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eNewsletter

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

It was not easy to leave Winston-Salem after 22 wonderful years, but I saw in Roger Williams much of what initially drew me to Wake Forest. First and foremost, there is a similar commitment by a devoted cadre of teacher/scholars to provide students an excellent, personalized legal education. In only our 10th year, a fine faculty now becomes even stronger with the addition of three terrific newcomers – Nancy Cook (a nationally-respected clinician from Cornell), Niki Kuckes (a multi-talented litigator and promising scholar), and George Nhonu (a top international business lawyer, who comes to us from Nigeria, via Harvard's S.J.D. program). They are a diverse and engaging group who will enrich the lives of the entire Roger Williams community.

I am also excited to announce the addition of two terrific lawyers to our Legal Method faculty. Cecily Banks earned her J.D. from my alma mater, the University of Virginia, and Jane Rindsberg holds a J.D. from Duke. They join a dedicated cadre of teachers who form the backbone of the 1L experience.

On the administrative end, I am delighted to announce that Kristen Fletcher (J.D. Notre Dame) became the first full-time Director of our Marine Affairs Institute. We lured Kristen from the National Sea Grant Law Center and she has ambitious plans for leveraging our unique location on Narragansett Bay, as well as our collaboration with the Department of Marine Affairs and Sea Grant Program at the University of Rhode Island.

These are just a few of the exciting things going on at the School of Law. As you read along in this and subsequent "eNewsletters," you will be able to keep abreast of the wonderful array of accomplishments and initiatives taking place at this dynamic educational institution on the shore of Mt. Hope Bay.

School of Law Initiates Innovative Medical-Legal Collaborative

Since the summer of 2002, the School of Law has been a key partner in the development of the Rhode Island Family Advocacy Program (RIFAP), a medical-legal collaborative that offers legal services to low-income families in health care settings. It is modeled on the Family Advocacy Program at Boston Medical Center, the first medical-legal collaborative of its kind in the country.

RIFAP partners include Brown Medical School, Hasbro Children's Hospital, the HELP Lead Safe Center, Rhode Island Kids Count, Rhode Island Legal Services, and Roger Williams University School of Law. An attorney from Rhode Island Legal Services spends two days per week at Hasbro Children's Hospital and the HELP Lead Safe Center providing legal assistance in areas of law affecting child health, such as housing, benefits, educational rights, and family law. Attorneys from Rhode Island Legal Services collaborate with staff at the hospital to conduct legal education training for doctors, nurses, and other staff who may refer families for legal help.

What distinguishes RIFAP from other medical-legal collaboratives is the alliance between its academic partners. Roger Williams University School of Law and Brown Medical School are working together to educate the next generation of doctors and

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Rakove Delivers Founding Moments Lecture

Jack N. Rakove, Coe Professor at Stanford, delivered the School of Law's inaugural Founding Moments Lecture. Dr. Rakove, winner of the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for History, discussed the



Founding Fathers theory of separation of powers and then analyzed Rhode Island's distinctive, and ongoing, controversy regarding the appropriate limits of legislative power. The event was co-sponsored by Common Cause of Rhode Island.

Faculty Briefs



In October, Professor **Carl Bogus** debated Walter K. Olson, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute and author of "The Rule of Lawyers: How the New Litigation Elite Threatens America's Rule of Law," at Albany Law School. The topic was "Does America Need Tort Reform? Personal Injury Law & Public Policy."



Professor of Law **Edward J. Eberle** received a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant in Law which he used at the University of Munster, Germany (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Munster Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät).



Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Law **Diana Hassel** was awarded a Dukeminier Award for her article, "The Use of Criminal Sodomy Laws in Civil Litigation", 79 Texas Law Review 813 (2001) by the Williams Project of UCLA School of Law. The article was named one of the Best Sexual Orientation Law Review Articles of the year.

The Williams Project on Sexual Orientation Law is a think tank dedicated to research and analysis of sexual orientation law and public policy.

Student Kudos

Andrew Beernworth's ('04) article, "Religion in the Marketplace: Establishments, Pluralisms and the Doctrinal Eclipse of Free Exercise," will be published in the Thomas Jefferson Law Review in April 2004.

Upcoming Events

Annual Law Alumni Holiday Party and Holiday Food & Clothing Drive
Monday, December 8, 2003
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Assist us in support of needy families during the holiday season. We will be collecting items to supply families with a holiday dinner and a few presents. Attendees are invited to bring canned food items, toys, hats, mittens, or scarves to the Holiday Party. Any donation would be of great assistance.

Olives Martini Bar
108 North Main Street, Providence, RI
\$20 per person
Reservations are required by December 1, 2003.

Continuing Legal Education Program
Criminal Law Update
Wednesday, December 10, 2003



Associate Professor
Andrew Horwitz
12:00 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m.
Program - 1 Hour
CLE Credit
Metropolitan
Center for
Education and Law
150 Washington Street, Providence, RI

Professor Horwitz will summarize the most important developments in criminal law and criminal procedure from the 2002-2003 terms of the United States Supreme Court and the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

\$35. Registration Fee includes lunch.
Registration is required.



Founding Moments
Lecture Series
David B. Wilkins
"The New Social Engineers: The Making of the Black Corporate Bar and the Dual Legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*"

Wednesday, April 14, 2004
2:00 p.m.

School of Law, Bristol Campus
David Wilkins is the Kirkland and Ellis Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and Director of Harvard's Program on the Legal Profession.

To mark the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, Professor Wilkins and a distinguished panel will discuss what Professor Wilkins has called the "paradox of opportunity" for black lawyers created by *Brown*.

The panelists are:
Honorable O. Rogerie Thompson
Associate Justice
Rhode Island Supreme Court

Michael Evora
Executive Director, Rhode Island
Commission on Human Rights

Beverly E. Ledbetter
Vice-President and General Counsel
Brown University

Walter R. Stone
Partner, Adler, Pollock & Sheehan
Reservations are required
by April 7, 2004.

To make a reservation or to register for an event, please call the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at (401) 254-4659 or lawevents@rvu.edu.

Last summer **Amanda Mertens ('05)** interned at the American Consulate in Munich, Germany through a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. While at the Consulate, Amanda rotated through Administration, Consular, Public Affairs, and Regional Security Divisions.

This fall, Amanda completed a pro bono assignment for Edwards & Angell LLP in Providence, R.I. She wrote a memo filed in its entirety with the Family Court of R.I. The case is a Hague Convention petition for the return of a child to his American father, serving in the armed forces in Germany.