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Law School Is Now Wired and Wireless

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Visit our new Web site at www.law.buffalo.edu

By David Rodwin

Alumni, faculty, students, prospective applicants, friends — just about anyone, anywhere, who is interested in UB Law School can now easily access the information they want with a few computer clicks. Visit the new UB Law Web site at www.law.buffalo.edu and you will see that the school is moving forward with the lightning-fast changes of the Internet era. The layout is sleek and stylish, while the features are efficient and practical.

The site was designed by Rebecca Farnham, an art director in the UB office

of Creative Services. Her task was to integrate the look of the award-winning UB Law School catalog and other printed admissions materials with a new and elegant Web design. According to Professor Peter Pitegoff, chair of the Web Advisory Committee and vice dean for academic affairs, "The launch of the new Web site signals an ongoing process of expanding, updating and refining the Law School's Web presence and initiatives."

Features of the site include the capability to: apply online; e-mail faculty and

staff; make a gift; join the Law Alumni Association; apply for a job; view schedules, courses and calendars; view faculty accomplishments and research; read the latest press releases and newspaper articles; view photo books of classmates; register for reunions; update personal information; submit professional news to *Class Action*; read sections of *UB Law Forum*. The list goes on.

The information technology staff of the Law School, and in particular John Christensen and Wei Li, built the architecture of the site and implemented the design recommendations masterfully.

"John and Wei built a site that is accessible, fast and user-friendly," Pitegoff says. "They assured a substantive logic to the site map." Part of this logic was dividing up the many features of the Web site into different categories that are easily navigable from the home page. The structure of the new site is comparable to that of a pyramid, with each successive page detailing an increasingly specific set of information. However, the user constantly has the ability to jump to an entirely different topic quickly and easily.

Plans for the near future include the development of two password-protected areas within the site to serve specific constituencies: a comprehensive Alumni Community and a Law School portal system.

Law School is now wired and wireless

By David Rodwin

Ever wish you could look up a case, silently ask a classmate a question, or quickly locate statistics to support an argument for a discussion — in the middle of class? Now that UB Law School is wireless, students can do all these things, and more.

All 11 classrooms in O'Brian Hall are now Internet-ready, with a speed of 11 megabytes per second — similar to that of a cable modem. The Law School is the first on campus to have all of its classrooms wireless, and it sets a high standard in doing so. UB Law was recently ranked by *Jurist* magazine as the 23rd best wired of all law schools. Alexander Dzadur, assistant dean for educational technology and director of information technology services, says, "We

want our students to have access to the Internet from every point in the building."

In addition, in the largest lecture halls — Rooms 102, 104, 106, 107 and 108 — electrical outlets have been installed at each seat for plugging in laptops. Besides being wireless, Room 5 has a state-of-the-art electronic teaching station, including a desktop, monitor, an electronic projector for exhibiting to the class what is on the professor's computer, and a VCR.

The courtroom on the first floor is

**"We want our students to have access to the Internet from every point in the building."
— Alexander Dzadur, assistant dean for educational technology**

similarly equipped as wireless and electrical. The Web access point is hidden behind a panel in front of the judge to blend in with the decor. In the back of the courtroom, the judge's chambers and support-staff offices are wired and wireless-ready, with the intentional exception of the jury deliberation room. Professor Robert Reis, the faculty member who heads the Technology Committee for the Law School, sees the new wireless access as "a significant educational advancement." In his experience, it enables students to keep their class materials highly organized. "They can download the materials on the Web in an electronic format and then bring their laptops to class," he said. "They can then put their pop up notes and class notes right into the case and keep it all together."