

1979

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Repository Citation

Spong, William B. Jr., "New Law Building Construction Progresses" (1979). *Faculty Publications*. Paper 1023.
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New Law Building

Construction Progresses

By William B. Spong, Jr.

Last April when I wrote a report for the *Colonial Lawyer*, work had just begun on our new law building. During the past year students and faculty have watched the steel go up and the brickwork being completed. Despite winter snows the architect says that construction is on schedule. Indeed, after the snow melted many were amazed to note the progress made during the winter on the construction.

On April 28th, perhaps before publication of this, Law Day will be observed in Williamsburg with a dual ceremony. First, there will be a program sponsored jointly by the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Bar Association. The program will feature an address by Shepherd Tate, President of the American Bar Association, that will be given at 2 p.m. at Phi Beta Kappa Hall. After the Law Day speech a cornerstone laying ceremony will take place at the new law building. Dr. William F. Swindler has been consulting with the faculty for several months



Dean William B. Spong

about the contents of the box to be placed in the cornerstone.

There will be brief remarks at the building site by Chief Justice Lawrence W. l'Anson of the Virginia Supreme Court, after which a reception will be held for those in attendance at the two ceremonies. Invitations have been sent to all alumni and students for the Law Day observance which commemorates establishment of the first chair of law in the United States at William and Mary and signals approaching completion of the law building.

We have been fortunate to receive a number of gifts for the building. The William Blackstone and Christopher Wren stained glass windows, given to us by All Souls College, Oxford University, are now being releaded and cleaned for placement in the building at the end of the entrance foyer. Also through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Friend Boyd of Norfolk (Bob is a Marshall-Wythe graduate), a handsome portrait of George Wythe is being prepared by Richmond Artist, David Silvette.

As construction has progressed and I have had an opportunity to show picture slides of the building at alumni dinners throughout the State, it has become apparent that a large amount of square footage in the building will be devoted to the library which, with basement, will have three stories. All of us look forward to the day when we will have a law library that can serve the needs of our students and allow them to work in an uncrowded atmosphere, but we are also mindful that the library will house the finest law collection in Eastern Virginia and will be available to practitioners in both the Richmond and Tidewater areas. We presently have a library collection of over 125,000 volumes and a projected growth of 9,000 volumes a year. The latest addition to the library is an Environmental Law collection, being purchased with funds given by the Virginia Environmental Foundation.

We have had a faculty committee working with the architect for several months. They have reviewed proposed furnishings with the staff and faculty and are working to assure that the interior of the building will be something in which we can all be proud. The road for the law school at William and Mary has been long and, at times, uncertain. We hope our former students who labored in James Blair Hall, Bryan basement and our present building will have an early opportunity to visit the new structure and will be pleased by what they see.

