When the fine points of torts and contracts have faded, it's the people who form the most vivid memories of Law School — especially those who teach.

Eleven valued faculty members have retired in the past few years, and UB Law School is inviting them back to O'Brian Hall with a special pre-Commencement reception in their honor. The May 20 cocktail reception, open to all in the UB Law community including alumni, will begin at 6 p.m. in the fifth-floor Cellino & Barnes Conference Center.

Recognize any of your favorites?

Lee A. Albert taught at UB Law from 1975 to 2008. A specialist in health care law and constitutional law, he has studied and published on issues of medical ethics. He comes by his interest in the U.S. Supreme Court from the inside — he once clerked for Justice Byron White.

James B. Atleson retired in 2007 after teaching at UB Law for 43 years. An expert in international labor law, he also gained local fame as leader of the pickup Hot Cargo String Band, a fixture of Commencement ceremonies for many years.

Barry B. Boyer, a UB Law professor from 1973 to 2009, served as dean from 1992 to 1998. An authority on environmental law, he founded the group Friends of the Buffalo Niagara Rivers. He also directed the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy for 15 years.

David B. Filvaroff served as the Law School’s 15th dean, from 1988 to 1992, and lists among his accomplishments the creation of the Dean’s Advisory Council. He taught torts, international law, civil rights, federal courts, constitutional law and international human rights.

Ellen M. Gibson ’80 was director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library from 1984 until her retirement in 1989. She implemented the Mercury document delivery system through which faculty members can call or e-mail to request particular documents.

Thomas E. Headrick, Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, served as dean of the Law School and as UB provost. With Professor William R. Greiner, he co-authored Location, Location, Location: A Special History of the University at Buffalo.

Tax specialist and Distinguished Teaching Professor Kenneth E. Joyce, a faculty member from 1964 to 2008, has been one of the Law School’s most familiar faces. In addition to his teaching and research, Joyce has been at the forefront of law reform through legislation in New York State.

Janet S. Lindgren taught at UB Law from 1973 to 2009. Her legal writing courses revolved around the concept of “writing for change” — writing for understanding and persuasiveness.

Elizabeth B. Mensch ’79 taught from 1980 to 2008. Her research interest in church and state led to several publications that include the 1993 book The Politics of Virtue: Is Abortion Debatable?, written with her late husband and fellow UB Law professor, Alan Freeman.


Judy Scales-Trent joined the faculty in 1984. With a major research interest in the social construction of race in America, she has also taught courses in employment discrimination law, constitutional law, and law and literature.

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