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AMICUS

THE MAGAZINE OF ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

FALL 2008

The Public Service Issue





David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law

A Commitment to Public Service

Friends,

One of the distinctive aspects of a Roger Williams legal education is a pervasive commitment to public service. This manifests in many ways:

- a faculty with a broad array of public-service experiences (from Marine Jag Corps, to the United States Department of Justice, to the United Nations) and current public-service commitments (such as the boards of Common Cause, the Touro Synagogue Foundation and the Thurgood Marshall Law Society);
- an excellent array of clinical programs (taught by tenured faculty);
- a robust externship program that places students in the offices and chambers of Rhode Island's leading public-sector lawyers and judges, taking advantage of our position as the state's only law school;
- a graduation requirement that all students provide assistance to the less fortunate; and
- a range of excellent programs that are rare, if not unique, in legal education – such as our “Medical-Legal Collaborative” with Brown Medical School, Hasbro Children's Hospital and Rhode Island Legal Services; and our Pro Bono Collaborative, which links RWU Law students and major Rhode Island law firms with a wide array of community groups, many of which are able to take advantage of free representation for the first time.

Indeed, a recent survey of public-interest programs – based upon objective factors such as student involvement, strength of curriculum and financial support for public interest – ranked RWU Law second in New England.

Add to all of this an excellent Marine Affairs program, and it is no wonder that so many RWU Law graduates are making their mark in the important world of public service.

Read on to learn more about some of the terrific people and programs at RWU Law, and meet some of our graduates, who are making the world a better place, one client at a time.

David A Logan

AMICUS

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President

Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D.

Dean

David A. Logan

Co-Editors

Michael M. Bowden, Esq.
Chelsie Horne, CMP

Contributing Writers

Michael M. Bowden, Esq.
Meghan L. Hansen, J.D.
Chelsie Horne, CMP
David A. Logan
Jennifer Sullivan

**Director of Design Services /
Senior Art Director**

Ray S. Talamo

Senior Graphic Designer

Danielle B. Roy

Contributing Photographers

AP/Wide World Photos
Holly Bennett
John W. Corbett
Kim Fuller
Meghan L. Hansen, J.D.
iStockPhoto
David Silverman
Peter Silvia
Trish Tunney
Rupert Whiteley
Kathryn Whitney Lucey

Office of Alumni, Programs & Events

Executive Director

Chelsie Horne, CMP

Communications & Event Coordinator

Meghan L. Hansen, J.D.

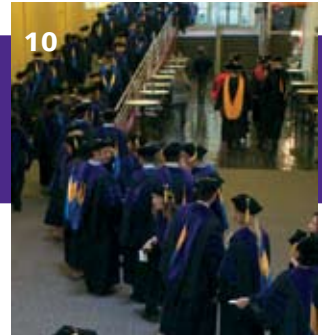
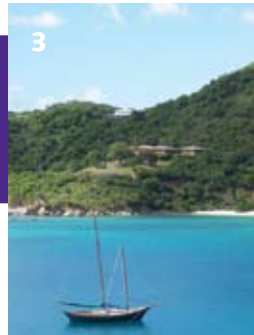
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Vice President, Nicole Dulude '06
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Immediate Past President, Joel Votolato '03

**Send all editorial inquiries,
letters, and address changes to:**

Roger Williams University
School of Law
Office of Alumni, Programs & Events
Ten Metacom Avenue
Bristol, RI 02809
Telephone: (401) 254-4659
Fax: (401) 254-4655
E-mail: lawalumni@rwu.edu
http://law.rwu.edu



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RWU Law Faculty Scores Big in Survey

RWU Law recently released the results of an empirical study comparing the scholarly productivity of the faculties at ABA- and AALS-accredited law schools.

The study tracked how many articles each faculty member published in the top law reviews, from 1993 (when RWU Law was founded) through the summer of 2008. This data was used to generate a per capita number for each school.

“The resulting rankings provide objective evidence that RWU Law has built a distinguished and productive faculty in a remarkably short time,” said Professor **Michael Yelnosky**, who spearheaded the study.

At right are the results for the top 13 schools in New England. For more information on the study, including details on the methodology, please visit <http://law.rwu.edu/facultyproductivity/>

Per Capita Productivity of Articles in Top Law Journals, 1993-2008 *New England Law Schools*

1. Yale University (18.46)
2. Harvard University (14.32)
3. Boston University (8.77)
- 4. Roger Williams University (6.27)**
5. Boston College (5.65)
6. University of Connecticut (4.21)
7. University of Maine (3.21)
8. Quinnipiac University (3.08)
9. Northeastern University (2.76)
10. New England School of Law (2.00)
11. Western New England College (1.73)
12. Suffolk University (1.38)
13. Vermont Law School (1.28)

Barron Tapped For 'Equal Justice Works' Board

Laurie Barron, executive director of RWU Law's Feinstein Institute for Legal Service, has been named to the National Advisory Committee for Equal Justice Works (EJW).

“Laurie has done outstanding work creating a robust and multi-faceted public service program at Roger Williams,” said Dean David A. Logan. “Her appointment to the EJW board will provide her with a national platform for her good works.”

For more than 20 years, EJW has collaborated with the nation's leading law schools, law firms, corporate legal departments and nonprofit organizations to provide training and skills that enable attorneys to provide effective representation to vulnerable populations. Its goal is to create a just society by mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice.

“Two EJW activities are especially important to RWU Law,” Barron noted. “EJW provides technical assistance to law schools that want to establish loan-forgiveness programs, and we have relied on EJW's expertise to set up our program, which goes online later this year.”

“Second,” she added, “EJW sponsors a major job fair that enables public-interest employers from all across the country to inform law students about their programs and interview candidates for summer or permanent jobs. RWU Law students take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity.”



Alumni in Paradise!

Beautiful tropical beaches and a laid-back atmosphere make a great backdrop for beginning a law career, four recent RWU Law grads are learning.

Nagesh Tammara '04 paved the way for **Melissa Malloy '07**, **Meetu Dhar '07** and **Mary Kibble '08** to reap the benefits of working hands-on in the Virgin Islands' court system. Tammara made his way to the Virgin Islands through a friend's recommendation and found the experience rewarding, to say the least.

"I witnessed several high-profile trials and have gained invaluable knowledge and skills as I move forward in my career as a litigator," he said.

So Tammara made it his personal mission to inform other Roger Williams students of the diverse and invaluable

opportunities that the Virgin Islands offer young lawyers. Malloy, for example, discovered her position through Nagesh's postings on the RWU Law Career Services website.

"I knew that I wanted to clerk because it would enable me to sharpen my analytic, research and writing skills before beginning my career as a trial or appellate attorney," Malloy explained.

Part of what drew her to the Virgin Islands is the fact that its legal system is very young – providing opportunities to research how a particular issue is dealt with across all U.S. jurisdictions. Also, Malloy enjoys the chance to help make new case law with each new opinion she drafts.

Dhar has been clerking in the



Superior Court for a year now, and says she received excellent mentoring from her judge.

"I knew he had a lot to offer me for my continued professional growth," Dhar said. "He has provided me with the guidance and knowledge I needed to transition from law school to a working environment."

Kibble began her clerkship at the Supreme Court in St. Croix in September.

Elorza Develops Latino Policy Institute



Supported by a 2008-09 Presidential Faculty Fellowship, associate professor of law **Jorge Elorza** has laid the groundwork for a Rhode Island Latino Policy Institute.

"The Institute will pull together resources from universities, businesses and community-based

organizations throughout the state to provide data-driven analysis of issues relating to Latinos in Rhode Island," he explained. "As the Latino population grows within the state, we hope to provide timely and reliable information upon which key policymakers may base their decisions."

Barely into his 30s, Elorza already has a résumé that reads like the script for a major motion picture.

Raised by Guatemalan-immigrant parents in inner-city Providence, Professor Elorza graduated from Classical High School, then spent an "unfocused" year at community college before finding his footing – and he hasn't stopped climbing since. After graduating summa cum laude from the University of Rhode Island, he snagged a lucrative job as an auditor for PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City, then left it to earn his J.D. at Harvard Law School.

Elorza could have chosen any number of career paths – but instead returned to his old neighborhood, determined to serve the community as an attorney with Rhode Island Legal Services. He explains that he has always felt a keen sense of responsibility to the community in Providence and the entire state.

"I want to contribute to the many advocates, business people and community members who are all working in different ways to improve our economy and make our communities more stable," he said. "That's where I get my passion."

New Professorships Appointed

Roger Williams University School of Law is pleased to announce the appointment of two new professorships.

Professor **Andrew Horwitz** will serve as RWU Law's **Distinguished Service Professor of Law** and Professor **Colleen Murphy** will serve as its **Distinguished Research Professor of Law**, both for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years.

Dean David A. Logan commented, "Professors Horwitz and Murphy are leaders both inside and outside of the School of Law, and are richly deserving of these Distinguished Professorships."

Professor Horwitz, a graduate of Haverford College and New York University School of Law (where he was a member of the Law Review and Order of the Coif), is a Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Programs. He is a respected teacher of both clinical and doctrinal courses, as well as a seasoned administrator who has chaired many important committees tackling a range of important matters over his 14 years on the RWU Law faculty.

He is also a respected voice on criminal justice and civil rights matters. Among Horwitz's awards are the Dorothy Lohmann Community Service Award (from the Rhode Island Bar Association), the Community Service Award (from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Providence Branch), and the Homeless Legal Clinic Award (from the Rhode Island Coalition

for the Homeless). An article that he co-authored on police involvement in plea-bargaining won the Lauren E. Jones, Esq., Writing Award from the Rhode Island Bar Association, and his scholarly articles have appeared in the primary law reviews of the University of Arizona, Pittsburgh, and Washington & Lee.

Professor Murphy graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Virginia and studied law at Yale Law School, where she was an editor of the Yale Law Journal and director of the Moot Court of Appeals. Upon graduation, she received a prestigious clerkship on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and then practiced with Ropes & Gray in Boston before entering the legal academy. She has taught at Emory University and Washington & Lee School of Law, and has been a tenured member of the Roger Williams Law faculty since 2000.

Murphy's research is focused on the right to a jury trial and remedies, and has been published in many leading journals, including the *Northwestern Law Review*, the *University of Texas Law Review*, the *University of Virginia Law Review* and the *Wisconsin Law Review*. She has received extensive recognition for her work, as evidenced by her many presentations at law schools around the country and her election to the American Law Institute, where she is an active member in the group drafting the



Andrew Horwitz, Distinguished Service Professor of Law



Colleen Murphy, Distinguished Research Professor of Law

Restatement of the Law of Restitution and Unjust Enrichment. Inside RWU Law, she conceived and implemented a "mini-workshop series," which has helped accelerate the scholarly success of a number of her colleagues.

