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# AMICUS

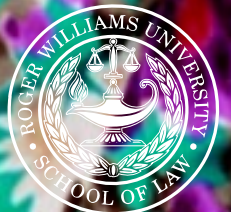
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY RALPH R. PAPITTO SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI NEWS

FALL 2002



*In Memorium*

*Visiting Professor  
Esther Clark*





# AMICUS

Vol. 1 No. 2

Fall 2002



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*Amicus* is the alumni magazine of  
Roger Williams University  
Ralph R. Papitto School of Law  
Published by the Law Alumni Association and  
the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events

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Dear Alumni:

Often repeated is the phrase “what difference can one person make?” Although this cliché has numerous applications, our beloved Esther Clark most certainly never uttered it.

Without a doubt, Professor Clark's passing brings inevitable sadness and grief, but perhaps more appropriately, it also brings a time for reflection. As further detailed in Professor Anthony Santoro's tribute on page 3, Esther blazed a trail that many have followed and that will forever remain a part of the School of Law. A brief glimpse at Professor Clark's career finds that she was the first woman elected President of the Delaware County Bar Association in its more than 100 year history; the first woman to receive the Armitage Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma mater, Rutgers Camden School of Law; the first woman to receive tenure at Widener University School of Law; and a five-time recipient of Widener's Outstanding Faculty Member Award. In 1994, we were fortunate enough to convince Esther to teach at our law school, where, not surprisingly, in 1999, she received the first faculty teaching award.

Esther's dedication to the law in general, and the Ralph R. Papitto School of Law in particular, is evident and proves beyond any serious question that one person can make a difference. But, with the passage of time, the burden to continue traveling previously blazed trails, as well as the responsibility to define new paths, shifts to a younger generation—us. Never before have alumni been in a better position to define the alumni experience and to advance the law school's mission.

Two alumni, Robert Falvey, '98, and Matthew Sleprow, '97, have demonstrated this commitment to the School of Law by accepting adjunct faculty positions teaching elective courses in their areas of expertise. Many other alumni answered the call when the Law Alumni Association and the Student Bar Association, working together, unveiled a program last year whereby alumni (residing in Rhode Island and in other states) mentored graduating students concerning the bar examination, employment opportunities, and other post-graduation issues. This proved to be an excellent opportunity to soothe the transition from student to lawyer and to unite students and graduates. In yet another situation, alumni objected to a then-present policy prohibiting graduates from loaning books from the law library. Effective immediately, I am pleased to report that the Law Alumni Association and the law library have worked together to reverse this position.

So many opportunities exist for alumni to participate in the advancement of their Law Alumni Association and their School of Law. Currently, the Law Alumni Association is seeking members for its Community Service Committee, Continuing Legal Education Committee, Communication & Events Committee, Financial Assistance Committee, as well as its *Amicus* Magazine Subcommittee and Golf Tournament Subcommittee. All of these committees are charged with promoting their respective missions and developing new opportunities. Equally important are the numerous events aimed at reuniting colleagues and faculty, as well as meeting recent graduates. I would also encourage you to participate in the 2002-2003 alumni-student mentor-mentee program.

Our prior life experiences teach us that one person can make a difference and we can be assured that our collective participation in our Law Alumni Association and our School of Law will leave an indelible mark. Your involvement, input, or suggestions are only a click away. The Law Alumni Association can be contacted at [lawalumni@rwu.edu](mailto:lawalumni@rwu.edu), visited at <http://law.rwu.edu/alumni/>, or telephoned at (401) 254-4659.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Michael W. Field, '97  
Law Alumni Association, President





# In Memorium

## Remembering Visiting Professor Esther Clark

by Professor Anthony Santoro

February 27, 2002 was a very sad day for Roger Williams University and its Ralph R. Papitto School of Law. Distinguished Visiting Professor Esther F. Giacco Clark passed away in Philadelphia. A teacher to many law students at Roger Williams, and countless others at Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Del., Professor Clark will be very much missed by her family—not only her immediate family, but by former students and colleagues all of whom she considered to be part of her extended family.

Professor Clark was a truly extraordinary person and teacher. Her influence over her students extended well beyond the classroom, reaching even to their practice of law and personal lives. I have often publicly paid tribute to Esther by quoting Henry Adams who once said, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” While Adams was paying tribute to all teachers, I always thought he was talking about Esther as the quintessential teacher. She believed that teaching did not start with the bell signaling the beginning of class, nor finish with a bell signaling its end. For her, teaching was a twenty-four-hour-a-day passion that continued well beyond a student’s graduation. That students recognized her as an outstanding teacher is evidenced by the fact that five times students chose Professor Clark as the outstanding faculty member of the year.

The student recognition she received was to Esther the most gratifying gift she could receive.

A pioneer at Roger Williams, Professor Clark joined us in our second year to teach Criminal Procedure and Evidence. She intended to help us launch the law school during our quest for approval from the American Bar Association and then return to Widener University. ABA approval came, but Esther stayed. She became so enamored with her students, her colleagues, and Bristol that she opted to remain with us for eight years, even retiring from Widener when that school could no longer accommodate her schedule here.

Born in 1929, Professor Clark grew up in the Italian-American community of South Philadelphia and graduated from South Philadelphia High School for Girls where she was class president. She earned her



Bachelor of Arts degree from Temple University. If she ended her studies at that point, she would have been a strong role model for all women who followed her by being one of the first women to achieve that level of education. At that time, it was an extraordinary feat for a woman from South Philadelphia to finish both high school and college.

But, Esther was no ordinary woman. Indeed, she went on to law school, graduating from Rutgers University Law School (Camden) in 1955 as only one of two women in the class and as associate editor of the Law Review. Determined to prove that women were as capable as men in the practice of law, Professor Clark became a criminal defense lawyer in Delaware County, Pa., at a time when virtually no women were trial lawyers, much less criminal trial lawyers.

The remainder of her career was characterized by a number of firsts. She was the first woman elected to the presidency of the Delaware County Bar Association in its 110 year history, the first woman to chair the by-laws committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the first woman to receive the prestigious Armitage award, the first woman to be awarded tenure at Widener University School of Law, and the first woman to be appointed to the Board of Directors of Taylor Hospital in Delaware County, among other firsts. One of my fondest stories concerns another “first” for Esther. Some time ago, the Lawyer’s Club of Delaware County honored Esther by making her “Man of the Year” and, as a result, she became the first woman to become “Man” of the Year. Rather than complain about the awkwardness of still calling the award by a gender specific title, and thereby embarrass the club into changing the award, Esther thought it funny to allow the award to remain undisturbed. This simple act of humor, of course, caused the gender issue to resonate far more loudly than if she brought attention to it. The award now goes to the “Person” of the Year.

While the mid-fifties nature of the legal profession as an exclusive male preserve was destined to change, that transformation was undoubtedly expedited by the very capable performance of Professor Clark as a lawyer, as a teacher, and as a person. She demonstrated conclusively that competency in the practice and teaching of law knows no gender barrier. And she did that in a quiet, unassuming, and persuasive manner.

Perhaps more importantly, Esther accomplished everything without compromising her principles. One story more than any other demonstrates her integrity. She was twice a merit selection nominee for a seat on the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas—once nominated by Republican Governor Thornburgh and once by Democratic Governor Shapp. Each time the County Republican machinery thwarted her appointment. Each time she could have had the seat simply by changing her party affiliation. She refused because she felt to do so would betray the principles for which she stood.



*Professor Esther Clark in 1981.  
Widener University School of Law Archives*

Esther will be remembered for many reasons. For some it will be her skill as a lawyer. For others it will be her ability in the classroom. For others it will be her pioneering spirit that helped launch two law schools and more importantly, helped blaze a trail for women in what once was a closed profession.

I will remember Esther for all these reasons and many more. She was to me more than a colleague. She was a friend who over a span of almost twenty years was by my side, supporting me in every way she could. I still remember my first encounter with Esther. Somehow she convinced me to assume the deanship of Widener University School of Law at a time when law school administration was the furthest thing from my mind. Somehow she even convinced my wife despite the fact we had just settled into a new house with four children. I am glad, though, that she did. It was the start of a truly remarkable friendship. I am glad also that she joined us in establishing this law school. She will forever be a part of it. Even though she has left us, her imprint remains.

