Letter from Dean Jeffries
School Announces Law & Business Program

Last October, we brought together lawyers, judges, deans, and clients to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Law School. The topic was “Law Schools, Lawyers, and the Future of American Law.” The May issue of UVA Lawyer will report fully on the conference, including the appearance by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. Meanwhile, I am happy to report that the dialogue began with our alumni has begun to bear fruit.

Conference participants touched on many issues, but again and again returned to two themes. First, they said that the intellectual discipline of legal analysis is valuable, durable, and portable. The ability to “think like a lawyer” lasts throughout one’s career and continues to be valuable to those no longer engaged in the practice of law. Their first message, therefore, was that the Law School should keep doing what it does so well.

Second, participants argued that lawyers faced a business practice need to know more about business. They need the basic intellectual skills of quantitative analysis—skills necessary to assess risk, to discount future gain to present value, and to understand numbers as well as words.

An ad hoc committee convened to consider the matter quickly agreed on the goal: We want to bring the basics of a business education into the Law School curriculum, but to do so without compromising other interests. Virginia aims to be the nation’s leader not in one area only, but across the board. Consistent with that philosophy, efforts to improve opportunities in business law will not divert resources from public law or public service or litigation. Rather, new offerings will be funded by new resources and implemented as those resources become available.

With this letter, we announce our plans for an ambitious new Law & Business Program. The Program begins next year with foundational courses in Accounting and Finance. Anyone who doubts the importance of accounting to business lawyers need only consider the events at Enron. Accounting and Finance will be taught by new resources and implemented as those resources become available.

Turnbull to Retire This Year, School Searches for Admissions Dean

After the nation’s longest tenure as a director of law school admissions, Al Turnbull ’61a plans to retire at the end of the academic year. In an effort to replace a man whose name has been synonymous with Law School excellence for thirty-six years, Dean John C. Jeffries, Jr. ’73, is appealing to a particular segment of the population: Virginia Law alumni.

“We hope that the next Associate Dean of Admissions will be a Virginia Law School graduate,” writes Jeffries. Individuals with administrative experience interested in maintaining Virginia’s reputation for recruiting and educating talented lawyers are encouraged to send a letter to Admissions Dean Search Chair Richard Merrill. The associate dean of admissions will have broad responsibility over the range of decisions affecting admissions, recruitment, and scholarships. Non-alumni will also be considered in this national search.

Interested parties should send a letter and curriculum vitae to Merrill at: Admissions Dean Search, University of Virginia School of Law, 580 Massie Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903-1789.
Funding Needs Remain for Construction Projects

Since the end of the Capital Campaign, the Law School Foundation has been working to raise funds for building initiatives throughout the Harrison Law Grounds. While construction crews and craftsmen strive to complete the striking and much-needed Student-Faculty Center, the development staff is focused on finding individuals, firms, or classes willing to underwrite the remaining projects. "The new Student-Faculty Center will be the center of daily life in the Law School, much as a kitchen is the center of daily life in the home," said Dean John Jeffries. "It will be the most frequented, the most convivial, and in many ways the most beautiful space in the entire Law Grounds."

In addition to seeking a $4 million donor for whom the Student-Faculty Center would be named, the development staff has spent much of the last year working with donors interested in naming opportunities within the SFC. To date more than $4 million has been raised as firms, alumni, and classes step forward to name spaces within the building. Only the spacious and handsome lobby in the Center remains unfunded and unnamed.

Other opportunities for donor recognition

Besides the Student-Faculty Center, other naming opportunities are available across the Law Grounds. Much-needed renovations completed on the first floor of Withers-Brown Hall have created four faculty suites in an area left untouched during earlier construction. These spaces contain well-appointed faculty offices grouped around a small commons area, designed to enhance collaboration among faculty and students.

Adjoining the suites is the renovated, unnamed tax alcove. The alcove consists of the extensive Mortimer Caplin ’40 Tax Collection and student study areas.

