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William & Mary Law School

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An Invitation to Recruit William & Mary Law Students and Graduates

Hiring attorneys for your firm or organization is one of the most important investments you make.

We invite you to take a close look at our law students and graduates. Their skill level, professionalism, and enthusiasm for the law will impress you.

William & Mary lawyers begin their legal education with distinguished credentials. They gain practical, hands-on experience in an innovative, two-year Legal Skills Program, and enhance their academic and professional backgrounds by completing externships in actual legal settings.

During 2002, 75 percent of the law firms in the National Law Journal 250, Legal Times 100, and American Lawyer’s Global 100 actively recruited our students. Approximately 2,000 additional law firms, government agencies, public interest organizations, courts, and businesses visited campus, participated in off-campus interview programs, or solicited resumes.
William & Mary lawyers live and work in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 27 other countries. They are leaders in private practice, the judiciary, business, education, public interest organizations, and government.

Students with Distinguished Credentials and a National Orientation

William & Mary Law School accepts men and women who have demonstrated a high level of academic performance and have the potential to contribute significantly to the firms and organizations they serve. We share the company of a select group of law schools based on combined LSAT scores and GPAs of their student bodies.

We are a relatively small school of approximately 550 students. Our current student body comes from 46 states and territories and seven countries and has undergraduate degrees from 217 institutions. Forty-three percent are women and 17 percent are persons of color. The majority of students have worked before coming to law school, and more than ten percent already have earned graduate degrees.

The 190 students who entered as the Class of 2005 had a median GPA of 3.55 and a median LSAT score of 163 (90th percentile). They were selected from almost 3,400 applicants from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 35 other countries.

During the past 15 years, two-thirds of each graduating class have accepted positions outside Virginia, typically in 25 to 30 states.

A Law School Rich in History

William & Mary was the first academic institution in the country to teach law in a university setting. George Wythe was hired in 1779 to begin legal training here and John Marshall, who had a seminal impact on U.S. history as Chief Justice, was among his first students. With such august origins, the Law School takes seriously its obligation to produce graduates who are not only wise counselors and powerful advocates but also honorable human beings and good citizens.
Students with Exceptional Professional Skills

William & Mary students don't wait until they pass the bar to learn how to practice law. Their lives as lawyers begin, literally, the first day of law school. In Legal Skills, students learn the nuts and bolts of client representation, acquire essential lawyering skills, and tackle ethical issues they will face in day-to-day practice.

Our Legal Skills Program is a required, comprehensive, two-year course of study that prepares students to practice law through simulated client representation and classroom instruction. Each first-year student joins a fifteen-member law office led by a senior partner drawn from the faculty. Within the law office and in the context of specific cases students conduct research, counsel clients and interview witnesses, draft a full range of legal documents, and handle pretrial, trial, and appellate work.

Our Legal Skills Program has earned the ABA's E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award and has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, the ABA Journal, and The Professional Lawyer.

Key Features of Legal Skills:
- Legal research and writing is taught within the context of simulated cases, not as a separate course. Students gain practical experience by preparing and filing documents that are necessary for successfully representing their clients.
- Students handle more than one case at a time and follow their cases from beginning to end, through all phases of representation. This approach gives students a feel for how their efforts affect the final outcome and teaches them how to allocate their time efficiently among different cases.
- Ethical situations are incorporated into case simulations. Students gain experience in resolving difficult ethical issues that arise in practice.
- Students learn to use state-of-the-art equipment in our McGlothlin Courtroom so they can practice with confidence in any high-tech venue. All students file their pleadings and motions electronically and incorporate technology in their trials.

How will a William & Mary graduate fare in practice? Ask our Legal Skills faculty. They've seen each of our students in action. Faculty who serve as senior partners in our Legal Skills law firms get to know our students. They work closely with them on an almost daily basis for two years on a series of simulated cases. They are in the position to give a comprehensive evaluation of each student's research, writing, and client relations abilities skills in negotiation, litigation, and appellate advocacy ability to manage multiple responsibilities and filing deadlines and competence in recognizing and responding to ethical issues.
Students also gain practical skills through William & Mary’s externship program, where they earn academic credit for work in real-life settings. During semester-long placements, they assist law firms, prosecutors, public defenders, courts, government agencies, civil legal services offices, corporations, and private non-profit organizations.

This exposure to the practice of law instills confidence in students and equips them to handle projects involving a broad range of substantive and procedural law and to assist in the actual representation of clients.

The William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal recently ranked 7th in a national empirical evaluation of 285 specialty law reviews. The William and Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review was cited as one of the top 20 journals in the fields of environmental, natural resources, and land use law. The William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law is one of only 17 student-edited journals of its kind.

In 2000, the Law Review's editor-in-chief was one of ten law students in the country honored for excellence in writing in the inaugural Burton Awards for Legal Achievement.

In recent years, William & Mary’s Moot Court teams have captured 1st place, best brief, and best oral argument in the annual national moot court competition sponsored by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

A William & Mary team won the regional tournament in the 2002 Student Trial Advocacy Competition sponsored by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and placed 12th overall in the national competition of 225 teams from 126 law schools.

Four journals offer students an opportunity to be involved in legal scholarship and to enhance their research, writing, analytical, and managerial skills. In addition to the William and Mary Law Review, students publish three journals that add a lively voice to the national discussion of constitutional issues, environmental law, and the interplay between society and gender.

Our students excel in writing, oral advocacy, and client representation. They have won numerous awards and honors in prominent, national competitions.
Many William & Mary students gain valuable practical experience volunteering as summer interns for public service employers. Thanks to the support of the Law School's students, alumni, and friends, students can obtain summer stipends that help them defray living expenses. Each summer, Law School Public Service Fellowships provide assistance to approximately 50 students who work for government agencies and nonprofit organizations around the world.

During the past five years, Public Service Fellows have worked in 22 states, the District of Columbia, Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America.
We are eager to assist in meeting your needs for summer, entry-level, or lateral hiring.

Our Services Include:

• Convenient, on-campus interviewing with full pre-screening of students’ resumes at no charge. Upon request, we will be happy to coordinate your on-campus date here with visits to other area law schools.

• Accessible location and facilities. Williamsburg is 150 miles south of Washington, D.C., midway between Richmond and Norfolk. Three airports (Richmond, Norfolk, and Newport News) offer daily service to most major cities, and there is an Amtrak station less than one mile from campus.

• Real-time video interviews. Interviewing our students using the Law School’s state-of-the-art videoconferencing capabilities is an excellent, cost-effective option for employers interested in minimizing recruiting costs and eliminating cross-country travel and lost billable time by attorneys.

• Position listings. If you are recruiting for a position but do not plan to visit the Law School, we will be happy to inform students. We will collect resumes and forward them in one package or, if you prefer, have students forward their resumes to you directly.

• Job listings for laterals. Employers may, at no charge, list vacancies for experienced attorneys on a web-based site accessible to our graduates.

In 1995, William & Mary became the first law school to offer the option of real-time video interviews and, since then, employers from around the United States have found it an effective and efficient first step in their recruitment process.
William & Mary
School of Law

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