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Proclamation: Roger Williams University Law Library "Plankowners"

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Proclamation



*Roger Williams University
Law Library "Plankowners"*

As befits the launching of the first law school library in the Ocean State, this "plank" borrows from a naval tradition to recognize your hard work and cooperative spirit during the founding of the law library.

A ship's commissioning ceremony marks the culmination of a great deal of hard work by its crew, referred to collectively as "plankowners." This term originated in the days of sail, when each member of a ship's original crew was awarded symbolic ownership of one wooden plank from the ship's hull, decks or masts. Today each crewmember receives a certificate or a wooden plaque, since few ships contain significant amounts of wood.

The original crew of a ship leaves a lasting imprint on the ship's waterfront reputation. These individuals know their ship inside and out, often better than their successors, since they were present when it was assembled. Their clan, complemented by their efficiency in the myriad of tasks required to place a ship in service, establishes the command's climate for years to come.

In the spirit of this time-honored tradition, you are awarded a "plank" from one of the original study carrels installed in the law library during the Fall of 1993.