The patio and flagpole outside of the Hixon Center, home to the Puller Veterans Benefits Clinic, stands in honor of William & Mary Law School’s veteran and active duty service members, and in memory of former Associate Dean Lizbeth Jackson.
William & Mary had its fair share of challenges to overcome in light of the pandemic. But this year has shown us that the resilience and perseverance of our community is not to be outdone.

This year taught us that the connection felt by this community goes beyond the four walls of our building, and the creative problem solving we engaged in led to strengthened relationships between students and faculty. We saw collaborative efforts by students, faculty, and staff to educate and expose the deep-seeded racial injustices in our history and take actionable steps towards growing forward as a law school and in the legal field.

The disappointing sacrifice of some beloved traditions for the sake of the safety of our community meant we successfully ended our academic year together, in person, to celebrate the immense accomplishments of a resilient class.

All these things reinforce what we already knew — William & Mary is a unique law school. This is a place where inclusion and belonging drive us towards reimagining the legal field to be reflective of our global, diverse society; where insight and creativity inspire new academic experiences rooted in high-impact practices; where leadership through service is a central aspect of the student experience.

And now there is an overwhelming feeling of urgency and fervor as we return and gather again as a community. What new opportunities exist for learning, engaging, and teaching after a year online? How do we engage in more meaningful conversations around what it means to be the first law school in the nation? Where can we develop new experiences in the practitioner pipeline as we move forward in this new chapter?

As we say here at William & Mary, “who comes here, belongs here.” We hope you’ll join us and find out.
a message from
DEAN A. BENJAMIN SPENCER

Since joining William & Mary Law School as dean, I have been impressed time and again by how our community has risen to meet and indeed exceeded challenge after challenge. Navigating a pandemic has proven the resiliency and steadfast dedication of our students to becoming outstanding legal practitioners and leaders. When I took on the role of Dean, our country was in the midst of an awakening to the plight of Black people in America. As the first law school in the country, William & Mary Law School must be a leader in combating the racial and social injustices in our society if our commitment to training engaged advocates for justice is to have real meaning.

One step forward is “Why We Can’t Wait — An Agenda for Equity and Justice,” a 12-part action plan for real and fundamental change to address inequality and injustice. We can only do so through the commitment to collaborative work within a diverse community, one that upholds the responsibilities of our profession through leadership, insight, inclusion, community, and progress. Our community values equity, inclusivity, and the pursuit of justice through teaching and learning alongside people of different backgrounds, identities, abilities, beliefs, and viewpoints. This breadth strengthens and enriches our Law School and the legal profession, producing graduates who lead through service locally, nationally, and globally.

Now, we extend an invitation to you to join this community — a legacy over 240 years in the making — as we take the next steps. One step forward is “Why We Can’t Wait — An Agenda for Equity and Justice,” a 12-part action plan for real and fundamental change to address inequality and injustice. We can only do so through the commitment to collaborative work within a diverse community, one that upholds the responsibilities of our profession through leadership, insight, inclusion, community, and progress. Our community values equity, inclusivity, and the pursuit of justice through teaching and learning alongside people of different backgrounds, identities, abilities, beliefs, and viewpoints. This breadth strengthens and enriches our Law School and the legal profession, producing graduates who lead through service locally, nationally, and globally.

Our society is at a crossroads, as many people想到 up to the reality that racial & social injustice is a perennial problem in America. As the first law school in the nation — a school with a longstanding commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion — we must strive to create a lasting legacy of justice and redress. As the first law school in the nation — a school with a longstanding commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion — we must strive to create a lasting legacy of justice and redress. As the first law school in the nation — a school with a longstanding commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion — we must strive to create a lasting legacy of justice and redress.

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The CITIZEN LAWYER

The founders of William & Mary Law School believed that lawyers should be more than legal technicians. A lawyer should be one who understands the importance of "public virtue" - the preference for the greater good over one’s individual interests. This approach provided the foundation for citizen lawyers to lead in their communities, motivated by the desire for progress and with the understanding that their legal education required their active citizenship. Today, we embrace these ideals as we educate a different kind of lawyer: one that is open to all individuals who wish to serve. A William & Mary lawyer emulates our values regardless of where or whom they serve. They find ways to use their legal skills to make the world better, whether at the highest levels of government or in neighborhood organizations. They approach problems with integrity, judgment, and an awareness of the effects of their work beyond the challenge at hand. They seek collaboration and conversation across a wide range of experiences and viewpoints, always with the goal of improving the law. They understand that the responsibilities that come with a law degree should be universal regardless of the role: corporate lawyer, litigator, in-house counsel, public interest or government lawyer, educator, board member, or however else we make use of our skills.

