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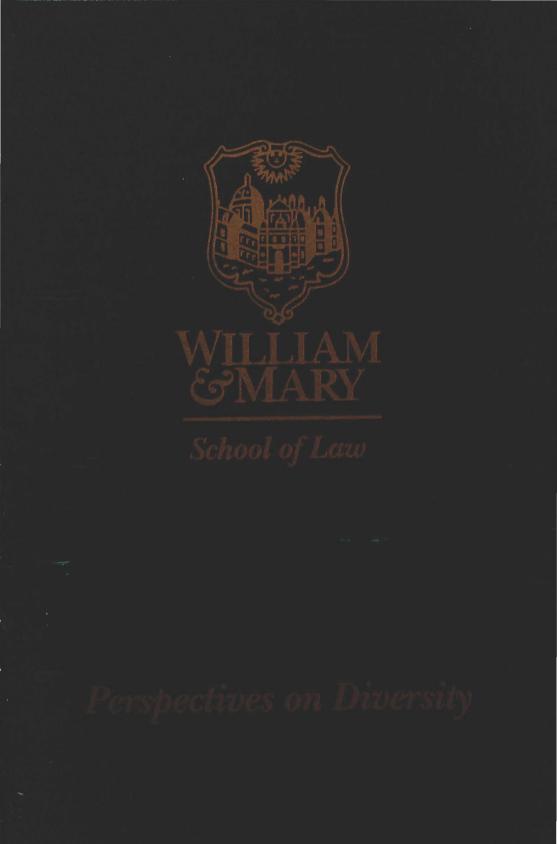
# Perspectives on Diversity

William & Mary Law School

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



W. Taylor Reveley III Dean and Professor of Law

*QQe are a relatively small school that prizes collegiality. To us, every student is important. Our students are people known by name – not merely faces passing in the hall or statistics on a list.* 

We take care to deal with one another as distinctive individuals. Each of us deserves attention and respect, no matter what our background. We want everyone at William and Mary School of Law to feel comfortable – to feel at home – as we work together. We strive to be a community that celebrates its inclusiveness.

Students come to William and Mary School of Law with great potential. The faculty and staff are determined to provide the opportunity for each student to realize his or her potential.

The School of Law delights in the rich whole that can be created by people from different backgrounds racial, cultural, geographical, religious and socioeconomic. We seek diversity aggressively because it is vital to the educational experience of everyone at the School of Law.

#### MISSION

#### Commitment to Diversity

The students and faculty at the College of William and Mary School of Law are committed to creating an educational environment enhanced by diverse perspectives. To this end, we welcome students with varied ethnic status and diverse cultural, socioeconomic, geographic, and educational backgrounds and experiences. We hope this brochure will help you make an informed decision about whether to attend the William and Mary School of Law. It is our sincere belief that the School of Law provides an excellent environment in which to study and prepare for a life in law. We invite you to consider seriously the School of Law as you plan for your future career.



As an alumnus of the School of Business, I know the value of a William and Mary degree. The College's reputation opened the necessary doors to enable me to obtain a job with a major international agribusiness company. In the competitive business world, I was continually aided by the name recognition and prestigious academic reputation that William and Mary has nationally and internationally. Therefore when I decided to interrupt my career to obtain a legal education, it was an easy choice for me to attend the William and Mary School of Law!

#### Michael Drewry '99 Wakefield, VA; BBA, College of William and Mary, '92

I was attracted to William and Mary for its rich heritage, outstanding reputation, and challenging yet supportive academic environment. The faculty at William and Mary is committed to providing a superior legal education and a learning environment that foster cooperativeness and caring among the student body. As a mother of two coming from several years in the business world, these factors have been instrumental in facilitating a smooth transition from career to law school. William and Mary has provided me with a unique environment that is academically challenging yet professionally supportive.

#### Karen James '99 Chicago, IL; BA, Barat College, '75; MA, Northeastern Illinois University, '79

The idea of a new country, a new education system and a new subject made me a little nervous when first coming to law school; but, the atmosphere at William and Mary has been one of warmth and support from both faculty and students. The broad range of perspectives and cultural backgrounds in a positive environment creates an interchange of ideas that could not be learnt from a book—a great enhancement to the legal educational experience.

