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President Tripathi: "A Great Advocate and Supporter of the Law School"

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President Tripathi:

“A great advocate and supporter of the Law School”



Dean Makau W. Mutua

It's time to ring in a new academic year. As we bridge the future with the past, we take stock of the great strides that UB Law has made. The conclusion to last year was exciting – Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand delivered a rousing Commencement address to the Class of 2011. It was a fitting tribute to UB Law and the graduates who have gone into the world to earn a living and do good. The year also ended with the selection of UB Provost Satish Tripathi as the university's 15th president. President Tripathi, whose investiture was Sept. 23, has been a great advocate and supporter of the Law School. His wise counsel and support have allowed UB Law to grow amid a national economic contraction. His commitment to help put UB Law among the top law schools in the country has been unwavering. I know that with President Tripathi at the helm, UB Law's best days lie ahead.

The most enduring legacy over my years as dean has been the hiring of excellent junior faculty. All told, we have 14 junior faculty. This academic year alone, we have been joined by four outstanding junior faculty. Samantha Barbas (Ph.D., Berkeley; J.D., Stanford) will teach legal history; Matthew Dimick (Ph.D., Wisconsin; J.D., Cornell) will teach labor law, corporations and contracts; Matthew Steilen (Ph.D., Northwestern; J.D., Stanford) will teach constitutional law and civil procedure; and Tony O'Rourke

(J.D., Columbia) will teach criminal law and procedure. This impressive group of junior faculty brings its enormous talents to Buffalo to teach in crucial areas of legal education. In the coming year, we expect to hire two more colleagues to teach in the areas of criminal law and commercial law, including international business law. We also hired two new faculty members for our transformed Legal Skills Program – Bernadette Clor (J.D., Cornell) and Monica Piga-Wallace (J.D., UB Law). We are building a faculty that's second to none.

Last year was a year of great achievements. Professors Guyora Binder and James Gardner, also the vice dean for academic affairs, were named SUNY Distinguished Professors, the highest honor that SUNY can bestow to an academic. They were so recognized for their outstanding and peerless academic work. Professor Binder is a global leader in criminal law while Professor Gardner is internationally recognized in state constitutional law. I could not be more proud of these fitting achievements.

This year has begun on high note. Our entering IL class has the highest GPA in the history of UB Law. Our development office has never been busier, thanks to the generosity of our alumni. I know that you are the foundation on which we stand. Your philanthropy will take us to the top. Renovations of our first floor – the most lived space in the Law School – are almost complete. We have a new entrance to the school complete with a reception desk, new lighting and flooring, and a new first impression for all of our visitors. Please come and take a look. We also have installed modern learning technology in several of our classrooms, including the biggest. These are exciting times.

I end where I started. UB Law is on wings. We will fly as high as we want to fly. Together, we will reach the heights that we richly deserve.