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# Legal Education for Minority Students

William & Mary Law School

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# Legal Education for Minority Students



Marshall-Wythe School of Law  
The College of William and Mary





This brochure is designed to help you decide whether our law school is right for you. As you read, consider whether you want a challenging legal education in a small academic community which traces its history back nearly a century before the founding of our nation. The Marshall-Wythe School of Law offers this special opportunity.

Our law school is committed to the concepts of legal opportunity and accessibility. Diversity within our student body, faculty and administration as provided by a strong minority representation is of paramount importance in achieving this goal. In recent years we have made excellent progress, but much more remains to be done. If you apply and enroll, you may be certain of a warm welcome and a legal education that prepares you for the practice of law at the highest levels.

Whatever your future plans, I wish you success and happiness in the pursuit of your career goals.

Most cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Timothy J. Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Timothy" and last name "Sullivan" clearly legible.

Timothy J. Sullivan  
Dean



*"Enlightened leadership by the nation's colleges and universities must ensure that those who shape the future will have the best possible preparation to meet its demands. The societal implications of diversity are central to our mission."*

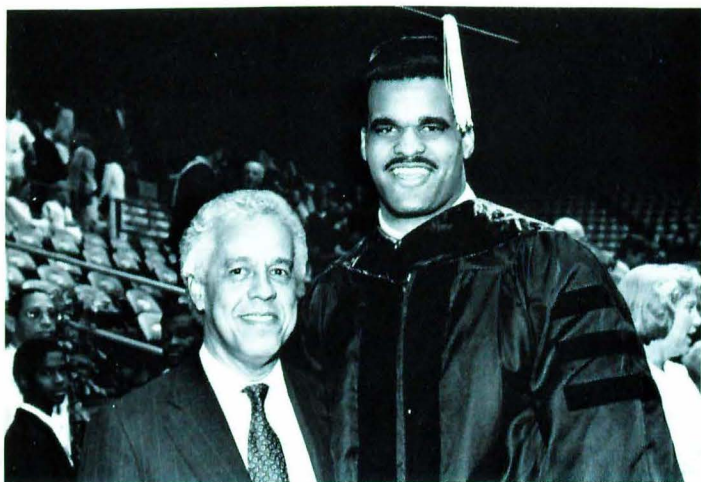
*Paul R. Verkuil, President  
The College of William and Mary*



Career opportunities for lawyers have increased substantially during the past decade. Despite numerous predictions of a "glut" of lawyers, the demand for law school graduates remains high, and the number of employers interviewing on campus continues to grow each year. Both the traditional and nontraditional employers—law firms, governments, business associations and public interest groups—desperately need well educated minority lawyers. We believe the Marshall-Wythe School of Law provides the type of legal education that will meet this demand.

The number of minority students who have graduated from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law during the past decade has increased significantly. These graduates have gone on to achieve notable success in a wide variety of positions. They serve as judges, government lawyers, private lawyers in both small and large law firms, as legal service lawyers and as counsel for large corporations. They represent the very best the Marshall-Wythe School of Law has to offer, and their commitment to the rule of law and to the betterment of society is beyond question.

The students and faculty at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law are committed to increasing the enrollment of members of minority groups and to that end have prepared this brochure. We hope the information provided will help you make an informed decision about whether to attend law school and assist in deciding which law school is best suited to your needs. We sincerely believe that the Marshall-Wythe School of Law provides an excellent environment in which to study law and prepare for a life in law.



## WHY MARSHALL-WYTHE?

The Marshall-Wythe School of Law is widely considered one of the nation's best law schools. Additionally, the College of William and Mary, the nation's second oldest institution of higher education, has been recognized as among the nation's leading comprehensive universities. The Marshall-Wythe School of Law attracts highly able students from almost every state in the country and several foreign nations. The faculty is composed of highly talented men and women who are recognized nationally for their teaching and scholarly accomplishments. Apart from the traditional classroom program, both the Law School and various student organizations sponsor a wide range of extracurricular programs that enhance the intellectual life of the law school community. The relatively small size of the law school produces a strong sense of community and common purpose among the faculty and student body.