Several other significant areas within the Law School are still available for naming. Donors interested in attaching their names to the Career Services Library, Community Legal Assistance Center, Student Support Center, or a student-run journal office may still do so. There are also student lounges, various conference rooms, the library reserve reading room, and a seminar room available. Each named area will feature a bronze plaque bearing the donor’s name.

For more information supporting the Law School through a naming opportunity, call the Foundation toll-free at 877-307-0158.

Student-Faculty Center and Hunton & Williams Hall

Student-Faculty Center $4 Million

Student Faculty Center Lobby $350,000

 Locker Lounges (8) $50,000 ea

Withers-Brown Hall

Library Tax Alcove + Study Area $100,000

Library Reserve Reading Area $200,000

Faculty Suites (4) $200,000 ea

Library Computer Room $150,000

Faculty-Student Sitting Room $150,000

Faculty Student Conference Room $150,000

Student Lounges (2) $100,000 ea

 Locker Alcoves (5) $50,000 ea

 Faculty Offices (30) $100,000 ea

Slaughter Hall

Student Support Center $500,000

Career Services Library $250,000

Student Organizations Suites (8) $250,000 ea

Seminar Room $200,000

Virginia Environmental Law Journal Office $150,000

Journal of Social Policy & Law Office $150,000

Journal of Law & Politics Office $150,000

3rd Floor Staff Lounge $100,000

3rd Floor Waiting Area $100,000

Oceana Center Conference Room $250,000

2nd Floor Moot Court Commons $225,000

Jury Room $100,000

Judge’s Chambers $100,000

Community Legal Assistance Office $100,000

 Student Organization Offices $50,000 ea

 Asian Pacific American LSA $50,000 ea

Black Law Students Association $50,000 ea

Federalist Society $50,000 ea

Lambda Law Alliance $50,000 ea

Law Democrats $50,000 ea

Law & Graduate Republicans $50,000 ea

J. S. Moore Society of International Law $50,000 ea

Most Court $50,000 ea

ProBono Criminal Adjudication Project $50,000 ea

Peer Advisor Program $50,000 ea

Public Interest Law Association $50,000 ea

Sports & Entertainment Law Journal $50,000 ea

Student Bar Association $50,000 ea

 Virginia Law Weekly $50,000 ea

Virginia Law Women $50,000 ea

Virginia Society of Law & Technology $50,000 ea

Women of Color $50,000 ea

Outdoor Spaces in Emerson Spies Garden

Circle (Southeast) Garden Courtyard $500,000

Rectangle (Southwest) Garden Courtyard $500,000
Students Call for Funds
More than 100 Law School students recently raised $91,971 in gifts and pledges to the Law School’s Annual Giving Campaign. Over a three-day period students called alumni who had not yet made a gift to the 2001-2002 Annual Giving Campaign, which ends June 30. With slightly more than three months left in the fiscal year, $4.6 million has been raised toward the school’s $8.5 million goal. Last year the Law School celebrated a 43 percent participation rate. To date, 26.5 percent of all alumni have participated during this year’s campaign.

Career Resources for Alumni
Law School Career Services offers job search assistance to graduates—those looking for a position and those with a position to fill. At www.law.virginia.edu/alumni find the “Career Resources for Alumni” heading. That link offers “Job Openings for Alumni” and/or “Alumni Career Network.” Career Services staff continually update employment openings. Firms seeking to hire Virginia graduates should head to “Career Services” at the above Web site, and then on to the section for “Employers.” Career Services are offered to alumni and employers at no charge. For assistance e-mail: career@law.virginia.edu.

Students Satisfied
Consider this from the legal press. L. Magazine devoted its February cover story to evaluating America’s law schools. I evaluated schools on the strength of their reputations and the quality of their student experiences. The top two schools? Virginia and Yale. The publication reports that 83 percent of the second-year students canvassed at Virginia and Yale—at the highest scores recorded—said they would attend the same school if they had to choose all over again, and that at Virginia “the students praise the school ran to the effusive.”

