There's something about Darryl Barker, director of multimedia technology for Washington University School of Law, that is not unlike TV's detective Columbo, who is portrayed by one of his former bosses. Barker served as personal assistant (1989–90) to actor Peter Falk on *Columbo*, a movie-of-the-week television series produced at Universal Studios in California. Falk portrayed Columbo as a stogie-smoking police lieutenant with a rumpled raincoat who lures suspects into a false sense of security with his seeming lack of crime-solving prowess.

Like Columbo, Barker downplays his contributions. He credits the foresight of senior administrators at the School of Law for equipping Anheuser-Busch Hall with the latest technological developments in education, including computer-generated classroom presentations, Internet access, and closed-circuit television. The School of Law recently was ranked fourth by the *National Jurist* on its list of "25 Most-Wired Law Schools."

But being equipped and making the most of that capability are not necessarily synonymous. It takes the kind of outstanding technical, production, and artistic skills offered by Barker, according to Philip Berwick, associate dean for information resources.

"Darryl brings a sense of professionalism and artistry to anything he does at the School of Law," Berwick says. "Darryl is so good that we pressed for a full-time slot for him in multimedia."

Before moving to Anheuser-Busch Hall, the School's audiovisual equipment consisted of a half-dozen video cameras stashed in a closet.

With unprecedented support, Barker shaped the Multimedia Department into what it is today, which includes two audiovisual coordinators—Robyn Achelpohl and Bill Mathews. The department supports classroom and event presentations for faculty, students, staff, and campuswide organizations.

"DARRYL BRINGS A SENSE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND ARTISTRY TO ANYTHING HE DOES AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW."

Philip Berwick

The Multimedia Department also plays an important role in helping law students improve their clinical skills. Two classrooms are fully equipped with multiple camera systems to tape students participating in moot court or other clinical activities, such as deposing witnesses.

Multimedia personnel also photograph incoming student classes for digital posting on the School's Intranet site. The department is building a digital library, as well as offering digital video presentations to students.

Before they ever arrive at law school, many students have encountered Barker's work. Just about every new student has seen his one-minute video tour of Anheuser-Busch Hall on the School of Law's Web site: law.wustl.edu.

He also has scripted, shot, and edited several videos promoting the School of Law, including a 133-year historical perspective and a promotional video for the School's Congressional and Administrative Law Clinic in Washington, D.C.

Barker earned his Master of Fine Arts in film and television production from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles in 1985. He worked on the West Coast for several years, including stints with Dick Clark Productions, Cannon Films, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Universal Studios, before returning to his hometown of St. Louis to pursue his own filmmaking career. In his spare time, he has completed a documentary about a recent UFO sighting in the metro east and plans to begin shooting an original feature film.

While filmmaking is his first love, Barker’s work at the School of Law offers its own rewards: “Working here is very gratifying because I believe in what I’m doing. I’m providing support to people who are doing something important. Hollywood can leave you wondering, ‘Why am I doing this?’”