Here is how great legal careers begin
UB School of Law is as much a way as it is a place. You stand at the threshold of a life-changing experience.
From the start, you will acquire the skills you’ll need in a profession like no other

You stand at the threshold of a life-changing experience that will transform your thinking and open new worlds of opportunity.


Don’t worry – we’ve got you covered.

You’ll find here a **collegial environment** that brings out the best in you and those on the journey with you. Many students make lifelong friendships here that nourish their careers as well. Your professors and the Law School staff make it their mission to help you succeed, whether it’s wrestling after class with a difficult point or helping to set up your daily schedule.

In your first year at UB School of Law, you will start to think like a lawyer, with small classes and one-on-one coaching through our Legal Analysis, Writing and Research (LAWR) program. And you’ll be challenged by **world-class legal training** in doctrinal courses that continually evolve to stay relevant to what lawyers actually do in practice.

Here you will also gain the **global perspective** that’s increasingly vital in today’s legal world. UB School of Law
is well-known for faculty who bring their expertise in other academic disciplines – from anthropology to zoology – to the study of law, giving you an interdisciplinary as well as an international and multicultural lens for understanding the way law works in the real world.

And even in the first year, you’ll find opportunities to go boldly into this new future by being part of student organizations for every conceivable interest. You will also begin to meet and network with our highly engaged alumni who will help you gain a foothold in the legal community.

Like all important work, that first year is a challenging one. But you’ll come out of it with the confidence that you’re on your way to making a difference in the community, the nation and the world.
As the Law School’s vice dean for academic affairs, Professor S. Todd Brown does a lot of deep thinking about top-quality legal education.

“The law and the legal profession are ever-changing,” he says, “and UB’s curriculum reflects those changes.”

But it’s not all about what’s on the course schedule. It’s also about making your first year the best it can be. That’s why the faculty have taken a series of steps to make sure that you succeed from Day One.

It starts with our cutting-edge Legal Analysis, Writing and Research program, three semesters of intensive instruction in the tools that lawyers use every day. An emphasis on the basics early in the first year – organizing your thoughts, crafting a killer argument, writing clearly and persuasively – means that you can build on those skills faster in every course you take.

In doctrinal courses like torts and contracts, first-year students are guaranteed at least one small class section of around 20 students. That, Brown says, means “a pretty intensive amount of one-on-one work” and plenty of direct feedback to guide your way and answer your questions. “Students tend to come out of those classes feeling better about what they’ve learned, and appreciating what they need to work on,” Brown says.

Two initiatives also provide plenty of hands-on help. Teaching assistants are assigned to classes – typically
students who already excelled in the class and are ready to share their knowledge.

The other is a student advisement program. You’ll be assigned a faculty adviser with whom you’ll meet at least four times over the year, checking in on how it’s going, helping to plan your classes, and guiding you as you look to your future as a legal professional.

Says Brown, “In Buffalo, we don’t leave you on your own.”

“The first year is a process, and we’re focused on teaching you skills you need to develop – not just for your upper-level classes, but also to help you when you get out into the world. You will be able to practice at a high level right from the start.”

DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Juris Doctor Degree
The Juris Doctor is the basic U.S. law degree, and is held by the vast majority of practicing U.S. lawyers, as well as businesspeople, policy makers, academics and people in other walks of life. A comprehensive range of optional programs and concentrations will distinguish you in the global marketplace.

The Advanced Standing Two-Year J.D. for Internationally Trained Lawyers
This innovative program is intended for students who already hold a law degree from a jurisdiction outside the United States, who would like to earn a Juris Doctor degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law, and who want to seek admission to the New York State Bar. You will be a part of the J.D. class but with advanced standing so that you can finish your J.D. degree in just two years.

The General LL.M. Program
The General LL.M. Program allows lawyers who have demonstrated success in their legal education, their practice, or both, to create individualized programs designed to take their careers to the next level. Many General LL.M. students use the degree to satisfy jurisdictional requirements for the admission of foreign-trained lawyers to practice law, including those of the New York Board of Law Examiners and the National Committee on Accreditation in Canada.

