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Law School alumni association honors six with awards

Three judges, a business litigator, a specialist in corporate law and a veteran federal prosecutor were honored May 20 when the Law Alumni Association of SUNY Buffalo Law School presented its annual Distinguished Alumni Awards.

The awards, given to five Buffalo Law alumni and one non-alumnus, were the highlight of the association’s annual dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

Law Alumni Awards were given in six categories. The 2014 honorees were:

For the Judiciary, Hon. Eugene M. Fahey ’84. Fahey is a justice of the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, Fourth Department, and has served two six year terms on the Buffalo Common Council and worked in private practice before ascending to the bench, first on Buffalo City Court and then on State Supreme Court. He was appointed to the Appellate Division in 2009.


For Community Service, Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin ’85. Judge, Erie County Family Court. Rodwin was a prosecutor in the Erie County District Attorney’s office, where she served as chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau. She helped obtain a grant for the Erie County Family Justice Center, where targets of domestic violence can obtain help from legal professionals, counselors, pastoral caregivers and medical providers in a single, secure location.


For Business, William F. Savino ’75. Senior Partner, Damon Morey. Savino joined the law firm Damon Morey in 1978 and became chair of the firm’s Business Litigation & Insolvency Department. His responsibilities include matters involving business litigation (including construction, corporate and partnership dissolution, accounting malpractice and Uniform Commercial Code matters) and insolvency (both debtor and creditor) with an emphasis on reorganizations. He teaches in both the Law School and UB’s School of Management.

For outstanding service to the University and community by a non-alumnus, Hon. Robert Russell Jr., a Buffalo City Court associate judge who has been an innovator in using the courts to address stubborn social problems. Russell created Buffalo’s Drug Treatment Court in 1995 and continues to serve as its presiding judge. In 2002 he established and began presiding over Buffalo’s Mental Health Treatment Court, which oversees cases involving individuals diagnosed with severe mental illness. And in 2008, Russell created and began presiding over the nation’s first Veterans’ Treatment Court.

For outstanding service to the Law School and its community, Hon. Robert T. Russell Jr., Associate Judge, Buffalo City Court.