#### Robert Lettington '00 Malvern, UK; MA (Honors), St. Andrews University, Scotland, '93



## 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 and one of its leading comprehensive universities.

William and Mary Students are among the nation's best, representing almost every state in the country and several foreign nations.

Diversity is one of the Law School's greatest assets. Like me, many students are just out of college, others are returning to school after establishing careers. Many are married and some study alongside their children. Broad geographic representation and age variances are found within the student body. Because the students draw their opinions from such various individual

experiences, lively classroom debate has been ensured.

Caren Somerwitz '99 Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ; BA, The Johns Hopkins University, '96; BM, The Peabody Conservatory of Music, '96

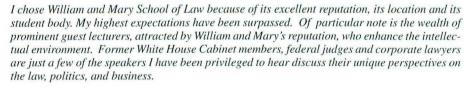
*The Faculty* is composed of highly talented men and women who are recognized nationally for both teaching and scholarship.

Being an older student, one of my main considerations when choosing a law school was class size—I did not want to go to a law school factory. I knew I had made the right choice when one of my professors stopped me in the hall one day to comment, "I'm not sure I adequately answered your question in class." In fact, he had, but his asking proved to me that I was at the right school.

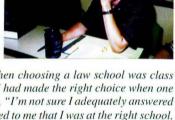
Stephen Robertson '99 Williamsburg, VA; BA, '84 and MA, '94, College of William and Mary

*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.

The Extracurricular Activities combine with a traditional classroom program to enhance the intellectual life of the Law School community.



Quinton Roberts '99 Grand Blanc, MI; BA, United States Air Force Academy, '88; MA, Webster University, '95





## **ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS**

Student Organizations provide forums for students to articulate and promote professional needs and goals. The Black Law Students Association's activities, for example, include a "buddy" support

system to link first-year law students with an upper-level student, speaker forums and community activities. Other organizations include the Asian Law Students Association; Law Students Involved in the Community; Lesbian and Gay Law Association; Mary & William Feminist Law Society; Jewish Law Student Association; Public Service Fund; the International, Environmental, Sports & Entertainment, and Health Law Societies; and the legal fraternities, Phi Alpha Delta and Phi Delta Phi.



Having lived primarily in large cities, the thought of spending my three years of legal education within a smaller community setting was very appealing. Since I knew that law school would be challenging, I deliberately sought a friendly, nurturing environment. The William and Mary professors and administration have been encouraging and supportive in helping the students cope with the intellectual demands of law school and enthusiastic in participating in the varied student activities. The support and encouragement, for example, the Asian Law Student Society received in our first year was most exciting.

Eunice Kim '99 Boston, MA; BA, Tufts University, '92

**Challenging Programs** enhance the academic environment. The Legal Skills Program provides hands-on learning experiences 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 organize dynamic symposia on important constitutional issues. In Moot Court, students' advocacy skills are put to the test during numerous regional and national competitions. Students at the School of Law annually produce as many as five editions of the journals: *William and Mary Law Review, William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal, Environmental Law and Policy Review*, and the *William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law.* The student-managed journals contain both professional and student articles and book reviews.

As an immigrant from the former Soviet Union and an applicant considering the joint JD/MBA program, I was interested in business law, particularly international business law. Before applying to William and Mary, I explored the Law School's international program. I was extremely impressed with the outstanding reputation of the faculty in this area. After meeting faculty and taking law classes, I am now convinced that William and Mary has the best international business law program in the country.

Victor Voloshin '98 Kiev, Ukraine; BA, Christopher Newport University, '94

*LL.M. in the American Legal System* affords William and Mary Juris Doctor students the opportunity to learn American law through the perspective of and by comparison with international legal systems. Our Master of Laws program, designed only for international attorneys, integrates the LL.M. students into courses with J.D. students as well as into the life of the school. Such interaction enhances the legal education of the J.D. student.

### **THE SCHOOL**



A Modern Facility, the William and Mary School of Law features a moot courtroom that is highly enhanced with state-of-the-art courtroom technology, and classrooms specially designed to meet the unique needs of legal education.

