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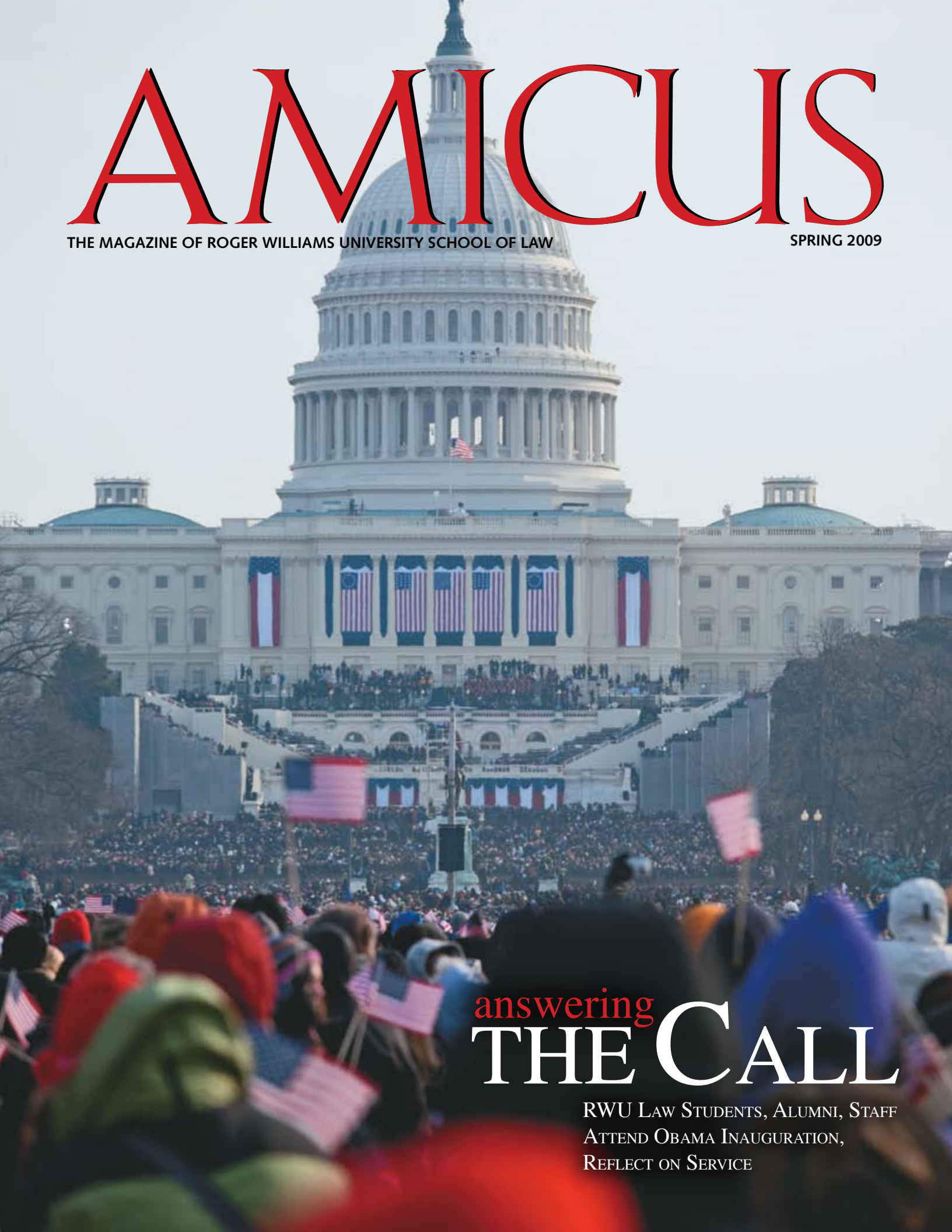
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AMICUS

THE MAGAZINE OF ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

SPRING 2009



answering THE CALL

RWU LAW STUDENTS, ALUMNI, STAFF
ATTEND OBAMA INAUGURATION,
REFLECT ON SERVICE



David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law

Giving Back...

Friends,

In January, our nation witnessed an epochal transfer of power, together with a call to a new era of informed, engaged and service-oriented citizenship. Like the millions of others who watched or attended the Inauguration (a number of RWU Law attendees are spotlighted in this issue), I was both encouraged and inspired by this call, not least because those values are already integrally woven into the fabric of RWU Law.

In this edition of *Amicus*, you'll meet a number of superb examples. One of them, Alberto Cardona '04, recently became our first alumnus to be appointed as a judge; heady stuff, but he is using that position to help rescue the community where he grew up, which has been severely impacted by the current financial crisis. Also laboring to help solve the mortgage meltdown are a group of RWU Law students and attorneys from the Providence office of the leading law firm Motley Rice LLP, brought together by our own Pro Bono Collaborative to research and draft new legislation protecting tenants whose landlords face foreclosure.

Then there's Alison Foley '04, recently chosen as a Lawyer of the Year by *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly* for her outstanding and selfless representation of some of our society's most vulnerable individuals – recent immigrants, especially those who are undocumented. This issue of *Amicus* highlights the personal and political diversity of our law school family – from Ken McKay '96, whose formidable conservative credentials have won him a top position on the Republican National Committee, to Matt Jerzyk '08, whose decidedly progressive views led him to create the influential blog Rhode Island Future, now one of the state's most powerful Democratic voices.

The past year has truly been a transformative one for our country and – I think you'll agree after perusing this issue of *Amicus* – a transformative one for RWU Law as well. It's been a year of distinguished guests, high bar-pass rates, nationally prominent rankings and ever-growing media visibility. And as our nation rises to “answer the call” – to confront and address the huge social, political and economic challenges we face – I am more confident than ever that RWU Law's students, alumni, faculty, staff and many friends will continue to be a major part of the solution.

David A. Logan

For updates on School of Law events, visit the Dean's Blog at:
<http://blogs.rwu.edu/law/dean>



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High Bar Pass Rates and Top Rankings Cap Stellar Year

From sky-high bar pass rates, to national recognition of its public interest programs, to ranking among the best schools in the quality of its faculty publications, all topped off by multiple interactions between its students and justices of the United States Supreme Court, 2008 was a stellar year for Roger Williams University School of Law.

Scoring an impressive 93 percent pass rate among graduates sitting for the Massachusetts bar examination – the school’s most-taken exam – RWU Law joined that state’s best-performing law schools, tying Boston College, and trailing only Harvard and Boston University.

RWU Law grads also enjoyed a 90 percent pass rate on Connecticut’s 2008 bar exams, while passing New York’s July 2008 bar exam at a 91 percent clip, despite that exam’s reputation as one of the toughest in the nation. In all, 121 May 2008 graduates of RWU Law took the bar in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and/or Connecticut, and of those 109 passed one or more exams on the first try – giving the school an overall 90 percent pass rate in the states where the vast majority of its graduates sit for bar exams.

“The message is clear: RWU Law graduates can match or exceed the performance of graduates from the nation’s best-known and most-established law schools,” said **Dean David A. Logan**. “I could not be more proud of our talented graduates, or of the top-notch faculty and staff whose dedication enabled them to perform at this level.”

Indeed, RWU Law recently released the results of a detailed empirical study that compared the scholarly



productivity of the faculties at ABA- and AALS-accredited law schools, and RWU Law ranked fourth in New England, trailing only Yale University, Harvard University and Boston University. (More information on the study, including details of methodology, can be found at <http://law.rwu.edu/facultyproductivity/>)

Another recent study placed RWU Law among the nation’s top schools for public-interest law, with only Northeastern ranking higher in New England. The survey, “The Best Public Interest Law Schools,” was published by *National Jurist’s PreLaw* magazine and

relied upon data compiled by Equal Justice Works, a national group that encourages public-interest programs in law schools.

“This survey validates the centrality of public-interest values to the mission of RWU Law,” said Dean Logan. In addition, according to figures published in the 2009 *ABA-LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools*, RWU Law can boast of the third most diverse law school faculty in New England, exceeded only by Northeastern and Boston College.

“It’s yet another telling statistic about an institution that’s clearly on the move,” Logan said.



RWU Law Alum to Direct Republican National Committee

RWU Law alumnus **Kenneth K. McKay IV '96** has been chosen as the new executive director of the Republican National Committee, RNC Chairman **Michael Steele** announced in March.

“I am excited to have such an outstanding leader become part of our team,” Steele said. “Ken’s background and expertise will help revitalize the RNC and elect more Republicans.”

McKay brings extensive campaign-leadership experience to the job. He successfully managed Rhode Island Governor **Donald L. Carcieri**’s gubernatorial win in 2002, as well as his reelection in 2006. He went on to serve as Carcieri’s chief of staff from 2002 to 2006, before becoming a partner in the Providence office of the international law firm Brown Rudnick LLP. McKay is also a veteran of the U.S. Army Infantry.

“I attribute a large part of my successful career path to RWU Law,” said McKay. “I received a first-class education and a strong sense of community that has remained with me. My time at RWU helped shape the way I view the legal profession, public service and matters of public interest.”

“Ken’s commitment to public service is a trademark of a Roger Williams lawyer,” added RWU Law **Dean David A. Logan**. “We are confident that his intelligence, training and interpersonal skills will serve him well as he moves from the state to the national stage.”

As Chief of Staff, McKay will be charged with the day-to-day operations of the RNC, including overseeing personnel and managing resources.

“Ken has proven that voters in both parties gravitate to reform-minded conservative governance, and that our principles can work in all parts of this country,” Steele said. “I’m excited about the fresh approach from out in the states that Ken will bring to the RNC.”

Rhode Island GOP chairman **Gio Cicione** also praised Steele’s selection of McKay.

“Ken has a proven track record of electing Republicans in challenging environments,” Cicione said. “As our party rebuilds in the Northeast, his perspective will be invaluable.”

Law Review Announces 2009-10 Editorial Board

The *Roger Williams Law Review* has announced its 2009-10 Editorial Board. Its members are:

- Editor-in-Chief:
Brian Fielding
- Managing Editor:
Dana Merkel
- Executive Articles Editor:
Matthew Watson
- Executive Notes & Comment Editor:
Melissa McGow
- Rhode Island Editor:
Kelly Noble
- Notes & Comment Editor:
Staci Buss
- Notes & Comment Editor:
Jessica Schachter
- Articles Editor:
Derek Cournoyer
- Articles Editor:
Julie Moore
- Articles Editor:
Dan Morton-Bentley

“There were many well-qualified applicants and it was a tough decision,” explained current editor-in-chief **Kim Ahern '09**. “But these individuals demonstrated, over the past year and throughout the interview process, their absolute commitment to making our *Law Review* better. In total, 19 second-year staff members applied for only 10 available positions – the most by far over the past few years.”

“I look forward to the *Law Review*’s continued growth and success, which will definitely be ensured by next year’s Board,” Ahern said.

RWU Welcomes Latino Policy Institute

After nearly two years of development, the new Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University was formally inaugurated by RWU President **Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D.**, in February.

Located in the downtown Providence building that also houses the School of Law's Criminal Defense Clinic, the LPI at RWU will provide sophisticated research and advocacy for public policies that will benefit Rhode Island's fast-growing Latino population.

A major moving force in the conception and implementation of the Institute was RWU Law **Professor Jorge Elorza**, a native Rhode Islander who is driven to improve the quality of debate on key issues facing the Latino community. The Institute has already garnered significant support from the Rhode Island Foundation, Motley Rice LLP and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, among others. The plan is to operate as a consortium, leveraging the intellectual capital available at RWU and other top educational institutions in the Ocean State, including Brown, URI and Providence College.

"Like many states, Rhode Island is at a critical policy juncture on a number of issues, including education, economic security, immigration and health care," President Nirschel noted. "The Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University will ultimately shape future public policy by creating a better understanding of the significant contributions – and challenges – facing the Rhode Island Latino population."

Latinos are presently the largest minority population in Rhode Island and those numbers are expected to double by 2020. Because of the projected growth of this community, the Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University will make the case that what is good for Latinos is also good for the state. By stimulating public policy discourse based on timely and factual data, the Institute will serve as a valuable resource to state and local policymakers in Rhode Island.



Dean David A. Logan and Professor Jorge Elorza celebrate at the LPI inauguration event.



Top Canadian Scholar Joins RWU Law Faculty

This summer, **Professor Tanya Monestier** will arrive in Bristol to join the Roger Williams University School of Law faculty.

