

Thurgood Marshall Law Library Launches Research Port

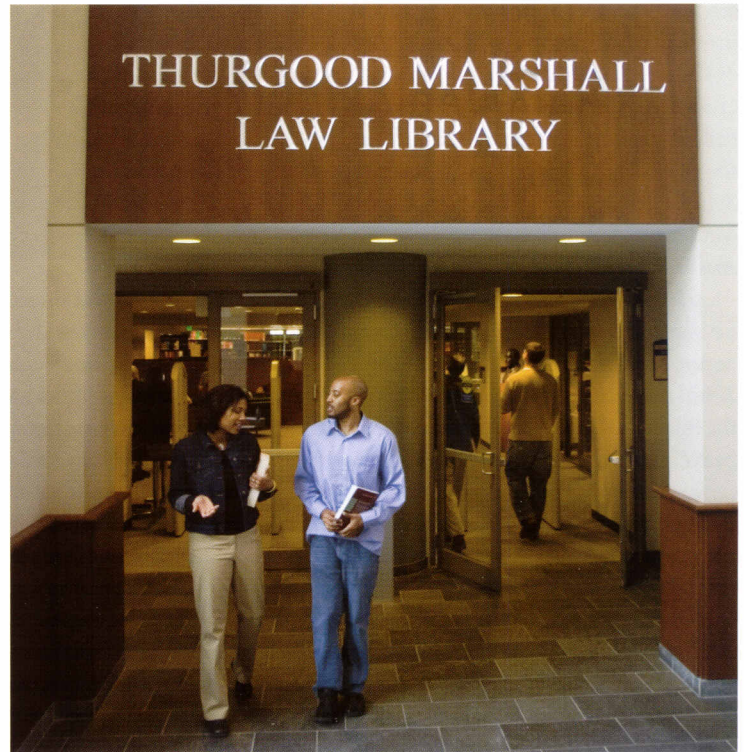
Research just got a little easier. As the School of Law was tackling the overall website redesign, the Thurgood Marshall Law Library made a big change as well: now you'll find a new library homepage with Research Port as its key feature. This comprehensive gateway to the library's online resources provides an easy-to-use, single-access point sign-on to all of the library's databases and electronic journals.

More than 150 databases, organized by title, subject, and vendor, provide access to abstract and full-text articles with just one click. Thousands of electronic journals, in a wide variety of academic disciplines, are organized by title. The user has the ability to search some databases simultaneously, and with "Quick Search," the user can search Academic Search Premier, LegalTrac, Index to Legal Periodicals, Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, and the library's catalog—all at the same time.

The use of subscription e-resources in Research Port is available to faculty, students, staff, and walk-in patrons of the library. In addition, the port can be accessed from locations on and off-campus, via the user's Blackboard account. Patrons who log-in with their library barcodes may take advantage of "My Research Port," which enables them to personalize their environment—creating their own database and e-journal lists, saving records for future reference, and defining preferences for the display of results.

Barbara Gontrum, assistant dean for library services and director of the Thurgood Marshall Law Library, says, "Research Port brings the many resources of the library to within a few mouse clicks of the user. The single-page access to

our catalog, databases and electronic journals has made it significantly easier for our students and faculty to access both legal information and sources in other disciplines." See law.umaryland.edu/marshall—*Nancy Zibron*



A Welcome Mat for Prospective Students

A decision on a law school can change a life; meeting those who have been there makes it all that much easier. The office of Development and Alumni Relations and the Admissions Office joined forces once again to help admitted students give Maryland the nod by sponsoring four networking receptions over the last year. Expanding on the success of previous years, the receptions were held in leading law firms in key cities—Saul Ewing in Baltimore, Spahr Andrew & Ingersoll in Philadelphia, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary in New York, and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in Washington, D.C.

This year, more than a hundred prospective students had an opportunity to meet law school alumni, who shared their UM law school experiences. While the law school has held admitted student receptions for a number of years, the geographical reach was expanded in 2001, as a result of a significant increase in out-of-state applications.

Associate Dean José Bahamonde-González says, "The receptions give applicants the opportunity to meet graduates of our law school who are now successful lawyers in each of these cities. This connection has proven to be extremely valuable for those seriously considering Maryland, and those who plan to return to a particular city upon graduation. Our alumni are wonderful mentors, as well as skillful and effective recruiters for our law school."

When talking about plans for future receptions, Bahamonde-Gonzalez says that recruiting efforts in the southeast region should generate an increase in the number of applicants from Georgia and Florida. If that's the case, he adds, "We hope to host similar receptions in Atlanta and Miami in the future."—*Nancy Zibron*

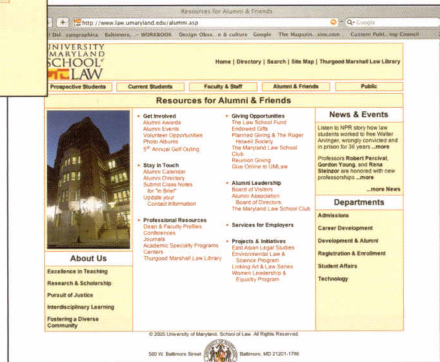
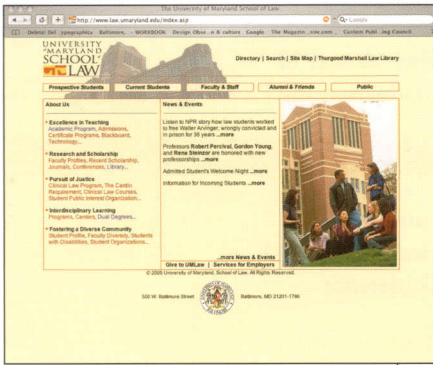
School of Law Unveils New Website

Technology moves on in rapid fashion, and the School of Law is working to keep up with the pace. After more than a year of planning, the School of Law unveiled its new, user-friendly website this past January. By all accounts, the dual goals of this reorganization have been met: easier access for each of the primary user groups—prospective and current students, faculty and staff, alumni and friends, and the public, as well as showcasing the law school's mission and its outstanding faculty.

Planning for the project began in late 2003, when a Web Development Committee began creating the new site architecture. In gathering content, the committee conducted interviews of deans, faculty, staff, students, and representatives of all major law school departments. Additionally, the School of Law's 2001 Self Study was used as a guide to define and highlight the school's core missions.

"The new website consists of more than 6,000 individual files. It required the creation from scratch of more than 1,015 new pages. Additionally, more than 4,900 existing pdf, image, and miscellaneous files had to be individually relocated to the new site. It's a collaborative project of a diverse team," said Teresa K. LaMaster, assistant dean for technology affairs and leader of the project.

The huge project was conducted using only law school and on-campus resources.



Basic design was the responsibility of the Campus Center for Information Technology Services (CITS); the law school's Information Technology department reformatted existing pages to fit into the new templates. Countless other School of Law staff played critical roles in the development of the site—from data entry, managing faculty publication data, reformatting existing pages, posting new material to maintaining both the old and new sites simultaneously during the month-long test period. The IT department also conducted a major database development project; a redeveloped academic database now houses information on faculty profiles, publications, courses, and schedules. Now, faculty publications, recent scholarship, and course descriptions are more easily displayed on the Web. A bonus result is a new electronic course catalog, making registration easier for all.

The website launch included development of a new Thurgood Marshall Law Library website, including redesign of the library homepage (see "Research Port" article opposite.) The address remains the same: www.law.umaryland.edu. Comments on the new site can be sent to law-web@law.umaryland.edu. —Nancy Zibron



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