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AMICUS (Volume 8, Issue No. 2) (Fall 2009)

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Roger Williams University School of Law, "AMICUS (Volume 8, Issue No. 2) (Fall 2009)" (2009). *Amicus*. 9. https://docs.rwu.edu/law_pubs_amicus/9

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AMICUS



THE MAGAZINE OF ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

FALL 2009

RWU Law Goes to HOLLYWOOD

AN ALUMNA'S CRUSADE TO FREE HER
WRONGLY CONVICTED BROTHER
BECOMES A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE



David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law

Seeking Justice...

Friends,

Whether representing deep-pocketed corporate clients or indigent undocumented laborers, attorneys are ultimately in the business of seeking justice – the highest purpose and ideal of our profession.

In this slim edition of *Amicus* (see Editor's Note below), you will find some outstanding examples of that ideal from within our RWU Law community. Alumna **Betty Anne Waters '98** spent literally half her life seeking justice for her wrongly imprisoned brother – and is now about to be introduced to the world via an upcoming **Hilary Swank** feature film that bears her name. In these pages, you'll get an "insider's look" at the true-life story behind the Hollywood picture.

You'll also enjoy a glimpse inside our new Immigration Law Clinic – an exciting and much-needed addition to the region's immigration-law landscape, and one that's been featured in the *Boston Globe*, the *Providence Journal* and *Providence Business News*, as well as receiving heavy coverage in the Spanish- (and Portuguese-) language media. In clinic director Professor **Mary Holper**, RWU Law has an experienced and passionate advocate who has dedicated her professional life to seeking justice for America's newest residents.

Of course, we could as easily have written about any of our clinical programs, all ably overseen by Professor **Andrew Horwitz**. Or we could have focused on Professors **Peter Margulies** and **Jared Goldstein**, who have done yeoman's work ensuring that the U.S.'s constitutional ideals are respected and upheld even for such reviled individuals as the terrorism suspects being held at Guantanamo and other facilities. Or Professor **Emily Sack**, who has spearheaded efforts across the country to offer "problem-solving courts," designed to quickly and efficiently address domestic violence and other pressing social issues. Or Adjunct Professor **Don Migliori**, who has persistently demanded answers and accountability for his clients in 9/11-related litigation. Or any number of projects under the aegis of our own **Pro Bono Collaborative**...

But you get the picture: seeking justice is an essential part of who and what we are at RWU Law. I hope this issue of *Amicus* will inspire you to join us and become part of our continuously unfolding narrative.

David A Logan

EDITOR'S NOTE: A NEW AMICUS IS COMING!

I'm pleased to report that Roger Williams University has given official approval to a full redesign of *Amicus*. It will be a ground-up redesign – not a tweaking or even an overhaul of the present magazine, but an entirely new *Amicus* (one that may, in fact, not even be called *Amicus*) slated for launch in Fall 2010.

After examining several possible interim plans, the School of Law administration and University Communications have decided not to stop production of the "old" *Amicus* during the redesign – we'll still have two more of those: the one you're holding and another for Spring 2010.

These issues, however, will be 12 to 16 pages shorter than the magazine's usual size, to free up design and editorial resources for work on the new magazine (as well as a major redesign of RWU Law's website, currently underway).

That's a lot of pages to lose, and many sections may be trimmed or eliminated in these issues. In the interim, I encourage all of you to have your say as the redesign proceeds. Please tell us what you like and dislike about *Amicus* – in focus, look, content; whatever you want to talk about. We'd like to know what features and departments you've enjoyed as well as those

you'd like to see jettisoned. All suggestions will be presented to the *Amicus* Editorial Board as the redesign moves forward.

In the meantime, I thank you for your patience and understanding while we are "under construction," and I look forward to your input.

Very truly yours,

Michael M. Bowden,
Editor, *Amicus*
mbowden@rwu.edu

AMICUS

Vol. 8 No. 2 Fall 2009

Amicus is the magazine of Roger Williams University School of Law, published by University Communications and the School of Law's Office of Alumni, Programs & Events

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RWU Law Welcomes New Chief Justice

This summer, **The Honorable Paul A. Suttell** was sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, with state and federal judges, political leaders, family and friends in attendance.