Monestier has been a visiting professor at Queen's University since 2007. She previously worked as in-house counsel for the U.S. pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma, specializing in products liability litigation, and has served as keynote speaker at the Canadian National Symposium on Class Actions.

Having graduated first in her class from Osgoode Hall, Canada's top law school, Monestier earned her LL.M from the University of Cambridge with First Class Honors, and clerked for the Honourable Frank Iacobucci of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Monestier will teach contracts, sales and select electives at RWU Law. She was hailed by **Dean David A. Logan** as "a terrific international addition to a stellar faculty."

Keeping Tips Flowing at 'America's Most Wanted'

If you've watched "America's Most Wanted," then you've seen the work of RWU Law alumna **Chantal Tocci '04**.

Tocci is the hotline operations manager for the long-running Fox television series. She "maintains the fluidity of the department in its entirety," while overseeing a staff of 25. A typical day includes answering viewer comments, maintaining the hotline schedule and running reports on tips. At the end of the week she brings together the "Saturday Night Operation," which includes hosting guest detectives, FBI agents and U.S. marshals, while also assisting on difficult phone calls and tips that

come in during the show. Tocci said the position constantly draws on skills she gained at RWU Law.

"My law degree comes in handy when dealing with legal issues in human resources," Tocci said. "It also comes into play when I need to craft answers to viewer comments. Additionally, law school taught me how to think analytically and pay attention to details. I use these lessons regularly in my job."

While Tocci's use of her J.D. may be unconventional, it also fulfills the desire to serve that led her to law school in the first place. "At 'America's Most Wanted,' I get to help others everyday – and that is personally satisfying," she said. "It's important to be open to new opportunities because you never know where your skills may lead you."



During her time at RWU Law Tocci was active in Multi-Cultural Law Students Association, and participated in both the London and Lisbon summer programs. Today she serves as vice president for the D.C. Chapter of the Roger Williams University Law Alumni Association.

Alum 'Makes His Mark' Blogging in RI



As the world prepared to ring in the New Year, alum **Matt Jerzyk '08** appeared on the front page of the Providence Journal as one of "Eight Rhode Islanders who

left a special mark" in 2008, along with luminaries including **Senator Jack Reed** and Providence Police Chief **Dean Esserman**.

Jerzyk, a Brown-educated union and community organizer, came to RWU Law in the fall 2005 on a Leadership Scholarship. "That investment has turned out to be a very wise one," noted **Dean David A. Logan**.

The Journal's profile focused on **Rhode Island Future**, the state's most successful political blog, with a decidedly progressive outlook on local

'Rhode Island Future' Blog
<http://www.rifuture.org>

politics and institutions. Jerzyk created the blog while still a student at RWU Law, and it has received considerable media attention.

The blog "dished up the kind of inside dope that pols and lobbyists don't usually say on the record to reporters from the 'MSM,' bloggerspeak for mainstream media," the Journal reported. "Readership soared [and soon] Rhode Island Future became a clearinghouse for news of the Obama campaign, linking local volunteers who made calls and visits to swing states."

While at RWU Law, Jerzyk also founded the RWU Law chapter of the American Constitutional Society, part of a nationwide movement by progressive law students and professors that is modeled on the hugely successful Federalist Society.

'Closing Argument' Blog
<http://rijjustice.wordpress.com>

Now an attorney practicing with DeLuca & Weizenbaum, a top regional plaintiffs' firm, Jerzyk has begun to make his professional mark: this summer, the *Harvard Law and Policy Review* will publish his article, "Gentrification's Third Way in Providence." The article grew out of independent research that Jerzyk completed under the guidance of RWU Law **Professor Jorge Elorza** – who was so impressed by the result that he urged Jerzyk to submit the paper to top journals.

Jerzyk's latest project is a new blog called Closing Argument. "It will focus mostly on legal matters in Rhode Island and Massachusetts," he said. "I look forward to using it to promote RWU Law in any way that I can."

Board of Directors Announces New Members

RWU Law's Board of Directors recently announced its newest members:

- The **Honorable Edward Clifton** (J.D., UCLA) has served as an associate justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court since 1993. Judge Clifton has served on the RWU Law Board of Advisors and is active in the mentoring of RWU Law students through a program co-sponsored by the Thurgood Marshall Law Society.
- **Michael Field '97** (J.D., Roger Williams) is special assistant attorney general. An expert on First Amendment and open-government matters, he served on the *Roger Williams Law Review* and is a past president of the RWU Law Alumni Association.
- **Linn Freedman** (J.D., Loyola-New Orleans) is a partner at Nixon Peabody LLP. Ms. Freedman served as deputy chief of the civil division under Rhode Island Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse, and was deeply involved in the state's path-breaking litigation against the lead-paint industry.
- **Constance Howes** (J.D., Virginia) is president and chief executive officer of Women and Infants Hospital, one of the nation's leading specialty hospitals.
- **Mark Mandell** (J.D., Georgetown) is a past president of the Rhode Island Bar Association (RIBA) and the American Trial Lawyers Association (ATLA), and is nationally known for his work in catastrophic personal injury litigation and medical malpractice.
- **Joseph Whelan** (J.D., Fordham) is a partner at Hinckley, Allen & Snyder, focusing on labor and employment law. For more than a decade, Mr. Whelan has been a popular member of the RWU Law adjunct faculty.

Current members of the Board are:

- The **Honorable Joseph Weisberger** (J.D., Harvard), Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court (*ret.*), Chair
- **Ronald Cass** (J.D., Chicago), Dean Emeritus, Boston University School of Law
- **Roscoe Howard** (J.D., Virginia), Partner, Troutman Sanders LLP
- **Robert Kent** (J.D., Boston University), Professor of Law Emeritus, Cornell University Law School and Roger Williams University School of Law
- **Gloria Larson** (J.D., Virginia), President, Bentley College
- **Roy J. Nirschel** (Ph.D., Miami), President, Roger Williams University
- The **Honorable Bruce Selya** (J.D., Harvard), United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- **Robin Steinberg** (J.D., N.Y.U.), Executive Director, the Bronx Defenders

Torres Serves as 'Distinguished Judge in Residence'

The **Honorable Ernest C. Torres**, recently retired senior judge of the U. S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island, visited RWU Law in March as the school's "Distinguished Judge in Residence."



Among other activities, the judge advised students on clerkships, spoke to a class on the U.S. Supreme Court, helped coach the Admiralty Moot Court Team and conducted an Honors Roundtable.

In his more than 21 years on the bench, Judge Torres presided over some of Rhode Island's biggest federal court cases. Most famously, he sent former Providence mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci to prison for corruption, and tacked additional time onto the sentence of TV star Richard Hatch – convicted of failing to pay taxes on the \$1 million prize he won on the debut season of the hit reality show "Survivor" – saying he lied on the stand.

Torres, who was nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, has been described by the Boston Globe as "an intelligent and by-the-books judge – a stickler for proper courtroom decorum who is determined to keep cases on schedule and has high expectations of the attorneys who appear before him."

Raised in New Bedford, Mass., Torres graduated from Dartmouth as the first in his family to attend college. After earning his law degree at Duke, he entered private practice, also serving as a state legislator and later as a state judge.



RWU Law students Justin Pruett '11 and Angela Alexander '10 join Professor Cashin following her keynote.

In the activist's life, victory is in the mere act of trying.

– Professor Sheryll D. Cashin, Georgetown Law Center

Cashin Keynotes MLK Celebration

In commemoration of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, RWU Law's Office of Diversity and Outreach organized the fourth annual, week-long M.L.K. Celebration with a focus on poverty.



Professor **Sheryll D. Cashin** of Georgetown Law Center presented the keynote address, titled "The Agitator's Daughter:

A Memoirist's Reflections on Building Dr. King's 'Multiracial Army' for the Poor."

Just a day after President Obama's inauguration, with emotions still running high, Professor Cashin gave in to tears several times as she spoke of her experiences at the Capitol the previous day and of her parents' role in the civil rights movement of the previous generation, especially the Poor People's Campaign of 1968.

"It was a sizeable protest," she said of the earlier event. "Nothing compared to yesterday, of course; but sizeable."

The Poor People's Campaign was one of Dr. King's last initiatives, and featured large numbers of sharecroppers and other rural poor forming a caravan of covered wagons bound for the National Mall. Professor Cashin brought the story alive with firsthand details, including the story of her father buying the mules that pulled the wagons.

Cashin discussed what the campaign was about, the values Dr. King brought to it and where the U.S. stands today on antipoverty issues. She also discussed her surprise that the campaign has been largely forgotten in popular history, but noted that her father would probably not be too disappointed. "In the activist's life," she said, "victory is in the mere act of trying."

Professor Cashin worked in the Clinton White House as an advisor on urban and economic policy, particularly concerning

community development in inner-city neighborhoods. She was also a law clerk to the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Judge Abner Mikva of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

She has written two award-winning books, *The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class are Undermining the American Dream* and *The Agitator's Daughter: A Memoir of Four Generations of One Extraordinary African-American Family*.





RWU's winning admiralty law team in the Sixteenth Annual John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition (l-r): Brian Eisenhower '09, holding the Maritime Law Association of the United States Award for the Best Brief in the Competition, Amanda Argentieri '09 and Manfred "Ben" Susman '09, holding the Championship Cup.

RWU Tops National Admiralty Competition

March went out like a lion as RWU Law's admiralty law team beat a tough Louisiana State team to take first place in the prestigious Sixteenth Annual John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition, held at the historic county courthouse in Charleston, S.C.

Brian Eisenhower '09 and Manfred "Ben" Susman '09 secured the win with a split decision for the oral argument portion, which – together with a decisive Best Brief award for the team – gave RWU its first overall win in this national competition. The award ceremony was held aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown* in Charleston Harbor.

"They did an incredible job and deserve some applause," said team coach and RWU Law adjunct professor

Robert Falvey '98. "Our thanks go out for all of the support given to the teams, and for everyone who gave their time to help moot."

The win reflects an "overall team effort," Falvey added – from preparation and support provided by co-coach Professor Jonathan Gutoff to the advice and assistance of Sea Grant Law Fellow Amanda Argentieri '09, who shared the Best Brief Award. Eisenhower and Susman won a close round against past competition champs Richmond School of Law team to advance to the finals.

RWU Law's other team – consisting of Nathaniel Spencer '10, Craig Graham '10 and Kathryn Petit '09 – also "contributed significantly with

their comments and coaching once their team had been eliminated, immediately taking up a support position and helping through the final round," Falvey said.

"This is great news and a huge step for our young school," said Dean David A. Logan. "I am especially pleased that the brief carried the day."

Added Spencer, "We are looking forward to going again next year, hopefully for a repeat performance."

The competition was established in 1993 in memory of the Honorable John R. Brown, who served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit for nearly four decades and was one of the nation's most prominent admiralty judges.

Several other RWU Law extramural teams turned in excellent performances recently, including:

- **Labor Law Trial Team**

Four RWU Law students won the Northeast Regional Tournament of the ABA Labor and Employment Section's Fifth Annual Law Student Trial Advocacy Competition in Boston and advanced to the National Finals in Chicago.

The team consisted of 3Ls Seth-Thomas Aitken of Swansea, Mass.; Kristina Hultman of Norwood, Mass.; Meghan McDonough of Biddeford, Maine; and Ian Nuno of Middletown, Del. Professor Jon Shelburne, RWU Law's director of competitions, coached the team, together with alumnus John Calcagni III '03 of the Providence law firm of Vincent D. Morgera, Ltd.

"The students from Roger Williams demonstrated exemplary advocacy skills that earned high praise from the sitting federal judges," said Shelburne. "The RWU Law team defeated Suffolk in the final round of the Boston competition to earn the title of Regional Champions."

In Chicago the team faced Southern Methodist University and University of Richmond, but did not advance to the final rounds.

- **Jessup Moot Team**

In February, RWU Law's Jessup Moot team advanced to the quarterfinals in the Northeast Regionals in New York City, placing it in the top eight among the 23 schools competing.

"We were in good company – the other top eight schools were Brooklyn Law School, Albany Law School, Harvard, Columbia, Boston College, Cornell and UConn," said team member Lauren Engel '09. The RWU team was ultimately defeated by Boston College, the eventual winner of this year's competition.

Two RWU Law students placed among the top 20 for Best Oralist, with Sarah Mazzochi '10 tying for 17th, and Rishmil Patel '10 tied for fourth. The team also received an award for its outstanding brief.

