

William & Mary Law School

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Annual Report

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Spring 2024

Impact Report Spring 2024

William & Mary Law School

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IMPACT REPORT

SPRING 2024



WILLIAM & MARY
LAW SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE: ALUMNI WEEKEND

October 18-20, 2024!

Mark your calendars, grab your law school apparel, and prepare to join us in Williamsburg October 18-20, 2024 for Alumni Weekend!

Get ready to reconnect and reminisce with your fellow William & Mary Law School graduates as we commemorate the milestone reunion years for the classes of 4s and 9s. Whether you graduated five or 50 years ago, your presence will make this weekend truly special.

We will continue to post information online, which you can access by using the QR code or visiting us at law.wm.edu/alumni/reunions. You can also check our social media for updates at any time! Check back for registration, the schedule of events for the weekend, and information on reunion class giving to see who will win our reunion awards in October.

William & Mary Law Alumni have access to discounted hotel rates across Williamsburg. The Law School has set up room blocks at the Williamsburg Lodge and Griffin Hotel. There are a limited number of these specialty-priced rooms, so book yours today.

Spread the word and tag your fellow alumni—we can't wait to see you there!



Have questions or need more information?
Please contact the Office of Advancement at
757-221-3795 or email: lsadvance@wm.edu.

One Tribe One Day Breaks Records!

Your collective impact was felt on One Tribe One Day (OTOD), and we are grateful to everyone who made a gift!

Because of you, we raised more than \$200,000, unlocked challenge gifts from our Foundation and Alumni Association Boards, and raised funds for numerous student organizations and other areas at the Law School.

The response to the student challenge was amazing. Our student donors earned us an additional challenge gift from main campus for most student donors across all of William & Mary.

These gifts help us continue to provide a top-notch legal education for our students for generations to come. Thank you!



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni and Friends,



When I started as Dean in 2020, I considered William & Mary a preeminent law school that develops highly competent and engaged citizen lawyers who serve their clients and communities with distinction, integrity and passion. Now with several years on the job, I see it is no less than a

beacon of legal education and a force for positive change in our modern world. Much of that status comes from your partnering with us in excellence.

We started the academic year with several new appointments: Kami Chavis as Vice Dean, Evan Criddle as Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs and Iria Guiffrida as Assistant Dean for Academic & Faculty Affairs. We also welcomed Issa DiSciullo as Associate Dean for J.D. Admissions & Financial Aid, and Brian Wall '11 as Associate Dean for Student Affairs & Academic Support. Supporting our students is the highest of priorities as we are sure to achieve that with this team.

On the topic of student support, in September we opened the Office of Military & Veteran Affairs (OMVA) and named Visiting Professor of the Practice Michael Dick '06, Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.) as its Director. The mission of OMVA is to provide dedicated, focused, and holistic support to students at William & Mary Law School who are veterans, active duty, or Reserve Forces personnel.

We continue to hold gold standard events that promote critical thinking and give our students the opportunity to interact with alumni across the country. In October we hosted the 36th Annual Supreme Court Preview, followed by the 20th Annual Brigham-Kanner Property Rights

Conference, the leading conference dedicated to exploring the importance of property rights in the United States.

We are proud to announce that the Law School has launched an innovative Online Master of Legal Studies program. This groundbreaking initiative aims to redefine access to advanced legal education, offering professionals the flexibility to enhance their legal expertise and confront industry-specific challenges head-on.

It is through the combination of instruction by our exceptional faculty and practical experience in the Clinical Programs that our students continue to excel academically and professionally. Our graduates ranked 12th in the country for bar passage rates in 2022, and more than 90 percent of our 2023 graduates have secured positions with law firms, judges, government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses in nearly 25 states, D.C., and several foreign countries.

We are immensely proud of the accomplishments of our Law School community. Together we can ensure that William & Mary Law School's beacon remains bright in the world of legal education.

Sincerely,



A. Benjamin Spencer

Dean and Trustee Professor of Law

Now with several years on the job, I see it is no less than a beacon of legal education and a force for positive change in our modern world. Much of that status comes from your partnering with us in excellence.

WORDS OF THANKS

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of the Law School,



It is with immense pride and gratitude that I write to you as the Chair of the William & Mary Law School Board of Trustees. Our institution is thriving, thanks in no small part to your unwavering support.

