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NEWS RELEASE

March 31, 2003

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LEADING CYBERLAW SCHOLAR SCHEDULES UM LECTURE

MISSOULA-

You may not have heard of him, but Lawrence Lessig is one of the hottest names in the news lately. Just during the month of March, he appeared in Forbes, The New York Times, Wired News and Slashdot, among others.

Lessig, a professor at Stanford Law School, is an expert in cyberlaw, which includes things like Internet "spam" advertising and copyright law. He will share his expertise with a Missoula audience during an April 11 lecture at The University of Montana.

Lessig's lecture, "Building the Creative Commons," begins at 1:30 p.m. in the UM School of Law's Castles Center. The lecture, presented by UM's Montana Law Review, is the second in the Judge James R. Browning Distinguished Lecture in Law series.

The afternoon lecture follows a public hearing by the Montana Supreme Court at 9:30 a.m. in the University Theatre. Both events are free and open to the public.

Lessig is the author of "The Future of Ideas: The Fate of the Commons in a Connected World" and "Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace." In "The Future of Ideas," Lessig explores the idea of the Internet as a creative commons – a place where information, experimentation and innovation flow freely – as well as threats posed by legal restrictions. Publisher's Weekly

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called it a "landmark book for the digital age."

Founder of Stanford's Center for Internet and Society, Lessig represented Web site operator Eric Eldred in the ground-breaking copyright case Eldred v. Ashcroft. Lessig was named one of Scientific American's Top 50 Visionaries, for arguing "against interpretations of copyright that could stifle innovation and discourse online."

He earned bachelors' degrees in economics and management from the University of Pennsylvania, a master of arts degree in philosophy from Cambridge, and a juris doctorate from Yale.

The lecture series honors Judge James R. Browning of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Browning, who was raised in Belt, graduated from UM's School of Law in 1941.

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