- **Regents Constitutional Law Team**

RWU Law's team once again turned in a strong performance at the Regent Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition. Tyler Smith '09, Catherine Lemery '09 and Sara Burke '09 were co-champions with William & Mary. Other schools at the competition included Brigham Young and Villanova. In addition to a strong team performance, three RWU Law students placed among the top five oralists: Smith was named Best Oralist, while Hala Furst '10 and Catherine Lemery '09 were second and fourth overall. The team was coached by Professor Jon Shelburne.

Dean John E. Ryan A Personal Remembrance

By Professor Larry J. Ritchie

John E. Ryan, the second dean of RWU Law, passed away on October 28, 2008.

John was a legal educator of national stature. Above all else, he was a teacher.

Minority and non-traditional law students were of special concern to him. John did not teach the law as a black-letter outline of yesterday's doctrine, but as a process of analytical and creative problem solving. The law was a tool of the trade for lawyers, like a hammer is for carpenters.

John employed a time-tested technique he called MBWA – "management by wandering around." He was at the school early, and late. On his daily rounds, he discovered what students and faculty were doing, in and out of the classroom. He pushed his faculty to improve. He taught the importance of teaching and community service without sacrificing scholarship.

An idealist and a perfectionist, John often rocked the academic boat. He could be opinionated, but always for the betterment of the institution. John had no qualms about being the lightning rod for others' discontent. But his integrity, compassion and generosity were bested by no one. In life, there are too few mentors. When we lost John Ryan, we lost one of the best.

See "In Memoriam" in the Fall 2008 *Amicus*.



Sea Grant Law Fellows

Ashley Medeiros '09 undertook research for the Nature Conservancy's Global Marine Team (TNC), analyzing Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) policies and procedures related to shellfish conservation and restoration.

Ashley researched whether ISSC guidelines prohibit restoration and conservation of shellfish in "closed" waters. Her work is part of a national initiative supported by TNC, NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Steve Surdut '10 has been conducting title searches for seven potential rights-of-way identified by the Harbor Management Commission in the town of Warren, R.I. He also undertook the task of gaining approval of these rights-of-way from the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, via the agency's Adopt an Access Program.

ALI-ABA Course of Study in Environmental Law

Megan Higgins '01, research counsel for the Marine Affairs Institute, Kate Haber '10 and Jackie Rolleri '11 all received scholarships to attend the American Law Institute/American Bar Association Environmental Law Course of Study held in Bethesda, Md., in February 2009.

The three-day course highlighted recent developments in environmental law, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

The course was "an amazing opportunity, which reaffirmed my interest in environmental law and my desire to focus on water issues," Haber said. "Because of my courses at RWU Law, I was already familiar with the issues and the major case law that comprised the foundation of discussion for many of the speakers, and it was great to take these materials learned in the classroom and apply and discuss them in a real-world setting."

Rolleri agreed. "As a 1L, it was so valuable to network with fellow students, accomplished attorneys, law professors and government officials. I plan to use the contacts I made and the knowledge I gained during my internship this summer in the office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse [D-RI]"



Kate Haber '10

Environmental Moot Court Team

RWU Law's Environmental Moot Court team advanced to the quarterfinal round of the 2009 National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition held in February at Pace Law School in White Plains, N.Y., beating out 41 other teams in the process.

During the preliminary rounds, Ashley Medeiros '09 and Jackson Parmenter '10 received "Best Oralist" recognition, Ashley twice and Jackson once. Coached by Marine Affairs Institute research counsel Megan Higgins '01, this year's team also included Greg Klipp '09.

This year's competition presented a complex set of issues related to admiralty, international law and environmental law. A number of experts helped prepare the

team, including RWU Law professors Susan Farady, Jared Goldstein, Dean David Logan, Jane Rindsberg and Associate Dean David Zlotnick; admiralty attorneys/adjunct professors William Coffey, Robert Collins, Dennis Esposito, Robert Falvey and Dennis Nixon; special assistant attorney general for Rhode Island and environmental advocate Tricia Jedele; practitioners Michael Rauworth, Ned Bartlett and Erika Ueberbacher; and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary expert Leila Hatch.



Greg Klipp '09, Ashley Medeiros '09 and Jackson Parmenter '10

The competition attracts more than 200 competitors from many law schools and 200 attorneys who serve as judges for three days of oral arguments. Those teams with the highest combined scores for both written brief and oral argument advance to succeeding rounds.

Spring Events

The Making of New International Maritime Law: UNCITRAL and the 2009 Rotterdam Rules

In April, a panel of experts – including alumna Jennifer Mehaffey '07 of Liebman & Associates, Inc., in Washington D.C. – examined the implications of the newly proposed "Rotterdam Rules," which govern marine cargo interests and carriers. The rules were drafted by an international panel known as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and mark the culmination of a six-year negotiation process intended to update the 1924 Hague Convention rules governing liability for loss and damage to cargo in international trade.

The program featured attorneys who served on the U.S. delegation to UNCITRAL. They provided insight into the intricate process of creating new international law, reviewed the content and status of the Rotterdam Rules, discussed prospects for its ratification and examined the ramifications for U.S. ocean and inter-modal commerce.

Other panelists included Vincent M. DeOrchis of DeOrchis & Partners, LLP, New York; Chester D. Hooper, Holland & Knight LLP, New York; and David T. Maloof, Maloof Brown & Eagan LLC, Rye, N.Y. The moderator was RWU Law Adjunct Professor William J. Coffey, Beaufort Maritime Group LLC.

Fisheries and the Bench

Co-sponsored by the National Sea Grant Law Center and the Sand County Foundation, the "Fisheries and the Bench" conference brought together judges, practitioners and regulators to obtain a keener understanding of the principles of fisheries law and a better balance between the regulatory and economic interests involved.

Case studies on the legal principles of fisheries management and science, interstate fisheries management, Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization, property rights and fisheries, and offshore projects were presented by **Jamy Buchanan Madeja, Esq.**, former general counsel for environmental affairs to Massachusetts Governor Weld; **Gary Powers, Esq.**, of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; **Steven Cadrin**, director of the NOAA/UMass Cooperative Marine Education & Research Program; **Elizabeth Butler, Esq.**, Pierce Atwood LLP and former chief counsel to Maine Governor Angus King; **Seth Macinko**, professor of marine affairs at URI; **William L. Lahey, Esq.**, Anderson & Kreiger LLP; and **Lou Chiarella**, northeast regional EFH coordinator for the National Marine Fisheries Service.



Feinstein Unveils New Advisory Board

The Feinstein Institute has established a new advisory board, which will “provide guidance about the role of the Institute in the community, as well as the institutionalization of the Institute’s ideals within the school’s curriculum and the structure of the Institute’s programs in addressing the needs of students,” according to the Institute’s executive director **Laurie Barron**.

Founding members of the Board are:

- **Armando Batastini '98**, of counsel, Nixon Peabody, LLP, Providence
- **Diana deGroof '02**, staff attorney, Rhode Island Legal Services
- **Michael Evora**, executive director, Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights
- **Courtney Cahill**, professor of law, Roger Williams University School of Law
- **Bruce Kogan**, professor of law, Roger Williams University School of Law
- **Angela Alexander '10**, student, Roger Williams University School of Law
- **Amy Peltier '09**, student, Roger Williams University School of Law



Public Interest Auction ‘Huge Success’

The Feinstein Institute’s annual Public Interest Auction was held recently at the Federal Reserve restaurant in Providence, and program coordinator **Jennifer Lashley** deemed the event a “definite success.” A strong turnout of School of Law students, alums, faculty, staff and prominent Rhode Island lawyers attended the auction, which raised more than \$20,000 for the Public Interest Summer Stipend program. The proceeds will supplement another \$51,000 already provided by the Law School and University.

“The auction was a blast,” said **Dean David A. Logan**. “It featured an amazing array of auction gifts, with 100 percent of the fulltime faculty and senior staff contributing and many dropping by for the festivities.”

Shelburne Closes Speaker Series With Haditha Talk

The Feinstein Institute’s Public Interest Speakers Series wrapped up for the semester with RWU Law Professor **Jon Shelburne**



addressing the question of “How Did Haditha Become the Next My Lai?”

Shelburne, who is also a Marine Judge Advocate, was lead defense counsel for Lt. Col. Jeffrey Chessani, the senior Marine charged in the “Haditha massacre” prosecutions, in which a group of U.S. Marines stood accused of the November 2005 slaying of 24 Iraqi civilians – including six children and four women – in what appeared to be retaliation for the death of a Marine in a roadside bombing.

The Institute also presented a talk by **Abbe Smith**, professor of law and co-director of the Criminal Defense Clinic at Georgetown Law School. Smith discussed her recent book, *Case of a Lifetime*, concerning a death penalty case that spanned the majority of her career, in which a woman was wrongly imprisoned for 28 years because of mistaken identification. The publication has been critically praised, with the Boston Globe calling it a “moving and important book” that offers “a disconcerting look at the realities that determine why some people walk free and others spend their lives in prison.”

Other speakers in the Feinstein series included Rhode Island **Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts**, whose talk focused on the urgent need for health care reform in Rhode Island.



David M. Zlotnick

The Providence Journal (October 5, 2008)

Fallout From Facebook Is Forever

[Parole was rejected for **Joshua Lipton**, 22, a Rhode Island inmate who was caught partying while wearing a prisoner costume in a Facebook picture before he was sentenced for a drunken-driving crash. Lipton, the Journal reported, “is fast becoming a national poster boy for the consequences of having photos online that are damning or simply dumb.”]

David M. Zlotnick, a former federal prosecutor who is now associate dean for academic affairs at the Roger Williams University School of Law, said, “Even prosecutors are recognizing we live in the Internet age. The legal system is tradition-bound, but good lawyers look for evidence where evidence can be found.”

A search for evidence is sometimes aided by the exhibitionism that the Internet seems to promote, Zlotnick said. “It used to be that a friend would tell on you,” he said. “Now you tell on yourself.” Over the years, many crimes have been solved because of bragging, Zlotnick said. For example, robbers have spouted off on barstools, and drug dealers have snapped photos of themselves holding weapons, he said.

“We are social animals,” Zlotnick said. “You really haven’t done something until you tell your best friend you did it.” But now, he said, “On the Internet, everybody is your best friend.”



Jonathan M. Guttoff

The National Law Journal (November 21, 2008)

The Biggest Haul By Pirates Since Sir Frances Drake’s Day? Maybe.

Jonathan M. Guttoff, a professor at Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, R.I., is teaching a maritime law course on piracy. The naval forces hunting pirates operate under the Convention on Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Maritime Navigation that allows every signatory to take action against pirates anywhere in the world. The Navy could bring captured pirates back to the United States for trial, Guttoff said, though in practice Somali pirates have been sent to nearby Kenya, a signatory to the convention, for prosecution.

Of far more pressing concern to the ship owners, Guttoff believes, is the ransom reportedly being negotiated for the ship and crew. Maritime law has long recognized ransoms to pirates, along with emergency repairs or tossing cargo overboard to keep a ship afloat, as an expense to be shared by all parties with an interest in the voyage, Guttoff said.

“It is possible for the vessel owner who pays ransom to claim what are called general average contributions against the owner of the cargo,” Guttoff said. “A more typical example is when a ship requires repairs to complete the voyage. The owners can assess everyone with an interest in the continuation of the voyage to pay a proportionate share of the costs.”



Peter S. Margulies

The Washington Independent (November 24, 2008)

Holy Land Conviction Demonstrates Federal Courts Can Prosecute Terror

[After more than 15 years of investigation and two trials, a federal jury in Dallas found the Holy Land Foundation – once the largest Islamic charity in the United States – and five of its former organizers guilty of illegally funneling more than \$12 million to the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas.]

Critics of using the federal courts to try suspected terrorists often claim that military commissions or special national security courts are needed to handle sensitive classified evidence or testimony of informants who cannot be identified.

In the Holy Land case, however, the federal court had no problem allowing the federal prosecutors to introduce and rely upon the testimony of an anonymous Israeli witness who testified as an expert on funding for terrorism. Although critics have denounced that tactic, the defendants' lawyers were allowed to cross-examine the witness and were given the basis of his credentials as an expert, apparently solving the potential Sixth Amendment Confrontation Clause problems.

"Witness anonymity to some extent raises concerns, but the court has to weigh the national security interest against the defendant's right," explains Peter Margulies, a law professor at Roger Williams University and expert on national security law.