Faculty Promotions

Nancy Cook
Professor of Law

Jorge Elorza
Associate Professor of Law

Jonathan Gutoff
Professor of Law

Timothy Kuhner
Associate Professor of Law

George Nnona
Professor of Law

Emily Sack
Professor of Law

David Zlotnick
Professor of Law

New Hires

Susan Farady
Director, Marine Affairs Institute

Suzanne Harrington-Steppen
*Pro Bono Collaborative
Project Coordinator*

Kathleen Miller
Professor of Legal Writing

Erin Wright
*Law Career Counselor
Office of Career Services*

Administrative Promotions

Laurie Barron
*Executive Director
Feinstein Institute for Legal Service*

Elizabeth Colt
Director of Legal Writing

Chelsie Horne
*Executive Director
Office of Alumni, Programs and Events*

Kathy Massa
Assistant Dean for Business Affairs



Helping Low-Income Families Avoid Utility Shut-Offs

As home-heating and electric costs skyrocket, RWU law students are partnering with students from the

Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University to provide advice and assistance to low-income families facing utility shut-offs this winter.

The clinic, based at Hasbro Children's Hospital, is part of a joint seminar offered to students at the

law school and the medical school, and taught by the Feinstein Institute's **Liz Tobin Tyler**, along with Dr. Patricia Flanagan of Brown Medical School.

"The seminar brings law and medical students together to better understand the connections between poverty, health and law and identifies ways that doctors and lawyers can partner to address the needs of low-income families in healthcare settings," Tobin Tyler said. "Students will be trained together about regulations governing utility shut-offs and potential payment-plan options for families who run into difficulties managing the costs."

Alum Receives Service Award

Armando Batastini '98 received the Rhode Island Bar Association (RIBA)'s 2008 Pro Bono Publico Award for his "outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged."

The award is designed to honor lawyers who have "enhanced the human dignity of others by improving or delivering volunteer legal services to our nation's poor and disadvantaged."

Batastini volunteered more than 100 hours with RIBA's Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP). He represented defendants in landlord/tenant disputes, breach of contract and collection disputes and, in one instance, helped a Desert Storm veteran whose possessions were disposed of by the owner of the treatment facility where he was residing.

Batastini, a U.S. Navy veteran, is of counsel to Nixon Peabody LLP in Providence, where he practices in the firm's business litigation and real estate groups. He is active in the community, serving as a board member of the Service Academy Business Network and a mentor for the City Year, a youth service organization. He was class valedictorian and editor of the *Roger Williams Law Review* while attending RWU Law.

"Armando was a leader before and during law school, so it was no surprise that he would make his mark in the legal profession after graduation," said Dean David A. Logan. "His commitment to serving the underserved reflects the values we instill in all Roger Williams Law graduates."





Hilary Swank to Portray RWU Law Student

RWU Law alum **Betty Anne Waters '98** will be played by actress **Hilary Swank** in an upcoming movie based on Waters' long quest to exonerate her brother, who was wrongly convicted of murder in 1983.

Waters, a high-school dropout and single mother, earned her high-school equivalency diploma and then put herself through college and law school while working as a waitress, all with the goal of helping her brother, Kenneth Waters, win his case on appeal. With research completed while still attending RWU Law, she recruited attorney Barry Scheck of the Innocence Project in New York to take her brother's case.

Scheck and Waters eventually convinced a Massachusetts court to approve DNA testing of blood samples in a box of evidence that Waters had found, casting doubt on the conviction. Her brother finally won his freedom in 2001, after 18 years of imprisonment. Before prosecutors decided whether to retry him, he died in an accident.

"From the moment I heard Betty Anne's incredible story on the evening news, it has been my consuming passion to make this film," said the film's producer and director, Tony Goldwyn, in a news release. "In Hilary Swank, we have the perfect embodiment of this brilliant, funny, deeply passionate and wonderfully self-deprecating woman."

According to *Variety*, the film will be financed and distributed by Omega Entertainment. The script was written by Pamela Gray, and shooting is scheduled to start in January 2009 on location in Michigan. It is unknown at this time whether Rhode Island locations will be used.

Students Go West for 'Lavender Law 2008'

This fall, five RWU Law students and Alliance members—**Ashley Ham Pong '10**, **Casey Lee '09**, **Damaris Tamm-Daniels '10**, **Phil Robinson '09**, and **Tom Anderhalt '09**—attended the 20th annual Lavender Law Conference in San Francisco. (See photo, back cover.)

The conference, sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) and the National Lesbian and Gay Law Foundation (NLGLF), is the largest of its kind, providing a forum in which "to hear some of the brightest legal minds discuss cutting-edge legal approaches to challenges faced by members of the LGBT community, and the attorneys who advocate for them," said 2L Tamm-Daniels, vice president of RWU Law's Alliance chapter.

The conference kicked off with a welcome reception sponsored by Nixon Peabody LLP, and included a large career fair.



"It was outstanding that there were over 150 major employers there to support diversity and help LGBT students find a job with their firm," said 3L Robinson.

The conference also afforded opportunities to network and learn more about the myriad issues affecting the LGBT community. RWU Law partially sponsored the trip.

Sea Grant Law Fellow Projects

Rhode Island Fluke Conservation Cooperative Sector Allocation Pilot Program

Kate Haber '10, is working to assess the legality of a proposed Fluke Sector Allocation Management Plan intended to protect and manage North Atlantic flounder populations.

Conducted under the auspices of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Division of Fish & Wildlife, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and the Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association, Haber's research will contribute to the development, establishment and management of a rights-based management solution to a well-documented regional "by-catch problem" (i.e., flounder caught in fisheries intended to catch another species).

The proposed solution, recommended by the Rhode Island Fluke Conservation Cooperative, is a community co-managed sector-allocation plan, which advocates transitioning away from quota management. The work product will serve as the basis for discussion for upcoming public hearings to discuss the implementation of the plan, proposed for January 1, 2009.

Defining Property Boundaries for Public Access

Amanda Argentieri '09, is working with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office to define legal property boundaries in the Town of Westerly. The legal issue concerns which of several conflicting documents indicates the appropriate boundary of certain rights-of-way that lead to a "beach."

Marine Law Symposium



Two Sea Grant Law Fellows, **Josh Barker** and **Gwen Hancock**, undertook the task of conducting legal research to support the hugely successful Marine Law Symposium held at RWU Law in October. Nearly 200 attendees participated as expert panelists explored means for achieving a viable marine

renewable-energy industry for the United States, with a focus on offshore wind, hydrokinetics (wave, current and tidal) and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC). Panels discussed a range of solutions addressing the nascent U.S. marine renewable-energy sector's current legal, economic and policy challenges, including:

- jurisdictional and permitting/licensing schemes;
- developing strategies for marine renewable energy regulation;
- financing and economic issues;
- renewable energy integration (engineering, market and policy);
- human-dimension issues;
- international perspectives on offshore energy projects; and
- offshore energy research and development funding.

Barker and Hancock's research will also provide the basis for both the Ocean SAMP (see box below) and a Symposium issue to be published by the *Roger Williams University Law Review*.

For more information please visit:
law.rwu.edu/sites/marineaffairs/symposia/seventhMLS.aspx

Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)

The SAMP Legal Program is part of an effort, led by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and the University of Rhode Island, to define use zones for Rhode Island's offshore waters through a research and planning process that integrates the best available science with open public input and involvement.

The Legal Program will analyze state and federal permitting processes for marine-renewable energy projects; contact members of the legal community, highlighting

legal and policy challenges and solutions for implementing renewable energy in Rhode Island; distribute legal findings to the Sea Grant Legal Program/RWU Law Marine Affairs Institute constituents, including various sectors of the marine renewable energy community; and provide legal research and analysis of ocean zoning to support the development of state policies and regulations for the SAMP.

For more information on the SAMP, please see:
<http://seagrants.gso.uri.edu/oceansamp>



Susan Farady

Designing a Framework for Ocean Management

RWU Law's Marine Affairs Institute Welcomes a New Director

By Jennifer N. Sullivan

In August, **Susan Farady** took the helm as director of RWU Law's Marine Affairs Institute as well as the Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program. Prior to joining Roger Williams, Farady served for nine years at the Ocean Conservancy in Portland, Maine, as its New England Regional Director. While in Maine, she was also an adjunct professor at the University of Maine School of Law and Bates College, teaching marine policy and law courses. A Colorado native, Farady received her B.A. in biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and her J.D. from Vermont Law School. Between degrees, she spent four years as a crew member sailing on tall ships, eventually earning the rank of Able Seaman with Sail Endorsement.

Amicus recently caught up with Farady to discuss her past experience and future focus as she settles into her new position, as well as current issues in marine affairs, and the law school's recent 7th Marine Law Symposium, "A Viable Marine Renewable Energy Industry: Solutions to Legal, Economic and Policy Challenges."

Q. So how did a Colorado native become interested in marine affairs?

Growing up in Colorado, the first interest I had in anything oceanic was when I was in fourth grade – I did a science project and I chose whales as my topic. After that, I thought whales were just the coolest things, and I decided I wanted to be a marine biologist. I watched all the Jacques Cousteau specials - and, as it turned out, marine affairs became an area I continued to focus on throughout high school, college and law school.

Q. You're an avid sailor—what was it like to be on the crew of a tall ship?

I guess one overriding thing I can say is that it makes your priorities really clear, because you have to depend on your shipmates in ways you don't have to in a typical job or living situation. There's this sense of responsibility and

trust that just has to happen among a crew. And discipline – you don't argue when the captain says it's time to strike the sails in the middle of the storm, there's just no room for that. Another thing that becomes very clear at sea is how powerful nature is. Being totally attuned to the winds and tides is a humbling and awe-inspiring lifestyle, and seeing the world from the deck of a ship is a very unique way to travel.

It just seems like the opportunities are just fantastic.

Q. Was that part of your attraction to RWU Law?

I think it's icing on the cake. What drew me to this program is that it's so unique – I don't know of another program like it. And there's such a need right now for an entity like the

'What's exciting, particularly for students, is – this is where law is being made. We're designing the framework for how we're going to manage oceans in the future.'

Q. Do you plan on doing more boating now that you're in Rhode Island?

I'd love to! I think that's one of the things that we're excited about in my family, moving down here.

Marine Affairs Institute. The oceans are the last frontier, where humans are interested in maximizing what we can do with the resources that are out there. But we need to do it in an organized manner – and that's where law comes in.

Q. What are some of the top marine affairs issues that you might be facing?

The Marine Affairs Institute recently presented a fabulous symposium [held October 23 and 24 at the School of Law] on one of the cutting-edge issues, which is renewable energy in the ocean. Energy issues are big for our country right now, and I don't think that's going to lessen in the future. And so we're looking toward the ocean – whether it's questions of opening up other parts of the ocean where we haven't drilled before for traditional oil and gas exploration, or looking at new technologies coming down the line.

The problem is that there is no policy or regulatory framework in which we can develop these essential energy sources, and decisions about ocean uses are made in a case-by-case, piecemeal manner.

