

Memorandum

To: The Faculty
From: Faculty Workshop Committee
Date: November 4, 1999
Subject: Launching the Cornell Law School/LII Working Paper Series

At the request of the dean, our committee explored the creation of a Cornell Law School working paper - journal article database with Tom Bruce and Peter Martin. That exploration led to the following three-part plan, which we propose implementing as rapidly as possible.

Stage 1 - Papers to Be Presented at Cornell Law School Faculty Workshops

We shall begin asking those who lead faculty workshops to provide a word-processing file along with the print version of their paper. Papers submitted in electronic format will be converted to PDF by the LII and placed in a database accessible via the Internet. (The PDF format means that all formatting will be preserved so that whether viewed or printed the file will replicate the original.) If the author wishes access to the work will be limited to individuals either 1) accessing the site from within Myron Taylor Hall, or 2) supplying a generic password that will be the same for all users and all "restricted" works. However, unless the author requests such a restriction the work will be available to anyone accessing the site from any location. In addition, unless authors indicate otherwise papers in this workshop collection will be taken down at the end of the academic year.

Stage 2 - Other Works in Progress of Cornell Law School Faculty

The working paper database would also be available to faculty works in progress not being presented in workshop here. Timing of submission as well as range and duration of access (see above) would be up to the author. As soon as the process in support of the workshop is in place, all members of the faculty will receive an invitation to contribute with instructions on how to do so.

Stage 3- Archive of Published Articles

A third ingredient of the database would be published articles not otherwise available on the Net

How This Relates to the Legal Scholarship Network

Many of you have seen notices from the commercial electronic publishing venture directed by Polinsky and Gilson known as the Legal Scholarship Network or LSN (which is a subset of a larger enterprise, Social Science Electronic Publishing, Inc.). LSN offers law schools distribution of faculty working papers in two distinct categories of scholarship, currently Law and Economics and Public Law and Legal Theory. For this service, it charges a to institutions supplying the working papers. LSN also offers a growing array of electronic journals in fields from administrative law through health law and policy to Torts, Product Liability and Insurance Law.

Comment [TB1]: To the submitter or to the reader or both?

Our three stage plan meets institutional needs that LSN does not address -- e.g., circulation of papers in advance of our Friday workshops. It provides for working paper distribution in support of the entire

May 4, 2015

faculty rather than those working in particular fields and takes advantage of the LII's expertise. Importantly, it establishes a visible collection of Cornell scholarship without reducing the options available to any individual faculty member. Inclusion of a work in progress in this law school database would not be at all inconsistent with submitting it in abstract form to one of the LSN journals or any other publication, electronic or print, not insisting on exclusive rights.

Formats

We intend to request submissions in word-processing format and publish in PDF because at the moment it represents the best result for the least marginal cost. Anyone wishing to submit their own material in HTML format (which admits richer linking and searching possibilities) is certainly welcome to do so.