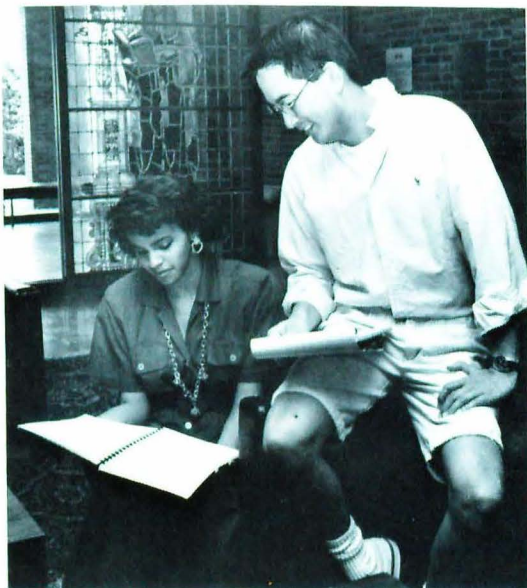
The Marshall-Wythe School of Law is located in an attractive, modern building constructed in 1980. The classroom facilities, including the technologically advanced moot courtroom, were specifically designed and equipped to meet the special needs of legal education. In addition, the law library, housing in excess of 260,000 volumes, contains ample seating capacity for the law student body. The law library also contains a substantial number of personal computers for student use, and is equipped with all major computerized legal research services. Located next to the Law School is the National Center for State Courts, a research organization dedicated to the advancement and betterment of the nation's state judicial systems. Many law students are employed as research assistants on a part-time basis by the National Center.

The national reputation of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law attracts employers from almost every state in the country and includes a wide range of traditional and nontraditional employment opportunities. The Office of Career Planning and Placement sponsors a number of programs designed to allow students to explore employment opportunities by talking directly to lawyers working in various occupations. Two national minority job fairs, which attract approximately 200 employers annually, are among the off-campus recruiting activities available to our students. In addition, four special programs exist to provide financial support for students working in public interest and government positions.



*"No nation in the recorded history of man has a greater tradition of revering justice and fair treatment for all its citizens in times of turmoil, confusion, and tension than ours."*

*Justice Thurgood Marshall  
The Supreme Court of the United States*





## **SUPPORT GROUPS FOR MINORITY STUDENTS**

Students may participate in two organizations which specifically address minority concerns. The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is a nationwide organization of approximately 4000 members with local chapters at law schools throughout the country. The Marshall-Wythe chapter, established in 1975, provides a vital forum for minority students to articulate and promote the professional needs and goals of the Black law student, as well as focusing on the relationship of minority attorneys to the American legal structure. The organization strives to instill in minority law students a greater awareness and a commitment to the legal needs of our minority communities. A "buddy" support system has been established which provides each first year student with a second or third-year student counterpart. The BLSA sponsors activities such as speaker forums on pertinent topics, community activities, and social events.

The Minority Recruitment Committee (MRC), a committee of the Student Bar Association, was established in 1982. The MRC assists the Admissions Office in recruiting qualified students. The MRC also assists with facility tours, informal gatherings, formal receptions, telephone calls, and letters to prospective students.





## LIFE IN WILLIAMSBURG

The College of William and Mary provides a comprehensive and stimulating academic and cultural environment. The academic programs at the university provide a number of speakers and programs of general interest to the academic community. Likewise, the cultural life at the university is rich and varied. Students enjoy a wide range of lectures, concerts, theatrical productions, and athletic contests.

The Williamsburg community, like the College and Marshall-Wythe School of Law, is relatively small in size but provides many of the benefits of a large city without the exorbitant cost of living in a large metropolitan area. A wide range of housing options, all within a five-mile radius of the Law School, are available. Williamsburg night-life is varied and includes many restaurants and nightclubs. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation allows students at the College an opportunity to visit and enjoy free of charge its many exhibits and programs. Virginia Beach, Norfolk, and Richmond are all within a one-hour drive from Williamsburg. Washington, D.C., can be reached within a two-and-one-half-hour drive.

Students at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law enjoy a variety of extracurricular activities. The College has an extensive intramural athletic program. There are a number of student organizations, including BLSA, Federalist Society, Law Partners Club, Mary and William Women's Law Society, Environmental Law Society, National Lawyers Guild, American Trial Lawyers Association, Law and Medicine Club, International Law Society, and Law Students Involved in the Community.

Law students also edit and publish a number of publications, including the *William and Mary Law Review*, the *Administrative Law Review* and the *William and Mary Bill of Rights and Public Policy Law Journal*, containing both professional and student articles and book reviews. Students also publish two biweekly newspapers.