## The Professor Clark Endowed Scholarship

The Professor Clark Endowed Scholarship was generously funded through a gift from the late Esther F. Clark and her husband, John. The scholarship is awarded to a rising second year student on the basis of outstanding academic performance.

Memorial donations may be made to:  
**The Professor Esther Clark  
 Endowed Scholarship Fund**  
 c/o Roger Williams University  
 School of Law  
 Ten Metacom Avenue  
 Bristol, R.I. 02809

## Memories of Professor Clark

by Robert Kando, '96

Professor Clark had high aspirations. She wanted to be *Everyman*. And she was *Everyman* (and woman). As one of the first female members of the bar, she suffered prejudices of the all boys' club. Esther Clark handled that and more by treating each person as an equal, including student, professor, or university president. We students could not help but admire our *Everyman* who would not tolerate a fellow professor treating a student as a second class citizen or commiserate with a student over some nonsensical school policy (and sometimes working a back alley to correct an inequity).

Esther Clark was special because she accorded special treatment to everyone. That explains why when a person said “Professor Clark...” they were usually

# A Note of Thanks

by Husband John H. Clark, Jr., Esq., Daughter Jacqueline A. Clark, Esq.,  
and Granddaughter Lucianna Clark Hayden

The outpouring of personal letters, especially from students, describing the ways in which Esther affected their lives, and their affection for her, was remarkable. While I have not counted, it must have been in the neighborhood of one hundred. Terms such as “role model” were used generously. Our daughter, our granddaughter, and myself can only say that Roger Williams was a most important part of Esther’s life during her last nine years, and will always be an important and memorable part of our lives. There were so many personal vignettes mentioned, from the annual Halloween Clark Bars to the special relationship which she had with the students who were policemen, and, especially, her heart to heart talks with many of the female students who doubted that they had made the proper

choice in going to law school. The letters made clear that Esther was looked upon as what a wife, a mother, and a lawyer (not just a female lawyer) should be.

Aside from those most personal items, thanks are also due and given with much appreciation to those who contributed in her memory to her scholarship fund, and to those who were responsible for, and participated in, Roger Williams’ most memorable memorial service, as well as to those who have been preparing articles about her.

Roger Williams was a wonderful experience for Esther and for us, and we are glad to see that her presence there was an equally wonderful experience for her colleagues and students.

*Daughter Jacqueline  
and Granddaughter  
Lucianna*



*Esther and John Clark at North Farm  
before a Roger Williams University School  
of Law event.*

wearing a smile. I will miss Professor Clark, but I have the feeling that she accomplished her mission and I am proud for her. I hope that someday the same could be said for all of us.

---

by Michael A. Voccola, '97

During my two terms as President of the Law Alumni Association, I attended a number of law school events. Professor Clark attended many of these events and this drew us even closer. During these events, I was often accompanied by a friend, Nancy, who, like a trooper, played a diplomatic role by my side. Nancy and Professor Clark spoke often, but no conversation was more significant, or more indicative of the soothing persona of Professor Clark, than their first.

In an effort to spark conversation in a room full of total strangers, Nancy indicated to Professor Clark that she felt “out of

place” at these numerous School of Law gatherings, both in terms of the surroundings and the company. “Of course you belong here!” Professor Clark told Nancy in her kindly manner, while offering her a dish of pudding. “There’s no one here that’s any better than you, or smarter than you, or any more capable than you.” Such “motherly-like” reassurance, true to the spirit of Professor Clark, made a tremendous impression on Nancy, and went far to ensure her attendance at future events.

Professor Clark indicated to Nancy that she should never feel out of place—not at any School of Law event, or in any other setting. Professor Clark made it a point to seek out Nancy at each subsequent event, often apart from me, and engage her in conversation. She went to great lengths to ensure that Nancy felt comfortable and that she was able to meet and speak with new people while I was attending to my functions. Professor Clark always provided a comfortable segue for Nancy to speak to others. Nancy felt as though Professor

Clark, in some way, took her under her wing and made certain that she was comfortable in what can sometimes be a challenging environment for the uninitiated.

When I told Nancy that I was writing this article, she reminded me of her experience with Professor Clark. Although Nancy is not a student or an alumni member, and although her only tie to the School of Law is through me, she was made to feel a part of the law school family, a member of the team, not an outsider. It was this gift of Professor Clark’s, this ability to make people comfortable and unintimidated, which goes further to explain her charm than does any story about Evidence class.

Indeed, when it comes to providing evidence of Professor Clark’s true person, the proof is in the pudding.



# The Head of the

## Alumni Become Teachers

by Stephen Maguire, '96

Law students are motivated to be prepared for participation in a dialogue with their professors on the first day of class by the intense pressure that is a part of the Socratic Method mystery.

Two of the law school's newest adjunct faculty have learned recently that professors are similarly motivated.

"It's okay if you don't know some of the answers when you're a student," said **Bob Falvey, '98**, the first graduate of the law school to serve as an adjunct professor. "But you expect the teacher to know what's going on."

Falvey taught a Marine Insurance class in the spring 2002 semester. It was offered as part of the law school's Marine Affairs Program with the University of Rhode Island.

**Matthew Sleprow, '97**, the second graduate to become an adjunct professor, began teaching Real Estate Transactions in the summer 2002 session and had a similar revelation.

On one rainy Wednesday evening in June, Sleprow was found sitting in a seat in Room 285, listening intently to a lecture on mortgages given by his guest speaker, William Dawson, of the Pawtucket Credit Union. Sleprow, who had already worked a full day and spent more than four hours that afternoon preparing for class, was not taking notes and was not worried about being called upon.

Dawson was Sleprow's guest in his Real Estate Transactions class who explained the forms that are signed and exchanged, sometimes at blinding speed, during real estate closings. When Dawson departed, Sleprow began quizzing his 28 students.



*Matthew Sleprow, '97*

First, he wanted to know if they thought the presentation was valuable. Then he reviewed the forms Dawson had left behind, including a HUD-1, and queried them on the various provisions. The experience level in the class ranged from young students who have never participated in a real estate transaction (either as a buyer, a seller, or in a professional capacity) to the older students who appeared to have more insight. Sleprow was careful to draw from each group, keeping the experienced students interested without losing the inexperienced. The discussion was lively.

"I want to give them some exposure to the real thing," Sleprow said during a break in the class. "I like to get them outside the textbook to see the actual forms. These are things they can use if they want to go out and get a job with a law firm."



*Bob Falvey, '98*

He also drew on his experience and offered some practical advice about working in the field, which the students would not find in the textbook. It occurs during a part of the discussion about the then-fast approaching date of June 28, which he described as "the busiest day of the year for real estate closings."

Sleprow explained that he had only one closing on the day of the lecture, but already had twelve closings lined up for June 28, due to a confluence of factors, including: the natural tendency for real estate business to increase during the spring and summer, an exceptionally strong real estate market, and a myth that it is better to close at the end of the month.

"Generally, people do not buy houses in the winter," he said. "They buy houses and try to move in the summer when the kids are out of school. They would rather move in the summer and start fresh in the fall."

# Class



“So, if you like summer vacations, then don’t be a real estate attorney,” he said. “You have to be a skier rather than a sailor if you want to be a real estate attorney.”

Slepkow, who was the law school’s second Law Review Editor-in-Chief, practices real estate law and elder law. He is part of a third generation of Slepkows to practice at Slepkow, Slepkow & Bettencourt, in East Providence. His cousin and classmate, David Slepkow, ’97, also practices in the firm.

Prior to law school, Slepkow, a 1992 graduate of Amherst College, paid his bills by performing title searches for his father’s law firm and another firm in Northboro, Mass. During law school, he formed his own company, MDS Title Services, providing services to four or five law firms as a freelancer.

He credits his return to the law school to his classmate, Alumni Association President Michael Field, ’97, who encouraged him to apply for a teaching position. Slepkow said he submitted a resume with a letter setting out two areas of practice. The school selected Real Estate Transactions.

Falvey, a retired South Kingstown police officer, who is now Vice President of Falvey Cargo Underwriting, said that former Associate Dean Matthew P. Harrington initially approached him about teaching his class several years ago, and that Associate Dean Diana Hassel made the final arrangements.

