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Roger Williams University School of Law

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AMIGOS



THE MAGAZINE OF ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

SUMMER 2010

Changing the Game

*'WOMEN WHO LEAD'
IN THE LAW*

— • —

*MAYOR WILL FLANAGAN '05 SETS
A NEW COURSE FOR FALL RIVER*

— • —

*MELANIE SHAPIRO '12 CHANGES
AN UNJUST PROSTITUTION LAW*



David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law

Changing the Game

Friends,

Back in the early '90s, one of the most compelling arguments in favor of opening a law school in Rhode Island was that it would raise the quality and the quantity of legal discourse in the state – offering a safe place for serious academic and professional debate about what's right and wrong with “the system.” Another excellent argument: Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts suffered from epidemic levels of unmet legal need among the most vulnerable communities. A steady flow of eager, enthusiastic law students would render much-needed legal assistance to those communities while honing its own professional skills and experience.

Nearly two decades later, I find myself in the happy position of reporting that both of these promises have been fulfilled – and continue to be fulfilled on a daily basis – in grand style. RWU Law is now deeply embedded in the legal community of Rhode Island and beyond, and its faculty, students and alums play any number of important roles in shaping its future.

Among the examples you'll find in this issue of *Amicus* is RWU Law's landmark Judicial Selection Forum, a vital (and controversial) conference that literally no other venue in the state could have provided. You'll also see the first fruits of our new immigration clinic, and meet a young alum who has already ascended to become mayor of one of the region's major cities. You'll reflect on the expanding role of women in the law with three of our extraordinary female alums, and go behind the scenes with a current student who has already helped to change Rhode Island law at the highest levels.

Meanwhile our faculty is proving itself a bottomless reservoir of legal expertise across the region and beyond. In just a few recent examples, **Jorge Elorza** – surely one of the more intriguing success stories in legal academia, and a force in the Rhode Island Latino community – was recently appointed as judge on the Providence Housing Court; **Peter Margulies** was highlighted in the influential SCOTUS Blog, the *National Law Journal*, and a prestigious Georgetown Law School panel discussion, thanks to an amicus brief on legal complexities surrounding the funding of terrorist groups; and **Carl Bogus** was featured in the popular NPR program, “On Point with Tom Ashbrook,” as one of the nation's leading second amendment specialists.

I could go on; but instead I'll simply refer you to the pages of this (or any) issue of *Amicus* – and for the very latest news and updates, don't forget to visit our newly revamped and redesigned website at law.rwu.edu.

David A Logan

EDITOR'S NOTE: A NEW AMICUS IS COMING!

Roger Williams University has given official approval to a full redesign of *Amicus*. It will be a ground-up redesign – not a tweaking or even an overhaul of the present magazine, but an entirely new *Amicus* (one that may, in fact, not even be called *Amicus*), slated for launch in late 2010.

As noted in the last issue, the School of Law administration and University Communications decided not to stop production of the “old” *Amicus* during the redesign; both the Fall 2009 issue and the issue you're holding are interim

publications, 12 to 16 pages shorter than the magazine's usual size, to free up design and editorial resources for work on the new magazine (as well as the major redesign of RWU Law's website, launched in April).

I invite all readers to have their say as the redesign proceeds. Please tell us what you like and dislike about *Amicus* – in focus, look, content; whatever catches your attention. We'd like to know what features and departments you've enjoyed as well as those you'd like to see

jettisoned. All suggestions will be presented to the *Amicus* Editorial Board as the redesign moves forward. In the meantime, I thank you for your patience and understanding while we are “under construction,” and look forward to your input.

Very truly yours,

Michael M. Bowden
Editor, *Amicus*
mbowden@rwu.edu

AMICUS

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Elorza Tapped as Housing Judge

Professor **Jorge O. Elorza** has been sworn in as a judge on the Providence Housing Court by **Mayor David N. Cicilline**. In announcing the appointment, Mayor Cicilline described Elorza as a brilliant attorney and legal scholar with a “deep commitment to helping low-income families navigate the legal system.”

“I am pleased to appoint someone with Jorge Elorza’s strong credentials, breadth of experience and sharp legal mind to the Housing Court,” said Mayor Cicilline. “Jorge’s extraordinary legal skills and his deep understanding of the challenges facing those in need make him uniquely qualified to adjudicate cases that impact the quality of life for families in our neighborhoods.”

The three-member Housing Court is responsible for adjudicating all actions concerning violations of housing laws, building codes and zoning ordinances. An associate professor at RWU Law since 2005, Elorza is also founder and co-director of the Latino Policy Institute at



Professor Jorge O. Elorza

Roger Williams University.

“Jorge’s extraordinary record of academic and professional achievement speaks for itself,” said **Dean David A. Logan**. “As a law professor, as a community leader, as a social advocate and as a valued colleague, he is an ideal selection for this post.”

Elorza previously worked as a staff attorney at Rhode Island Legal Services. Before law school, he served as an associate auditor at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP

in New York City. He graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Rhode Island, and received his law degree from Harvard University in 2003. Why the return to his home turf?

“There are these really big problems going on in Providence and Rhode Island,” he recently told *Providence Journal* columnist **Ed Fitzpatrick**. “I wanted to have a more direct relationship with the people, the community, the city I cared about.”

National Champs!

Roger Williams topped Duke, the University of Georgia and a host of other teams from law schools across the country to win the national championship in the country’s premiere criminal law moot court competition.

The RWU Law team consisted of **Ron Rose ’10** of Manlius, N.Y., and **Justin “JP” Pruett ’11** of Harrisonburg, Va., in the twelfth annual Herbert Wechsler National Criminal Law Moot Court Competition held at the Erie County Courthouse in Buffalo, N.Y.

“Ron and Justin represented RWU Law very well,” said team coach and assistant professor of law **Jon Shelburne**. “Twenty-five teams from all over the country participated, and the judges lauded the quality of Ron and JP’s advocacy skills.”



Pruett, Shelburne, Rose



Barrister’s Ball 2010

For the 17th year running, RWU Law students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered for dinner and dancing at the annual Barristers’ Ball.



Attorneys H. Jefferson Melish, Mark McSally and Marc DeSisto, Judge William G. Smith and Dean Logan at a Q&A session following the hearing.

'Scarlet Letter Law' Faceoff Draws Full House

A standing-room-only crowd packed RWU Law's Appellate Courtroom as the school served as venue for U.S. District Judge **William E. Smith** (also a RWU Law adjunct professor) to weigh the constitutionality of a controversial policy intended to clamp down on University of Rhode Island student partying at rental houses in the seaside community of Narragansett, R.I.

At issue was a 2005 town ordinance that allows police to post a large sticker on the front door of any house hosting a gathering that substantially upsets the "quiet enjoyment" of a neighborhood through excessive noise, public drunkenness or otherwise disturbing the peace.

The Rhode Island Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of a group of students and landlords, alleging that the ordinance created a "scarlet letter" style punishment that violated the constitutional right to due process. The town countered that matters of reputation and stigma were not sufficient to invoke due-process protections.

Marc DeSisto argued for the town and **H. Jefferson Melish** for the ACLU. Both lawyers joined Judge Smith and Narragansett Town Solicitor Mark McSally after the arguments to answer student questions.

"It was a rare if not unique opportunity for students to get insiders' perspectives on litigation," noted **Dean David A. Logan**.

Judge Smith explained, for example, how he collaborates with his law clerks – such as **Hinna Upal '07**, who accompanied him for the hearing – to draft and finalize a judicial opinion. The lawyers explained how they work with their clients and prepare their arguments.

"To try to bring this kind of practical experience to the students is really important," said Smith, who teaches a federal litigation course at RWU Law. In January, he handed down a decision declaring the sticker policy constitutional. The ACLU recently appealed.

It is the second time a U.S. District Court judge has held a hearing at RWU Law. Chief U.S. District Judge **Ernest C. Torres**, now retired, conducted a bench trial here in 2004. The school has also hosted the First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on several occasions – and will again this October.



Grimes, Holper, Ham Pong

Freedom for a Client

RWU Law's fledgling Immigration Law Clinic hit the ground running in December, when two 3Ls won the freedom of a 27-year-old Liberian college student.

The student had suffered the horrors of the Liberian civil wars and came to the U.S. as a refugee, later becoming a permanent resident. The Department of Homeland Security sought to deport him because of two Rhode Island offenses (receipt of stolen property and assault) for which he received no jail time. He had been in detention for ten months when the Immigration Clinic got involved in his case.

Jessica Grimes '10 and **Ashley Ham Pong '10** represented the client in his application for withholding of removal, for which they had to prove to the immigration judge in Boston that it was more likely than not that the client would suffer persecution in Liberia because of his ethnicity.