The Criminal Law LL.M. Program
Building on our strength in the interdisciplinary study of criminal law, we offer one of the only post-professional programs in the United States devoted exclusively to the study of criminal law. Our Criminal Law LL.M. Program has attracted lawyers from all over the world who intend to teach, do policy work, or work as prosecutors or judges in their home jurisdictions.
The First Year

‘Buffalo was my top option’

Kaylan Porter ’18 has never shied away from a challenge. As an undergraduate psychology major, she took physics courses just for fun. One summer, she backpacked solo through Europe. And after graduating early she set off for a sojourn in Indonesia, where she taught English in exchange for a place to sleep.

So when she decided on the University at Buffalo School of Law, it’s no surprise that she was up for the challenge. It helped that she knew going in what it was going to be like.

“I did quite a bit of research,” Porter says. “I got quite a few very generous scholarship offers, and I considered some big-name schools. But as I started picturing myself as a student and what would be available to me, what could I join, what could I be a part of, it seemed like Buffalo was my top option.”

She hasn’t looked back. “It was incredible,” she says of her first year as a law student. “I already have a support group. People are like, ‘We’re so glad to have you, we’ll give you any help you need.’ ”

“Before I came here, my image of law school was hours and hours of poring over books with no pictures. That’s sort of what it is, but if you like the content, then it’s perfectly doable.”

And she has found at Buffalo Law a deeper way of thinking about some of the issues that engage her intellectually. “What got me most excited in undergrad was my gender studies courses and thinking about the intersection of race, gender and sexuality,” Porter says. “I love talking about all these things, and I wanted to have a career working somewhere in civil liberties and social justice. I figured I could do the most if I had a law degree in my back pocket.

“Coming in as a woman and from the LGBT community, a lot of these issues really hit home for me.”
$25,410
In-state tuition for 2016

73%
Students receiving scholarships
In your second and third years at UB School of Law, it all comes together.

You know how to think like a lawyer. Research like a lawyer. Write like a lawyer.

Now it’s time to engage the world of law with all your passion.

That means taking advantage of some of the ways you can build your skills in specialized areas. Like the New York City Program on Finance and Law, in which you spend an intensive semester in the Big Apple learning the high-stakes world of finance from practitioners on the front lines. Like the Advocacy Institute, which focuses instruction in the skills of oral and written advocacy and mediation invaluable for legal practice in any professional situation. Like our Innocence Project, moot court and trial team competitions, externships and clerkships – all enable you to put your newly developed skills into practice. Clinics and other service learning options help real people with their pressing legal needs and provide you with valuable legal experience.

You might find your passion in one of our seven dual degree programs, such as Law and Business, or Law and Social Work, building your expertise and your marketability at the same time. Or maybe you will find yourself drawn to cross-border and international law, another strength of UB School of Law with our unique location on an international border. Our extensive and flexible curriculum makes it easy to craft a course of study.
that’s yours alone. And our diverse faculty and student body makes for a lively exchange of ideas, from class discussions to informal debates in the student lounge.

Underlying all of these options is a commitment we all share: to make the law work for those who need it most, and to work for social justice. The American ideal of equal justice under the law, and equal access to that justice for everyone, is present in everything we do. If you’re committed to that noble ideal, we are right there with you.

Renowned for:

- Environmental law
- Criminal law
- Return on investment
- Practical training
- Affordability
- Super lawyers
- Student engagement
- Law review and journals
Ashmita Roka ’17 has gotten comfortable with getting out of her comfort zone.

Not that this Buffalo Law student is braver than anybody else. It’s just that she has learned that taking some well-chosen risks can pay off big.

She knew, for example, that she had to conquer her fear of public speaking, so she entered the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition – and found out that she was good at it. She even won an award for Best Petitioner Brief, a nod to her newly honed writing skills.

“I wanted to push myself,” Roka says. “Now, if a professor asks me a question, I’m not scared anymore. In class I always raise my hand.”

That’s a victory as well because she felt a little isolated in her first year of law school. Roka is a native of Nepal, and as an immigrant, she says, “you feel those cultural differences.” But nobody goes it alone: “You find people and you add them to your social circle.” She also found a sympathetic ear in Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, vice dean for admissions and student life. “I remember going to Dean Upshaw and saying, ‘I’m not made for law school. I’m not smart enough,’ and she said that everyone feels that way sometimes and it’s OK.”

Now, though, “If I have something to say, I don’t hold back anymore. I share my ideas. Yes, I’m different from others and I have a different perspective, but that’s valuable.”