William & Mary Law students start their lives as citizen lawyers from their first day of law school. And when they graduate, they join a community of alumni who have devoted their careers to upholding these values, across all areas of practice.

The pursuit of law is more than a means to an end — it is a means of change through service and dedication to the wider world.

Simply providing a well-rounded legal education is not William & Mary Law School’s sole objective. Although that is certainly a pillar of its mission, equally important is preparing students to make a positive impact on the legal profession, and the community at large, by exhibiting traits such as integrity and civility. William & Mary’s goal has never been about teaching law for the sole benefit of its students. “Self-promotion” does not appear in the course of study. Instead, the focus has always been to impart on students the awesome responsibility that comes with a legal education.

Our students’ commitment to the citizen lawyer tradition is in their DNA. They don’t check that commitment at the classroom door. They come to class prepared to examine tough questions not only from a legal perspective but also through a broader societal lens. They roll up their sleeves to tackle pressing ethical issues. They advocate for equality and justice. Both in and out of the classroom students embrace the responsibility they have as stewards of the legal profession, as creative problem solvers for their clients, and as civic leaders.”

Robert E. Kaplan
Associate Dean and Professor of the Practice of Law

A citizen lawyer is a skilled practitioner of the law who is also committed to pursuing the public good. A citizen lawyer not only serves the community, but also provides leadership in a variety of public and private activities that promote the general welfare and common good of society. To be a citizen lawyer means honoring the privilege to practice law by fulfilling the concomitant responsibility to “make a difference.”

The Honorable Aundria D. Foster ’82
7th Judicial Circuit of Virginia, retired
ACADEMICS

Our curriculum was designed to introduce you to the emerging issues a 21st-century lawyer will face while building on the fundamental principles of a legal education. Here, we prepare students to compete at the highest levels of business, government, the judiciary, and nonprofit. We encourage analytical thinking, clear, concise writing, and engaging in diverse, cross-cultural dialogue to better understand the law and its effects on the public.

F I R S T  Y E A R  C O U R S E S

FALL
- Civil Procedure
- Criminal Law
- Torts
- Lawyering Skills I
- Legal Research & Writing I

SPRING
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Property
- Lawyering Skills II
- Legal Research & Writing II

Concentrations

Concentrations offer an opportunity for more focused coursework with required components of experiential learning or independent research. These areas of academic focus allow for flexibility in exploring the curriculum while maintaining a rigorous course in a particular field of law.

Business Law
- Intellectual Property
- Environmental Law

Criminal Law
- International Law
- Public Interest & Social Justice Law

Environmental Law
- Political Law

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“My career goal is to advance international climate change regulation—the ability to complete both an Environmental Law and International Law concentration at W&M gives me a unique advantage I don’t think I would have had at any other school.”

Caroline Lewis ‘22
Public Service & Social Justice concentration

“The Public Interest & Social Justice concentration allows me to clearly signal to employers my dedication to public interest, while still giving me the flexibility to choose courses around my specific interests within that broad area of law.”

Sami Warren ‘22
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“As an aspiring public defender, it is important to me that I am knowledgeable about not only criminal law, but social justice issues, which is why I’m grateful that I have been able to pursue both Criminal Law and Public Service & Social Justice concentrations.”

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In her 2L year, Elizabeth Brightwell served as a Legal Practice Fellow. She shares her experience as a fellow and reflects on her own 1L year with her section.

What is the Legal Practice Program?
Each year, the 1L class is divided into sections of 12–14 students who take their doctrinal classes together. Through the Legal Practice Program, each section also has Lawyering Skills and Legal Research & Writing together; because of this structure, there’s an opportunity to develop real, meaningful relationships with your section mates at the onset of the academic year.

