

**School of Law  
Information Technology Vision Plan  
2002-2003**

Alex Wilson Albright  
Associate Dean for Students and Technology  
[aalbright@mail.law.utexas.edu](mailto:aalbright@mail.law.utexas.edu)  
512-232-1316

## Table of Contents

ITAC-Eligible Funding Request for FY 2003 .....	2
ITAC expenditures for 2000/01 & 2001/02.....	4
Infrastructure and services supported by local/special funds.....	5
Student access to computing resources—Computer Learning Center.....	5
Local online resources—Internet Initiatives.....	6
Computing infrastructure--CIC.....	6
Appendix 1: Network Status .....	8
Appendix 2: Computer Lab Status.....	9
Appendix 3: Classroom Technology Status .....	10
Appendix 4: Curriculum Innovation Status .....	11
Appendix 5: IT Personnel .....	12

## **ITAC-Eligible Funding Request for FY 2003**

**Multimedia Projection Facilities for 5 Large Classrooms** **\$200,000**

Currently, all classroom multimedia/audio/visual equipment is portable, requiring media services employees to move and set up equipment for each class. Moreover, we now do not have enough equipment to meet the steadily increasing demand for it. The Law School has seven classrooms with a seating capacity in excess of 75. Two of the largest classrooms will be refurbished during Summer 2002. Renovations will include installation of fixed multimedia equipment following campus-wide standards. Two other large classrooms will be refurbished in Summer 2003. We would also like to install the equipment in the three remaining large classrooms during Summer 2003. These classrooms do not need extensive remodeling.

Using the equipment and installation estimates provided by Kurt Bartelmehs for the Summer 2002 installation as a guide, we estimate \$40,000 per classroom.

**Network area storage server for student use** **\$15,000**

Law students do not have access to a file server for data storage and must rely on portable media for class-related document storage. The provision of reliable network storage will be a high priority in the coming year, driven in part by increasing expectations of incoming students.

**Network switch upgrade for Computer Learning Center** **\$3,000**

One 22-port switch serving the Computer Learning Center is nearing the end of its useful life and is in need of replacement.

**TOTAL REQUEST** **\$218,000**

## **ITAC expenditures for 2000/01 & 2001/02**

### **ITAC Expenditures for FY 2001 (\$60,197 recurring, \$140,000 one-time)**

In Fiscal Year 2001, our primary goal was to upgrade the Law School's technical infrastructure. The largest expenditure of ITAC funds was to purchase servers and desktop computers for the student-edited law journals, clinical instructional programs, and for the student computer lab (\$102,000). ITAC funds were also used to underwrite a portion of contract expenses with ITS Departmental Services to provide network support for the journals and clinics through the Computer Information Center (\$32,000). Additional ITAC funds were used to partially fund the salary of the Director of Internet Initiatives, who provides faculty support for instructional technology (\$28,000). The balance of the ITAC funds was used for recurring operational expenses for clinics and journals.

### **ITAC Expenditures for FY 2002 (\$63,000 recurring, \$114,000 one-time)**

In Fiscal Year 2002, we are spending substantially more resources on technology, and are currently engaged in a number of projects that are eligible for ITAC funding. The largest portion of this year's allocation will be spent for classroom technology installation in two large classrooms (\$53,000, plus installation). Wireless Ethernet connections are available in "Keeton's Casino," the Law School cafeteria area. Other public gathering areas have been surveyed and additional access points will be installed during the spring semester. Wired network connections for instructor use will be put in all classrooms by the end of the fiscal year. Finally, we plan to replace the desktops in the classroom portion of the student Computer Learning Center, and may use some ITAC funds for this project. The recurring portion of the allocation may be used to continue to fund salary for instructional technology staff, and the student network support as administered under contract with ITS Departmental Services.

## **Infrastructure and services supported by local/special funds**

In January 2001, the Law School Information Technology Department was created, bringing together networking and workstation support, database management, Web development, instructional technology and media services. In Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002, we expended significant efforts and funds to upgrade the Law School's technology infrastructure, which had been virtually ignored for many years. Until FY 2002, resources for information technology were limited to the ITAC allocation and a fee designated for support of the Law School student computer lab. In FY 2002, a technology fee was instituted for all law students, allowing us upgrade the technical infrastructure of the law school.

### **Funding**

Beginning with the Fall 2001 semester, all law students are assessed an Information Technology Fee of \$200 per student per semester. With approximately 1430 students, this fee provides \$572,000 for the IT budget. Law students also pay a Computer Learning Center Services and Automation fee of \$130 per semester (\$30 per summer session) that supports the Computer Learning Center, the student computer lab and classroom located in the Law Library, generating approximately \$377,000. annually. The state-funded construction budget for the John B. Connally Center for the Administration of Justice contained a \$500,000 allocation for audio-visual equipment. This equipment was purchased during Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001.

### **Infrastructure and Services**

The IT Department is managed by the Associate Dean for Students and Technology. This department was created in January 2001. There are four different offices that make up the department:

1. Internet Initiatives—database services, web services and instructional technology
2. Media Services—audio visual services and instructional support
3. Computer Information Center—networking, file-sharing, and desktop services
4. Computer Learning Center—student lab and computing classroom, located in the Law Library.