Harrington was Falvey’s Law Review advisor and knew of his interest in Marine Affairs after Falvey wrote a Law Review

article entitled *A Shot Across The Bow: Rhode Island’s Oil Spill Pollution Prevention and Control Act*. The article assessed the constitutionality of a new law, enacted following the grounding of the *North Cape* barge and the ensuing oil spill at Moonstone Beach. The article, which concluded that the Rhode Island law was unconstitutional, was cited as authority in a dissenting opinion by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in a case examining an analogous Washington State statute. The Ninth Circuit’s opinion was subsequently reversed by a unanimous opinion of the United States Supreme Court. Slepkow also provided significant editorial input for that article.

Falvey’s plan when he entered law school was to remain with the police department, but along the way he decided that he would rather teach. He envisioned himself in front of a class of future law enforcement officers teaching criminal justice.

But, as he prepared for his retirement from the Police Department in 1999, his brother Mike, the founder and President of Falvey Cargo Underwriting, made him an offer. Mike Falvey’s plan for his brother was to tap his newly minted legal education and start a subrogation department. The subrogation department would attempt to recoup some of the losses that were attributable to other parties.

“There are inevitably going to be some losses when cargo is moved around the globe,” Falvey said. “The losses involve both damaged goods and goods that are actually lost or stolen. My job is to seek a contribution, usually from FedEx, UPS, or the shipping company.”

The cargo Falvey’s company insures is primarily high-tech equipment and component parts, much of it from the Silicon Valley area in California. Boston’s bio-tech companies also contribute. The money used to underwrite the risk comes from a syndicate of the Lloyd’s of London companies.

As with any family business, Falvey is involved with all aspects of the business. He makes personal visits to brokers and investigators (called “surveyors”) throughout the country to keep them loyal to the company, and to explain how their dealing properly with claims can contribute to the success of the subrogation action that will follow.

He said a successful subrogation settlement lessens the impact of the loss on the broker and the insured (called “assureds” in the marine insurance field). The broker’s premium to loss ratio is reduced, and the assured’s risk profile is lessened, making it less expensive for them to shop for insurance coverage in the future.

Much of what he does is resolved through mediation. Falvey often hires out-of-state attorneys to handle the mediations, and he remains as a supervisor, with authority to make settlement decisions.

Falvey is a 1994 graduate of Salve Regina University, in Newport, where he majored in Administration of Justice and History. He lives in Charlestown, Rhode Island, with his wife, Maggie Hogan, Esq., the principal of Hogan & Hogan, and their two children, Grace Ann, 4, and Aidan Thomas, 1.



# Abraham Lincoln and AL-QAEDA

## *A Historical Perspective*

by Hon. Frank J. Williams

President Bush is not the first president to authorize the use of military tribunals, rather than the normal justice system, in times of war. The use of military tribunals, for example, occurred during the Revolutionary War, Mexican War, Civil War, and both World Wars. Abraham Lincoln declared martial law and authorized such forums to try terrorists during the American Civil War because of the ability of the tribunals to act quickly; their ability to gather intelligence through interrogation; and their ability to limit life-saving information from becoming public. Historically, military commissions during wartime began as traveling courts when there was a need to impose quick punishments. Such commissions do not enforce national laws, but rather a body of international law that has evolved over the centuries. Known as the law of war, one of its fundamental axioms is that combatants cannot target civilians.

It is clear that the 9/11 terrorists and detainees, whether apprehended in the United States or abroad, are neither protected under America's criminal justice system nor under the international law of war. Terrorists are not members of an organized command structure with someone responsible for their actions; they do not wear a military uniform so that the other side can spare civilians without fear of counterattacks by disguised fighters; they do not carry arms openly; and there is no respect for the laws of war.

Moreover, American courts have been reluctant to second-guess the chief executive as to when commissions are justified. During the Lincoln administration, the United States Supreme Court said that it had no jurisdiction over a military tribunal. *Ex Parte Vallandigham*, 1 Wall. 243 (1864).

Abraham Lincoln's actions may help explain the curtailment of civil liberties in dealing with such unlawful combatants.

"No president has carried the power of presidential edict and executive order, [independently of congress], so far as he did," writes historian James G. Randall. "It would not be easy to state what Lincoln conceived to be the limit of his powers." He proclaimed a blockade, increased the size of the regular army, and authorized the expenditure of government money without congressional appropriation. As Jay Winik, author of *April 1865*, described it:

"The President suspended the writ of habeas corpus and subjected all persons discouraging volunteer enlistments to martial law. To enforce this decree, a network of provost marshals promptly imprisoned several hundred anti-war activists and draft resisters, including five newspaper editors, three judges, a number of doctors, lawyers, journalists and prominent civic leaders."

Lincoln made far-reaching decisions while Congress was not in session, and he did so without consulting public polls. During the Civil War, the Union Army conducted at least 4,271 trials by military commission, which reflected the disorder of the time.

Lincoln answered his critics with a reasoned, constitutional argument. A national crisis existed and, in the interest of self-preservation, he had to act. At the same time he realized that Congress had the ultimate responsibility to pass judgment on the measures he had taken. He found the right of self-preservation in Article II, section 1, of the Constitution, whereby the chief executive is required "to preserve, protect, and defend" it, and in section 3, that he "take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

The whole of the laws which were required to be "faithfully executed" were being resisted, and failed of execution in nearly one-third of the states. The question

Lincoln asked is this: "Are all the laws but one to go unexecuted, and the government itself go to pieces less that one be violated?"

On the other hand, as Lincoln took audacious steps against lawless rebels, he also took equally bold and innovative steps upholding and expanding international law. The President commissioned Francis Lieber, a Columbia University professor, to draft a code of the laws of war. As a result of his efforts, Lieber is considered the founder of the modern law of armed conflict and his work became the basis of the Hague and subsequent Geneva Conventions to which the United States is a signatory. In 1863, Lieber forthrightly advised the President and the Union Army that guerillas, spies and saboteurs—terrorists all—could be summarily shot.

Lincoln survived this because he knew that he had the support of Congress and the people. When normalcy returned, so did all civil liberties including the full use of the American judicial system. The verdict of history is that Lincoln's use of power did not constitute abuse.

If it appears that the Bush administration is confounded on the use of military tribunals and in classifying prisoners as either prisoners of war entitled to the rights under the Geneva Convention or as unlawful combatants who are entitled to no rights at all, it may be helpful to read the epilogue in Mark E. Neely, Jr.'s *Fate of Liberty*, "The clearest lesson is that there is no clear lesson in the Civil War—no neat precedents, no ground rules, no map. War and its effect on civil liberties remain a frightening unknown."

*The Honorable Frank J. Williams, a nationally renowned Lincoln scholar, is Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and an Adjunct Professor at the School of Law.*



# THE LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2002



The honorary degree recipient and commencement speaker for the School of Law Saturday, May 18, 2002 graduation was the Honorable Bruce M. Selya. Judge Selya addressed the over 90 graduates and their guests on the "Truth, Half-Truths, and Lawyers' Truths."

Judge Selya is an esteemed member of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, which includes Rhode Island where he keeps his chambers, and serves on the Multi-District Litigation Panel established by Chief Justice Rehnquist to oversee the most complex regional health care network which includes Rhode Island Hospital, Women & Infants, and several Boston hospitals. Judge Selya also serves on the Law Advisory Committee of Roger Williams University School of Law. His previous government positions include: Chairman, Rhode Island Judicial Council; Delegate, National Conference on Revisions to Federal Appellate Practice; and Member, Governor's Commission on Crime.



Michael W. Field, '97, brought greetings to the graduates from over 700 members of the Law Alumni Association and formally welcomed them into the Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law Alumni Association. He urged graduates to "take advantage of the alumni opportunities that will present themselves and to stay in touch with your alma mater."



*President Roy J. Nirschel presents the honorary degree to Judge Selya.*



*Graduates Rukaayat Balogun, '02, and Heather Piccirilli, '02*



*Interim Dean Bruce I. Kogan (left) presided over the seventh School of Law Commencement Exercises.*



*Chairman Ralph R. Papitto (above) and Day Division Valedictorian Christy L. Hetherington brought greetings to the Class of 2002.*



*Evening Division Valedictorian Katy Anne Hynes is photographed on the inside back cover.*

See the inside back cover for additional commencement photographs.