Roka is intrigued by human rights law, and another way she has stretched herself is by pursuing legal internships across the world, including working with an agency that combats human trafficking in Thailand, and most recently at a law firm in Ecuador.

For those who are trying to imagine what the first year of law school is like, she has this advice: “Don’t be scared. It’s not about who talks the most or who’s the loudest, it’s about who thinks things through and adds meaning to the conversation.”
‘One of my most rewarding experiences’

After two years at the University at Buffalo School of Law, including an intense and rewarding semester in the New York City Program on Finance and Law, Stephanie Rivas ’16 knew she had some serious skills.

It was time to put them into action.

That’s what she did when she landed a summer clinical internship at Yale Law School, where she worked as part of the Jerome Frank Legal Services Organization. She was one of only about 20 law students nationwide selected for the prestigious program.

In the organization’s Criminal Justice Clinic, Rivas helped represent people who can’t afford private attorneys, doing everything from client interviews to research to writing legal memoranda, motions and internal memos. Not to mention working on clemency petitions from inmates in the federal prison system, and on the side, serving as a translator for Yale’s Immigration Clinic.

“We cleared a lot of files,” says the New York City native. “And in your career you’re going to need those practical skills. When you’re in the classroom, it’s not a real client issue that you have to deal with and know how to approach the situation. So I strongly advise getting involved in clinical work.”

That includes the extensive clinical education offerings at Buffalo Law, where she was a member of the Domestic Violence and Women’s Rights Clinic.

“I truly enjoyed interacting and meeting with our clients in the clinic,” she says. “I learned so much from them, things that you can’t find in a textbook. It’s a skill to get the right information from your client while also catering to their needs, and I plan on continuing to perfect this skill. The clinic was one of my most rewarding experiences during law school.”

Rivas also put her enthusiasm to good use at the Law School as submissions editor of the Buffalo Journal of Gender, Law and Social Policy; as treasurer of the Black Law Students Association; and on the Faculty Student Relations Board.

“I truly enjoyed interacting and meeting with our clients in the clinic. I learned so much from them, things that you can’t find in a textbook.”
The Second and Third Years

How to distinguish yourself in the marketplace –
BY DIGGING DEEPER

Selecting one of seven established curricular concentrations and programs will deepen your understanding of the work lawyers do and train you how to approach complex legal problems. You will be equipped to work on major problems and transactions from the start of your legal career.

Concentrations consist of a sequence of required and elective courses selected from a substantial menu of course offerings in the chosen field. Programs are designated in fields in which the law faculty offers an exceptional degree of strength and expertise and a rich variety of courses. Each program consists of a sequence of required and elective courses, and incorporates substantial course work with program faculty. Programs culminate in a small, intensive capstone or senior colloquium course designed to pull together students’ knowledge and experience.

Completion of the requirements of a concentration or program distinguishes the graduate as someone with an unusual level of knowledge and mastery in the field, and is recognized by a transcript notation and certificate.

CURRICULAR CONCENTRATIONS

Criminal Law
With a blend of lecture courses, seminars, practice and simulations, students acquire a wide variety of skills in the practical and theoretical aspects of modern criminal law.

Cross-Border Legal Studies
This concentration capitalizes on our border location to provide students with classroom and on-the-ground exposure to a wide range of cross-border legal issues including those relating to international business transactions, immigration, international trade and tax. Students choose four courses from a wide variety of offerings, and also complete a capstone experiential course which pairs them with local alumni to gain experience in cross-border legal work.

Family Law
The Concentration in Family Law introduces students to the breadth of the family law area with three required courses: Family Law, Domestic Violence Law, and Children and the Law. Through additional elective courses and practice experiences, students round out their education in the family law area. The final writing project provides students with an opportunity to explore more deeply an issue in family law under the guidance of faculty.

Intellectual Property Law
The law is evolving to address rapid changes in technology, from computers and e-commerce to copyright, trademark and patents. In this concentration, students examine issues of ownership, use and control of technological innovations, information and knowledge.

