Mary Siegrist Hinz Leadership Fellows at The Marshall-Wythe School of Law

William & Mary Law School

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The Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary, located in Williamsburg, Virginia, enrolls 500 students from throughout the United States. Nearly 2,100 applications are received for the 175 spaces in the entering class. The Law School is supported by the Commonwealth of Virginia and approximately two-thirds of its student body are residents of Virginia. The legal education is national in scope and alumni of the Law School are found in 48 states.

In 1980, the Law School moved to a new building located adjacent to the headquarters of the National Center for State Courts and a quarter of a mile from the campus of the College of William and Mary. One of the major features of the new building is the experimental moot courtroom that allows the testing of innovative approaches to the conduct of judicial proceedings both at the trial and appellate levels.

The study of law at the College of William and Mary rests upon venerable tradition. Antedated only by the Vinerian Professorship at Oxford, held by Sir William Blackstone, and by the Chair at Trinity College in Dublin, the Chair of Law at William and Mary is one of the oldest in the English speaking world and the oldest in the United States.

Through the efforts of Thomas Jefferson, the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary created a professorship of Law and Police on December 4, 1779. They chose as the first occupant of the Chair, George Wythe, in whose offices studied Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, James Monroe and Henry Clay. Wythe, who had been a leader in the struggle for independence, both as a signer of the Declaration of Independence and as a member of the Federal Constitutional Convention, proved to be an inspirational force in the development of legal education.

Wythe’s successor was St. George Tucker, who had been one of his pre-Revolutionary students. Tucker drafted a formal description of the requirements for a law degree at the College, which included an exacting schedule of qualifying examinations in history, government, and related pre-law subjects. Tucker’s stimulating and demanding course material was soon published as the first American edition of Blackstone’s Commentaries on the Laws of England. For a generation, this treatise was considered the leading authority of American law.

The Law School’s educational program seeks to test the intellectual capacity of its students and to direct that capacity along professionally productive lines. While the primacy of intellectual rigor in the training of a lawyer is well recognized, the faculty at Marshall-Wythe firmly believes that the education of a lawyer must be more than training in the life of the mind. Traditional traits of character are equally important. Of course, no law school can create character, compassion or sensitivity to human needs. A law school can, however, make it clear to its students that these qualities, combined with intellectual ability, are important in the education of a lawyer who aspires to genuine professional distinction. It is the highest aim of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law to prepare each of its graduates for a life in law which, if pursued with persistence and integrity, will be marked by significant legal achievement and unfailing adherence to the highest ideals of the profession.

For further information pertaining to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, please contact:
Office of Admissions
Marshall-Wythe School of Law
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
MARY SIEGRIST HINZ
Leadership Fellows

By age 25 Mary Siegrist Hinz had distinguished herself in her academic, professional and personal life as a person of high intelligence, outstanding athletic ability, and sincere concern for the welfare of others.

At the time of her death, Mary Siegrist Hinz had completed her second year of law school at the College of William and Mary, where she ranked in the top five percent of her class. A graduate of Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria, Virginia, Mary came to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law from Mary Washington College from which she graduated summa cum laude and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

At Mary Washington she founded, coached, and played on the College's softball team. In high school, Mary had been captain of the softball team as a senior and also was a member of the varsity basketball and field hockey teams. At the time of her death, Mary was training for the triathlon and bicycling nearly eighty miles a day.

The list of Mary's extracurricular activities in high school, college, and law school is extensive. She worked to improve each of the educational communities of which she was a part. At Mary Washington, she served as Chairman of the Student Academic Affairs Committee and as a defense counsel for the College Honor System. After her first year of law school, Mary worked in the Pentagon for the United States Army Judge Advocate General and after her second year, for the Norfolk, Virginia law firm of Vandeventer, Black, Meredith & Martin.

One who knew Mary well wrote of her:

"She burned with an innate sense of justice, fair play, and propriety. She always played by the rules. There was no better friend, no more charming and challenging companion and no greater champion of the underdog."

The Mary Siegrist Hinz Leadership Fellows program has been initiated to recognize outstanding students at Marshall-Wythe School of Law who share Mary Siegrist Hinz's best qualities. Mary Siegrist Hinz Fellows must demonstrate:

1. Academic distinction during their undergraduate and/or law school years. While no arbitrary grade point or class rank is required, it is the intent of the Hinz Fellowships to recognize students who have achieved the highest levels of academic success.

2. Characteristicsof citizenship which reflect a concern for others, or involvement in the larger community and an unselfish desire to contribute to the welfare of others.

3. Athletic excellence through involvement both in organized athletics and a personal commitment to physical fitness.

The Mary Siegrist Hinz Leadership Fellows program was initiated by the family of Mary Siegrist Hinz, her husband Lt. Dan Hinz, Jr. and her parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Siegrist with the assistance of Vandeventer, Black, Meredith and Martin of Norfolk, Virginia. The Leadership Fellows program has also received the generous support of Mary's classmates, teachers, and friends.

Mary Siegrist Hinz Fellows are selected by the Dean of the Law School upon the recommendations of a committee consisting of the Associate Dean of Admissions, a member of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law Class of 1985, a professor at the law school, and a member of the firm of Vandeventer, Black, Meredith and Martin.