# The Barrister's Ball

The Student Bar Association hosted its Ninth Annual Barrister's Ball on Saturday, April 6, 2002, at the Providence Biltmore Hotel. Over two hundred and seventy-five members of the School of Law community—students, alumni, faculty, and staff—attended.

*Left to Right:*

*James Criner and Law Alumni Association Board of Director Cassie Cioci, '00.*

*Law Alumni Association President Michael Field, '97, 2002/2003 Student Bar Association President Joel Votolato, Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse, Dean Bruce I. Kogan, and 2002/2003 Student Bar Association Treasurer Peter Pascucci.*

*Jennifer St. Laurent, '01, and Jeffrey Sowa, '97.*



*Carrie Abatiello, '02, and Francesca Suppa, '02*



*Guest Jessica DaCosta and 2001/2002 Student Bar Association President Matt Durfee, '02*



*Kelly Moore, '02, and Rebecca Jean Schwartz, '02*



*Law Alumni Association President Michael Field, '97, welcomes the newest members of the Law Alumni Association; photographed with Benjamin Wyzanski, '02*

## The Class of 2002 honored at Graduate Reception!

This year's Graduate Reception was held at The Glen Manor in Portsmouth, R.I., on Thursday, May 16, 2002.

*Professors Barbara Bernier and Peter Margulies*

*Kristen Klimaj, '02, and Joshua Lindy, '02*

*Karen O'Connell Lyons, '02, Dena Castricone, '02, and John Catterall, '02*





*Maurene Souza, '01, and Professor Emily Sack.*



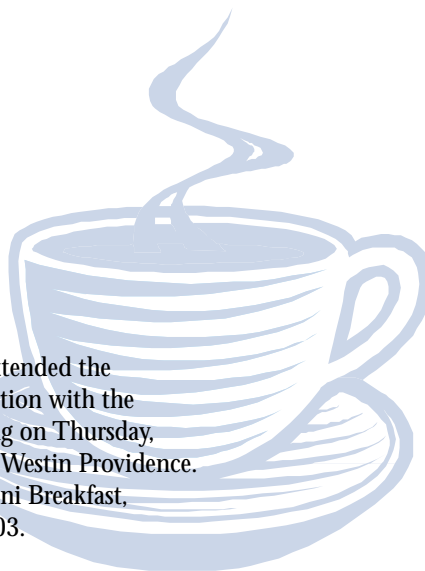
*Law Alumni Association Board of Directors: David D'Agostino, '99, Michael Voccola, '97, Christopher Maselli, '99, and Neal Richard Pandozzi, '99.*



*Law Alumni Association Board of Director Eric Miller, '01, and Professor Andy Horwitz.*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Law Alumni Breakfast

Over seventy-five alumni, faculty, and staff attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Law Alumni Breakfast in conjunction with the Rhode Island Bar Association Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2002. The breakfast was held at the Westin Providence. Mark your calendar for next year's Law Alumni Breakfast, which will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2003.



*Chief Justice Frank Williams and Law Alumni Association President Michael Field, '97.*



*Gabriella Gaal, '97, and Deborah Kennedy, '97.*

## Law Alumni Mentoring Program

by Mark Gemma, '97

It all started with an idea and discussions between the Law Alumni Association and the Student Bar Association. A mentoring program between alumni and students had never been offered before, so there was no past history to guide us, and no one knew what to expect.

"The Mentor/Mentee Program is the perfect resource for soon-to-be law school graduates to seek assistance from alumni in making the transition from student to attorney," said John Garry, '00.

In its first year, 25% of the graduating class participated and were matched with alumni mentors based upon common factors, such as area of legal interest, law school activities, and location. Students intending to relocate to another state after graduation were matched with alumni already practicing in that state who communicated through telephone or electronic mail.

Many students who participated in the program are already experiencing the benefits of having an alumni mentor. Rebecca Jean Yeager, '02, signed up as a mentee largely due to the fact that she did not know any local attorneys and entering a profession full of strangers was not a comfortable thought.

"I am not from Rhode Island, and I didn't want to walk into a courtroom for the first time and not know anyone," she said.

Yeager sees the benefit of having alumni from Roger Williams serving as mentors to current students. "It really is a great way to get to know some of the practicing attorneys, and the value of having Roger Williams alumni as mentors can be great."

The Law Alumni Association is currently looking for mentors in all states for the 2002-2003 academic school year. Anyone interested should contact the Law Alumni Association at (401) 254-4659 or by e-mail at [lawalumni@rwu.edu](mailto:lawalumni@rwu.edu).



*Mentee Cris Mattoon, '02, Mentor John Garry, '00, and Mentee Rebecca Jean Yeager, '02.*





## Why We Become Lawyers

By Dean Bruce I. Kogan

Several weeks ago, we enrolled the tenth entering class at the Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law. Like the hundreds or perhaps thousands who preceded them, these men and women crossed our threshold intent on becoming lawyers. Each year at orientation, the deans and faculty gaze out at the current crop of optimistic,

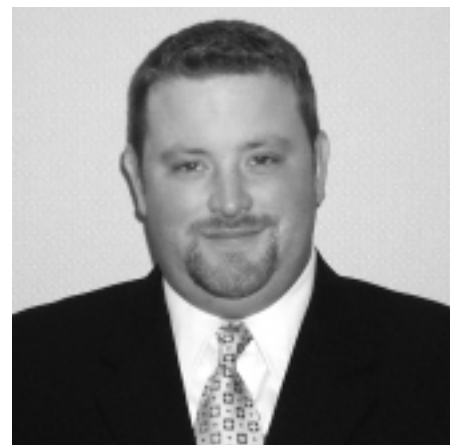
but clearly anxious, faces in the Moot Court Room. The newcomers to legal education are eager to learn, but uncertain of what they will face as they traverse the difficult path that may take them to being an attorney and counselor of the law. As I sat in the orientation this year, I wondered what were the reasons that drew these students to law school and the legal profession.

Prior generations of applicants to American law schools were influenced by positive historical or fictional portrayals of lawyers as champions of the people; like Rhode Island's Chief Justice Frank J. Williams' reverence for Abraham Lincoln or my own respect for the character of Atticus Finch in Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*. In recent years, the actual and fictional doings of lawyers have received far less favorable public attention. Despite all of the cruel lawyer jokes and through all of the scandals of the past thirty years involving lawyers (all the way from Watergate to Enron), the demand for legal education has increased. One must wonder why.

The personal statements of our applicants reveal part of the answer. They tell of some applicants' intellectual interest in the legal system as an important constituent element in the democratic process. Others speak of a meaningful incident in their personal lives involving the legal system or a lawyer who positively influenced them. Still others believe that the analytical and advocacy skills that they expect to acquire will serve them well no matter what they wind up doing. But these answers, of necessity, are largely uninformed by the reality of what it is like to be a lawyer actually representing clients in the resolution of their often very complex and sometimes heart-breaking legal problems.

As graduates of this law school, you, the law alumni, have a much better vantage point from which to answer the question of why we become lawyers. You know that we do so because we must. We are drawn to the law because it affords us an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people. Usually those people are our individual and institutional clients who compensate us for our time, talent, and legal expertise. But often times, the people who need our help the most are the ones least able to afford legal assistance. In that regard, I am proud of the *pro bono publico* efforts of our graduates to provide assistance to needy individuals on worthy causes without compensation.

We hope that our strong public interest clinical program and mandatory community service graduation requirement have something to do with the willingness of Roger Williams graduates to sign up with their local bar association's volunteer lawyer program or to otherwise be of service to their communities. But in truth, maybe it is the optimism that these lawyers brought with them on their first day of law school that compels our alumni to help even if they will not be paid this time. If you have not recently volunteered to be of service to others or your community, then maybe it is time for you to reflect on why you became a lawyer.



## Welcome the New Director of Admissions

Dean Bruce I. Kogan announced Michael W. Boylen as the new Director of Admissions.

Michael Boylen, Quincy, Mass., was most recently the Associate Director of Admissions at Suffolk University Law School, Boston, Mass. Boylen has experience in development and implementation of recruitment strategies, prospective and admitted student programs, as well as student counseling and evaluation. Boylen has spent the last seven years working in higher education in both admissions and career services. He also participated in the execution of the Northeast Association of Pre-Law Advisors 2000 Conference and the Council on Legal Education Opportunity Summer Institute 2000.

