

## J. Kennerly (Ken) Davis, Jr.

**Cornell degree: AB '68 (A&S)**

*Unendorsed candidate; petitioned to be on ballot*



*The board must, in a collegial manner, foster a revitalized appreciation that the defining purpose of Cornell is not to change the world directly through activism, but to do so indirectly by furthering our understanding of the world through unmatched scholarship and transmitting that understanding across generations.*

### **Describe the reasons you are interested in serving on the board. What strengths and attributes would you bring to this role?**

*I am motivated by a deep sense of gratitude to Cornell for my formative education. I sincerely believe that the experience and insights born of 40 years in executive management, public service, and private law practice equip me to serve on the board and help advance its vital work. Having worked closely with and advised corporate boards and their committees, and the board and committees of a major New York not-for-profit corporation, I fully understand the role and responsibilities of a board member and the collegial approach required to ensure success for the board and the organization it oversees.*

### **In your opinion, what does Carl Becker's concept of "freedom and responsibility" mean for today's Cornell community?**

*Carl Becker said that Cornell's allowance of maximum freedom relies on each of us feeling a sense of personal responsibility to make good use of our freedom by respecting the rights of others as we exercise our own. The self-restraint of manners and morals is important but, as James Madison noted, we are not angels. The university must validate and bolster responsible behavior through consistent and decisive enforcement of university rules, and laws, that define the boundary between protected rights such as free speech and unprotected activities such as violent demonstrations and threats that stifle the legitimate exercise of protected rights.*

### **Interim President Michael I. Kotlikoff recently said that this is an important time to "educate citizens to think for themselves, and live together; and to value truth, openness and equality as cornerstones of democracy." In your opinion, what does this mean at Cornell?**

*Self-government is a continuing exercise. The members of each new generation must be taught to appreciate the principles and institutions of our constitutional system, and they must be given the instruction they need to fulfill their responsibilities as citizens. The attributes of the responsible citizen described in the quotation are also the attributes of a responsible member of an academic community and, indeed, those of a responsible participant in any societal undertaking. Thus, when Cornell fosters those attributes of personal responsibility in its academic community, it is laying solid cornerstones for all civil society.*

### **Professional experience:**

- Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, senior attorney, 2014–2020
- Commonwealth of Virginia, deputy attorney general, 2013–2014
- Hunton & Williams LLP, counsel, 1998–2013
- Virginia Power, vice president, finance and administrative services; treasurer and corporate secretary, 1995–1998; attorney, staff manager, and field operations manager, 1981–1987
- Dominion Resources, Inc., corporate secretary, 1987–1995
- Hunton & Williams LLP, associate, 1978–1981
- Legislative aide and speech writer for Congressman Delbert Latta, Ohio, 1974, 1976–1977
- Speech writer and research assistant for Senator Robert Taft, Jr., Ohio, 1971, 1972

### **Alumni service:**

- Cornell Club of Central Virginia, member, 2004–2005, 1994–1996

### **Community/public service/philanthropic priorities:**

- Federalist Society, member, 2004–present
  - Member of the national volunteer Leadership Group; the Executive Committee of the Administrative Law and Regulation Practice Group; the Regulatory Transparency Project; and the Richmond, Virginia, Lawyers Chapter. Regular contributor to the Federalist Society Review and FedSoc Blog.
- Active member of the Cornell Free Speech Alliance, Harvard Alumni for Free Speech, and the national Alumni Free Speech Association, 2022–present

### **Other education:**

- MBA, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1993
- JD, Harvard University, 1974
- MA in politics, philosophy, and economics, Pembroke College, Oxford University, 1970

### **Student involvements/activities:**

- *Cornell Daily Sun*, Guest Room column contributor
- Delta Phi Fraternity
- London School of Economics, junior year abroad

### **Additional information:**

I graduated from Cornell in 1968 with an AB in government, *magna cum laude*, and with distinction in all subjects. My most formative role models have been professors, chief among these Walter Berns and Clinton Rossiter at Cornell, and Zbigniew Pelczynski at Oxford. Over the years, some of my professors became lasting friends. My wife's father was a respected professor of English at the College of William & Mary. Together, these good professors instilled in me a life-long love of learning, and a deeply felt appreciation for the uniquely precious contribution a true scholar makes to society. My avocational writing and speaking on issues of law and public policy, and my Federalist Society work with law professors, enable me to appropriately honor their memory.