John J. Chung

The Providence Journal (December 5, 2008)

Consumers Speak Out on the Burden of Debt

[RWU Law Professor John Chung was one of several experts who testified at a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee field hearing organized by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) on proposed changes to the treatment of consumer credit card debt under federal bankruptcy law. Last year, Whitehouse introduced the Consumer Credit Fairness Act (CCFA, S. 3259), which aims to provide consumers some relief from high interest rates.]

"At an annual rate of interest of 36 percent, compounded daily – which is how my credit card works – how long does it take for a debt of \$1,000 to double?" The answer, Chung said, is just under two years. "I wonder if the typical consumer debtor understands the destructive effect of these interest rates. The math tells us that once debt starts compounding at rates like 36 percent, the borrower will end up trapped in a vicious cycle of debt spiraling out of control. Laws against usury were designed centuries ago to address this problem, but modern lenders have managed to avoid the application of those laws."



Kim M. Baker

National Public Radio, 'This I Believe' (January 21, 2009)

I Believe In Living My Truth

[NPR reported, "Kim Baker tells us about trauma in her life that, until very recently, was a deep, dark secret. Today, she is empowered by her past. Baker has been teaching writing in academe and business for 16 years. She is the writing coach at Roger Williams University School of Law, a published poet and an advocate to end violence against women."]

"You see, I am a statistic: one in four girls sexually abused before age 18. As I look around me now at the grocery store, the bank line, the restaurant, I realize one of the women or girls likely has been or will be sexually abused. But it took a long time to say it aloud and to heal. [...]

"I believe in living my truth and bearing witness to the truth of others. To witness with the one out of four, to witness this all-too-common fact of life for girls in every social strata. To witness that, on the outside, girls may appear 'sugar and spice' – but dearly pay a price for their entire lives in silence. I believe that living my truth and bearing witness is the first step in ending childhood sexual abuse – and beginning the healing that only truth can bring."



Donald A. Migliori

The New York Times (March 12, 2009)

Value of Suing Over 9/11 Deaths Is Still Unsettled

Donald A. Migliori, a lawyer whose firm handled about 60 suits and 40 fund cases [for 9/11 victims' families], said there was no question that, on average, those who sued fared better financially than those who accepted money from the compensation fund. "You absolutely can compare those numbers," he said.

Migliori said Mr. Feinberg [Kenneth Feinberg, the special master who administered the government's Victim Compensation Fund for 9/11 families] had "sold the Victim Compensation Fund through fear, by suggesting to people that they would never do any better."

ABC News' 20/20 (Jan. 12, 2009)

What Is One Life Worth? Some Family Members of 9/11 Victims Still Seeking Compensation

"For 9/11 – given what these airlines failed to do on Sept. 11, by letting 19 for 19 hijackers through checkpoints in four airports, Portland, Logan, Newark and Dulles – these airlines should be primarily responsible," said attorney Don Migliori, who represents Mike Low of Arkansas [whose daughter Sarah was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11, which struck the north tower of the World Trade Center]. "There was no need to set up a federal fund, in my view, to compensate those claims."

"We're not trying to bankrupt anybody," Migliori added. "We're trying to get people what they need. For somebody who wants answers, we are going to go after every single answer we can find from these airlines. And if it means we use up every bit of their insurance company's coverage, so be it. We're proud of what we do, we're proud of who we represent and we're proud of how we do it."

answering THE CALL

RWU LAW STUDENTS, ALUMNI, STAFF ATTEND
OBAMA INAUGURATION, REFLECT ON SERVICE

By Michael M. Bowden

NEWING AMERICA'S PRO



What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility – a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character than giving our all to a difficult task. This is the price and the promise of citizenship.

– President Barack Obama, Inaugural Address, January 20, 2009

Notwithstanding the wide spectrum of political views within the RWU Law community, there was an unmistakable buzz of excitement on January 20, as students, faculty and staff packed the Moot Courtroom and the Bistro, or paused under the main lobby's flatscreen, to watch as Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America.

The RWU Law family was also well represented in Washington itself, and *Amicus* spoke to some of these individuals about their experience and how it has changed them since their return to Rhode Island. **Kim Ahern '09**, one of the state's delegates pledged to Obama at the Democratic National Convention, said the President's call to responsibility resonated deeply as she listened from her vantage point on the Capitol lawn.

"I thought of the two years of campaign work leading up to that moment, as I literally watched a new generation of American leadership begin," she said. "I thought of what this

'new era of responsibility' could mean in my own life and career. It means putting citizenship before partisanship, it means getting involved in your community, wherever that may be, and it means giving back, through whatever acts of service you can do."

Also in the crowd that day was RWU Law's assistant dean of students **Lorraine Lalli '01**, who said the Inauguration was an occasion she felt compelled to witness firsthand.

"What an extraordinary event!" she recalled. "I feel very fortunate to have been in that crowd of millions from across the country – from different races, religions, ages, backgrounds, experiences and stations in life.

"Personally, the Inauguration of the first black president of the United States of America was also very emotionally moving," Lalli added. "It was a tribute to the African-Americans throughout history who paved the way. It was also the ultimate fulfillment of the American dream as something that is available to us all."



Kim Ahern '09 with then-Senator Obama during a 2008 campaign appearance in Rhode Island.

Being in Washington, D.C., for the Inauguration was an inspiring experience – but it is equally inspiring to be back in Rhode Island, where this new era of responsibility must be demonstrated in each of our daily lives.

– Kim Ahern '09

Rhode Islanders Everywhere!

Matthew Watson '10 made the seven-hour drive from Providence to Washington a few days before the Inauguration and enjoyed attending a breakfast for Rhode Islanders at the Park Hyatt hotel, hosted by Providence Mayor David Cicilline – where he found himself seated one table away from Lalli. Shortly afterward, he ventured to the Hart Senate Building to pick up the Inauguration tickets he won in a lottery held by Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed.

“Much to my surprise, Senator Reed was in his office, personally handing out the tickets,” Watson said. “I was grateful for the opportunity to speak with the Senator and thank him for his years of service to the citizens of Rhode Island.”

Those tickets placed Watson in an elevated standing area near the first Reflecting Pool, immediately in front of the Capitol, where he found himself swept up in the chanting and general euphoria of the crowd. “It was one of the few times in my life that I knew I was witnessing history unfold before my eyes,” he said.

Even in the vast crowd, chance meetings were ubiquitous. Watson bumped into Dean David Logan, who in turn reported running into Professor Jorge Elorza – who in a few weeks would help inaugurate the new Latino Policy Institute that he did much to establish at RWU – as well as Professor Keeva Terry, chosen by students as RWU Law’s 2008 Professor of the Year.

Logan said that, having passed through several security checkpoints, he “quickly became part of a huge crowd going nowhere. Crowd control was poor and signage nonexistent, which meant that many ticket holders – including Judge Netti Vogel [of the Rhode Island Superior Court] and my son, Ben, who had been on Obama’s campaign staff – were unable to get to their designated areas in time for the ceremony.”

Logan himself eventually claimed “my square foot of earth on the Capitol grounds, close enough to the podium to feel the electricity of the moment, but alas – even with binoculars – a poor sight line.”

Among many other reflections, Logan said “being in that place in a throng reminded me of my anti-

Vietnam War marches in the same area, but with a decidedly different atmosphere. Instead of anger directed at the government, the crowd at the Obama Inauguration was jubilant and full of pride in our political system.”

Michael Boylen, assistant dean of admissions at RWU Law, agreed. “It was a big ‘Kumbaya’ moment,” he said. “A million people; just huge crowds; very little organization – and yet there were no trappings, no arrests.”

The event “made me think more broadly about this country and how I can give back,” Boylen said. “Since then I have had a much more positive feeling than I ever really did toward the political process.”

‘The Best of Humanity On Display’

Linn Freedman, a partner with Nixon Peabody LLP and member of RWU Law’s board of directors, also commented on the peacefulness of the vast crowds. “I have never before been in a circumstance where such a diverse crowd of people – of different races, religions and socioeconomic status – held an obvious common bond that was unspoken between us,” she said. “Under other circumstances, it could have been a difficult and hostile crowd. What was amazing was that we were all happy to be squished together, and we treated each other with respect and dignity.”

Despite their differences, “We got to know each other, smiled and laughed at the fact that we were hungry, cold and nowhere near a porta-potty; we even complained to each other about the horrible crowd control. But there was electricity in the air, and we all embraced it. It was truly a sociological experiment that went right, but against all stereotypes. It was a fantastic experience!”

Laura Epperson, who manages production of RWU Law (and undergrad) publications, agreed that the city was alive with a palpable positive energy.

“Everyone was so open and relaxed, soaking up the magic of the time and sharing it with those around them,” she said. “We were thrilled to be there to participate in such a historic moment. The best of humanity was on display.”

Epperson and her husband spent Inauguration Day visiting friends whose home featured a large balcony overlooking both the Capitol and the parade route.

“From our perch we had a great view of the Capitol, and with binoculars you could view the stage,” Epperson said. “As we waited for the ceremony to start, we ate and socialized and marveled at the snipers on adjacent rooftops. When the ceremony began some chose to watch it on TV, but I decided to stay on the balcony and soak up the whole moment. To be there and hear Obama take the oath of office and address the nation, to hear the roar of the crowd on the Mall, was a moving and changing experience.”

Some RWU Law attendees had more overtly political perspectives. For example, alumnus Matt Jerzyk '08 – founder of popular political blog *Rhode Island Future* – arrived in Washington in a very different mood than in 2001, when he came to protest the inauguration of former President George W. Bush.

“I was so angry eight years ago,” Jerzyk told the Providence Journal. “So I worked my tail off, as a community organizer and as a blogger, to help change our president. Now we’ve finally done it. For me, it’s redemption.”

Attorney John “Jack” McConnell, a partner with Motley Rice LLC in Providence, who is also a major sponsor of RWU Law’s Public Interest Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) and a member of the University’s Board of Trustees – not to mention one of Rhode Island’s Obama electors – said two aspects of the Inauguration stood out for him.

“First was the unique experience of being part of a huge crowd of diverse

people, all of whom exuded hope, optimism and community solidarity,” he said. “Hundreds of thousands of people from all over, all united in a new hopeful vision for our country and world.”

He also felt a new kind of patriotism. “Seeing so many diverse people becoming so emotional at the invocation of patriotic symbols at the inaugural made me feel like we have recaptured patriotism for all of our country,” McConnell said. “It seemed hijacked by a narrow band of ideologues for the past decade. Now, when the national anthem was played, or people waved their American flags it was out of a new sense of patriotism; that we are all in this together – and that’s what America is about.”

Indeed, everyone who spoke to *Amicus* about their visit to Washington that day expressed a lingering sense of inspiration and a resolve to bring its promise to fruition in the months and years ahead.

Said Ahern, “Being in Washington, D.C., for the Inauguration was an inspiring experience – but it is equally inspiring to be back in Rhode Island, where this new era of responsibility must be demonstrated in each of our daily lives.”

The Capitol and parade route as seen from RWU’s Laura Epperson’s enviable vantage point from a balcony above the parade route.





Here Comes the Judge...

RWU Law's First Bench Appointee Takes on the Mortgage Crisis

By Michael M. Bowden

At noon on a sunny winter day, Stanley's Famous Hamburgers – a Central Falls institution since the 1930s – was packed with a diverse, noisy crowd of diners: men in suits negotiating on their iPhones, retirees gossiping over coffee and dessert, a young mother maneuvering her stroller between the tightly placed tables, a group of teens lingering over a leisurely school-vacation-week lunch. They had nothing obvious in common – except that they all seemed to know Alberto Cardona '04.

As Cardona made his way into the dining room, it was like old home week. A grandmotherly woman stopped to give him a hug; Cardona inquired warmly about her health, her family. A wiry young man – a local baseball star now playing for the University of Maine – stepped up and shook his hand. “That’s George Taher,” Cardona said, after talking stats with him for a few minutes. “I’ve known him since he was in Little League, he’s incredible!”

He finally settled down at a table next to one of the suits. They exchanged greetings and small talk in Spanish. “This is George Ortiz,” Cardona said. “He heads up Progreso Latino” – one of Rhode Island’s largest community-based advocacy groups.

“Look out for this guy, he’s trouble,” Ortiz joked with a broad grin. In fact, Progreso Latino honored Cardona last fall – along with **Senator Edward Kennedy** (D-Mass.) and National Public Radio news anchor **Lakshmi Singh** – at its 31st Annual Gala, for significant contributions to the betterment of the Latino community.

