1959

News Letter, Vol. 2, No. 5 (June 1959)

William & Mary Law School
LAW ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

On May 16, 1959, forty members of the William and Mary Law School Association held the annual business meeting at three o'clock in Bryan Hall, followed by a social hour and dinner. Many of the law alumni and wives were present for the dinner at the Lodge which honored the graduating class. Judge C. Vernon Spratley and Judge Lawrence W. L'Anson of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia were special guests of the Association.

The following new officers were elected:

President: Ernest Goodrich
Vice President: Channing M. Hall, Jr.
Secretary: Arthur W. Phelps
Treasurer: Mrs. John Lee Darst
Sergeant at Arms: Duane Holloway
Directors: Paul Gantt, Thomas Athey

The articles of the Association were amended to show clearly that it is operated for charitable and educational purposes to eliminate the filing of regular Federal Income Tax forms and to give tax exempt status to gifts to the Association. The Internal Revenue Service, as a result of these amendments, has granted the tax exempt status and freedom from filing regular corporate returns.

One hundred dollars was voted as the Association's part to help finance a lecture program by outstanding legal figures. The George Wythe Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity is sponsoring the lectures and hopes to secure funds from as many sources as possible in order to make them of very high quality.

The Association will provide a plaque for listing the names of students winning competitions in the argument of appellate briefs and the conduct of practice court trials. These are under the supervision of Mr. Wythe of the Law Faculty.

R. Harvey Chappell, Jr. (B.C.L. 1950) has been appointed Co-chairman of the Junior Bar Conference committee on cooperation with the ABA Sections. This committee will seek ways and means of helping J.B.C. graduates (at age 36) to become active participants in some of the ABA Sections. [Source: The Young Lawyer, Vol. 15, No. 2, April 1, 1959, pp. 2 and 3]
FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Dean Dudley W. Woodbridge was initiated into Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at its regular spring meeting.

Professor Arthur W. Phelps has joined the American Society for Legal History to gain further ideas for his course in that field.

Final proof-reading is in progress on Handbook of the Virginia Rules of Procedure in Actions at Law by Professor Phelps, to be published shortly by the Michie Company, Charlottesville, Virginia. Professor Phelps will be working this summer on a handbook of the equity rules of procedure, which he hopes to complete soon.

Professor Phelps will represent the Law School at the meeting of the Federal Judges for the 14th Judicial Circuit in Asheville, N. C., June 30. He will also represent the Law School at the meeting of the Virginia State Bar Association at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, on August 6.

Professor James P. Whyte's article, "Is the Grand Jury Necessary?" appears in the April, 1959, issue of the Virginia Law Review. The inquiry traces the development of the grand jury in England and the Virginia Colony to the present time, pointing out that the development has emphasized making the grand jury functional, and concluding that an informational system of instituting criminal charges ought to be adopted as an equal alternative to the grand jury system.

At the request of the Graduate School of Business Administration of the University of Virginia, Professor Thomas C. Atkeson delivered a series of lectures for the class on taxation at Charlottesville on May 25.

The paper given by Professor Joseph Curtis at the New York University Institute of Taxation on Gift Tax Pitfalls in Establishing Trusts has been published in Vol. 17 of the Institute on Federal Taxation proceedings.

Professor Joseph M. Cormack addressed the Kiwanis Club of Newport News on the subject of the causes of the fall of the Roman civilization. J. William Hornsby, immediate past president of the William and Mary Law School Association, was among those present.

ADVENT OF COMMON LAW

On May 17, the College collaborated with the Virginia State Bar at ceremonies on the campus and at Jamestown celebrating the advent of the common law to America. James H. Simmonds, President of the Virginia State Bar, gave the principal address at the College. Honorary degrees were conferred upon Sir Harold Caccia, British Ambassador to the United States; The Honorable Ross L. Malone, President of the American Bar Association, and His Excellency, James Lindsay Almond Governor of Virginia.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

During the months of April and May, freshmen students in Professor Whyte's class in Legal Writing completed a series of exercises in
Appellate Briefing and Argument. On the basis of prepared trial records, the student advocates argued various issues in the fields of agency and contracts. Members of the Law School faculty served as justices of the mythical Supreme Court of Woodbridge which heard the cases.

On the eve of LAW DAY—U. S. A., the Marshall-Wythe School of Law held its first practice court session. With the cooperation of townpeople and students from William and Mary, it was possible to try a case involving actual facts. Charles R. Cloud, a senior law student, represented the plaintiff who had loaned a Santa Claus uniform to a College fraternity for use at a Christmas party. Unfortunately, the uniform was lost, and plaintiff instituted a bailment action in the Circuit Court of the State of Woodbridge. Defendant fraternity was represented by Fred P. Aucamp, also a senior law student. A jury was chosen from members of the classes in Legal Writing and Introduction to Law, and the case proceeded to trial under the Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure. Professor Whyte presided as judge of the trial court, and accepted the jury’s verdict for the plaintiff in the amount of $40 plus interest and costs.

Francis Paul Blanock and Sidney Jackson Baker were the local winners of the Will Draftsmanship Contest sponsored by the Virginia Trust Co. of Richmond. Mr. Blanock’s entry was awarded third prize in the State Competition among the eight best entries.

Three of our latest graduates will be working towards advanced degrees in law as a result of receiving fellowships. Paul T. Wright will study oil and gas problems at Southern Methodist University; John R. Batt will specialize in public law at Yale; and, Theodore H. Focht will be a teaching associate at Columbia University while working for his S.J.D. degree.

Charles R. Cloud was awarded the William A. Hamilton Prize for the best essay on a subject connected with Roman Law, and Theodore H. Focht won the Seidman and Seidman Tax Award for achieving the highest average in his courses in taxation as well as the Lawyer’s Title Insurance Corporation’s Award for being adjudged the student most proficient in the law of real property.

Phi Alpha Delta held its regular initiation-installation Spring banquet at The Holiday Inn on May 2. The high point of the meeting was the initiation into the George Wythe Chapter of Mr. Justice Lawrence W. l'Anson, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals. Twelve students were also initiated. Robert Redding, National Treasurer, was the principal speaker. Lawrence P. Roesen was installed as Justice, Fred B. Devitt as Vice Justice, Harmon D. Maxson as Clerk, William E. Bush as Treasurer, and, Sammie W. Weaver as Marshal.

Those receiving their B.C.L. degrees at the June exercises were: Fred P. Aucamp of Philadelphia; John R. Batt of Baltimore; Francis P. Blanock of Shadow; Dr. Theodore Bliss of Norfolk; L. Travis Branch of Williamsburg; Charles R. Cloud of Norfolk; William H. Colona of Wilmington, Delaware; Joseph T. Cutler of Williamsburg; Theodore H. Focht of Williamsburg; Kenneth H. Lambert of Norfolk; Bruce A. Leslie of Norfolk; Granville R. Patrick of Williamsburg; David C. Rittenhouse of Wilmington, Delaware; John P. Scozzari of Trenton, New Jersey; and, Paul T. Wright of Bradenton, Florida.
William T. Prince of Norfolk was awarded the degree of Master of Law and Taxation. Mr. Prince will be associated with the firm of Williams, Cocke, Worrell & Kelly of Norfolk.

SUMMER SESSION - 1959

The 1959 nine weeks Summer Session is being held from June 18 through August 14. The courses offered are: Contracts, Future Interests, Insurance, Military Law, and, Workmen’s Compensation & Modern Social Legislation.

LAW REVIEW

The William and Mary Law Review for 1959 is ready for printing. Copies should be available for distribution in August.