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Message from the Dean (1996)

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Congratulations on your decision to seek a legal education. You are about to embark upon a remarkable journey filled with high ideals, excitement and thoughtful consideration of some of the toughest issues we face today in society. You will study some of the most remarkable men and women our country has produced, people such as Louis Brandeis, Sandra Day O'Connor, Thurgood Marshall, John Marshall Harlan and other giants of our profession. At its best, legal education helps to mold critical, independent thinkers while it equips them for a varied and challenging professional career.

The William and Mary School of Law provides just such a broad, liberating and demanding education. It attracts students from throughout the United States who possess great ability, vision and character. Our faculty is a nationally known group of individuals active in scholarship, legal reform and innovative classroom instruction. It is a group of men and women dedicated to the task of guiding students in the shared pursuit of new knowledge. The learning environment for both students and faculty extends well beyond the classroom. Four student-edited scholarly journals are published by our students. Our student-run appellate advocacy project has won two national moot court competitions in recent years and our two-year Legal Skills Program has achieved national acclaim. Our Institute of Bill of Rights Law and our McGlothlin Moot Courtroom — the most technologically advanced courtroom in the U.S. — attract distinguished lawyers and jurists from all over the world.

Law is an academic discipline but it is also a learned and honored profession. The goals of our legal system are justice and order. While lawyers alone are not responsible for these goals, we more than others assume an obligation to live within the rule of law in pursuit of justice. As lawyers, we function in many capacities—as counselors, as advocates, as educators and as friends. Lawyers are women and men with unique skills of honesty, character and insight. The goal of the William and Mary School of Law is to produce individuals who will lead a life in law as wise counselors, learned advocates, and dedicated and honorable human beings. To this end, we teach both the theory and the practice of law. At William and Mary you will learn not only how legal rules are shaped but also how they are applied.

We have attempted in this brochure to describe the people and programs of this fine institution, the College of William and Mary. William and Mary has celebrated its 300th anniversary, a milestone reached by only one other institution of higher education in America. William and Mary was the first to offer instruction in law within a university setting. University-based legal education at the College of William and Mary, first envisioned by Thomas Jefferson and brought to life by George Wythe, warrants your serious consideration. We invite you to visit our campus, meet with our faculty and students, and discuss your interests in legal education with our admission professionals.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Krattenmaker
Dean and Professor of Law



Dean Thomas G. Krattenmaker

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