

2004

Derrick Bell To Receive Marshall-Wythe Medallion

I. Trotter Hardy

William & Mary Law School



Derrick Bell To Receive Marshall-Wythe Medallion

By Staff

September 26, 2004

Noted law professor and activist receives highest honor by W&M; Law School faculty.

(Williamsburg, VA)--Derrick Bell, a noted law professor, author and Civil Rights activist--and the 2004-05 recipient of the Marshall-Wythe Medallion--will speak **Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2004 at the William and Mary School of Law**. Bell, who is a visiting professor of law at New York University School of Law, will deliver a talk based on his most recent book, "Silent Covenants: Brown V. Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hopes for Racial Reform."

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be held at 4 p.m. in Room 124 at the Law School on South Henry Street.

Bell will receive the Marshall-Wythe Medallion--the highest honor given by faculty at the Law School that recognizes outstanding leaders from the bench, bar and academia--during a special dinner Sept. 28, 2004.

Bell previously taught at Harvard Law School where, in 1971, he became the first tenured black professor. In 1992, he relinquished his professorship there rather than return from an unpaid leave of absence he had taken to protest the lack of women of color on the faculty. In addition, he has previously served as dean of the Oregon University School of Law; executive director of the Western Center on Law and Poverty at the University of Southern California Law School; Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; and deputy director of the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Bell has addressed issues of race and class in scholarly, autobiographical, and fictional works. He is the author of "Race, Racism, and American Law," now in its third edition, and a textbook for constitutional law courses titled "Constitutional Conflicts." In his book "Confronting Authority: Reflections of an Ardent Protester," Bell reflects on his personal encounters with racism. His allegorical stories featuring the fictional heroine Geneva Crenshaw are published in books titled "And We Are Not Saved;" "Faces at the



WILLIAM & MARY
LAW SCHOOL

P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

Bottom of the Well: The Permanence of Racism;" "Gospel Choirs: Psalms of Survival in an Alien Land Called Home;" and "Afrolantica Legacies."

In the introduction to *Silent Covenants*, Bell writes: "Brown v. Board of Education was a dramatic instance of a remedy that promised to correct deficiencies in justice far deeper than the Supreme Court was able to understand. Understanding those deficiencies more fully and suggesting how we should address them is the challenge of this book."