In spite of the dreary day, the atmosphere was festive, reflecting the remarkably broad array of support (including a unanimous vote in the Senate) for the jurist from Little Compton, who has moved from the Family Court (where he served from 1990 to 2003), to Associate Justice of the Supreme Court (2003-09), and now to the pinnacle of the state judiciary as Chief Justice.

Deans David Logan and **Anthony Bastone** attended the ceremony, along with popular adjunct professor **Don Migliori** and his law partner **Jack McConnell**, who serves on the RWU Board of Trustees and is himself slated for the federal bench. Several alumni were also in attendance, including **Susan Rodriguez '03** and **Elizabeth Suever '07**, who served as Chief Justice Suttell's law clerks, and **Sally McDonald '09**, who is his current clerk.

"Chief Justice Suttell has hired one of our graduates to serve as his clerk for each year of his Supreme Court term," Dean Logan noted, adding that Rodriguez had the honor of testifying on Suttell's behalf per his request during his confirmation process.

"Having the opportunity to serve as Justice Suttell's law clerk was a great honor and learning experience," said Suever, who now practices with Roberts, Carroll, Feldstein & Peirce. "As a new law school graduate, I could not have asked for a better mentor to help me hone my legal writing and research skills. I will always look back fondly on my time in Justice Suttell's chambers."



Rhode Island's new Chief Justice Paul Suttell is joined at his swearing-in ceremony by RWU Law Alumni Elizabeth Suever '07 (one of his former clerks) and Robert Knychalski '07.

RWU Law Builds LSAC Presence



RWU Law is shaping both the present and the future of law school admissions through its active participation in the **Law School Admissions Council (LSAC)**.

While LSAC is best known for administering the LSAT, it is a non-profit organization that governs much of the legal admissions process in the United States, Canada and Australia – and soon India and China as well.

RWU Law is proud to announce that LSAC has appointed three of our own to prestigious posts.

Dean David Logan will serve on the LSAC's Investment Policy Oversight Group, which oversees LSAC's large investment portfolio. In 2007 and 2008, he served as a member of the Finance and Legal Affairs Committee and prior

to that he served as a member of the Diversity Committee.

Michael Boylen, assistant dean of admissions, will serve as chair of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues Subcommittee, after serving as a committee member in 2007 and 2008. During that period, RWU Law's LGBT group, the Alliance, had a hand in helping overhaul LSAC's guide for LGBT applicants to law school, and two students – **Mary Sarigumba '10** and **Cara Hall '09** – were profiled in both the *Out and In* brochure and on LSAC's website.

Finally, **Tom Shaffer '98**, director of admissions, will join the LSAC Misconduct and Irregularity Subcommittee, reviewing cases in which applicants are accused of misconduct during the law school application process.

Logan Honored By RILS and NAACP

David A. Logan, dean of the Roger Williams University School of Law since 2003, was honored recently by **Rhode Island Legal Services (RILS)** for his dedication and commitment to equal justice in the law, and by the **NAACP** for his outstanding efforts toward achieving diversity and inclusiveness in legal education.

“We are pleased to recognize Dean David Logan’s commitment to equal justice,” said **Robert Barge**, executive director of RILS, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary. “Under his leadership, RWU Law has thrived, dramatically increasing its stature among the nation’s law schools.”

“RWU Law and RILS share a strong commitment to serve Rhode Island’s low-income communities and work

together towards that goal,” Logan said, adding that RILS employs 11 RWU Law graduates.

Soon afterward, the Providence Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) presented Logan with the Community Service Award at its 96th Annual Freedom Forum Dinner, at which Logan also served as the keynote speaker.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the nation’s leading civil rights organization, especially in this, the NAACP’s 100th anniversary year,” Logan said. “RWU Law is committed to expanding its role



as a progressive force in the struggle for equal justice. Working with the NAACP is an important aspect of that mission.”

During his tenure at RWU, Logan has spearheaded numerous public interest projects, increased funding for students who work in public service jobs each summer, and supported scholarships for applicants with a public-interest commitment. In the same period, bar-pass rates have soared and surveys show that the faculty is now one of the most productive and diverse in New England.