Since January 2001, staff has spent significant resources and time evaluating the existing infrastructure, which had been neglected for at least 5 years, and replacing aging systems and equipment. Much of our faculty/staff infrastructure simply was no longer working—for example, during the examination period of May 2000, our primary faculty/staff server crashed. We say we have been conducting triage over the last year, and it continues. The following lists the changes made from January 2001 through August 2002.

#### **Student access to computing resources—Computer Learning Center**

- Law students have access to the Computer Learning Center, an 82-workstation facility. The computers are replaced every three years, and in FY 2002 the one third of the workstations will be replaced and the facility remodeled with ergonomically correct furniture.

- 6 laptops are available for 24-hour loan periods to law students.
- 56 public Ethernet ports are available for student use throughout the law school. Wireless Ethernet is currently available in the Reserve Room of the Law Library and Keeton's Casino, and will be extended to virtually all public areas of the law school by the end of FY 2002.
- The Law School allows students to take in-school exams on personal laptops through the use of ExamSoft software. Each student that uses the software pays an annual \$35 license fee to ExamSoft.
- We participate in the Business School's laptop purchase initiative, by which our students can purchase a laptop computer with a 3-year on-site warranty at substantial discount.
- All students are eligible to receive one copy of Microsoft Office media to for install on their personal computers, and one Zip disk for storage.
- For FY 2003 and following, we seek to provide more support for students. We will work with the students to identify their needs. We are considering enhanced training, providing a student access to a server for file storage, and providing limited on-site support for student-owned laptops.

#### **Local online resources—Internet Initiatives**

- A complete redesign of the Law School web site was unveiled in August 2001. Traffic increased from peak of 14,000 hits per week a year ago to over 25,000 hits per week.
- An online Law School events calendar was made available in August 2001
- Law Central is an online suite of administrative services for students, faculty and staff and includes online course registration, grade checking, and access to the Law School student directory. One component of Law Central is a communications vehicle called Law Mail, which allows student organizations to easily communicate with their members via email. We have many projects waiting in line to be included in Law Central, which will continue for the next several years. As developments allow, we are moving Law Central applications from its current host on dpweb to UTDirect.
- Freshlaw Central was developed to provide information via the Internet for first –year law students.

#### **Computing infrastructure--CIC**

- In FY 2001 and 2002, we significantly upgraded our network infrastructure
  - Replaced existing primary faculty/staff network server
  - Upgraded network software to the most current version of Novell Netware
  - Replaced student journal network server
  - Purchased a network server and desktops for the clinical instruction programs
  - Upgraded existing Type II cable with Cat 5e cable throughout the Law School
  - Installed network switches in all closets with new patch panels
  - Installed new e-mail server for faculty/staff
- Replaced significant numbers of new workstations, with plans to initiate a three-to-four year life cycle for faculty (participating in FCI and CLI), staff, student journals

and clinics. Replaced computers from the student computer lab will cascade to student organizations.

- Began implementation of a single platform policy, with all administrative offices moving from Macs to PC for better utilization of resources
- Provided additional applications training to staff and faculty. An applications specialist position was added to CIC, and 70 licenses for on-line training pilot project purchased.

#### **Instructional support—Media Services and Internet Initiatives**

- Network connections for all classrooms in FY 2002
- Multimedia equipment installed in large classrooms—2 planned for FY 2002, and 5 for FY 2003. Long term plan includes refurbishing auditorium and installing some multimedia equipment in smaller classrooms
- 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
- Wired Ethernet access at each of 60 seats in the Jeffers Courtroom, a classroom and courtroom facility
- Purchased multimedia workstation and a high-volume scanner for faculty use
- Purchased multiple CD burner to allow course packet distribution on CD-ROM
- Media Services department with 4 employees available to produce video for classes and web. This department also sets up portable AV equipment in classrooms.
- Instructional Technology Team (collaboration of Internet Initiatives, Media Services and Library) is available to help faculty with multimedia presentations (including video) and curriculum development utilizing technology. After infrastructure upgrade and equipment installed in classrooms, we plan to expand these projects.
- Purchased adaptive technology equipment
- Evaluating the Web site for ADA compliance

#### **Access to information resources—Law Library and CLC**

- Subscribe to numerous on-line databases, including LEXIS and Westlaw
- In collaboration with the General Libraries, installed proxy server for off-site access to Web-based database subscriptions
- Installed additional UTLOL stations in library (from 6 to 9)

## Appendix 1: Network Status

Over the past twelve months, the IT Department has made a concerted effort to replace all Type II cabling in the Law School with Category 5e cable, and to upgrade to a switched network. We have replaced almost all hubs in the network closets with Cisco Catalyst 2900 series network switches. The project should be finished by March 2002.

Faculty and staff computing is administered by the Computer Information Center (CIC), staffed and managed under contract by ITS Departmental Services. A staff of 5 FTEs supports a network of over 300 Dell and Apple computers on a Novell Netware 5.0 network (upgraded 9/2001). The CIC also supports student computers located in student organization, clinic, and law review offices, and supports networking and file-sharing services for these computers.

