

## **Bowdoin College's 2020 Honorary Degree Recipients**

For the Degree of Doctor of Laws

WILLIAM F. LEE P'00, LL.D.

William F. Lee, a leading trial and appellate lawyer and intellectual property litigator, is a partner at the law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr. Graduating magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1972, he went on to earn a JD, magna cum laude, from Cornell University, and an MBA, with distinction, in 1976. He began his legal career at the Boston law firm of Hale and Dorr in 1976, became a senior partner in 1984, and was named managing partner in 2000. Lee played an instrumental role in the merger with Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in 2004. He was an associate counsel in the independent counsel's office Iran-Contra investigation from 1987–1989 and led an investigation of alleged incidents of racial bias at the request of the Massachusetts attorney general.

Lee has established a brilliant legal career, handling high-profile cases on patent infringement (smartphones), remote data storage, pharmaceutical products, medical devices, and genetically engineered food. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and he has been appointed to many committees that evaluate the administration of the judiciary on the federal and state levels. As the Eli Goldston Lecturer on Law, he has been a member of the Harvard Law School faculty for fifteen years. He was elected to the Harvard Board of Overseers in 2002, a fellow of the Harvard Corporation in 2010, and a senior fellow of the corporation in 2014. His many contributions to Harvard include membership of the visiting committees for the Law School and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and a committee convened to examine the relations of the university's police department with the community. Recently he led Harvard's defense of its admissions policies against charges that it discriminates against Asian American applicants. As the first Asian American to lead one of the nation's largest law firms, and the first Asian American to be a member of the Harvard Corporation, Lee navigated the turbulent waters of legal and public opinion to a favorable outcome for Harvard—and for other colleges and universities that face scrutiny of their admissions policies.

Lee and his wife, Leslie, have three children and five grandchildren. Their son William Christopher Lee is a member of the Class of 2000, and their daughter-in-law Sophia Mendoza is a member of the class of 2002.