I'll give an analogy: if you're a developer and you want to build a shopping mall, there is a system of zoning and management – a set of guidelines that says what's appropriate where. We don't have a comparable set of rules for the ocean; it's still sort of this free-for-all. And yet the development pressures aren't going away. So there is a need for a better system of “ocean zoning,” of more comprehensive ocean management.

Q. That sounds daunting...

It *is* daunting, but what makes it exciting – especially for somebody like me and particularly for students – is that this is where law is being made!

We're designing the framework for how we're going to manage oceans in the future.

Q. What do you see as the strengths of the Marine Affairs Institute?

There are many. One of the strongest ones, and what really attracted me to this position, is the institute's strong partnership with Rhode Island Sea Grant and the University of Rhode Island – because I think there's a really nice synergy between these three institutions and what they do. Each institution has a slightly different role in marine issues, but there's overlap.

'The oceans are the last frontier, where humans are interested in maximizing what we can do with the resources that are out there. But we need to do it in an organized manner – and that's where law comes in.'

There's that sweet spot in the Venn diagram that you learned about back in geometry, where they all overlap. There are great benefits from that synergy, particularly for students.

Q. What do you plan to focus on going forward in your job?

I won't be changing the direction of the institute. It's not broken; it doesn't need fixing. I'm going to be working with David [Zlotnick, RWU Law's associate dean for academic affairs] to

make sure that the curriculum we're offering is appropriate. I'm going to be working with the University of Rhode Island to see how we can best leverage that relationship in terms of our joint-degree students, who are taking classes at both institutions. We also have a big opportunity in that we're a part of Rhode Island's Ocean SAMP (Special Area Management Plan) process, which will create a zoning plan for Rhode Island waters to facilitate offshore renewable-energy development while protecting existing uses and sensitive habitats. *(See article on page 7.)*

Q. For a lot of people, the ideal career would be one where they get paid to do what they love doing – is it safe to say that this applies to you?

Oh, absolutely. I've wanted this kind of job for 20 years. It took me a while to get there, and it wasn't always a straight path. But if you're really interested and passionate about something, and committed in following it through, you find the opportunities.

Feinstein Institute Announces Loan Repayment Program

Dean David A. Logan and the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service are delighted to announce the creation of RWU Law's new **Public Interest Loan Repayment Assistance Program**. Thanks to the generosity of RWU President **Dr. Roy J. Nirschel** and **Jack and Sara McConnell**, we will award our first grants to graduates of the class of 2008. Applications will be available on our website after January 12, 2009.

We want to thank our alumni in public interest who paved the way for this important program. A decade of public-interest student leaders and alumni worked hard to make this program a reality. Without their commitment, dedication and advocacy, it would not exist. In recognition of these outstanding alumni efforts, Dean Logan has established an annual "Public Service Alumni Award" which will be presented at the annual Feinstein Reception.

There are also exciting changes happening on the national front. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, signed into law earlier this year, will create an Income-Based Repayment (IBR) program for all federally guaranteed student loans. This program will provide cancellation of debt for graduates who work for 10 years in public-interest jobs. Our program is intended to help alumni who don't work continuously in the public sector for ten years. Equal Justice Works has the most comprehensive website with updates, information, and guidance about the new law at www.equaljusticeworks.org/resource/ccraa

Laurie Barron
Executive Director
The Feinstein Institute for Legal Service



News from the Pro Bono Collaborative

New PBC Project

The law firm of Taylor Duane Barton & Gilman, LLP, will be working with the Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and RWU law students to assist parents of severely and profoundly disabled children turning 18 to establish legal guardianship of their children. RWU School of Law alum **Matt Plain '05** was instrumental in the firm's decision to join the PBC.

New Project Coordinator

The Pro Bono Collaborative has hired **Suzanne Harrington-Steppen** as its new project coordinator. Harrington-Steppen is a 1999 graduate of Boston College and a 2005 graduate of the City University of New York School of Law. She completed a two-year federal clerkship with the Honorable Kevin Nathaniel Fox, United States Magistrate Judge. During law school, she interned with the ACLU Women's Rights Project and MFY Legal Services. Prior to law school, Harrington-Steppen worked as a policy analyst for the California Food Policy Advocates.



SAVE THE DATE
The 2009 Public Interest Auction
Friday, February 27, 2009
Conley's Wharf, Providence Rhode Island
Last year's auction raised more than \$15,000 for the public interest summer stipend program.

David A. Logan

Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly (March 10, 2008)

Series reigns 'Supreme'

For the students at Roger Williams University School of Law and some members of the legal community, the Supreme Court is coming directly to them. “It is really interesting to talk to the people who are making history and observing history being made, and bringing it to us. Our students have always [been exposed to] state judges; what is unique [about Spring 2008’s ‘Supreme Semester’] is the focus on the U.S. Supreme Court. Anyone can go to Washington to watch arguments; very few can meet with the justices afterwards.”



Courtney M. Cahill

Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly (May 26, 2008)

Recent California gay marriage ruling could influence future decisions in R.I.

“It is not surprising that the definition of marriage hasn’t changed over time, given discrimination against homosexuals as a class. It seemed to be a way to get out of the definitional dilemma. The definitional argument for why prohibitions against same-sex marriage are constitutional is completely circular – that marriage is between a man and a woman, so it can’t be recognized. What is interesting is that the California Supreme Court said that we’re dealing with a class of people who have been discriminated against for centuries, so it is no surprise that they aren’t included in the definition of marriage. I thought that was a great point – that the dictionary is not going to speak to a class of people who’ve largely been invisible for a long time and that a definition can’t be based just on what the dictionary says.”



Jorge O. Elorza

Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly (April 14, 2008)

Latinos ponder their legal rights in store confrontation

“If he’s making the argument that this is his store, that it’s a private establishment and that discrimination laws apply only to public or state actors, that would just simply be wrong. That’s why we have public accommodation statutes. So to the extent that store owners throw their doors open to the public and invite the public in to do business, there is a baseline level of decency that our laws require. Preventing this kind of conduct is precisely why we have anti-discrimination laws on the books.”



David M. Zlotnick

Associated Press (June 27, 2008)

Prosecutors: No Celona in corruption case retrial

Federal prosecutors say they don’t plan to call a disgraced former state senator to the stand in a retrial of a Statehouse corruption case – an apparent admission that their star witness, who struggled to get his stories straight in two major corruption trials, may hurt more than he helps if he testifies again. “When you’re a prosecutor, you don’t want the trial to be about the sliminess of your star witness. They want to make this other case a case about documents.”

'The Hub of Public Interest Activity'

An Inside Look at RWU Law's Feinstein Institute

by Michael M. Bowden



There's probably no better way to get a handle on RWU Law's extensive network of public-service commitments than by chatting with Laurie Barron, who was recently named executive director of the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service.

Barron received her B.A. from Yale University, her J.D. from New York University School of Law, and her M.S.W. from New York University School of Social Work. Her previous work includes representing children at the Juvenile Rights Division of the Legal Aid Society in New York City; working as a public defender and team leader at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem; and clinical teaching in an interdisciplinary Prisoners and Families Clinic at Columbia Law School, in a school-based legal services clinic at Rutgers-Camden School of Law, and in a Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project at Boston College Law School.

Q. What exactly is the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service?

We're the hub of public-interest activity at RWU Law. Our mission is to create a culture of public service at the law school, inspiring our students to become lawyers who make a difference in their communities – whether by incorporating pro bono service into their private practice or serving as full-time public-interest lawyers.

Q. What are your some of the Institute's activities?

Our programs have been expanding exponentially over the past few years. There's the public-interest scholarship program, the public-interest summer stipend program, the school's public-service requirement, an array of public-interest and judicial externships, the Pro Bono Collaborative, a public-interest speaker series, public-interest job fairs at Equal Justice Works in D.C. and NYU School of Law, as well as several community partnerships including the Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, the Street Law Program and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, among others.

Q. Which of these programs would you characterize as Feinstein's most successful endeavor?

The Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) is our most innovative and successful program at the present time. It's now in its third

year, thanks to the generous, ongoing support of the School of Law and the Rhode Island Foundation (RIF).
(See sidebar.)

Q. Can you talk about RWU Law's public service requirement?

Sure. Under the leadership of Liz Tobin Tyler, our director of public service and community partnerships, and with the support of our faculty, RWU Law's curriculum is designed to inculcate the value of public service from the start – when students are just learning about professionalism and ethical responsibilities. Young lawyers need to learn how to juggle the demands of a busy law practice with their pro bono obligations.

By working alongside law-firm lawyers as law students do through the PBC, our students gain role models who can teach them to balance their pro bono obligations with fee-generating work. As a bonus, many of our students later become associates in these law firms, so they can make a seamless transition from juggling the demands of law students balancing pro bono work with their studies, to those of lawyers incorporating pro bono into their practice.

Q. And that program is expanding now?

Yes! Starting with next fall's entering class, our public-service requirement will be increased from 20 to 50 hours.

It's worth noting that we are one of only 18 law schools in the country that require students to do law-related public service that is neither for credit nor compensation in order to graduate. This expansion will enable our students to make a larger contribution to the tremendous need for legal service in our community. It's an exciting new development.

Q. What other new developments should we know about?

One very important addition is our new Loan Repayment Assistance Program, which will allow the law school to help our graduates defray debt by awarding grants to those who take jobs representing indigent clients, starting with the Class of 2008. This program was made possible through the generous support of Jack and Sara McConnell, matched by funding from RWU's president, Dr. Roy J. Nirschel. It will help our graduates pursue representation of indigent clients without the burden of staggering loan payments. (*See article, page 10.*)

Q. Can interested lawyers get involved in your programs?

Our programs would not exist without the active participation of so many members of the Rhode Island Bar. We have many lawyers and judges participating in our programs as externship supervisors and public-service supervisors. In addition, we have moved our annual Public Interest Auction to Providence this year in an effort to attract the participation of as many Rhode Island lawyers as possible. We're looking for any and all contributions of items that can be auctioned off to help us to raise money for students doing unpaid public interest legal work in the summer. The law school and University donate \$50,000 each year, and the law students annually raise about \$20,000.

I invite all of our *Amicus* readers, local lawyers and nearby alums to keep Friday night, February 27, open and join us at our next public interest auction!

THE PRO BONO COLLABORATIVE

The Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) is RWU Law's most innovative recent program in public-interest law. Now in its third year, the PBC recently received a \$60,000 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation (RIF) to support its continued work in 2009. *Amicus* spoke with the PBC's director, Eliza Vorenberg, a seasoned lawyer with both public-interest and private-sector experience, about the program and its work.



Eliza Vorenberg

Q. The Rhode Island Foundation's recent grant seems like a pretty strong vote of confidence for the PBC!

It does, and it brings the RIF's total investment in the PBC over the past four years to \$267,000. Thanks to that kind of generous support, the PBC has grown to include more than 40 attorneys from eight law firms, working with 19 different community-based organizations and more than 35 law students. This latest grant will undoubtedly contribute to our financial sustainability and continued growth going forward.

