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## State of Readiness: Vince Doyle '89 Set to Take the Reins of the New York State Bar Association

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# State of readiness

## *Vince Doyle '89 set to take the reins of the New York State Bar Association*

**D**iscussing the New York State Bar Association, whose president he becomes on June 1, Vincent E. Doyle III '89 returns again and again to one word:

Enormous.

As in, an organization with 77,000 members, one-quarter of whom live out of state and even in other countries; with 90-odd committees and sections; with a slew of ongoing publications and other information-disseminating media; with a program of continuing legal education offered across the state and throughout the year.

As in, an enormous amount of work that awaits.

"As president, you work part of the time on what you want to accomplish and a lot of the time on things that other people want to accomplish," Doyle says in an interview in the library of the Buffalo law firm Connors & Vilardo, where he is a partner. "It's an enormous organization of staff and volunteers doing an enormous amount of work. This will be a year when I have two full-time jobs – three with my home life. (He and his wife, Kerry Rustowicz Doyle, have three young children.) It'll be very intense and challenging for a year."

In some ways his entire life to date has pointed to this moment. He remembers his father – Vincent E. Doyle Jr. '56, a celebrated defense lawyer and chief administrative judge for the State Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District – carting him to Bar Association events as a child. At UB Law, young Vince was a moot court champion, served on the *Law Review* and graduated with magna cum laude printed on his diploma.

He also has paid a lot of dues with the state Bar Association, having served both in the House of Delegates and on the Executive Committee. He also served as chair of the association's active Criminal Justice Section. He has spent the past year as president-elect of the organization, working closely with outgoing president Stephen P. Younger of New York City.

Now, as he prepares to take office,



Vincent E. Doyle III '89

Doyle wants to bring the Bar Association's considerable clout to bear on a select group of issues. He wants to focus attention on pro bono work, encouraging attorneys to increase their pro bono hours and helping to match them with pro bono opportunities. Such work is encouraged – but in New York State not required – as part of the profession, but Doyle especially wants to remind attorneys outside of law firms, such as government lawyers and those in corporate counsel's offices, that they too can get in on the act.

He also wants to tackle the perennial problem of improving diversity, both in the Bar Association and in the profession as a whole. And he wants to "increase the appeal and relevance of the legal profession to the next generation," including inviting law students to get more involved in the work of the organization. The cost of law school is a continuing concern; a Bar Association report to be released soon will make

recommendations on some changes in legal education and address work-life balance issues for attorneys in practice.

As president, he'll visit county and specialty bar meetings; attend special meetings and conferences of Bar Association sections; spend a lot of time in Albany, where the organization is headquartered, and New York City; and attend American Bar Association meetings and at least two meetings out of the country. He points out that more than 2,000 UB Law School graduates are New York Bar Association members, including members in China, India, Korea, Hong Kong, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom. He also, he says with a wry

grin, has become a registered lobbyist, the better to support the organization's lobbying efforts with state government.

**T**hrough all of this, though, Doyle holds fast to the idea of law as a calling, something he tried to impress upon the lawyers newly admitted to the bar when he was called to speak at their admission ceremony recently. "This isn't a job for us," he says, "and it isn't a business. It's a profession. We've seen changes in technology, changes in the business of law, certainly changes in the economy. All of these have changed the practice of law, but they have not changed the profession. And the profession – not to get sappy about it, but it has a soul. We have an obligation to serve the greater good, and we have a duty to improve the legal system where we can. And the role of a bar association, particularly, is to protect and nurture that soul."