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Letter to Graduates and Friends (Fall 2009)

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Dear Graduates and Friends:

During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2009, the Law School enjoyed an increase in Annual Fund giving for the twelfth year in a row, notwithstanding our nation's economic difficulties. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Your continued support of Marshall-Wythe is particularly meaningful in light of a recent decline in state support for higher education in Virginia. During the past few years, the state has reduced its support for the Law School by 32%.

Although this cut in state support will be partially mitigated during the 2009-10 academic year by a one-time use of federal stimulus dollars, the next few years will be especially challenging as we adapt to this new fiscal environment. As William & Mary President Taylor Reveley has stated, the College must fulfill its aspirations in the future with a revised funding model that relies much more heavily on private giving and tuition.

We face financial hurdles, but we do so in the context of a law school that is moving forward in meaningful ways and whose best years lie ahead. We are privileged to have a distinguished faculty who excel both as teachers and as scholars, impressive and energetic students, and a highly accomplished alumni body with a strong commitment to the ideal of service.

I am deeply honored to serve as Dean of the Law School. With your stalwart support and encouragement, I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence here at Marshall-Wythe.

Sincerely,

DAVISON M. DOUGLAS
DEAN AND ARTHUR B. HANSON PROFESSOR OF LAW