Director Boylen received a Masters of Science in Political Science with a concentration in Professional Politics from Suffolk University, Boston, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

## A Message from Admissions

by Michael Boylen, Director of Admissions

You have graduated from an amazing community. In my short time in the Office of Admissions, I have been made to feel extremely welcome. The enthusiasm of the students, faculty, administration, and alumni is very real. For many of you, your interest in the School of Law is very personal, as it should be. You played a role in building this institution.

I am happy to report that this year's incoming class is one of our strongest. It truly takes the entire law school

community to enroll a quality class. I commend all of you who have assisted with this effort.

I would like to invite each and every one of you to play a role in continuing to build momentum behind this school's admissions progress. Alumni can play a crucial role in our recruitment efforts. If you would be interested in contacting accepted students, or attending admissions events, I would be happy to hear from you. Please contact the Office of Admissions at (401) 254-4555 or e-mail me at [admissions@law.rwu.edu](mailto:admissions@law.rwu.edu).

Another way you can help is by referring quality students. In the last issue of *Amicus* you may remember a fee waiver form. If you know of worthy applicants, please complete the form and pass it along. You may also access a copy of this form by going to: [law.rwu.edu/admissions/feewaiver.htm](http://law.rwu.edu/admissions/feewaiver.htm)

I look forward to getting to know you and working with you in the future.

## 2002 Clark Moot Court Competition

The annual Clark Moot Court Competition is an intra-school event co-sponsored by the School of Law and the Moot Court Honor Board Society. The competition is named in honor of the late Esther F. Clark.

The 2002 Clark Moot Court Competition winners were Jonathan Jaussi, Bristol, R.I. and Mark Gagliardi, East Providence, R.I., held at the School of Law on March 14, 2002. In the finals, the award for the best

oralist went to Peter Pascucci, Peacedale, R.I. Joy Dingle, Riverside, R.I., was the best oralist of the entire competition.

## Trial Team

For the first time in any inter-school competition, both Roger Williams University Law teams advanced to the semi-final round. One of the teams advanced to the final round, losing in a split decision. The teams involved were: Rebecca Yeager, '02, Michelle Alves, and Jennifer Niedzinski (finalists) and Jason Nunnermacker, Kathleen Corbishley, and Lucy Homes, '02 (semi-finalists).

Both teams proved that the School of Law is competitive with the best trial advocacy programs in the region. The teams were greatly supported by coaching assistance from Thomas Mirza, Esq. and many alumni and current students who served as practice attorneys and witnesses. Professor David Zlotnick was the principal coach for both teams.

The National Trial Competition is a 27-year old program, which is one of the most competitive law student competitions in the country. The Northeast Regional included 18 teams from nine of the thirteen ABA accredited law schools in the area. The Roger Williams University School of Law Nationals Trial Team receives financial support from the law firm of Hinckley, Allen & Synder and alumnus, Frances E. Johnson, '00.

## A Message from The Office of Career Services

by Nancy Waggner, Director of Career Services

In an effort to increase job opportunities for Roger Williams University School of Law graduates, I have begun visiting law firms and businesses in Boston, including Nixon Peabody, Hale & Dorr, and Liberty Mutual Insurance. I plan on continuing those visits and expanding further afield to Connecticut and New York in the near future.

The School of Law will sponsor a networking opportunity for students and alumni. Current plans include a series of simultaneous panels grouped by Private Practice; Government Practice; Corporate Practice; Advanced Degrees; and Alternative Careers. After the panels conclude, students and alumni will have ample time to network with panelists and others in the common area on the second floor. Pre-registration will be requested and you will receive an invitation to attend the event. In the interim, I welcome any ideas you have regarding this event. Additional event details will be forthcoming.

I remain available to alumni who are considering making a change in their professional lives. Please feel free to contact me if you want to have your resume reviewed, discuss job search strategies, or need assistance in figuring out what it is you might be looking for.

### The Office of Career Services

#### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
or by appointment

**Telephone:** (401) 254-4650

**Fax:** (401) 254-4540

**E-mail:** [nwaggner@rwu.edu](mailto:nwaggner@rwu.edu)

#### Job Postings at:

<http://law.rwu.edu/CareerS/CareerS.htm>

## School of Law Annual Fund

As our School of Law continues to grow, so does the need to support the various scholarships and programs. Your financial support has a direct impact on the quantity and quality of programs and enhances the value of a Roger Williams legal education to students and alumni. Alumni can designate gifts to support scholarships, fund academic programs, or assist with the development of new projects. Below is a listing of giving opportunities to the School of Law Annual Fund.

### Bar Preparation Fund

The Bar Preparation Fund was established to assist the School of Law with its efforts to increase the bar exam passage rate at the Roger Williams University School of Law. Gifts to this category will be used to fund a bar preparation course offered to graduating students.

### Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

Each year two \$500 scholarships are awarded by the Law Alumni Association to a second year day division and a second year extended division student based on academic merit and financial need.

### Gary Bahr Memorial Scholarship Fund

This scholarship recognizes the first year students receiving the highest combined academic average in Contracts and Torts for his/her division.

### Professor Esther Clark Endowed Scholarship

Generously funded through a gift from Esther and John Clark, this scholarship is awarded to a rising second year student on the basis of outstanding academic performance.

### Law School Library

All gifts will be restricted to Law Library needs and development.

### School of Law Annual Fund (unrestricted)

Gifts to this fund will be combined with other gifts for School of Law advances, such as technological improvements and increasing the pool of funds available for financial aid.

Log on to <http://law.rwu.edu> for Annual Fund giving opportunities or call the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events, (401) 254-4659, to make a gift. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



*Left to Right: Law Alumni Vice President Anthony Leone, '97, Law Alumni Scholarship Award Winner Debra Salmon, and Law Alumni President Michael Field, '97.*

## Law Alumni Association Awards Scholarship

Two years ago, the Law Alumni Association established the Law Alumni Scholarship Fund to award scholarships to current Roger Williams School of Law students. From the Annual Law Alumni Golf Tournament, to the Annual Law Alumni Holiday Party, proceeds from many law alumni events benefit the scholarship fund. In this short time, the Law Alumni Association has raised thousands of dollars for this Scholarship Fund.

The Law Alumni Scholarship is a five hundred dollar scholarship awarded to selected second-year students who demonstrate financial need and academic excellence in the first year of law school.

In the Spring 2002, the Law Alumni Financial Assistance Committee, on behalf of the Law Alumni Association, awarded its annual law alumni scholarship to Debra Salmon from Uxbridge, Massachusetts. Ms. Salmon received her paralegal certificate from the Northeastern University Paralegal Professional Program, and she received her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Ms. Salmon has developed an outstanding resume while at the School of Law. She has served as a summer intern for the Honorable Susan Ricci of the Worcester Probate and Family Court in Worcester, Massachusetts. Currently, she is employed at VanderZicht Real Estate, Inc. in Whitinsville, Massachusetts. Ms. Salmon also participates in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, and she serves as a member and Secretary of the School of Law's Honor Board.

## Birnberg Foundation Award

The Birnberg Foundation Award honors the perseverance, determination, and dedication a student demonstrates throughout their entire law school career. The award is given annually to two students in their final year, \$500 each. The Class of 2002 recipients were Thomas W. Box and Joseph F. Rodgers, III.

This award was established through the generosity of the Birnberg Foundation of Little Falls, N.J. The 2001-2002 selection committee consisted of Professor David Rice, Professor Larry Ritchie, and alumnus John Birnberg, '01.



## Faculty Briefs



**Professor Carl Bogus** was granted tenure and promoted. Professor Bogus published this year, *Why Lawsuits Are Good For America*. He edited *The Second Amendment in Law and History: Historians and Constitutional Scholars on the Right to Bear Arms*. Other scholars and judges have cited his work more than two-hundred times. He has established a national reputation in the two primary areas of his research: Second Amendment gun control law and product liability.



**Professor Matthew P. Harrington** received the distinguished 2002 Professor of the Year Award from the Student Bar Association. This past academic year, Harrington was the Assistant Dean for Administrative Affairs at the George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.



