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**To:** FACULTY  
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**Subject:** LII Update - Course Materials, Casenotes, Students

Several initiatives of the Legal Information Institute outlined in our report of last June are now ready for your inspection, use, and comment.

## **1. Materials**

The LII's electronic course supplements (not casebooks but core documents for important courses focused on codes, treaties, and rules, e.g., the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Evidence, the U.C.C., GATT, the A.P.A.) are now, for the first time, available for Internet purchase and downloading. Available in both FOLIO Views and word-processing format, these materials (which you all can access and use via the Legal Views program group on your Windows desktop) have in the past been sold on disk to law schools, individual students, and law firms. Selling and delivering via the Internet allows us to drop the price to \$5 per title and largely rid ourselves of the burdens of storing and shipping disks. Building the new system required us to surmount a goodly number of technological hurdles and to obtain certification permitting the LII to run a "secure" server doing encrypted credit card transactions. Those curious to know more can click on the link to "hypertext law materials on disk" on the LII's home page. (You should have no difficulty backing out before you've made a purchase.)

Also new this fall is the LII's CD-ROM Collection of 325 Historic Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. This collection is accessible at our Internet site, where it alone is being used by approximately 1500 individuals a day. (To review the collection, you need simply follow the link on the LII page to "historic decisions.") The CD-ROM is being sold (for \$25) to college and high school teachers, libraries, and wide variety of individuals. The initial response has been very positive. Like the LII's course supplements, this CD-ROM was designed with features that make it a kind of educational resource that no digital clone of a print casebook can be. On the other hand, it competes aggressively with print materials on their own turf, for it has the capacity to deliver high quality print on demand.

## **II. Casenotes**

The liibulletin-ny has entered its second year. The editors, some 30 strong, under the leadership of Kathryn Becker, Quentin Faust, and Reese Solberg, will this week release their second round of commentary on important decisions of the New York Court of Appeal. These casenotes, focusing on decisions handed down no more than two weeks ago, will be distributed in bulletin format by e-mail to over 1400 subscribing lawyers, judges, journalists, and others. They will also be published at the LII Web site as hypertext headnotes to the decisions. And this week, we'll be announcing a third distribution path -- namely, fax -- for those who don't have access to external e-mail (true of most of the state's judges). This new form of delivery will be implemented with a database-driven fax system created by the LII.

### **III. Students**

Casebooks on disk and students with laptops are growing ever more numerous. The LII's report on these intertwined phenomena based on close study of the 100 first year students in Chicago-Kent's "computer section" received wide dissemination this fall, following its mention on the "lawprof" list. Those who have not seen the report, and would like to, will find a small stack of copies in the faculty lounge.

The LII's experimental course taught via the Internet to students at Cornell and three other law schools (Chicago-Kent, Colorado, and Kansas) is now well underway. Anyone wanting more details will find some at:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/ecourse/index.htm>

Tom Bruce & Peter Martin