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## LEXIS Underwrites Major International Conference on Law in a Wired Society

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UNIVERSITY of



DAYTON

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## NEWS RELEASE

### LEXIS UNDERWRITES MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAW IN A WIRED SOCIETY

DAYTON, Ohio — Legal publishing giant LEXIS is teaming up with the University of Dayton's School of Law to convene a think tank next spring to explore emerging issues for lawyers' changing roles in a wired society.

The international conference, "The Law in a Wired Society: The Information Revolution and the Evolution of Law," supported by \$265,000 in financial and in-kind support from LEXIS, is slated for March 15-17, 2001, on campus. It's part of a series of events celebrating UD's sesquicentennial. The symposium will be moderated by Deborah Amos, ABC News correspondent and former London-based National Public Radio correspondent. Fittingly enough, it will be broadcast live over the Internet.

LEXIS, which created the lexis.com research system, sees the conference as a means of promoting genuine dialogue among a broad range of legal professionals on the practice of law in a dot-com age.

"LEXIS is very pleased to be working with the University of Dayton School of Law in support of this conference as a catalyst for the discussion of law and technology. Just as the law is a product of ancient roots, it is also shaped by modern media — both wired and wireless — that are vastly extending legal research and practice. We believe that the conference will break new ground in how lawyers view technology and their profession," said Lou Andreozzi, LEXIS president and CEO.

The conference won't feature lawyers talking to one another. Instead, law professor and conference coordinator Laurence Wohl has invited experts from legal and non-legal professions from around the world to discuss human adaptability to rapidly developing information

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technologies. A few of the questions to be explored: How will public access to legal information affect the lawyer's traditional role in society? Will the value of a lawyer's knowledge become more or less important in filtering the vast amount of legal information available to the public? Given human limitations, how can cyberinformation be both useful and unbiased?

UD and LEXIS organizers are still shaping the symposium, but the preliminary list of panel members includes David Mathews, president of the Kettering Foundation and author of *Politics for People*; Martha W. Barnett, incoming president of the American Bar Association; Dianna P. Kempe, representing the International Bar Association; Keith Devlin, author of *Infosense: Turning Information Into Knowledge*; professor Janet H. Murray, director of the Laboratory for Advanced Computing Initiatives at Georgia Institute of Technology; Paul Duguid, co-author with John Seely Brown of *The Social Life of Information*; and Fredric Lederer, professor of law at the College of William and Mary and director of its wired courtroom project, Courtroom 21.

"This is not a conventional technology conference," Wohl said. "Law is an integral part of how communities relate to one another. This technology impacts the way communities understand each other."

The conference is expected to attract approximately 175 lawyers, judges and law students. For more information, send an e-mail to [wohl@udayton.edu](mailto:wohl@udayton.edu). UD and LEXIS will set up an interactive Web site, accessible through [www.law.udayton.edu/](http://www.law.udayton.edu/), where people can discuss the issues before and after the symposium.

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The University of Dayton School of Law is housed in Joseph E. Keller Hall, one of the 10 most wired law schools in the country, according to *National Jurist* magazine.

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For media interviews, contact **Larry Wohl** at (937) 229-3213 and leave a message or e-mail [wohl@udayton.edu](mailto:wohl@udayton.edu). Contact **Mark Feighery** in the LEXIS public relations office at (937) 865-1057.