When we invited your school's participation in our distance learning courses for 2000-2001, we noted that we would be conducting a distance learning workshop at the year's conclusion and that participating schools would have a privileged place at the table. As we are about to distribute the following workshop announcement to law schools and law faculty generally, I wanted to remind you that if there is someone on your faculty interested in attending, a place is assured.

Would you pass this along to any of your faculty who might be interested?

Peter W. Martin

LII DISTANCE LEARNING WORKSHOP (June 2001)

During the current academic year Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute has conducted two on-line law courses for students enrolled at other law schools. Our fall term "Introduction to Copyright Law" course was taken by 100 students at Chicago-Kent, the University of Kansas, Seattle University, and Vermont Law School. This term 60 students at Arizona State, Chicago-Kent, Rutgers (Camden) and Rutgers (Newark) are learning about Social Security Law.

Both courses employ distance learning methodologies that faculty members at other law schools are exploring: streaming audio linked to Web pages, Web-based interactive exercises, on-line submission of student written work, discussion carried on by means of an asynchronous conferencing environment, plus administrative systems supporting and managing all of the above. (Significantly they incorporate no costly video conferencing.) *

Eager to share our experience and learn from the work of others in this rapidly developing field, we are organizing a week-long workshop on Distance Learning in Law for this coming June. Scheduled for June 24-29, immediately following the CALI conference, it will take place at the Cornell Law School, in Ithaca, NY.

This will be a true workshop in the sense that all participants will be individuals or groups who are themselves actively engaged in planning, designing, or creating distance learning courses (or major computer mediated components for classroom-anchored courses) in law. As distinguished from the numerous recent conferences on distance learning, this workshop will not invite debate about whether greater use of digital technology in support of legal education is desirable or how accreditation standards should be revised to permit it. Nor will it provide an opportunity for administrators to compare business plans or vendors to hawk their wares. The emphasis throughout will be on the perplexing choices that those creating on-line courses or course modules must make. These include issues of instructional design, technology alternatives (both categorical, e.g., streaming audio versus video, and practical, i.e., whether to buy, bundle or build key components), software options, as well as maintenance and other life cycle matters.

Attendance will be limited. We only have work space and accommodations for 24. Anyone interested in participating should send a statement of interest by e-mail to workshop01@lii.law.cornell.edu. Prospective participants should identify themselves and provide a brief description of their projects in terms of content, context, and contemplated technology. We would welcome project teams that include both a faculty member responsible for content and a technology collaborator. While the workshop will not dwell on technical issues per se, attendees who lack familiarity with their institutional technology resources and options will not be able to draw maximum benefit from the exchange. Where that knowledge lies with another, we would encourage both to come.

Costs: Participants will be responsible for their own food and hotel costs.

We will begin looking at project descriptions at the end of March, aiming to select a useful diversity of participants and projects, and we will continue to receive and review statements of interest until the workshop is full.

Questions about any of this should be addressed to: martin@lii.law.cornell.edu or trb2@cornell.edu

Peter W. Martin and Thomas R. Bruce
Co-Directors
Legal Information Institute

* A 20 minute presentation on the LII's 2000-2001 courses delivered (at a distance) to last year's CALI Conference is to be found at: http://www.law.cornell.edu/background/distance/cali00.htm A student's eye view of the current offering can be obtained by exploring its Website: http://www.law.cornell.edu/socsec/spring01/

All of the "welcome" and "how to" material on the first page and the course introduction at the top of the syllabus are accessible without a password.