International Law
Lawyers must understand and interpret events in countries that may have different legal systems. This concentration prepares students for careers in private or public international law. Traveling seminars offer students the opportunity to observe foreign legal systems in their native setting under expert faculty guidance. International externships are also available.
CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Environmental Law
This program prepares students for environmental law practice, whether advocating for a public interest group, a corporate client, a government agency or a private citizen. Beginning with a series of core courses taught by a combination of academic and practitioner experts, students may also enroll in skills courses, cutting-edge seminars and the Environmental Law & Policy Clinic, and graduate with the skills to apply legal principles and techniques in the environmental law marketplace.

Finance and Development
This program offers students the opportunity to focus on finance and the role of lawyers in business transactions, including courses with a particular focus on economic, commercial and residential development. The program provides a valuable foundation for students seeking to pursue careers not just in what is traditionally called corporate law, but equally importantly in a wide range of related practice areas including financial services; regulation and compliance; and private or nonprofit development.

How to learn from EXPERIENCE

The Advocacy Institute and our extensive Clinical Legal Education Program will give you an opportunity to develop and sharpen your practical legal skills through the guidance of distinguished members of the local bar and bench.

ADVOCACY INSTITUTE
In popular Trial Advocacy technique classes, students prepare and try a civil or criminal case under the tutelage of highly experienced trial lawyers. For the Appellate Advocacy segment, all students begin their training during the Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Program. After extensive preparation, they make a formal appellate argument before a panel of judges.

UB School of Law runs three national moot court competitions – the Buffalo Niagara Mock Trial Competition, one of the largest in the nation; the Herbert J. Wechsler National Criminal Moot Court Competition; and the Albert R. Mugel National Tax Moot Court Competition – as well as the intramural Charles S. Desmond Moot Court Competition. Students also compete in Alternative Dispute Resolution competitions, in the increasingly important areas of mediation and arbitration, as well as on teams that compete in national mediation competitions, and in an annual in-house mediation competition.

In the Innocence and Justice Project, second- and third-year students identify cases in which there is a strong evidence of miscarriage of justice and press the case for redress.

CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
Our clinics offer diverse and sophisticated practice opportunities to upper-class and LL.M. students working closely with skilled supervising attorneys. Our clinical offerings involve cutting-edge issues and complex matters in which creativity and innovation play key roles in serving clients effectively.

Choose from:
- Affordable Housing & Community Economic Development
- Animal Law Pro Bono Project
- Civil Liberties and Transparency
- Community Justice
- Environmental Advocacy
- Family Violence & Women's Rights
- Health Justice Law & Policy
- Law & Social Work
- Mediation
PRACTICA
Students may enroll in a practicum course, in which they combine study of a substantive area under a full-time professor with service learning alongside practicing lawyers.

EXTERNSHIPS AND JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS
Law students work in a variety of government and nonprofit organizations. Options include dozens of possible judicial clerkships, legislative externships, and other non-profit and government work. Most are in Western New York, but the option to arrange summer externships means students have worked in Rochester, Philadelphia, New York City, Chicago, Seattle and overseas.

PRO BONO AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE
We help students who plan to sit for the New York Bar exam to meet the state’s 50-hour pro bono admission requirement through clinics, practica, externships, student group projects, connections with community groups and individual lawyers, and faculty initiatives. Our pro bono work helps low- and middle-income individuals and community organizations navigate a wide variety of the legal issues that confront them.

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS
Many of our students simultaneously pursue both the J.D. degree and a Ph.D. or master’s degree. There are several advantages. First is the opportunity to acquire a broad understanding of the functions of law in society by integrating different disciplinary perspectives. Second, students can count some courses toward both programs and reduce the total time required to earn both degrees by up to a year.

- Law and Management Program (J.D./MBA)
- Law and Social Work Program (J.D./MSW)
- Law and Applied Economics Program (J.D./MA)
- Law and Ph.D. Program
- Law and Doctor of Pharmacy Program (J.D./PHARM.D.)
- Law and Urban Planning Program (J.D./MUP)
- Law and Legal Information Management and Analysis Program (J.D./MS)

CENTERS
- Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy
  Established in 1978, the Baldy Center serves as a focal point for interdisciplinary research and teaching. Although the center primarily supports interdisciplinary research by faculty in law and the social sciences, some activities are aimed at UB School of Law students.

- Buffalo Criminal Law Center
  The Buffalo Criminal Law Center provides students and scholars with a one-of-a-kind platform for in-depth study of domestic, international and comparative criminal law. The center organizes important academic events.
hosts visiting scholars and promote the convergence of common law and civil law approaches to criminal justice.