The upward trajectory of William & Mary Law School is guided by our esteemed Dean A. Benjamin Spencer. Under his visionary leadership, our institution has achieved remarkable progress and continues to chart a course toward excellence. Thanks to Dean Spencer's leadership and the generosity of dedicated alumni, friends, and donors like you, I am glad to report that 2022–2023 was the second most successful fundraising year in our Annual Fund's history. Your contributions not only exceeded our expectations but also set a remarkable precedent for our Law School's future. Your generosity provides an exceptional legal education to the next generation of legal professionals.

The impact of your donations extends far beyond the numbers; it's seen in the students who graduate with a deep appreciation for the law, faculty who can engage in groundbreaking research, and countless lives that benefit from the expertise our graduates offer.

Your gifts allow us to:

- Continually expand our academic and extracurricular programs to ensure our students receive a well-rounded

education, complete with real-world experiences and networking opportunities;

- Further the enhancement and modernization of our facilities, providing students with state-of-the-art classrooms and resources to excel;
- Increase our capacity to offer financial aid to deserving students, thereby ensuring our doors remain open to talented individuals from diverse backgrounds; and
- Fuel research that not only addresses pressing legal issues but also benefits our local and global communities.

On behalf of the entire Foundation Board and Law School community, I extend our deepest gratitude. Your generosity continues to inspire, and your dedication encourages us to strive for even greater heights. Together, we are shaping the future of legal education and empowering the leaders of tomorrow.

