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## Letter to Graduates and Friends

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Dear Graduates and Friends:

To succeed over time, schools need capital of four basic sorts:

- *Human* (alumni, students, faculty, staff)
- *Physical* (books, buildings, machines)
- *Financial* (tuition, private contributions, foundation support, government grants)
- *Reasons for Being* (a powerful justification for existence – a compelling mission).

Each sort of capital matters. Most crucial, however, is human capital. With good people, you can get a lot done even when physical and financial resources are scarce. But without good people, it's hard to do much over the years, no matter how many buildings and dollars the school has and no matter how important its mission would be if achieved. Below are a few snapshots of the Law School's human capital. Good people have been the rock on which Marshall-Wythe has stood for a long time.

**Virginia Bar Association.** A striking number of Law School graduates now lead the VBA. The Association's president is Anita Poston '74. Anita is joined in the VBA front ranks by Sharon Pandak '78 and Jayne Barnard (a star on our faculty since 1985), who both serve on the VBA Executive Committee. The Chair of the Association's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) is Jim Ingold '90. Serving on the YLD's Executive Committee are four other Marshall-Wythe graduates: Chris Boynton '95, Steve Otero '95, Monica Taylor '91, and King Tower '95.

**Employers.** Ninety-nine percent of the Class of 1999 is employed or pursuing another degree. Judging by reports reaching me, employers are well pleased. The demand for our students remains intense. This academic year, 203



employers from 29 states and the District of Columbia (representing 317 offices) came to the Law School to recruit. Another 2,433 nonvisiting employers from all 50 states, D.C. and abroad (representing 2,811 offices) asked for resumes from interested students.

**Applicants.** Nationally, law school applicants increased 2.3% this year. Our applicants increased 8%, to 2,489. Applicants have come to us from all states in this country and many points abroad. Since we had a bumper crop of 1Ls last August, we hope to hold this year's class to 175. Predicting the "yield" on admits is an inexact science, however, so we shall see.

**New Faculty Members.** We have enjoyed a near-incredible recruiting year for new full-time faculty members. Out of our six offers to full-time candidates, five have decided to join the Law School. Landing five out of six is a striking accomplishment, rooted in very hard work by many people, especially the Faculty Appointments Committee. Adding these five professors to our mix will bring an infusion of new perspectives and enthusiasm to South Henry Street. In my view, each of the five is committed to teaching as well as scholarship, wants to help push the school forward, and is genuinely nice. Collectively, they have extraordinary credentials.

*Lan Cao* will be our leader in the area of private international law. She came to this country in her early teens, as a refugee from Vietnam. Lan went to college at Mount Holyoke (Phi Beta Kappa – highest grades in the senior class), law school at Yale (Note Editor of the **Journal**), clerked for Judge Motley (S.D.N.Y.) and practiced law at Paul Weiss in New York City. She is now at Brooklyn Law School, where she has been teaching international business transactions, international trade and international economic development, among other subjects.

*John Duffy* was a highly successful visiting professor at Marshall-Wythe last fall. He is now at Cardozo Law School, where he teaches torts and intellectual property, as well as constitutional and administrative law. John clerked for Justice Scalia on the United States Supreme Court, following a clerkship on the D.C. Circuit with Judge Williams. John graduated from Harvard College (physics) and Chicago Law School (Coif – Articles Editor of the **Review**). He practiced law at the Justice Department and then Covington & Burling.

*Jim Dwyer* went to Boston College (Phi Beta Kappa – valedictorian), Yale Law School and Stanford (Ph.D. in philosophy). He practiced law in Washington, D.C. at Coudert Brothers and Sutherland, Asbill, and also served as a law guardian and assigned counsel for the New York State Family Court. He has been teaching at Wyoming Law School, specializing in family law.



*Richard Hynes* is now an associate at Skadden Arps in Los Angeles. He went to college at Georgetown (Phi Beta Kappa), law school at Chicago (Coif) and earned a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Pennsylvania. He's a "first time" teacher interested in corporate finance, contracts, secured transactions, securities regulation and corporations.

*Michael Stein*, now a consulting assistant professor at Stanford Law School, graduated from NYU (summa cum laude – Phi Beta Kappa), Harvard Law School (one of the editors of the **Review**), and Cambridge University (Ph.D. in history). He practiced with Sidley & Austin and Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City. Michael's teaching interests are civil procedure, torts, labor and employment law, disability law, and English legal history.

**Retiring Faculty Members.** Just as we look forward to new additions to our faculty, we also confront the sad reality that three of our most senior faculty members have decided to retire: Tom Collins this year, John Donaldson next year, and Elmer Schaefer the year thereafter. Professor Donaldson joined the faculty in 1966, Professor Collins in 1970, and Professor Schaefer in 1973. Collectively, they have taught a significant percentage of the alumni body.

**Moot Court Triumphs.** The Law School's moot court program has swept to one of its most glittering years ever! Elliott Buckner, Jeff Chamberlain and Jason Rylander won the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition in Chicago on April 8<sup>th</sup>, beating 106 other teams and sweeping aside the seemingly invincible Texans (one Texas law school or another has won during 14 of the last 17 years). This ABA Competition is one of the two major tournaments held each year in the United States. In the other – the National Moot Court Tournament – Cameron Cobden, Terry Driskill (best oralist) and Laura Rugless won the regionals in Richmond in January and ended up octofinalists in New York City, out of a field of more than 140 teams. The St. John's Bankruptcy Tournament, in turn, was captured by our Heather Conoboy, Joe Grogan and Bill Ruhling (best oralist). A William & Mary team also made it to the quarterfinals of the Duke Medical Ethics Moot Court Tournament, and another of our teams was among the top ten at the University of North Carolina Constitutional Law Tournament.

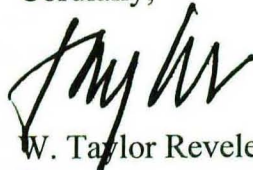
**Rankings.** Marshall-Wythe just moved back into the top 30 U.S. law schools in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. We've picked up five spaces in these rankings during the last two years: in 1999 we went from 34 to 32, and in 2000 we've gone from 32 to 29. Many flaws characterize the way *U.S. News & World Report* evaluates the quality of law schools. The *U.S. News* pecking order,

however, is a fact of life. It attracts a lot of attention. Where we rank directly affects the Law School's capacity to thrive.

**Class of 2000 Gift.** More good news! The Class of 2000 set \$80,000 as its goal for a gift to the Law School. At a kickoff event for the campaign in mid-March, Earl Pinto '00 (who's led the charge) sounded two themes: (1) The best thing about Marshall-Wythe is its people. (2) There would be no stopping the place if it had resources comparable to its people. By Reunion Weekend in mid-April, the class had blown past its \$80,000 goal, surging to \$114,100, with 74% of the class pushing the juggernaut. How to describe a dean's reaction to this extraordinary happening? In a word, I'm galvanized in my own efforts for Marshall-Wythe by the Class of 2000's determination that the Law School have the resources to accomplish its mission and be recognized nationally as one of the jewels of American legal education. I was similarly inspired last year, my first at Marshall-Wythe, when another group of 3Ls – the Class of 1999 – made vibrantly clear their own commitment to the school.

Your interest and support are crucial to continued progress on South Henry Street. Let's keep it rolling!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taylor Reveley, III', written in a cursive style.

W. Taylor Reveley, III  
Dean