1970

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Richmond Times-Dispatch

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Times-Dispatch News Service

WILLIAMSBURG -- James P. Whyte Jr., acting dean of the Marshall Whyte School of Law at the College of William and Mary for the past year, has been named dean, it was announced yesterday.

Dr. W. Melville Jones, vice president for academic affairs at William and Mary, said Whyte's elevation was the result of a 10-month search of the college's board of visitors after a nationwide search.

Dr. Davis R. Pannell, college president, said Whyte has been largely responsible for the improved educational environment and increased enrollment at the law school.

Whyte, a member of the law faculty for 15 years, is a native of Mississippi and a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Colorado law school. He was a professor of law at the University of Oklahoma and a lecturer in government at the University of Texas, before coming to William and Mary.

He serves as a judge for labor arbitration panels of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the American Arbitration Association, the American Arbitration Association, and the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry.

During World War II, he was a naval reservist and a trial and defense counsel for general courts martial.

Whyte is married and the father of three sons. His wife is a former member of the W&M Board of Visitors.

The law school here has about 200 students and a faculty of 12.