
Chair in Law and History

Fostering interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching in law and the liberal arts



Law and history at W&L

Washington and Lee University, with its prestigious undergraduate college and top-ranked law school, is the natural home for the interdisciplinary study of law in its historical context. Nearly twenty professors at W&L have sustained scholarly interests in law and history, in the departments of art, classics, English, history, philosophy, religion, Romance languages, sociology, and law. Five of these professors are in the School of Law, giving it one of the strongest legal history faculties in the country. Moreover, the W&L libraries contain rich primary materials for the study of legal history, including the papers of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. (B.A. 1929, LL.B. 1931) and the archives of the School of Law.

The W&L Center for Law and History

Launched in 2003, the W&L Center for Law and History is the tangible expression of the university's expertise in legal history. The Center's purpose is to encourage and support the study and teaching of study of law in its historical context. It brings together scholars from W&L and throughout the world. The Center's inaugural lecture was given by the world's leading historian of the English common law, Sir John Baker of Cambridge University. The Center's workshops for 2003-04 are being led by distinguished professors with international reputations. The Center has ambitious goals: to sponsor lectures, workshops, conferences and student fellowships, to develop programs to support scholars in residence, and to establish links and scholarly exchanges with legal history centers and faculties worldwide.

The Chair in Law and History

The creation of a Chair in Law and History will provide the university with the ability to recruit or retain a professor of international standing in the field of legal history. The holder of the chair will strengthen the university's scholarship and teaching in legal history and may concurrently direct the W&L Center for Law and History.

Funding Level ***\$1,500,000***

Benefits of Supporting the Chair in Law and History

The university and the chairholder will seek ways to reciprocate with the donor to build a fruitful and mutually beneficial relationship. There is the opportunity for the chair to be named after the donor, who would be encouraged to interact with faculty and students at events sponsored by the W&L Center for Law and History.

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