

# **2001-2002 Information Technology Vision Plan**

## **The University of Texas at Austin School of Law**

### **Computer Services Committee:**

Prof. John Dzienkowski, Chair

Assoc. Dean Alex Albright

Pat Floyd

Paul Goldman

Tim Guinn

Prof. Henry Hu

Edward Korompai

Dottie Lee

June Liebert

Dan Price

Brian Quigley

Prof. Anthony Reese

Asst. Dean Juan Zabala

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## ***Part I: Executive Summary***

The School of Law aims to incorporate the appropriate information technologies into its teaching and research missions by pursuing the following long-term goals:

- Improve student access to computing resources.
- Develop and deploy local online resources in support of the School of Law's instructional programs and student services.
- Provide the computing infrastructure to take advantage of new information technologies.
- Provide instructional support in the effective use of information technology by students, faculty, and staff.
- Enhance access to information resources available in and through the Jamail Center for Legal Research.

Fulfillment of these goals will be advanced through the following proposed projects:

- network connections for classrooms;
- multimedia projection facilities in large classrooms;
- closed-circuit television access for small classrooms/seminar rooms;
- course packet production and distribution on CD-ROM;
- computers for student organizations.

The proposed budget for these projects totals \$162,754.

## ***Part II: Goals and Objectives***

The School of Law is dedicated both to the professional training of future lawyers and to the study and advancement of law as an intellectual discipline. Its fundamental aims are to provide effective and inspiring teaching, to socialize students to ethical and professional norms, to engage in useful scholarship, to improve the formulation and administration of law, and to promote public service by lawyers.

In support of School's mission, the Computer Services Committee has established the following long-term goals:

- Improve student access to computing resources.
- Develop and deploy local online resources in support of the School of Law's instructional programs and student services.
- Provide the computing infrastructure to take advantage of new information technologies.
- Provide instructional support in the effective use of information technology by students, faculty, and staff.

- Enhance access to information resources available in and through the Jamail Center for Legal Research.

Significant progress towards realizing these objectives has been made. Among the new services recently made available to the Law School community:

- The opening of the John B. Connally Center for the Administration of Justice, with state-of-the-art video and audio capture and editing facilities, including a video conferencing facility.
- Purchase of 21 desktop computers for use by students involved in the Law School's clinical programs.
- Activation of a total of 66 public Ethernet ports in the Law School and Law Library for use by students with laptop computers.
- Development of Freshlaw Central, a Web presence designed to introduce new students to life at the Law School.
- Software updates in the Law Computer Learning Center, including deployment of Microsoft Office 2000.

### ***Part III: Facilities and Staffing***

Law students have access to the Computer Learning Center (CLC), a 82-workstation facility staffed and managed under contract with the Jamail Center for Legal Research by ACITS Departmental Services. The CLC is located in the Tarlton Law Library and is open 99 hours a week and staffed by one FTE facility manager and 3.65 FTE student proctors. A 26-station classroom is used for instruction in computer-assisted legal research, for Law School classes involving a computing component, and for one-on-one and group training sessions in the use of computer applications. The number of logins for the facility during FY 2000 averaged over 10,800 per month, an increase of 12% over the previous year. Students have access to a full array of desktop applications (Microsoft Office 2000, WordPerfect Suite 9), Internet applications (Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer, telnet, FTP, Usenet), and specialized legal research programs (Westlaw, LEXIS, CALI). One computer is configured for scanning applications. Desktop computers consist of Pentium IIs and IIIs (128 MB RAM, 10 GB hard drives, 450-600 MHz) running Windows NT. A Dell PowerEdge 2300 serves as the network server. Adaptive technology in the form of screen magnification and voice recognition software is also available on a single workstation.

Faculty and staff computing is administered by the Computer Information Center (CIC), staffed and managed under contract with the School of Law by ACITS Departmental Services. A staff of 4 FTEs support a network of over 300 PCs and Apple computers on a Novell Netware network. In addition to faculty and staff support, the CIC maintains computers located in student organizations and in law review offices.

Among Law School staff, one FTE is devoted to microcomputer applications, three FTE serve as media specialists, and two FTE perform system analysis. In the Jamail Center for Legal Research, one FTE serves as Electronic Resources Librarian and one librarian has administrative responsibility for the CLC, serves as liaison to ACITS, and has functional responsibility for the integrated library system.

Reorganization and reassignment of responsibilities within the Law School and the Law Library during the current year will consolidate and rationalize information technology management in the school. To this end, an Information Technology Department will be implemented to assume administrative oversight of all IT operations in the Law School. The Law School has also petitioned for approval of a new incidental student Instructional Technology Fee to provide funding for staffing and infrastructure to enhance existing instructional resources.

