W&M Law Situation Is 'Tense'

Wilford Kale
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WILLIAMSBURG — The quiet, serene atmosphere of students barely moving for examinations three days at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary belies the tense situation which the school and college officials currently face.

The underlying feeling is caused by the controversial, proposed appointment of blacks Richmond lawyer Joseph E. Greiner as visiting associate professor of the nation’s oldest law school. Greiner would be the law school’s first black professor.

Dean James P. Whyte Jr. of the school’s board of visitors last Thursday reaffirmed the school’s policy of hiring only whites.

The board of visitors is expected to act on Greiner’s appointment early this week.

However, even current law school students and faculty will candidly acknowledge that several years ago, the four leading schools in Virginia—Virginia and William and Mary — the Williamsburg school policy almost ended last year when the school hired a black law professor, who was later dismissed.

The school was small then, with only three law professors. Since then, enrollment has increased to about 150. The faculty, however, is small and there has been virtually no special funding for the school.

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...the school also received a large bequest from the late Willard W. "Bill" Marshall, former U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, that will provide significant financial support to the law school.

The bequest, valued at approximately $5 million, will be used to enhance the school's academic and research programs, as well as to support its growth and development.

In addition to the Marshall bequest, the school has received several other significant donations in recent years, including a $1 million gift from the Wesson Foundation and a $500,000 gift from the Loudoun County Bar Association.

The school's fundraising efforts have also been successful, with the law school's annual fund reaching record levels in recent years.

In conclusion, the W&M Law School is currently in a strong position, with a strong faculty, a diverse and talented student body, and a strong financial base to support its ongoing growth and development.

The school's continued success and growth are a testament to the dedication and hard work of its faculty, staff, and students, and to the strong support of its alumni and friends.