Mandell Throws Support Behind PBC

Providence lawyer **Mark Mandell** was recognized at a Bristol reception hosted by Roger Williams University **President Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D.**, and **Dean David A. Logan** of RWU Law, for his generous \$250,000 challenge gift in support of the law school’s **Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC)**, which facilitates public interest collaborations between law firms, community organizations and students at Roger Williams University School of Law.

“Doing pro bono work combines the reality of legal justice with the principles of social justice, and what can mean more than that?” said Mandell, whose gift also lays out a matching challenge to the Rhode

Island legal community to double his donation.

Mandell said the PBC’s work illustrates the attitude and willingness to innovate that makes RWU Law so vital to Rhode Island’s bar and bench.

A former president of both the Rhode Island Bar Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), Mandell currently sits on the Rhode Island Supreme Court Ethics Advisory Panel and has served on the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Judicial Appointments, among many other posts. A longtime supporter of RWU Law, Mandell not only teaches trial advocacy at



Mark Mandell (second from right) is joined by RWU President Roy Nirschel, PBC participant Rebecca Carey ’11 and RWU Law Dean David Logan.

the school, but also serves on its advisory board and in 2008 joined its Board of Directors. In addition, he is the proud father of **Zachary Mandell ’11**, a second-year law student at Roger Williams; and this fall he was welcomed onto Roger Williams University’s Board of Trustees.



Teitz Testifies Before Senate Hearing

Professor **Louise Ellen Teitz** testified before a Senate subcommittee about the legal hurdles facing Americans injured by products manufactured outside the United States.

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, asked Professor Teitz to share her expertise at the hearing, titled "Leveling the Playing Field and Protecting Americans: Holding Foreign Manufacturers Accountable."

In his opening statement, Whitehouse cited several recent examples highlighting the need for greater foreign product accountability, including a contaminated blood thinner, which last year caused severe medical

reactions and contributed to numerous deaths, and a 2006 incident involving a lead-tainted charm bracelet that claimed the life of a four-year-old. The autopsy demonstrated that the charm was 99 percent lead, which is 1,650 times more than the 0.06 percent lead limit specified in Consumer Product Safety Commission enforcement guidelines for children's jewelry.

"Americans harmed by defective foreign products need justice, and they don't get it when foreign manufacturers use technical legal defenses to avoid paying damages to the people they have injured," said Whitehouse, a former U.S. Attorney and Attorney General for Rhode Island.

Professor Teitz, who has taught and written on topics including transnational

litigation and private international law for more than 20 years, is an expert on both the American legal system and its counterparts abroad. She has studied international law and contributed to its drafting as a member of the State Department's delegation to key international conventions.

At the hearing, Teitz explained why American consumers are often unable to hold foreign manufacturers accountable for injuries they cause, and the competitive disadvantage this creates for American manufacturers who are subject to the American legal system.

"There is an obvious competitive impact on U.S. manufacturers who are sued more easily and cheaply here in the U.S.," said Teitz.

Faculty Enjoys Frequent Media Cites

RWU Law faculty are appearing ever more frequently in local and national media outlets.

In recent months, **Dean David Logan** was quoted by *Providence Business News* on the nomination of Justice Paul A. Suttell as Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. Dean Logan and Professor **Jorge Elorza** were both cited in a *Providence Journal* article regarding the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court, and Professor **Jared Goldstein** was heavily sourced in a follow-up piece.

Professor **Peter Margulies** provided expert commentary in a piece on lawyers representing Guantanamo detainees. Later, in the aftermath of the D.C. Holocaust Museum shooting and the slaying of abortion doctor George Tiller, Professor **Edward Eberle** was extensively quoted in the *New York Times*' influential Opinion Blog (which was subsequently picked up and favorably analyzed in the prominent "Racism Review" blog). And when a laboratory technician was taken into custody in

the Yale graduate student slaying, Associate Dean **David Zlotnick** was quoted in an Associated Press story picked up by media outlets across the country and around the globe, explaining prosecutorial strategy.

Closer to home, Professor **Carl Bogus** was consulted in an article involving judicial controversy on the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court. Professor **John Chung** was quoted in the *Providence Journal* regarding the Twin Rivers bankruptcy and its impact on the State of Rhode Island, while Professor **Michael Yelnosky** spoke on Rhode Island's merit-based selection of judges and Professor **Bruce Kogan** addressed the value of alternative dispute resolution in divorce cases.

