

Section on Part-Time Division Programs
NEWSLETTER

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2005 Panelists:

- **Art Gaudio**, Dean, Western New England
- **Barry Currier**, Dean, Concord Law School
- **Peter Martin**, Cornell Law School,
- **Frederic White**, Dean, Golden Gate University

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**Distance Learning for Part-time Students:
Friday, January 7th at 8:30 AM at the 2005 Annual Meeting**

For years the legal academy has resisted what many have seen as a siren's call of distance education. Pre-recorded or even live broadcast lectures, not to mention correspondence courses, seemed a pale imitation if not the antithesis of the interactive experience that comes to mind when we think of a law school class. But technology has changed the landscape, making possible real-time video classroom discussion among participants at distant locations as well as increasingly sophisticated asynchronous interaction via the internet. In response, ABA Standard 306 now permits accredited law schools to award academic credit on a

limited basis for distance education.

So, we can do it, both technologically and normatively. But, should we? The potential advantages of distance education to part-time programs seems obvious—greater scheduling flexibility for students already pressed for time, a broader range of faculty expertise and thus of course selection, the convenience of satellite course locations, to name a few. On the other hand, there is a lingering skepticism that distance education could ever be on par with conventional law teaching, the core of which is personal contact and intellectual give and take. The panel for this year's program will



**Distance Learning:
Nirvana or the
Apocalypse Now?**

examine the pros and cons of distance education, especially in the part-time context. It features experienced law teachers, administrators, two former Deputy Consultants to the ABA Section on Legal Education and the dean of the nation's only completely on-line law school.

A Word from the —Sharlene Graham

In 2005, the Section on Part-Time Division Programs will apply for permanent status with the AALS. Our Annual Conference programs have been very successful and I believe that we have established our value as a section. However, there is much that

remains to be done. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank you for your support. We welcome your ideas, articles or other information which will enhance our section, as well as your

input for future programs. My thanks to Program Chair, Art Leavens and to our panelists for their leadership, expertise and participation in this year's program.