

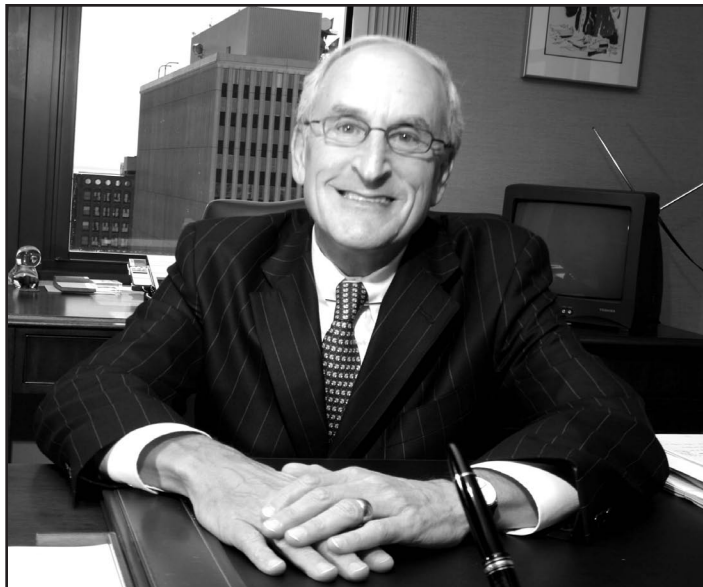
Buffalo LAW JOURNAL

UB Law Alumni to honor Fine at 44th annual dinner

Hurwitz & Fine P.C. managing partner Robert Fine, a graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School, will receive a Distinguished Alumni Award for Business for his valuable contribution to the legal profession and community. The award will be presented at the 44th annual UB Law Alumni Association meeting and dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, in the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

“We are fortunate at UB to have such remarkable alumni. Their leadership and accomplishments have contributed enormously to our Law School, community and legal profession,” said UB Law School Dean Nils Olsen.

The dinner will also mark the end of the Law Alumni Association’s membership drive for 2006 to 2007. Alumni who have not renewed or joined the association for this year are requested to send in their \$50 dues to the Alumni Office, 312 O’Brian Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260. For more information on the dinner, contact the UB Law Alumni Office at 645-2107 or e-mail law-alumni@buffalo.edu.



Hurwitz & Fine P.C. managing partner Robert Fine, a graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School, is the recipient of the business award from the UB Law Alumni Association.

Photo by Jim Courtney

By JODI SOKOLOWSKI JACK
Buffalo Law Journal

Robert Fine, business award

Robert Fine is optimistic about the revitalization of the region.

“I’m a believer that the glass is half full. It can be done. Economic development is the key to the future of Western New York,” said Fine, who is managing partner of Hurwitz & Fine P.C.

From serving on the Erie County Stabilization Project, where he recommended an overhaul of county government and a curb on voluntary spending, to acting as secretary of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency, which his firm serves as general counsel, Fine is a true supporter of the region through economic development.

“You have to be cognizant as a business lawyer that we’re in a challenging economic area: geographically, tax-wise,

business-wise,” he said. “We are always trying what we can do in helping our businesses grow even though the area is not growing.”

As more people are leaving the area than coming in, and the high-taxed state makes it difficult for businesses to start and thrive, Fine said the focus needs to be on business development, especially downtown.

“I’m heartened by the effort being put forth on the waterfront,” he said. “If the waterfront can flourish, then downtown can flourish. If downtown can flourish, the city can flourish. And if the city flourishes, the area flourishes.”

He said business lawyers first need to get to know their client and their client’s business in order to “understand what makes the client tick.”

“The role of the lawyer is to think outside the box and to help the client achieve objectives,” he said. “I love the

opportunity to watch a business grow and be a part of its growth pattern; to be a part of its problem solving is very exciting.”

Former vice chair of the board of directors of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, he is also a member of the Buffalo and Erie County Regional Development Corp. and the Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corp.

Fine, who graduated from UB Law in ’68 and serves on the school’s Dean’s Advisory Council, teaches a course entitled “Buying and Selling Businesses” at the school. He said he enjoys the class because the students “keep their professors on their toes.”

“Teaching at the law school is stimulating because the students are very bright and talented. It’s energizing to be with students and field their questions,” he said.

Fine is also a former president of the UB Law Alumni Association and of The Buffalo Club.