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Living Brown: Equal Opportunity, Social Justice, and the Development of the Black Corporate Bar (Program)

David B. Wilkins

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The 2002/03
GEORGE WYTHE LECTURE

William & Mary Law School

November 7, 2002

3:00 p.m.

Room 127

David B. Wilkins

David B. Wilkins is the Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law and Director of the Program on the Legal Profession at Harvard Law School. He is the author of numerous publications, including two books, *The Black Bar: The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education and the Future of Race and the American Legal Profession* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2004) and *Problems in Professional Responsibility for a Changing Profession* (Carolina Academic Press, 4th ed., 2002, with Andrew Kaufman).

A graduate of Harvard College and Law School, where he was a member of the *Law Review*, Professor Wilkins clerked for Chief Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and for Justice Thurgood Marshall of the U.S. Supreme Court. He practiced law at Nussbaum, Owen & Webster in Washington, D.C., before entering academia.

Professor Wilkins' lecture seeks to understand how America has moved from the shining promise of *Brown v. Board of Education* to the complex and ambiguous reality of integration at the dawn of the new millennium. By examining how *Brown's* promise of equal opportunity *through law* has and has not been realized *in law* with respect to the integration of the legal profession itself, Professor Wilkins will examine the slow but nevertheless significant transformation of the elite black bar from its historical roots in the civil rights struggle that produced victory in *Brown* to its current efforts to gain a foothold in the large law firms and other institutions that make up the lucrative and prestigious upper echelons of the corporate bar. This history has important implications for our understanding of race, the legal profession, and the role of law in society.

The 2002/03 George Wythe Lecture

“Living *Brown*: Equal Opportunity, Social Justice,
and the Development of the Black Corporate Bar”

Professor David B. Wilkins

Thursday, November 7, 2002

3:00 p.m.

Law School, Room 127

The Wythe Lecture

The George Wythe Lecture Series, begun in 1976, is named in honor of the occupant of the first Chair of Law at the College of William & Mary and in the United States. George Wythe was not only the law teacher of distinguished patriots – Jefferson and Marshall among them – but also one of the most distinguished lawyers, statesmen, and judges of the late colonial and early national periods.