

Cornell Law School
Legal Information Institute

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April 25, 1994

Roger M. Cooper
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Justice Management Division
10th and Constitution Ave., NW, Room 1121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Cooper:

I am sending you the enclosed material at the suggestion of Ms. Kathy Larson on the Systems Policy Staff whom I met at a "summit meeting" on electronic law publishing sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries in Chicago earlier this month.

The Cornell Law Forum article (pp. 2-6) describes an electronic publishing activity we have launched Cornell. One of the exciting developments (exciting as I see it, threatening no doubt from the perspective of some others) is that the barriers are now so low that many more entities, both profit driven and not-for-profit, are finding roles in distributing and adding value to legal information. If I may, I would ask that you help your colleagues at Justice and elsewhere in the public sector remember our Institute if not individually at least as a new type of player that can and should be thought about in connection with public information policy. The decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, archived on the Internet since 1990, have received significant new use through our hypertext front-end and associated searchable index and the e-mail bulletin and retrieval service we run.

While these and other Internet services we provide have value for U.S. lawyers, they have been even more swiftly embraced by those who are not targets of commercial services -- students in high school and college and those who teach them, managers, professionals and government workers in fields heavily affected by law, and a diversity of users outside the United States.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Martin