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In Memoriam: Richard S. Williamson

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In Memoriam
Richard S. Williamson

The author of this book and the entire staff at Virginia CLE wish to honor Richard A. Williamson for his contributions to this text, to the legal profession, and to the education of a generation of lawyers in the state of Virginia. Mr. Williamson, retired Chancellor Professor of Law at the College of William & Mary, died June 22, 2007, at Sentara Regional Medical Center in Williamsburg. We at Virginia CLE are especially grateful for the hundreds of hours he put into *Defending Criminal Cases in Virginia*, one of the most recognizable books in the Virginia CLE Practice Series.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Professor Williamson moved to Williamsburg in 1970 to join the faculty of the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary. In a long and distinguished career that ended with his retirement in April of this year, Professor Williamson served in many important academic and administrative leadership capacities at William & Mary. He was Chancellor Professor of Law, Vice Dean and Acting Dean of the Law School. In the last decade he also served as Legal Counsel to the College and was a close and trusted advisor to former President Timothy J. Sullivan and President Gene R. Nichol.

Professor Williamson was a nationally recognized scholar of criminal law and procedure and was the author of numerous scholarly articles in his fields of expertise. He was the founding Reporter of Decisions for the Court of Appeals of Virginia and continued in that role until 2002. Professor Williamson was a master teacher who initiated a generation of William & Mary students into the mysteries and glories of the legal profession. He was a powerful force in the renaissance of the William & Mary Law School which occurred in the years after he joined the faculty. His practical wisdom, tough minded insistence on excellence and extraordinary character made him a man of particular greatness.

Professor Williamson received his B.B.A. cum laude from Ohio University in 1965 and his J.D. with honors from the College of Law at Ohio State University in 1968. On Charter Day 2004 Professor Williamson received the Thomas Jefferson Award, the highest honor the College of William & Mary grants for distinguished service.

We will all miss him for his service to the profession, for his dedication, and for the wonderful mark he made in this world.