**Buffalo Human Rights Center**
The Buffalo Human Rights Center fosters coursework, research and scholarship in human rights. It maintains cooperative links worldwide with human rights organizations, human rights programs in other universities, think tanks, and governmental and quasi-governmental agencies interested in human rights. The center organizes speaker series, conferences and symposia with leading scholars and practitioners of human rights from around the world. It also arranges student internships with leading human rights organizations in this country and abroad.

**Cross-Border Legal Studies Center**
The center takes educational advantage of Buffalo’s location on the Canadian border to provide opportunities for learning about cross-border legal practice. It works closely with our alumni, many of whom are engaged in cross-border legal work in a diverse range of fields including international commercial transactions, immigration, tax and international trade, to introduce students to a range of practice opportunities.

**Center for the Study of Business Transactions**
A joint venture of the Law School and the School of Management, the Center for the Study of Business Transactions sponsors courses, research opportunities and distinguished speakers, and encourages collaboration among faculty and graduate students in law and management.

**Edwin F. Jaeckle Center for Law, Democracy and Governance**
The Jaeckle Center focuses on the ways in which law, politics and principles of democratic self-governance intersect at the state and local levels. The center takes on pressing contemporary questions relating to the distribution of power between public and private stakeholders; the structure and operation of democratic institutions and processes at the sub-national level; the relationships among place, citizenship and identity; and regional questions of distributitional justice.

**HOW TO FIND BALANCE AND EXPRESS YOURSELF OR EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS**
Our diverse clubs, associations, societies, boards and activities provide students an opportunity to contribute time and talent in ways that are both personally and professionally gratifying. Participation becomes a vital avenue of self-expression and socializing.

**Here are some of the ways ...**
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Buffalo Environmental Law Society
- Buffalo Moot Court Board
- Buffalo Public Interest Law Program
- Buffalo Sports and Entertainment Law Society
- Canadian Law Students Association
- Domestic Violence Task Force
- Family and Children’s Law Society
- Finance and Law Society
- Future Advocates in Training
- Federalist Society
- Frederick Douglass Moot Court Board
- Holistic Law Group
- International Law Students Association
- Jessup International Moot Court Board
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Labor & Employment Relations Society
- Latin American Law Students Association
- National Lawyers Guild – UB School of Law Chapter
- Native American Law Students Association
- OUTLaw
- Phi Alpha Delta
- Student Bar Association
- Tortfeasors
- Veterans Law Student Association
- Women of UB School of Law
‘It made me realize I want to be in the courtroom’

University at Buffalo School of Law student Farina Mendelson ’17 knew she wanted to practice criminal defense.

But it has been UB Law’s Advocacy Institute, she’s quick to say, that has provided her with the practical, hands-on advocacy opportunities, and supportive coaches, to succeed in courtroom preparation and litigation.

“The Advocacy Institute courses I’m taking have been the best I’ve ever had among my law school experiences,” Mendelson says. “I wouldn’t trade them for anything.

“The institute gives you the opportunity to explore criminal defense while still in school, as opposed to waiting until your first job.”

Mendelson, who came to UB School of Law with an undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto, has taken part in all four of the Advocacy Institute’s programs: Trial Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy, Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Innocence and Justice Project.

Through the institute, Mendelson has competed in local, regional and national trial advocacy competitions, and helped stage some as president of the Buffalo Moot Court Board. The contests include the intramural Desmond Competition, in which Mendelson and her partner shared the runner-up award for Best Brief in 2015.

“The competitions give students the opportunity to get in a courtroom and present their case on an appellate level,” Mendelson says. “Even with internships, you don’t go into a courtroom and argue a case.”

Mendelson’s first participation in Moot Court saw her arguing a constitutional law problem before a panel of local practitioners serving as judges. The experience impressed upon her just how much she wanted to be a trial attorney.

“It was extremely challenging, but it felt really great to go through that process and feel accomplished by the end,” Mendelson says. “It made me realize I want to be in the courtroom instead of being a transactional lawyer.”

Mendelson was among the first group of students involved with the Innocence and Justice Project, in which students provide post-conviction representation for people believed to be wrongly convicted.

