

WELCOME FROM THE DEANS

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As Deans, respectively, of the Michael E. Moritz College of Law and of the H. J. Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, we welcome readers to the inaugural issue of *I/S: A Journal of Law and Policy for the Information Society*. *I/S* is a peer-evaluated journal, to be published two or three times yearly, and this inaugural issue illustrates the journal's broad ambitions to draw together lawyers, social scientists, and technologists for wide-ranging explorations of cutting-edge issues related to the social impacts of information and communication technology (ICT).

As explained in the Symposium introduction that follows by Professor Peter Shane, *I/S* is a unique inter-university collaboration in this scholarly domain. The quality of such an interdisciplinarity endeavor is assured by the journal's founding faculty editors, as well as by a superb editorial board, which includes not only leading scholars from both our institutions, but also prominent academics and practitioners from around the world who are helping to explore ICT's new frontiers. Their common aspiration is a journal that will be of interest both within and beyond the academy and that will bring new ideas to light in a way that is accessible across disciplinary boundaries.

The faculty editors are chaired by Professor Shane, who is not only a prolific author in the fields of constitutional and administrative law, but also a pioneering scholar in the newly emerging field of cyberdemocracy. His fellow Moritz editor, Peter Swire, is a preeminent scholar on issues of electronic surveillance and civil liberties. From 1999 until early 2001, he served as Chief Counselor for Privacy in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. At Carnegie Mellon, Professor Ashish Arora pursues research on the economics of technological change, the management of technology, intellectual property rights, and technology licensing. He is also a director of Carnegie Mellon's Software Industry Center. Ronald Gdovic, the fourth faculty editor, is executive director of the Heinz School's Institute for the Study of Information Technology and Society (InSITEs) and former director of Three Rivers Connect, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit organization that pursues social, economic and educational development in southwest Pennsylvania through the innovative deployment of ICTs. All four are assisted by a group of capable and dedicated Moritz College of Law student editors, and by Mr. Sol Bermann, who serves as managing editor. A recognized authority on privacy and data protection, Mr. Bermann holds a J.D. from the Moritz College of Law, as well as an M.A. in international relations from the University of Virginia, and is an active speaker, writer, and conference organizer in his field.

Not only does the future of the information society provide a natural joint focus for schools of law and of public policy, but the mission of *I/S* is especially suited to its two founding institutions at this exciting moment in both their histories. The doctoral fields embodied in the Heinz School faculty include economics, public policy, operations research, statistics, sociology, and information systems. The size and quality of the ICT group on the Heinz School faculty compare favorably to many university departments devoted entirely to information science. Time and again, the Heinz School has been rated the nation's foremost public policy school in the field of information technology.

The commitment to interdisciplinarity at the Moritz College of Law is perhaps most obviously embodied in its Center for Interdisciplinary Law and Policy Studies, which functions as a university-wide catalyst for bringing together law faculty and students with faculty and students from other disciplines who are engaged in law-relevant work. The Center is actively engaged in sponsoring workshops, seminars, and conferences with colleagues from departments as diverse as English, History, Political Science, and Psychology, and has recently organized the Ohio State Cyberdemocracy Research Group, which extends our network to the College of Engineering and the School of Communication. The Center lends support also to other interdisciplinary projects at the Moritz College, including our Program in Dispute Resolution, Justice for Children Program, and the Election Law at Moritz project.

With such intellectual resources at our disposal, it is a privilege to join together towards the pursuit of increased understanding of society's emerging challenges and opportunities for advancing the public interest through ICT. We trust that you will find *I/S* an important and lively publication, one that scholars and practitioners from a wide range of fields will find of great value.