They successfully conducted a trial on the merits, and the judge granted the application. The government waived appeal, and the client was released the next day. Thanks to Grimes' and Ham Pong's hard work and skill – along with that of their supervisor, Professor **Mary Holper** – the client celebrated the holidays at home with his girlfriend and infant daughter.

Noted Ham Pong, "The hands-on experience I gained through the clinic helped me turn classroom theory into a real-life courtroom victory."



Professor Michael Yelnosky conceived and hosted RWU Law's Judicial Selection forum.

A Fresh Look at Choosing Judges in R.I.

The question of how best to select judges is a matter of contention in many states, and Rhode Island is no exception. RWU Law professor **Michael Yelnosky**, who has been a close observer of the state's progress over the past 15 years, hosted and led a major forum to discuss the issues and evaluate reforms.

"These are really important conversations to have – to try to move the debate and the analysis beyond anecdote and to data and reality," Yelnosky told the *Providence Journal*. "This stuff can help us think more deeply about what the strengths and weaknesses are of our selection process, our bar, the players in state government, and not remain fixated on the fact that somebody very politically connected got a judgeship. That happens everywhere."

Rhode Island's selection process was revamped in 1994 to make it merit-based. The new system created a nine-member Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) to vet applicants and choose which candidates' names to forward to the governor. The changes were intended to restore confidence in the judiciary after two consecutive

chief justices resigned amid scandal.

In his opening remarks, Yelnosky noted that the controversial nature of the forum was reflected in the fact that no members of the state's General Assembly had responded to his invitation to attend and that the state bar refused to grant continuing legal-education credits for lawyers attending the event.

"You get the sense that some people would rather not hear about what's happening in judicial selection," Yelnosky said, jokingly calling the still-large audience "the few, the brave, the retired, the tenured and the residing outside the jurisdiction!"

After a brief overview of the reformed approach, the first panel – moderated by RWU Law Professor **Jared Goldstein** – discussed the nuts and bolts of the selection process, including a debate on whether the JNC is less "political" than the prior approach of vesting all power in the legislature (the consensus: there's no way to entirely remove politics from the process); whether the state provides adequate resources for an effective commission (a resounding "no"); and

whether the process is sufficiently or too "transparent" (no consensus).

A second panel presented empirical studies considering whether the Rhode Island judiciary has changed as a result of merit selection. The first study, prepared by Yelnosky himself, showed that the characteristics of "merit selection" judges appear not to differ dramatically from their predecessors. There was some evidence, however, that women and minorities have fared slightly better under merit selection, that merit-selection judges are more likely to have graduated from less prestigious law schools and that prior service in the General Assembly is now less important.

The second study, presented by Mirya Holman, research associate at Duke University School of Law, triggered lively discussions on how (and whether) the quality of the state's judiciary can be objectively measured at all.

"Both panels were candid and lively, and once again underscored the unique role that RWU Law plays in evaluating and shaping public policy in the Ocean State," **Dean David A. Logan** commented.

RWU Garners Third Public Interest Award for '09-'10

In his third major award of the academic year, RWU Law Dean **David A. Logan** was honored by one of the nation's top legal organizations for his efforts in expanding the school's public-interest law focus, and helping develop a program that is now rated the second best in New England.

The American Association of Law Schools (AALS), through its Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities, chose Dean Logan as winner of the 2010 Deborah L. Rhode Award, presented in January at the organization's annual meeting in New Orleans.

"In choosing to make public

interest a priority through his vigorous fundraising, programmatic leadership, and academic excellence in public interest offerings, Dean Logan has infused a culture of public service into the law school and indeed, in the state of Rhode Island," said **Deborah Ellis**, assistant dean for public interest law at New York University School of Law and head of the AALS selection committee.

Earlier this academic year, Logan was recognized by Rhode Island Legal Services (RILS) for the school's pro bono efforts in the state, and by the NAACP-Providence for his success in achieving diversity and inclusiveness in legal education.



Dean David Logan (left) poses with other prize winners at the AALS annual meeting in New Orleans.



Jennifer Coliflores Wins NBC 10 'Wedding Giveaway'

Jennifer Coliflores '10 and her fiance **Eric Rosenthal** won the top prize in NBC 10's and Video Excellence's "Free Wedding Giveaway," R.I. The couple's January 15 wedding at The Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Crossings in Warwick was fully paid for by the sponsors and aired on NBC 10.

Faculty Productivity Survey Again 'Goes Viral'

Several years ago, RWU Law professor **Michael Yelnosky** embarked on a study that would capture one important – and objective – measure of the quality of a law school: how often its faculty published in the most prestigious law journals.

Building on a methodology used by noted University of Chicago law professor **Brian Leiter** to compare law schools at the top of the *U.S. News* rankings, Yelnosky focused on the other hundred schools, many of which had strong, productive faculties. He had student assistants count the number of articles published in the top 50 law journals and divided that by the number of full-time, tenure-track faculty at each school, to yield a "per capita productivity number," and then ranked the results.

The third annual results of that study were released this spring, and were once again lauded in the legal blogosphere for contributing a wealth of objective data on law school quality.

Per Capita Productivity of Articles in Top Journals, 1993-2009 *New England Law Schools*

1. Yale University (20.41)
2. Harvard University (17.68)
3. Boston University (10.17)
- 4. Roger Williams University (6.76)**
5. Boston College (6.17)
6. University of Connecticut (4.29)
7. University of Maine (3.92)
8. Quinnipiac University (3.04)
- Northeastern University (3.00)
10. New England School of Law (2.03)
11. Western New England College (1.83)
12. Vermont Law School (1.76)
13. Suffolk University (1.31)

To view the full ranking and methodology, visit <http://law.rwu.edu/faculty/faculty-productivity>.

RWU Law is committed to the belief that lawyers should use their legal skills to serve their communities – and that introducing students to public interest law can set the stage for a lifetime of valuable societal contributions. The vehicle for this mission is the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service.

Public Interest Auction Raises \$17K



The annual auction to raise funds for the Summer Stipend Program was a huge success this year, bringing in \$17,000, all of which will go toward facilitating public interest work for law students this summer.

Prior to the February event, volunteers from the Association of Public Interest Law Students (APIL) filled the Federal Reserve in downtown Providence with more than 80 auction items and raffles donated by faculty, staff, alumni and other friends of RWU Law.

Guests were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres and some great live stand-up comedy by faculty members. Many thanks to **Jennifer Lashley**, our program coordinator, and 2Ls **Jennifer Coliflores** and **Andrea Flanagan** for their terrific leadership on this very important event!

Haitian Relief Efforts

The Feinstein Institute for Legal Service is working in coordination with the law school's Immigration Clinic to respond to the legal needs of Haitians in Rhode Island in the wake of their homeland's catastrophic earthquake in January.

Law students are helping Haitians complete Temporary Protective Status (TPS) applications at legal clinics. That temporary legal status is given by the Department of Homeland Security to citizens of a certain country in cases of emergency. Those granted TPS may live and work in the United States legally for the duration of the status, but TPS does not lead to legal permanent residency.

Shortly after the earthquake, law faculty, administrators and students met with local immigration and legal services attorneys to organize an effort to reach out to the local organizations serving the Haitian community to identify their legal needs. They also held a training at the School of Law on TPS for law students and attorneys.

Federal authorities estimate that between 100,000 and 200,000 Haitian nationals will qualify for TPS across the country. The program will be in effect until July 21, 2011.



PBC Highlighted in Law Journal

A new law review article by RWU Law's Feinstein Institute staff highlights its Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) as a case study in connecting law firms with the neediest communities.

The article, co-authored by Feinstein Institute staff, is titled, "Don't Do It Alone: A Community-Based, Collaborative Approach to Pro Bono," and was published in the *Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics* in May (23 Geo. J. Legal Ethics 323).

"The article traces recent commentary on the need for expanded pro bono service, the barriers that prevent some lawyers from taking on pro bono matters, and suggestions for overcoming those barriers," explained PBC director **Eliza Vorenberg**. "It then describes the development of the PBC, a three-way partnership created by RWU Law in 2004, to expand service to low-income clients and communities, engage law firms in pro bono projects in community-based organizations, and educate law students about the ethics of pro bono service. The article highlights both the benefits and challenges of a collaborative model of pro bono legal service."

The article was first presented at New York University School of Law's Dwight D. Opperman Institute of Judicial Administration's research conference on Access to Civil Justice: Empirical Perspectives, held in 2008.