“Students are given the opportunity to actually have an influence,” Mendelson says. “I can’t get that emotional aspect out of a textbook. This is their life, and they just want someone to help them. It makes me want to be a good attorney.”

An added bonus has been how much Mendelson has come to like Buffalo. She plans to make it her home after graduating.

“I fell in love with the city,” Mendelson says.
With alumni connections and new-found confidence, you’re poised to be the best

Your connection with the University at Buffalo School of Law doesn’t end at graduation. Our alumni are fiercely loyal to their alma mater, and they want to stay connected – both to the law school and to new alums making their way in the legal world.

That means you can expect guidance, mentorship and connection with some of the best lawyers you could ever hope to meet. They will help you find your place, whether it’s in the Western New York legal community, in New York City, Washington, D.C., or abroad, and whether your passion is for non-profits, for corporate work or for the courtroom.

We are proud of our extraordinary alumni, who are thought leaders in so many areas of public concern, as well as prominent leaders in the area and state legal communities. Our Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Group takes a special interest in our newly minted alumni, helping you to bridge the gap between school and practice. Once you’re established, school-sponsored Continuing Legal Education seminars help keep your skills up to date in a rapidly changing profession.

Make no mistake: our high placement rate – second among New York State law schools in 2013 and 2014 – means that you have every advantage in beginning your legal career. We’re proud that our relatively low
tuition and **generous scholarship support** mean that you will graduate without crippling law school debt. That makes it possible to pursue your passion – you won’t be boxed into chasing lucrative corporate positions because of those monthly payments that amount to a mortgage, but without the house.

A life in the law can be immensely gratifying. Lawyers earn a good living and they have career flexibility, including the freedom to serve their community in volunteer positions. And increasingly, the legal profession is recognizing the need for a **healthy balance** between work and family.

Just maybe that life is for you.

**Class of 2015**

**Employment by Industry**

- Private practice: 53.9%
- Business/industry: 24%
- Government: 9.0%
- Judicial clerkships: 6%
- Public interest: 12.5%
- Academic: 16.2%

250+ Alumni who are members of the judiciary
‘I love seeing those moments of success’

“I’m exactly where I was hoping to be,” says Karen M. Andolina Scott. Who could ask for anything more?

Scott, a 2009 graduate of the Law School’s joint program in law and social work, is executive director of Journey’s End Refugee Services, in Buffalo, which each year serves as many as 500 refugees seeking to make their home in the United States. Scott practiced immigration law in a firm and with Journey’s End, serving as managing attorney, before she accepted the top job. Now she oversees administration, programs and the agency’s strategic plan, and is the public face of Journey’s End to the community.

The Journey’s End legal services department has six staff attorneys, supplemented with School of Law externs and a few volunteer lawyers. They serve low-income clients who are applying for permanent residency and naturalization, or fighting deportation.

Her legal training still pays off, Scott says, “in thinking about ways to approach a problem, making sure I’m looking at every possible outcome. In advocating for our clients and agency staff, it’s certainly useful to know to put your strongest argument first, and to look at counterarguments and be prepared for those.”

It can be difficult work, she acknowledges: refugees and other immigrants often come with tragic personal stories that need to be documented. But the impact of the work is its own reward.

“I hope to be able to educate people on what the refugee process is, who refugees are, how they benefit our community, and show that refugees want to work, want to bring their families here, want to become citizens,” Scott says. “For the clients themselves, I love seeing those moments of success when we have been able to reunite families, or watch clients or staff members become citizens and now feel that they are a part of something again. It’s truly remarkable work.”

1,500+ Alumni who sit on cultural, academic, non-profit and advisory boards
The NYC Program on Finance and Law is the best tool that UB offers’

Wall Street. If you’re drawn to the glamour, and the pressure, of working in the nation’s financial capital, those two words ring with excitement and possibility.

But how to get a foot in the door?

For Michael Aures-Cavalieri, who graduated from the School of Law in 2014, the key was the school’s New York City Program on Finance and Law. It introduced him to the rarefied world of high finance and taught him skills he uses every day as a derivatives attorney and assistant vice president of global equities at the global investment bank Deutsche Bank Securities.

Ever since, he’s bullish on this intensive semester-long experience, which is unique to Buffalo Law.