**Visiting Professor John Paul Jones**, Richmond, Va., has been appointed to teach constitutional law, and collision and limitation of liability. Jones is the editor of the *Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce* as well as a professor at the University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond.

Since 1992, he has assisted Albania with writing and implementing a constitution for the post-communist era, and other East European states, including Bosnia Hercegovina, Macedonia, Ukraine, and the Slovak Republic, regarding a variety of constitutional matters.

Professor Jones is twice a graduate of the Navy's Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) and a designated Tactical Action Officer. More recently, he served in the U.S. Navy and NATO reserve intelligence commands, and led the Naval Investigative Service Reserve Unit in Norfolk before retiring with the rank of Captain.

Jones earned a Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from San Diego University School of Law, San Diego, Calif., a LLM from Yale University, New Haven, Conn., and a Bachelor of Arts from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis.



**Associate Professor Ann Lawton** joined the faculty this Fall and will teach in the areas of contracts, commercial law, and employment discrimination. She began her teaching career at the University of Michigan School of Business, Ann Arbor, Mich., and thereafter was Assistant Professor at the Miami University School of Business, Oxford, Ohio. Professor Lawton began her law teaching career at Ohio Northern University, Saint Ada, Ohio, and was most recently law clerk to the Honorable David McKeague, United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Professor Lawton has also practiced with Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer, Boston, Mass.

Lawton earned a joint Juris Doctor and Masters of Business Administration degree *cum laude*, and a Bachelor of Arts degree with *honors and distinction*, in History from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



**Visiting Assistant Professor Jon W. Shelburne**, Portsmouth, R.I., has been appointed to teach trial advocacy. Shelburne is currently a Judge Advocate as a Major in the United States Marine Corps, as well as an instructor at the Naval Justice School, Newport, R.I. A few of his previous assignments include Senior Defense Counsel and Senior Trial Counsel, Naples, Italy; Claims/Command Services Attorney, Naples; and Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Okinawa, Japan. Shelburne has also taught paralegal and juvenile law courses at Central Texas College, Naples, Italy campus.

Shelburne earned his Juris Doctor from Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, Texas, a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Dallas, Irving, Texas, and certification in secondary education from the State of Texas.



**Visiting Assistant Professor Dale B. Thompson**, Blacksburg, Va., has been appointed to teach environmental law.

Thompson's teaching experience was gained as a visiting and adjunct assistant professor in the Departments of Economics and Agriculture & Applied Economics, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg. He has also been a visiting assistant professor at the Olin School of Business, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. Thompson was a summer associate with Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, Atlanta, Ga.

Thompson earned his Juris Doctor as well as a Doctorate from the Department of Economics, Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., and a Bachelor of Arts degree *magna cum laude* from Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.



**Professor Michael J. Yelnosky** was granted promotion to full professor.

Professor Yelnosky has recently edited *NYU Working Papers on Labor & Employment Law: 1998-99* and has recently authored *Mediation?* 53 NYU ANN. CONF. ON LABOR (forthcoming 2002).



**Associate Professor David M. Zlotnick** was granted tenure. Professor Zlotnick was awarded the Soros Justice Senior Fellowship by the Open Society Institute.

The Soros Justice Senior Fellowship Program enables leading experts in the criminal justice, public health, and legal fields to raise the level of national discussion, scholarship, and prompt policy debate.

Professor Zlotnick spearheaded the creation of a new litigation office for Families Against Mandatory Minimums ("FAMM") and was the primary author of the *amicus* brief in *Glover v. United States*, which resulted in a rare 9-0 victory in the United States Supreme Court for FAMM and their clients.



## Roger Williams University Law Alumni Granted Library Privileges

The Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Roger Williams University School of Law Library, is pleased to invite all alumni back to the School of Law and the Law Library to check out what is new. Is there a book by a professor that you have wanted to read? Perhaps you need a treatise for legal research that is only available on reserve? Maybe you just need a reason to come back to visit one of your favorite law librarians? Beginning in the Fall 2002, law alumni will have borrowing

privileges similar to those borrowing privileges enjoyed by law students. The following is a preview of the privileges alumni will enjoy:

- Borrowing privileges for up to three items at a time from the general collection, with a one week borrowing period and the possibility of a one week renewal period
- Two hour borrowing privileges for reserve items, including room keys (*subject to limits during high-demand periods*)
- On-site use of selected subscription databases available under the law library's licenses

Visit the Law Library any time to complete an application for a library card and receive full details on this new alumni service. Upon processing, the library will issue your library card to you via mail. When you receive your library card, simply enjoy one of the many privileges that comes with being a member of the Law Alumni Association.

## Join a Committee!

Are you interested in serving on a Law Alumni Association Committee? The following 2002-2003 standing and *ad hoc* committees are welcoming new members:

- **Community Service**  
Chairperson Susan Perkins, '97
- **Continuing Legal Education**  
Chairperson Jennifer Brooks, '99
- **Communication & Events**  
Chairperson Mark Gemma, '97
- **Amicus Subcommittee**  
Chairperson Susan Rossi Cook, '01
- **Reunion Class of 1998**  
*We are currently looking for a chairperson(s) for this committee.*
- **Financial Assistance**  
Chairperson Eric Miller, '01
- **Golf Tournament Subcommittee**  
Chairperson Anthony Leone, '97

Log onto, <http://law.rwu.edu/Alumni/Commit.htm>, for more information or e-mail your interest to [lawalumni@rwu.edu](mailto:lawalumni@rwu.edu)



*Law Alumni attend a "Meet the President" reception at the Museum of Science, Boston, Mass., in April 2002. Photographed left to right: Law Alumni Association Vice President Anthony Leone, '97, Amy Ambarik, '97, Director of Alumni, Programs & Events Chelsie Horne, Donna Cirelli, '97, and Director of Career Services Nancy Waggner.*

## Law Alumni Association Annual Meeting

On May 4, 2002, the Law Alumni Association held its annual meeting at The Westin in Providence, R.I., and re-elected its Executive Committee, consisting of President, Michael W. Field, '97; Vice-President, Anthony Leone, '97; Treasurer, Neal Richard Pandozzi, '99; Secretary, Jennifer Brooks, '99; and Immediate Past President, Michael Voccola, '97. Eric Miller, '01, was newly elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors where he joins existing Directors Armando Batastini, III, '98; Wendy Buckler, '98; Cassie Cioci, '00; David D'Agostino, '99; Christine Fraser, '99; Mark Gemma, '97; Robert Jacquard, '98; Steve Maguire, '96; Christopher Maselli, '99; Susan Perkins, '97; and Cheryl Robertson, '96.

Interim Dean Bruce I. Kogan updated all attendees on law school events, new faculty members, and the search for a new Dean, which is continuing with several promising candidates. Dean Kogan also enthusiastically reported that applications to the law school had increased dramatically over the past two years, jumping nearing 76%.



President Michael W. Field reviewed the prior year's accomplishments, highlighted by the first issue of the alumni magazine, *Amicus*. Other notable achievements included beginning a Mentor/Mentee Program where graduating students are mentored by alumni, the annual law alumni golf tournament and holiday party, and the Class of 1996's fifth year reunion. Goals for the next year include completing an online alumni directory and increasing alumni involvement at School of Law events and on the Alumni Association's various committees—Continuing Legal

Education, Community Service, Financial Assistance, Communication & Events, Golf Tournament Subcommittee, and *Amicus* Magazine Subcommittee. If you would like to join any of these committees, please contact the Law Alumni Association at (401) 254-4659 or e-mail [lawalumni@rwu.edu](mailto:lawalumni@rwu.edu).

## Announcing the Roger Williams University Online Directory! <http://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/RWU/>

### About the Online Directory:

This directory is available only to Roger Williams University undergraduate alumni and School of Law alumni (you must register with the community to gain access). The directory contains contact information on alumni. Alumni can update their own profile (and hide any information they do not want listed). The directory has a simple search function and an advanced search function to allow alumni to search for other alumni, based on various criteria.

You may access the directory via a secure seven-digit access code, which is located above your name on the mailing label of this *Amicus* issue. There are no fees or obligations associated with the Online Directory. This is a special service limited to you as law alumni of Roger Williams University.

If you have any questions or comments about the Online Directory, please e-mail us at [lawalumni@rwu.edu](mailto:lawalumni@rwu.edu) or call the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at (401) 254-4659.





## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, September 19, 2002**  
Continuing Legal Education Program

*Effective Representation in  
Cases Involving Domestic Violence*



Presented by  
Professor Emily Sack

12:00 p.m. Luncheon  
12:30 p.m. CLE Presentation  
1 Hour CLE credit

Roger Williams University  
Metropolitan Center for Education & Law  
150 Washington Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

Domestic violence issues arise in many types of cases, including criminal, family, dissolution, and child neglect. This seminar will focus on effective representation in cases involving domestic violence, and is intended both for attorneys representing victims of domestic violence and for those representing clients charged with battering. Topics will include: the dynamics of domestic violence relationships and their impact on litigation; particular ethical issues that arise in legal representation in this area; the attorney's role in identifying and addressing the social services needs of clients; and the impact of federal laws concerning firearms and protective orders. We will also examine how we can best serve clients in this complex and volatile area.

**\$35 Includes Lunch**



*Class of 1997 Fifth-Year Reunion Weekend*  
**Friday, September 20, 2002**  
Informal Social Gathering  
Aidan's Pub, Bristol Harbor 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, September 21, 2002**  
Fifth Year Reunion Reception & Dinner  
Providence Biltmore, Bacchante Room  
Kennedy Plaza Providence, Rhode Island

6:30 p.m. Reception  
7:30 p.m. Dinner

**\$45 per person**  
**\$80 per couple**

Mark Gemma, Esq., '97 John Leidecker, Esq., '97  
Co-Chairs, Class of 1997 Reunion Committee



**Sunday, September 22, 2002**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Law Alumni Association  
Golf Tournament

Cranston Country Club  
Cranston, Rhode Island

**\$95 per golfer**

All proceeds benefit the Law Alumni  
Association Scholarship Fund.

Anthony R. Leone, '97  
Tournament Chairperson

**Thursday, October 24, 2002**  
Continuing Legal Education Program

*Wireless Telecommunications Installations in  
Local Zoning – The Impact of The Federal  
Telecommunications Act of 1996*



Presented by Edward Pare, '97

12:00 p.m. Luncheon  
12:30 p.m. CLE Presentation  
1 Hour CLE credit

Roger Williams University  
Metropolitan Center for Education & Law  
150 Washington Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

This program will give a general overview of the impact of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act") on local zoning ordinances and decisions of zoning boards. With the proliferation of wireless telecommunications installations, the not-in-my-back-yard (NIMBY) syndrome is more prevalent than ever. Armed with the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the limitations it places upon local zoning ordinances and decisions of zoning boards, wireless providers continue to develop wireless telecommunications facilities to obtain returns for their investments in the licenses issued by the Federal Communications Commission. The program will discuss the key provisions of the Act and the major cases interpreting the Act.

**\$35 Includes Lunch**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2002**

Continuing Legal Education Program

*"STOCKBROKER LIABILITY IN A BEAR MARKET" –  
Understanding and evaluating your client's  
securities complaints*



Presented by Adjunct Professor Brian P. Stern,  
and William A. Jacobson, Esq.

12:00 p.m. Luncheon  
12:30 p.m. CLE Presentation  
1 Hour CLE credit

Roger Williams University  
Metropolitan Center for Education & Law  
150 Washington Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

This program explores the legal liability of stockbrokers and other financial professionals to their customers. We will begin by reviewing the relevant securities laws and the regulatory system within which stockbrokers operate. Then we will turn our attention to understanding customers' most common complaints about their stockbrokers, including unauthorized trading, unsuitability, churning, misrepresentations, and risky investments. Attendees will also learn some basic tools to help them evaluate their client's complaints, such as the proper questions to ask, which documents to review, and how brokerage firms evaluate claims. With this information attendees should be able to begin to separate the potential liability cases from the ones that should not be pursued. Finally, we will explore the securities arbitration process from the filing of a statement of claim, discovery, hearing, and hopefully an award for your client.

**\$35 Includes Lunch**

**Monday, December 9, 2002**  
5th Annual Law Alumni Association  
Holiday Party

Olives Martini Bar  
108 North Main Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

6:00 p.m.

Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres, Music & Dancing

**\$20 per person** (includes two drink tickets)

Each year at the Holiday Party, alumni have generously given to those who are less fortunate. The Law Alumni Association invites attendees to bring canned food items, toys, hats, mittens, or scarves to this year's party.

For additional information log onto  
<http://law.rwu.edu/Alumni/Events.htm> or to  
register for law alumni events, please contact  
the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at  
(401) 254-4659 or e-mail [lawevents@rwu.edu](mailto:lawevents@rwu.edu)

# Class Notes

## 1996

**Cathleen DeSimone** recently opened her own law firm, DeSimone Law Associates, specializing in immigration, in Providence, R.I., after having worked for four years as an assistant district counsel for the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Boston, Mass.

**Steve Maguire** has left the Providence firm of Marasco & Nesselbush to begin his own practice in Cranston, R.I. He will continue to practice in the areas of Social Security disability and personal injury law. Steve and his wife, Laura, are expecting their second child in October.

**Kenneth McKay** and his wife, Mary, announce the birth of their second child, Robert David McKay, born on March 9, 2002. Robert joins his "big brother," Fry.

**Martina Ripanti** was married on October 6, 2001, in Newport, R.I. She is now Martina A. R. Frangis and is a trust officer at Pell Rudman Trust Co. in Boston, Mass.

## 1997

**Jay C. Bianco** and **Joy Sivo Bianco**, reside in East Greenwich, R.I. Their oldest daughter, Gabriella, is photographed on the inside front cover.

**Donald F. Brown** was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of Washington Academy, E. Machias, Maine. He has an active practice of general law in Bangor, Maine, but works throughout eastern Maine. Donald, his wife, Terri, and son, Jim, live in Holden.

**David Dalton** and his wife, Amy, had their first child, Mackenzie, on May 3, 2002. After the September 11th attacks, David (who is a Captain, Judge Advocate) was called to the Pentagon to assist the families of the victims with legal issues.

**Laura Gottlieb Feldman** married Kenneth J. Feldman on September 23, 2000, and they are now homeowners in Manhattan. Laura is an attorney with the Administration for Children's Services - City of New York.

**Bennett Hirsch** and his wife, Dori, of Jamestown, R.I., recently welcomed their third child, Abigail, born on March 1, 2002.

**Gregory Sean Kimmel** was married to Lisa Danielle Tartamella on December 8, 2001. Gregory is an attorney with Kimmel & Kimmel in Norwalk, Conn. The couple visited St. Lucia on their honeymoon, and are living in Milford.

**Anthony R. Leone** received a Master of Liberal Arts degree from the Harvard University Extension School in June 2002. His thesis was entitled "Foreign Financial Sources and the Funding of American Elections: The Applicability and Constitutionality of the Section 441e of the Federal Elections Campaign Act." Currently, Anthony is an associate at Rice, Dolan & Kershaw in Providence, R.I.

**Daniel McCusker** is vice president and general counsel with M.R.S. Associates, Inc. in Cherry Hill, N.J. He and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters, Emma Helena, born August 21, 1999, and Abigail Grace, born August 1, 2001. The family resides in Springfield, Pa.

**Robert R. Pellegrini, Jr.**, and his wife, Amie, announce the birth of their second child, Maximus Joseph, born on May 22, 2002. The family resides in Cumberland, R.I.

**Sherryl (Babbitt) Pond** opened her own law firm in April, 2001—Law Office of Sherryl S. Pond, P.C., located in Middletown, R.I. She is practicing in the areas of immigration law, personal injury, and civil litigation, as well as other general areas.

**Michael A. Voccola** has been appointed director of business development for The Procaccianti Group in Cranston, R.I., among the top 50 hotel owners and operators in America. Michael is responsible for all new business development, hotel acquisitions and evaluations, all insurance matters, and acts as manager of all legal issues. Michael lives in Cranston with his son, Michael John.

## 1998

**Brian Berkowitz** is a senior assistant district attorney with the Rockland County District Attorney's Office in New City, N.Y. He is assigned as the supervising attorney in charge of the prosecution of all Driving While Intoxicated cases and Internet Crimes.