Why is this important for your first year in law school?
Law school is intimidating! These sections build a space to make mistakes, voice your opinion, and get an answer wrong in a new environment with people you know and trust. It ensures that each student has every opportunity to succeed, and those involved in the program, from the writing professors, to the fellows, to the lawyering skills professors, are fully dedicated to that. Everyone comes to law school with strengths and weaknesses, and the size of each section lends itself to being able to dedicate the time to address or improve those skills. Writing is our main tool as lawyers, so building a really strong foundation in legal writing from the beginning is critical to your future success. Because these classes are taught by professors, 1Ls get thoughtful feedback directly from the expert rather than a student. Our 1L students also do really well in their summer experience because of the softer skills that are developed in the Lawyering Skills class. Fellows have the responsibility to facilitate simulations throughout the year like client interviews and oral argumentation to help build those skills. The 1Ls are being taught those skills by practicing attorneys within the Legal Practice Program.

What was your experience like as a 1L in the Legal Practice Program?
My writing professor had (and still has) coffee and tea hours for all her students, making time to sit and talk about anything you want to talk about, whether it’s a paper or adjusting to Williamsburg. She’s available and excited to talk to students, and that is such a good representation of the accessibility of the entire faculty at William & Mary.

What advice do you have for an incoming 1L student?
For better or for worse, these are your people for the next year — this program simulates your first attempt at a professional relationship. You’re going to have to figure out how to interact in a productive and a collegial way with colleagues in the legal field, and your section is the place to build those skills.
**Experiential Learning**

**Clinics**

Deciding which of our ten clinics to participate in may be one of the harder decisions you make in law school! From helping veterans obtain the benefits they earned, to briefing and arguing constitutional claims in the United States Courts of Appeals, our students have the opportunity to practice their lawyering skills and professional judgment while working closely with supervising attorneys. These professors are leaders in their fields who provide close mentorship, guided reflection, and exploration of professional responsibility, all within the context of client representation. And with such an array of opportunities to choose from, there are no caps on the number of clinics you can participate in!

Through the Appellate & Supreme Court Clinic, students engage in appellate practice in the federal Courts of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court in over 100 Amicus Briefs every year. The Domestic Violence Clinic allows students the opportunity to interview victims and witnesses, provide advice and counsel to those victims, and represent them in court. The Elder & Disability Law Clinic provides free legal assistance for qualifying seniors and disabled individuals. The Clinic assists clients in creating plans to deal with current legal and financial issues and prepare for the future and in drafting the necessary documents to carry out those plans.

Students in the Immigration Clinic work in the Williamsburg office of the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia, providing legal services to low-income clients that address domestic violence, custody, immigration, and equitable distribution matters. The Federal Tax Clinic teaches students federal tax practice and procedure in order to assist in the representation of low-income Virginia taxpayers. In the Immigration Clinic, students will assist noncitizens, participate in community outreach and education, and conduct policy research and advocacy for immigrants.

Students in the Innocence Project Clinic participate in the legal investigation and research of inmate claims of actual innocence referred to the Clinic by the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project. The Parents Engaged for Learning Equality (PELE) Special Education Advocacy Clinic allows students to work with special needs and their families with eligibility, Individualized Education Programs, discipline matters, mediation, and administrative hearings.

The Lewis B. Puller, Jr., Veterans Benefits Clinic assists veterans with claims and appeals for disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Puller Clinic has captured national attention with its interdisciplinary approach and innovative partnership with Starbucks, called Military Mondays. The Virginia Coastal Policy Center offers students the opportunity to engage in science-based legal and policy analysis of ecological issues affecting the state’s coastal region through a partnership between the Law School, the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, and the Virginia Sea Grant program.

Gailen Davis

**HOMETOWN**
Cinnaminson, New Jersey

**UNDERGRAD**
Rutgers University

**WHAT’S NEXT**

(left) Members of the Puller Veterans Benefits Clinic counsel veterans at a local Starbucks as part of the nationally recognized Military Mondays program, a partnership between the clinic and Starbucks’ Armed Forces Network, which began at William & Mary Law School.

“The Appellate & Supreme Court Clinic has given me the opportunity to make a real difference by applying the skills that I have learned in law school. Professor Breckenridge, one of the top appellate lawyers in the country, has represented clients before the United States Supreme Court and every federal Court of Appeals. His lectures, professional guidance, and advice on appellate advocacy have been invaluable. Despite many responsibilities, Professor Breckenridge’s willingness to help, students in the Appellate Clinic are given great autonomy to find, research, write, and argue their own cases. My clinical partner and I have written and submitted briefs to two federal Courts of Appeal. Other students in the clinic have drafted petitions for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court and argued in various federal Courts of Appeal. Each year, there are 3L students who have the experience of arguing an appellate level case—there are practicing attorneys who can’t say that! Being a part of this clinic has been one of my favorite experiences at William & Mary.”