“Finance is a broad category,” Cavalieri says. “It includes any type of legal work that involves secured transactions, corporate work, mergers and acquisitions, and compliance or regulatory work, among other things. The program allows you to learn about transactions and interact with documents, but it also gives you a full view and broader perspective on the markets in which these transactions operate. Instead of being buried in textbooks for the semester, you’ll be taught by practitioners from some of the biggest and most prestigious investment firms in the country – people who really live in the financial law sector every day. That experience alone was much more valuable to me than anything I’ve ever read in a casebook.

“But the program is also ideal for anyone interested in working in New York after graduation – you don’t need to have a finance background to derive value from it. It’s really good for anyone who wants to get hands-on project experience with big firms and big companies. There is a very successful group of UB alumni working in New York, and this program is the best tool that UB offers for growing your professional network there.

“And hey, if none of that appeals to you, at least you get to spend a semester hanging out in Manhattan, which is really fun, too!”
**Graduation and Beyond**

**How to earn a J.D. with more ROI and less IOU**

**CAREER PLACEMENT**
Our graduates are practicing in the most prominent law firms and public interest settings across the nation and around the world, as well as holding leadership positions in all levels of government.

In 2014, Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers, a legal education advocacy group, said: “When temporary, school-funded positions are excluded from the data, UB School of Law ranks second among all New York State law schools – behind only Cornell – in the percentage of active job seekers who are employed.”

Taking into consideration the practice area, employment location and cost of attending UB School of Law, the return on investment is the best in New York.

**Transitioning to practice:** Career guidance services include resume and interview workshops, practice interviews, teleconferencing and career panels.

**Mentoring programs:** Our wide-ranging mentoring program has drawn national attention in *National Jurist* magazine. Each member of the J.D. first-year class is matched with one of more than 200 mentors who are practicing lawyers or judges, and the relationship is expected to continue throughout their law school years. The National Career Network Program gives second- and third-year students access to an extensive national and international network of alumni geared toward career development.

**A focus on public interest:** As part of a public law school, our faculty and students value government and public interest work. Each year, our graduates are employed in public interest and government organizations at a rate that is two to three times the national average. Each summer UB School of Law’s Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, along with other organizations and sponsors, provides substantial stipends to exceptionally qualified and committed students who will intern at highly regarded organizations in the public sector.

**83.9 %**
Employed within 10 months after graduation
GUIDANCE FOR GETTING IN

Our admission process is selective and is based on both quantitative and qualitative criteria. The qualitative criteria we use are:

- Achievements or activities that indicate a high probability of scholastic excellence and intellectual contributions in law school.
- Achievements or activities arising from work, life experience or community service that indicate a potential for contributing to the enrichment of the Law School.
- Special factors in your background that may have impeded your educational opportunities, including discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability or national origin; and special economic or social impediments.

UB School of Law is committed to a non-discriminatory admission policy and philosophy. We welcome applications from all persons, without regard to age, gender, race, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, military status or disability.

The admissions committees use a rolling admission process. Application files are reviewed as soon as they are complete. Initial admission decisions are communicated to applicants throughout the fall and spring semesters depending on the degree program.

Early Decision for the 3 Year J.D. Program

Applicants who are interested in Early Decision must submit a complete application by Nov. 15. The Law School will complete the review process by Dec. 15.

Successful Early Decision candidates may not initiate any new law school applications, must decline any acceptances they may have received prior to admission to UB School of Law and must immediately withdraw other applications once notified of their UB School of Law acceptance in December. Failure to honor these commitments will result in UB School of Law revoking its offer of admission.

All Early Decision applicants will receive a decision. If an applicant is denied during the Early Decision process, his or her application will not be reconsidered during the regular admission cycle.

652
Alumni named “Super Lawyers”

90%
Students who carry less debt than their peers (U.S. News)
At Buffalo, you’ll learn well, earn well and live well

Studying at the University at Buffalo School of Law, you will not only have a top-quality education, you will have a top-quality life.

And Buffalo is the good life. Western New York has some of the best quality of life you’ll find anywhere.

It is a place with a blue-collar work ethic but a 21st century sensibility. A place where folks debate where to go for the best chicken wings, and get some on their way to a world-class art gallery. A place with a vibrant music scene, whether your taste runs to the latest indie artists or the renowned Buffalo Philharmonic. A place with incredible architecture, history, parks, recreation, restaurants and nightlife. Not to mention college (go Bulls!) and pro (go Bills! Go Sabres!) sports.

