

1968

In the Keeping of Lawyers (Program)

William T. Gossett

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1968

THE G. B. SHERWELL LECTURE

“In the Keeping of Lawyers”

by

WILLIAM T. GOSSETT

President, American Bar Association



October 10, 1968

BALLROOM — THE CAMPUS CENTER

The Marshall - Wythe School of Law
COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

The Sherwell Lecture

The Marshall-Wythe School of Law is honored to present the second lecture in an annual series of discussions of contemporary developments in the law, under the title of the G. B. Sherwell Lectures. The lecture series was made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Maria Estaire Baumert of Garden City, Long Island, N. Y., and the series memorializes Mrs. Baumert's family and particularly her brother, the late Guillermo Butler Sherwell. An ancestor, William Sherwell, was a student at the College of William and Mary in the mid-nineteenth century, and the family for a number of years resided in the house of George Wythe in Williamsburg. The house has been restored to its eighteenth-century appearance, and is open to visitors to the restored area of Colonial Williamsburg.

George Wythe

America's first professor of law had been teaching young men seeking admission to the bar for almost two decades, at his house facing on the Palace Green, before he was formally installed as the first occupant of the chair of law and "police" (i. e., police power) after it was created by the Board of Visitors under Governor Thomas Jefferson December 4, 1779. As the teacher of Jefferson (1762-67), St. George Tucker (1772) and John Marshall (1780) among many others, George Wythe is a major figure in the history of legal education in America. A sketch of his house appears on the opposite page.

William T. Gossett

The President of the American Bar Association is the speaker for the 1968 Sherwell Lecture. A native of Gainesville, Texas, he studied at Coe College and the University of Utah, receiving his A. B. degree from Utah in 1925. His LL.B. was obtained from Columbia University in 1928, and he was admitted to the New York bar in 1929. Mr. Gossett also holds honorary LL.D. degrees from Coe, Utah, Bethany College, Kalamazoo College, Oakland University, Detroit College of Law, Duke University and Tuskegee Institute, as well as a Doctor of Humanities degree from Wayne State University.

A son-in-law of the late Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, Mr. Gossett practiced law in New York for eighteen years before going to Detroit where between 1947 and 1962 he served as vice president and general counsel to the Ford Motor Company. Under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson he served as Deputy Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, with rank of ambassador. Presently he is counsel associated with the Detroit law firm of Dykema, Wheat, Spencer, Goodnow and Trigg. Mr. Gossett in 1958 received the Amity Award of the American Jewish Congress, and subsequently the "Layman of the year" award of the Detroit Council of Churches. In 1967 he was honored at a civic dinner in Detroit for his work as chairman of the United Negro College Fund.



The George Wythe House * Williamsburg, Virginia