Gailen Davis
Journals

Student-edited journals create a forum for contemporary issues of the law and provide scholarly resources for academics, lawyers and judges. Each year, journals host a unique symposium for scholars, faculty, students, and practitioners to discuss forthcoming literature and emerging ideas in their respective fields. These nationally-recognized publications encourage engagement with renowned legal professionals and provide avenues to build your own personal repository of written work.

The William & Mary Law Review ranks among the top general interest law journals in the nation, and features work of noted scholars in all areas of the law. State and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court, have cited the Law Review more than 400 times during the last decade.

The Business Law Review explores the intersection of law, business, and ethics through scholarship that challenges existing law, analyzes new law, and equips readers with practical research tools.

The Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice serves as a forum for scholarly debate on legal issues related to multidisciplinary perspectives on race and gender, and the intersection of social justice in the legal world.

The Environmental Law & Policy Review increases awareness of environmental justice issues and delineating legal means of ensuring environmental justice around the world through policy and scholarship.

The Bill of Rights Journal is among the most cited student-edited constitutional law journals in the country, bringing together the foremost scholarship on the building blocks of the legal field — the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Journals are student-led publications that allow law students to gain experience and develop their writing and research skills. Being on a journal is an invaluable experience for law students. Students on journals get to read and edit academic articles written by legal scholars and other law students. Students also gain a chance to dig into a topic that interests them personally and write a note on it. Participating on a journal is no small commitment, but it helps students develop vital skills for being a practicing attorney.

Editing articles trains journal members’ eyes to look for typos or grammatical issues in a way that is hard to replicate. Reading these articles, and writing the student note, also introduces staff members to the boundaries of new subjects where the law is developing. On top of that, journal challenges students’ time management skills, as it is demanding but worthwhile — commitment.”

Alex Chumbley

HOMETOWN
Corbin, KY

UNDERGRAD
Centre College
Externships

Time after time, our students say their externships are one of the most impactful experiences they have in law school. Integrating your academic work with real-world situations provides a theory-to-practice pipeline essential to your success. With no cap on the number of credits earned, William & Mary Law students have participated in unique and influential externships across the country that have led to eventual employment opportunities after graduation.

Our students extern with a wide range of organizations and practitioners, including:

- Federal Government
- Judicial
- Nonprofit Organization
- Private Practice and In-House Counsel
- Prosecutor
- Public Defender
- State and Local Government
- U.S. Attorney
- Virginia Attorney General

Competition Teams

A Moot Court team ranked 7th in the nation. A national title for the Alternative Dispute Resolution team with an opportunity to represent the United States in an international competition. It goes without saying that W&M Law students gain extensive training in trial strategy, negotiation, and client counseling that provide the advantage they need for these experiences in real-world scenarios soon after graduation.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Team focuses on client counseling and methods of dispute resolution outside of litigation, such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.

Most Court promotes student refinement of oral advocacy and brief-writing skills in the context of appellate arguments. Our most court team regularly ranks as one of the top ten in the country.

National Trial Team provides extensive trial advocacy training, from evidentiary objections and fundamental trial skills to sophisticated trial strategy and persuasion, often adding new prizes to our trophy case.

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William & Mary's Sir Christopher Wren Building, the oldest college building still standing in the United States and site of Opening Convocation each fall, was home to the William & Mary Law School from 1779 to 1859.
GLOBAL PURSUITS

William & Mary prepares the next generation of lawyers to practice in our increasingly globalized world through innovative courses and research, as well as field experience opportunities. You can learn about the legal systems of other countries, study with international faculty and students, sharpen language skills, and gain a perspective on law through the lens of another culture.

Our internationally focused research centers and programs offer a variety of lectures, panels, and conferences that examine issues before our nation’s courts, provide perspectives on international legal systems, and address how law affects human rights and shapes democracy.