It’s been a good year for Cardona. Shortly before the Progreso Latino event he was appointed associate justice of the Central Falls Municipal Court – an honor that, incidentally, also made him RWU Law’s first alum to ascend to the bench.



'This Was a Thriving Community'

After lunch, Cardona offered a tour of the City of Central Falls – all 1.23 square miles of it. The community has been severely battered by the mortgage crisis; by the close of 2008, there'd been more than 150 foreclosures in the city, with the unsightly – and unsettling – result that just about every street now features at least one boarded-up house, and most have several.

Surveying a depressing vista of plywood-clad properties from the sidewalk outside Veterans Memorial Elementary School, Cardona threw up his hands. "What does this tell our kids?" he asked. "How are we going to address this issue? How do we help prevent families from losing everything? How do we prevent kids having to leave school in the middle of the school year because their families lost their homes?"

Part of the Central Fall's solution has been to establish a Municipal Housing

Court dealing exclusively with such issues. As a former assistant city solicitor, a community activist and a local who knows the town inside out, Cardona was unanimously selected by the city council as the new court's first judge.

Cardona didn't have to give up his law practice for the part-time position; however, he carefully keeps his bench and bar roles separate – for example, symbolically leaving his robe in the courthouse closet, refusing to take it to his home or office. "People have asked me to keep it with me so I can, say, perform marriages," he said, then added with a laugh, "but I think that would be bad karma for my divorce practice."

Presiding over the Housing Court has given Cardona what he calls a "laser-focus on housing issues" – he now regularly wrestles with zoning problems; garbage removal problems; and, increasingly, foreclosure problems – such as banks that foreclose on a mortgage but then fail to clean up and secure the abandoned property.

"To board up a foreclosed house costs \$10,000 to \$12,000," Cardona says,

describing a typical dilemma. "In some towns it's closer to \$6,000 or \$7,000, but here it's more because the contractor doesn't get paid outright; he only gets a lien, and has to wait for the sale. So we order the property secured and then the bank complains, 'Why should we pay so much?' But the bank has already been sent multiple notices and never responded. They never secured the property as they were required to do."

On any given day, Cardona might face issues of tenants staying over after a foreclosure, realtors refusing to maintain a property they're charged with selling, or owners who are out of state but have left no Rhode Island agent of service. On top of that, the banks themselves are overwhelmed by the sheer number of foreclosures they're processing, while facing layoffs and cutbacks of their own. So often a bank might complete a foreclosure, but then neglect to record the new deed – causing additional administrative confusion.

Workday ordinance enforcement has also become a delicate balancing act. "We need to determine whether the rules in a given case are too cumbersome, too burdensome," Cardona said. "Do they hold homeowners to too high of a standard?"

"For example, should we really force someone to replace a rotten fence in this economy, when families can barely make their mortgage payments? Similarly, in the wake of the Station Nightclub fire, the fire code burden became tremendous. We don't want to be hitting folks up for not maintaining and keeping up the property, to the extent that we end up losing them. We need to try and help them, work with them. It's a quality of life issue. This used to be a thriving community!"

'I Got Lucky'

Cardona knows the community well. Born in Puerto Rico, he spent his early childhood in a barrio in New York, never really picking up English until he was a teenager and his family settled in Central Falls.

Back then, the city consisted of discreet ethnic pockets: French-Canadian, Syrian and Lebanese,

Columbian, Portuguese, even Croatian enclaves that largely kept to themselves. Today, by contrast, "everyone's mixed up," with Latinos (largely Mexican, Dominican and Puerto Rican) accounting for nearly 80 percent of the city's population.

The second of six children, Cardona says he was "the runt of the litter," being of average height but dwarfed by his six-foot-plus brothers. "That's where I got my Napoleon complex," he joked. His mother worked three jobs to support the family; she, along with one of Cardona's brothers and his only sister, still lives in Central Falls.

Cardona grew up tough and streetwise, but benefited from interventions by such guardian angels as a local cop, a teacher, a city councilor – even a state senator who once walked into the teenage Cardona's home, hauled him bodily out of bed and escorted him to school on a day he'd decided to skip. All of these people, at different times, saw something worth saving in Alberto Cardona.

"I'm fortunate, I got lucky," Cardona admitted. He did his part as well, however, graduating magna cum laude from Johnson & Wales University, and later – after marriage, kids, and an extended stint in the real-estate investment business – enrolling in the evening division at RWU Law. He fondly recalled the pervasive "we're all in this together" camaraderie of his classmates, and the friendly, open-door policies of his favorite professors, including Larry Ritchie, David Zlotnick and then- Interim Dean Bruce Kogan.

After graduating and passing the bar, Cardona bought a modest single-family home across from Central Falls City Hall, with the idea of moving back to his hometown and perhaps running for mayor. His wife balked, however, and the building became his law office. But although he now lives in the comfortable suburban sprawl of West Greenwich, R.I., Cardona still considers Central Falls his true home.

"I got a lot of help as a kid, and that's the kind of help I want to give back," he said. He is giving indeed: Cardona serves on the Rhode Island

Commission for Human Rights, and he's coordinated housing fairs for low-income families in conjunction with agencies such as Progreso Latino, the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program and Rhode Island Housing. He wrote the grants, secured the funding and established the Central Falls Even Start Literacy Program. He serves as mentor in Central Falls Family Self-Sustainability (FSS) Program, counseling students who are considering law as a career, taking them to court proceedings and

sophomore **Sindy De Leon**, works part-time as a receptionist at his law office.)

As he stands chatting on the sidewalk outside City Hall, Cardona is very much the local boy made good. Friends wave or call out to him from passing cars; a worker in a pickup truck pulls over to talk about a case.

"The way the Latino community goes, that's the way I go," Cardona said. "If the Latino community fails, if people see it as a blight or a plague – then that's how I'll be seen too. I grew up here, so I came back here. I owe this community

What does this tell our kids? How are we going to address this issue? How do we help prevent families from losing everything?

– Judge Alberto Cardona '04



introducing them to judges. He even sponsors a Cal Ripken Youth Baseball team ("Little League is too expensive for a lot of kids around here...").

His wife Claudia, Guatemalan by birth, is also a Latino community activist, as are his brother and sister. His kids volunteer at Central Falls community service organizations. "It gives them some perspective," Cardona explained. The eldest of his three children, **Angie Cardona**, is a freshman majoring in legal studies at RWU. (Another RWU undergrad,

something. Maybe I could have done better somewhere else, but ..."

Reminded that being appointed a judge so early in one's legal career generally isn't considered a bad indicator, Cardona laughed. "Yeah, four years out of law school and already wearing a robe; I never would have dreamed it..."

He paused and looked thoughtfully up at the courthouse – his courthouse. "But you know what? It's a good fit."



Pro Bono Collaborative and Motley Rice LLP Work to Help Tenants in Foreclosed Properties

By Elaine McArdle

Ben Gworek '09 knows firsthand the problem of affordable housing in Rhode Island – and RWU Law's Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) has shown him how he can use the law to help solve it.

Before enrolling at RWU Law, Gworek – a graduate of Providence College with a master's degree from Brown University – spent two years doing community organizing and legislative advocacy with the Housing Network of Rhode Island, which develops affordable housing and revitalizes neighborhoods throughout the state.

He's well aware that Rhode Island had led the nation in the housing price bubble, and that, until the recent real-estate collapse, prices here had grown six to eight times faster than residents' average incomes. He witnessed the many families unable to find a decent place to live, the strain on their personal finances, the pain of eviction or bankruptcy.

But nothing prepared Gworek for the avalanche of foreclosures he's seen this year – and especially its devastating effect on innocent tenants, who have almost no protections under Rhode Island law.

"I've been at Sixth District Court in Providence and seen as many as 20 different tenants being evicted because of this in one day," said Gworek. He sighed and added, "That was a pretty shocking experience."

The oft-unrecognized victims of the nation's massive foreclosure crisis are tenants, who are forced out after their landlords lose the buildings for failure to pay their mortgages. Few states provide much protection for tenants in these situations, and in Rhode Island they're particularly vulnerable. State law here holds that tenants have no legal relationship with the bank or mortgage company and thus no right to remain in a foreclosed-on property even if they've never been late in paying rent. In fact, they aren't even entitled to notice that their homes have been lost to foreclosure. Just three days after foreclosure, tenants can be served with an eviction notice and forced out. The bank or mortgage company needn't provide utilities and other basic services



to the unit while eviction proceedings are underway.

But that situation may soon change if Gworek and other RWU Law students have their way. Working through the PBC at RWU Law's Feinstein Institute, these students – along with **Robert McConnell**, a partner with the leading law firm Motley Rice LLC – are collaborating with the Housing Action Coalition of Rhode Island to research and draft legislation that would afford more protection to tenants living in foreclosed properties. The need is urgent: more than 70 percent of foreclosures in Rhode Island involve multi-family buildings in which renters live.

"In a lot of cases, the tenants and clients are not being accused of breaching their lease or any wrongdoing at all," said Gworek. "Yet they're still being evicted because the building they live in is being foreclosed on, and the bank wants to clear the building." While the problem isn't new, it "has reached epidemic levels with the skyrocketing rates of foreclosures," he adds.

'A Great Vehicle'

The idea for the project came from Gworek in conjunction with his former colleagues at the Housing Network of Rhode Island. Gworek then reached out to the PBC staff with his idea, and before long they recruited McConnell (whom Gworek had gotten to know in 2008, when the two teamed up to work with the George Wiley Center in Pawtucket on another PBC project). McConnell, as lead attorney, and Gworek drafted legislation that would offer protections to residents facing shut-offs of their utilities because of their inability to pay. That bill didn't pass in the last session but is pending again, says McConnell, who notes that Motley Rice has long been committed to pro bono projects, especially in the area of affordable housing and lead abatement.

The PBC also recruited several of Gworek's RWU Law classmates who'd worked on similar issues: **Devon Cipperly '09**, as an extern in the Providence Law Department, had focused on the quandary of managing the growing inventory of foreclosed

properties; **Kelly Noble '10** had recently authored a law review article on the issue of tenants' rights in foreclosure, taking a national scope; and **Evan Trowbridge '10** also joined the team.

Working through the PBC (*see sidebar*), the four students began last fall by researching tenant protections in other states and trying to find jurisdictions with more favorable laws. McConnell led the team, and the Housing Action Coalition – a group of 70 organizations in Rhode Island that advocate for safe and affordable housing – also guided the students in their work.

“I think the Pro Bono Collaborative is a great vehicle for getting involved with community issues, and wedding the private law firms with the law students,” said McConnell, whose firm, Motley Rice LLC, represents plaintiffs in a broad range of claims, including occupational disease and environmental harm such as asbestos poisoning. Working with RWU

Law students has been a very positive experience, he said, adding that “I sincerely believe in these projects.”

The goal here is to rescue tenants in foreclosed properties from their legal limbo. Banks insist they don't want to be in the landlord business, and typically want the property to be empty in order to try to sell it. But few properties are selling, housing advocates point out, so it would be in the interest of the community – as well as the tenants themselves – if tenants were allowed to stay put rather than to create empty buildings and neighborhood blight.

The students are now in the process of drafting a bill that would bring tenants under the state's current landlord-tenant act, which offers some protections. But their proposed legislation would provide even more security, ensuring that these tenants don't lose their homes unnecessarily.

They're also working to find legislative sponsors for their bill.

Brenda Clement, executive director of the Housing Action Coalition of Rhode Island, praises the work of the students and McConnell.

“The group works really well together,” said Clement. Still, she added, “We have a long way to go to get the bill passed in this legislative session.”

Gworek notes that the mortgage industry is expected to oppose any changes to the law, just as it did last year, when it helped defeat a bill that would simply have provided notice to tenants after foreclosure.

But Clement is optimistic, noting positive changes with the new presidential administration as well as tenant-friendly ordinances introduced by the mayor of Providence. This progress, along with the work of the RWU Law students, gives her confidence that “at the end we'll come out with some solid protections for tenants and other consumers,” she said.

For Gworek, the project has been an invaluable educational opportunity.

“It definitely has been a very good part of my law school experience,” he said. After he graduates, he will be working in Boston as an attorney with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“This experience definitely helped me in getting that position,” he said. “When I interviewed, this was the primary topic of conversation: it's a policy issue that HUD, up until now, has not been very involved in, at least on the local level – but one for which it can become a strong advocate.”