PBC Expungement Projects Going Strong

Under the auspices of the Pro Bono Collaborative, Erik Johnson '11 has been partnering with two law firms and community based organizations to provide advice, counsel and representation on the expungement of minor criminal records for people facing barriers to housing, benefits and other necessities as a result of these records.

Attorneys from the law firm of **Ratcliffe Harten Burke & Galamaga LLP** offer monthly workshops to guests of McAuley House – an organization providing food, clothing, shelter, health services, emotional support and guidance to the most vulnerable in our community – regarding the expungement of criminal records in Rhode Island and the consequences of criminal convictions on housing, immigration, benefits and employment. Where expungement is a viable option, the law firm represents individuals in their expungement proceedings.

Attorneys from the law firm of **Nixon Peabody LLP** are also providing pro bono expungement advice, counsel and representation to individuals served by the Coalition for the Homeless and Open Doors (formerly the Family Life Center). Last September this group assisted homeless veterans at an Operation Standdown annual event in Woonsocket. To date, these two PBC projects have served over 20 individuals.



Attorney Richard Ratcliffe (left) and Erik Johnson '11 offer an expungement workshop at McAuley House in Providence.

The Feinstein Institute for Legal Service is pleased to announce its 2010 award recipients:

Public Interest Alumni Award
Neville Bedford, Esq. '03

Public Service Award
Dawn Euer '10 and Alan Lapre '10

Pro Bono Collaborative Award
Ashley Ham Pong '10
and Sang Hwa Lee '10

Clinical Legal Education Association Award
Sang Hwa Lee '10

Kathleen M. Birt Memorial Conflict Resolution Prize
Jonathan Myhre '10

Students Assist Needy During Spring Break

For this year's Alternative Spring Break program, 21 RWU Law students traveled to provide pro bono legal service to communities in need.

Fourteen were in New Orleans to assist attorneys from the Pro Bono Project on probate, family law and contractor fraud cases, while the seven in Virginia worked with the United Mountain Defense on administrative law issues related to mountaintop-removal mining permits.

RWU Law's first Alternative Spring Break, in 2007, sent students to the Gulf Coast to offer legal assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina. This year the Association for Public Interest Law added the Virginia option, and plans to continue offering opportunities for



spring-break pro bono work in those communities experiencing the greatest need.

RWU Law's Marine Affairs Institute, in partnership with Rhode Island Sea Grant and University of Rhode Island, is preparing the next generation of marine law professionals. With rigorous courses, extracurricular opportunities, and regional, national and international conferences, the Institute is a comprehensive clearinghouse for marine law and policy.

RWU Law Team Revamps Casebook

It was “all hands on deck” at RWU Law when a team consisting of two faculty, an alumn and a current student came together to produce a fresh edition of *Marine and Coastal Law: Cases and Materials* (Praeger, 2nd ed., 2010), a well-known textbook and library reference used since 1996 by undergraduate, graduate and law professors across the country.

Mike Daly '02, a marine lawyer, co-authored the text with Dennis Nixon, professor of marine affairs and associate dean for research and administration at the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island (Nixon teaches students in RWU Law's Marine Affairs joint degree program), along with Susan Farady, director of RWU Law's highly regarded Marine Affairs Institute. The team was ably assisted by the research efforts RWU Law student Jackson Parmenter '10.

“This really interesting combination of people convinced the publisher that bringing out this second edition was a risk worth taking,” Nixon said. “It offers a perfect combination of the scientific and legal viewpoints; it's organized for more of a dual function, to serve as a general reference.”

With the U.S. increasingly looking to the sea for its oil and gas needs – and also increasingly aware of climate change dangers to our coastlines (rising sea level; increasing frequency of intense hurricanes; temperature and salinity stresses on fisheries) – understanding the legal basis for offshore resource exploitation and coastal management is more important than ever, Farady explained.

“It's a rapidly evolving and contentious area of the law that has seen a steady stream of landmark decisions and legislation in the years since the publication of the first edition,” Nixon noted.

About a quarter of the new edition consists of new, “post-1994 landmark case materials,” selected for their legal clarity, interesting factual background, doctrinal and precedential importance, and applicability to emerging areas of litigation, maritime affairs, and coastal management, Farady said.

“Because of our respective roles in the field, I think we all look at each case from a slightly different perspective and draw different important concepts from them,” Daly added. “For example, I concentrate more on the procedural aspect, whereas Dennis is versed in a wider area.”

A 2002 graduate of RWU Law, Daly clerked for the Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, and currently practices with the Providence office of the leading New England firm, **Pierce Atwood**. He was recently elected chair of the Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee of the ABA's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, while continuing to serve on the legal committee for Save The Bay.



Jackson Parmenter '10; Professor Dennis Nixon; Mike Daly '02 and Susan Farady, director of the Marine Affairs Institute.

MAI Student and Alumni News

Nicholas Battista '08 has been appointed as a Legislative Assistant for Natural Resource, Ocean, Environment and Tax Issues with the Office of Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-Maine). Nick worked in the Congresswoman's office during 2009 as a Knauss Fellow and is a graduate of the Master of Marine Affairs joint degree program with the University of Rhode Island.

Gwen Hancock '09, J.D. and M.M.A., *Rhode Island Coastal Resource Management Council (RICRMC)/ Ocean Special Area Management Plan (O-SAMP)*, reviewed all federal and Rhode Island state statutes as well as pertinent Law of the Sea issues regarding federal and state jurisdiction and programs impacting the Ocean SAMP area.

Kate Haber '10, *Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program*, developed a background paper identifying federal and state legal issues impacting marine wind-energy siting, with an emphasis on Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine.

Ron Rose '10, *Rhode Island Sea Grant Baird Symposium*, researched legal impediments to offshore renewable-energy siting in Rhode Island and nearby federal waters.

Brian Fielding '10, *East Bay Renewable Energy Collaborative Project*, researched various corporate, not-for-profit and taxation options to assist the collaborative in organization issues.

Ryan Smith '11, *East Bay Renewable Energy Collaborative Project*, conducted an inventory of Rhode Island laws and local ordinances related to siting terrestrial and marine wind energy towers in nine East Bay communities. He also researched the interconnectivity of these towers into the electrical grid in Rhode Island.

Ashley Teixeira '12, *Rhode Island Storm Smart/Coastal Resilience Project*, conducted a review of all federal and Rhode Island laws, programs, federal/state flood disaster planning and relief initiatives relating to coastal resilience issues.



Susan Farady, President Nirschel and Celine Cousteau

Celine Cousteau Joins Civil Discourse Series

Marine Affairs Institute director **Susan Farady** was a distinguished guest at a University presentation by **Celine Cousteau**, the granddaughter of legendary ocean explorer **Jacques Cousteau** and daughter of filmmaker **Jean-Michel Cousteau**.

Cousteau's talk was part of the University's Civil Discourse Lecture Series, and covered issues of sustainability and social change, including her work in the Amazon and on the PBS show "Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures."

"Jacques Cousteau's amazing work was a significant reason why I decided to pursue a career in ocean issues, including the important work we are doing here at the Marine Affairs Institute to train the next generation of marine law professionals," Farady said. "It was inspiring to hear about Celine Cousteau's work and wonderful to have the opportunity to meet her."

Cousteau is currently the international program coordinator for the Ocean Futures Society, a global organization exploring the world's oceans while inspiring and educating people to act responsibly for its protection.

Marine Affairs Institute Convenes Advisory Board

The Marine Affairs Institute Advisory Board – comprised of RWU Law marine affairs faculty and alumni, representatives of MAI partners at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Sea Grant, and marine law experts from public, private and non-profit practice – held its inaugural meeting last fall.

The Board provides guidance to the MAI with the goal of ensuring that it offers top-quality educational opportunities for the next generation of ocean and coastal leaders, while remaining responsive to the needs of the professional marine law community.


"I'm thrilled to have the expert advice of such a distinguished Board," said MAI director **Susan Farady**.

"My education at RWU Law, and its unique joint degree program with URI, provided me the essential skills I needed to do the work I love at Save the Bay, and I'm pleased to be able to support the Marine Affairs Institute as Chair of the Advisory Board," said board chair **Wendy Waller '02**.

