



September 23, 2022

Dear Law School alumni, students, faculty, and staff:

This afternoon, President Hallock and the Board of Trustees [announced](#) that the Board has voted to change the name of the Law School from the T.C. Williams School of Law to the University of Richmond School of Law. This decision was based on the University's previously established Naming Principles found [here](#) and specifically on the principle that "No building, program, professorship, or other entity at the University should be named for a person who directly engaged in the trafficking and/or enslavement of others or openly advocated for the enslavement of people." A review of historical records revealed that Thomas C. Williams, Sr. directly engaged in the trafficking and enslavement of others.

I recognize that there will be a range of reactions to this news. Many will view it as a positive step forward as the University reckons with its past and seeks to create a school that is truly welcoming for all. Others may be disappointed, particularly alumni who attended at a time in our history when the school was widely known as T.C. Williams. As the message from President Hallock and the Board indicates, the University is committed to preserving and communicating our history, including recognizing the Williams family's contributions to the school.

Changing the name certainly does not alter our legacy of training some of the finest lawyers and judges in Virginia and beyond. We can all remain proud of what the school has accomplished in its 152-year history and look with equal pride to our bright future. I look forward to continued collaboration with you as we build on our past accomplishments and achieve still greater aspirations.

Sincerely

Wendy C. Perdue  
Dean and Professor of Law