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We Have Taken the Necessary Steps to Strengthen the Law School and Retain Our Edge Among Our Peers

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

“We have taken necessary steps to strengthen the Law School and retain our edge among our peers.”

It's that time of the year again when we welcome new students to SUNY Buffalo Law School. It's a time of renewal as one class departs and another joins the school. This isn't just about the rhythms of the calendar. For us, it is confirmation that we remain a key player in legal education and a desired destination for tomorrow's lawyers. The entering class is exciting and brings with it the diverse faces of America – it comes from many states and an impressive catalogue of schools around the country. Yes – admissions to law schools continue to face declines, but we are pleased to have recruited a competitive class. We don't know how long the downturn in legal education is going to last, but we have taken necessary steps to strengthen the Law School and retain our edge among our peers.

Second, I want to report about our Campaign, whose goal is \$30 million. We are ecstatic that we have crossed the \$23 million mark. We have two years to raise just under \$7 million. You have stood by us and, with your support and leadership, the Campaign has roared along. Your generosity has been boundless. You've responded with enthusiasm every time we have called you. I know that you will dig deeper and take the Campaign for SUNY Buffalo Law across the finish line with time to spare. That is why I am now asking you – again – to lift us up. As I constantly say, no law school can become great without dedicated alumni. You are devoted to SUNY Buffalo Law School. We couldn't have done what we have accomplished these last five years without you. We have hired world-class faculty. We have dramatically improved our facilities and upgraded our technology. We have kept our education affordable through scholarships. And our Campaign is on a roll – all because of you.

Third, we continue to partner with lawyers and judges within the state to advance legal education. We recently expanded our reach and collaboration with the bench and bar by launching the Advocacy Institute. UB Council member Chris O'Brien and Judge Thomas P. Franczyk have agreed to serve as co-directors of the Advocacy Institute.

They have served with brilliance as the co-directors of the Trial Advocacy Program, which now becomes one of the key anchors of the Advocacy Institute. Leading trial attorney Terrence Connors of Connors & Villardo has agreed to serve as the Institute's board advisory chair. We continue to work closely with Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman of the New York State Court of Appeals to expand legal services and pro bono opportunities for law students. I worked closely with Chief Judge Lippman to help craft and bring to fruition the Pro Bono Scholars Program (www.law.buffalo.edu/current/pro-bono/scholars-program.html). Over one dozen of our students have been chosen for the program, which will allow them to take the New York Bar in

February, a semester early before graduation.

Finally, allow me to thank you again for all the good things that are happening at the Law School. Our faculty, staff and students are indebted to you.



UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski and Dean Makau W. Mutua before 2014 Commencement ceremonies.