

Marshall-Wythe School of Law Taxation Records

Marshall-Wythe School of Law Taxation Degree Records, 1963-1990
1963-1990

Title Statement

Marshall-Wythe School of Law Taxation Records Guide to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law Taxation Degree Records UA 34.008

Author: Finding Aid Authors: SCRC staff.

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

2007-07-23

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-08-23 07:02:34 -0400.

Language Usage: English

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Unit ID

UA 34.008

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/4411

Unit Date

1963-1990

Language

English

Creator

Marshall-Wythe School of Law

Extent

0.25 Linear Feet

Repository

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Administrative Information

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Acc. 1999.018 transferred from the Law School 04/05/1996.

Preferred Citation

Marshall-Wythe School of Law Taxation Degree Records, Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical / Historical

The Chair of Law at William & Mary, created in 1779 by the Board of Visitors at the urging of Thomas Jefferson, was the first established in the United States. The first occupant of the Chair was George Wythe, in whose offices studied Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, James Monroe and Henry Clay. Wythe, a leader in the struggle for independence, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a member of the Federal Constitutional Convention. He became a powerful force in the development of American legal education. During the decade of his professorship, he developed a comprehensive course of law study which emphasized the acquisition of practical skills in such areas as legislative drafting and oral advocacy.

Wythe's successor was one of his pre-Revolutionary students, St. George Tucker, who proved to be a pioneer in legal education. Tucker drafted a formal description of the requirements for a law degree at the College, which included an exacting schedule of qualifying examinations in history, government and related pre-law subjects. Tucker's course material was soon published as the first American edition of Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England. This work was the earliest treatise on the common law adapted to the needs of the legal profession in the United States. For a generation, Tucker's volume was considered the leading authority on American law.

Tucker's successors as Professor of Law at William & Mary included the brothers William and Robert Nelson, James Semple and St. George Tucker's son, Nathaniel Beverley Tucker. The younger Tucker was the author of Principles of Pleading, which became a leading authority of its day. Beverley Tucker is perhaps best remembered as one of the ablest exponents of the states' rights school of Southern constitutional law.

The growth of the Law School at William & Mary was abruptly halted by the beginning of the Civil War. The commencement of military campaigns on the Virginia Peninsula compelled the College to close its doors. It would be another 60 years before the historical priority in law could be revived in a modern program that is now more than a half-century old.

Today, the College of William & Mary is a public university supported by the Commonwealth of Virginia and supervised by a Board of Visitors appointed by the Governor. It is nationally recognized for its rigorous curriculum and excellent faculty. The Law School attracts students from all regions of the nation. Its alumni practice law throughout the United States, in Canada and in several foreign countries.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the records of the LL.M. degree in Taxation offered by the Marshall-Whythe School of Law. It includes brochures, enrollment statistics (1984-1990), correspondence about the program's founding and closing, and curriculum comparisons.

More digital material related to The William & Mary Law School may be found in the [William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository](#).

Related Materials

In the summer of 2010, William & Mary's Wolf Law Library launched the William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository to promote and archive our community's intellectual output.

Keywords

Correspondence

Pamphlets

Curriculum

Marshall-Wythe School of Law

Description of Subordinate Components

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