Meet Our New Dean

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Aviva Abramovsky, an expert in commercial law, insurance law, regulation of financial entities and legal ethics, has been named dean of the University at Buffalo School of Law. She becomes the 19th permanent dean in the school’s 130-year history and the first woman to hold the position.

Abramovsky, whose appointment is effective in July, succeeds interim Dean James A. Gardner, who will continue as the school’s Bridget and Thomas Black Professor. She comes to UB from Syracuse University College of Law, where she served as associate dean for international initiatives and Kaufman Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

She is the daughter of two UB alumni – Abraham Abramovsky (Law ’70) and Deborah Abramovsky (BFA ’70).

“Professor Abramovsky was chosen for the position because of her impressive leadership experience, academic accomplishments, and creative, entrepreneurial vision for the UB School of Law and the future of legal education,” said UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski. “Under her leadership, I am confident that the School of Law will continue to build on its long tradition of delivering innovative and interdisciplinary research and learning in pursuit of justice.”

Abramovsky has long-standing and deep roots with UB. “I am deeply honored for the opportunity to collaborate with UB’s world-class law faculty to chart a new path for the law school,” she said. “Legal education in the United States is at an inflection point, and UB School of Law is perfectly poised to take the lead in providing innovative, multidisciplinary and modern legal education in a world where the practice of law is radically changing.”

As associate dean at Syracuse, Abramovsky led the internationalization effort in the College of Law. She spearheaded Master of Laws and two-year J.D. programs for foreign lawyers, launched a visiting scholars and researchers program, developed international partnerships to enable a new international student exchange program and created an English pre-matriculation program for law.

Her scholarship includes numerous articles and legal treatises, including authoring McKinney’s Uniform Commercial Code forms for New York. She is also the editor of LSN Insurance Law, Legislation & Policy. She contributed to Research Handbook on International Insurance and Regulation, and her scholarship has been recognized as a “litigation essential” by LexisNexis.

Abramovsky served as an academic evaluator for the American Bar Association’s federal judiciary committees for then-U.S. Supreme Court nominees Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor. Among other professional leadership positions, she also served as chair and later executive board member of the insurance law section of the American Association of Law Schools.

She holds a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor’s degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University.

Article written by John DellaContrada, UB News Center