

New OA legal education project launches

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Open Access News

Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, [Legal Education Commons Launches with Open Access to 700,000 Court Decisions](#), press release, January 26, 2009.

Starting today, legal educators will have the capability to search, make use of, and share more legal educational materials than ever before. The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction ("CALI"), in collaboration with Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, is launching an open, searchable collection of resources designed specifically for use in legal education: a "[Legal Education Commons](#)" ("LEC").

"All teachers of law have materials and notes they use in teaching," says John Mayer, CALI Executive Director. "Many freely share their materials with colleagues, but there has never been a singular searchable, taggable space to serve that function for the entire legal academy," he explains, "until now."

The Legal Education Commons launches with over 700,000 federal court decisions readily available to its users. This initial collection of cases from [public.resource.org](#) makes the LEC one of the largest gatherings of case law freely available in one place under a creative commons license.

CALI has also donated 300 original illustrations from its popular online tutorials, "CALI Lessons," making the Legal Education Commons the first and largest pool of free images designed specifically for use in legal education.

While the LEC opens with an extensive collection of court cases and images, it can expand its collection of resources only through contributions and donations from the legal education community. ...

Faculty and staff at CALI member schools may upload nearly any type of file – from most text documents to presentations and MP3's as large as 50 MB – and share it with the LEC community under a Creative Commons Share Alike license. ...

See also our [past post announcing the project](#).