

CYBERLEX



TECHNOLOGY IN THE COURT ROOM

By Jason Schoolmeester, NT Treasury

The Queensland University of Technology Faculty of Law opened its new e-courtroom on 4 July 2001. The e.law QUT Moot Court is claimed to be the most advanced electronic courtroom with a reported cost of \$500,000. The courtroom creates an environment where students can be educated on the application of new technologies to the courtroom and the legal profession.

Training with the e.law QUT Moot Court will provide an understanding of workflow, communications, multimedia and computerised legal research. The moot court features include Ringtail Courtbook software, 14 multimedia computers with internet and library database access, document projector, video and audio recording capabilities including optional quad screen display and data projection facilities. Computer screens are built into the jury box, bar table and judge's bench and provide access to court documents and other materials at the touch of a button. In fact, all equipment in the faculty is controlled by a touch screen and information can be sent to any of the 25 computer screens.

Visit the e.law QUT Moot Court web page (address below) to see photos and a virtual tour of the court.

There are two other leading electronic courtroom projects, the first is Courtroom 21 at the College of William and Mary Marshall-Wythe Law School which began in 1993. It is interesting to note that Courtroom 21 is also using software created by Ringtail Solutions. The second is the Courtroom of the Future project at the University of Arizona which started in 1994. The University of Arizona is also running a Law Office of the Future project.

Australian courts are increasingly embracing technology. You only have to look at the Federal Court of Australia with the first mobile electronic courtroom, the live broadcast of a

judgement over the internet and e-filing of court documents over the internet with on-line credit card facilities for examples. The more technology is employed by Australia courts, the more facilities like the e.law QUT Moot Court will be in demand, not only to train law students, but current legal practitioners.

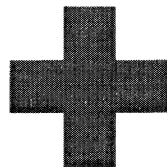
Links:

- Queensland University of Technology Faculty of Law - <http://www.qut.edu.au/law/>
- e.law QUT Moot Court - <http://www.qut.edu.au/law/elawmoot/index.html>
- Courtroom 21 - <http://www.courtroom21.net/>
- Courtroom of the Future project -

<http://www.law.arizona.edu/it/courtroom.html>

- Ringtail Solutions - <http://www.ringtail.com.au>
- e.law - <http://elaw.net.au>
- Federal Court of Australia - <http://www.fedcourt.gov.au>
- The Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand: Electronic Appeals Project - <http://www.ccj.org/default.htm>
- Discussion Paper 62: Review of the Federal Civil Justice System - <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/alrc/publications/dp/62/>

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**Australian
Red Cross**

International Humanitarian Law Department

Action in 'Humanitarian Emergencies' Conference

Friday 12 October 2001

On Friday 12 October 2001 the Australian Red Cross is hosting a full day international conference in Darwin. The theme of this conference is *Action in 'Humanitarian Emergencies': Efficiency, Responsibility and Politics*. The aim of this conference is to raise awareness concerning the increasingly dire situation of humanitarian needs world-wide, in which various actors play roles that may be complimentary, overlapping, unclear, or even mutually-exclusive. This is of particular importance in the Northern Territory given our proximity to East Timor.

The Conference will attract expert speakers in this area, including members of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Australian Red Cross. This is an exciting opportunity for the Northern Territory and we are encouraging participation by all sectors of the community. If you are interested in learning more about this Conference or receiving a conference package please contact Michelle Fadelli on 8981 4499 or email austredcross.ihl@octa4.net.au.