CIC supports the following Dell PowerEdge servers (except MACS):

- SERVICES—running NIMS for email services, using both POP and IMAP protocols (installed 1/2002)
- QDT—main faculty/staff server for PCs (installed 9/2001)
- MACS—for faculty/staff Apple computers (will be retired when we achieve single platform)
- LIBRARY—for library staff (installed 1998)
- JOURNALS—for student journals and organizations (installed 9/2000)
- CLINICS—for clinics (installed 9/2000)
- FILEMAKER—for shared databases (to be installed 3/2002)

Student computing through the Computer Learning Center (student computer lab) is staffed and managed under contract by ITS Departmental Services. A staff of one FTE facility manager, 0.25 FTE lab technician and 3.65 FTE student proctors support the classroom and lab. The CLC runs one Dell PowerEdge server (installed 1/1999) running Windows NT.

## **Appendix 2: Computer Lab Status**

Law students have access to the Computer Learning Center (CLC), an 82-station workstation facility located in the Law Library. The facility is managed under contract with the Jamail Center for Legal Research by ITS Departmental Services. The CLC is open 99 hours a week, and is staffed by one FTE facility manager and 3.65 FTE student proctors. Access to the facility is limited to law students. Students have access to a full array of desktop applications (Microsoft Office 2000, WordPerfect Suite 2002), 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 Dell OptiPlex GX1p (128 MB RAM, 10 GB hard drives, 600 MHz) and GX240 (512 MB RAM, 40 GB hard drives, 1.7 GHz) and running Windows 98. A Dell PowerEdge 2300 serves as the network server.

### **Appendix 3: Classroom Technology Status**

The Computer Learning Center in the Law Library contains a 26-station classroom used for instruction in computer-assisted legal research, for Law School classes containing a computing component, and for one-on-one and group training sessions in the use of computer applications. Classroom desktops were replaced in January 2002 and ergonomic furniture is scheduled for installation during the summer of 2002.

The Jeffers Courtroom is a 60-seat classroom with wired Ethernet ports at each seat. The classroom is set up as a courtroom for mock trials and moot court presentations, with four remote controlled studio cameras for videotaping.

The John B. Connally Center for the Administration of Justice (CCJ), which opened Fall 2000, has a fully functioning courtroom, occasionally used by the local state and federal courts. The courtroom contains state-of-the-art video equipment for recording trials, mock trials, moot court, and other presentations. The building also contains a distance learning classroom, practice courtrooms, a mediation/negotiation room, and an incredible array of video production equipment.

The Law School faculty uses the CCJ equipment and facilities for a number of classes, including trial advocacy classes. However, because of the lack of permanent projection equipment in other Law School classrooms, we have not been able to take full advantage of its production capabilities. Currently, we use a limited number of portable projection equipment in classrooms, which the Media Services Department relocates between classes. As of Spring 2002, we do not have enough portable equipment to meet the demand. Two large classrooms will have permanent multimedia facilities in Fall 2002.

## **Appendix 4: Curriculum Innovation Status**

Blackboard is slowly being integrated into Law School courses and is currently in use in over 30 courses. This year, we began training all first year students how to use Blackboard and implemented it into our required Teaching Quizmasters program for all first years must participate. One of our lecturers is also using Blackboard to teach a small research class almost entirely online.

We use a Web-based, on-line tutorial to teach students how to use Westlaw and LEXIS, two computer-assisted legal research services. The tutorial, which was created by the Law Library and the Internet Initiatives group, teaches students the basics of Boolean searching, navigation, and printing using Westlaw and LEXIS. All first year students are required to complete the tutorial in January as part of a legal research course.

Video conferencing is now available in the Law School, and we hope to encourage law professors to begin using it to bring in guest speakers into their classes. We are also investigating the possibility of distance education through video conferencing.

There are several law courses about technology where faculty make innovative uses of technology. Among them are:

- "Digital Evidence: Investigations, Computer Systems Audits and Forensics"
- "Advocacy Practice and Theory for the New Millennium"
- "Intellectual Property in Cyberspace"
- "Cyberlaw"
- "Free Speech and the Internet"
- "Internet Business"

## Appendix 5: IT Personnel

### Funded from IT Budget

Salaries: \$180,000 (some IT salaries are funded partially from other lines—i.e. teaching, administrative, and library)

Departmental Services Contracts:

CIC \$280,000

CLE \$127,051

### Personnel:

Associate Dean (1/2 time)

Director of Information and Technical Services

Director of Internet Initiatives

Senior Systems Analyst (ACS Database Management)

Info. Analyst—Trainee (ACS Database Management)

Info. Analyst—Trainee (ACS Database Management)

Info. Analyst (Web)

Info. Analyst (Web)

Student Assistants

Director of Media Services (RTF IV)

RTF IV

RTF III

Admin. Asst.

Media Temps

Departmental Services

CIC: Senior Systems Analyst

Systems Analyst

Computer Programmer

Computer Programmer

Applications Specialist

CLC: Programmer

Student Assistants (3.65 FTE)

Systems Analyst (0.25 FTE)