William & Mary students take advantage of the international scope of the legal profession through internships abroad with international organizations. The Center for Comparative Legal Studies and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding specifically addresses legal and policy issues facing countries recovering from conflict. Through this center, students travel across the world every summer participating in internships focused on public service through an international lens.

WEEK 1

To say I came to Jordan at a good time would be an understatement. I came at the perfect time.

Walking into the Jordan CITIES (Cities Implementing Transparent, Innovative and Effective Solutions) Project Office for the first time Monday morning I was met with a flurry of activity as the office was preparing for a very important presentation. The acting USAID Jordan Mission Director, Nancy Eslick, was visiting the office for the first time to be briefed on the status of the project. From Chief of Party Mark Grubb’s opening remarks through Ms. Eslick’s closing remarks, I saw that, although the work the team endeavors to complete each day is difficult and demanding, there was an overwhelming sense of hope and confidence to the future long-term success and development of the Kingdom. In just a week at the office, I could not agree more.

As an intern I will have the privilege of working alongside two teams: the Advisory Unit on Decentralization for the first half of the summer and Community Cohesion Team for the second half of the summer.

WEEK 3

The protests continue each night at 10 pm after iftar at (the Fourth Circle) or as Jordanians call it, (the Fourth). It is the circle that sits facing the Prime Minister’s Office. As I drove past one night from an iftar dinner, I stopped with my co-worker in the stand-still traffic, watching and listening. A crowd gathered in a dirt field across the street from the Prime Minister’s Office. I could see a few windows on the top floor of the building with drawn up curtains and shadows moving behind them. They closed as soon as the people began chanting for the overthrow of the government.

A large contingency of police and Gendarmerie personnel gathered on the streets and roads surrounding the protestors. But I listened as they received their commands: Do not touch the protestors, they are your brothers. I saw a large group in the distance approaching the area. They were dressed in long black robes. Lawyers. Jordanian lawyers and the Jordanian Bar Association have a large role in political activism in this country that began far before these protests. I wanted so much to join them, but it was late and there was work to get done in the morning.

WEEK 8

The truth is I have always been very lucky in my life to witness and learn from strong women far wiser and more experienced than me… I have been very lucky in my life to have been shown and taught how to be a strong woman — in the workplace and beyond. Perhaps today, in year two of the CITIES project, municipal awareness meetings and local decentralization efforts are male dominated. But with female leaders, specifically female Arab leaders like the women of the USAID Jordan CITIES, I think the balance may tip the other way soon.

WEEK 9

Maybe this is exactly what I wanted from Jordan — a list of accomplishments that illustrate how in the midst of this first real experience in the field, outside the comfort of my parents’ native Lebanon or America’s familiar streets and faces, I proved I can live anywhere in the world carrying out the work I love while doing okay all by myself.
**A 1L Day-in-the-Life**

Every 1L year looks different to different people — the classes may be the same, but how you prioritize your time and energy will be up to you. That doesn’t mean you have to be in the dark about what to expect your first year.

**7:00 am | Good Morning**
Up early to get in a quick workout at the Student Rec Center before heading off to the Law School for the day. Reviewing the assigned readings for Criminal Law while running isn’t always easy, but at least in this case it’s one small victory.

**8:00 am | 1L Year Can Be Difficult**
1L year can be difficult to navigate so I am thankful that I did not have to do it alone. I’m still close to my section, and we are incredibly supportive of each other. We try to amplify each other’s voices and celebrate achievements big or small. Sometimes you just need someone to say, “I see you, I hear you, and I’m proud of you.”

**10:00 am | Legal Research & Writing**
Outside of cold calls, Bluebooking might be the least loved part of law school, but it’s critical to the understanding and improvement of legal writing. Good thing the Legal Practice Program fellows are always available to help make sure everything is cited correctly, and to generally be a resource for the 1L transition!

**11:30 am | Criminal Law**
Today is all about felony death: Hawkins v. McGee. It’s about identifying the appropriate measure of damages in the context of the crime, even if that death is not intentional.

**12:50 pm | Lunch**
The lunch hour usually means deciding between a number of different speakers that have been brought to campus by organizations or research centers and almost always includes lunch! Today, Paul Grewal, vice president and deputy general counsel of Facebook is here talking about the obligations of social media platforms related to issues of free speech, and there’s pizza!

