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### From the Law Schools: Team Teaching in Law Schools

William B. Spong Jr.

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# From the Law Schools

WILLIAM B. SPONG, JR.

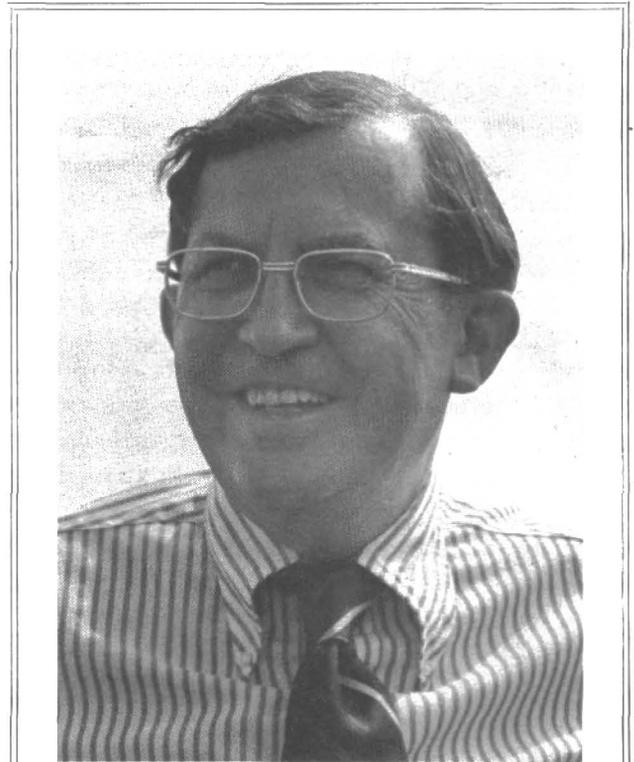
## TEAM TEACHING IN LAW SCHOOLS

In the past quarter of the century many new, special fields have developed in the practice of law. This has resulted in new demands upon curricula, and many law schools have recognized that instruction in these new areas is often more effectively given by practitioners. It is not easy, however, to find practicing lawyers who can take sufficient time from practice to assume sole responsibility for a course. At Marshall-Wythe we have partially solved the problem of enlisting the help of practicing lawyers without requiring an unreasonable amount of their time by suggesting that some subjects be taught by more than one teacher. This can be a good learning experience for students, provided one instructor remains responsible for scheduling and division of the syllabus.

Our first experience was in 1975 when the firm of Vandeventer, Black, Meredith, & Martin of Norfolk agreed to offer a seminar in Advanced Admiralty. Students who enroll in the seminar must have completed our basic course in Admiralty. This is the fourth year that the Advanced Admiralty seminar has been a part of our curriculum.

The schedule for the seminar is directed by John Ryan, who calls upon his partners and associates to share the teaching load. We are fortunate to have instruction available from practicing attorneys who specialize in admiralty.

Our second venture in team teaching involves lawyers from more than one firm. Roy S. Mitchell, of the Washington firm of Lewis, Mitchell, & Moore, undertook responsibility last year for organizing a course entitled "Introduction to Government Contracts." This was enthusiastically received by our students and is being offered for the second time this fall. Instructors are Roy S. Mitchell and Richard F. Smith of Lewis, Mitchell, & Moore; John B. Tieder, Jr. of Wyatt, Tieder, Killiam, & Toole, of McLean, Virginia; and John Tracy of Gadsby and Hannah, of Boston.



**William B. Spong, Jr.** is Dean and Dudley Warner Woodbridge Professor of Law at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law of the College of William and Mary. He attended Hampden-Sydney College and received his LL.B. degree from the University of Virginia. Dean Spong is a former member of the Senate of Virginia and the United States Senate. Prior to moving to Williamsburg he practiced law in Portsmouth. Dean Spong is a Past President of the Virginia Bar Association and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

The success of the Advanced Admiralty seminar and the course on "Introduction to Government Contracts" encouraged us to offer more team taught courses this year. Donald P. Irwin and W. Taylor

Reveley, III of Hunton and Williams, will teach a seminar in Energy Law. They will concentrate on the nuclear and coal industries and review the workings of law and regulations, both actual and proposed, judicatory proceedings, both judicial and administrative, as well as more informal regulatory measures.

Perhaps our most ambitious undertaking will be in our graduate tax program. This spring we will offer a course for practicing lawyers in Modern Land Finance. The course will be taught by a combination of an academic and two practitioners. The instructors will be Professor Michael Madison of our faculty, Mendes Hershman, formerly General Counsel of the New York Life Insurance Company, and David Cohn of Hunton and Williams. The three instructors have agreed upon a syllabus and a division of teaching responsibilities that will enable each instructor to concentrate upon his area of expertise. For instance, Professor Madison will teach the tax aspects of the course while Mr. Cohn will concentrate upon real property considerations. Mr. Hershman will lecture on mortgage financing.

These four offerings are the subjects being team taught at Marshall-Wythe. We are also using practicing attorneys in several areas of the curriculum to supplement the work of our permanent faculty. We presently have 18 lawyers, judges and retired judges giving instruction in other courses such as: Urban Land Use, Family Law, Patent Law, Juvenile Law, Retirement Plans, Evidence, Fraud and Criminal Tax Prosecutions and Virginia Procedure. These adjunct faculty members join our full-time faculty to offer a curriculum reflecting the traditional academic ap-

proach but supplemented in several special subject areas with instruction by members of the Bar and Bench.

We are preparing for a year long celebration in 1979, marking the 200th Anniversary of the establishment of the first chair of law in America. Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia persuaded the William and Mary authorities to establish a Chair of Law and Police. George Wythe, Jefferson's mentor, was named to the professorship, and so became the first professor of law in this country.

Several public events are planned as part of the celebration. On February 10th, William and Mary's Charter Day Observance will recognize the law school's beginning. Justice Lewis Powell will make the Charter Day address. Also, a conference on Environmental Law will be sponsored by the law school on February 9th and 10th with funds provided by the Virginia Environmental Fund.

In early May there will be a Law Day Observance sponsored jointly with the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Bar Association. There will be a Law Day speech at Phi Beta Kappa Hall and then a cornerstone laying ceremony for the new law building.

On October 25th the annual George Wythe lecture will be given by Sir Rupert Cross, Vinerian professor of law at Oxford. The first chair of law at William and Mary was patented after the Vinerian professorship. Members of the bench and bar of Virginia will be invited to attend some of these functions to help celebrate the beginning of university related legal education in the United States.