

## **RETIREMENT OF PETER A. ALCES WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL**

Peter A. Alces joined the William & Mary Law School in 1991 after having taught for a decade at the University of Texas McCombs School of Business and the University of Alabama School of Law. During his more than four decades of teaching, Professor Alces has distinguished himself as a leading scholar of contract law, commercial law, and the burgeoning field of law and neuroscience. His three decades at the William & Mary Law School have been marked by copious scholarship, faithful service, and devoted teaching, which have made the Law School and legal community a better place.

Professor Alces is one of the nation's most distinguished scholars in the area of commercial law. His many books on the subject include *Commercial Contracting*; *The Law of Suretyship and Guaranty*; *Cases and Materials on Bankruptcy*; *The Commercial Law of Intellectual Property*; *Cases, Problems, and Materials on Payment Systems*; *Sales, Leases and Bulk Transfers*; *The Law of Fraudulent Transactions*; and a four-volume treatise, *The Uniform Commercial Code Transaction Guide*. He is also the author of more than forty articles that have appeared in some of the nation's most prestigious law reviews.

Most recently, Professor Alces has undertaken the daunting task of moving into an entirely new scholarly area at the intersection of law and neuroscience. His first book on the subject, *The Moral Conflict of Law and Neuroscience*, explored how the law currently fails to appreciate the neuroscientific revelation that humans may lack normative free will and therefore moral responsibility. Reviewers called the book "brave," "meticulous," "startling," "elegant," and "thoughtful." Professor Alces continued to explore this topic in his most recent book, *Trialectic: Law, Neuroscience, and Morality*, which will be published by the University of Chicago Press later this year.

In recognition of his scholarly achievements, Professor Alces has held the prestigious Rita Anne Rollins Professorship for more than twenty years. He has also been recognized for his research with the Cabell Research Professorship in 1997-98, 2012-13, and 2017-18. In 2012 he was also a recipient of a Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence.

In addition to being a prolific scholar, Professor Alces has taught more than a dozen different courses at the Law School. His classes have included key 1L courses such as Contracts and Torts, and core business subjects such as Bankruptcy and Commercial Law. Professor Alces has also branched out into interdisciplinary courses such as Law and Addiction, Law and Neuroscience, and Philosophy of Law. Students have long remarked that his classes are both eye-opening and extremely rigorous.

Professor Alces's service to the Law School and the profession has been widespread. He has served on the site visit team for the accreditation of more than a dozen law schools, including serving multiple times as chair. He has been elected to the prestigious American Law Institute and served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Bankruptcy Law and*

*Practice* for more than a dozen years. At the Law School, he has chaired every major committee, including four terms as the chair of the Faculty Appointments Committee.

In sum, Professor Peter A. Alces has had a distinguished career as a scholar, teacher, and institutional citizen.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Peter A. Alces; expresses its deep appreciation for his 31 years of service; and approves a change in status from Rita Anne Rollins Professor of Law to Rita Anne Rollins Professor of Law, Emeritus; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy of the same be delivered to Professor Alces with best wishes from a grateful Board for his years of dedicated service to William & Mary.