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# Farewell Message from Dean Nils Olsen

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# Message from Makau Mutua, Interim Dean

Let me begin by saying how honored I am to have been asked by University at Buffalo Provost Satish K. Tripathi to serve as Interim Dean of UB Law at this exciting time in its history.

I also want to express my appreciation to my friend and colleague, Nils Olsen, for his many years of service to the Law School as our dean. We made enormous strides during his tenure, and I wish well in his future endeavors.

I look forward to working with our students, faculty, staff and alumni on all the important matters facing our institution. The continued hard work, enthusiasm, and support of our alumni, colleagues and friends in the legal community will be of immeasurable service to me as your interim dean and colleague.

In keeping with this transition, I am very pleased to announce several new appointments to the administration of the Law School. Professor Jim Gardner has kindly agreed to assume the responsibilities of Vice Dean for Academic Affairs. In this connection, he is working closely with Professor Susan Mangold to ensure a smooth transition in that office. I want to take this opportunity to thank Professor Mangold for her invaluable service to the Law School in the



past four years. Her devotion, dedication, and energy—all offered with incredible warmth and sensitivity—have resulted in more coherence and greater organization for the Law School's academic programs.

I have also asked Professor Errol Meidinger to take on an expanded role as the

Vice Dean for Research and Faculty Development. In this new role, Professor Meidinger will add to his responsibilities matters relating to faculty development to more comprehensively support faculty scholarship and stimulate broader recognition of their many accomplishments.

To create greater coordination of our administrative activities, I have asked Mr. Jim Newton to assume the new post of the Associate Dean for Administration. Mr. Newton will coordinate the activities and services of the various administrative offices in the Law School, and will continue to direct employer relations efforts, national outreach, and reporting to the Law School's accrediting agencies.

These changes come in the midst of the Law School planning process which is underway and the dean search process that is ongoing. I am happy to report to the Law School community, especially our beloved students and alumni, that UB Law is in great shape and is poised to achieve even greater heights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Makau Mutua".

# Farewell message from Dean Nils Olsen

As I complete my term as dean of this extraordinary institution for which we all bear responsibility, it is with a sense of pride in all that we have accomplished together.

That is a vital word—*together*.

For it is only through the power of teamwork and collaboration—the magic of talented people of good will working toward a common goal—that great things happen, in the Law School or anywhere else. Individual leaders can set the tone, but it takes a team to turn a vision into reality.

And so from this soapbox in *UB Law Forum*, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the contributions and gifts of so many who have made a difference:

Our extraordinarily gifted and talented faculty, whose scholarship and collegiality is matched only by their focus on effective pedagogy.

The support of our University administration; a great Law School can exist only in the context of a great University.

Students and alumni are key. I have



learned as much from the best of my students as I have been able to share with them. And our alumni, in so many ways, continue to contribute to the Law School in myriad ways that make an enormous difference in the quality of the education we provide.

I am especially pleased that the alumni have so generously supported my deanship. I deeply appreciate the many increased gifts which have been made to this year's annual fund in my honor.

Our faculty and staff administrators shoulder much of the work of running the

school; their talents have advanced our mission in ways large and small.

My family, particularly my wife, Sandy, and our children, have been endlessly supportive throughout my years as dean, and it is to them I owe my greatest debt of thanks.

I am not going away! After a leave of absence at the beginning of 2008, I will return to UB Law and continue to teach the course in civil procedure that I have taught for many years, as well as pursue research in the areas of federal post-conviction remedies and environmental policy.

I have every confidence that the Law School will continue to grow, improve, and carry on its mission under a new generation of leadership. I look forward to being part of that promise, and to all that we will continue to accomplish—together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nils Olsen".