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At the *Law Review* Dinner, celebration and challenge

The crucial role of lawyers in a free society was a recurring theme as members and friends of the *Buffalo Law Review* gathered for their year-end dinner celebration.

Speakers brought their own perspectives to the theme, but their challenge was clear: Those trained in the law owe their best energies to resisting efforts to undermine the rule of law.

That commitment also undergirds the work of the *Law Review*, UB School of Law's premier student-edited publication. Under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief **Kerry Q. Battenfeld '17**, the scholarly journal this year published four issues with articles addressing topics as diverse as police misconduct, special economic zones, fair housing and family businesses.

Battenfeld also pointed to several improvements in the process of producing the journal. These included the introduction of new computers and a new publishing system. She also thanked the *Law Review's* staff members – who number more than 50 – calling them “the hardest-working, kindest and funniest members of the law school community.”

The April 27 dinner, held at the Park Country Club in Amherst, also was the occasion for honoring two School of Law alumni: **George M. Hezel '73**, a clinical professor emeritus, and **Daniel Werner '96**, senior supervising attorney of the Southern Poverty Law Center's immigrant justice initiative.

Hezel's School of Law teaching

centered around the Affordable Housing Clinic, which under his direction helped build 2,000 units of affordable housing in Western New York and leveraged more than \$165 million to finance them. The clinic succeeded, he said, “because it was integrated fully into the law school curriculum, warmly endorsed by the faculty and supported by the best efforts of over 200 students.”

“Our clinic allowed students to test themselves in the role of transactional lawyer,” Hezel said, “and to exercise critical practical judgment in working with a whole host of professions associated with the clinic. These students can take pride in the real, tangible results of their work, and I hope those who follow me can continue to draw on the richness of academia to bring creative solutions to the community.”

In his remarks, Werner spoke to the realities of serving poor litigants in the current political climate.

“My commitment is to serve my clients well, to litigate my cases well

and to win in the interest of justice,” he said. “I came to UB law school because at its core it was about law in the public interest. What public-interest law means, in some

respects, changed on Jan. 20. What public-interest law meant before Jan. 20 was to challenge the power in a community, giving hope and providing a voice for the oppressed. What it means now is protecting the rule of law at a very basic level.”

As the next generation of

associates prepares to take over leadership of the *Buffalo Law Review*, Associate Publication Awards – recognizing excellent writing by the journal's associate editors – were presented to **Brendan F. Conley '18**, **Emma M. Savino '18**, **Joseph W. Schafer '18** and **Nathan C. Woodard '18**.

The Justice Philip Halpern Award, given to a third-year student for excellence in writing on the *Law Review*, went to **Lauren M. Adornetto '17**. Finally, the Carlos C. Alden Award, recognizing the third-year student who has made the greatest contribution to the journal, was presented to its managing editor, **Michael G. Marrero '17**.

The faculty adviser to the *Buffalo Law Review* is Associate Professor Christine P. Bartholomew.

The night's honorees: George M. Hezel '73 and Daniel Werner '96.

