From the Dean (1992)

Richard A. Williamson

William & Mary Law School
FROM THE DEAN

The essential characteristic of a distinguished institution of higher education is easily identifiable: a diverse and talented student body and an able and dedicated faculty, daily about the task of testing accepted knowledge and truths. Legal education, no less than the other traditional academic disciplines, must constantly strive to discover and understand new and better ways of managing the human condition and this fragile planet upon which we depend for an acceptable and improved quality of life for all living species.

The Marshall-Wythe School of Law attracts students from throughout the United States who possess uncommon strengths of character, ability and vision. Our faculty is dedicated to the task of guiding students in the shared pursuit of new knowledge. The learning environment for both students and faculty extends beyond the classroom. Three student-edited scholarly journals are published by our students. Our student-run appellate advocacy program has won two of the last four national moot court competitions. During the past three years, the faculty has published over twenty books and scores of scholarly articles.

Law is an academic discipline but it also is an honorable and learned profession. The goals of our legal system are order and justice. While lawyers alone are not responsible for order and justice, lawyers, more so than others, assume an obligation — an intensely personal one — to live within the rule of law in pursuit of justice. Lawyers function in many capacities — as counsellors, as advocates and as friends. They do so as women and men with unique skills of honesty, character and learning. The goal of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law is to produce women and men who will lead a life in law as wise counsellors, learned advocates and honorable and caring human beings.

We have attempted in this brochure to describe the people and programs of this venerable institution — the College of William and Mary. This year, William and Mary will celebrate its three hundredth anniversary, a milestone reached by only one other institution of higher education in America. Among its many contributions to this nation, William and Mary was the first to offer instruction in law within a university setting. University-based legal education at the College of William and Mary, first envisioned by Thomas Jefferson and brought to life by George Wythe, warrants your serious consideration. We invite you to visit our campus and meet with our admissions personnel.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Williamson
Acting Dean and
Chancellor Professor of Law

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