing, especially our symposium issue this spring, a collection of essays from a number of high-powered professors” that arises from a Baldy Center conference.

A major initiative for the Law Review this year has been the creation of an online forum—“a place where a dialogue can be created among different professors in the legal community.” The online venue will publish shorter pieces, 500 to 1,000 words, in a less formal format than the printed journal.

“We want to try to get some dialogue going on the pieces we publish,” Iseman says. “It will give an author an opportunity to be challenged and defend his opinions. This is an emerging trend among law reviews, so we’re excited about that opportunity.”


Students of color hear words of thanks and advice

In keeping with the theme “Lifting as We Climb,” the Law School’s Students of Color Dinner brought together graduating students, continuing students, faculty and a wide variety of friends to celebrate achievement and call for a commitment to serve others as only lawyers can.

The April 15 dinner, held at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott, is an annual joint venture of the Asian American Law Students Association, the Black Law Students Association and the Latin American Law Students Association. It mixed solemnity with laughter, as those organizations honored the achievements of their members set to graduate in May. They also recognized distinguished alumni, minority trailblazers in the legal field, and professors.

With a slide show of smiling Law School faces running continuously in the background, those honored shared words of thanks and advice with those who will soon be their colleagues in the legal profession.

The keynote speaker was Associate Professor Rick Su, who teaches in the areas of immigration and local government law.

Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Trini E. Ross ’92, Assistant U.S. Attorney and member of the Dean’s Advisory Council; Mark G. Pearce ’78, of the Buffalo firm Creighton, Pearce, Johnsen & Giroux. Pearce was named by President Obama to the National Labor Relations Board; and Dr. Chanse Leon Kim ’75, a successful private practitioner from Seoul, Korea, who accepted his award by video.

The Trailblazer Award was given to Sheldon K. Smith ’01, president of the Minority Bar Association. The Jacob D. Hyman Professor of the Year Award went to SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Charles Patrick Ewing, director of the Legal Skills program at the Law School. A “Lift As We Climb” scholarship also was awarded, as was the Monique E. Emdin Award, given in honor of the 2007 UB Law graduate, who died tragically of cancer at age 28.

Hon. Rose H. Scorsieri ’73, who previously received a Distinguished Alumni Award, was honored for her recent appointment to the Fourth Department, Appellate Division of New York State Supreme Court.

The event’s traditional candle-lighting ceremony closed the evening.

Co-chairs of the dinner were Mollie K. McCabe ’11 and Allison T. Chan ’11.