Q. What is the PBC's mission?

The PBC was created in response to a demonstrated need for more pro bono legal service in Rhode Island, and a recognition that lawyers who do not litigate, particularly those in large firms, were looking for ways to use their extensive legal skills to do pro bono work.

We conducted a pro bono survey back in 2005, and learned that many lawyers – especially those in large firms – didn't participate in pro bono work because they lacked the specialized skills and training necessary to do traditional pro bono cases, did not have the kind of support law students can provide, or lacked litigation experience. We also found that the bulk of pro bono work was being done by lawyers in small firms, by solo practitioners and by lawyers with more than 21 years in practice.

Based on these results, we created the PBC with the goal of marshaling the resources of the state's largest law firms and linking them with RWU's law students to serve the unmet legal needs of community-based organizations and their low-income clients.

Q. What sort of work does the PBC facilitate?

We just added a new legislative advocacy project aimed at alleviating the hardship faced by renters as a result of the foreclosure crisis. This project, partnering the firm of Motley Rice LLC with the Housing Action Coalition and several law students, will bring our total project count to 17. Our other projects include setting up nonprofit organizations, assisting parents of severely disabled children turning 18 as they explore guardianship options, representing immigrants who are seeking asylum, and educating homeless victims of domestic violence about their housing rights, among others.

In an effort to increase the number of lawyers doing pro bono in Rhode Island, the PBC strives to complement the good work of the Rhode Island Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP) by targeting law-firm attorneys who do not – and because of their particular skills and practice area, likely won't – participate in the VLP. The law firms that have participated in the PBC are Adler Pollock & Sheehan PC; Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP; Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP; Hinckley Allen Snyder LLP; Motley Rice LLC; Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP; Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc., and Taylor Duane Barton & Gilman LLP.



Lecture 1
 May 10, 2000
 Law and Contemporary Society
 Today's Agenda
 Presentation in class
 Led by Roger Williams
 University, San Francisco
 Graduate
 (Rob Humin)

Mister Rob Humin
 Roger Williams University

Historical Case: Death of Michael
 Schwab - 1961 - Phoenix Blackpanther
 - Charged with First Degree Murder
 (Felony Murder)

Trial
 and potentially heard in a trial
 with attorney Ted Star. Three
 verdicts - Direct Examination

The Trial
 - only 5*
 (the rest)



HILL

Taking It To the Streets

RWU Law and the ‘Street Law’ Initiative

by Michael M. Bowden

Echoing through the high-ceilinged corridors of Providence’s Hope High School, the voices of a dozen teenagers can be heard animatedly enacting a mock murder trial.

The “prosecutor,” wearing baggy jeans and an oversized tee-shirt, is delivering a well-reasoned – if somewhat overdramatic – opening statement, pounding away repeatedly at his key arguments.

“Okay, okay, we get the point!” giggles one student juror.

“You watch too much TV,” deadpans another.

The students are having fun with their assignment – but the underlying discussion is serious and focused. And leading that discussion is Robert Humm ’08 (a 3L when this story was reported; now an associate with Adler Pollock & Sheehan in Providence).

“The jury is the real judge – that’s who you’re arguing to,” Humm reminds the students as the class proceeds. “This is your chance to give the jury your version of the facts, and you need to give them something to hold onto, something to get them thinking on your side of the case.”

The facts concern a fictional Hope High School basketball star who died of a drug overdose on the night of a big game.

A fellow student stands accused of selling him a prescription drug that caused rapid heartbeat leading to heart failure. The fact sheet is laced with twists and turns holding legal hurdles and opportunities for both sides.

Working in tandem with veteran Hope High School teacher Kevin Bartels, Humm provides the students with Rhode Island laws governing murder and controlled substances, describes the standard of “guilty beyond a reasonable doubt,” and divides the class into a prosecution team and a defense team. As he guides the students step-by-step through the criminal trial process, they bring a unique and compelling viewpoint to the case.

“I’ve played a lot of basketball,” one student muses. “And something’s amiss here...” He then describes his physical experience of warming up while playing; other students talk frankly about the drugs in question.

Empowerment Through Education

Bartels has been teaching his “Law in Contemporary Society” course to high-performing juniors and seniors at Hope for three years now, largely using a curriculum designed by Street Law, Inc.

Street Law, Inc. – established in 1972, when Georgetown University Law Center began sending students out to teach practical law courses in D.C. public schools – is an international nonprofit organization “dedicated to providing practical, participatory education about law, democracy, and human rights,” and empowering people “to transform democratic ideals into citizen action.”

The organization’s signature publication is the high-school textbook, *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law*, now in its seventh edition. It offers compelling case studies and clear, concise descriptions of criminal law, torts, consumer and housing law, family law and constitutional law. Topics include such discussions as: “What To Do If You Are Arrested,” “Actions to Take If Your Rights Are Violated,” “What Should Be Done About Racial Profiling?,” “Your Rights As a Consumer,” and “Why Is It Important To Write a Will?”

“It helps the kids to gain an understanding of the law from a better perspective than what they usually get,” Bartels added, noting that many of these students are growing up in neighborhoods where law and law enforcement are often seen as the enemy.

RWU Law initiated its Street Law program in 2002, in partnership with John Mattson, the law-related education coordinator for the State of Rhode Island.

“Street Law helps our law students translate what they are learning in the classroom to a lay audience in the community,” said Liz Tobin Tyler, director of public service and community partnerships at the Feinstein Institute. “High school students love having law students as teachers and really engage with Street Law’s interactive curriculum.”

Law students enjoy it too; at any given time, around 15 participate in the Street Law program. This year, Suzanne Harrington-Steppen, who also serves as project coordinator for the Pro Bono Collaborative, coordinates the program and is providing training to law students.

RWU Law professor Jon Shelburne also assists by giving students feedback on the mock-lessons they present before going into classrooms.

“I enjoy talking about trial work,” said Humm, who previously did an externship with the attorney general’s office as well working at a private law firm. “I also did a lot of student teaching in college; if I hadn’t gone to law school I probably would have become a teacher. So when I heard about the Street Law program it sounded like a fun way to get my public-interest credit.”

“Rob’s really well prepared, right up there with the other Roger Williams Law students who’ve come before him,” Bartels said. “He’s very respectful of the students and he really listens to them, and they respect and listen to him in return.”

A ‘Pipeline Initiative’

In late 2006, the RWU Law was selected as one of just ten law schools nationwide to participate in the Diversity Pipeline Initiative, a Street Law program funded by the Law School Admissions Council. The initiative supports the law school in its efforts to incorporate activities and mentoring for young people of color, and encourage them to consider legal careers.

Such efforts are part of RWU Law’s ongoing strategy of recruiting future law students from a variety of backgrounds, according to Lorraine Lalli, assistant dean of students.

As part of the pipeline initiative, high school students who are involved with the Street Law program are invited to the School of Law for a half-day visit to learn about law school and what it takes to prepare for a legal career.

“Pipeline initiatives provide a way of reaching out to students as early as elementary or middle school,” Lalli explained.



'Street Smarts'

by Michael M. Bowden



Richard W. Rose

Assistant U.S. Attorney and RWU Law adjunct professor Richard W. Rose spoke to students and faculty about his ongoing efforts to combat gang violence in Rhode Island through a dramatic multimedia lecture he has dubbed "Street Smarts."

Since 2006, Rose has addressed some 7,000 students in more than 50 schools and a dozen church youth groups. His aim is to debunk the image of gang life as lucrative and romantic, while introducing alternative role models – successful lawyers, doctors and college professors who grew up in poor neighborhoods, but got out and went on to lead productive lives.

"The goal is to educate and challenge young people to make better choices," Rose said.

Rose himself is a case in point. Having grown up fatherless in South Providence, spent five years in an orphanage and dropped out of Central High School to join the Marines, he later earned degrees from the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and Northeastern University School of Law.

Rose begins his Street Smarts lecture with a grim "Roll Call" of names scrolling down the screen behind him to the sound of a New Orleans funeral march; a list of nearly 150 men, women and children – all of them under 30, the youngest 12 – who have been killed by gang-related violence in Providence since 1994.

"Many of the students and teachers recognize the names as former students, relatives and neighbors," Rose said.

"Few believe they died for a good reason. Some died over drugs, or for the color red (the Bloods), or blue (the Crips), or for 'Pleasant Street,' or for a place called 'Clown Town,' or for decades-old family feuds, or for countries they had never been to (Laos Pride)."

Rose talks with kids about the reasons they join gangs: lack of parental oversight, a need to belong, search for respect, a lack of male role models, drug feuds and competition, scant employment opportunities – and the influence of rap music.

"I am convinced that the gangster-rap genre of hip-hop is contributing to urban violence," said Rose, who uses a lot of music in Street Smarts.

"I play mostly rap, some of it positive, some of it illustrative of urban life, and some of it garbage," Rose said. "I try to highlight the hypocrisy of some of the lyrics or the self-destructive, fatalistic nature of the message. However, it is impossible to take on the music itself because it has infiltrated the larger culture. They all want to imitate the pop culture, and they use it to kill themselves."

For this, Rose asserts, Corporate America bears a large part of the blame – as does rap's "number one thug," Shawn Carter, a/k/a Jay-Z.

With his music empire, clothing line, endorsement deals and other business interests, Jay-Z has an estimated net worth of more than \$500 million. But Rose says the rapper exposes his "thug mentality" with lines such as, "*Ya'll respect the one who got shot, I respect the shooter!*"

"When a person of Jay-Z's stature says he 'respects the shooter,' he's fueling the fire and empowering the thugs," Rose argued. "At the same time, he's demeaning the victims. And when Budweiser, Hewlett-Packard, Macy's, Reebok, the NFL, and the NBA partner with him, they lend implied approval and thus share responsibility."

Rose, however, believes that his presentations can help change that dynamic, one youth at a time.

"I am convinced that the Street Smarts dialogue has had a positive influence," he said. "When students ask me if I am a sellout, I tell them that I condemn the shooter and will seek justice for the victims and for my community. Jay-Z and his corporate partners will have to answer for themselves."

Purging a Painful Past

RWU Law Assists the Liberian Truth & Reconciliation Commission

by Michael M. Bowden

On a sunny spring afternoon, the Trinity United Methodist Church on Broad Street – a hub for Providence’s sizeable Liberian refugee community – feels like an oasis of peace in this tough, busy neighborhood. Women chat in the church kitchen, children play an impromptu game of tag in the community room, and men – some in casual western shirts and pants, others wearing bright African robes – converse quietly in small groups.

The peaceful atmosphere, however, belies the real reason for this gathering. All of these people are survivors of Liberia’s recent civil war – a period of national upheaval that officially spans the period from 1989 to 1997, though the violence actually began in 1979 and continued through 2003. They have come to talk about experiences of a nearly inconceivable horror and brutality.