With profound appreciation and warmest regards,

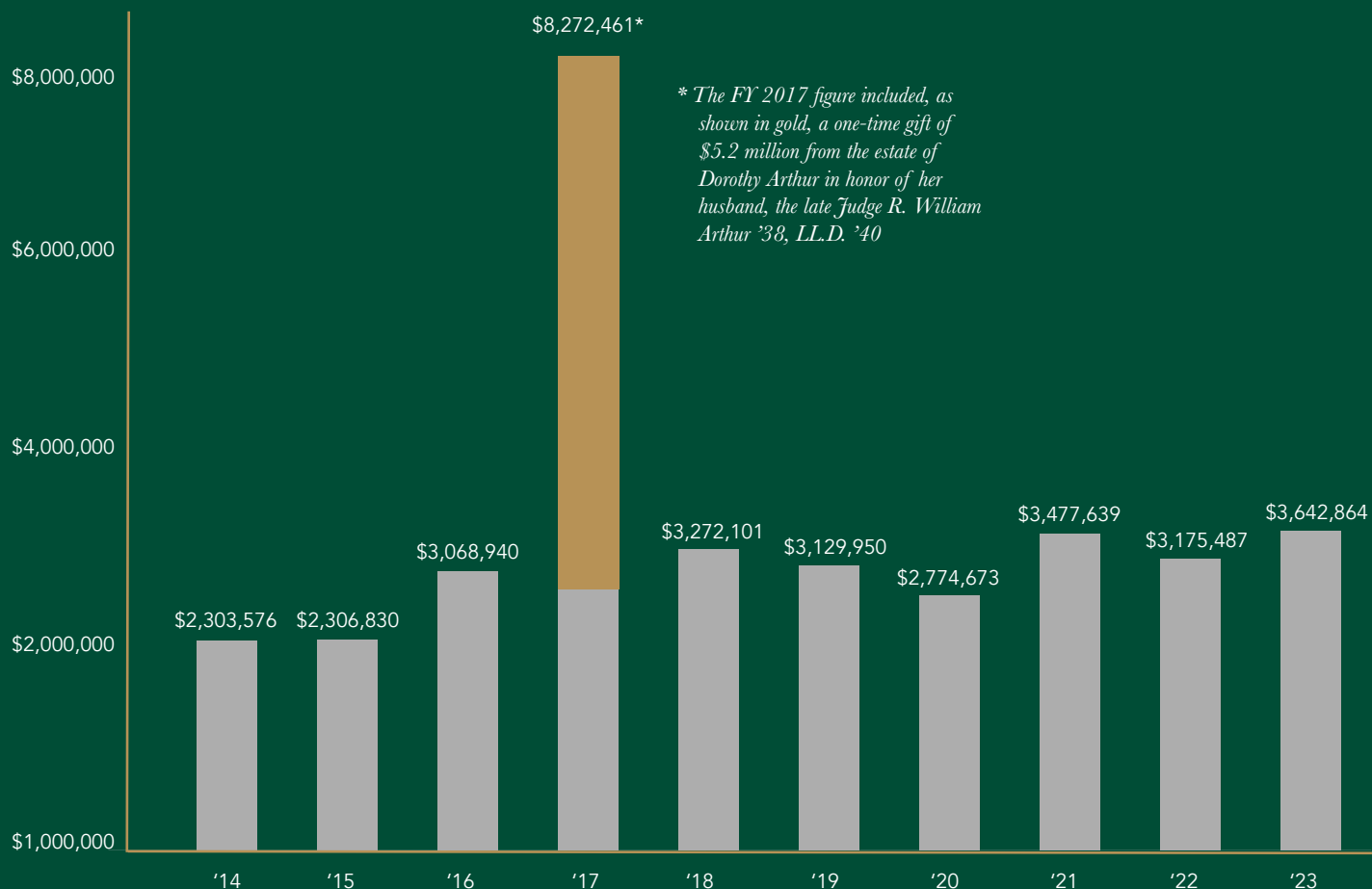
Victor J. Miller '93

Chair, Marshall-Wythe School of Law
Foundation



GIVING

ANNUAL FUND FY 2014 – FY 2023



TOTAL GIVING FY 2014 – FY 2023

	FY '14	FY '15	FY '16	FY '17	FY '18	FY '19	FY '20	FY '21	FY '22	FY '23
ANNUAL FUND	\$2,303,576	\$2,306,830	\$3,068,940	\$8,272,461	\$3,372,101	\$3,129,950	\$2,774,673	\$3,477,639	\$3,175,487	\$3,642,864
GIFTS-IN-KIND	\$14,828	\$1,714	\$51,935	\$135,302	\$254,524	\$21,664	\$106,408	\$1,150	\$481	\$754
ENDOWMENT GIFTS	\$1,619,110	\$670,343	\$932,869	\$1,700,338	\$1,416,117	\$1,168,636	\$2,091,565	\$1,584,990	\$1,656,725	\$855,672
CAPITAL (BUILDING)	\$572,356	\$1,656,955	\$604,697	\$421,648	\$1,424,571	\$344,765	\$332,601	\$347,261	\$149,094	\$35,529
TOTAL GIVING	\$4,509,870	\$4,635,842	\$4,658,439	\$10,529,749	\$6,367,313	\$4,665,018	\$5,305,247	\$5,411,040	\$4,981,787	\$4,534,819

TOTAL VALUE OF ENDOWMENTS

Value as of **June 30, 2022** \$99.1 million
 Value as of **June 30, 2023** \$102.4 million

WHY WE GIVE

“*We were extended an exceptional opportunity when we were accepted amongst its ranks. It is incumbent upon us to pay it forward and do what we can to support the Law School’s mission of delivering a first-class legal education to the next generation of lawyers coming behind us.*”

A Legacy of Responsibility Gabe Walker '13

Graduating from William & Mary Law School not only opens doors to professional success but also instills a deep sense of responsibility. For Gabe Walker '13, this responsibility goes beyond just personal achievement; it's about giving back and ensuring that the legacy of excellence continues for generations to come.

Walker's journey from Class of 2013 to Associate General Counsel at Meta is a testament to his dedication and hard work. Immediately after graduation, he began his career at a law firm in Richmond, Va., where he focused his practice on employment law and litigation. He subsequently made the leap to in-house counsel in 2016 and currently supports Meta (formerly known as Facebook, Inc.) as Associate General Counsel on the employment law team.

When asked how William & Mary helped prepare him for his path, Walker was unstinting in his praise for the Law School's people and programs.

“The Law School not only provided exceptional academic courses that challenged and stimulated students intellectually but also encouraged and supported bringing in talented and engaging individuals to speak and network,” Walker says. “This all helped to create an environment where I ultimately discovered my passion for labor and employment law, which



sparked the wonderful legal career that I have had the pleasure of enjoying now for over 10 years.”