Advisory Board members are:

- **William J. Coffey, Esq.**, *Advisory Board Vice Chair President*, Beaufort Maritime Group, LLC, Adjunct Professor, RWU School of Law
- **Barry Costa-Pierce**, Director, Rhode Island Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island
- **Dennis H. Esposito, Esq.**, Principal, Aarons Esposito, Adjunct Professor, RWU School of Law
- **Robert E. Falvey, Esq.**, Falvey Cargo Underwriting, Adjunct Professor, RWU School of Law, RWU School of Law '98
- **Jared Goldstein**, Professor, RWU School of Law
- **Jonathan Guttoff**, Professor, RWU School of Law
- **Tricia Jedele, Esq.**, Vice President, RI Advocacy, Center Director, Conservation Law Foundation
- **Dennis W. Nixon, Esq.**, Associate Dean, Research & Administration, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island
- **Wendy Waller, Esq.**, *Advisory Board Chair*, Policy Specialist, Save The Bay, RWU School of Law '02, (J.D./Master of Marine Affairs)
- **Julie Williams, Esq.**, Attorney-Advisor, General Counsel's Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration





“What better way to honor the women who preceded us than to help the next generation of women coming up behind us?”

- Kim Ahern '09



RWU Law *Spotlights*

WOMEN IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

OUR LEGAL PROFESSION IS CHANGING RAPIDLY, AND IT'S HARD TO PREDICT WHAT THE LANDSCAPE WILL BE LIKE IN A DECADE, FIVE YEARS OR EVEN ONE YEAR. BUT THIS FACTOR IS CERTAIN: THERE WILL BE EVER MORE WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION, WIELDING EVER MORE INFLUENCE.

RWU Law's "Women Who Lead" Series, spanning the 2009-10 academic year, offered lectures, symposia and other events to spotlight the important work of women attorneys, while also addressing ongoing challenges such as "breaking the glass ceiling" and achieving work/family balance.


Dean David A. Logan said he proposed the series partially in response to the public debate surrounding the nomination of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor – discussions that involved heated debate over the role a judge's life experience should play in rendering judicial decisions.

"Women are enriching and expanding

the life experience reflected in the legal profession," Logan told the *Providence Business News*, which used the RWU Law series to anchor a feature story on women in the law. "To imply that a woman's life experience is the same as a man's is foolish. It's different – not better or worse, but different."

Statistics indicate that the number of women and men in law school today is roughly equal. At RWU Law, the incoming class in 2007 was 47.4 percent male and 52.6 percent female; in 2008, 45.3 percent male and 54.7 percent female; in 2009, 53.3 percent male and 46.7 percent female.

By Michael M. Bowden



*“One person can make a difference –
I am living proof of that.”*

- Betty Anne Waters '98

WOMEN LAWYERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A SHOWCASE OF PROMINENT RWU LAW ALUMS

A panel titled “Law Graduates Making a Difference” focused on RWU Law alumnae who are making a notable impact on both the law and their communities:

- **Kim Ahern '09** was elected as a delegate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention, pledged to Barack Obama. She currently serves as a Law Clerk to Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, and this year was named as one of “Ten People You Don’t Know Now, But Soon Will” by *Providence Monthly*.
- **Leah Donaldson '07** is president-elect of the Rhode Island Women’s Bar Association, was a leading



litigator in civil suits on behalf of 9/11 families who opted out of the Victim Compensation Fund, and presently represents individuals harmed by defective medical devices.

- **Betty Anne Waters '98** (profiled in the Fall 2009 issue of *Amicus*) successfully brought one of the first DNA exoneration cases, freeing her wrongly imprisoned brother

and inspiring an upcoming major motion picture, “Betty Ann Waters,” slated for Fall 2010 release, and starring Hilary Swank and Minnie Driver. She works with the Innocence Project, a nonprofit legal clinic associated with Yeshiva University’s Cardozo School of Law that works to overturn wrongful convictions.

- The panel also included current 1L **Melanie Shapiro** (see page 18 of this issue of *Amicus*) and was moderated by **Lorraine Lalli '01**, who graduated as class salutatorian and practiced with the prominent Boston firm of Brown Rudnick, LLP, before returning to RWU Law in 2008 as assistant dean of students.



MARGARET MARSHALL
CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL
COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Honorable Margaret H. Marshall, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, launched the Women Who Lead series with an address on “Our American Constitutions: Models for the 21st Century.”

Born in South Africa, Chief Justice Marshall attended law school in the U.S. and enjoyed a distinguished career culminating in her appointment to her current position a decade ago. She is only the second woman to serve on the Supreme Judicial Court in its 300-year history and it is first female Chief Justice. In November 2003, she handed down the landmark decision in *Goodridge v. Department of Health*, mandating equal marriage rights for gays and lesbians in Massachusetts.

As head of the oldest court in continuous existence in the United States (the Massachusetts high court was founded in 1692), Marshall said the state constitution she enforces is also a venerable one; it was ratified seven years before the U.S. Constitution. Its primary author, John Adams, anticipated a number of innovations that the national constitution would later adopt – for example, as Chief Justice Marshall phrased it, “a popularly elected executive with real power,” and – “even more important,” she added – a judicial branch to check and balance the executive and legislative branches.

Variations on that model, she said, have since become the “gold standard for constitutions around the world,” from Germany to India to her native South Africa – and for good reason. “Ours is not a perfect nation; we make lots of mistakes. But it is just my profound belief that this is about the best model,” she said, pointedly crediting Adams, her state’s own master lawyer (and emphatically not Virginia’s Jefferson), as the primary author of “this remarkable invention.”

Moving from broad historical conclusions to specifics, the chief justice good-naturedly fielded student, faculty and alumni questions about states that elect their judges (“I’m not so sure that merit selection works any better”) and – most appropriately considering the Women Who Lead context of her address – the arguably tougher standards applied to women in the profession (“The scrutiny of my work is much tighter; I can’t get away with anything. I have to be absolutely scrupulous”); and the difficult work/home issues this reality entails (“I do not adhere to the view that we shouldn’t have children!”).

Overall, Chief Justice Marshall concluded, the rise of women in the law in her lifetime has been as remarkable as the rise to equality of black citizens of South Africa. “It has been a wonderful, wonderful journey,” she said, “and an extraordinary privilege to live in this time and see it all unfold.”



CYNTHIA THOMAS CALVERT
LEADING LAWYERS:
DEFINING SUCCESS IN WORK & LIFE

A special full-afternoon event consisting of several expert panels on work-life balance was keynoted by attorney **Cynthia Thomas Calvert**, deputy director of the Center for WorkLife Law at the University of California Hastings College of Law and author of several books and articles on women in the law. Calvert is currently studying what she called “the hidden bias” against female associates in law firms across the country.


Her address, titled “Barrier Update: The Glass Ceiling and Maternal Wall in Law Firms Today,” focused on some of the challenges facing women in the profession. The dismaying result is that women in the law tend to earn lower salaries than men, while remaining less likely to hold prestigious jobs and more likely to walk away from the profession.

A 2009 study by the National Association of Women Lawyers on the retention and promotion of women in law firms found that only six percent of managing partners in U.S. law firms were women. The major reason women leave the law is the difficulty of balancing family obligations with the rigorous demands of the profession, particularly building a client base and amassing billable hours.

Calvert said she and her colleagues studied 1,700 performance evaluations done by a major national law firm, and found that if a male attorney has a success, it is likely to be attributed to his competence and skill, but when a female lawyer is successful, “it is often attributed to luck.”

The evaluations further showed that if a male lawyer makes a mistake, it is more easily forgotten. When a female lawyer makes a mistake, however, “it tends to be noticed more and remembered more,” Calvert said. “We saw this again and again in the evaluations, and it’s because women do not have the presumption of competence that men have. Women have to prove their competence over and over again.”

The keynote was followed by two panels. The first, on “Women Who Broke Through,” was moderated by Professor **Mary Holper**, and featured Superior Court Justice **Judith Savage**, Brown University General Counsel **Beverly Ledbetter**, Edwards Angell Palmer and Dodge partner **Patricia Sullivan**, and leading trial lawyer **Miriam Weizenbaum** of Deluca and Weizenbaum. The second, on “Balancing the Scales,” was moderated by Professor **Colleen Murphy**, and featured **Patricia Andrews**, a solo practitioner, **Ondine Galvez-Sniffen** of Catholic Social Services of Fall River, **Martha Holt** of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of R.I., and **Olayinka Oredugba ’00**, an attorney for the City of Providence. The speakers shared stories and advice on making choices, finding mentors and defining success.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black blazer over a colorful patterned top, stands with her arms crossed and a warm smile. She is positioned in front of a stone building with a large column to her left.

“Having a passion for what I do means that when I go to work I feel like I’ve been filled up instead of drained.”

- Leah Donaldson '07



ANGELA CICCOLO
MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEK
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Drawing on her work as general counsel and secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), **Angela Ciccolo, Esq.**, delivered a warm and personal keynote for RWU Law’s Martin Luther King Week celebration. Her address, “One People United,” was a reflection on the state of civil rights challenges in 2010 and beyond, as well as the changes in the civil rights movement over the NAACP’s hundred-year history.