“What happened there is beyond imagination,” said Ken Rampino ’08. “Emotionally, it’s incredibly challenging just to sit and listen to these stories.”

Rampino, a RWU Law public-interest scholar who graduated in May, spent much of his final semester taking survivor statements for the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), a Liberian government initiative established in 2005 to investigate and report on the “gross human rights violations” and atrocities that occurred in Liberia during the conflict.

“Liberia created the TRC to come to terms with the past in order to restore peace and reconciliation in Liberia,” explained law professor David Zlotnick, RWU Law’s associate dean for academic affairs. “The survivors’ statements are intended to help the country bring perpetrators to justice, and heal the wounds caused by decades of unrest.”

“It’s a very unique opportunity for our students,” added Liz Tobin Tyler, RWU Law’s director of public service and community partnerships. “It is very exciting to be part of an international human rights project that involves such close collaboration between the law school, the Liberian community, Advocates for Human Rights and pro bono attorneys from major law firms.”

Taking Statements

Rampino was one of 10 RWU Law students who served as statement-takers on the project, working with attorneys from Dechert in Boston, Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge in Providence and DLA Piper in Boston. Dechert and Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge participated in the project through the law school’s Pro Bono Collaborative, which partners law firms, law students and community-based organizations on pro bono projects. Advocates for Human Rights, the group organizing the statement-taking project in the U.S., trained participating lawyers and law students.



“It was a comprehensive training program,” Rampino said. “We covered Liberian history and culture as well as its civil war period and, of course, techniques for statement-taking.”

The TRC is gathering statements throughout the Liberian diaspora in the U.S., as well as the U.K. and West Africa. But Rhode Island has particular prominence, as its 15,000-strong Liberian community is the largest per capita Liberian population in the country.

For Rampino – who spent three years living in West Africa, first as a Peace Corp volunteer in Mali, and then on a fellowship with Africare in Guinea – his role in the TRC’s work was a natural fit.

“My experiences in Africa gave me a genuine interest in this project,” he said. “I always knew there was a large Liberian community in Rhode Island, but I never anticipated I would connect into it through RWU Law. It’s wonderful to see law students getting involved like this in an entirely different community and culture – it’s a great thing, and very consistent with the Feinstein Institute’s mission.”

The statement process began last February and continued through August. Statement-takers signed confidentiality oaths, and participants were given the option to testify anonymously (with no identifying information), confidentially (identity to be withheld for 20 years), or publicly.

Mator Kpangbai, president of the Liberian Community Association of Rhode Island, admits that the process was difficult for many area Liberians, who were loathe to dredge up memories of a painful time.

“People don’t want to relive it,” Kpangbai said. “But in my opinion, we have to tell our stories so that our people and our country can move forward.”

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Urging local Liberians to participate last spring, Kpangbai stated: “After nearly two decades of devastating civil war that claimed the lives of more than 200,000 and displaced more than half a million Liberians, both internally and externally, we are pleading with our fellow Liberians to come out in numbers to support the mission of the TRC; that is, to investigate the root causes of our conflict, violations and abuses that occurred and to set the stage for some measure of justice and reconciliation so desperately needed in Liberia.”

The memories are harsh indeed. The TRC website (www.trcofliberia.org) is rife with stories of villagers being raped and massacred, together with many other atrocities. Eleanor Gaye, owner of Elea’s Restaurant in Providence, lost three close family members to the conflict, and told the



Liz Tobin Tyler of RWU Law’s Feinstein Institute greets the Reverend Pajibo Kyne, Associate Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in South Providence.

Providence Journal in April that she considered the TRC effort a “waste of energy,” explaining that “I had gotten over the whole thing and I want to let it go.” She gave a statement anyway, telling the commission “it is not necessary to dig up old wounds.”

Kpangbai notes, however, that the TRC looks forward as well as back. He said the commission actively seeks Liberians’ opinions on the future of their homeland, on whether the atrocities should be prosecuted, and on possible government reforms and specific approaches to reconciliation.

After a slow start, the number of Liberians seeking to give statements “picked up through word-of-mouth,” said Tobin Tyler, adding that statement-takers offered to meet with survivors “virtually anytime, anywhere. We wanted to make it as easy as possible for people.”

During a visit to Providence last spring, Liberian President Dr. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said her country has a long way to go before it fully recovers from decades of civil war and mismanagement, but noted that initiatives such as the TRC are essential components in putting Liberia and Africa as a whole “on an irreversible path toward improving its competitiveness [and] consolidating its peace and its progress.”

A summary presentation on RWU Law’s involvement in the TRC project was held in early November as *Amicus* went to press.



“After nearly two decades of devastating civil war that claimed the lives of more than 200,000 and displaced more than half a million Liberians, both internally and externally, we are pleading with our fellow Liberians to come out in numbers to support the mission of the TRC; that is, to investigate the root causes of our conflict, violations and abuses that occurred and to set the stage for some measure of justice and reconciliation so desperately needed in Liberia.”

– Mator Kpangbai
President of the Liberian Community Association of Rhode Island

Man On a Mission

Akin Adepaju '07 Takes On the Death Penalty

by Michael M. Bowden

Less than two years out of law school, Akin Adepaju '07 is already a fellow with the Fair Trial Initiative in Durham, N.C., directly confronting the crisis of incompetent trial counsel for indigent defendants facing the death penalty.

“While the hours are long and the cases are emotionally taxing, the fight is noble and the reward is incredible,” Akin said. In fact, his very first case with the Initiative rescued a client from death row.

Amicus recently spoke with Akin about his journey in the law.

Q. How did your interest in criminal justice issues evolve? Where does your passion come from?

I suppose it's my personality. I mean, I'm a relatively calm person but I've always had a very short fuse for unfairness. Having lived and traveled from Nigeria to Queens to Baltimore, I've always been fascinated by issues of criminal justice and police presence – and their general unfairness to disadvantaged people. Those experiences, including the high-profile case of a cop shooting an unarmed man from Senegal in New York, lit a fire inside me.

Q. Your time at RWU Law was very focused: moot court competitions, coaching, serving on symposium panels, acting as student attorney in the Criminal Defense Clinic. Is it fair to say you were already a “man on a mission” when you arrived here?

I think you hit the proverbial nail right on the head. I came with the mission of being the best advocate I could become, because that's what people need. And by people, I mean those who are most deserving – the poor, the uneducated, folks who are down and out, who just need a break, and those that are often discriminated against. They need the best lawyers – a lawyer that can help them transform their lives. Rich people don't need that. They just need their problems resolved.

Q. I'm not sure I follow...

Check this out, if you get arrested for DUI, you hire me to deal with it so you can get your life back to normal, right? But if a poor person gets arrested for DUI, and I only deal with that and let them get back to their normal life, it's no good. Why? Because their normal life, excuse my directness, sucks – and often puts them in a position to re-offend and/or be re-arrested. So the situation demands me to be better, to deal with their underlying problems as best as I can, as a lawyer.

So I guess you could say, I came to law school not knowing precisely what I'd be doing, but I knew that it would have to involve public service, helping people. And once I got to RWU Law, my interest in criminal justice and constitutional issues began to strengthen.

Q. When did you begin specifically looking at issues involving sentencing inequity and the death penalty?

There was a sentencing symposium held at the law school and conducted by Professor Zlotnick a few years ago, after the Supreme Court's ruling in *Booker* [*U.S. v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005)], holding that the Sixth Amendment requires a jury to decide, beyond a reasonable doubt, any fact that increases the sentence of a defendant in a federal criminal case beyond the high end of the range provided by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines].

That symposium exposed me to many different views on the sentencing issues in our country, and I started reading a lot more about sentencing procedures – on their fairness, constitutionality and such like. This led to my writing a law journal article – under Professor Ritchie's supervision – about the unconstitutionality of sentencing juveniles to life without parole, particularly after the Supreme Court's decision in *Roper v. Simmons* [543 U.S. 551 (2005)], holding it unconstitutional to impose capital punishment for crimes committed while under the age of 18. See Adepaju's Note, “Juvenile Death Sentence Lives On ... Ever After *Roper v. Simmons*,” *Southern New England Roundtable Symposium Law Journal*, Volume 2, 2007, 259.]

Q. What other roles did RWU Law play in your development?

Thanks to RWU Law's public-service requirements and its clinics, many law students are changing their communities by providing much-needed legal services to disadvantaged clients. I'm impressed by the number of student organizations offering opportunities to fulfill student public-interest commitments. RWU Law has a culture in which public-interest work is supported and validated.

For me, a good example occurred when [Feinstein Legal Institute executive director] Laurie Barron brought Christian Lamar, a death penalty lawyer from the Georgia Capital Defender in Atlanta, to RWU as a speaker. I had a chance to meet him, and we've stayed in touch – he's now a mentor/friend who's there to assist me on any questions I have. It was the folks at Feinstein, specifically Laurie, who really helped foster this relationship. It's these sorts of opportunities that have led to an ever-expanding public-service focus at the law school.

Q. Did you feel well prepared for your position at the Fair Trial Initiative?

As prepared as one can be without actually doing the work itself. Representing folks in the fights of their lives – in these cases, literally, a fight for their lives – is scary and not an

easy burden to shoulder. Unlike many client-attorney relationships, this work is personal and very intimate. You really learn about the human spirit.

Q. Can you give an example?

Well, I had a case where even my client's own family didn't want to help him. Now for once, let's not focus on the easy approach of, "Wow, then he must have done something really horrible." Instead start by asking, "If his family wants him dead, how much love did they have for him to start with?" Inevitably, you start asking yourself questions like, "What could I ever do to make my own family want me dead?" Yet most of us are lucky enough to know that our families

'It is an incredible opportunity to learn from senior attorneys how to practice law at the very highest level. It doesn't get any more serious than this – you screw up, your client gets killed.'

– Akin Adepaju '07

wouldn't want us killed under any circumstance. No amount of law school can prepare you to answer that kind of question.

Q. Do you still feel that your career choice was the right one?

Looking back, I definitely made the right move, both professionally and personally. I'm currently working as a

capital-defense attorney – my first job out of law school! Many people would give their dominant arm to be in this position. It is an incredible opportunity to learn from senior attorneys how to practice law at the very highest level. It doesn't get any more serious than this – you screw up, your client gets killed. Most of us would say it's serious enough if your clients lose their home, custody of their child or their retirement savings.

But I consider what I do to be God's work and I am honored to be doing it. My experiences at RWU – the numerous community service initiatives I participated in, moot court, trial team and Criminal Defense Clinic – helped a lot. They helped me to bring a practical

wisdom, passion, and a fair mastery of substantive criminal law and evidence to bear on the many unprecedented challenges I have faced in this job.

On a personal level, this work has made me a better person. Learning to exercise sound judgment, showing mercy, and really understanding that we shouldn't be so self-righteous and unforgiving, has transformed my life and relationships.

