

William & Mary Law School

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### To the Law School Community

Davison M. Douglas

*William & Mary Law School*, [dmdoug@wm.edu](mailto:dmdoug@wm.edu)

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# WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL

Established 1779

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

June 30, 2020

To the Law School Community:

Today is my final day as Dean of the Law School. I want to thank all of you for the support you have given me in this work. It has been a true privilege. I am particularly pleased that we have such a marvelous new leader in Ben Spencer.

I do have a few final announcements to make.

First, starting tomorrow, Alli Larsen will be the new Director of the Institute a Bill of Rights Law. Neal Devins did a fantastic job for many years in this role, and Alli will have big shoes to fill. I believe that Alli is the perfect person to take on this leadership responsibility. I'm confident that the Institute will continue to be one of the great strengths of our law school.

Second, I wanted to let you know that I have recommended that Jeff Bellin receive the Godwin endowed chair. Jeff has had a marvelous career at our law school, and he is most deserving of an endowed chair, which has been approved by the Provost and will be approved by the Board of Visitors in September. I hope that in the fall we can celebrate his success.

Third, the Provost so far has allowed us to confer only one research professorship this year — the Robert and Elizabeth Scott Research Professorship. This year's recipient is Tom McSweeney. Each year we confer this professorship on a different faculty member. The Scotts have told me that they have enjoyed getting to know different members of our faculty.

Fourth, we have some good news on the *US News* front. As many of you know, employment statistics play a particularly an important role in the *US News* rankings. In the most recent rankings, we finished number 31 in post-graduate employment. Next year we are scheduled to finish number 23 in this category. Congratulations to Mike Ende and his team on this success.

I have great confidence in the future of our law school. I thank each one of you for all that you do to give our students such a positive experience. I hope that you will give Ben Spencer all the support that you have given to me.

With best wishes,

Davison M. Douglas  
William & Mary Law School