Jennifer E. Rothman, who has joined the School of Law as an associate professor, brings practical experience in Hollywood to her teaching. "Intellectual property law is an exciting, fast-growing field," she says, "and I've found that the issues mesh with my background in film."

To the seminar she is teaching next spring, Legal Issues in Reality & Nonfiction Works, for example, she applies her expertise not just as a practitioner of entertainment law, but also as a director and producer of documentaries.

Growing up, Rothman was a keen debater and fan of courtroom drama; everyone assumed she would become a lawyer. But after completing her bachelor's degree in English and American studies at Princeton University, she went to the University of Southern California's School of Cinema-Television. Rothman immersed herself in script writing and all technical aspects of film making. She also took a course on legal issues for screenwriters.

While at USC, she was selected to direct a documentary as one of the few advanced projects supported by the graduate program. In *Wanderlust*, she follows the lives of two long-distance women truck drivers. Rothman and her crew traveled throughout the country with their subjects and shot more than 50 hours of film; she then shaped it into an award-winning half-hour documentary.

The film brought her to the attention of Hollywood. At Castle Rock Entertainment and Paramount Pictures, Rothman gained experience in developing scripts and learned the logistics of planning and shooting big-budget feature films. She dealt with budgets, scheduling, and some legal issues. But the projects she found exciting were not being produced, and Rothman grew restless: "Day in and day out, the work was not intellectually challenging enough."

When she decided to attend law school at the University of California at Los Angeles, friends warned her that she would find law school dull and dry. "Not so," Rothman says. "I felt I was in my element." In her torts course, for instance, she had a professor who treated the cases as stories about people, and highly dramatic ones at that.

She found the ideas fascinating, too. "I found creative energy in working on articles," Rothman says. She was an articles editor of UCLA's law review and a recipient of the Jerry Pacht Memorial Constitutional Law Award for her scholarship. She earned her JD in 2002, graduating first in her class.

Rothman then clerked for Judge Marsha S. Berzon of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco before going into practice with the Los Angeles firm of Irell & Manella.

After working in appellate litigation, intellectual property, and entertainment law, "I found that I wanted to pursue the issues in greater depth and to write more objectively," she says.

So Rothman began to explore teaching options. She was impressed by the fact that "Washington University has made a clear commitment to intellectual property. Outstanding people are here. The structure is already in place."

Although big issues in intellectual property law are catching public interest, scholars are still seeking to define the field, says Rothman. Intellectual property law must deal with the difficult questions that arise from the ownership of intangibles. Intellectual property law, like tort law, also has to deal
with injuries to individuals and how or if they are to be remedied. Can an actor who played a character control what the creators of the show do with the character? If the creators want to license the character for some commercial use the actor disapproves of, can she stop them from using her performance?

Questions like these confront students in Right of Publicity, the seminar Rothman is teaching this fall. Trademarks & Unfair Competition, which she is also teaching this fall, explores another fast-changing aspect of intellectual property. Rothman explains, “The original intent of trademark law was to prevent confusion even where distinguishing the product is not an issue. Trademark holders, like copyright owners, are seeking to expand their rights. “This is emblematic of a shift that is detrimental to the public and to fair competition.”

Rothman previously taught classes and trained instructors for Kaplan Test Prep and worked at UCLA as a teaching fellow in civil procedure. She now is pleased to be teaching full time. “I’m really enjoying sharing my experience in the entertainment industry and law practice, as well as my enthusiasm for intellectual property law, with my students.”

Visiting Faculty

Five visiting faculty members are teaching at the School of Law in 2005-06.

**Martin Borowski**, lecturer at the University of Kiel in Germany, is teaching The State & Religion: Comparative Constitutional Law Seminar this fall, along with Leigh Greenhaw, senior lecturer in law. In spring 2006 he will teach European Union Law. His research interests focus on questions of basic rights in constitutional law and supranational law. In addition, he examines a wide range of issues involving legal philosophy. He earned his doctorate from the University of Kiel.

**Mercer E. Bullard**, assistant professor of law at the University of Mississippi, is teaching Corporations and Securities Regulation this fall. Founder and president of the advocacy group Fund Democracy, Bullard has initiated reform efforts, written extensively, testified before Congress, and been widely quoted in the media on mutual fund and shareholder issues. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Yale University, a master’s degree from Georgetown University, and a JD from the University of Virginia.

**Deborah A. Geier**, the Leon M. and Gloria Plevin Endowed Professor of Law at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, will teach Corporate Taxation and Federal Income Tax in spring 2006. She co-authored the textbook Federal Income Tax: Doctrine, Structure & Policy, and has published numerous articles on tax legislation and reform issues. Geier earned a bachelor’s degree from Baldwin-Wallace College and a JD from Case Western Reserve University.

**Leonard Gross**, professor of law at Southern Illinois University, is teaching Legal Profession this fall; in spring 2006 he will teach Corporations. Gross is the author or co-author of Remedies: Damages, Equity, and Restitution; Organizing Corporate and Other Business Enterprises (with Mark R. Lee); Supreme Court Appointments: Judge Bork and the Politicization of Senate Confirmations; and Agency and Partnership. Gross holds a bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton and a JD from Boston University.

**Mark R. Lee**, professor of law at Southern Illinois University, will teach Criminal Law in spring 2006. Lee serves as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, the National Association of Securities Dealers, and the New York Stock Exchange. His publications include Organizing Corporate and Other Business Enterprises (with Leonard Gross); Antitrust; Corporations; and Antitrust Law and Local Government. Lee obtained his bachelor’s degree from Yale University and his JD from the University of Texas.