

## Noted Islamic Scholar Joins Faculty



LEAH JONES, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

Asifa Quraishi, a nationally prominent scholar of Islamic law, is the newest member of the University of Wisconsin Law School faculty. Quraishi brings expertise ranging from U.S. law on federal court practice to constitutional legal theory, with a comparative focus in Islamic law.

At the UW Law School, Quraishi will teach a combination of core law school classes and other classes focused particularly on the topic of Islamic law, comparative legal systems, and related subjects.

Quraishi received her B.A. in Legal Studies from the University of California-Berkeley in 1988. In 1992, she received her law degree from the University of California-Davis, where she served as Senior Research Editor for the UC-Davis *Law Review*. She also earned an LL.M. degree from Columbia Law

School, and an S.J.D. from Harvard Law School is nearing completion.

Her professional experience includes serving as a Judicial Law Clerk with Judge Edward Dean Price on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California and as the death penalty law clerk for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Quraishi comes to the Law School as the result of a cluster hire, a new program initiated at the UW to provide permanent, full salary support for faculty positions of an interdisciplinary nature that span a number of departments and do not fit neatly into a single traditional field. With her expertise in Islamic law and culture, Quraishi will make a unique campus-wide contribution. (See article at right.)

Quraishi made news in 2001 when, as a member of the Muslim Women's League, she drafted a clemency appeal brief in the case of Bariya Ibrahim Magazu, who was sentenced to flogging for fornication in Zamfara, Nigeria. Quraishi is a founding member of the National Association of Muslim Lawyers (NAML) and the California group American Muslims Intent on Learning and Activism (AMILA). In addition, she has served as president and board member of Karamah: Muslim Women for Lawyers for Human Rights.

Quraishi has also been called upon to serve in quite a different arena: she was an Islamic law and culture consultant for the JAG episode "The Princess and the Petty Officer."



Faculty recently funded through cluster hires include Professors Gordon Smith and Anuj Desai.

### Cluster Hiring Supports New Faculty

In the past few years, the Law School has been the beneficiary of a UW-Madison program designed to encourage collaboration on research and teaching across many schools and colleges on the Madison campus. This initiative, called the Cluster Hiring Initiative, provides full salary support for faculty positions. The initiative is an alternative to the usual departmentally-based hiring practices and norms. It is designed to encourage interdisciplinary teaching and research and to create new curricular offerings on the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The UW Law School is known as a national leader in encouraging the interdisciplinary approach in research and teaching, and many of the Law School's faculty members combine multiple disciplines in their work.

In addition to Asifa Quraishi, our newest faculty member, other faculty recently funded through cluster hires include Professor Gordon Smith, who joined the law faculty in 2002 as part of the Entrepreneurial Cluster, and Anuj Desai, who joined the law faculty in 2001 as part of the Communications Technology Research Cluster.