MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DEAR FRIENDS,

In this year’s Dean’s Report, you’ll learn more about how Richmond Law is shaping the next generation of lawyers who will make an impact for their clients and in their communities. Through our clinical opportunities and innovative curriculum, through our collegial community and our engaged faculty-scholars, we instill in our students not only the knowledge needed to be a good lawyer, but also the skills and character necessary to be a great one.

I want to emphasize that all of these strides we’ve made in the field of legal education would not be possible without the support of our alumni. And that’s why this Dean’s Report serves another purpose: to celebrate the role that our alumni community plays in supporting our students. Through your time, your energy, and your financial gifts, your investments in Richmond Law make a difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you for helping make Richmond Law the vibrant community it is today. I hope you enjoy this update on life at Richmond Law and this opportunity to celebrate your fellow alumni for their contributions.

Wendy C. Perdue
Dean and Professor of Law
The Lipman Foundation’s recent $2.4 million gift will establish a permanent endowment at the Law School to support indigent families and children through the Jeanette Lipman Legal Clinic for Families and Children. The clinic provides representation to these families on domestic relations matters such as custody, adoption, domestic violence, and child dependency cases. At the same time, it provides hands-on education to students.

This transformative gift ensures that generations of families and children will receive the legal representation they need and that our students will be better prepared to serve their clients with skill and compassion.

Mrs. Lipman was a local philanthropist and longtime supporter of the Law School. Earlier gifts established and sustained the Lipman Family Law Clinic that has successfully served families in need since 2007. Mrs. Lipman died on January 10, 2017.
JUSTICE IN ACTION: OUR CLINICS

Year after year, we hear that students are drawn to the University of Richmond School of Law because of our exceptional clinical offerings. Law students today want to be able to have an impact even before they graduate, and our clinics provide a great vehicle for this. Take, for example, students in Professor Mary Kelly Tate’s Institute for Actual Innocence who successfully secured a commuted sentence for a non-violent drug offender who was facing life in prison; or students in Professor Ashley Dobbs’ IP and Transactional Law Clinic who helped an entrepreneur incorporate her business and register a trademark. These are just a couple examples of how students make an impact while preparing for the future.

ENCOURAGING PUBLIC SERVICE

This summer, Niesha Gibbs, ’18, was one of 142 students who took advantage of a Summer Public Service Fellowship. She interned with the Hon. Chief Judge Roger L. Gregory of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the Hampton Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office. “While the experiences were vastly different, the privilege of working with such distinguished legal minds and gaining such practical legal experience was truly invaluable,” said Niesha. “I am confident going into the remainder of my academic career and beyond that this summer will continue to have a profound and lasting impact.”

FACULTY WITH IMPACT

Our community of faculty is the foundation of the Richmond Law experience thanks to their strong classroom experience, their scholarly expertise, and our 7.7:1 student-faculty ratio. This year, we welcomed three new faculty members and celebrated three new honors for current faculty.

NEW TO THE FACULTY

- Kurt Lash is our new E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Chair in Law. He comes from the University of Illinois and teaches in the field of constitutional law.
- Hayes Holderness also joined our faculty from the University of Illinois College of Law, and teaches in the field of tax law.
- Danny Schaffa joined our faculty from the University of Michigan, where he was a joint J.D. and Economics Ph.D. student, and teaches tax policy and corporate tax and finance.

CURRENT FACULTY HONORS

- Corinna Lain was named the S. D. Roberts & Sandra Moore Professor of Law.
- Hank Chambers was named an Austin E. Owen Research Scholar.
- Kimberly Robinson was named an Austin E. Owen Research Scholar.

We’re proud to recognize this group of exceptional faculty members. Together, they’ve released six books and 16 chapters, been published by some of the top law journals in the country, and been cited by fellow scholars, practicing lawyers, and by the United States Supreme Court. This is just a sampling of the depth and breadth of the impact that our faculty members have on our communities and the world.
INNOVATIVE COURSES
When it comes to innovation inside — and outside — the classroom, Richmond Law is a leader. This year’s Poverty Law course, for example, invited students to spend their spring break studying the intersection of poverty and the law in a week-long intensive course that paired trips around Richmond with conversations with local experts. And we’ve recently launched our first Business Fundamentals course, which equips students with basic business principles they can put to real use in their legal careers. The result is students with the practical skills, knowledge, and experience they need to succeed in their professional lives.

AN INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY
An engaged intellectual community is at the heart of the Richmond Law experience. This year, we were honored to host speakers who explored timely issues, engaged our students in dialogue, and shared some thought-provoking ideas. The Hon. Robert Wilkins, author of *Long Road to Hard Truth*, explored the story of the 100-year mission to create the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of the University of California Berkeley Law School discussed free speech on campus, and joined Dean Perdue in a conversation on the future of legal education. And to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hon. Robert R. Merhige Jr.’s appointment to the bench, the Law School hosted a special commemoration and celebration. The Hon. Roger Gregory, the Hon. Anne Holton, and a distinguished panel of former clerks shared their stories and reflections on Judge Merhige’s lasting legacy.

THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE
In 2015, the University of Richmond School of Law offered our first LLM degree. The program continues to grow in size — and our commitment to international students and engagement continues to grow, too. In 2017 alone, we welcomed 26 international students who speak 17 different foreign languages. And our new Director for International Programs, Su Jin Hong, is available as a resource for prospective and current international students alike. Our entire campus benefits from being a more global community.
THE 1870 SOCIETY

The 1870 Society recognizes donors whose leadership commitments of $3,000 or more provide strong financial support for Richmond Law in Fiscal Year 2017. Pledges are recognized for their full value in the year they are made.

President's Circle $50,000+

Barbara and Robert G. Clements, '67
Eleanor and Henry P. Perciballi, '58
The Hon. Oliver A. Pollard
The Hon. Frederick P. Stamp Jr.

Anonymous

$25,000–$49,999

Michelle and William S. Bradley, '89
Charlottesville

$10,000–$24,999

William G., '63 and Suzanne Thomas
The Hon. Bruce H. Kushner
The Hon. M. Frederick King

$2,500 or more

Barbara and Ronald F. Brooks, '64
Moncure D. H. and Martin F. Jordan
The Hon. Harvey E. Schlesinger

Rhoda and Irving M. Blank, '67
Barbara and Richard P. Klau, '96
"I know how much the University of Richmond Law School did for me, and I want that positive experience to be available to as many people as possible. I also know how much it takes for Richmond Law to create that experience: money, time, effort, creative thinking, marketing, and personal commitment from many people — including alumni.

— JANICE R. MOORE, '81

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The University of Richmond School of Law has been in existence since 1978 and has grown to be one of the most prestigious law schools in the country. It offers a comprehensive legal education program designed to prepare students for successful careers as lawyers, legal scholars, and leaders in the legal profession. The school is committed to providing a high-quality education that prepares students to be effective and ethical professionals in their chosen fields. It offers a wide range of courses, including courses in business law, environmental law, and international law, among others. The school also offers a variety of opportunities for students to gain practical experience, including internships, clinics, and externships. The University of Richmond School of Law is dedicated to providing an outstanding legal education that prepares students to make a meaningful contribution to the legal profession and to society as a whole.
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