Walker firmly believes all alumni of the Law School are stewards of its legacy. He understands that the knowledge, skills, and values instilled by the Law School have been instrumental in shaping his career, and he is determined to ensure that others benefit from the same extraordinary education.

“We were extended an exceptional opportunity when we were accepted amongst its ranks,” Walker says. “It is incumbent upon us to pay it forward and do what we can to support the Law School’s mission of delivering a first-class legal education to the next generation of lawyers coming behind us.”

Gabe Walker's passion for giving back to his alma mater is not just rhetoric. In July of 2023, he joined the Alumni Association Board at the Law School, a group of enthusiastic alumni who work with institutional leadership to generate ideas and make positive changes.

WHY WE GIVE

“The Puller Clinic gives a lot back to the community and to veterans specifically...and provides students with hands-on learning experiences. The clinical program at W&M Law has been a model for the country.”

Amazing Journey Chelsea Brewer Nelson '17 and John Nelson '17

Chelsea Brewer Nelson '17 and John Nelson '17 gained more than just their law degrees from William & Mary Law School—they gained each other. And now they give back to the place that started their amazing journey.

Chelsea, newly named Assistant Vice President, Legal Counsel—Delegated Underwriting & Claims at RenaissanceRe, and John, Senior Associate with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP's Technology, Communications, Privacy & Security Practice Group in Washington, D.C., are accomplished in their areas of practice. They attribute the critical thinking skills their professors encouraged, as well as the Law School's smaller class sizes, to their success. With ample opportunities for participation and collaboration, Chelsea and John really got to know their professors and peers, network with alumni, and share ideas during their three years in Williamsburg.

In addition to their studies, the Nelsons actively participated in the Law School's clinics: Chelsea with the Domestic Violence and Family Law clinics, and John with the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic. These experiences shaped their understanding of the importance of community engagement and the benefit of hands-on, practical learning.

Chelsea and John financially support two special initiatives: the Veterans Benefits Clinic and Lawyers Helping Lawyers, a national group dedicated to helping lawyers cope with the stresses the profession brings. They hope that they are setting an example for young alumni while ensuring that the Law School is continuing



to provide the same positive environment that they experienced a short time ago.

“The Puller Clinic gives a lot back to the community and to veterans specifically, who are such an important part of the W&M Law community, and provides students with hands-on learning experiences. The clinical program at W&M Law has been a model for the country for good reason,” the Nelsons share. Additionally, “we give to Lawyers Helping Lawyers in memory of our dear friend and former law school classmate who passed about two years ago—we think it is incredibly important to take care of one’s mental health and look out for one another, particularly in this field.”

Beyond monetary gifts, the Nelsons seek to mentor new or aspiring lawyers, specifically through William & Mary’s Co-Counsel program, which connects alumni with first-year law students. John hopes to share his specialized interest in telecom and tech policy through an adjunct professor role in the future.

William & Mary Law School will always hold a special place in their heart—for more than one reason. “We met some of our closest friends at the Law School, many on the first day. Our wedding ended up being a bit of a Law School reunion!” Chelsea and John had their first date at the DoG Street Pub in Williamsburg’s Merchant’s Square almost nine years ago.

The rest is history.

SCHOLARSHIPS



"The community at William & Mary Law School is truly unique, and I have been very lucky to be able to be a part of it. This is all thanks to your support. [My] scholarship significantly reduced the financial burden associated with following my dreams, and I am so grateful that you provided me with this opportunity."

Hailey Arnett J.D. '26
Recipient of the W. Taylor Reveley, III
Law Scholarship



"Receiving [a] scholarship has had a profound impact on my educational experience. It has relieved me of financial stress and has empowered me to participate in additional learning opportunities that I would not have been able to afford otherwise. These experiences are invaluable."

Tim Lyle J.D. '24
Recipient of the J.D. Carneal, Jr.
Law and Taxation Scholarship



"I come from a family of immigrants, and having support in attaining my dream to join a league of helping professionals has been instrumental in my career as a first-generation lawyer. I am very thankful to have the opportunity to concentrate on my academic experience."