**2:30 pm | Office Hours**
Headed to Professor Criddle’s office to talk through some of the points he brought up in class yesterday. No one expects you to get through your first year without using the resources that are available, least of all the professors! In addition to assigned office hours, more often than not their doors are open and they’re available to answer questions, give some advice, or just have a quick chat!

**4:00 pm | Library Time**
There’s a little bit of time before the Wellness Wednesday Yoga session being held upstairs, so it’s off to the library to work on a memo for Legal Writing — hopefully a few other section mates will be there to brainstorm!

**5:30 pm | Yoga**
Every week, the administration puts on a program called Wellness Wednesdays that focuses on providing different areas of wellness programming to law students. There have been presentations on sleep awareness, mental health exercises, and opportunities to get one-on-one wellness coaching! Students still have access to the facilities for recreation and integrative wellness on the university campus, but bringing those resources to the Law School makes accessibility a bit easier.

**6:30 pm | Home for the Night**
You don’t have to live in the Library when you’re a law student, and it’s important to give yourself the time to actually eat, relax, and let your brain zone out for a bit. Tots reading and prepping for tomorrow’s class on Civil Procedure are waiting, but an hour or so of downtime is critical.

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**STUDENT EXPERIENCE**
Law school is more than cold calls in the classroom and late nights in the library identifying the appropriate measure of damages in Hawkins v. McGee. It’s about forging friendships over a mutual love of pie, sending your classmates a singing valentine through Law Cappella, and playing a spirited game of basketball against your faculty members. Students come to William & Mary Law from across the globe and quickly become valued members of the community. But more than that, they come to us as citizens of the world and leave as citizen lawyers, dedicated to making great strides in improving the lives of those around them.

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**WHAT’S NEXT**
Cedarville University
UNDERGRAD
Centerville, Ohio
HOMETOWN
Ariana Cheng
HOME TOWN
Huntington, W.Va.
UNDERGRAD
Ohio University
UNDERGRAD
Washburn University
HOMETOWN
Washington, D.C.

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**Laura N. Shepherd**
Associate Dean for Student Services
William & Mary Law School

**At William & Mary Law School, our students are our priority. While law school is both exciting and challenging, maintaining a healthy lifestyle isn’t always easy. To support student success, we provide our students with wellness resources both in the Law School and on campus to support their success.**

From yoga to mindfulness classes to personal coaching, William & Mary Law School is committed to our students’ academic, physical, and mental well-being.”
Student Organizations

Activities outside of the classroom are critical to the development of the William & Mary lawyer. Our students are involved in myriad organizations related to legal topics, general interest, recreational sports, and everything in between. There is always something happening when you need a break from Constitutional Law! Notable organizations include:

Student Bar Association The student governing body of the Law School acts as a collective voice for the student body in working with the administration and student organizations to provide transparency and communication. SBA also organizes major social events such as Rembrandt’s Ball, as well as Gratitude Week and wellness events for all students to attend.

Public Service Fund This student-led fundraising organization raises money throughout the year to supplement the Law School’s funding of summer stipends for students pursuing public service work. Events such as the PSF Auction (the most popular event of the year), Trivia Night, and the Faculty-Student basketball game, as well as sales of Law School swag, are always great ways to help the cause!

Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is devoted to creating a positive impact on William & Mary Law School and beyond. Through networking and professional development opportunities, the annual academic symposium, and several community service programs throughout the year, BLSA serves both the legal and local communities. As with all of our many affinity groups, they work in collaboration with the student body and administration to ensure that all students thrive at William & Mary Law School.

For more about student organizations, visit law.wm.edu/studentlife/studentorganizations
LL.M. students at William & Mary Law School host a Cultural Heritage Day showcasing food, art, music, and literature from their home countries around the world.

Ali’s Run is an annual fundraiser for the Bone Marrow Drive at William & Mary Law School. Students, faculty, and staff participate in the 5K race to raise money and awareness for the Be The Match Registry.

Supreme Court Preview Each year, the Institute of Bill of Rights Law marks the commencement of the new term of the United States Supreme Court with the Supreme Court Preview. This event brings together Supreme Court advocates, judges, faculty, students, and other legal scholars for a weekend of discussion and analysis of the Court’s upcoming term. Friday evening begins with the noted Moot Court, in which distinguished advocates present arguments before our panel of mock Supreme Court Justices. Expert panels of journalists, academics, advocates, and other distinguished speakers continue throughout Saturday.