Working for change (l-r): Kelly Noble '10, Devon Cipperly '09 and Ben Gworek '09 conduct research for the PBC's tenant project

PBC FLYING HIGH IN '09

The Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) recently completed an especially exciting quarter and is entering its fourth year stronger than ever, giving back to underserved community members by linking law students and top law firms to provide real-world experiences that strongly complement classroom training.

In December, the Rhode Island Foundation cast a definitive vote of confidence in the PBC, announcing a \$60,000 grant for 2009 that brings the Foundation's total investment in the Collaborative to more than \$250,000.

In January, Nixon Peabody LLP – a “Global 100” law firm and one of the largest in the world – joined the six law firms already participating in the PBC and took on four new projects, partnering with the Family Life Center, the International Institute, Youth Pride and Rhode Island Legal Services. Also in January, alumnus **Matt Plain '05** joined the PBC's advisory board.

More changes are ahead for the 2009-10 academic year. RWU Law students are presently required to perform 20 hours of pro bono service before they graduate; however, that requirement will increase to 50 hours beginning with the class of students entering this August.

Under the direction of **Eliza Vorenberg**, RWU Law's Pro Bono Collaborative was launched in January 2006 to help connect students with low-income and at-risk clients who need legal help.

The Collaborative employs a unique model that mobilizes large law firms, law students and community organizations to provide pro bono legal service to low-income communities throughout Rhode Island. Working as a team, these groups engage in a wide variety of projects, from assisting fledging nonprofit organizations with incorporation to direct representation of homeless, immigrant, poor and other

clients, to legislative advocacy such as the tenant project (*see main story*).

Community organizations contact the PBC when their constituencies have unmet legal needs. The PBC then identifies students willing to work on the project, reaches out to participating law firms to mentor the students and provides administrative support. Students do not receive academic credit for their work – nor are they paid – and most end up putting in far more than the minimum required for graduation.

Since its inception, more than 60 students and 50 attorneys have participated in the Collaborative and seven large law firms have signed on to work with about a dozen community organizations. To read more about the PBC's projects and partners, join the PBC Facebook group (search “pro bono collaborative”). – E.M.

I've been at Sixth District Court in Providence and seen as many as 20 different tenants being evicted because of this in one day.

– Ben Gworek '09

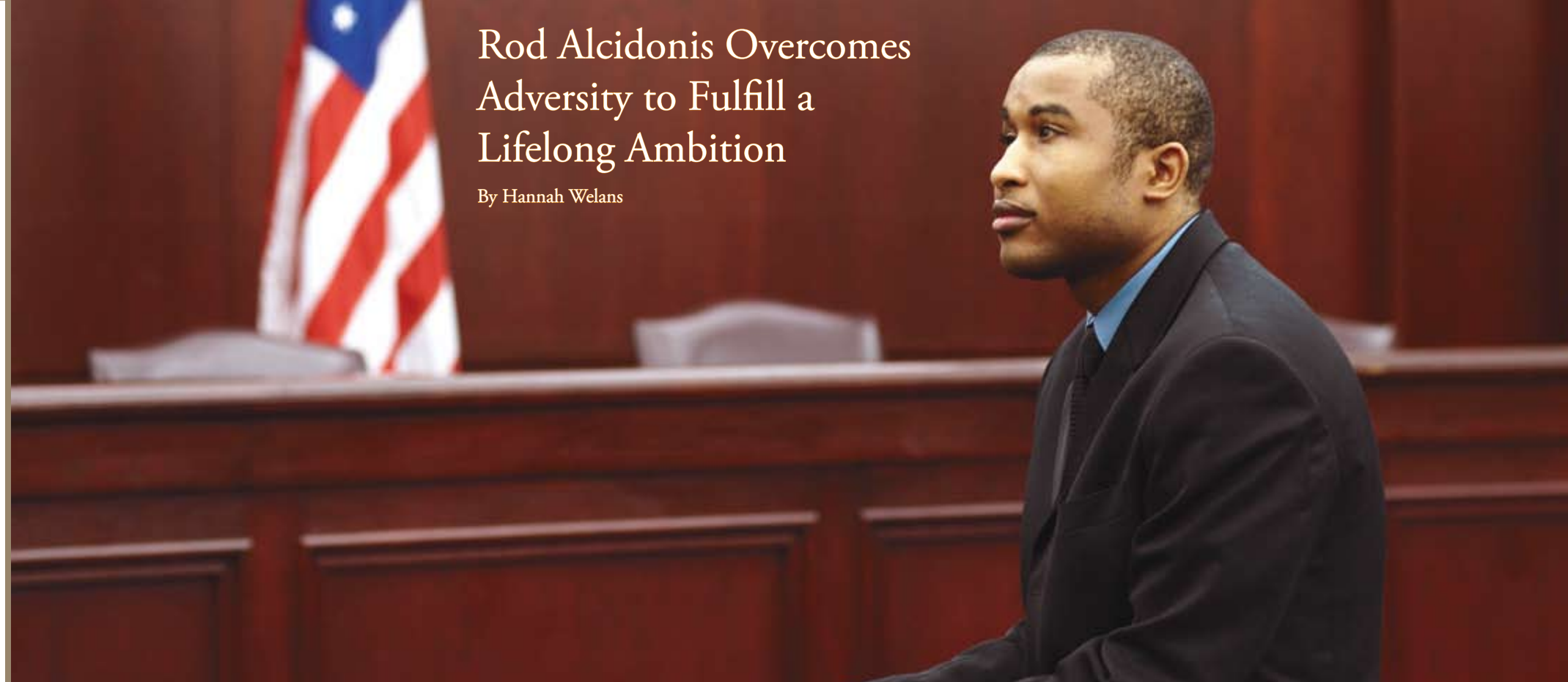
For me, being in law school is not an accident. I had been working for it all my life – so when I got here it was a ‘dreams coming true’ type of thing. I was on fire.

– Rod Alcidonis '09

‘Everything His Heart Desires’

Rod Alcidonis Overcomes Adversity to Fulfill a Lifelong Ambition

By Hannah Welans



Once Rod Alcidonis '09 decided he would become a lawyer, he didn't let anything stop him: not a difficult childhood in a poor country; not even the loss of his eyesight.

Such is his passion for the profession that – as a child growing up in Port-au-Prince, Haiti – he used to carry a briefcase to school instead of the usual knapsack or book bag. He continued to nurse his aspirations through high school, where one of his teachers dubbed him “the Renaissance Man” due to his broad range of interests, and college, where he participated in the debate team and earned his bachelor's degree in sociology on a three-year fast track.

And despite his visual challenges, Alcidonis claims there was no bumpy transitional period upon arriving at RWU Law. “For me, being in law school was not an accident,” he explained. “I had been working for it all my life – so when I got here it was a ‘dreams coming true’ type of thing. I was just on fire.”

Alcidonis's persistent legal aspirations have been a rare constant in a life that otherwise seems to have been a series of constant changes (the other major constant is his love for music: he has studied accordion, trombone and piano, maintains a small mobile recording studio and serves as keyboardist at his church).

Besides transitioning to a new country and culture – he moved to the U.S. with his family in 1998, living first in Brooklyn, N.Y., then upstate in Plattsburgh, N.Y., and finally settling in Philadelphia – Alcidonis has been challenged by a worsening case of glaucoma that rendered him legally blind and dependant on a cane for getting around. Alcidonis shrugs off this considerable challenge as just a variation on the sorts of change that all people

must face in one form or another.

“In the past, I used to play soccer and ride motorcycles,” he said. “But that was the past; life moves on. Today, I undertake different ventures that are equally exciting and challenging: I argue in court, speak at conferences, record music and troubleshoot computer problems; and, for the most part, I am happier than ever before.”

In conversation, this casual embrace of change is one of Alcidonis's most striking traits.

“I look at changes as opportunities,” he said. “So every time a change occurs in my life, my first reaction is to say, ‘All right, so what's next?’ I adapt to change very quickly, so change for me is a positive thing as opposed to something negative.”

On his laptop, for example, Alcidonis uses a special “screen-reader” software called JAWS, that reads the content of the monitor aloud. He also uses an electronic Braille device connected to his laptop, which allows him to read the content of the computer screen in Braille as an alternative to using the voice program.

“Braille is my primary way of reading and taking law school exams,” he said. “I cannot imagine how difficult it would be for a blind attorney to be a successful litigator without knowing Braille thoroughly. And while I believe it's possible to successfully graduate from law school as a blind student, without modern technology it certainly would not have been as comfortable and enjoyable as it has been for me during the last three years.”

Still, he insisted that the term “disabled” does not fit him – at least not without a lot of caveats and qualifications.

“I do not know how a man who does virtually everything his heart

desires can be considered disabled,” he said. “That is incomprehensible to me.”

Alcidonis's visual impairment led to a Rhode Island legal first when he obtained a court order making him the first lawyer allowed to bring a laptop and cane with him into the Adult Correctional Institution (ACI) maximum security prison in Cranston, R.I.

It happened during his second year of studies, when Alcidonis was representing an ACI inmate who'd been arrested for drunk driving. Standing up next to his client as the judge imposed the sentence was, he said, “a pivotal experience that only a lawyer can attest to” and one that gave him “a newfound understanding of the respect inmates have for defense attorneys.”

Before arguing in a courtroom, Alcidonis said, he always visits the space to familiarize himself with the environment.

“I don't like to use a cane to navigate around the courtroom,” he explained. “I think it arms judges with something by which to stigmatize me. But if I learn the layout of a courtroom and move around without my cane, it becomes easier for judges to put aside the fact that I am blind and to view me in the same light as my opposing counsel.”

His favorite courses involve litigation – Criminal Procedure, Advanced Criminal Procedure and Lessons of Litigation – and he actively participates in the Criminal Defense Clinic. While admitting that law school is a formidable intellectual challenge,

Alcidonis insists that, with hard work and focus, most people who want to succeed badly enough probably can.

“That would be my advice to prospective law students,” he said. “If you really want it, go for it. Don't give in to the hype that law school is an impossible feat.”

RWU Law recently awarded Alcidonis the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Award, given annually to a third-year student who has “demonstrated academic merit and leadership skills.”

“It was an unexpected honor,” said Alcidonis, who is an admirer of the award's namesake and met the late Justice's widow last spring during RWU Law's Thurgood Marshall Memorial

Lecture, featuring UCLA Law Professor and leading civil rights scholar **Devon Carbado**. His greatest honor at RWU Law, however, is yet to come, he said with a smile. That will happen in May when he receives his diploma.

“My litigation skills have improved immeasurably from the time I first walked into this building,” he said. “I feel much more comfortable being in the courtroom and making an argument now. I am interested primarily in litigation; I'm passionate about criminal law. I chose the legal profession because I want to help solve complex societal issues and provide legal assistance in the courtroom to those who are often underrepresented. That, I think, will be my greatest achievement.”



Lawyer of the Year

Alison Foley '04 Recognized For Defending Immigrants' Rights

By Kristin Howley

Alison Foley '04 – barely into her second year at RWU Law when the 9/11 attacks occurred – was dismayed as she watched the U.S. succumb to the panic, anger and finger-pointing that dominated public debate in the immediate aftermath of the assault. In many ways, she said, those uncertain days profoundly colored her subsequent career path.

Foley had entered law school intending to work in the civil- or human-rights arena. But as the Bush Administration pushed through tough new policies affecting immigrants and undocumented citizens, Foley decided she could help most by focusing on immigration law – after all, that seemed to be where “international human rights” had come home to roost.

“The anti-immigrant factions in the U.S. are very, very strong right now, and they have the ear of the American public,” said Foley, whose tone is soft-spoken but passionate. “They are still using the same fear-mongering tactics that we saw used all throughout the Bush years, equating immigrants to terrorists and crying that they’re taking ‘American jobs’ – which is pure baloney at best, and racist at worst.

Unfortunately, that kind of talk really grabs people in times of crisis.”

Following September 11, Foley said, U.S. officials perceived a “clear and present danger” to the U.S. – and Arab and Muslim immigrants put a face on an otherwise unidentifiable enemy. More recently, she added, anti-immigration activists have turned their focus to immigrants from Mexico, South and Central America. The shift has been especially apparent in southern New England, where some devastating raids have taken place in the last few years.

Problems Throughout the System

For example, in March 2007, an army of more than 300 homeland security officers descended upon Michael Bianco Inc. – a New Bedford leather manufacturer engaged mainly in producing military backpacks and survival vests for U.S. troops abroad – and arrested 361 undocumented workers, most of them young women from Guatemala and El Salvador, many with children waiting in daycare centers or staying with family members. The workers were shackled

together and forced onto buses for incarceration in Fort Devens, a military facility outside Boston.