Sarah Sim J.D. '24
Recipient of the Anne Wythe Mallory
Scholarship



"I am genuinely honored to be a part of the W&M community, and I am committed to making the most of this opportunity. Your generosity has a lasting impact on my life, and I am determined to utilize the knowledge and skills gained through this program to contribute positively to the field of international law."

Chan Dong J.D. '24
Recipient of the R.M. Hughes Sr.
Endowment for Law



"Attending William & Mary Law School has been one of the best decisions of my life. I often reflect on the fact that William & Mary Law School has cleared up so much 'gray-ness' in my life. Before coming to law school, I had little sense of direction both professionally and personally, but due to your donation, I have been able to gain so much clarity in both areas."

William Schaefer J.D. '25
Recipient of the T.C. Clarke Law School
Fellowship



"Being awarded your scholarship has significantly lessened the financial burden of pursuing my legal education, allowing me to focus more wholly on my studies and involvement in the law school without concern about accumulating excessive debt... I look forward to the day when I can pay forward this critical support to the next generation of law students."

Tatyana Cobbin J.D. '24
Recipient of the James W. Perkins
Memorial Trust Law Scholarship and
T.C. Clarke Law School Fellowship

DEAN'S COUNCIL

William & Mary Law School held the annual Dean's Council Dinner at Kingsmill on the evening of Saturday, November 18. We honored the recipients of the Law School Association's highest awards—Scott Foster '14 (Taylor Reveley Award) and Brian Golden '92 (Citizen Lawyer Award), heard from one of our outstanding students, Madalyn Sullivan '25, learned about AI and the law from Assistant Dean for Academic & Faculty Affairs Iria Giuffrida, and acknowledged the generosity of alumni and friends.

“Your unwavering support and generosity not only allows students like me to complete public service fellowships, but also provides financial assistance to all students, enhances the quality of our programs and supports our faculty. Thank you.”

— Madalyn Sullivan '25

The Dean's Council is an annual giving society comprised of our most generous donors. These funds ensure that students receive the best legal education possible. To learn more about Dean's Council and our additional giving societies, use the QR code or visit us at law.wm.edu/societies.



IMPACT

Deans' Portraits Unveiled in Hixon Center Gallery

During a ceremony in the Hixon Center on September 28, 2022, Dean A. Benjamin Spencer, guests, faculty and staff gathered for the unveiling of three portraits by artist Nancy Tankersley. The paintings depict W. Taylor Reveley, III (Dean, 1998–08), Lynda L. Butler (Interim Dean, 2008–09) and Davison M. Douglas (Dean, 2009–20) and come about through the foresight and enormous generosity of alumnus Joseph T. Waldo '78. "Taylor, Lynda, and Dave have had an immeasurable impact on legal education as individuals and as leaders," said Dean A. Benjamin Spencer. "It is amazing to consider how William & Mary Law School evolved during the years 1998 to 2020."



Doug and Escha Brown Dedicate Associate Dean for Advancement Office

The law community gathered in November to honor the generosity of Doug '71, J.D. '74 and Escha Brown. The Browns made a gift naming the Associate Dean for Advancement Office, helping law students and honoring the work of our Advancement deans. "By naming the Associate Dean for Advancement Office, Doug and Escha have found the perfect place to leave their lasting legacy while honoring the great work of Katey Howerton, Laura Beach and Sally Kellam," said Dean Spencer. "In honoring the Browns, we acknowledge not just their financial contributions, but also their belief in the transformative power of education and the profound impact that it can have on individuals and society as a whole."