Lectures and Conferences Guest speakers and faculty, sharing their latest work add depth and dimension to academic life at the Law School. Endowed annual lectures, including the Blackstone and James Gould Cutler Lectures, and the St. George Tucker and George Wythe Lecture series, bring the foremost minds and emerging voices to present bold new ideas pertaining to the theory and practice of law. Our annual conferences, notably the Property Rights Conference and conferences organized by our centers and journals, are renowned for outstanding panel discussions and encouragement of active participation through Q&A segments.

Philanthropy William & Mary takes the idea of the citizen lawyer very seriously, and service is at the heart of our ethos. Our students give back through community involvement, philanthropy, and advocacy. Each year, organizations collect food and clothing for local food pantries and shelters, raise funds for cancer and eating disorder awareness, and coordinate activities that bring together not only members of our community, but the Williamsburg community as a whole.

Special Events

Outside of student organizations, classes, journals, and teams, William & Mary students are involved in continuing their education through involvement with leadership conferences, symposia, and service to their community.
FACULTY

At William & Mary Law, faculty know you as more than a name on a seating chart. You are an integral part of the academic dynamic, valued for your unique experiences and the points of view you bring to the classroom. Faculty are dedicated to ensuring you leave William & Mary Law with the knowledge and skills to make real, substantive change in the world as a citizen lawyer.

Adam Gershowitz
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor of Law
B.A. University of Delaware
J.D. University of Virginia School of Law
Clerked for the Honorable Robert B. King of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit; worked as a litigation associate at Covington & Burling; 2015 recipient of the Walter L. Williams, Jr., Memorial Teaching Award and the 2019 1L Professor of the Year Award; amicus brief cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in ruling of Riley v. California, 134 S. Ct. 2473 (2014).

"Law school is a wonderful opportunity to not only learn the rules that govern our society, but also to think about how to change and improve those rules. The best part of my job is to teach the future judges, legislators, and leaders whose education will enable them to change society for the better."

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"Part of what makes the law school experience worth it is having a community of faculty backing you every step of the way: One of the most powerful experiences I’ve had so far was arriving to Professor Gershowitz’s office hours with a slew of questions. As I started rattling them off, he stopped me to ask me how I was doing in the most honest way possible. He genuinely cared to see how I was adapting to law school and how he could help. The same was true for my experiences with Professors Heymann and Hamilton. What I came to realize is that all of the faculty members at William & Mary are truly invested in the success of each and every student from the moment we step foot on campus.”

Katheryn Maldonado
HOMETOWN
Union, New Jersey
UNDERGRAD
University of Connecticut
WHAT’S NEXT
Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP, New York, New York

"Professor Adam Gershowitz teaches The Wire: Crime, Law & Policy, a favorite among William & Mary Law students."

"Law school is a wonderful opportunity to not only learn the rules that govern our society, but also to think about how to change and improve those rules. The best part of my job is to teach the future judges, legislators, and leaders whose education will enable them to change society for the better."
I have been fortunate to develop strong relationships with many professors at the Law School, but none more so than Professor Hendrickson; she has been a constant source of support during my time here. One of my most impactful interactions occurred during my 1L year when I was struggling with a sensitive issue that had been brought up in one of my doctrinal courses; her sound advice gave me the courage to lean into my leadership skills and address the issue head-on with my professor. Professor Hendrickson has always reminded me that who I am matters, and despite the feelings of isolation or imposter syndrome that can occur in law school, particularly among students of color, these are surmountable by staying true to oneself and upholding your values.

While all William & Mary Law professors have scheduled office hours, most also have an open door policy for their students. Professor Evan Criddle (left) speaks with a student about an upcoming exam.

What I enjoy most about teaching Legal Research & Writing is the opportunity to work closely with students in our small classes and in individual writing conferences. Research, analysis, and writing are fundamental skills, no matter what area of law you practice, so it’s incredibly rewarding to help students develop these skills as I get to know each of them on an individual basis.

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William & Mary’s global reach in job placement speaks volumes to the preparation our students receive to be successful in the legal field. Our alumni network spans the country and every corner of the world.