“I was a poor Head Start child,” she said. “I started off my life in public housing. I’m standing here today because of my grandmother – the daughter of former slaves – and all the others like her, who fought the good fight.”

In her position as interim general counsel, Ciccolo “advances the interests, policies and goals of the NAACP and its members through litigation.” The NAACP’s docket includes cases touching all aspects of the civil rights movement, including housing, voting rights, education, criminal justice and the expansion of civil rights protections.

“Sadly, our legal staff is still fighting some of the same battles their predecessors fought one hundred years ago,” Ciccolo said.

Prior to joining the NAACP, Ciccolo was an attorney with the law firm of Ashcraft & Gerel in Washington, D.C., one of the region’s premiere law firms. She was instrumental in creating the NAACP’s Law Fellow Program which provides law students – such as **Angela Alexander ’10** in 2008 and **Angela Alves ’11** this summer – the opportunity to work at the NAACP Headquarters and to develop leadership skills.

Since her visit to RWU Law, Ciccolo has left the NAACP to become Chief Legal Officer (CLO) of Special Olympics International.



NANCY RAPOPORT
‘WHY WE NEED NAYSAYERS’

Law professor Nancy Rapoport wrapped up the Women Who Lead series with an entertaining and thought-provoking multimedia presentation, “Why We Need Naysayers.”

As co-author of *Enron and Other Corporate Fiascos: The Corporate Scandal Reader* (Foundation Press, 2009), Rapoport addressed the question of why our society never seems to learn from prior corporate scandals. Along the way, she shared video clips of her appearance in the Academy Award-nominated documentary, “Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room” (2005).

Rapoport’s talk focused on how society might help create institutional environments that would help avoid massive missteps such as those seen with Enron, the Madoff scandal and the Wall Street melt-down more generally, and the current Toyota debacle. A big part of understanding those scandals, she said, involves understanding the psychology of human transgression.

“In order to stop a morally bankrupt series of behaviors, you have to admit that – at some point – you did something wrong,” she said. “And because humans do not like to think they are inherently ‘bad,’ each new act of wrongdoing is justified incrementally as you go further and further past your own moral boundaries.”

Rapoport, an expert on bankruptcy and corporate leadership, found herself drawn into these issues soon after being appointed dean of the University of Houston School of Law – at the precise moment when Enron, a major local corporation, became the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history as the result of reckless leadership. She soon became a familiar voice in media critiques of the Enron debacle.

Rapoport has also served as dean of the University of Nebraska College of Law, dean of the University of Houston Law Center, and in 2007 she was appointed the Silver Professor at the University of Nevada School of Law.

By Michael M. Bowden

'A Mandate for *Change*'

Will Flanagan '05 Takes the Helm as Fall River's New Mayor

It's hard not to be impressed by the view of Fall River, Mass., from the office of Mayor William A. Flanagan '05 – a sweeping vista overlooking Battleship Cove, the Braga Bridge and the city's expansive waterfront along the eastern shore of Mount Hope Bay.

It's a view that was much on Flanagan's mind this April, when Massachusetts Lt. Gov. **Tim Murray** announced a state award of \$2 million to revitalize the city's long-neglected City Pier district, clean up the marina and prepare for redevelopment of the 4½-acre site along the Heritage State Park boardwalk.

Calling the award "the best news residents have heard in 30 years" about the waterfront, the *Fall River Herald News* observed that the city has "never fully taken advantage of its fortuitous geography."

"This will breathe life into our city's waterfront," Flanagan agreed, enjoying an early political victory as Murray handed him the ceremonial check. "For far too long our waterfront has sat dormant." Responsible municipal leadership, he added, could transform the area into an "economic engine" in the region.

A Commitment to Public Service

The waterfront funding was a welcome piece of good news as Mayor Flanagan emerged from his first hundred days in office – still a month shy of his 30th birthday. It had been a trying few months, marked by a host of economic woes inherited from earlier administrations and exacerbated by unprecedented flooding throughout the city in March.

"We were tested and we passed the test as an administration," he told reporters. "Not many people who have come before me can say they went through a crisis like what we went through within their first 100 days."

Just a year ago, Flanagan was still just a dark-horse candidate for mayor – a Taunton, Mass., city solicitor facing off against Fall River's then-incumbent

Mayor Robert Correia and three well-known city councilors. The Sept. 15 preliminary election put him 250 votes ahead of Correia for a run-off spot and 500 behind Cathy Ann Viveiros, a city councilor. Flanagan's campaign gained grassroots momentum through the fall, and he won November's city election by a significant margin.

"I received over 60 percent of the vote in the general election," Flanagan told *Amicus*. "So I believe my election was a mandate. I think the city as a whole was fed up with politics as usual; they were looking for a change. The platform I campaigned on was transparent government, listening to the people and always doing what is in their best interest."

Flanagan's soft-spoken, unassuming manner seems unusual in a politician, and his professional background betrays little in the way of political ambition. During his third year of law school, Flanagan secured a legal internship with the city of Taunton. "That was a great job because it allowed me to pair municipal government and the law," he said.

After graduation, Flanagan was appointed assistant solicitor for Taunton, a position he held for about two years. He then worked for over a year as a prosecutor with the Bristol County (Massachusetts) District Attorney's Office, supervising the Taunton and Fall River district courts, before returning to an assistant attorney position in Taunton.

"I've always had an interest in politics, volunteering for various campaigns, watching and reading about the art of campaigning," he said. "But most importantly I've always had a commitment to public service. Upon graduating from law school, I made a decision to go into the public sector rather

than private practice. My professional background has always been in public service, and I see my election as mayor of the City of Fall River as an opportunity to continue that public service."

Flanagan noted that his RWU Law education helped him on his career path. "It taught me to analyze issues and come up with logical solutions," he said. "It also nurtured a strong work ethic: if you can accomplish that first year of law school, you can accomplish a lot! It gave me the discipline to take on tasks and complete them as well – those are traits you carry straight into your career."


Friends in High Places

At his inauguration in January, Flanagan enjoyed a high-profile introduction by U.S. Rep. **Barney Frank**, D-Mass., who warmed up the crowd before Flanagan's appearance.

"I am very encouraged, and one of the most encouraging things is his age," Frank said. "We hear too much about young people not getting involved in politics. Nothing refutes that more than Mayor Flanagan."

Frank, noting that he and Flanagan had already forged a strong professional relationship, committed to making the new mayor's job a little easier by working to bring the commuter rail to the city and eliminating the threat of an liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal – two key issues that Flanagan campaigned heavily on. Frank also promised to work to bring financial relief to the cities and towns in his district and said he was looking forward to a promising future for Fall River under Flanagan.

"I feel that our federal delegation – Congressman Frank, Congressman



James McGovern and Senator John Kerry in particular – has an open line of communication with us, and they know I want to work with them,” Flanagan said. “There are a lot of issues facing the city, and our federal, state and local delegations can be influential in helping us navigate through these situations.”

The recent waterfront revitalization money suggests that Flanagan’s collaborative approach is beginning to bear fruit.

“Our vision is to develop a waterfront that has retail and entertainment outlets,” he said. “We want to attract businesses to the waterfront to open up shop – from restaurants and theaters, to retail stores to commercial office space, to a hotel. That’s the type of development we’re looking to have in our downtown.”

This summer, small changes will begin to appear – such as waterfront festivals with local restaurants setting up food carts, local musicians performing and area nonprofits such as the Narrows Center for the Arts and the Children’s Museum of Greater Fall River, showcasing their activities.

“We’re trying to hit some singles before we start hitting the home runs,” Flanagan explained. “We’re starting off small to demonstrate, ‘Look, we have the ability to put together a showpiece here on our waterfront’ – and that will make it easier for other businesses to decide to relocate here, while also helping to make our case for why further funding is necessary to develop the waterfront.”

Flanagan said he’d like Fall River residents to view him as engaged and accessible – and to that end he has moderated public forums on important issues, offered neighborhood walking tours, and hosted special “nights out with the mayor” as well as informal talks.

“I’ve tried to engage people in their government, to have them become more involved,” he said. “There hasn’t been a day I haven’t given my best. I hope people recognize I’m trying to make a difference for the better.”

‘I’ve always had a commitment to public service. My background has always been in public service, and I see my election as mayor of the City of Fall River as an opportunity to continue that public service.’

– Mayor William A. Flanagan



Passion, Perseverance and Principle

By Melissa A. Patricio

1L Melanie Shapiro campaigns for, helps pass anti-prostitution bill

Focused, direct and possessing an impermeably calm demeanor, first-year law student Melanie Shapiro '12 is just about the last person you'd expect to find perched outside a brothel that was masquerading as a massage parlor – until recently a common phenomenon in Rhode Island, where indoor prostitution was legal for nearly three decades.