The Law Library's 340,000 volume collection, pleasant environment, and service-oriented staff provide users with an excellent setting for study and research. The collection offers a strong combination of primary and secondary materials in Anglo-American law, and an extensive treatise collection that is particularly strong in the areas of constitutional, environmental, international and Roman law, jurisprudence, legal history, and taxation. Among the valuable works housed in the Rare Book Room is the Thomas Jefferson Collection. The library also maintains a strong collection of audiovisual works. Students may access the Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw/Dialog databases, the Internet, and numerous CD-Rom titles from our two computer labs and the many computers found throughout the library.

*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 School of Law. Law students may seek part-time employment opportunities at the National Center as research assistants. The National Center is an active partner in the School of Law's Courtroom 21 Project.



I was determined that my law degree would be a good investment, and William and Mary represented a high rate of return. The School of Law has an excellent reputation, fine resources, a high caliber of faculty and students, and it is in close proximity to several regional job markets. Yet, William and Mary's low tuition rate makes it a bargain.

Ellen C. McBarnette '99 New Rochelle, NY; BA, Smith College, '89

#### LIFE IN WILLIAMSBURG

The College of William and Mary sustains a comprehensive and stimulating academic and cultural environment. The academic programs at the College generate many speakers and events of general interest to the academic community. Likewise, through the rich and varied cultural life of the College, students can enjoy a wide range of lectures, concerts, theatrical productions, and athletic contests.

*The Williamsburg Community*, like the College of William and Mary, is relatively small; however here you will find many of the benefits of a large city without the exorbitant cost of living associated with a large metropolitan area. In addition to the Graduate Housing Complex adjacent to the School of Law, a wide range of housing options is available. College students with current ID's may visit free of charge, the many exhibits and programs associated with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton Roads, and Richmond are all within a one-hour drive from Williamsburg. Washington, D.C., is just two-and-one-half-hours by car.



The School of Law has a number of outstanding qualities. The characteristics that most appealed to me were the personalized service given by the staff and sense of family exhibited by the students. I witnessed this on my first visit to the Law School, and this has continued throughout my time here. The challenge of law school has been a rewarding and enriching experience. I know that my decision to attend William and Mary was the best one for me.

Charles Lewis '99 Texarkana, TX; BS, Norfolk State University, '95



## **CAREER PLANNING AND PLACEMENT**

**Programs** that permit student exploration into varied employment opportunities 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 School of Law offers six funding programs for which students may apply.

I am particularly impressed with the great importance that the William and Mary School of Law attaches to its Office of Career Planning and Placement (OCPP). On November 1 (the first day law schools are permitted to provide career advice to first-year students), OCPP began holding career lectures, workshops, recruiting activities, and appointments with students. I really believe that the excellent job of the OCPP staff attributes to the Law School's eye-catching 98 percent employment rate for the Class of '97!

Jie Zhang '99 Beijing, P.R. China; BA, Peking University, '87

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

I had been a legal secretary for more than twenty years when I applied to law school. Choosing to attend William and Mary was one of the best decisions I ever made. By choosing William and Mary, you'll discover the Law School's two greatest assets—its faculty and student body.

Jean Campbell '99 Arlington, VA; BA, The American University, '91





# **ADMISSION POLICY AND PROCEDURE**



The College of William and Mary School of Law is committed to an admission process that is sensitive to the importance of ethnic and cultural diversity both in the educational process and 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 are the most significant factors in the admission process, the School of Law also considers an applicant's background and experience, including work experience, personal statements, and letters of recommendation. The LSAT, required of all applicants, is but one factor in the admission process and the School of Law has no minimum required score. Interested applicants may wish to seek a law student perspective by speaking with members of the Student Bar Association. These students play a vital role in assisting the Admission Office to recruit qualified applicants.

Please contact the School of Law for additional information or to obtain an application:

The College of William and Mary School of Law Office of Admission P.O. Box 8795 Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8795

Phone: (757) 221-3785 E-mail: lawadm@facstaff.wm.edu Internet: http://www.wm.edu/law

### 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. In addition to the financial aid programs administered by William and Mary, various national organizations provide aid programs for law students. The Admission Office may be contacted for a list of a number of these organizations.

We welcome this opportunity to give you an added perspective on the College of 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. All prospective students, especially those through whose diverse background the atmosphere of legal education can be enhanced, are encouraged to consider the opportunities available at the 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 College of 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.

Faye F. Shealy, Associate Dean for Admission