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Dean Logan's Blog

Matt Jerzyk ('08): From Labor Organizer, to Blogger, to ProJo Person To Watch in 2009

Posted by David Logan on 01/09/2009 at 10:00 AM

Matt Jerzyk, a Brown-educated union and community organizer, came to Roger Williams Law in the fall 2005 on a "Leadership Scholarship." That investment has turned out to be a very wise one, as reflected on the front page of a recent edition of the [Providence Journal](#), which identified Matt as one of eight Ocean Staters to watch in 2009. (Matt was in pretty amazing company: the article also profiled Senator Jack Reed and Providence Police Chief Dean Esserman.) A recent [Brown Daily Herald](#) article also profiled Matt. While a student at RWU Law Matt developed Rhode Island's most successful political blog, [RI Future.com](#), which takes a decidedly progressive look at RI politics and institutions. The [Boston Phoenix](#) also reported on Matt's blog and some of the others that have cropped up in the wake of RI Future's success.



Matthew Jerzyk

Also while a student, Matt founded the RWU Law chapter of the American Constitutional Society, part of a nationwide movement by progressive law students and professors modeled on the hugely successful Federalist Society. Another measure of Matt's talent: he just notified me that the [Harvard Law and Policy](#)

[Review](#) will be publishing his article “Gentrification’s Third Way in Providence” next summer. The article grew out of independent research that Matt completed under the guidance of RWU Law Prof. Jorge Elorza, who was so impressed by the result that he urged Matt to submit the paper to top journals. Pretty amazing start to the New Year for one of the many talented lawyers on the RWU Law Class of 2008. Congratulations to Matt, who is now a member of the Rhode Island bar practicing with one of the top plaintiffs’ law firms in the region, DeLuca and Weizenbaum.