



University of Denver Sturm College of Law Announces New Professorship in Online Learning

John C. Dwan Professorship supports technological innovation in legal education

May 31, 2015 - DENVER, CO – The University of Denver Sturm College of Law (Denver Law) is pleased to announce the establishment of the John C. Dwan Professorship in Online Learning, a donor-funded position which will provide support for a member of the faculty dedicated to helping lead Denver Law in the development of high-quality online courses.

David Thomson has been named the first John C. Dwan Professor in Online Learning. Thomson, who joined Denver Law as a member of the faculty in 2003, previously practiced law for 20 years in New York and Colorado before turning his attention solely to teaching. Thomson is well known for his expertise in incorporating technology into the classroom, and has presented and published widely on this topic. His 2009 book, *Law School 2.0: Legal Education for a Digital Age*, explores how the web can be used as a teaching tool in contemporary law school curricula. The Dwan Professorship reflects a need for innovative and sophisticated learning models within a growing online marketplace.

“As legal education evolves and grows, it is important for all law schools to be thoughtful about the myriad ways they can deliver the expertise of their faculty to reach new audiences, and to help serve current audiences in new ways,” says Thomson.

Thomson continues, “Advances in technology have had a profound impact on many different market sectors, and education is no exception. The interesting and important challenge will be how to preserve what is great about legal education while exploring new methods of delivery that enhance and extend what happens in the classroom.”

John C. Dwan was a lawyer and one of five citizens of the small town of Two Harbors, Minnesota, who came together in 1902 to found the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company. That company, now known as the international conglomerate 3M, produces nearly 1,000 different products. 3M is widely admired for its corporate culture of innovation—among their most recognized and successful products are the many forms of Scotch Tape® and Post-it Notes®.

“Educational technology is changing at a rapid rate, and Denver Law needs to remain ahead of the curve and nimble when it comes to incorporating new models of online learning into our curriculum, “ said Martin Katz, dean of the Sturm College of Law. “We are excited to be able to name this professorship for John C. Dwan, who was a visionary in his time. Our students will reap the benefits for many years to come.”