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### Repeat Champions: Buffalo Law Students Now Have Won Two Prestigious Burton Writing Awards in Two Years—And an Alum Adds to Our Honors

UB Law Forum

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# Repeat champions

*Buffalo Law students now have won two prestigious Burton writing awards in two years – and an alum adds to our honors*

## FOR LONGTIME WRITER, A CAPSTONE HONOR

Sometimes a life in the law comes full circle. **Edward D. Manzo '75** remembers a third-year independent study he did at the Law School with Professor Paul Goldstein, culminating in a major paper about a case then pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, on the interplay between patent law and trade secrets. His conclusion came close, he says, to the court's ultimate decision.



Edward D. Manzo '75

Now another written piece of his about trade secrets, published in the *John Marshall Review of Intellectual Property Law*, has been recognized with the Burton Award, a national honor recognizing the best published writing by legal practitioners.

Manzo, a partner in the Chicago firm Husch Blackwell, has published widely. His Burton Award-winning article, "The Impact of the America Invents Act on Trade Secrets," grew out of a Continuing Legal Education presentation he did. He was asked to turn the presentation into a piece for the John Marshall journal; after it was selected for a compilation of the year's best IP articles, his firm nominated it for the award.

"I'm very pleased that somebody recognized that I made a contribution and it's helped the profession," Manzo says.

Manzo is the co-author or editor of numerous books in IP Law, including *Patent Claim Construction in the Federal Circuit*, published this year by Thompson Reuters.

"Writing is a way to show a person's expertise, and it helps develop clientele and establish credentials," he says. But, he says, "at this point it's become a bit of a burden. I'm passing along to my associates in my firm some of the writing opportunities I get. I have an article coming out in the *Federal Circuit Bar Journal* in September" – about his participation in the first case to come before that federal appeals court, in 1982 – "and it may be my last hurrah."

## ON THE TRAIL OF DISAPPEARING EVIDENCE

Snapchat. Vaporstream. Wickr. Gryphn. TigerText. Secret Square. Self-destructing messaging apps have become the go-to choice for everyone from teenagers to business executives. Worry about the digital trail left by email and Facebook records has fueled the growth of short-lived communications systems that automatically delete messages and photos, often just a few seconds after they're received.



Ryan Ganzenmuller '15

**Ryan Ganzenmuller '15**, a recent graduate and editor in chief of the *Buffalo Law Review*, noticed that proliferation – and noticed too that the laws of evidence haven't kept pace. He made that gap the subject of an article, "Snap and Destroy: Preservation Issues for Ephemeral Communications," that was published in the *Law Review's* December issue.

Now that article has been recognized with a Burton Award, conferred by the Burton Foundation to celebrate the best writing by the nation's law students. This is the second year in a row that a SUNY Buffalo Law student has won the award, one of 15 nationwide; **Jacob S. Sonner '14** won last year.

Ganzenmuller says the idea came to him during an evidence course last year, when discussion turned to the rules governing the preservation of evidence. "I started to poke around a little bit, and there turned out to be a whole bunch of these programs," he says. "I saw a potential problem in the evidentiary sense, and found that not much had been written about that."

He says he and his friends use Snapchat with some regularity. "It becomes a means of keeping up with somebody's life and what they're doing," Ganzenmuller says. "Life is a series of these fleeting moments; some you remember and some you forget. With Facebook they're there forever, but Snapchat mimics what real life is like – quick memories, quick photos."

Ganzenmuller, an East Amherst native, studied political science and philosophy in a pre-law program at Binghamton University.

**Professor Rick Su**, faculty adviser to the *Buffalo Law Review*, says he saw Ganzenmuller's piece last year and heard some buzz about it among the student editors of the journal. "There was a lot of talk about it," says Su, who nominated the article for the Burton Award.

"A big component of the award is the quality of the analysis and timeliness of the issue. Ryan's article not only addresses a very exciting and innovative issue with regard to online communications, especially ones that are transient by design, but his analysis is great."

Ganzenmuller traveled to Washington, D.C., in June to accept his award, at an event that included Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor as the keynote speaker.

## NBA honors Mason Ashe '89

**N**o, not *that* NBA. The award that **Mason Ashe '89** received on July 23 was from the National Bar Association, a professional network of more than 65,000 African-American lawyers, judges, educators and law students.

Ashe was honored as Sports Lawyer of the Year at the organization's 90th annual convention, in Los Angeles. A veteran sports and entertainment attorney, he has represented many high-profile athletes and entertainers as an agent, and more recently has done more legal and consulting work for companies and sports teams.



Mason Ashe '89 with Lenora B. Foote-Beavers '97

The honor was especially sweet, Ashe says, because he shared the limelight with longtime sports lawyer Kendall A. Minter, who received a lifetime achievement award. Back when he was a law student, Ashe says, then-Assistant Dean Aundra C. Newell had suggested that he seek out Minter for career advice. "I had to track her down," Ashe says, "and tell her that I ended up on the same stage with him."

## Lourdes M. Ventura '98 breaks a barrier



Lourdes Ventura '98

**I**n a New York borough where more than one in four residents identifies as Hispanic, **Lourdes M. Ventura '98** has become the first Hispanic president of the Women's Bar Association.

Her appointment as head of the Queens County WBA took effect June 23. Ventura, who is of Dominican descent, is a senior associate at Ahmuty, Demers & McManus, a civil litigation defense firm in New York City.

The association, which has about 200 members, works to help women develop their legal careers and professional skills. Ventura said a chief goal during her yearlong term will be to grow the organization's membership and make it more diverse. "When you're the first, you have to create a pipeline for there to be more diversity," she says.

A former assistant attorney general for New York State and special counsel to the State Senate, Ventura also currently serves on the Law School's Dean's Advisory Council.

## Remember to re-member the LAA!

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