SCHOOL OF LAW



Akin Adepaju '07

A Culture of Service

A Visit with RWU Law's Public Interest Alums

Compiled by Meghan Hansen, J.D.

Through its Feinstein Legal Institute, RWU Law has long provided a springboard for aspiring lawyers with an interest in public service.

"The Feinstein Institute maintains strong relationships with our public-interest alumni," said Laurie Barron, executive director of RWU Law's Feinstein Institute. "The first RWU Law graduate to earn a position at any given public-interest organization will often continue to mentor our current students and even serve as a gateway through which our future graduates can embark on a fulfilling career in public-interest law."

Here's your chance to meet a few recent graduates whose work vividly illustrates that RWU Law's commitment to public service isn't a mere slogan – it's an integral part of the school's culture.

Lauren Graham '07

As one of RWU Law's first Feinstein Institute Public Interest Scholars, Lauren joined South Coastal Counties Legal Services (SCCLS) to "address the myriad issues facing the immigrant community in southeastern Massachusetts."

Based in Cape Cod, Mass., SCCLS provides legal services to the poor in areas of benefits, family, housing, unemployment, disability, elder law, and immigration issues. Lauren assists immigrant victims of serious domestic violence or other violent crimes apply for relief under the Violence Against Women Act. Lauren says working with the immigrant community is often "an uphill battle during this intense political and often racist anti-immigrant climate."

"There is never a typical work day at SCCLS," Lauren added. "On any given day I could be filing a complaint against a popular Cape Cod restaurant because the owner refuses to pay his immigrant employees; pleading with the court to let a deported mother retain custody of her children; or requesting that the immigration judge postpone deporting an adolescent immigrant so that she can testify as the victim in a criminal trial."

Michael Gipstein '08

Before law school, Public Interest Scholar Michael Gipstein was a policy advocate for health care, violence prevention, and campaign finance issues in Boston and Washington, D.C. While Michael's classmates from Brown University were starting dot-coms, Michael used his public policy degree to help start a small dot-org, with the mission of uniting different communities to advocate for effective violence prevention policies. Inspired by his mediation-clinic experiences and public-interest externship with the Providence Law Department during law school, Michael plans to use his law degree to find entrepreneurial solutions that link community-controlled renewable power and affordable housing.

Tim Gumkowski '06

As a law clerk in the staff attorney's office of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York City, Tim Gumkowski was buoyed by the conviction that his efforts were vital not only to the daily functioning of

the court, but to the integrity of the legal system itself.

"Many of the cases I worked on involved pro se litigants who were not represented by counsel, often due to a lack of financial resources," Tim said. "Our legal system is designed to provide each litigant an opportunity to present their claims and to have those claims adjudicated based on the facts and the law, regardless of the economic status of the person bringing the claims or defending against claims being brought against them."

Now Tim has taken his work to the next level, as an attorney with Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS), a public-defense office that represents some 18,000 people each year.

Tim said, "I enjoy working on the front lines of the criminal justice system, and fulfilling what I consider to be a vital and honorable role in maintaining the integrity of our legal system."

Erin Steadman '06

Erin Steadman represents indigent criminal defendants – persons accused of such serious felonies as armed robbery, firearm possession, arson, rape and drug trafficking – in the Superior Court

' My job pushes me to become an intellectually, emotionally and ethically stronger person.'

*- Erin Steadman '06
Committee for Public
Counsel Services*

practice of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) in Boston.

“As one might imagine, many of my clients are tough to work with,” Erin admitted. “Most of them suffer from drug and alcohol addiction or untreated mental health problems; many of them have behavioral problems; and all of them have that poverty problem.”

Why represent such people?

“People ask me that all the time,” Erin said. “The answer is obvious to me: belief in due process, justice and equal rights for marginalized members of society. A better question is, why do I like my job? I enjoy being in court and getting much-needed social services for my clients that change their lives.”

Deb Conry '08

As a law student, Deb Conry '08 completed a judicial externship in the chambers of Judge William E. Smith of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

“I gained valuable exposure to the daily operations of the federal courts,” Deb said.

The experience inspired her to begin her legal career by clerking – an ambition she is now fulfilling as a law clerk for the Honorable Arthur J. Tarnow of the United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, a jurist known for his deep public-interest commitments.

Armed with 10 years of experience in education and policy work for the GLBT community prior to law school, and a summer internship at the Southern Poverty Law Center, Deb was well prepared for a public-interest career.

Nina Sá '08

A talented legal scholar, fluent in Portuguese and conversant in Spanish, Nina Sá was a natural selection as a Bart J. Gordon Fellow of the Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts in Worcester. Her work there focuses on immigration issues, both individual and systemic, as well as outreach to underserved communities in southern Worcester County.

While at Roger Williams, she was a member of the Honors Program, and participated in the Pro Bono Collaborative, developing and presenting educational workshops in



A gathering of Public Interest scholars, past and present: from left, Michael Gipstein '08, Ken Rampino '08 (see article, p. 18) and daughter Maisie, Anina Klein '09, Kim Ahern '09, Greg Rosenfield '11, Lauren Graham '07, Joanna Arkema '07.

the areas of immigration, housing and benefits law to low-income parents. She also served as a student attorney in the Roger Williams University Criminal Defense Clinic. Nina recently completed internships at Catholic Social Services of Fall River's Immigration Law, Education and Advocacy Project and the International Institute of Rhode Island, where she prepared asylum applications and self-petitions under the Violence Against Women Act, and assisted attorneys in representing clients in removal proceedings.

“The immigration issue is not a political debate; it's a conversation about human beings.”

*- Lauren Graham '07
South Coastal Counties
Legal Services*

“I just completed my first year as a trial attorney with the public defender division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, based at the Pittsfield District Court in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. I represent indigent people charged with felonies and misdemeanors, from arraignment through trial, working with staff investigators and social workers.”

*- Joanna Arkema '07
Public Interest Scholar*

Dedication and Commitment

Meet RWU Law's Current Crop of Public Interest Scholars

Compiled by Meghan Hansen, J.D.

RWU Law's Public Interest Scholarship Program is currently in its fifth year and going strong. Each year, a few students – chosen for their dedication and commitment to social justice – are offered half-tuition scholarships for each year of law school, as well as a guarantee of funding for public-interest work each summer.

"We attract extraordinary students from all over the country who devote their law school careers to public-interest work, said Laurie Barron, executive director of the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service.

Below, *Amicus* highlights the work of RWU Law's current Public Interest Scholars – as well as some students who, while not "official" Public Interest Scholars, are nonetheless making their mark in that arena.

"It is not only the Public Interest Scholars who engage in groundbreaking public interest work," Baron explains. "Statistically speaking, the percentage of RWU Law students entering public-interest work after graduation is nearly double the national average."

Kim Ahern '09

Kim Ahern is nothing if not busy. Chosen as editor-in-chief of the 2008-2009 *Roger Williams Law Review*, she was also elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention from Rhode Island's 1st Congressional District, pledged to Barack Obama. She is a contributor to the popular blog "Rhode Island's Future," and a board member of the Rhode Island Young Democrats and the World Affairs

Council of Rhode Island. For the past year, she served as the Rhode Island state coordinator of Students for Barack Obama.

A 2006 graduate of Providence College, Kim is currently in her third year at RWU Law, where she is a Public Interest Scholar and also involved in the Alliance for LGBT Students.

Anina Klein '09

Anina Klein recently received a Bergstrom Child Welfare Law Fellowship, a summer program of the University of Michigan School of Law, committed to stimulating the best and brightest law students to pursue careers in child-welfare law. As part of the fellowship, she interned with the office of the Court-Appointed Special Advocate in Rhode Island Family Court.

In the summer of 2007, Anina served as part of the Harvard Legal Services Center Family Law Clinical Fellowship. Having completed her undergraduate work at Boston College and earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania, she worked as coordinator of Youth & Family Services at the Red Hook Community Justice Center.

This fall, Anina is representing clients in family court through the Community Justice and Legal Assistance Clinic.

Jane Duket '10

Jane Duket recently completed an internship with the Rhode Island Family Court in Providence, where she worked on staff attorneys' caseloads by

interviewing the state social workers assigned to each case.

A Boston native, Jane worked from 2002 until 2004 at the St. Ambrose Family Shelter in Dorchester, Mass., as a child advocate, ensuring that children living in the shelter had smooth transitions to school and other services.

From 2005 until she came to RWU, Jane worked with the Chicago non-profit organization, "KaBOOM!" as a senior project manager, traveling the country to organize large-scale playground builds. Working with community members, children, parents, teachers and community organizations to build playgrounds in more than 50 low-income communities, nationwide, Jane mobilized hundreds of volunteers to create "places of growth" for underprivileged children and their communities.

Lynn Laweryson '11

Originally from Bingham, Maine, and an alumna of Maine Youth Leadership, Lynn was involved in many community service projects during her undergraduate career – including HIV/AIDS awareness, drug and alcohol recovery, homeless assistance and community revitalization.

Before graduating magna cum laude from Florida Atlantic University, Lynn interned in Fort Lauderdale as a case manager with a diversion program for juvenile delinquents while maintaining a full-time position at a law office. Also in Fort Lauderdale, Lynn established an annual holiday party, co-sponsored by the Salvation Army, for area residents transitioning from homelessness.

Jayson Cooley '11

Prior to attending RWU Law, Jayson spent three years as a public-affairs associate for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) in Boston. A non-profit legal organization, GLAD is dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression.

Jayson has also served as a finance intern with an Indiana gubernatorial campaign and as a legislative intern with the Indiana House of Representatives. A Boston native, Jayson graduated from Indiana University, Indianapolis, with a degree in political science.

Greg Rosenfeld '11

Over the years, Greg Rosenfeld has explored his interest in public defense through several internships: first working for Judge Evelyn Braun in the criminal division of the Queens Supreme Court, then as an investigative intern for the Colorado Public Defender's Office, and later as an investigator for the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Defense Division.

After graduating from college, Greg returned to Legal Aid, working full time as an investigator for the Queens Criminal Defense Division. In that capacity, he conducted misdemeanor and felony investigations for trial attorneys by interviewing witnesses, testifying at trial as an expert witness, memorializing interviews as evidence and recreating, canvassing and photographing crime scenes.

"I could not be more proud of my chance to serve the less-fortunate in Philadelphia. It was great to be able to help solve benefits problems on behalf of those who could not have done it for themselves. It was a wonderful opportunity."

- Rod Alcidonis '09, spent the summer in an Equal Justice Works-sponsored position with Philadelphia Community Legal Services.



Amy Peltier '09

Amy Peltier '09

When Amy Peltier accepted a summer internship at an Alaskan public defender's office, she had to hit the ground running.

By the end of her first afternoon, she had interviewed several juvenile clients in the local youth-detention facility, and made a court appearance with the attorney with whom she would spend most of her internship hours. Within a week, she was appearing before a judge on her own for juvenile arraignments. By the end of the summer, she had her own case load, covering all aspects of juvenile court litigation – pre-trial conferences, reviewing evidence, changes of plea, detention reviews and filing motions to compel discovery and suppress evidence.