It is estimated that between 100 and 200 children were separated from their families that day; two years later, some still have not been reunited, said Foley, who represents several of the women. In some cases parents were deported, while their U.S.-born children were placed into foster care here.

“What happened in those cases was that family court judges improperly took the parents’ immigration status into consideration in placing the children,” Foley said, explaining that such status is not supposed to be a factor in determining whether it is in a child’s best interests to remain with his or her parents.

In another raid last July, 31 employees of two Rhode Island janitorial companies – all of them maintenance workers in the six state courthouses – were rounded up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement authorities. Foley helped coordinate the defense for those workers, representing several of them personally. To date, 12 have been released on humanitarian grounds, while 19 others were sent to area detention facilities – including the Wyatt

Detention Center in Central Falls, R.I., which gained notoriety in 2008 after 34-year-old Hiu Lui Ng, a Chinese national and N.Y.-based computer engineer, died while in the facility’s custody.

“The problems at Wyatt are the same problems that exist throughout the system,” Foley said. “The public outcry was getting louder after Ng’s death, so there was an investigation into the facility, but the same problems exist in every center. And we’re still not addressing the system, only the facilities!”

She added, “These raids have devastating effects on the families involved, and they’re just not catching the people who are the real security risks.”

Will things improve under the new Administration? Foley isn’t sure, citing a similar raid conducted at the end of February in Washington State – the first major raid carried out under the Obama Administration.

“We haven’t seen anything getting better yet,” Foley said. “We’re all hoping that Obama is going to really pursue reforms, but we also know that the economy has taken over and that, without serious political will, it’s not going to happen because it’s such a touchy issue.”

Lawyer of the Year

Foley’s efforts won recognition earlier this year when she was named as one of three “Lawyers of the Year” by *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly*. The newspaper cited her involvement “in cases that raise challenging legal issues and otherwise furthering the profession’s commitment to the rule of law and to justice in the state.”

While “surprised and honored” by the award, Foley was mainly pleased by the opportunity it afforded to publicize the work that she and other immigration lawyers are doing around the country.

“I was never passionate about making a lot of money or winning big cases or making a name for myself,” said Foley. “I really wanted to make a difference in people’s lives, and to be a little bit of a rebel – to speak out politically. If I win a personal injury case, it doesn’t undo the injury – but if I win an immigration case it makes a huge

impact on someone’s life. A whole new set of doors opens for them.”

Foley jumped into the immigration scene with her first job out of law school at Progreso Latino, a non-profit dedicated to helping the Latino and immigrant communities in Rhode Island achieve greater self-sufficiency and self-determination.

“Once I got into it, my passion kept building,” she said. “I began to understand how deep the injustice in the system runs.”

She later opened a private practice focused on family and immigration law, but soon realized that her heart was in “the practice of law and not in keeping the books.” Unable to take on the asylum cases she wanted and constrained by the need to make ends meet, she finally accepted a position as legal director for the immigrant victims representation project at Catholic Social Services in Fall River, Mass., where she works today.

“I’ve always had a strong service drive; it was instilled at a young age,” Foley said. “My mom was always giving back and continues to be involved with

through college by waitressing and working in restaurants, and the same for law school. I wouldn’t have been able to go to law school at all if it hadn’t been for RWU giving me a scholarship. And I loved Roger Williams; it was a great experience. I loved going to a small school where my professors knew who I was and cared about how I did.”

While earning her J.D. from RWU Law, she was involved in several student groups and activities, and was founder and president of the Christian Law Society.

According to **Professor Carl Bogus**, for whom Foley was a legal assistant, “Alison was a bright and determined student – determined not only to excel but to acquire the knowledge and skills that would enable her to make a positive difference in the world. It’s wonderful to see that she’s succeeding on both counts.”

Asked to advise law students interested in her brand of immigration law, Foley – a single mother of two young children, who keeps a crib wedged into her office between her desk, client chairs and stacks of files for those late nights – says it’s a tough,

I was never passionate about making a lot of money or winning big cases or making a name for myself. I really wanted to make a difference in people’s lives – and to be a little bit of a rebel.

– Alison Foley '04

countries in Central America. My dad was involved in politics and gave me my ‘leftist leanings.’”

She spends countless hours working on pro bono immigration cases and volunteers with La Red de Defensa, a Providence group that works to defend the rights of immigrants and the community. Foley believes that if she hadn’t gone into law, she would have chosen another human-interest field – and she credits RWU Law for getting her to where she is today.

“I came from a very poor, working-class family,” Foley said. “I put myself

emotionally demanding but ultimately fulfilling job that’s perfect for ... well, someone just like her.

“I can say that you won’t be rewarded in a typical way,” she said. “I can provide for my family, of course, but the real reward is so much sweeter than money for me. I wouldn’t change a thing in my life – unless it was to have society put a higher value on what I do, or to put more hours in the day or days in the week. But I love my kids, and I love what I do.”

LAA President's Message



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

As RWU Law celebrates the end of another successful academic year, it is important to look back and reflect on how much our law school has accomplished in such a short amount of time. Just this year the law school

saw its first group swearing-in at the United States Supreme Court, some of the school's highest-ever bar-pass rates for first-time bar takers, and a recent study ranking our public-interest program as second in all of New England.

It is clear that great things are happening, and we need your help to make sure that this growth and progress continues at an exciting rate. Reach out to your classmates and encourage them to become involved. It is also important for all of us to share the pride we have in our school with anyone considering the legal profession.

As always, my appreciation goes out to the Law Alumni Association Board

of Directors, the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events, and all of the alumni who continue to support the law school with financial gifts or gifts of time and talent.

Finally, I would like to extend a special welcome to the Class of 2009, the newest members of our Alumni Association. I encourage each of you to make a habit of staying involved with the law school as you begin your legal careers.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Alumni Office or me directly at margretav@gmail.com.

Margreta Vellucci, Esq. '07

U.S. Supreme Court Bar Admission

RWU Law announces its second United States Supreme Court swearing-in ceremony, to be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

Dean David A. Logan and Professor Jared Goldstein invite the candidates for admission to join them for breakfast on the morning of the swearing-in ceremony. The breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. at the Supreme Court of the United States. Supreme Court oral arguments will take place after the ceremony.

Space is limited to twelve attorney admissions, and priority will be given to RWU Law graduates from the classes of 1996-2000. Only one guest is allowed inside the courtroom. If you wish to participate, please indicate your intent, as soon as possible and no later than July 24, 2009, to Chelsie Horne at chorne@rwu.edu.

Once you receive confirmation from the School of Law, you must follow the steps below to complete the application process:

- Be a member in good standing of the highest court of your jurisdiction for the past three years;
- Present a certificate of good standing from that court;
- Be sponsored by two current members of the U.S. Supreme Court Bar;
- Pay the \$200 fee; and
- Complete the admission application.

For complete admission information and forms, visit the U.S. Supreme Court Bar Admission website at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/bar/baradmissions.html>.

'Symplicity' Launched

The Office of Career Services is pleased to announce the launch of "Symplicity," a new resource that allows you to search for jobs by practice area or location, view a calendar of events, access our Online Resource Library and apply to jobs directly through the system. You will no longer need a monthly password to access job postings. Symplicity also supplies the Office of Career Services with personal information so that we may contact you for specific opportunities in which you may be interested.

To register as a new user on the system, please visit <https://law-rwu-csm.symplicity.com/students> and click on the "Register" button on the righthand side of the page. You will receive an email with your username and password once your registration has been approved.

Feel free to contact any member of the Career Services staff with questions or comments, at (401) 254-4650.

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009



10TH ANNUAL LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tournament Sponsor:



Thank you for helping us raise over \$19,000 for the 2008 Roger Williams University School of Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund!

Early-Bird Registration Fee: Pay by June 15, 2009 to receive a foursome for \$480. \$125 per Tee Sponsor. All proceeds benefit the Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Co-Chairs:

Anthony Leone '97 and
Kimberly Tracey '07

When:

11:30 a.m. Registration
12:00 noon Lunch
1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start
6:30 p.m. Dinner, Raffle, Silent Auction & Prizes

Where:

Cranston Country Club
69 Burlingame Road • Cranston, R.I.

Registration:

\$125 per player
\$500 per foursome

Watch for additional event details and register online at: <http://law.rwu.edu/news/events>

LAA Holiday Reception a Hit

More than a hundred alumni, faculty, staff and guests attended the 11th Annual Law Alumni Association Holiday Reception, always a great chance for folks to reconnect with the law school community. As in past years, attendees brought unwrapped gifts for the Toys for Tots campaign, which assists families during the holiday season. The event was an ideal ending to a great year for the RWU Law alumni community.

1 (l-r) Michael Daly '02 and Carly Beauvais lafrate '00 with unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots.

2 (l-r) Stephen Maguire '96, Michael Voccola '97 and Bill Warren '97.

3 (l-r) Nicole Dulude '06, R.I. Supreme Court Justice William P. Robinson III and Joelle Sylvia '06.

4 (l-r) Eric Miller '01, Rebecca Cox '01, John Poloski '02, Gregory Blasbalg '01, Megan Higgins '01, RWU Law marine affairs research counsel, Meredith Kelley '01 and Lorraine Lalli '01, RWU Law assistant dean of students.



1996

Cindy DeMarco was married to David Franco in October 2008. She works as an Assistant General Counsel with the F.B.I.

Stephen P. Maguire relocated his firm to a new office in Cranston, R.I., specializing in social security disability and SSI claims, and he is licensed to practice in R.I., Mass. and Conn.

Anne (Richardson) Nicoll welcomed her second child, Scott Michael, on August 22, 2008.

1997

Cara Conaty married Mark Lucchetti on January 8, 2009 in Belize.

Christopher Millea and his wife Ellen are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Kathryn Reilly Millea, on October 22, 2008. Chris has also opened his own private criminal defense practice located in Providence.

Andrea Krupp is the associate director of Stewardship & Development, Planned and Major Gifts, with the Diocese of Providence. She was previously an estate

planning attorney with Kenyon Law Associates. Andrea lives in South Kingston with her husband Brandon and their 2-year-old son Harris.

Amy Parker and Melody Alger have opened the law firm, Alger Parker LLP in Providence. They concentrate in civil litigation matters.

Robert Pellegrini opened his own practice, the Law Offices of Robert Pellegrini, located in Bridgewater and Newburyport, Mass.

Robert Pirri and his wife Julie welcomed their daughter, Angela Patricia "Ela" Pirri on December 14, 2008, and currently reside in Bristol, R.I.

Thomas Sheehan joined Hinckley Allen Snyder, LLP in Providence as a partner in the personal financial planning group.

David Sleprow married Debbie Avelar on December 13, 2008, at the Oceancliff in Newport, R.I. David is a partner at the law firm of Sleprow Sleprow & Associates in East Providence, R.I. They reside in Stoughton, Mass.

Erik Wallin has declared his candidacy for Rhode Island Attorney General in the 2010 election.

1998

Dawn Callaghan and her husband welcomed their second child, Siena Laura, in February 2008. They also have a son, Christian.

Sheila A. Harrington and her husband have moved their firm to a building they remodeled in East Greenwich, R.I.

Dennis A. Meyers married Dana M. Parks of Orlando, Fla., in January of 2007. In October 2006, after working nearly five years as a senior associate with Walton Lantaff Schroeder & Carson, LLP in Tampa, Fla., Dennis opened the Law Office of Dennis A. Meyers, P.A. in that city. Dennis handles insurance defense and civil litigation.

Vicki Ray has been promoted and is now working within the Department of Homeland Security, Office of the General Counsel, as counsel to US-VISIT.

Lawrence Zimmerman and his wife, Jennifer, welcomed their first child, Charlotte Rose, on January 23, 2009. Lawrence has a firm dedicated to protecting those charged with both federal crimes and serious state charges. He is also currently on the board of directors for the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and has been invited to speak at several criminal law seminars.

2000

Saad Ahmed has his own practice in San Francisco, specializing in immigration law. He recently argued a case before the 9th Circuit, sitting en banc (*Estrada Espinoza v. Attorney General of the U.S.*), and won a unanimous decision. It was Saad's tenth oral argument in the 9th Circuit; one was held at Stanford Law School. He has also argued in the 4th Circuit.