***Part IV: Proposed Projects***

**A. Academic instruction projects (ITAC eligible)**

**1. Network connections for classrooms.**

The use of presentation software is now an integral part of classroom instruction. The installation of a network connection at the front of each classroom and seminar room in the Law School would enable faculty to incorporate online presentations into the curriculum.

**Cost projection:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>No. of units</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
Wiring for classrooms and seminar rooms	22	\$75.	\$1,650.
Ethernet switch	1	\$2,000.	\$2,000.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$3,650.</b>

**2. Multimedia projection facilities in large classrooms.**

Multimedia projection facilities are not available in any of the large classrooms (those with a seating capacity in excess of 75) in the Law School. Installation of video and audio projection facilities, in conjunction with the networking project outlined above, will enhance the instructional experience for classes with high enrollments.

**Cost projection:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>No. of units</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
Ceiling-mounted LCD projector	7	\$7,000.	\$49,000.

Video cassette recorder	7	\$300.	\$2,100.
Audio amplifier	7	\$300.	\$1,750.
Audio speakers (pair)	7	\$250.	\$1,750.
Wireless microphone and transmitter	7	\$400.	\$2,800.
84" diagonal pull-down projection screen	7	\$115.	\$805.
Multimedia podium	7	\$1,600.	\$11,200.
Laptop computer	7	\$3,000.	\$21,000.
Installation and power supply	7	\$1,500.	\$10,500.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$100,905.</b>

### **3. Closed-circuit television access for small classrooms/seminar rooms.**

The Eidman Courtroom in the new Connally Center is used for actual civil and criminal trials to give students an opportunity to observe courtroom procedure. This project would equip five small classrooms and five seminar rooms with the facilities to remotely view proceedings in the Courtroom.

#### **Cost projection:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>No. of units</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
Wall mount	10	\$80.	\$800.
27" television monitors	10	\$400.	\$4,000.
Cable and electric installation	10	\$150.	\$1,500.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$6,300.</b>

### **4. Course packet production and distribution on CD-ROM.**

Course materials are currently photocopied and sold to students through the Law School Print Shop. Reproduction of these materials in paper involves high overhead which must be passed on to students to recoup costs. Distribution of these materials in a CD-ROM format would be more cost efficient and convenient for students.

#### **Cost projection:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>No. of units</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
CD-R to CD-R production copier	1	\$6,800.	\$6,800.
High-speed scanner	1	\$6,000.	\$6,000.
Desktop computer with CD-R drive	1	\$1,500.	\$1,500.
Adobe Acrobat license	1	\$99.	\$99.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$14,399.</b>

### **5. Computers for student organizations.**

Most student organizations in the Law School do not have adequate funding to replace their desktop computers as they go out of warranty. This project would initiate a three-year life cycle for all computers located in organization offices by replacing one-third of the desktops each year.

**Cost projection:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>No. of units</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
Desktop PC	25	\$1,500.	\$37,500.
TOTAL			\$37,500.

**B. Administrative/research areas (non-ITAC eligible)**

Administrative computing in the School of Law continues to be hampered by inadequate funding for upgrades and maintenance. Replacement of the main faculty/staff server and the Law School's e-mail server this year will significantly improve network stability.

Retrofitting an aging physical plant places additional demands on available funds. Type II cabling is present in many faculty and staff offices and must be replaced with Category 5 cable.

Installation of a pilot wireless network in the Law Library is planned for spring 2001. Additional access points may be installed depending on the success of the pilot.

## *Appendices*

### **1. Total IT summary expenditures for FY 2000.**

The School of Law did not receive a project funding allocation from the Information Technology Fee for FY 2000.

The Computer Learning Center operations are funded from an incidental fee paid by all law students. Effective with the fall 1999 semester, the fee was increased to \$134. per semester, generating \$362,277.

Expenditures were as follows:

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Facility management contract with ACITS	\$142,865.
Desktop computers	\$103,469.
Database subscription fees	\$93,456.
Public Ethernet port switches	\$7,979.
Network server	\$7,266.
Miscellaneous hardware	\$5,202.
Miscellaneous software licenses	\$2,040.

### **2. Infrastructure summary**

The shared 10MB Ethernet network serving the Computer Learning Center was upgraded to a 10/100Base-T switched network in November 2000 with the installation of four Cisco Catalyst 2924-XL switches.

Installation of a switched network for faculty/staff use is predicated on replacement of all Type II cabling.