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A Letter from the Dean (1981)

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A LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Our purpose in preparing and distributing this brochure is to provide you and other prospective students with some sense of the institutional character of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law of the College of William and Mary. We have endeavored to include more than a bare statistical profile of students currently enrolled and of courses offered. We have sought to convey something of the flavor of the educational process here as well as to set down some of the fundamental philosophical assumptions which inform the educational experience we strive to provide.

I hardly need to tell you that these are times of rapid and sometimes traumatic change for the legal profession. We, in the law schools, have not been immune from the critical scrutiny focused upon the profession as a whole. The basic thrust of the criticism aimed at legal education has been that it is not sufficiently sensitive to the professional realities which confront a young lawyer as he or she commences practice. There is merit in that criticism, but in changing our educational program to meet it, we should not compromise the essential intellectual rigor which is a proper part of every lawyer's training.

Balancing the acknowledged need for prudent reform with the preservation of what is good in traditional legal education has not been easy. Indeed, changes here at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law have been so recent that their impact on the skills acquired by our graduates cannot yet be assessed. We are, however, intensely proud of the young men and women who are now our students. In the main, they possess quick and lively minds coupled with spirited interests in life as well as law. We have great expectations of their capacity to contribute significantly to the betterment of the profession they are about to enter. We hope what you read in this small volume will help you to decide intelligently whether you wish to join them.

Cordially,


William B. Spong, Jr.
Dean



Dean William B. Spong, Jr.