And by the way, it’s a four-season climate with an average of 155 sunny days a year and a recent history of beautifully mild winters.

Buffalo is also New York State’s second-largest city, and that means opportunities to witness and even work with federal and state courts and agencies, all within a 20-minute drive (or a quick light-rail ride) from campus. The School of Law prides itself on its closeness with the local legal community, affording unparalleled opportunities for you to build relationships and see the law in action.
OF LIFE

The University at Buffalo, part of the well-regarded State University of New York system, is a **major public research university**. That puts amazing resources, including extensive libraries and faculty in a wide range of disciplines, within reach as you explore the intellectual underpinnings of law.

And we’re proud of the long and distinguished tradition that our law school represents. For almost 130 years, we’ve trained new lawyers who have both effective practical skills and a deep understanding of the social and political forces that make the law what it is today.

At Buffalo, you’ll learn well, earn well and live well.

**Second**
biggest city in
**New York State**
The Buffalo Community

‘Stepping up to make everyone’s life better

Lawyers make things happen. Case in point: Monica Piga Wallace, who graduated from the University at Buffalo School of Law in 1994. After a career in private practice and public service, she now teaches research and writing at Buffalo Law and co-directs the school’s Post-Incarceration Re-entry Practicum, in which students help former inmates with legal issues as they rejoin society.

For Wallace, her law degree is a tool for making life in Western New York better – a tool that she feels a responsibility to use wisely and often.

“I think most lawyers see ourselves as guardians of legal institutions,” she says. “You need good people to step up and be the change you want to see in the world.”

That means, for example, helping to lead the effort to change the racially offensive nickname of the school system where she and her family live. Used to be the Redskins; now it’s the Legends. “I think I’m on the right side of history on that,” Wallace says. “I knew it wasn’t in the best interests of the community. We fought it not only because it was the right thing to do – the name was a racially defined slur – but also because it was a violation of anti-bullying statutes and Title VII anti-harassment statutes that didn’t exist when the name was adopted.”

In another case, Wallace was at the forefront of a lawsuit that blocked a sovereign Indian nation from building a casino in the heart of her town. Her legal training, she says, helped her explain the consequences of transferring land to a sovereign nation, removing it from the tax rolls and exempting it from the laws that would normally apply there.

Most recently, Wallace took her case to public office, making a well-regarded run for the New York State Assembly. “I hope this will inspire other women to put themselves out there,” she says, “and to recognize the importance of being active in your community and having a say in issues affecting the community.”
OUR LOCATION

We are located on the State University of New York at Buffalo’s North Campus, approximately 11 miles northeast of downtown Buffalo and 19 miles southeast of Niagara Falls, on 1,192 acres of land in suburban Amherst, N.Y. Within a 500-mile radius of Niagara Falls reside 55 percent of the population of the United States and 62 percent of the population of Canada. Within this area you will find many of the two nations’ major metropolitan areas, among them Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New York City and Boston.

UB School of Law is unique as a premier public law school because it is situated on the campus of a world-class research-intensive public university in a city densely packed with legal institutions. Within downtown Buffalo you will find United States District Court, United States Immigration Court, Buffalo City Court, United States Bankruptcy Court, New York State Supreme Court, Erie County Court, Buffalo City Court, Family Court and Integrated Domestic Violence Court. We are committed to helping you forge relationships not only with professors, but also with private practitioners, public officials at the local, county, state and federal levels, and advocates working in numerous non-governmental organizations in the Buffalo Niagara region and across the state.

Internationally Renowned Speakers Offer Their Perspectives

Recently, our university has hosted U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Antonin Scalia. President Barack Obama, former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga, former Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan, the Dalai Lama, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, as well as former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter, George Bush and Bill Clinton, all spoke to our students. Former Secretary General of Amnesty International Irene Khan taught international human rights for a semester.

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Come see UB School of Law for yourself. Please contact the Admissions Office for details about applying, our academic offerings and facilities, and scheduling a tour.
Call: (716) 645-2907
law-admissions@buffalo.edu

Lillie Wiley-Upshaw
Vice Dean for Admissions and Student Life