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# Minority Perspectives

William & Mary Law School

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# *Minority Perspectives*



WILLIAM  
& MARY

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*School of Law*

# MISSION

***Commitment to Diversity*** The students and faculty at the William and Mary School of Law are committed to increasing the enrollment of members of minority groups. We hope the information provided in this brochure will help you make an informed decision about whether to attend law school and assist in deciding which law school is best suited to your needs. We sincerely believe that the William and Mary School of Law provides an excellent environment in which to study law and prepare for a life in law. We invite you to consider seriously William and Mary as you plan for your future career.

*I chose William and Mary because of its unique history and tradition, as well as its small size and location. The School of Law provides just the right environment for a first year student to study law, gain legal experience and participate in extracurricular activities. In addition, you really get to know your classmates and this helps to create a supportive atmosphere. All of this has proved to be the perfect combination for me.*



Colette Borum '96  
(Hampton, VA; BA University of Virginia)



*Knowing that I am an immigrant whose native language is not English, the students, faculty and staff were very patient and nurturing. I never felt 'different' or unfairly labeled as a minority with special privileges and a different set of standards and expectations to follow. Facing the same challenges on the same level, we tried to help each other get through a demanding program regardless of nationality or race. No matter who we are, or where we come from, the students at William and Mary want to see one another succeed in law school and beyond.*

Luz Nagle '95  
(Medellin, Columbia; Ph.D. Pontificia Bolivariana University; MA & LL.M. UCLA)

# WHY WILLIAM AND MARY?

## *Widely Considered One of the Nation's Best Law*

**Schools** The School of Law is a part of the College of William and Mary, the nation's second oldest institution of higher education, which has been recognized as among the nation's leading comprehensive universities.

**The Students** are diverse and very capable, representing almost every state in the country and several foreign nations.

*My decision to change careers and enter law school was not one I made lightly. As an undergraduate I attended a large research oriented university and I wanted to attend a law school with both high academic standards and a 'personal feel.' William and Mary has fulfilled my expectations on both counts.*



Steven Chin '96  
(Flushing, NY; BE University at Stony Brook)

**The Faculty** is composed of a diverse group of highly talented men and women who are recognized nationally for both teaching and scholarship. Included among the faculty are African-American and Asian men and women who teach a diverse field of subjects from Family Law to International Trade Law.



*The warmth of the professors and students I met before I was officially a 1L clinched my decision to attend William and Mary.*

Llezelle Dugger '95  
(Hercules, CA; BA University of California Berkeley)

**The Extracurricular Activities** combine with a traditional classroom program to enhance the intellectual life of the law school community.

**The Size** is relatively small (approximately 525 J.D. students) which produces a strong sense of community and common purpose among the faculty and student body.

# ORGANIZATIONS and PROGRAMS

*Student Organizations* such as the William and Mary chapter of the Black Law Student's Association (BLSA) provide forums for students to articulate and promote their professional needs and goals. BLSA's activities, for example, include a "buddy" support system to link first year law students with an upper-level student, speaker forums, community activities, and social events. William and Mary's BLSA Chapter was named Mideast Regional Chapter of the Year in 1994.

Other organizations include Law Students Involved in the Community; Lesbian and Gay Law Association; Mary & William Feminist Law Society; Public Service Fund; and International, Environmental, Sports & Entertainment, and Health Law societies.



*What really attracted me to William and Mary was the cohesiveness of the minority population. From the academic support to the extremely active BLSA chapter—I knew I was entering a caring atmosphere.*

Kerri Gilmore '95  
(Reston, VA; BA James Madison University)

*Notable Programs* enhance the academic environment. Legal Skills provides hands-on learning in a simulated law firm atmosphere. Students practice all aspects of lawyering from client interview techniques to courtroom litigation. The Institute of Bill of Rights Law and the Student Division of the Institute are prolific in presenting symposia on important constitutional issues. In addition to its annual Supreme Court preview, recent topics have included *Defining Equality*, *Censorship and Music*, and most recently, *Brown v. Board of Education after 40 Years*, a program that featured all the remaining living participants in the original *Brown* case. In Moot Court, students practice their advocacy skills in a competitive forum. Students at William and Mary annually produce five law journals containing both professional and student articles and book reviews: *William and Mary Law Review*, *Administrative Law Review*, *William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal*, *William and Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review* and the *William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law*.