Conference Rallies Devotees
For two days in mid-February friends and alumni dedicated to public service convened at the Law School for the third annual Conference on Public Service and International Law. The conference featured panels exploring public service and international law, gender, bioethics, the First Amendment, and more. Former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder was the keynote speaker. Helgi Walker ’94, associate counsel to the president, spoke at the conference luncheon.

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Beyond Separation
Current issues arising from the political separation of religion and government were analyzed at a two-day conference at the Law School February 15 and 16. Leading national scholars and policymakers convened for “Beyond Separation: Churches and State,” a program of ten seminars probing such matters as the Founding Father’s intentions, modern First Amendment interpretation, faith-based initiatives, and school vouchers. The conference was sponsored by Virginia’s Journal of Law and Politics.

Reunion Plans Abound
Members of the Black Law Students Association (pictured with Dean Jeffries) present a gift to the Law School’s Thurgood Marshall Black History Month in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Young Joins Foundation
Melissa Young ’83 joined the Law School Foundation as an associate executive director and director of operations, in mid-January. Young comes to the Foundation after serving as vice president and general counsel at Reckitt Benckiser Inc., a $1.1 billion consumer products company. “We are delighted to have Melissa on board,” she has already hit the ground running,” said Foundation Executive Director Dave Bliemeck ’71.

First Powell Fellow Named
Third-year Katherine Lasher was named the inaugural recipient of the Powell Fellowship in Legal Services. Lasher’s selection for the Powell Fellowship in Legal Services was sponsored by Virginia’s Journal of Law and Politics.
BENCHMARK

INSIDE THIS EDITION

1 Turnbull to Retire, School Searches for Admissions Dean
2 Funding Needs Remain for Construction Projects
3 Young ’83 Joins Foundation, Oversees Daily Operations
3 BLSA Supports Marshall Professorship

INSIDE THIS EDITION

1

ANNUAL GIVING

I was fortunate to be among the alumni volunteers who returned to Charlottesville as the Law School celebrated its 175th anniversary. Dean John Jeffries and his colleagues assembled a stellar group of alumni and friends to pay tribute to the Law School’s rich past and to make plans for the future. U.S. Court of Appeals circuit judges, law school deans, and Virginia alumni working in law and business discussed the challenges facing our legal system and legal education. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and former Law School Dean (and current University of Rochester President) Thomas H. Jackson added their expertise on the issues.

While the discussions yielded suggestions for change, participants voiced overwhelming support for the Law School’s core academic program, as well as the unique experience they have either enjoyed or witnessed at Virginia.

The sentiments conveyed by the participants come as no surprise. Generations of Law School graduates know the intrinsic value of a Virginia education. Thankfully, many of you express your appreciation by supporting the Law School’s annual giving program, consistently one of the most successful in the nation.

However, this academic year is like no other we have experienced. The September 11th attacks on America have caused us all to think carefully about who and what are most important to us.

We understand this year poses new challenges for our nation and its leaders. To me, true charity means maintaining your giving to the institutions that mean the most to you, as well as contributing to those in immediate need of your help.

The Law School has counted on your support to provide for the programs which make the Law School educational experience among the best in the country. Please help us close the 58.5 million goal by June’s fiscal year end. Your contribution toward our $8.5 million goal will help ensure the Law School has the resources it needs to educate the leaders of tomorrow.

Take a moment in this important anniversary year to call the Law School foundation. Your support, at any level, can make a difference.

Roger H. Kimmel ’71
Chair, National Appeals Committee

Help Wanted
The Law School’s Annual Giving Program is in need of a few good volunteers. Anyone interested in helping raise money for the Law School from classmates is asked to call Helen Snyder ’87, director of annual giving. “Volunteers are crucial. They help the Law School by soliciting gifts from classmates or regional and/or law firm colleagues,” said Snyder.

Reach her, toll-free, at 877-307-0158, or e-mail: hms4b@virginia.edu.

Making the Best Plans
Planned and deferred gifts help secure the Law School’s future. They can also provide life income and substantial tax benefits. To learn more about how to include the Law School in your estate plans, please call Luis Alvarado, Jr. ’73, director of development, at 877-307-0158, or e-mail: la2m@virginia.edu.