

Robert E. Kaplan

Associate Dean and Professor of the Practice of Law, Emeritus

Degrees: J.D., University of Virginia; B.S., Northwestern University

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Areas of Specialization

Externships; Legal Writing & Practice

Teaching Interests

Externships; Legal Writing and Practice; Public Service and the Law

During his career at William & Mary, Dean Kaplan served as Externship Director; taught Legal Writing and Analysis; managed summer public service fellowships, the loan repayment assistance program, and pro bono initiatives; and was Associate Dean for Career Services. He founded the summer public service fellowship program and served as faculty advisor to the William & Mary Public Service Fund. Dean Kaplan also spearheaded the development and launch of the Law School's loan repayment assistance program.

Selected Professional Recognition:

- John Marshall Award for character, leadership, and outstanding service to William & Mary Law School
- George Wythe Award for outstanding service to William & Mary Law School and for “fidelity to qualities of character, leadership, and selfless service”
- Black Law Students Association's recognition for “invaluable and continued support” of William & Mary's BLSA chapter and as Distinguished Administrator for “continuous support and encouragement of the chapter's members, goals and success”
- Honorary membership in William & Mary's chapter of the Order of the Barristers for service to and support of students excelling in oral and written advocacy
- University recognition for being “most influential” to William & Mary graduates' education
- Association of American Law Schools Pro Bono Honor Roll for supporting William & Mary students' pro bono service
- Williamsburg-James City County Community Action Agency Rising Star Award for service to low-income clients through community legal clinics

Professional Service:

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk/Newport News Division: Administrator for mediation program matching pro bono attorneys with pro se clients (2024-2025)
- Virginia Law Foundation: Committee on Continuing Legal Education (2020-2024)
- College of William & Mary: President's Council on Community Partnerships (2020-2023)
- Williamsburg Bar Association/James City County Community Action Agency: Community Legal Clinics Organizing Committee (2006-2013)
- Virginia Bar Association: Community Service Program Executive Council (2004-2008)
- NALP The Association for Legal Career Professionals: Board of Directors; thirteen task forces, committees, and work groups (1988-2011)

Professional Presentations:

- NALP The Association for Legal Career Professionals: Panelist, Roundtable on the Future of Lawyer Hiring, Development, and Advancement; presented at fourteen national and six regional conferences (1988-2021)
- College of William and Mary: Panelist, Service and the William & Mary Experience (2012); Panelist, Service Nation: A National Forum on the Future of Service Learning (2008)

Publications:

- Robert E. Kaplan, *Externships' Role in Training Practice-Ready Lawyers*, VIRGINIA STATE BAR'S SECTION ON EDUCATION OF LAWYERS NEWSLETTER (Spring 2021)
- Michael W. Hawkins, Robert E. Kaplan, and Rebecca Hanner White, *Ohio's Public Employee Bargaining Law: Can It Withstand Constitutional Challenge?*, 53 U. CIN. L. REV. 1 (1984)
- Robert E. Kaplan, *Union Handbilling at Shopping Centers: DeBartolo Revisited*, 3 INT'L COUNCIL SHOP. CTRS. LEGAL UPDATE 13 (Winter 1983)
- Robert E. Kaplan, *Union Handbilling at Shopping Centers*, 2 INT'L COUNCIL SHOP. CTRS. LEGAL UPDATE 9 (Spring 1982)