# THE SCHOOL

***A Modern Facility*** The William and Mary School of Law features the nation's most technologically advanced Moot Courtroom and classrooms specially designed to meet the special needs of legal education.

***The Law Library*** collection includes more than 300,000 volumes plus extensive access to information in electronic and CD-Rom format. More than 400 seats are available for library users as is a computer lab with twenty networked personal computers and six printers. Five additional PC's are available in individual study rooms. The library subscribes to the Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw/Dialog legal databases, and provides thirty-four additional computers for accessing these online systems. Law students can also access these databases in their homes with their personal computers and modems.

***The National Center for State Courts,*** a research organization dedicated to the advancement and betterment of the nation's state judicial systems, is located next to the Law School where law students have employment opportunities as research assistants on a part-time basis.

*I had never heard of William and Mary before they sent me an application in the mail; however, I had heard about the great symposiums sponsored by the Institute of Bill of Rights Law. My undergraduate advisor was very impressed by the faculty and sold me on William and Mary being a great place to pursue a legal career.*



Vanessa Peterson '95  
(Tuskegee, AL; BA University of Alabama)

***Online Access*** We encourage prospective applicants to explore the detailed description of our law program via the internet. The College of William and Mary School of Law information is located at the following addresses: <gopher://gopher.wm.edu> and <http://www.wm.edu>.

# LIFE in WILLIAMSBURG

*The College of William and Mary* provides a comprehensive and stimulating academic and cultural environment. The academic programs at the university provide a number of speakers and programs of general interest to the academic community. Likewise, the cultural life at the university is rich and varied. Students enjoy a wide range of lectures, concerts, theatrical productions, and athletic events.



*The Williamsburg Community*, like the College and the School of Law, is relatively small in size but provides many of the benefits of a large city without the exorbitant cost of living in a large metropolitan area. A wide range of housing options, all within a five-mile radius of the Law School, are available, including the new Graduate Housing Complex adjacent to the Law School. Williamsburg night-life is varied. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation allows students with current ID's at the College an opportunity to visit and enjoy free of charge its many exhibits and programs. Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton Roads, and Richmond are all within a one-hour drive from Williamsburg. Washington, D.C., can be reached by train or with a two-and-one-half-hour drive.

# CAREER PLANNING and PLACEMENT

*Programs* designed to allow students to explore employment opportunities by talking directly to lawyers working in various occupations are sponsored by the Office of Career Planning and Placement. Additionally, twelve off-campus job fairs, including five minority student recruitment programs, are available to our students. To support work for public interest and government employers during the academic year or summer, the Law School offers six funding programs for which students may apply.

*Employers* from all regions of the country are attracted by the national reputation of the William and Mary School of Law. Employers seeking applicants through the Placement Office offer a wide range of traditional and nontraditional employment opportunities.



*W&M's academic reputation is widely known. This factor attracted me because it is the same factor that attracts employers from all over the nation to William and Mary.*

**Chip Richardson '95**  
(Richmond, VA; BA  
Purdue University)

*I liked the Legal Skills concept which provides practical experience that will give me an edge in career opportunities.*

**Eleanor Bordeaux '95**  
(Vienna, VA;  
BA George Mason  
University)





# ALUMNI

*Notable Professional Success* in a wide variety of positions has been achieved by alumni of William and Mary School of Law. They serve as judges, government lawyers, lawyers in both small and large law firms, as legal services lawyers and as counsel for large corporations. They represent the very best that William and Mary School of Law has to offer and their commitment to the rule of law and to the betterment of society is beyond question.

