A Present from the Past

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Drawing on the renewed energy of some of its most successful and committed graduates, the School of Law is convening a new alumni group for networking, mentoring and advocacy. As its name indicates, the Council of UB Law Alumni Association Past Presidents includes more than a dozen alums who have led the alumni association in the past. It’s chaired by the association’s immediate past president, Brian Gwitt ’98. “We thought that this was a wonderful resource to be able to tap into for the benefit of the Law Alumni Association, the School of Law and our students,” says Ilene Fleischmann, Vice Dean for Alumni. “These are successful, well-connected alumni who have maintained their ties to the Law Alumni Association and who think it’s a great idea to get together and help us.”

The group’s portfolio, Fleischmann says, is threefold: to provide mentoring to current students and recent graduates, to help connect them to employment opportunities in the Western New York legal community and beyond, and to think about how to raise the School of Law’s profile within the state.

Gwitt says initial outreach to his fellow past presidents was well received. “We’ve had a terrific response,” he says. “People were very interested. “The School of Law very much wants to work with the student body in promoting their academic and professional success. We want to contribute our ideas to the school, but also tap into this network of people who can help with mentoring and introduce students to their network and the firms they work in.” “A number of our past presidents are just unbelievably successful and connected statewide,” Gwitt says. “We’re the only public law school in the State University of New York. Supporting public education and advocating to keep our tuition affordable is crucial.”

**Pietra G. Zaffram ’01 leads Law Alumni Association**

The UB Law Alumni Association is led by a vibrant and ambitious group of UB School of Law ambassadors under the direction of 2017-18 president Pietra G. Zaffram ’01. Zaffram is a partner at Harris Beach PLLC in Buffalo, where she represents clients in federal and New York state tax disputes from the audit level through the appellate process. She also negotiates and drafts a broad range of corporate and transactional documents, including business contracts, software license agreements, consulting agreements and nondisclosure agreements. She is a member of Child and Family Services’ ambassador committee, and a member of Junior League of Buffalo.

“I am proud and honored to serve the Law Alumni Association and to work with our exceptional board of directors who are each committed to serving the law school’s alumni and students through events, programming, and networking opportunities that are second to none. The collective experience, dedication and talents of the board are truly remarkable and are a testament to the quality of a UB School of Law education.”

— Pietra G. Zaffram ’01