**Stephen G. Bernardo** is a senior vice president with Bank of America Business Credit in Chicago, Ill. Stephen, his wife, Lisa Luongo, and their two children, Rachel and Daniel, reside in LaGrange, Ill.

**Lisa (Beagan) Kolb** gave birth on January 4, 2002, to her first child, Matthew Wayne. Lisa retired from Gillis and Gillis in New Haven, Conn., and she and her husband, Marc, reside in Derby, Conn.

**Dean Mastrangelo** is in private practice in Garden City, N.Y. He married Nancy Kersich on March 23, 2002, and they reside in Farmingville, N.Y.

**Dena Winder** is in the Navy JAG and has been stationed overseas on the island of Sicily, Italy, for three years. She is scheduled to return to Norfolk, Va.

## 1999

**Brett Arruda** and his wife, Becky, announce the birth of their daughter, Erin Noelle, who was born on November 30, 2001. Brett is currently employed at Target Professional Associates in Avon, Conn.

**John Caletti** married Jennifer Herard on May 26, 2002. John is an associate with the law firm of Olenn & Penza in Warwick, R.I.

**Stacey Cohen** is currently working in the community associations department at Stark & Stark, P.C. in Princeton, N.J. She provides legal advice and services to condominium and homeowner associations, as well as drafting and negotiating contracts, rules and regulations, and alternative dispute resolutions. She also handles collections work, including pursuit of claims in bankruptcy, filing lawsuits, and executions

in New York. Further, she deals in negotiations with condominium developers, including fair housing compliance in the State of New Jersey.

**Christopher Friel** married Kerri Hopkins on December 21, 2001. Chris is an attorney at Lynch and Friel in Warwick, R.I. The couple visited Hawaii on their honeymoon and reside in Warwick.

**David Holley** has been appointed managing director of Kroll Inc., a global risk consulting company, located in Boston, Mass. David is head of the firm's New England Region and oversees a team of New England-based professionals, as well as experts from other parts of the country.

**Michael E. Hopton** is a captain with the Smithfield (R.I.) Police Department and a 19-year veteran. He also is the commander of detectives, the department's spokesman, property control officer, and prosecutions officer. Michael has received many department-wide commendations and letters of recognition for outstanding criminal arrests and investigative work.

**Roger Roots** is a graduate assistant in the Department of Sociology at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Roger's seventh law-review article "Are Cops Constitutional?" was recently published in the *Seton Hall Constitutional Law Journal*, 11 Seton Hall Const. L.J. 685 (2001).

## 2000

**Stephen R. Archambault** is a criminal defense attorney with DiLibero and Associates in Providence, R.I. Steve is also a police officer with the Jamestown Police Department in Jamestown, R.I.

**Cassie Cioci** has accepted a commission with the United States Coast Guard as a judge advocate, and will be assigned to District 11/Maintenance and Logistics Command, Pacific Area, Alameda, Calif.

**David Clarke** has opened his own law office in Shakespeare Hall in Providence, R.I.

**Donald DeCiccio** has opened his own office, DeCiccio Law Office, in Johnston, R.I.

**John B. Garry** is a litigation associate at Adler, Pollock & Sheehan, P.C., in Providence, R.I., where he concentrates his practice in the area of environmental law. John's article entitled "Intertanko Returns Fire - It's A Direct Hit: Rhode Island's Marine Oil Transportation Policies in the Wake of United States v. Locke" was recently published in the *Suffolk University Law Review*.

**Aaron T. Strojny** is now an associate with the firm of Baker, Braverman & Barbardoro, P.C. in Braintree, Mass. Aaron will concentrate his practice in civil and business litigation.

**Chris Tadros** is employed at Tapalian & Tadros, P.C., in Providence, R.I.

**Pamela Wetmore** is employed by the firm of Early, Ludwick & Sweeney, L.L.C., in West Haven, Conn. She handles a large number of plaintiffs in their asbestos litigation department.

# Class Notes

## 2001

**Rene G. Brown** passed the bar exam in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island in July 2001. She is admitted to practice in both states and currently is an attorney at Rezendes & Associates in Fall River, Mass. Her son, Robert Brown, is now a freshman at Roger Williams University—he is a political science major.

**Andrew Cellemme** is currently employed as a law clerk in the Rhode Island Supreme Court Law Clerk Pool.

**Susan Rossi Cook** has been hired to teach pharmacy law at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston Campus.

**Ann Corriveau** is working in the Bristol County District Attorney's Office in New Bedford, Mass. and was recently appointed Assistant District Attorney in Bristol County.

**Patton Lane** married **Hanna Lidington**, '00, in November 2001. The couple resides in Frederick, Md.

**Eric Miller** has accepted a position with Kaplan & Kolb in Providence, R.I. Eric was also recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Law Alumni Association for the Roger Williams University School of Law.

**Philip Murtha** and his wife, Sandra, announce the birth of their son, Aiden.

**Marc Pilaro** has accepted a position as an Associate at Kiel, Ellis and Boxer in Springfield, Vt. He and his wife reside in Claremont, N.H.

**Glenmore Powers** received his L.L.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida's Graduate Tax Program in July, 2002. He and his wife, Jen, are planning to relocate to New York.

**Dos Urbanski** is an associate at Melick, Porter & Shea, a litigation firm in Boston, Mass.

## 2002

**Zachary Barth** is an associate with the firm of Freehill, Hogan & Mahar in New York City.

**Dena Castricone** is a law clerk for Chief Justice Frank Williams of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

**Steve Cooney** is working in the Clerk Pool at the Rhode Island Superior Court in Providence, R.I.

**Michael Daly** is a law clerk for Chief Justice Frank Williams of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

**Karen Hadam, M.D.**, is an associate with the firm of Mandell, Schwartz & Beauclair in Providence, R.I.

**Christy Hetherington** is a law clerk for Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

**Lucy Holmes** married Dr. Robert Plovnick of Newton, Mass., on June 8, 2002. The wedding took place at Lucy's parents' home in Flowery Branch, Ga. Lucy is a law clerk for Justice Robert Flanders of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

**Dalton McKeeever** has taken a position with the Hillsborough County Public Defender in Tampa, Fla.

**Stan Pupecki** is a law clerk in the Rhode Island Superior Court Clerk Pool, Providence, R.I.

**Rebecca Schwartz** is an assistant district attorney with the Middlesex County (Mass.) District Attorney's Office.

**Rebecca Yeager** is a law clerk in the Rhode Island Superior Court Clerk Pool in Providence, R.I.



**John A. Pagliarini, Jr., '99**

taught as an adjunct professor at Johnson & Wales University and has been an instructor for the Rhode Island Association of Realtors.

In March 2000, John seized the opportunity to combine his legal skills and experience as a tax assessor and established Property Assessors, LLC, where he serves as a property tax and land use consultant who is qualified to serve as an expert witness regarding property tax evaluation issues. Property Assessors, LLC operates under the motto, "making life a little less taxing." This business presents a unique niche in tax evaluation issues and seizes upon John's over eight years of experience as the Tax Assessor in both the Town of Bristol and the Town of West Warwick.

With his extensive experience in local government in diverse communities throughout the state, John is now answering the call to serve as an elected official. The Rhode Island Republican Party has endorsed John A. Pagliarini, Jr., as its candidate for Lieutenant Governor for 2002. John is the first Roger Williams Law School alumnus to be endorsed by a political party for state wide elected office in Rhode Island. John sees this opportunity to take his extensive experience at the local government level and to apply it at the State level.

Whether it is business, law, education, local government, or state wide politics, John A. Pagliarini, Jr., '99, demonstrates the diverse opportunities available to graduates of the Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law. As its first alumnus to graduate with a joint J.D. and Master's of Community Planning with the University of Rhode Island, John served as the town planner for the Town of West Greenwich, R.I., after graduating from Roger Williams. John is a licensed tax assessor and holds a Rhode Island real estate broker's license. He has also



If you would like to submit a Class Note regarding personal, career, or business changes, send your information to Roger Williams University School of Law, ATTN: Law Alumni Association Class Notes, Ten Metacom Avenue, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809 or e-mail lawalumni@rwu.edu. Photos are welcomed but cannot be returned.



# THE CLASS OF 2002



Commencement Day  
Saturday, May 18, 2002





# The Class of 2002



RALPH R. PAPITTO SCHOOL OF LAW

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