But for the past few years, that's exactly where Shapiro has been, meticulously documenting daily comings-and-goings and trying to avoid run-ins with pimps and madams – that is, when she wasn't completing her undergraduate degree, leading an NGO and navigating the notoriously daunting workload of a 1L. And when she wasn't staking out “spa-brothels,” as she calls them, Shapiro spent thousands of hours patrolling online forums for johns' descriptions of the facilities, what took place inside of them and who they were there to see. Unorthodox as it may seem, for Shapiro it was research – her means of helping end the era of decriminalized prostitution in Rhode Island, which she says made the state a safe-haven in which human traffickers could set up shop without fear of prosecution.

“You know, you think it's happening somewhere else, somewhere far away from where you live,” said Shapiro,

‘The enormity of the sex trafficking industry is astounding. You feel like there must be something you can do to change it.’

– Melanie Shapiro

who became interested in human trafficking five years ago after seeing the documentary, “The Day My God Died” (2003), about child sex-trafficking in India and Nepal. A few days later, she read a *New York Times* article about teenage girls from Mexico forced to prostitute themselves in Plainfield, N.J., less than three miles from the affluent suburb where she grew up.

“Prostitution is in every city,” Shapiro said. “You just need to know where to look.”

‘I Needed To Do Something’

According to Shapiro, nearly 18,000 people are trafficked into the United States for sex every year; hundreds of thousands are trafficked across borders around the world annually, and millions are trafficked within their own countries.

“The enormity of the sex-trafficking industry is astounding,” Shapiro said, “and obviously there’s a really strong emotional response to something like that. You feel like there must be something you can do to change it.”

For Shapiro, the road to change meant personal action. She conducted independent research for two years before joining forces with internationally renowned expert **Donna Hughes**, a women’s studies professor at the University of Rhode Island and Shapiro’s thesis advisor. When Shapiro noticed that the number of brothels around her Providence apartment had more than doubled between 2007 and 2008, she knew it was time to escalate her efforts.

“When I found out that prostitution was decriminalized in Rhode Island, I just couldn’t believe it,” she said. “Seeing all of these brothels popping up, and reading about some of them, I just felt compelled to keep researching. Seeing that growth kept pushing me that I really needed to do something.”

Shapiro – who by that time was serving as co-chair of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RICAHT) – decided that what Rhode Island really needed was a new law against prostitution and forced labor in the state. So she left RICAHT (which opposed such a law) and began pushing

for what she considered would be real change – a new law.

“Melanie really is an exceptional leader,” Hughes said. “She takes the initiative, she sees what needs to be done and she gets it done. She is very good at analyzing situations and knowing what’s important to gather data on, and how to use it.”

Together with Hughes, Shapiro co-founded Citizens Against Trafficking to fight for effective public policy and legislation. They then joined forces with State Representative **Joanne Giannini** of Providence, who in 2009 was attempting to pass an anti-prostitution bill for the fourth time in her 15 years in the State House.

Despite heavy opposition, Shapiro’s research and testimony before the General Assembly – together with Hughes’ expertise and Giannini’s unrelenting advocacy on behalf of victimized women – resulted in a new era for Rhode Island: On November 3, 2009, **Governor Donald L. Carcieri** signed a new law prohibiting prostitution in the state (Shapiro was invited to the ceremony and posed with the governor at the signing). The new law also gives law enforcement officials the ability to remove victims from suspected brothels, and provides protections, to prevent their being convicted of prostitution offenses.

Giannini credits Shapiro’s diligent research with helping provide a strong foundation for the law’s passage.

“Melanie worked very hard and provided excellent testimony in front of both the House and the Senate,” Giannini said.

“I think that the law we have right now is one of the best in the country,” Shapiro noted. “I know that this has already had a positive impact; and it’s really important work too, because there were a lot of other places that were considering decriminalizing prostitution. We are now a case study for the rest of the country and the world.”

Shapiro believes the law’s impact within the state is already palpable. Many spa-brothels have closed without police intervention, and Shapiro says that discussion in the online communities indicates that the law is deterring johns from using prostitution services because of the criminal implications.

‘100 Percent Sincere’

Shapiro didn’t always want to be a lawyer. An equine enthusiast with her own horse, four cats and a dog, she once dreamed of becoming a veterinarian. But a career in law seems a more natural fit, she said, because it will allow her to continue her fight against human trafficking. Her pre-professional experience working with local lawmakers has convinced her of how effective the law can be in protecting the public interest – and that’s exactly what this winner of an RWU Law Public Interest Scholarship intends to do.

Her goal is to eventually serve as a federal prosecutor on human trafficking cases, it hasn’t been easy for Shapiro so far: there was the tense political climate, the intimidation tactics used by the opposition to keep her from testifying and confrontations with madams, pimp and johns who were threatened by her presence investigating the spa-brothels.

“Melanie laid a lot of groundwork and actually went to spas where her safety was at risk,” Giannini said. “She’s a very courageous young woman.”

Shapiro admits that there have been times when she feared for her safety. But one of the most challenging obstacles in her quest for justice, she says, was dealing with personal attacks on her character – and her motives for campaigning against decriminalized prostitution – in media outlets throughout the region. She says her passion for the cause makes it easier to manage the criticism and maintain focus as she forges ahead in her crusade to end human trafficking both at home and around the world.

What’s next? Between contributing to a book by Hughes, managing Citizens Against Trafficking and maintaining a steady stream of public speaking engagements (not to mention successfully completing her first year of law school), she is trying to deepen public awareness of human trafficking. It can be an exhausting schedule, she acknowledges, but it has been worth the struggle.

“I’m 100 percent sincere about what I’m doing, and my intention always has been to help the women and children,” Shapiro said. “A basic rule of law was essential to helping them, and that is exactly why I campaigned for it. It’s difficult work to keep doing every day. But if I had to, I’d do it all over again.”

LAA President's Message



Margreta Vellucci, Esq. '07
President,
Law Alumni Association

Greetings fellow alumni! I am pleased to update you on the news and events of the Law Alumni Association (LAA).

As always, the annual holiday reception was an enormous success. The large turnout, which included alumni, faculty, and staff, gathered at the Federal Reserve in Providence to reminisce and celebrate the holiday season. The LAA collected an impressive number of donations for "Toys for Tots," due to the generosity of the attendees.

Roger Williams University School of Law would not be what it is today without the support of its talented and diverse alumni population. There are many ways for you to give back – whether it be career mentoring, attending alumni events and networking opportunities, or annual giving. By staying connected, we have an opportunity to share our professional talents and experiences with the students and faculty. Please consider volunteering or playing in this year's 11th Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament – the greatest contributor to the LAA scholarship fund, which awards annual scholarships to deserving students. Because of the efforts that go into making this event a success, we are looking for volunteers year-round.

As always, if you would like to get more involved, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at margretav@gmail.com, or the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at lawalumni@rwu.edu.

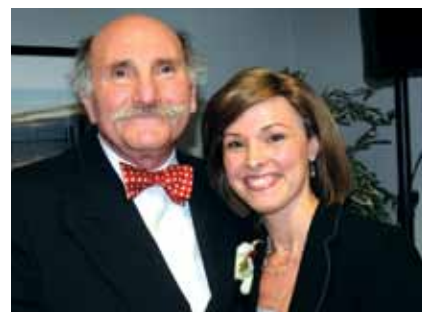
'A Clarion Call For Mentors'

By Anthony L. Bastone, II, Assistant Dean of Career Services

For the past few years, RWU Law graduates have enjoyed a nearly 90 percent employment rate within six months of graduation, which is right at the national average. Additionally, our bar-pass rates, especially in the states where most of graduates plan to practice, have been exemplary. But while we are justifiably proud of these accomplishments, we must be conscious that students at all law schools now face an uncertain economy and volatility in the market for entry-level law jobs.

In response, Roger Williams University School of Law has significantly increased the resources available to current students and alums. I am ably assisted in this effort by director Veronica Paricio (who served as dean of career services at the University of Colorado School of Law before joining us two years ago) and by an energetic graduate of Providence College and Notre Dame Law, Erin Wright, Esq. (who serves as assistant director). Further, we have increased our marketing and recruiting efforts in the public and private sectors by visiting law firms, government and public service entities and businesses who hire law students and graduates in New England, New York and Washington, D.C. Finally, we have invested in sophisticated software that enables our office, plus other important offices (such as the dean of students, the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service and the Marine Affairs Institute) to more effectively provide counseling services.

