

12-10-1998

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Recommended Citation

"UD Law School Named to Top 10 on List of Most Wired in the Nation" (1998). *News Releases*. 8717.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/8717

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**UD LAW SCHOOL NAMED TO TOP 10
ON LIST OF MOST WIRED IN THE NATION**

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton School of Law is one of the top 10 most wired law schools in the nation, according to *National Jurist* magazine.

The magazine surveyed more than 140 law schools on use of technology in registration and student services, computer access within the school and the use of computers in class. The magazine's rankings, published in its November edition, placed the University of Dayton School of Law at No. 8.

UD's School of Law beat out top law schools such as Columbia University and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (tied at No.13) and University of Pennsylvania (No. 20), as well as the University of Richmond (No. 9), one of a handful of schools that require students to own laptops.

"I think it's an exciting affirmation of the role we think technology is playing in our law school," said Fran Conte, dean of the School of Law. "Technology is a way for faculty to engage students much more substantially in terms of access to resources, research materials and discussions. For us, the use of technology, particularly with laptops, is a means of educating students and providing them with a tool they'll need as lawyers in the 21st century."

The ranking comes as no surprise to students and professors at the law school, who have incorporated computers into every aspect of learning since the school moved into its new building, Joseph E. Keller Hall, in 1997, Conte said.

With 1,400 data network outlets, 400 miles of wiring and a 'paperless' courtroom, Keller Hall is one of the most technologically sophisticated law schools in the country. From any seat in the brick-and-limestone building, students can connect laptops at their desk to the University's network, the Internet, course syllabi, assignments and legal databases.

Professors, too, have taken advantage of the school's ample technological resources. Two UD law professors won national awards this year for their use of the computer in their courses: Lori Shaw won The West Education Network Award for Innovations in Teaching for her creative use of the network's Internet-based legal education network. Professor Vernellia Randall was a runner-up in the competition.

Shaw uses the network to post readings, assignments and exercises online. Using Shaw's site, students can jump directly from a syllabus to an assigned case in Westlaw, follow links

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from a study guide to statutes and move from research site to research site — all with the click of a mouse. Shaw's students also used the site to ask questions at all hours of the day; Shaw checked her e-mail and posted responses every morning and every night before going to bed.

Another law professor, Susan Brenner, conducted an online cybercrime course this semester to explore the growing problem of computer-related crime. As they developed a model state computer crimes code, students consulted lawyers, federal prosecutors and computer crime investigators around the country via online discussion groups.

"The use of technology broadens the experience students get in a classroom," said Maria Crist, an instructor in the school's legal research and writing program. "In terms of communication, it allows you to have more discussion with students in a way that allows everyone to see questions and hear responses. It extends the fairness of discussion, because everyone has access to it."

UD's law students learn to incorporate technology into their courtroom performances as well. UD's Mathias H. Heck Courtroom is equipped with an elaborate computer system to accommodate paperless trials, in which all documents and evidence may be presented to the judge and jury on computer screens.

And, with the law school's new admissions Web site (<http://www.law.udayton.edu>), prospective students can apply for admission entirely online and avoid the \$40 application fee. The site also includes general information about the law school, links to course syllabi and faculty Web pages, a virtual tour of Keller Hall and information on financial aid.

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For media interviews about technology at the University of Dayton School of Law, contact **Fran Conte** at (937) 229-3795 or via e-mail at conte@odo.law.udayton.edu, **Jack Cox** at (937) 229-3671 or via e-mail at cox@odo.law.udayton.edu, and **Maria Crist** (937) 229-3050 or via e-mail at crist@odo.law.udayton.edu.