Our approach to career advising is a unique aspect of William & Mary Law. Each student is assigned to a professional career advisor, someone who understands the legal field from personal experience and who helps you navigate networking, job searching, and resource building throughout all three years of law school. Supplemented with guest speakers and alumni panels, workshops, on- and off-campus interview programs, and an engaged alumni community across the country and around the world, there is no opportunity to fall through the cracks of career support.

Christina Kapalko
HOMETOWN
West Long Branch, New Jersey
UNDERGRAD
Franklin & Marshall College
WHAT’S NEXT
Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, New York, New York

My law school experience is all the better for having my Career Services advisor. As a 1L, the very thought of the law school job search process induced anxiety. I was unsure how I would be able to mold my passions into a coherent career, but working with her really helped me to envision potential career paths. She encouraged me to write openly about how my passion for making a difference in the lives of others led me to come to law school, and helped me articulate a vision for how to turn this into a career. She also encouraged me to keep my mind open about looking at opportunities that were not initially on my radar, which is what led me to my post-graduate position as a judicial clerk.

George Nwanze
HOMETOWN
Washington, D.C.
UNDERGRAD
Morehouse College
WHAT’S NEXT
Clerking for the Honorable James A. Willett, Prince William Circuit Court, 31st Judicial Circuit of Virginia

William & Mary Law School has truly set me up to succeed in every aspect of my post-graduate career. Because of the wide range of courses offered, the expert professors who teach them, and an ever-supportive Career Services team, I was able to earn my dream summer job working with the Department of Justice after my first year. I know that through my coursework and involvement with the Bill of Rights Journal, I’ll be able to succeed in national security law, a field that is often difficult to enter.

It’s all about relationships! In OCS, relationships are what we value most — the relationships with our students, our alumni, and the employers that recruit with us. We build these relationships with students through individual career-advising tailored to the experiences, skills, and goals of each student. The tailored advising is enhanced by year-round career and professional development workshops and programming, a deeply committed and supportive alumni base, and extensive relationships with a vast array of employers in private practice, government, public service, business, and the judiciary. We want to be partners in your success.

Michael J. Ende
Associate Dean, Office of Career Services
ALUMNI

You will be a law student for three years, but an alum for life.

Spread across the country and around the world, William & Mary Law School alumni are lifetime members of a tight-knit community who are actively engaged in giving back to their law school. Through Mock Interviews with 1L students, student mentorship programs, and networking opportunities across the country, our alumni play a key role in ensuring the success of William & Mary Law students.

1L Mock Interviews
Alumni return to William & Mary to conduct mock interviews in the spring semester. These required interviews ensure that our students enter the 1L summer job search fully prepared to put their best foot forward.

Co-Counsel Mentorship Program
Establishing a relationship with alumni early on in your law school experience can mean a world of difference in your professional growth and development. The Co-Counsel Mentorship Program pairs 1L students with experienced alumni to facilitate exposure to the legal profession, networking opportunities, and leadership skills.

“By virtue of our training and education, lawyers are particularly well positioned to provide the type of effective leadership and guidance our democracy relies upon. As beneficiaries of a legal education, we also have an obligation to give back and to provide others with the same opportunities that we have been afforded. The philosophy behind the citizen lawyer-driven education at W&M prepared me to succeed as a lawyer and as a State Senator, and has enabled me to do my part in serving my community.”

William C. Smith ’04, J.D. ’09
Senator, District 20, State of Maryland
Silver Spring, Maryland

“William & Mary Law School impacted my life beyond my wildest expectations. Beyond being a top-notch law school with fantastic professors, administrators and staff, W&M helped cultivate my career and community interests and led me to live a more intentional life post-law school. I also met many positive people that are still very close today.”

Latoya C. Asia, J.D. ’09
Director, Talent Acquisition & Workforce Planning, Dominion Energy

“As a Texan, I already knew that William & Mary has a national and valuable brand, that mattered a lot to me and that I could come back home with a degree that people will recognize and respect. Then I visited, and I saw what the strong sense of community and smaller class size made possible. I know graduates of some of the finest law schools in the country who did not know everyone in their year; meanwhile, I have lifelong friendships with classmates, staff, and faculty. I wouldn’t trade the experience, or the excellent education, for anything.”

Michael E. Grable, J.D. ’97
VP, Regulatory Strategy & Chief Compliance and Risk Officer, Oncor Electric, Dallas, TX

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