*The education and training I received at William and Mary School of Law not only prepared me for my duties in the private practice of law but gave me the essential tools when I transitioned onto the bench here in Hampton. My goal, when I applied to William and Mary, was to become the best lawyer that I could be. The courses I took and my instructors certainly prepared me for that mission. I had a very successful practice. I was fortunate to be appointed as one of Hampton's General District Court Judges, and I know that my experiences at William and Mary prepared me for this opportunity.*

The Honorable Wilford Taylor, Jr. '78

## OTHER NOTED ALUMNI

Christa Beverly '86 Director of Government Affairs,  
United Negro College Fund, DC

Cara Brown '90 Associate In-House Counsel,  
Harrah's, Las Vegas, NV

Maxine Cholmondeley '91 Litigation,  
Mays & Valentine, Richmond, VA

Nadya Chang '88 Corporate Staff,  
General Electric Co., Fairfield, CT

Junius Fulton '85 Partner,  
Madison, Hagans, Lovell & Fulton, Norfolk, VA

Cheryl Roane-Gwathmey '88 Claims Judge Advocate  
United States Army, Ft. Clayton, Panama

Karen Hale '93 Associate, Sidley & Austin, Chicago,  
IL

Colombia Voytko '85 United States Dept. of State,  
American Embassy, Madrid, Spain

# Dean Thomas G. Krattenmaker



At William and Mary we know that, to be worthy of our respect, the law must promote justice. At its roots, the concept of justice requires that all be treated with dignity and respect without regard to special privileges or artificial disabilities.

I think you will find that at William and Mary we practice what we preach. We strive to be a community that celebrates its

inclusiveness and its diversity as manifestations of our commitment to justice in law. William and Mary is, I think, especially well suited to this task. We are a small school set in a friendly environment. Our students are people—not merely names, faces, or statistics—to the faculty, to the administration and to other students. We believe we should and can relate to each other as distinctive individuals, each worthy of our attention and respect, who are joined in a collaborative process to study law and to seek justice.

To us, every student is important. Every student brings to William and Mary a capacity for greatness and we mean to provide the opportunity for each student to achieve that greatness.

## Faye F. Shealy Associate Dean for Admission

We welcome this opportunity to give you an added perspective on the William and Mary School of Law. Our commitment—first and foremost—is to enroll students whose talents, life experiences and accomplishments portend a career of faithful and dedicated service to the cause of justice. To all prospective students, especially those from the racially, ethnically and culturally diverse segments of our society, we encourage you to consider the opportunities available to you at the William and Mary School of Law. I believe you will find an institution—students, faculty and staff—deeply committed to excellence and to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for all members of this community. We appreciate your interest in the William and Mary School of Law and look forward to working with you as you take the first step in your pursuit of a life in law.

# ADMISSION POLICY and PROCEDURE

The William and Mary School of Law is committed to an admission process that is sensitive to the need and importance of ethnic and cultural diversity in the legal profession. Accordingly, our admission policy is designed to achieve a strong student body composed of able individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences. While academic considerations continue to be the most significant factor in the admission process, the Law School also considers work experience, personal statements, letters of recommendation, and leadership qualities. The LSAT, required of all applicants, is but one factor in the admission process and the Law School has no minimum required score. In an effort to give interested students a minority viewpoint, you may also speak with members of the Minority Recruitment Committee who assist the Admission Office in recruiting qualified students through telephone calls, meetings, letters, tours, and receptions.

Applications and additional information may be obtained by writing or calling the Admission Office:

## OFFICE OF ADMISSION

William and Mary School of Law  
The College of William and Mary  
P.O. Box 8795  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8795  
(804) 221-3785  
E-mail: lawadm@facstaff.wm.edu

***Financial Aid*** For all students, the cost of a legal education is an important factor. The William and Mary School of Law attempts to meet the financial needs of all accepted students through a combination of scholarships and loans. Special consideration is given to minority and other students who will bring diversity to the student body. In addition to the financial aid programs administered by the Law School, various national organizations provide aid programs for minority law students. The Admission Office can be contacted for a list of a number of these organizations.