

# GALVES ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY

*In the 1990s, Professor Fred Galves noted the resistance of courts to the use of computer-generated exhibits. Some courts found ways, using the rules of evidence, to exclude computer animation and elaborate visual depictions at trial.*

"And I started thinking and investigating," Galves recalls, "I discovered that often the exclusion was more technophobia, than a legitimate concern that such exhibits violate the rules of evidence."

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PHOTO BY  
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Galves wrote an article, published in the *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology* (Winter 2000, Vol. 13, No. 2), dealing with all the conceivable objections to these

exhibits. He outlined a path for attorneys to follow in getting past those objections and argued forcefully that judges should routinely admit these types of exhibits.

"Just as the telegraph gave way to the telephone, the stagecoach gave way to the automobile, and the typewriter gave way to the word processor, so too will courtroom chalkboards, easels and blow-up placard charts give way to computer-generated exhibits," Galves writes in the article. "In fact, this transformation has already begun."

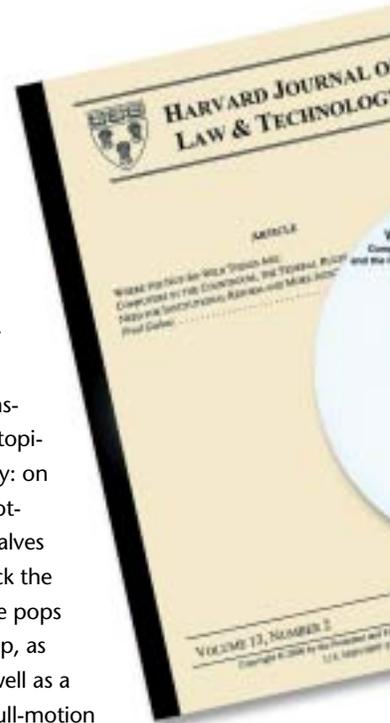
And Galves is helping to push the transformation forward. His article is not only topical, but innovative in its use of technology: on the CD-ROM version of his article, the footnotes contain hyperlinks, so that when Galves has a footnote referral, the reader can click the mouse on the footnote, and the reference pops

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up, as well as a full-motion computer animation related to that item.

"I thought it's very hypocritical to write the article using only linear text in the traditional manner, when the whole point I was trying to get across is that one can communicate more effectively if the audience can visualize the information, in addition to just absorbing text."

"It's the first law review article in the country that uses hyper-linked media in this manner," Galves says. He foresees the day all law review articles will be published that way. For instance, a footnote could actually show video footage



from a televised trial. Or, "Scholars could refer to movies, documentaries or just things in popular media as a visual or sound effect that would help to make their point in a way that text alone cannot," he adds. "And so scholars won't just be writers of linear text, but producers or directors of a whole scholarly experience."

This summer, for the first time, Galves will team-teach an intensive two-week, two-unit course on computer-assisted litigation. He became interested in the subject nine years ago when he started teaching. Galves used to draw very elaborate diagrams on the classroom chalkboard, and later presented them in handouts too. Then he discovered PowerPoint and began using the computer for teaching at about the same time attorneys started to use computers in the courtroom for display purposes.

"And I thought, 'If lawyers are communicating more effectively with jurors this way, then perhaps I too

could communicate more effectively with students by using such computer visuals,'" Galves recalls. "And in researching this,

I found out that since people often receive much of their information through visual media such as TV and the Internet, jurors (and students) learn and retain much more when they can actually see something in addition to hearing it."

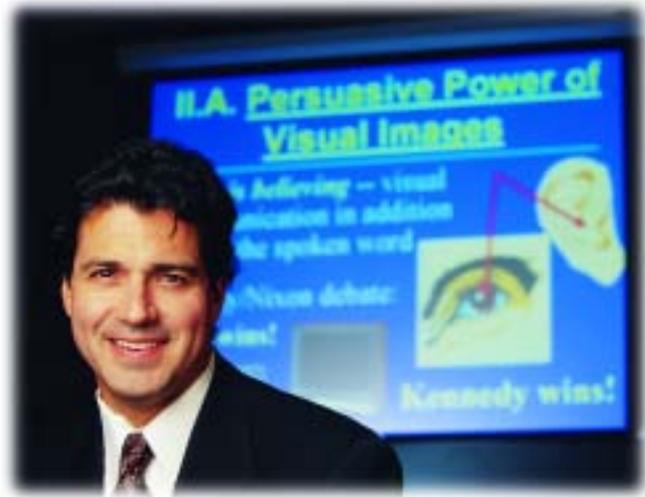
Galves, Gregory Weber, Brian Landsberg and several other McGeorge faculty members have been using computer technology in the classroom for more than five years. Many students praise their efforts.

"I've had Professor Galves for two year-long courses, Civil Procedure and Evidence. He's a great professor anyway, but the visual presentations he uses really make the material come alive," Kelly Cesare, 02D, says. "It helps you get to the next level beyond basic information."

To view, read and experience Professor Galves' Harvard Journal article, go to the following website address:

[http://12.2.169.205/galves\\_article/HTML/article.html](http://12.2.169.205/galves_article/HTML/article.html)

Click on footnote 16, for example, to see a beating heart, an airline disaster, or a depiction of the Oklahoma City Bombing incident.



Professor Fred Galves

Galves' legal expertise is not limited to law and technology. He teaches Civil Procedure, Evidence and Banking Law and Regulation; in fact, he testified in 1996 before the U.S. Senate

Banking Committee on possible reforms regarding the government's power in failed bank litigation; and he wrote an article published in the *Minnesota Law Review* (80 Minn. L. Rev. 1323) discussing unfair litigation powers of the federal government when it seizes a failed or failing financial

institution and litigates against former borrowers and others on behalf of the institution.

Galves joined the McGeorge faculty in 1993. He has taught as a visiting professor at Fordham Law School in New York City, where he appeared as an expert legal commentator on several trials for Court TV, and at the University of California, Davis. The Harvard Law School graduate recently was elected to the Executive Committee for the Evidence Section of the Association of American Law Schools, a professional consortium of all law schools and professors across the country.

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