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1975-1976: Emeric Fischer (Acting Dean)

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## W&M Law School Due Hearing May 13

Wilford Kale

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## W&M Law School Due Hearing May 13

By Wilford Kane

*Times-Dispatch Staff*  
WILLIAMSBURG — The accreditation hearing by the American Bar Association for the College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law will be held May 13 in Chicago, it was announced Thursday.

Acting law school Dean Emeric Fischer said the college received word of the hearing by letter from the ABA in Thursday morning's mail.

The hearing will be before the ABA's Legal Council of Education Committee and will discuss W&M's status in its quest to remedy space and library inadequacies claimed last year by ABA consultants, Fischer said.

Fischer added that he and the dean-designate, former Sen. William B. Spong Jr., will represent the college in Chicago. "We're going to be put on the defence," Fischer said. "We're going to be asked

about what the inspection team has found."

On the library, the college will be in "good shape," Fischer said, and added he would only hope the committee appreciates the action of the General Assembly regarding a proposed law school building.

He said he did not know how many people from the ABA committee would be at the hearing. "They're not going to decide anything while we're there," Fischer said, adding that he had no idea how long the decision process would take.

Earlier this year it took about six weeks for the same group to tell the college it would not accept the alternatives proposed to solve the space problem. At that time, however, the college supplied information by letter.

If the ABA committee finds W&M is not in compliance with ABA guidelines, Fischer said it could recommend to the House

Continued on Page 8, Col. 1

# Law School Due Hearing May 13

Continued From First Page  
of Delegates of the ABA that  
"our accreditation be lifted.  
But there could be an alterna-  
tive," he added. "They could  
give us a deadline to rectify the  
situation.

"But I think we would have to  
wait until the legislature meets  
again," he said. Fischer and  
Spong will report to Dr.  
Thomas A. Graves Jr., W&M  
president, and Gov. Mills E.  
Godwin Jr., if believed  
necessary.

Fischer said he would handle  
the ABA committee's  
questions regarding the law  
school library, while Spong,  
who was in Richmond when the

last-day appropriation of \$486,  
150 by the General Assembly  
was included in the \$5 million  
supplemental building fund  
package, would answer  
questions about the law school  
building.

The General Assembly, in  
authorizing the funds, also  
gave Godwin the power to  
divert other state money to the  
law school project if it is  
necessary to preserve the  
accreditation of the school.

Earlier this month the govern-  
or said he believed the ABA  
would accept the action of the  
General Assembly.