

**WILLIAM & MARY
RETIREMENT OF DAVISON M. DOUGLAS
WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL**

Davison M. Douglas, the John Stewart Bryan Professor of Jurisprudence, has served William & Mary with extraordinary distinction for over three decades, including eleven years as Dean of the Law School. Dean Douglas has taught and mentored thousands of law students with wisdom and enthusiasm; he has produced exceptional scholarship that has advanced our understanding of American legal history and constitutional law; and he has captained the Law School successfully through a turbulent era in legal education while positioning the Law School for continued success. With Dean Douglas's retirement this year, the Law School loses a brilliant and generous colleague, a devoted leader, and an extraordinarily talented educator.

Dean Douglas's contributions to the Law School have been profound. He co-founded and directed the Law School's Election Law Program and served for seven years as Director of the Institute of Bill of Rights Law. During his tenure as dean, he transformed the Law School by recruiting dozens of outstanding faculty and staff. He worked tirelessly to expand outreach to alumni, and he oversaw major renovations to the Law School building, including completion of the 12,000-square-foot Hixon Center, with its magnificent Penny Commons.

Dean Douglas concludes his career as one of the most celebrated educators in the Law School's history. Between 1993 and 2006, he won the prestigious Walter Williams Teaching Award five times. In 2002, the Commonwealth of Virginia recognized him with the Outstanding Faculty Award, bestowed annually on approximately a dozen faculty members among all of Virginia's public and private colleges and universities. He has also received the College's prestigious Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence and the Phi Beta Kappa Award for the Advancement of Scholarship.

A celebrated legal scholar, Dean Douglas has published eight books and dozens of scholarly articles and essays in leading academic journals. His research has illuminated the constitutional history and theory of school desegregation, voting rights, and the death penalty. His passion for legal history was a tremendous asset during his service as Dean of the Law School. Dean Douglas spoke often and with characteristic eloquence about those who contributed to the founding of the Law School, including George Wythe, St. George Tucker, Thomas Jefferson, and John Marshall. By sharing their accomplishments, Dean Douglas inspired members of the Law School community to envision themselves as fellow "citizen-lawyers" and heirs to a noble profession filled with meaning and purpose.

In sum, Dean Douglas's service to the Law School and to the broader legal profession has been exemplary, meriting William & Mary's highest honors.

BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, That the Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Davison Douglas; expresses its deep appreciation to him for the many contributions he has made to the Law School and William & Mary during his decades of devoted service; and approves a change in status from John Stewart Bryan Professor of Jurisprudence to Dean and John Stewart Bryan Professor of Jurisprudence, Emeritus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy delivered to Dean Davison M. Douglas with best wishes from a grateful Board for his years of dedicated service to William & Mary.