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Taking UB Law to the Forefront of Legal Education

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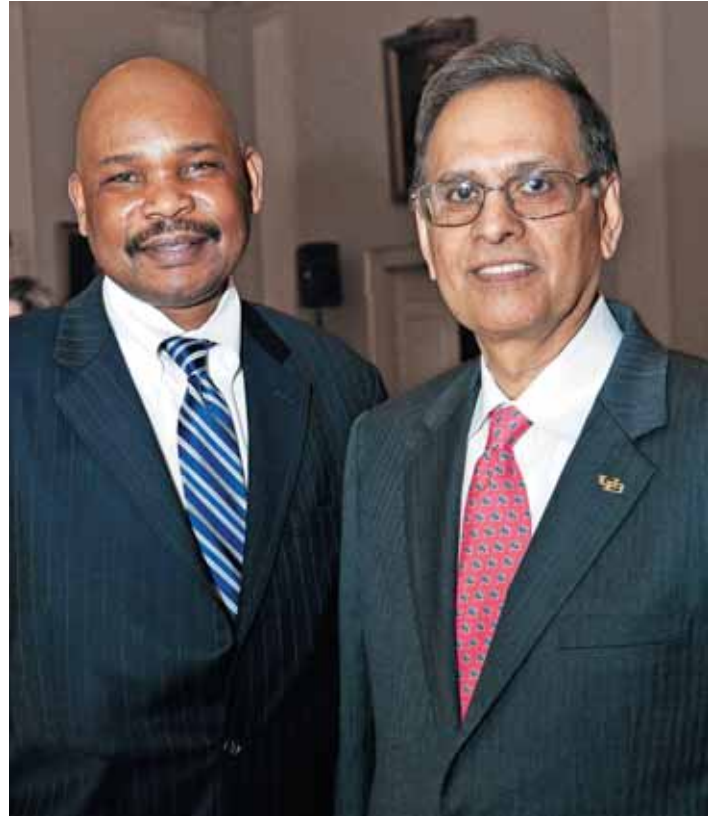
Taking UB Law to the forefront of legal education

Even though the spring was late in coming to Buffalo this year, our spirits as a school have never been higher. After much hard work, the school is taking off in new and exciting ways. Let me provide you with just a few examples. Our reputation is on the rise, as evidenced by several national rankings. In this, we shall not relent in our push for the Top 50. This semester, we have hired four new faculty – all with star potential – who will teach in important areas of need in our curriculum, including criminal law and labor law. We have virtually redone the entire first floor – and entrance – to the Law School. Adding to this energy, UB installed former Provost Satish K. Tripathi as its 15th president. Over the past three years, President Tripathi has been a wonderful booster and partner to this Law School. He cares deeply about UB Law. We simply could not have a better leader for our august university.

This magazine highlights some of the work behind one of our primary goals – our determination to produce practice-ready attorneys. Since assuming the mantle of dean, I have been driven by a singular commitment to produce the most skilled lawyers. To that end, we have spared no effort, or resources, to make that vision come true. We have hired faculty committed to great teaching, particularly in the black-letter law areas that are essential to the legal profession. We have hired nine highly skilled research and writing instructors who are working hard to train our students the “right way” from day one. I cannot say enough about how utterly crucial these hires are to the mission of the Law School.

Our legal skills curriculum includes nearly half of our offerings – research and writing, trial and appellate advocacy, externships, moot courts, law reviews and ADR. These are the fundamental skills that make a lawyer. I must say that I could not be more proud of the job that our entire legal skills team, under the leadership of SUNY Distinguished Professor Charles Ewing, is doing to impart to our students the culture and skills of great lawyering. Similarly, we are now revamping our clinical legal education program under Professor Kim Connolly, a nationally renowned legal clinician and scholar. This investment in our clinics is absolutely essential because it is a key prong of the legal skills curriculum broadly defined.

Finally, I want to say that great law schools teach law students how to think about complex legal problems while imparting practical legal skills. You know as well as I do that the legal profession is undergoing a deep transformation. The



Dean Makau W. Mutua with UB's 15th president, Satish K. Tripathi.

market is increasingly demanding that the law graduate of the future has the ability to hit the ground running. Law schools will have to retool to respond to these market forces. But they must do so in a smart way. That is why we at UB Law are heavily investing in lawyering skills while teaching our students to break down the most sophisticated legal theories. The two go hand in hand. I believe that the well-rounded law graduate has to be equipped to do both well. I want to assure you that our faculty is equal to this challenge. Please join us in taking UB Law to its place at the forefront of legal education. Thank you.

Dean Makau W. Mutua