However, alumni can help our students land on their feet after graduation. Please consider assisting fellow alumni and current students by offering to serve as a mentor, being available for informational interviews to discuss your practice and experiences, creating volunteer internships within your office or providing networking opportunities within the legal community. We welcome any ideas you have about how we can all work together to support those who will over the next few years become valued members of our alumni community.



Assistant Dean of Career Services Anthony Bastone and Career Services Director Veronica Paricio

Imagine the IMPACT of your gift...

Imagine every RWU Law student having the opportunity to work with real clients on real cases – realizing their dreams – as a result of your generosity and vision.

Because tuition alone does not represent the true cost of an RWU Law education, our students rely on gifts from alumni, parents and friends to help fund not only such essential things as scholarships, textbooks and technology, but also our public interest programs and law clinics where they are able to provide assistance to those most in need.

Your gift, in any amount, to **IMPACT: The Fund for RWU Law** will make a difference by providing a vital resource of unrestricted support for all aspects of educating today's law students. They, and the community members who so need their help, thank you for your support!

Please visit our secure site <http://giving.rwu.edu/gift> to make a gift online, or mail your check made payable to Roger Williams University School of Law to:

Roger Williams University School of Law
Office of Alumni, Programs & Events
Ten Metacom Avenue
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

IMPACT
The Fund for
RWU Law

Where Are Our Law Alum ...?

Top Five Law Alumni Home States

- 1 Rhode Island, 40%
- 2 Massachusetts, 16%
- 3 Connecticut, 6%
- 4 New York, 6%
- 5 New Jersey, 5%

Law Alumni Library Privileges

“Special”/Extended Borrowing Privileges

If a qualified alumni borrower is working on an article, book or similar work for scholarly publication, that borrower may request extended borrowing privileges. When granted, the extended borrowing privileges differ from regular borrowing privileges in the following ways:

Stack materials which circulate may be borrowed as follows:

- the borrowing period is 21 days, subject to recall.
- the maximum number of items which may be borrowed is 10 per patron.

Expiration of extended privileges:

- extended borrowing privileges will be granted for a maximum period of six months.

Requests for extended borrowing privileges should be directed to the associate law librarian, Lucinda Harrison-Cox at 401-254-4533 or lharrison-cox@law.rwu.edu.

1996

Katherine M. Dickenson was promoted to vice president of RBS Asset Finance, Inc., a subsidiary of RBS Citizens, N.A., Warwick, R.I.

James "Jay" Donegan, wife Jackie (Borger) Donegan (RWU '95) and their five-year-old daughter Caitlin welcomed Mackenzie Rose Donegan on October 9, 2009. Jay is an assistant prosecutor assigned to the Special Victims Unit / Sex Crimes Unit with the Warren County Prosecutor's Office in New Jersey. Prior to his present assignment, Jay worked in the Domestic Violence Unit, the Juvenile Delinquency Unit and the Trial Unit. The family resides in Warren County.

Ulrick Gaillard, CEO/ Founder of the humanitarian aid organization, Batey Relief Alliance, has been appointed as an adjunct assistant professor with the Department of Applied Science, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) at the University of Indiana-Bloomington. His appointment continues until November 2012.

1997

1997



Anthony R. Leone, II was selected to the 2010 Zeta II Class of Leadership Rhode Island. Anthony's practice, Leone Law, LLC, is located in Warwick, R.I.

Christopher D. Mordas was promoted to chief financial officer at Palladium Group, Inc., Lincoln, Mass.

1998

1998



Dennis Meyers has been appointed to the Board of Directors as recording secretary for the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce and also serves as chair of their Membership Services Committee. Dennis has also been elected vice president for the Tampa-based international nonprofit organization, Global Action Coalition.

Joseph Marion III of Burns & Levinson LLP was quoted in the November 2, 2009, *Providence Business News* article, "Early Planning is Crucial for Ownership Transfers," written by Denise Perreault.

Eric W. Schweibenz was elected partner at the firm Oblon, Spivak, McClelland Maier & Neustadt, L.L.P. in Alexandria, Va. Eric practices in the firm's litigation practice group, focusing on patent litigation in the federal courts and the International Trade Commission. He has extensive experience in complex litigation including intellectual property and has represented clients in a wide variety of industries, including medical devices, semiconductor manufacturing, automotive, liquid crystal display technologies and gas turbine engines.

1999

John A. Pagliarini, Jr. was invited to be Rhode Island's sole member to the National Association of Property Tax Attorneys.

Neal Pandozzi was selected to the 2010 Zeta II Class of Leadership Rhode Island and is working at the firm Nixon Peabody, LLP.

2000

2000



Boyd E. Foster, Jr. has been promoted to the position of principal of the CPA firm Sullivan & Company. Boyd has been a member of the firm since 2004 and has developed a special expertise as a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). He also authored an article in *Fraud Magazine* designed to prevent embezzlement through management oversight and controls. He is a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the R.I. Society of Certified Public Accountants.

2001

Megan E. Higgins has accepted a position with Ecology and Environment, Inc. in Providence.

Lenoard "Jamie" Snyder is an assistant city attorney in Carbondale, Ill. and resides in Desoto, Ill.

1999



Alexander J. Smolenski became a partner at the law firm of Sunstein Kann Murphy & Timbers LLP, a leading intellectual property law firm based in Boston. Alexander focuses his practice on patent prosecution matters, product clearance, and patent portfolio development, as well as prepares U.S. and foreign patent applications in a wide variety of electrical, computer, medical, and Internet-related technologies.

2002

Michael J. Daly, an associate with Pierce Atwood LLP, is chair of the Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee of the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) of the ABA. Michael co-authored the second edition of *Marine and Coastal Law*, a case book that is used in various undergraduate, graduate and law school classes around the country, with Dennis W. Nixon and RWU Law Marine Affairs Director Susan E. Farady.

Brie Fanning-DiLibero and husband **Steven DiLibero '01** are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Giacobbe Luca DiLibero, on May 15, 2009.

Jacques J. LeMarier and Malinda Templeton of Lewisville, Texas, were married on June 21, 2008, at the Historic Round Grove Chapel in Lewisville. Jacques is an associate with Rubin & Associates of Dallas, focusing on bankruptcy and debtors in the filing of Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 petitions. The couple resides in Lewisville.

2003

Keri P. Claeys created the firm of Pecarchik Claeys, LLP, specializing in creditors' rights (including local counsel work regarding foreclosure, bankruptcy,

eviction and REO) within the State of Pennsylvania. Keri resides in Pittsburgh.

Joy Dingle is working at Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy in Washington D.C. as part of the public policy department, which teaches classes and coordinates programming for the school. This past year she taught public health – from AIDS to domestic violence; as well as coordinating many school-wide activities including a voter registration, mock election, and International AIDS Day. Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy was founded 10 years ago to develop young people who will make the country a better place by influencing the public policies that affect their communities.

Stephanie Federico was selected to the 2010 Zeta II Class of Leadership Rhode Island. Stephanie is the chief of staff for the Providence School Department. **Roberta B. Merkle** is executive vice president of Strategic Initiatives at the Saint Elizabeth Community, East Greenwich, R.I.

Stephen D. Mosca and Heather Lynn Briggs were married on June 20, 2009, at Spain of Narragansett, R.I. Stephen is an attorney with the law firm of Mosca & Volpe, in North Kingstown. The couple resides in South Kingstown.

2003



Doug Mercurio, attorney and principal at the Law Office of Douglas M. Mercurio, P.C., in North Reading, has joined the Board of Directors of the Reading-North Reading Chamber of Commerce. Prior to establishing his current firm in early 2005, Mercurio worked at a high-volume real estate law practice in Woburn and later formed a real estate division at a firm in Danvers. Douglas, his wife Michelle and son Steven welcomed the newest addition to their family, Jason Charles, on May 15, 2009.

Peter Pascucci has been selected for promotion to lieutenant commander in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps and is assigned as the deputy legal counsel to the vice chief of naval operations.

2004

Tenley Beals is in-house counsel for JetBlue Airways Corporation, covering intellectual property, marketing, advertising and consumer protection matters in New York City.

Danielle Capozzoli is a corporate attorney in contract services for United Water. She is engaged to be married on July 24, 2010.

2005

Amanda Mertens-Campbell has been promoted to

minority general counsel with the House Energy & Commerce Committee in Washington, D.C.

Kelly Reynolds Medeiros and Luis-Jared Medeiros were married on October 11, 2009. **Heidi Hill Flynn '05**, **Kathryn McCabe '05**, **Mary-Joy Spencer Howes '05** and **Jonathan Francis '05** were members of the wedding party.