Boswell-Caracci Gift Preserves George Wythe's Library

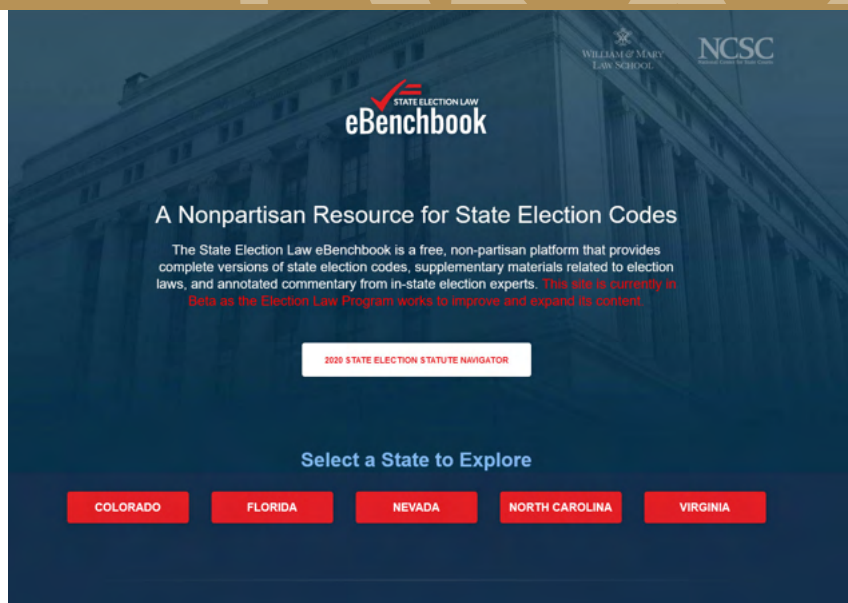
James Boswell B.A. '86 and Chris Caracci HON '23 have an extensive knowledge of rare books and well-honed expertise on Colonial American history. Their generosity is helping preserve the contents of George Wythe's eighteenth-century library, officially dedicated in December as the George Wythe Boswell-Caracci Room. "The preservation of this collection, as well as our efforts to continually build this collection to its completion, are evidence that the law library and the law school understand not only its historical significance, but that this collection today literally speaks volumes about the law school's continued effort to educate and train the citizen lawyers of the 21st century," said Leslie Street, Director of the Wolf Law Library.



IMPACT

Election Law Program Receives \$300,000 Grant

William & Mary Law School's Election Law Program received a \$300,000 grant from the Democracy Fund, a charitable foundation that seeks to improve the democratic process in the United States. A joint project of William & Mary Law School and the National Center for State Courts, the Election Law Program provides resources for judges deciding election cases. The Democracy Fund grant will support one of the Program's signature projects, a state election law "eBenchbook" that contextualizes election statutes in all 50 states and also support the Alliance of Students at the Polls (ASAP), a law student initiative that began at William & Mary in 2020 to mobilize law students nationwide to support state and local election officials.



BLSA Symposium and Black Alumni Celebration Held in April

A gathering of alumni, students, and colleagues made our BLSA Symposium and Black Alumni Celebration memorable on April 13. We celebrated the rich heritage and numerous accomplishments of our Black alumni as well as held panels in which experts engaged in meaningful dialogue and scholarship that will shape the future of legal practice and policy. During our annual Oliver Hill Scholarship Luncheon, we heard inspiring words from Board of Visitors member and former Law School Foundation Board Trustee, Courtney Malveaux '02 and announced Brenda Cook '25 as this year's winner of the Oliver Hill Scholarship. Thanks to Kaufman & Canoles and Troutman Pepper for sponsoring this event!

Inaugural Citizen Lawyers in Action Program Teaches Leadership Skills

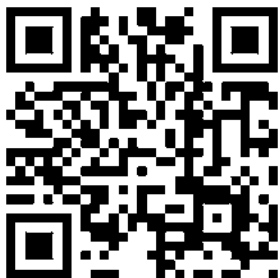
On Tuesday, November 28, the Institute of Bill of Rights Law (IBRL), with funding generously provided by the Virginia Law Foundation, welcomed two members of Congress, Joyce Beatty (D-OH) and Mike Carey (R-OH), to the Law School for the inaugural "Citizen Lawyers in Action" program. The event seeks to train students in the tools of democracy to produce lawyers who serve the public good and fortify the Republic. "We regularly teach our students how to debate, but too often we neglect to teach and model an equally important skill—the ability to govern a community, particularly a community packed with divergent views," said Professor Allison Orr Larsen, Director of the IBRL. Citizen Lawyers in Action helps do exactly that.





WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL

P.O. Box 8795
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23187-8795



Support Our Future: Your contribution to the law school supports our critical needs. Scan the QR code or visit law.wm.edu/give to make your gift. **Give back today!**

We value our donors and appreciate any feedback you are willing to share. If you have not done so, we invite you to complete our annual donor survey at law.wm.edu/donorsurvey or by using the QR code.



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