

Brussels Seminar receives ABA accreditation



Participants in the 2007 Brussels Seminar on the Law and Institutions of the European Union pose for a quick photo at the European Court of Justice.

For more than three decades, the School of Law has helped sponsor the Brussels Seminar on the Law and Institutions of the European Union. This past summer, the three-week program was approved for academic credit by the American Bar Association.

The seminar is taught by officials of the EU Commission and Council, judges of the European Community Court of Justice, leading practitioners of EU law and distinguished

professors from European universities.

Accreditation was sought for the course so U.S. law students participating in it could receive transferable credit hours for their hard work, according to School of Law Associate Dean for International and Graduate Legal Studies Gabriel M. Wilner, who has directed the Brussels Seminar since its inception in 1973.

In the early years, the Brussels Seminar received the sponsorship and support of the

late Dean Rusk, who served as the U.S. Secretary of State during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations and taught at the School of Law for nearly 25 years. His vision of a transatlantic community of states has remained the inspiration for the program, according to Wilner.

He added that the Brussels Seminar is the only summer program in the world that is entirely dedicated to the study of European Union law. “It is a great opportunity for our students to attend this rather unique program and receive academic credit for it,” he said.

The ABA accreditation process took approximately one year and included explaining the purpose of the program, showing a sound budget and demonstrating a highly qualified faculty as well as passing an on-site inspection.

Held each year at the Institut d’Etudes Européennes of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Wilner said the program received a “glowing report” from the ABA inspector.