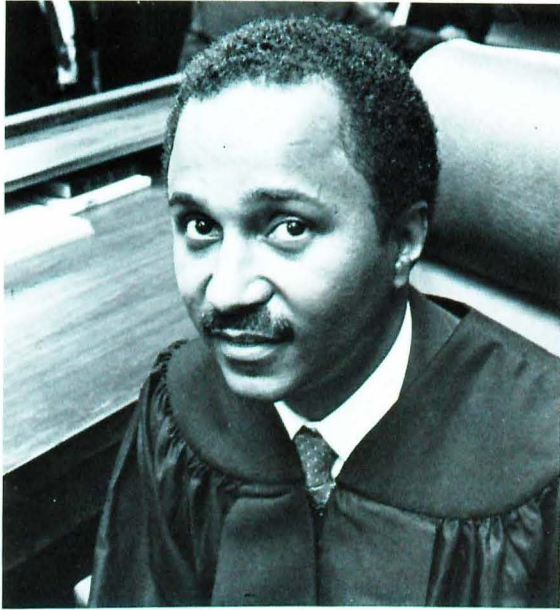


**PROFESSOR SPENCER**  
**Professor Margaret Poles Spencer**

Margaret Poles Spencer is an Associate Professor of Law at Marshall-Wythe. She has taught Criminal Procedure, Civil Procedure, Trial Advocacy, and Appellate Advocacy. Professor Spencer received her B.A. in Sociology from Howard University in 1969 and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1972. Prior to joining the faculty she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia, a Senior Trial Attorney in the U.S. Justice Department and an Assistant Attorney General in Virginia. As a government attorney, she briefed and argued employment discrimination and criminal cases in seven of the federal circuit courts of appeal and in numerous state courts.

Professor Spencer is a member of several professional organizations, including the Virginia Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. She also serves on the Virginia State Bar's Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar.

In 1990-1991, she took a leave of absence from Marshall-Wythe to serve as the Senior Administrative Law Judge for Virginia's Department of Medical Assistance Services. In 1990, she was also appointed to a four-year term on the State Board of Corrections by the Governor of Virginia.



## **ALUMNI PROFILE**

**The Honorable Wilford Taylor, Jr. '78**  
**Judge, General District Court**  
**Hampton, Virginia**

On July 1, 1985, Wilford Taylor was appointed judge to the Hampton General District Court. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Deputy City Attorney for Hampton; was a partner in the law firm of Scott, Coles, Brown, Taylor & Melvin, P.C.; and was an adjunct instructor at Hampton University. Judge Taylor received a degree in business management from Hampton Institute and a master's degree in finance from the University of Richmond. After serving three years in the Army, he enrolled at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law and received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1978.

Judge Taylor is affiliated with the Hampton Bar Association; the Peninsula Bar Association; the Hampton Chapter of the NAACP; and the Hampton University Alumni Association. His commitment to community service is evidenced by his service on the Board of Directors of the Williamsburg-James City County Community Action Agency; the Peninsula Legal Board; the Community Advisory Board of the Junior League of Hampton Roads; and the Peninsula Institute for Community Health Board. He helped to organize the Hampton Crusade for Voters in 1981, becoming the group's first president. He serves in the active army reserve in the 80th Division in Richmond.



## **ADMISSIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

For many years, the faculty and students at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law have been committed to an admissions process that is sensitive to the need and importance of ethnic and cultural diversity in the legal profession. Accordingly, our admission policy is designed to achieve a strong student body composed of able individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences. While academic considerations continue to be the most significant factor in the admissions process, the Law School also considers work experience, personal statements, letters of recommendation, and leadership qualities. The LSAT, required of all applicants, is but one factor in the admissions process and the Law School has no minimum required score.

In an effort to give interested students a minority viewpoint on the quality of the academic program, minority students often accompany admissions officials on recruiting trips. The Admissions Office also employs a minority student assistant to advise minority applicants.

Applications and additional information may be obtained by writing or calling the Admissions Office:

Office of Admissions  
Marshall-Wythe School of Law  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185  
(804) 221-3785.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

For all students, the cost of a legal education is an important consideration. The Marshall-Wythe School of Law attempts to meet the financial needs of all accepted students through a combination of scholarships and loans. Special financial aid programs exist for minority students, and consideration for aid is independent of the admission decision. In addition to the financial aid programs administered by the Law School, various national organizations provide aid programs for minority law students. The Admissions Office can be contacted for a list of these organizations.