

2012

Exercises for the Presentation of Diplomas (May 13, 2012)

William & Mary Law School

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**EXERCISES FOR THE
PRESENTATION
OF DIPLOMAS**

**WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA
LAKE MATOAKA**

**MAY 13, 2012
2:30 P.M.**

JOHN CHARLES THOMAS
Retired Justice
Supreme Court of Virginia

Judge Thomas is a retired justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, having served on the Commonwealth's highest court from 1983 to 1989. At age 32, he was the youngest person to ever serve on the court, as well as its first African-American. Mr. Thomas ruled on thousands of appellate matters during his tenure, including issues of contract law, torts, property, public utilities, trusts and estates, and taxation.

Since stepping down from the bench, he has returned to private practice. He is currently a senior partner in the Richmond office of Hunton & Williams, leading the firm's appellate practice group. He has argued appellate matters involving insurance coverage issues, traumatic brain injury, international letters of credit, dealership terminations, defamation, automobile crash worthiness, workers compensation, medical malpractice, construction disputes, public official's right to hold office, and product liability.

Judge Thomas is also a AAA Certified Mediator and Arbitrator, having settled disputes involving intellectual property, subsoil construction conditions, and boundary lines between Virginia localities. He has also served as a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport. That organization, based in Lausanne, Switzerland, settles disputes involving the World Anti Doping Code for all Olympic sports, for the Tour de France, for FIFA, and for the LPGA.

In 2006, Judge Thomas was appointed to William & Mary's Board of Visitors, and was reappointed again in 2009. He also serves as Vice Chair of the board of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, and a Trustee of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, which is dedicated to the preservation of Monticello and its educational mission.

An acclaimed speaker, Judge Thomas has lectured around the world, including at the Interim University Center in Croatia, the United States Military Academy at West Point, and the University of Virginia. He delivered remarks to today's graduation class on their first day of law school in 2009.

Judge Thomas received his B.A. with Distinction in 1972 and his J.D. in 1975, both from the University of Virginia.

EXERCISES FOR THE PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME

Davison M. Douglas
Dean and Arthur B. Hanson Professor of Law

Jay K. Sinha '12
President, Student Bar Association, 2011-12

Jessica G. McGough '12
Lindsey W. Davis '12
Co-Chair, Class Gift

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Citizen Lawyer Awards

Fernand A. Lavallee '88
President, Alumni Association Board

Walter L. Williams Jr. Memorial Teaching Award

Ryen Christopher Rasmus '12
Kristen Marie Byers '12

Lawrence W. I'Anson Award
George Wythe Award
Thurgood Marshall Award
John Marshall Award

Dean Douglas

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dean Douglas

REMARKS

The Honorable John Charles Thomas

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Dean Douglas
Robert E. Kaplan
Associate Dean
Rebecca W. Knowles
Assistant Dean

FINAL WORDS

Dean Douglas

PRESENTATION OF THE MACE

Mr. Sinha

RECESSIONAL

Immediately following the ceremony, there will be a graduation reception at the Law School for members of the Class of 2012, their families and friends.

MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY

Davison M. Douglas, Dean

Peter A. Alces	James J. Duane	Eric A. Kades	Patricia E. Roberts
Angela M. Banks	James G. Dwyer	Charles H. Koch Jr.	Ronald H. Rosenberg
Jayne W. Barnard	Pablo Garcia Mexia	Allison Orr Larsen	Goran Sluiter
Warren M. Billings	Michael S. Green	Fredric I. Lederer	Jason M. Solomon
Lynda L. Butler	Rebecca Green	John W. Lee III	Sarah L. Stafford
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Eric D. Chason	Susan S. Grover	Paul Marcus	Donald A. Tortorice
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Neal E. Devins	James S. Heller	Kristen R. Osenga	Christie S. Warren
Scott Dodson	Laura A. Heymann	W. Taylor Reveley III	Melanie Wilson
			Timothy D. Zick

Emeritus Faculty

Tom A. Collins	John E. Donaldson	John M. Levy	Alemante G. Selassie
Glenn E. Coven Jr.	Emeric Fischer	Elmer J. Schaefer	Timothy J. Sullivan
			Kathryn R. Urbonya

Adjunct Faculty

Christopher A. Abel	Nathan R. Green	Frank T. McCormick	Jennifer E. Sekula
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Gregory C. Bane	Benjamin L. Hatch	M. Elizabeth Millette	Stacey-Rae Simcox
Craig D. Bell	Holly E. Hazard	Hon. F. LeRoy Millette	Matthew W. Smith
Linda L. Bryant	Michael L. Heikes	Helena S. Mock	Michael B. Steele
Christopher D. Byrne	Paul Hellyer	Frederic L. Moschel	H. Bruce H. Stoner Jr.
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Sandra B. Conyers	Robert E. Kaplan	Alan B. Rashkind	Mike Walker
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LATIN HONORS

¹ *summa cum laude*, meaning "with highest honor"

² *magna cum laude*, meaning "with great honor"

³ *cum laude*, meaning "with honor"