Shawn Ralston and husband Cary Ralston welcomed their daughter Tatum Gray Ralston on August 5, 2009.

Mary Joy Spencer-Howes is an associate at Goodman, Shapiro & Lombardi. The firm has offices in both Providence and Dedham and specializes in condominium law.

Steven Striffler has been appointed by the mayor as a commissioner to the City of Quincy Conservation Commission, Quincy, Mass.

2006

Brian Ali was promoted to vice president at Credit Suisse in New York. Brian works in the international equities division of the investment bank.

Helena P. Downyok is an assistant state attorney in Punta Gorda, Fla. Helena was married in 2008 and welcomed a baby boy, Lawrence, on September 2, 2009. She is looking forward to opening up her own law firm in 2010.

Jeremy Love relocated to Birmingham, Ala., to become the legal services director at Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (HICA). HICA is a nonprofit organization, where he primarily works on immigration cases, but also helps victims of domestic violence. Jeremy previously worked for Troutman Sanders LLP in Atlanta, Ga.

2006



Pankti Desai Rogers and **Jed Rogers** were married on October 24, 2009, at the Chateau Elan in Braselton, Georgia. Several fellow classmates attended the wedding, as well as RWU Law Professor Anthony Santoro. Left to right: Cory Bilodeau '06; Joelle Sylvia '06; Kyle Rocha '09; James Coughlan '06; Professor Santoro; Martinelle Cole '06; Brian Ali '06; Elizabeth Etrie '06; Rebecca Booth '06.

Erin Van Dorn has accepted the position of associate director of admissions at Temple University School of Law. Erin attended Eastern University for her undergrad in St. Davids, Pa. and is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania.

2007

Carson T. Checketts published an article in the *IO Journal*, which is a monthly national security magazine published by the IO Institute and focused on Information Operations and Cyberspace.

Laura Corbin graduated from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course and is working as a Judge Advocate in the Legal Assistance Office at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Nicole Eldredge is working in Washington, D.C., for the U.S. Office of Special Counsel. She is engaged to be married to Lance Mogard in May 2010 in Newport, R.I.

James Rolstead and Deanna Howard were married on December 23, 2009.

Lauren Graham Sullivan is working with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network to be the Project Attorney for the National Pro Bono Project for Children, a new project that will match children released from detention with pro bono attorneys. Lauren left the Immigration Project at South Coastal Counties Legal Services to join her husband Brendan Sullivan '08 who is with the Coast Guard J.A.G. in Washington D.C. working on international maritime issues.

2005



Tyler T. Ray joined the law firm of Duffy & Sweeney as an associate in the business law group. Tyler comes to Duffy & Sweeney with more than four years of business law experience as in-house counsel at Cookson Group, a multi-national conglomerate.

He has represented Cookson in matters involving employment law, contracts and intellectual property.

Tyler had previously served as a judicial intern for Providence Superior Court Justice Gilbert Indeglia and as a congressional intern in the Washington, D.C., office of Senator Susan M. Collins (R-Maine). He is a member of the board of directors and serves as the legal advisor for Farm Fresh Rhode Island, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to building a sustainable local food network integrating Rhode Island farms and their produce to consumers around the state.

2008



Matt Jerzyk '08 (an associate at DeLuca and Weizenbaum, Ltd.) recently joined forces with **Dan Meyer '08** (an associate at Darrow Everett, LLP) to end violence and expand youth opportunities in Providence. Last year, the two organized a host committee of

25 community leaders and ten corporate sponsors, and launched the First Annual "Invest in Peace" fundraiser for the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence. This April, more than 350 people attended a fundraiser at Roger Williams Park Botanical Center, raising more than over \$40,000 for the institute's Streetworkers program.

on August 23, 2008 in Wrentham, Mass. Katherine started her own law firm in Providence, The Law Office of Katherine Godin, Inc., in November 2009, where she handles criminal defense and appeals in R.I. and Mass., with a focus on violent crimes and sex crimes.

Michael S. Just is an associate with Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick, Providence. His primary area of practice is veterans law.

Rebecca Kratz was married on October 24, 2009, to Michael Markert. The couple resides in Verona, Wisconsin.

Kevin Lewis '08 and **Siobhan Gannon '09** were married on January 30, 2010, in Florham Park, N.J. **Corrine S. Notar** is an attorney with the Law Office of Ronald J. Weiss, Esq. in Plymouth, Mass. Her main area of practice is family law.

Aaron Shapira has been an associate at The Law Offices of Edward A. Shapira since September 2009.

2009

Meg Kilzy is completing her LL.M. at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, focusing on intellectual property Law, and working on a thesis proposal on specialized courts. Megan was admitted to the Mass. and N.Y. bars. After completing her LL.M. in June 2010, she will be clerking for the Hon. Barry P. Sarkisian of the N.J. Trial Court - Civil Division in Jersey City, N.J.

Ernest Law is practicing with the Law Office of Pamela J. Schaefer in Cambridge, Mass. He is admitted to the Mass. and N.Y. bars.

Adam J. Resmini joined The Law Offices of Ronald J.

Resmini as a partner in its civil litigation law practice. He is licensed to practice in R.I. and Mass. The Law Offices of Ronald J. Resmini is one of New England's leading personal injury law firms.

Owen Rice is a staff attorney in the Housing Law and Eviction Defense unit at R.I. Legal Services in Newport, R.I. He dedicates his time to the homelessness prevention and rapid-rehousing program.

Eric Shamis is employed with the Virginia Office of the Attorney General.

2008

Falynn S. (Glickstein) Baum started her own firm, Glickstein Law, PLLC in Ariz. Falynn practices in the areas of family law and estate planning. She is pleased to announce that she was married on September 6, 2009.

Michelle (Gobin) Hawes was married in September 2008. Michelle has been working at Kaplan & Associates Inc. She is admitted to the R.I., Mass., Conn., R.I. Federal, and Mass. Federal bars.

Katherine Johnston was married to Daniel Godin

Alumni Chapter List Serves

Interested in joining any of the Roger Williams University law alumni list serve areas?

Rhode Island Area
lawri@rwu.edu

D.C. Area
lawdcarea@rwu.edu

N.Y.C. Area
lawny@rwu.edu

You must become a member in order to receive or send correspondence through the list serve to other alumni members.

Email your request to:
lawalumni@rwu.edu



New Job? Promotion? Award Recipient? New child? Recently married? Share your news with the Roger Williams University School of Law community.

E-mail your Class Notes to:
lawalumni@rwu.edu

Professional photographs are welcome.

**Thursday,
June 10, 2010**
Law Alumni Association
Annual Meeting
and Breakfast



Time: 7:45 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast

Location: The Westin Providence
One West Exchange Street
Providence, R.I.

Held in conjunction with the Rhode Island Bar Association Annual Meeting. Introducing the new 2010/2011 Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. Law alumni are encouraged to RSVP to the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events by Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at lawevents@rwu.edu or 401-254-4659.

**Friday,
July 30, 2010**
12th Annual Rhode Island
Attorney General
Open Government Summit



Time: 8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Summit

Location: School of Law
Appellate Courtroom

Co-sponsored by the Law Alumni Association. Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch will host the statewide Open Government Summit.

Topics discussed will include the Open Meetings Act and the Access to the Public Records Act. 3.5 CLE credits. To reserve seating, e-mail agsummit@riag.ri.gov or contact (401) 274-4400, ext. 2101. Seating in the Appellate Courtroom may be limited. Overflow rooms will be available.

**Saturday,
August 21, 2010**
11th Annual Law
Alumni Association
Golf Tournament



Time: 7:00 a.m. Registration
7:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
12:00 p.m. Lunch, Raffle,
Silent Auction & Prizes

Location: Cranston Country Club
69 Burlingame Road
Cranston, R.I.

\$125 per player, \$500 per foursome. Early-Bird Registration Fee: Pay by July 1, 2010 to receive a foursome for \$480. \$125 per Tee Sponsor. All proceeds benefit the Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. For more information or to register on-line, visit <http://law.rwu.edu/news/events>.

**Friday,
November 19, 2010**
Legal Career Options Day



Time: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet Attorneys
6:00 p.m. Reception

Location: School of Law

Open to RWU Law students and alumni only. Contact the Office of Career Services at (401) 254-4650 for more information.



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SAVE THE DATE
September 29 - October 1, 2010

Marine Law Symposium
"Taking Stock: The Magnuson-Stevens Act Revisited"
School of Law

**For additional details on upcoming
School of Law events, please visit:
<http://law.rwu.edu/news/events>**

Office of Alumni, Programs and Events
Ten Metacom Avenue
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

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