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New journal focuses on the law of ideas

By Karen Brady

The protection of ideas was high on the minds of close to 50 University at Buffalo Law School students who recently published the first Buffalo Intellectual Property Law Journal.

"Intellectual property is the most lucrative and hottest area of law in America today," said Dariush Keyhani, founder and editor-in-chief of the journal, which deals with issues associated with patent law, copyrights, trademarks and related interests.

Keyhani conceived of the journal, he said, during a summer as a legal associate for Amster, Rothstein & Ebenstein, in New York City, where he did patent and other intellectual property work.

"I realized the limited availability of intellectual property resources when in the 21st century pretty much the entire economy will be attributable to intellectual property assets," he said.

"We’re talking about everything from a formula for a new vaccine to software, music, trademarks, symbols..."

Keyhani, who is from Maui, transferred from the University of Hawaii to UB soon after his internship. By October 1999, he had a number of other UB Law students interested in launching an intellectual property law journal.

When their first issue was published, it was one of about a dozen law journals in the country dealing with intellectual property, he said.

“What is unique about ours is that we have an editorial board comprised of law students who already have advanced degrees in such diverse fields as English, architecture and molecular biology,” said Keyhani, who holds graduate degrees in immunology and education.

All articles are by leading academics and practicing attorneys in the intellectual property law field. The journal also includes student-written case notes.

The first issue, more than 300 pages, has an introduction by Paul Goldstein, Lillick professor of law at Stanford University. He is a leading authority on intellectual property and taught at UB from 1967 to 1975.

Its first article, by a law professor at the University of Haifa in Israel, deals with the history of copyright law. Another major article focuses on patent infringement litigation.

“All legal journals come out through law schools and are edited by law students,” said Keyhani.

Shubha Ghosh, an associate professor of law and expert in intellectual property law, is the main adviser to the UB Law students’ journal.

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Dariush Keyhani, founder and editor in chief of the journal.

Left to right, Dariush Keyhani (editor in chief), Paul Callahan (executive managing editor), Barbara Sherk (executive business editor) and Charles L. Miller II (executive production editor) of the Buffalo Intellectual Property Law Journal in their office in O'Brian Hall.

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