1998



Jana Berger was named as partner at the national litigation firm Foley & Mansfield, PLLP. Berger practices out of the firm's Detroit office where she serves as defense counsel to various corporations in cases involving product liability, toxins, construction defects and premises liability. Berger is also recognized as an expert on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and has published numerous articles on the privacy rules in *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, *Midwest In-House* and *Health Care Weekly Review*. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the State Bar of California, Michigan Defense Trial Counsel and the Defense Research Institute.

Stephen R. Archambault is publicly declaring his candidacy for Rhode Island Attorney General in the 2010 election as a Democrat. Stephen was previously a Jamestown police officer from 1998 to 2003 and is currently a criminal defense and personal injury lawyer, with his office located in Warwick, R.I. He currently prosecutes in District Court for the Town of Lincoln. In addition, Stephen was elected to the Smithfield Town Council, where he was president until 2008, and now serves as a councilman.

Julie A. Bruno-Archambault is pleased to announce the birth of her son, Brady Louis Archambault, born on March 18, 2008.

Walter Manning III currently operates the Law Offices of Walter J. Manning III in both Warwick and North Providence, R.I. He is licensed in all federal and state courts in R.I., Mass. and Conn., with his concentration being real estate, corporate, family, and criminal law. Walter lives in Narragansett, R.I. with his wife, Lynn, and their three boys, Walter, Drew, and Collin.

Shannon Garvey Roach and her husband Kevin, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Henry Bernard Michael, born on December 9, 2008.

2001

Rene G. Brown is a solo practitioner with an office in Fall River, Mass., since 2001. She is admitted to the Mass., R.I. and U.S. Supreme Court Bars. Her practice area is primarily criminal defense, representing indigent clients since 2002 as a Bristol County Bar Advocate, in Fall River and New Bedford District Courts as well as New Bedford, Fall River and Taunton Superior Courts. Rene recently has had a case taken up on appeal to Mass. Supreme Court, awaiting decision, *Commonwealth v. Alabi*.

Kevin O. Hagan is an associate at Houlihan, Managhan & Kyle, LLP located in Newport, R.I. He was formerly a R.I. Special Assistant Attorney General.

Lisa S. Holley is currently serving as Executive Counsel to the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety, a newly

created department in state government which consists of the Rhode Island State Police, State Fire Marshals, Capitol Police, R.I. Justice Commission and E911. She is married to **David A. Holley '99** who is a senior managing director and head of the New England Region of Kroll Associates. They reside in East Greenwich, R.I.

Lorraine Lalli was appointed to the Board of Governors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence.

James Smith has returned to R.I. after working in Manhattan for four years in the law department of a Wall Street broker/dealer. He opened a general practice firm in East Greenwich, R.I., with a focus in criminal defense, contract formation/litigation and bankruptcy. James is licensed to practice in N.Y., R.I. and in the United States District Court of R.I.

Maurene Souza and her husband Daniel Pilkington were lauded on November 25, 2008 at the Annual Philanthropy Day held at R.I. Civic Center. They were honored and made "Partners in Philanthropy" for the work done with the San Miguel School for Boys in Providence, which provides middle school education for inner city boys. The couple has served on the board as committee members, volunteers, sponsors and mentors. They also founded an annual golf tournament to benefit the school.

2002

Daniel Connors '02 was recently elected Majority Leader of the Rhode Island Senate and now serves as ex-officio member of all Senate committees. He has been representing the residents of Cumberland and Lincoln's District 19 at the State House as a member of the R.I. State Senate since 1996.

2005



Captain Eric M. Kopka (at left) has returned from a seven-month deployment to Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. During the battalion's time in Iraq, Eric worked extensively with the Iraqi police and Iraqi judges. He is currently working as the chief trial counsel at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Mike Daly is with the law firm of Pierce Atwood in its newly opened Providence office. Mike was admitted to the Maine Bar in October 2008.

Rebecca (Yeager) Dye welcomed a daughter, Macy Noel, on December 23, 2008. Rebecca is an LSAT instructor for Kaplan.

Stacey Leigh (Cassidy) Malloy and her husband, Gerald, welcomed their fourth child, Warner Joseph, on November 24, 2008. Stacey is a member of the Mass., Ga. and D.C. Bars. She resides in Mass.

Kelly A. Moore has been an assistant public defender in Chicago, Ill. for the past 4 years. She was promoted to the Felony Trial Division at the Cook County public defender's office in Chicago where she is one of 400 attorneys.

John J. Poloski III and his wife Nicole welcomed their first child, Dylan John Poloski, on September 14, 2008. John is currently an associate with the law firm of Lisa & Sousa, Ltd. in Providence.

2003

Jessica F. Kallipolites is an assistant administrator director for the Conn. Bar Examining Committee.

Gayle C. Mambro-Martin is employed with the State of Rhode Island Department of Treasury as the internal legal

counsel/policy analyst for the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island.

Sharad Motiani is a prosecutor at the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office in Fla. where he has served as the chief of the Narcotics Unit, worked in the Domestic Violence Unit and served as Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Special Prosecutions Division. As of January 2009, he became an Assistant State Attorney and is working as Assistant United States Attorney for the Office of the United States Attorney, Southern District of Florida. In addition, he is on the hiring committee at the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

Daniel J. Williams and **Kathleen Giles '04** are engaged to be married in May. Dan is an attorney with the law firm of Levinson Axelrod in Howell, N.J. and Kathleen is an attorney with the law firm of Tressler, Soderstrom, Maloney & Priess, LLP, Newark, N.J.

Richard Shewack is the latent claims manager with Global Aerospace. Richard was also named the Head of Aviation Claims at one of the largest insurance brokers in the world, Willis of New York.

2004

Alison M. Foley has been recognized as a "Lawyer of the Year" by Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly. She is the legal director

for the immigrant victims representation project for Catholic Social Services in Fall River, Mass., after running her own private practice.

Mark Romley is with the Environmental Crimes Section of the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

2005

Ronald J. Grant is engaged to be married to Melony K. Baldwin on October 24, 2009, in Greensboro, N.C.

2006

Ryan S. Andrews is employed with Cushing & Dolan, P.C. in Boston. His primary practice areas are taxation, corporate/business law, business planning, and elder law (Medicaid).

Victoria Moreno-Jackson has been named to the board of directors for the National Association for Community Mediation

(NAFCM), a nonprofit clearing house that supports community mediation centers nationwide. Victoria, who is program director with the Community Mediation Center of Rhode Island in Providence, hopes to help NAFCM raise funds to better support community mediation centers without raising their annual dues.

2007

Katie Ahern is an associate at Hinckley Allen Snyder LLP.

Liv Fetterman is the assistant director of archaeological resource investigations with Western Cultural Resource Management in Farmington, N.M. Liv is providing archaeological law enforcement and archaeological damage assessment training to public and private archaeologists, law enforcement agents, and land managers. She will also provide investigative assistance and expert witness services.

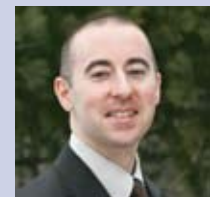
2007



James Steck '07 and Providence attorney **David Strachman** recently led a discussion on civil terrorism law at the law school. Having recently co-authored a new textbook, *Cases and Materials on Civil Terrorism Law* (Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company, Inc., 2008), the pair focused on the law and practice of litigating claims by victims of international terrorism from within the U.S. legal system.

Strachman is noted for his representation of terror victims in civil suits against defendants including the PLO, Palestinian Authority, Hamas and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He has won judgments on behalf of the victims of "terrorism" from each of these entities, and focused particularly on his controversial recent efforts to collect a judgment against Iran by suing for possession of ancient Persian artifacts in U.S. museum collections.

1997



Mark Gemma was named a "2008 Rising Star in Rhode Island" by the Super Lawyers Association. Only 2.5 percent of those nominated receive the distinction. Mark served as past president of the Rhode Island Association for Justice

and is active in the American Association of Justice serving as the secretary to the Counsel of Presidents and as a state delegate. He has been appointed to the plaintiff's steering committee for the Kugel Mesh Hernia Patch Litigation in the Rhode Island state courts. He also served as president of the RWU Law Alumni Association.

2007



Deborah Gonzalez is an associate with Gonzalez Law Offices, Inc., East Providence, R.I.

Robert S. Knychalski is an associate with Pannone, Lopes & Devereaux LLC in Providence.

Kali Racavich and **Al Brink '07** are engaged to be married in 2010. They live in Boston where Al works for Ernst & Young in transaction advisory services.

Elizabeth Suever was named the chair of the new lawyers division of the Rhode Island Bar Association.

Sara E. (Sepe) Sweeney was married to Patrick Sweeney on July 20, 2008. She is employed with the Law Offices of J. William Harsch & Associates.

Kimberly Tracey is an associate with the law firm of Duffy Sweeny & Scott. Before joining the firm, she served as a judicial law clerk to R.I. Superior Court Justice Michael A. Silverstein.

2008

Wendy Andre is pleased to announce the opening of the Law Office of Wendy Andre, PC, New Bedford, Mass. The firm is a general practice law firm including the areas of immigration, family law, estate planning and probate litigation.

Cathleen (Costigan) Andrzejczyk was married to Jason Andrzejczyk on September 5, 2008, at the Hotel Viking in Newport, R.I.

Alexandria E. Baez is an attorney for Robinson & Cole LLP in their Boston office. She serves the firm's business litigation section, and is a member of the firm's technology committee.

Alison R. Conboy is an associate with Burns & Levinson LLP in Boston after participating in the firm's summer associate program in 2007.

Laura Corbin is a staff attorney with the Affordable Lawyers Project at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii in Honolulu.

Katherine (Johnston) Godin was married in August of 2008. She works as an associate at Corley & Associates focusing mostly on criminal defense.

Megan Maciasz is a law clerk for Justice Suttell on the R.I. Supreme Court.

Jennifer (Kimball) Neuroh was recently married and accepted a position at Fidelity Title Group as Claims Counsel.

In Memoriam



The Honorable **Albert DeRobbio**, longtime Chief Judge of Rhode Island's District Court and a popular adjunct professor who taught criminal law at RWU Law, died on December 22, 2008, at the age of 79. He served in the Army, graduated from Boston College in 1951, earned his law degree from Boston University in 1956 and was involved with the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, the Plantations Lion's Club and the Order of the Sons of Italy. He was described as a "tremendous force" by R.I. Attorney General Patrick Lynch, and will be sorely missed by the RWU Law community.

Alumni Chapter List Serves

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

D.C. Area lawdcarea@rwu.edu **Rhode Island Area** lawri@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 4, 2009
Providence Alumni
"After Hours" Reception



Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar

Location: Pizzico Ristorante "On the East Side"
762 Hope Street, Providence, R.I.

Law alumni are encouraged to RSVP to the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events by Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at lawevents@rwu.edu or (401) 254-4659.

Thursday, June 18, 2009
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, and introducing the new 2009/2010 Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. Law alumni are encouraged to RSVP to the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events by Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at lawevents@rwu.edu or 401-254-4659.

Friday, July 31, 2009
11th 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, Bristol, R.I.

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

Sunday, August 16, 2009
10th Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament



Time: 11:30 a.m. Registration
12:00 noon Lunch
1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start
6:30 p.m. Dinner, Raffle, Silent Auction & Prizes

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

Registration: \$125 per player
\$125 per Tee Sponsor
\$500 per foursome
Early-bird Registration Fee:
Pay by June 15, 2009 to receive a foursome for \$480.

All proceeds benefit the Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. For more information or to register on-line, visit: http://law.rwu.edu/news/events/details.aspx?events_id=1080

Thursday, October 1, 2009
The American Society of Comparative Law Annual Meeting: Methodological Approaches to Comparative Law

Conference room rates have been established at the Bristol Harbor Inn in Bristol, R.I. and the Residence Inn by Marriott-Newport/Middletown. For more information, visit: http://law.rwu.edu/news/events/details.aspx?events_id=1086.



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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

Change Service Requested



January saw a first for RWU Law: a group swearing-in ceremony at the United States Supreme Court. Having called the Court to order, Chief Justice Roberts asked Professor Larry Ritchie to approach the podium and make the formal motion to admit. After repeating the oath, a dozen RWU Law grads became the newest members of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

(l-r) Thomas Shaffer '98, Maria Marley '99, Debra Lord '98, Richard Lord '96, Cindy DeMarco '96, Marco Uriati '96, Lynne Radiches '97, Anthony Leone II '97, Carly Beauvais lafrate '00, Mark Gemma '97, MiCoya Hutchins '98, and Joseph Healey '96.