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# Development of an On-Line Distance Learning Certification Program for International Commercial Law and Contract Drafting

Vikki Rogers  
*Pace Law School*

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Vikki Rogers  
Institute of International Commercial Law  
Pace Law School

Interim Report, Thinkfinity Grant for “Development of an On-Line Distance Learning Certification Program for International Commercial law and Contract Drafting”

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**Original goals:** The goal of the project was to develop a three-module Distance Learning Certificate in International Commercial Law & Contract Drafting. The modules cover (1) International Commercial Law; (2) Alternative Dispute Resolution; and (3) International Contract Drafting. The intended audience is Pace Law Students, students in developing countries who do not otherwise have access to such training, students from developed countries looking to gain further expertise and professionals looking for continuing legal education opportunities.

**Progress to date:** The modules are in advanced developed as the syllabi for the three courses have been developed, reading materials have been identified for each subject within the syllabi, and permissions have been obtained to reproduce the materials. Invitations have been sent out to guest lecturers (leading academics and practitioners in the field; acceptances have been received) and we are working out the quirks in the technology to tape their lectures, so taping can commence in the Spring semester. We have also collaborated with a premier online dispute resolution provider to incorporate their platform into the alternative dispute resolution module. Law students have been helping to draft simulations to be incorporated into the online modules. Further, we are coordinating the development of marketing materials for the program. We are intending to accept applications Spring semester ('13) and start the program Summer ('13).

We have made a few changes to the program which we think will enhance its appeal and reputation (of the program and Law School). We have partnered with the Law School's CLE department and they will be approving the taped lectures for CLE credits. In addition to using the lectures for the Certificate Program, we will also be bundling these lectures and offering them to firms in exchange for sponsorship funding. This will enable us to offer limited scholarships to students in developing countries to participate in the program; it will also help foster relationships with these firms for Pace Law students' placement in internships or possible job opportunities.

We have also renamed the program to be called “Certificate on International Commercial Law and International Alternative Dispute Resolution: An Online Distance Learning Program”. The change had more appeal to our intended audience based on conversations with students and academics from academic institutions around the world. Tandem to this change, the second module has been re-named “International Alternative Dispute Resolution.” We are also incorporating drafting exercises into the first module and re-focusing the final module on “Oral Advocacy in International Arbitration.”

**Next steps:** In the Spring semester we will be completing tapings and loading the identified readings and simulations onto our platform (Blackboard). We will also be putting the program live on our Database and accepting applications. The program should be developed and a final report can be expected at the end of the next semester (Spring '13). We will also be incorporating the use of the International Commercial Law module into the International Sales Law seminar that is taught here at the Law School for Pace students.