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From Courtroom to Classroom: New Assistant Professor Focuses on Intellectual Property Law

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FROM COURTHOUSE TO CLASSROOM

New assistant professor focuses on intellectual property law

Bartholomew said, to implement a patent law clinic that would work with the University’s technology transfer office, which manages the commercialization of technology developed at the school. “It is a place where we can try a lot of new approaches,” he said. “We can tailor it to students. We do not have to follow a set pattern.”

Bartholomew is teaching a fall-semester course in Trademarks and Unfair Competition, and in the spring will teach a copyright course and a seminar on legal and cultural issues in cyberspace. Bartholomew grew up in South Bend, Ind., where both his parents were educators; his father was a professor at the local campus of Indiana University. “I am just very interested in education in general. I think I am hard-wired to see that as important,” he said. He got a taste of Western New York during his undergraduate work at Cornell University in Ithaca.

His wife, Christine, is also a lawyer; her telecommutes for her job doing anti-trust work for a California law firm. His wife, Christine, is also a lawyer; she telecommutes for her job doing anti-trust work for a California law firm. “I am not trained as a theologian,” she says. “I am not trained as a theologian.”

Sullivan’s most recent book is The Possibility of Religious Freedom (Princeton University Press, 2005). “There is a very real sense in which religious freedom is turning out to be impossible to realize, even in the United States,” she writes in the foreword to that book, which is built around a trial over whether a Florida cemetery could legally remove religious-themed memorial arrangements that families had placed on their loved ones’ graves in defiance of local cemetery regulations.

“Religion and law today speak in languages largely opaque to each other,” she says. “There is the tension between religion and public policy debates as abortion, homosexuality, cloning, and public policy is not new to our time. ‘There have always been such cases.’

During this fellowship year, she has conversed with 30 to 40 fellows working in various academic fields and worked on two books, with the hope of finishing one during the fellowship. Then she will come to Buffalo. Sullivan is familiar with Western New York, having done her undergraduate work at Cornell University in Ithaca.

There are a number of reasons why it is exciting to come to Buffalo, she said, citing the presence of O’Brian Hall of other faculty with academic interests in law and religion, as well as the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy. “Even in this age of the Internet, there’s nothing like face to face. The proximity to Canada is very interesting as well, with all sorts of possibilities for cross-border conversations. “This,” she says, “is an unusual law school that is open to interdisciplinary conversation.”