

# Student Legal Services Opens Doors

By Moe Hamilton

**Student Legal Services, located on the second floor of 153 Richmond Road, opened its doors last September to assist students with their legal problems.** Mark Warlick, the director of Student Legal Services, has been very pleased with the response from the student body. According to Mark, "this type of service is needed in a student community, and it helps to build a positive attitude among the student population toward attorneys, and the legal system."

The organization which is funded by the board of student affairs of William and Mary, and by a matching grant from the Student Law Division of the American Bar Association, has received much acclaim from local and student news media.

Approximately seventy-five percent of those visiting Student Legal Services last semester qualified as student clients. Those who did not qualify because of the nature of their problem, or for another reason were referred to Peninsula Legal Aid, or the Virginia Lawyers Referral Service run by the Virginia State Bar. The problems encountered by SLS have included college disciplinary proceedings, name changes, immigration and deportation issues, landlord-tenant grievances, summer employment problems, warranties and service problems with organizations selling items to students, and some Freedom of Information Act issues concerning school policies.

**The procedure for assisting students at SLS is as follows.** Students receive an interview and consultation with a student legal intern. The interns analyse the problem and consider available remedies. Advice is then rendered by the SLS volunteer attorney, Sam Powell, who talks over possible courses of action with the student intern. The client is then given legal advice and together the client and intern decide which course of action to pursue.

About thirty-five law students have been assigned as interns for SLS during the weekday hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A secretary has been employed to fulfill the Services clerical needs. Third year practice students have been involved in the courtroom aspects of SLS program.

This spring Student Legal Services will sponsor a forum to address the legal aspects of leases and rental agreements. The forum has been organized by second-year student, Barbara O'Brian. Professor Mike Madison,



Mark Warlick, Director of SLS hangs sign on Richmond Road.

and representatives from local realty management companies will participate.

**Student Legal Services fulfills a need at the college** for student representation and participation in the legal system. We urge alumni support so that SLS can continue to be a viable program at the college. Please send us your ideas and suggestions. You may write the office at the following address:



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Williamsburg, Va. 23185