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—Eric S. Janus, president and dean

## Centers and institutes bring new focus to critical areas of law

To focus faculty scholarship, spur collaboration between legal education and the profession, and continue its tradition of innovative teaching, William Mitchell has announced plans for three new academic centers in critical areas of the legal profession.

The law school has launched the Intellectual Property Institute and the Center for Negotiation and Justice. Early in 2008, the college will introduce the Center for Elder Justice and Policy. These three exciting ventures join William Mitchell’s already established centers: the Rosalie Wahl Legal Practice Center, Tobacco Law Center, and National Security Forum.

“By forming these new centers and institute, William Mitchell continues its long-standing tradition of pioneering legal education and scholarship,” says President and Dean Eric S. Janus. “Intellectual property, negotiation, and elder justice are fast-growing areas of law that require skilled lawyers and groundbreaking research. We are confident in the ability of our talented faculty to make significant contributions to the body of knowledge in each of these arenas.”

William Mitchell’s current centers and institutes focus on legal practice skills, tobacco law, and national security. The activities of each of these established centers have drawn national recognition to William Mitchell, and Janus believes the new centers and institute will bring further recognition to the college.

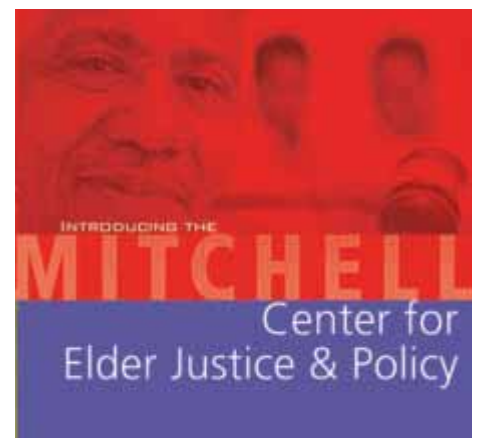
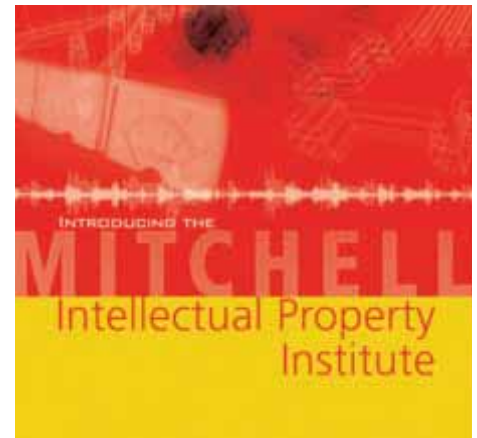
Here is a look at what is planned for the three new centers and institute.

**The Intellectual Property Institute**, directed by Professor Kenneth Port, will focus on fostering and protecting innovation on a global scale. Plans are under way to offer an LL.M. degree in intellectual property law and to create a clinic in which students will represent clients pro bono in intellectual property matters.

**The Center for Negotiation and Justice** is a collaboration between Professors Nancy Ver Steegh and Christine Ver Ploeg and the Alignor Group, a Minneapolis-based firm known worldwide for its training of lawyers, judges, and others in the legal community in negotiation. The center will include courses for law school students and the legal community in negotiation, incorporating outreach to the Twin Cities and other communities worldwide.

**The Center for Elder Justice and Policy**, led by Professor A. Kimberley Dayton, will facilitate teaching and research about aging issues and the rights of society’s elderly population. It will also serve Minnesota’s and the nation’s community of senior citizens and their advocates.

*Mitchell on Law* will continue to cover the groundbreaking work of Mitchell’s centers and institute in future issues.



## Behind the Freedom to Breathe Act

**The Tobacco Law Center at William Mitchell College of Law has provided Minnesota towns with the legal advice to enact solid nonsmoking ordinances. As of Oct. 1, 2007, its work went statewide.**

By Joe Tougas

A small group of lawyers at the Tobacco Law Center at William Mitchell College of Law is the legal brains behind the legislation that became the Freedom to Breathe Act, a sweeping new law that eliminated smoking in all Minnesota workplaces, including bars and restaurants.

With each step toward the new law — including 19 committee hearings and debates — the Tobacco Law Center was the go-to legal resource for the lawmakers and public health officials who needed expert advice and often needed it quickly. The center accomplished this without lobbying (the center is not a lobbying group) or even meeting with the lawmakers face to face.