"My background in social work proved extremely useful with the difficult task of balancing the interests of the state and parents or guardians, while remaining a zealous advocate for the interests of my young clients," Amy said.

She also learned a lot watching her mentor, who balanced humor, integrity and a sincere concern for his clients and their cases.

"I saw firsthand the importance of equal access to legal representation and gained the practical skills necessary to be a passionate advocate," Amy said.

Catherine Lemery '09

Catherine spent the summer as a legal intern with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative in Ghana, researching human-rights law to help facilitate the passage of legislation on such vital topics as underage marriage, child trafficking, child labor, domestic violence, traditional practices that conflict with international human-rights norms, due-process, counter-terrorism and freedom of information.

"I dealt with my own clients and conducted my own fact-finding missions on human rights issues," Catherine noted. "Although I really enjoyed the work there, I often found it extremely difficult and challenging, given the staggering lack of finance and resources."

After graduation, Catherine hopes to work in Africa as a legal counsel for a non-governmental human-rights organization.



Margreta Vellucci, Esq. '07
President
Law Alumni Association

This year I have the distinct pleasure of serving as president of your Law Alumni Association. As a fairly new alum, it is with great honor that I offer you my vision and enthusiasm for RWU Law.

I have been consistently impressed with and invigorated by the advances the law school has made in so short a time. Each year I have observed admissions statistics improving, bar-pass rates rising and the success of alumni growing. As you read this edition of *Amicus*, I know you will be impressed with the great accomplishments of the students, faculty, staff and alumni.

I would like to thank the law school and its alumni for their generous support during the Ninth Annual Law Alumni Golf Tournament in August. As always, the golf tournament was an enormous success, contributing to our Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

As the new Alumni Board begins its 2008-2009 year, I hope that all of you will continue to support our efforts and let us know what we can do for you. Our alumni are an important part of the RWU community and remain a critical resource for the success of our future graduates. I encourage your active participation in the advancement of our law school. Together we can influence the future of our alma mater, build a legacy and strengthen the reputation of Roger Williams University School of Law.

To get involved, please contact the Alumni Office, or email me directly at margretav@gmail.com

– Margreta Vellucci, Esq. '07

2008 LAA Scholarship Recipients

Dawn Euer of Kenosha, Wis., and **Christina Hoefsmit**, of Bristol, R.I., are the recipients of the 2008 Law Alumni Association scholarships. The scholarships are awarded to law students who have completed their first year of study and reflect both academic merit and demonstrated financial need.

Euer serves as president of the Association for Public Interest Law and is a board member for the Environmental Law Society. She is school liaison for the Student Hurricane Network and a member of the Alliance, the Multicultural Law Students Association, RWU Law's ACLU Chapter, the American Constitution Society and the Women's Law Society. Over the summer, she interned with Elise Kinnear of Grey's Inn in London, England. Euer was previously awarded the ALI-ABA Scholarship for an Environmental Law course in Washington, D.C. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Hoefsmit serves as vice president of the Environmental Law Society and co-academic chair for Phi Alpha Delta, and is a member of the Alliance, the Maritime Law Society and the Women's Law Society. She has worked as a biologist for Widener & Associates in Everett, Wash. Hoefsmit earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences from the University of Washington, Seattle.



Christina Hoefsmit accepts her award from 2007-08 LAA President Joel J. Votolato '03.

Congratulations to the 2008/2009 Law Alumni Association Board of Directors

Effective July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

2008/2009 Executive Committee:

President

Margreta Vellucci '07

Vice President

Nicole Dulude '06

Treasurer

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Kim Grabarz '02

Carly (Beauvais) Iafrate '00

Robert Kando '96

Deborah A. Kennedy '97

John Leidecker '97

The LAA Board of Directors meets quarterly. All Alumni are invited to attend meetings and/or join a committee.

Upcoming Meetings

January 28, 2009 - Bristol, R.I.

May 6, 2009 - Providence, R.I.

Save the Date!

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



9th Annual LAA Golf Tournament Raises \$19,000

The Ninth Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament raised more than \$19,000 for the Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Support of this fundraising event has enabled the Law Alumni Association to award outstanding law students with annual law alumni scholarships.

“Each year the Law Alumni Golf Tournament serves as the largest single fundraiser for our Law Alumni Scholarship, and this year was the most successful tournament that we have had to date,” noted **Anthony R. Leone, II '97**. “The weather was perfect, and there was plenty of food, fun and prizes for all. It is always a great day to see old friends, have a fun day on

the golf course, and raise scholarship funds for our law school students.”

“This year was particularly exciting, because we more than surpassed our goal and raised a large sum for the law alumni scholarship fund,” agreed co-chair **Kimberly Tracey '07**. She added, “We look forward to raising the bar each year, and having another great event in 2009!”

The continued growth of the golf tournament and scholarship fund depends on your support. If you'd like to become involved with the planning of the 2009 golf tournament, please e-mail your interest to lawevents@rwu.edu

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Sogno Ristorante & Bar
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2008 Law Alumni Golf Tournament Committee

Anthony R. Leone, II '97
Co-Chair
Kimberly Tracey '07
Co-Chair
Robert Knychalski '07
Eric Miller '01
Elizabeth Suever '07
Margreta Vellucci '07
Chelsie Horne
Meghan Hansen
Ed Magro

1996

Jeffrey L. Eger was recently honored as a "Rising Star" by Superlawyers and was selected for an article in their fall magazine. He opened his law firm, All Your Legal Needs, in 2000. It is located in Warwick, R.I. He recently authored an article on how to prepare for a custody proceeding, which will be featured in the November 2008 edition of *Rhode Island Monthly*.

Anne (Richardson) Nicoll and her husband welcomed their first child in September 2006.

Marco P. Uriati is general counsel and senior vice president of Arpin Group, Inc. He is a board member and executive vice president for the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island. In addition to his pro bono work for the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island, Marco provides pro bono legal services to staff members and low-income Rhode Island residents in the areas of debtor/creditor, probate and elder law.

1997

Don Brown and his wife Terri adopted a baby girl, Molly Jean, on October 30, 2007.

David I. Lough is a partner with Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP.

Patricia A. Lyons is human resources manager with Wolverine Joining Technologies and has earned certification as a senior professional in Human Resources (SPHR). The certification was awarded by the Human Resources Certification Institute.

1998

Brian Berkowitz and his wife Nicole Nesi were married in August 2005. They welcomed daughter Natalie Francis Berkowitz on April 17, 2007. Brian operates the Law Office of Brian Berkowitz in New City, N.Y., with a focus on criminal defense.

Dawn Cook is managing attorney of the Family Law Unit with the Rhode Island Legal Services. Dawn was married in 1998 and celebrated the sixth birthday of her twin daughters in September.

Cynthia Marie Fogarty was the 2008 endorsed Democratic candidate for Mayor of Cranston, Rhode Island. Cynthia clerked in Superior Court and has been in private practice as an attorney since 2000. From 2002 to 2006, she served on the Cranston City Council, with two years as chair of the Finance Committee. She is a board member of the Cranston Chamber of Commerce and provides volunteer legal services through the Rhode Island Bar.

Anthony Gemma was selected out of 106 applicants as one of PBN's "40 under Forty" 2008 winners.

Joseph R. Marion, III joined the Providence Office of Burns & Levinson, LLP in 2007. He practices in the areas of estate and tax planning, estate administration, long-term care planning and conservation easements. Dean Mastrangelo and his wife Nancy had a baby boy, Anthony John Mastrangelo, on June 24, 2008.

David S. Rosenblum is an assistant deputy public defender for the New Jersey office of the Public Defender in Trenton, N.J. David married Stacey Kitchner in August 2006.

1998



Walter R. Craddock, an attorney and retired police chief, has been appointed as the associate for Estate Planning Resources for the Providence Center's Board of Trustees. In this capacity, Craddock provides detailed legal and tax review of life insurance plans for corporations, trusts, charitable institutions, government agencies and individuals, as well as advising clients on investment opportunities. Craddock also serves as chair of the Rhode Island Motor Vehicle Dealers Hearing Board, and is involved in various charities, including the March of Dimes, the American Heart Association, and organizations assisting victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Eric W. Schweibenz was recently promoted to senior associate at Oblon Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, P.C. He practices in the litigation practice group, focusing on patent litigation in the federal courts and the International Trade Commission.

1999

Paul A. Doughty was recently promoted to senior associate at Oblon Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, P.C. He practices in the litigation practice group, focusing on patent litigation in the federal courts and the International Trade Commission.

Maria J. Marley has relocated her practice to Westerly, R.I.

2000

Joshua Celeste is senior counsel with Duffy Sweeney & Scott in Providence. He concentrates his practice in the area of corporate law, with a focus on significant business transactions. He has represented small and large companies in multimillion-dollar transactions.

The office serves three counties in South Dakota and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Ann Sheppard Mores is working for the FBI in Washington, D.C., for the past five years and has been an analyst for the past three years. She is licensed in D.C. and Conn.

LeeAnn (Araskiewicz) Ryder and her husband Joshua welcomed their daughter Alexandra Marie Ryder, born on May 6, 2008.

2002

Dena M. Castricone is an associate with Murtha Cullina in New Haven, Conn. She launched the Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunities (CABO) and became a co-chair of Murtha Cullina's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender client service group.

John T. Catterall continues his position as a police sergeant for the New Bedford, Mass., Police Department. He is currently in his 22nd year of service. John is assigned as a uniform patrol supervisor. A significant part of this position involves counseling and advising officers about issues relating to criminal law and criminal procedure. John credits his legal education to making legally sound decisions "at the tip of the spear," which has a direct impact on the taking of someone's liberty or property by

2002



Carrie Abatiello joined the law firm of Moses & Afonso, Ltd. as an associate. She concentrates her practice in the areas of commercial finance and commercial real estate, representing clients and guiding them through the multiple facets of real estate projects.

law enforcement officers on the street. John's part-time practice of law includes estate planning and residential real estate transactions.

Jacqueline Gill and her husband John announce the birth of their son, Egan Patrick Gill, born on May 29, 2008, weighing 10 lbs, 1 oz. He joins his three-year-old brother, Jack Rushton Gill.

2003

Joy C. Dingle joined the faculty at Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Through the public policy program, the school provides scholars with opportunities to engage in policy analysis and social action as they cultivate their potential as involved and influential citizens. This year's academic program will focus on the presidential election and young voters, health, crime and the environment.

David M. Dolbashian has opened the Law Offices of David M. Dolbashian in Providence. He married Kimberly Feeny on October 4, 2008.

Stephanie Federico has been named chief of staff for the Providence School Department. Stephanie was previously Mayor David N. Cicilline's director of education policy.

