

Marshall-Wythe School of Law Library records

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1973-1980

Title Statement

Marshall-Wythe School of Law Library recordsGuide to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law Library records UA 34.005

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

UA 34.005

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/4408

Unit Date

1973-1980

Language

English

Creator

Marshall-Wythe School of Law

Extent

1.20 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acc. 1989.003 transferred from Law Librarian's office 01/17/1989

Preferred Citation

Marshall-Wythe School of Law Library 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 an expenditures ledger (1973-1974), lists of books donated to the library by faculty members (1976-1980), an accreditation report on the library (1973), and statistics on additions to the collection.

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

Account books

Reports

Marshall-Wythe School of Law

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Accession 1989.003 Ledgers, books and reports

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/615291

Expenditure Ledger

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/247369

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Books Donated by Faculty

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/247370

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Accreditation and Report on Library

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/247371

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Report on Additions to Library

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/247372

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Series II. Accession 2024.294 Report

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/615292

2020-2021 Annual report

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/615293

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)