### They've had practice

The Tobacco Law Center was created in 2000 as the result of the state's settlement with "Big Tobacco" companies. It never had a formal mission statement, yet its mission was clear from the start — to provide legal expertise to local communities seeking to enact non-smoking laws. And to date, nearly every local nonsmoking ordinance enacted in Minnesota has had representatives from the center in its corner, providing legal expertise behind the often volatile scenes.

In its seven years, the growth of the Tobacco Law Center has been remarkable. When it began at William

Mitchell, the center consisted of one attorney, Doug Blanke, and one support staff person. It had an initial budget of about \$150,000. Today, with funding coming through charitable and foundation grants, the center has seven attorneys — led by Blanke — and a budget of more than \$1 million.

In advance of the 2007 legislative session, the Tobacco Law Center was approached by a coalition of health groups, including the American Lung Association, Blue



**Tobacco Law Center staff, from left, Kerry Cork '99, Doug Blanke, Julie Ralston Aoki, Warren Ortland '04, Susan Weisman '80, Mike Freiberg '05, Maggie Mahoney '01**

Cross/Blue Shield, and the American Cancer Society to draft the Freedom to Breathe Act. The proposal endured a legislative workout like few others — 109 amendments debated in the course of 19 legislative hearings, some of which lasted longer than eight hours.

"In theory, every one of those hearings is a sudden death playoff," Blanke said. "You have to get a majority vote in every committee to pass out of that committee and get to the next one. For four or five months, it was like sudden death to get to the next committee."

Now that the Act is law, the center is bracing for the inevitable legal challenges, most likely from the hospitality industry. But staff say their work is on solid ground both legally and socially.

**The  
Princeton  
Review**



**WILLIAM MITCHELL**  
COLLEGE OF LAW

## William Mitchell named one of nation's top schools for older students

The Princeton Review ranked William Mitchell number five in the nation for "Most Welcoming of Older Students." The ranking is based on institutional data from schools and on surveys of 18,000 students attending the 170 schools profiled.

## In the News



### Four corporate and education professionals join board of trustees

William Mitchell College of Law has named four new members to its 30-member board of trustees: (above, from left) **Lynn M. Anderson '80**, **Mary C. Cade '77**, **Stephen R. Lewis Jr.**, and **William A. Van Brunt**.

**Anderson** is executive vice president and general counsel of Holiday Companies. Prior to Holiday, she was a partner at Lindquist & Vennum in Minneapolis. **Cade** is vice president and senior counsel for Medtronic Inc., which she

joined in 1996 after spending 10 years as a civil litigator in private practice in Minneapolis. **Lewis** is president emeritus and professor of economics at Carleton College. He served as Carleton's president from 1987 to 2002. **Van Brunt** is executive vice president of Carlson Companies, having joined the company in 2000 as senior vice president and general counsel after 17 years at General Mills. These four new members replace four members whose terms expired.

### Professor Niels Schaumann named vice dean for faculty



**Professor Niels B. Schaumann** has been named vice dean for faculty.

"I have great respect for Niels' teaching, scholarship, and service, as well as his knowledge and judgment about William Mitchell College of Law and legal education in general," President and Dean Eric S. Janus said. "He is a leader among the faculty and will be a key contributor in continuing the college's forward momentum."

Schaumann joined the William Mitchell faculty in 1989. He has been a key participant in developing the college's intellectual property program, focusing much of his teaching and research on copyright law. He also teaches in the areas of corporate and securities law.

### Legal Research Tips from the Mitchell Reference Librarians

### Mitchell Librarians Tame the Wild, Wild Web Free Internet Research Sources

Many valuable and free legal research resources are available on the Internet. However, it can be a daunting experience trying to locate a reliable and useful source. Next time you are trying to locate a free resource on the Internet, instead of wading through pages of Google or Yahoo search results, start with the Free Internet Research Sources (FIRS) page on the William Mitchell Library Web site ([www.wmitchell.edu/resources/](http://www.wmitchell.edu/resources/)).

The FIRS pages are created and continually updated by Mitchell reference librarians. The material is organized so that you can easily locate the type of resource you need.

In addition to links to primary legal sources, there are also links to research guides and other secondary sources for those times when you need to educate (or re-educate) yourself on a particular legal topic. Non-legal news, business, and technology resources are also included.

Please feel free to visit and bookmark our FIRS page. We hope it helps you be a cost-effective and informed researcher!

**Debby Hackerson '96**, Reference Librarian <<  
William Mitchell College of Law  
Warren E. Burger Library