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Bold Participation, Bright Future

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Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Dean’s Suite! Throughout my first full year as dean, I have been humbled by the warm welcome I have received. I have met thousands of alumni, learned your stories and formed new partnerships. The many meetings, collaborations and brainstorming sessions have already led to a variety of exciting new initiatives, several of which are highlighted in this issue.

It is clear to me that the UB School of Law Community cares deeply and works hard. That ethic is evident in the compassion and commitment of the student attorneys in our clinics (p. 12-14), and in the access to justice work done by our pro bono scholars (p. 10-11). It is clear from the work of our faculty and staff as they implement new paths to careers in law (p. 6-8), and expand the avenues to pursue a law degree (p. 4-5).

**This community recognizes need, seizes opportunity and takes action.**

It has been no surprise to me that each of you reflects those same ideals, stepping up and stepping forward time after time. When Hurricane Maria caused great devastation to Puerto Rico creating a need for legal assistance, you paid travel expenses to send our clinic students to the island. Proving that we live our values, you supported the sixth season of Discover Law. As a result, 18 bright and talented undergraduates of color learned that they can succeed and thrive at our law school. And when we asked for assistance in expanding our mentoring and career placement efforts, you volunteered your time and talent, resulting in nearly an **11% increase in our student placement rate at the time of graduation**.

Your response has been genuine and continuous, and we could not be more grateful. Thank you for all that you do for our law school. Together our future is **bold and bright**.

With great appreciation,

Aviva Abramovsky