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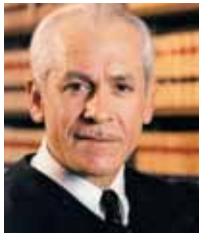
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Alumni Honored

LAW REVIEW DINNER

Buffalo Law Review honors U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Julio Fuentes '75 and prominent attorney Garry Graber '78



Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75



Garry M. Graber '78

The *Buffalo Law Review* Dinner on April 21 celebrated a year of achievements by students in their respective organizations and paid tribute to UB Law alumni and faculty who have made a difference in law students' lives.

The annual event, which was held in the Park Club, in Williamsville, was chaired by third-year student Ryan R. Seher, managing editor of the student-run journal. The dinner celebrated a year in which the *Law Review*, under Editor-in-Chief Helen K. Root, published five issues and was ranked highly among university law journals as measured by readership and number of citations from other academic articles.

Two UB Law alumni were honored at the dinner. **Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75**, who serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, is the highest-ranking federal judge to graduate from UB Law School. He also serves on the school's Dean's Advisory Council.

"He has helped the Law School tremendously," Seher says. "Because of his service to the Law School and especially his service to the students, we were delighted to have him come speak to us and to honor him."

Garry M. Graber '78, a partner at the Buffalo-based law firm Hodgson Russ and an adjunct faculty member at UB Law, also was honored at the dinner. Graber has over 30 years of experience practicing bankruptcy, corporate and financial restructuring, creditors' rights, financial services, commercial and corporate litigation, and general business law. He, or one of his colleagues, plays a major role in virtually every large Chapter 11 case filed in upstate New York and many filed in the Southern District of New York and Delaware.

"Mr. Graber is a past president of the UB Law Alumni Association, serves on the Dean's Advisory Council, has held numerous positions on bar committees and has a very distinguished record of service," says Seher.

The *Law Review* staff and friends also celebrated this year's launch of *The Docket*, an online extension of the journal. *The Docket* publishes short responses to articles published in the *Review* and also publishes shorter original works, such as essays. Says Seher, "It is meant to be more of a conversation than another part of the *Review*."

STUDENTS OF COLOR

Dinner honors diversity

The University at Buffalo Law School honored its diversity in this year's Law School Students of Color Dinner, held April 21 at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott. The dinner recognizes and honors the achievements of distinguished alumni, minority trailblazers, professors and law students who are set to graduate in May. Co-sponsored by the Asian American Law Students Association, the Black Law Students Association and the Latin American Law Students Association, it brings together graduating students, continuing students, alumni, faculty and a host of friends to celebrate the achievements of people of color who have been or are associated with the Law School.

Keynote speaker this year was John V. Elmore, who serves as senior trial counsel and managing attorney for the Buffalo law firm Brown Chiari. He is also the author of *Fighting for Your Life: The African American Survival Guide*, which addresses the issues of young people and the criminal justice system.

Two Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented, one to Buffalo City Court **Judge Craig Hannah '95**, who has been an active member of the UB Law Alumni Association's board of directors. Another was presented to **Alberto M. Benitez '86**, professor of clinical law, George Washington University Law School, in Washington, D.C.

The event's Trailblazer Award was presented to **Joseph M. Hanna '05**, a partner practicing commercial litigation with the Buffalo law firm Goldberg Segalla. As president of the Minority Bar Association, Hanna has developed a new clerkship program designed to attract students of color to clerkships in Western New York's 8th Judicial District.

Also honored at the dinner with the Jacob D. Hyman Professor of the Year award was **Professor Stephanie Phillips**, whose academic focus is Critical Race Theory but who also has worked tirelessly with the Black Law Students Association and serves on UB Law's Diversity Committee.

The Monique E. Emdin Award, given in honor of the 2007 UB Law graduate who died of cancer when she was 28, was presented to third-year law student **Tiffany LeBron**.

The award is a collaboration between Hiscock & Barclay LLP and Bethesda World Harvest International Church. A "Lift as We Climb" scholarship was awarded to a high school student.

The event's traditional candle-lighting ceremony closed the evening. Graduating third-year students "passed the torch" to those who will follow them as leaders in UB Law's students of color community.



Judge Craig Hannah '95



Alberto M. Benitez '86