2004

Tenley Beals is an associate with Duffy Sweeney & Scott in Providence. She practices in the area of intellectual property and technology law. She has an LL.M. in intellectual property from Franklin Pierce Law Center.

Eric D. Bernheim joined the law firm of Halloran & Sage LLP in its Westport, Conn. office. Bernheim

concentrates his practice in the areas of real estate, zoning, land use and litigation.

Chandra Forshey and Michael Charles Ontko were married September 6, 2008 at the Christ United Methodist Church in Marietta, Ohio. Chandra started a solo practice in March of this year and is handling domestic relations, juvenile and criminal cases. The couple resides in Caldwell, Ohio.

Seth Laver announces his engagement to Lauren Hof. Their wedding is set for November in Philadelphia. Seth is a third-year associate with the Philadelphia offices of Margolis Edelstein, where he focuses on commercial litigation, professional liability defense, business disputes and aviation litigation.

Thomas J. Mello is a trial attorney with the Committee for Public Counsel Services in the Superior Court in New Bedford, Mass.

Kelly Christian Sullivan and her husband Chris welcomed their daughter Caebre Ellen Sullivan on July 30, 2008.

Brian Terlinsky is legal and compliance counsel to CGI North America, Inc. a subsidiary of the French investment bank Société Générale CGI North America, Inc., through its subsidiary company CGI Finance. CGI Finance is a marine lender based in Baltimore, specializing in yacht and super yacht financing throughout the United States.

Chantal Tocci and **David Roche** '03 were married on November 1, 2008, in Washington D.C.

Lois A. Vandenburg opened Vandenburg Law Office, P.C. on October 1, 2007, in Rutland, Vt. The focus of

her practice is litigation, real estate and business law.

Amanda D. Williams is an attorney with the Missouri Department of Social Services Division of Legal Services in St. Louis. As an attorney and hearing officer in the administrative appeals unit, Amanda hears appeals in public benefits, adoption, foster home and nursing-home vendor cases and writes recommended decisions that are appealable to circuit court. She is a volunteer attorney with the Midwest Innocence Project, and a proud parent of a one-year-old son.

2005

Jerry Godding relocated his solo law practice to Tarpon Springs, Fla.

2006

Patrick Cullinan is an assistant district attorney in Plymouth County, Mass. He is currently assigned to the Jury Trial Session at the Plymouth District Court.

Alexandra B. Curran is a workers' compensation legal specialist at Travelers Insurance Companies in North Haven, Conn.

Laura Monte is an assistant attorney general for the state of Arizona, working in the child and family protection division. Laura represents child protective services in dependency cases.

Shelley R. Perry joined the law offices of Janney & Associates, Ltd. in Jamestown, R.I. She practices trusts and estates law in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Florida.

Martha Sanders-Tonahill is the director of legal counsel and operations for the Hamilton County, Tenn., child support office. The office locates

2006



Robert C. McDonough is currently a Navy judge advocate serving with the First Marine Expeditionary Force (1 MEF) in Iraq as the chief legal advisor for detention operations in Al Anbar province Iraq. In his role McDonough is responsible for the legal advice, support and training for Detainee Operations in the Multi-National Force- West (MNF-W) Area of Operations (AO).

2006



Robin A. Richison is an assistant public defender at the Law Offices of Bennett H. Brummer, Miami Public Defender's office. After representing clients facing misdemeanor criminal charges in Domestic Violence Court and County Court, she was recently promoted to the office's Juvenile Justice Unit. She currently defends juvenile clients facing felony charges in Circuit Court. Robin is admitted to practice in Connecticut and Florida.

absent parents, establishes paternity of children, sets child support orders and enforces orders using state and federal laws.

Patrick Smock was a panel member for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Legal Issues Committee of the Rhode Island Bar Association's presentation of "Legal Issues in the Wake of *Chambers v. Ormiston*" at the Rhode Island Bar Association Annual Meeting in June, 2008.

Andrew E. Walter is an assistant reporter of judicial decisions at the Connecticut Supreme Court in Hartford, Conn.

2007

James Atchison and his wife Heather welcomed their son Grant Joseph Atchison on June 30, 2008.

Al Brink was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in November 2007, and graduated from Boston University Law with his LL.M. in Taxation in May 2008. Al is a Senior at Ernst & Young in Boston in their transaction advisory services practice group, working primarily on taxation of mergers and acquisitions.

Leah Donaldson is working alongside Roger Williams University School of Law adjunct professor Donald Migliori in a number of lawsuits for 9/11 victims. The law firm of Motley Rice LLC is targeting several companies and organizations with lawsuits, including airlines and security companies for negligence leading to the attacks. The firm is also seeking billions of dollars in damages from various organizations in Saudi Arabia that allegedly helped finance the attacks.

Richard Grabowski married **Sarah Schlechtweg '06** on April 18, 2008. Richard is an attorney at a general practice firm in Milford, Conn. Sarah is an attorney specializing in medical malpractice defense in Shelton, Conn.

Terrence Haas has accepted a job as a public defender in Alaska. Prior to this, he clerked for Chief Justice Frank J. Williams of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Spencer A. Maguire and his wife Cary welcomed their first child, Theodore S. Maguire, on June 11, 2008. Spencer currently lives in Washington, D.C., where he works as legislative counsel to a D.C. City Council member.

James P. Steck and co-author David J. Strachman published their book, *Civil Terrorism Law*, with Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company, Inc. After completion of his clerkship for the Connecticut Superior Courts, Steck will be working for the firm of Herbst & Herbst in Torrington, Conn.

Rita Danielle Steele has started her own practice, Steele Law Offices, in North Dartmouth, Mass. She is also working as an associate broker in a start-up real estate agency.

Kimberly Tracey is an associate with Duffy Sweeney & Scott in Providence. She was previously a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Michael A. Silverstein.

2008

William Farias is with the Bristol County District Attorney's Office located in New Bedford, Mass.

Dipesh Gandhi is attending Loyola Chicago's LLM Health Law program. Dipesh was a law clerk for the Illinois Department of Public Health. Prior to this, Dipesh worked for a non-profit organization reviewing prisoner complaints stemming from lack of medical care in prison. Dipesh is engaged to be married in July 2009.

Kara Henderson is a public defender for the Committee for Public Counsel Services. She completed three weeks of training in the Boston office before starting in September. She covers both the Fall River District and New Bedford District offices.

Kareem Morgan is a public defender for the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Brockton, Mass.

Tory Randall and his wife Genevieve welcomed son Parker James and his twin sister Penelope Anne on May 22, 2008.

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 head shot photographs are welcome.

What's
New
With
You

In Memoriam: Dean John E. Ryan



John E. Ryan, second dean of Roger Williams University School of Law and a luminary in the field of legal education, passed away Thursday, October 23, 2008, after a long illness. He was 71.

Ryan served as Dean at RWU Law from 1993 until 1998. He was appointed after the law school's founding dean, current professor of law Anthony J. Santoro, was named University President. A former dean of McGeorge Law School in Sacramento, Calif., Ryan was also two-term chair of the American Bar Association's accreditation committee.

"I believe we had made a moral commitment to that first class to get the school accredited as fast as humanly possible," Santoro explained. "So we got John Ryan, both because of his national stature as a legal educator, and because there was no one who knew more about the accreditation process than he did."

Under Ryan's stewardship the school enjoyed an exceptionally strong launch, obtaining provisional accreditation (1994) and then full accreditation (1997) faster than any other law school in ABA history to that time. Following his deanship, Ryan served as a faculty member from 1999 until 2000.

"RWU Law was fortunate indeed to have had such an experienced and talented legal educator as John Ryan at the helm during its critical developmental period," said Dean David A. Logan. "His skillful and forward-looking leadership provided RWU Law with a strong and enduring foundation that we continue to build upon to this day."

Prior to his tenure at Roger Williams, Ryan was acting dean and professor of law at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, Calif. Ryan also served as dean of John Marshall Law School in Atlanta, where he was instrumental in gaining ABA accreditation.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Dean Ryan's name to the American Cancer Society. Donations and personal tributes may also be left online at the ACS's Mosaic of Hope site.

In Memoriam: Baha "B.G." El-Eid '08



It is with deep sadness that the RWU Law community notes the passing of a beloved friend, student, classmate and alum, Baha El-Eid, on October 19, 2008. In lieu of flowers, Baha's family requests that donations may be made to a scholarship fund established in his honor. Checks may be sent to:

CCSU Foundation Inc.
P.O. Box 612
New Britain, CT, 06050.

Donors are kindly requested to specify on the check's memo:

Baha El-Eid's Fund

Thursday, December 4, 2008

Law Alumni Association Holiday Reception

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Conley's Wharf
200 Allens Avenue
Providence, R.I.

Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Registration fee is \$20 per person. Each fee includes one beverage ticket and a \$5 donation to the School of Law Annual Fund. We are sponsoring a toy drive for Toys for Tots, and request that you consider bringing an unwrapped gift to donate. RSVP to the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at lawevents@rwu.edu or 401-254-4659.

Monday, January 12, 2009

Washington, D.C., Area Law Alumni Reception

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: JW Marriott Hotel
Congressional Room
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

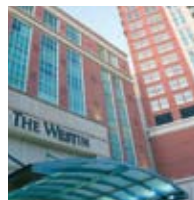
Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Please RSVP to the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events by Monday, January 5, 2009, at (401) 254-4659 or email lawevents@rwu.edu

Saturday, March 7, 2009

16th Annual Barrister's Ball

Time: 6:00 p.m., Reception
7:00 p.m., Dinner & Dancing

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



Sponsored by the Student Bar Association. Alumni tickets are \$65 per person. Alumni tickets are based on availability. Please contact the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at lawevents@rwu.edu or call 401-254-4652.

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Law Alumni AFTER HOURS Reception

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Aspire
Hotel Providence
311 Westminster Street,
Providence, R.I.



Please contact the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at lawevents@rwu.edu or call 401-254-4659.

Friday, May 22, 2009

School of Law Commencement

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Bristol Campus

Open Seating. The latest Commencement news may be found on-line at

law.rwu.edu/sites/commencement



Thursday, June 18, 2009

Law Alumni Association Annual Breakfast Meeting

Time: 7:45 - 9:15 a.m.

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

Held in conjunction with the Rhode Island Bar Association Annual Meeting. RSVP to the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at lawevents@rwu.edu or 401-254-4659.

Sunday, August 16, 2009

Tenth Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament

Time: Sunday, August 16, 2009
11:30 a.m. Registration

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

Keep up with the latest golf tournament news online at law.rwu.edu/news/events



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





*RWU Law's delegation to the 20th Annual Lavender Law Conference in San Francisco, from left to right: Damaris Tamm-Daniels '10, Cara Hall '08, Ashley Ham Pong '10, Tom Anderbalt '09, Casey Lee '09, Sevan Baghdasarian (not from RWU) and Phil Robinson '09. Story on Page 6.
Photo: Trish Tunney*



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

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