Dean William B. Spong, Jr.

Editors of the William and Mary Law Review

DEDICATION

DEAN WILLIAM B. SPONG, JR.*

The Editors and Staff of the William and Mary Law Review proudly dedicate this volume to William B. Spong, Jr., retiring dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. During the last ten years, Dean Spong has transformed Marshall-Wythe into a nationally recognized school of law. As students of Marshall-Wythe, we have benefited greatly from Dean Spong's efforts and will continue to do so throughout our careers. This dedication reflects the respect and admiration the students of Marshall-Wythe hold for Dean Spong.

* Dudley Warner Woodbridge Professor of Law, Emeritus, College of William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law. Born 1920. Hampden-Sydney College; L.L.B., University of Virginia; University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Order of the Coif; Phi Beta Kappa (Hon.); Raven Award, University of Virginia, 1973; Jefferson Award, College of William and Mary, 1980.


Trustee, Hampden-Sydney College, 1956-1975, United States Air Force Academy, 1969, United States Naval Academy, 1970; Chairman, Virginia Commission on Public Education,
To the students of Marshall-Wythe, Dean Spong will be remembered best for his work in legal ethics. In his Legal Profession class, he shared with second and third-year law students his knowledge of, and experience in, the American legal system. He always presented a positive view of the system but, at the same time, he encouraged his students to question the system to uncover its inadequacies. Through this process, he hoped the class would discover ways to improve the system. Most importantly, Dean Spong provided an example of a highly qualified lawyer, sincerely devoted to the profession, and constantly dedicated to the pursuit of goals consistent with a strong social conscience. In sum, he epitomized the best of the legal profession.

The Dean had a distinctive teaching method. He always began class with a light tap on the side of the podium and the words, “Let’s begin,” spoken in a rich Southern accent. His teaching was always enthusiastic, and he embellished class material with tales of his experiences as a practitioner in Portsmouth, Virginia, a Senator in Washington, and an educator in Williamsburg. If by chance he called upon a “dilatorious” student, he eased the student’s embarrassment with his familiar phrase, “I commend it [the reading assignment] to you.” Of course, none of Dean Spong’s students will forget the perplexing dilemma Charles Phillips faced in *The Conscience of a Lawyer*, the Dean’s lively discussion of *The Anatomy of a Murder*, or the “Dean Spong Film Festival.”

Dean Spong has served Marshall-Wythe as a fine administrator and a superb educator. By dedicating this twenty-seventh volume of the *William and Mary Law Review* to him, we give but a small

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1958-1962; Chairman, Commission on Virginia’s Future, 1982-1984; President, Virginia Bar Association, 1976; Fellow, American Bar Foundation.

token of our gratitude for his efforts. His greatest reward may be the respect, the high esteem, and the appreciation he has earned from the students he worked for and taught at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

The Editors