RWU Law faculty are never short on opinions, a fact underlined when the *New York Times* published an editorial by Professor **Emily Sack**, applauding President Obama's appointment of



Lynn Rosenthal as his special advisor on domestic violence, and when the *Boston Globe* ran an op-ed by **Dean Logan** on whether the reporter's privilege should extend to digital media, such as blogs and Twitter.

And the list keeps growing. To stay abreast as RWU Law's outstanding faculty shape and deepen the public dialogue, visit RWU's exciting new Media Room site at <http://mediaroom.rwu.edu>.



Daniel P. Griffin '10 was recently awarded the Nathan J. Schuldheiss '05 Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a deserving law student with a military background in his or her pursuit to learn, support, and defend justice and equality. Nathan was a civilian anti-terrorism investigator with the Air Force in Iraq when he was killed on November 1, 2007. Griffin is a law clerk for the Law Office of Mark B. Morse in Providence, and served in the United States Marine Corps as a rifleman and a Marine security guard. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Rhode Island College in Providence.

Commencement 2009

Commencement Day 2009 dawned warm and sunny for our graduates, who celebrated a great accomplishment with their faculty, families and friends.



Mace Bearer John Chung was named "Professor of the Year," an honor bestowed each year upon a professor by graduating students to show their appreciation to the faculty.



Every year, the School of Law awards Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees. This year the School of Law recognized the Honorable Federico Hernández Denton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, who spoke on "The Rationing of Justice in Times of Economic Downturn," the Honorable Jacob Hagopian, Senior U.S. Magistrate of the United States District Court of Rhode Island, and Louise Durfee, a trail-blazing lawyer and early champion of legal protections for the environment in Rhode Island.

From Jessica Stanford's Valedictory Address

"My life before law school was very different. Five years ago, I was a waitress [and] was also trying to finish an undergraduate degree. It took 13 years, and five different colleges. ... I started right after high school, but dropped out after having a child, and the next decade was an on-and-off effort at finishing, through a marriage, another child, a divorce and a marriage. I was pretty sure that I would not look all that compelling to a law school. Yet Roger Williams was willing to take a chance on me, and let me come here.

I know some of you were superstars before you came here; you did really well in school and did all the right things, and you came here to Roger Williams all put together. But I bet a lot of you feel the way I do – that the school took a risk in accepting you. [And] we all took a risk in accepting Roger Williams. ... But we thought the school was worth the risk, and the school thought we were worth the risk. We were all right. ...

I did not expect to find professors so engaged and invested in our success. I did not expect to find students so supportive and collegial: this is the most supportive group of Type-A personalities with control issues that I have ever known. Our success has been a group effort. I was surprised by that, and I am grateful for it. I am grateful that Roger Williams provided us with an atmosphere of support that permeated everything and everyone here. ...

The school did for me an amazing thing. It gave me a chance – the chance to redefine my career and remake my life to be what I had always hoped it could be. ... Let's keep taking chances, and let's make the most of the opportunity the school has given us to change the course of our lives. Good luck, everyone! "



– Jessica Stanford '09 is now an associate with Goodwin Proctor LLP in Boston.

Kuckles Promoted to Full Professorship

Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Law **Robert Kent** pinned a corsage on the gown of Faculty Marshall **Niki Kuckles**, signifying a key professional achievement – the award of tenure and promotion to Full Professor. Professor Kuckles has a remarkable record: an Honors undergraduate at Cornell, she attended Yale Law School, where she was senior editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and an editor at both the *Yale Law and Policy Review* and the *Yale Journal of International Law*. After graduation, she clerked for the **Honorable Antonin Scalia**, then on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and joined one of the top litigation firms in the country. She came to RWU Law in the fall of 2003, where she is what **Dean David A. Logan** terms “a popular but demanding teacher” of Civil Procedure, Professional Responsibility and Intellectual Property, and a respected scholar whose articles have appeared in top journals.



The awarding of degrees was the finale to an unforgettable ceremony, accompanied by “high fives,” hugs and the occasional “fist bump” with Dean David Logan (shown here with Katherine Sulentic '09, who has been hired as an associate with Greenberg Traurig LLP in Boston).



Professor Emily Sack with the **Honorable Federico Hernández Denton**, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. Chief Justice Denton worked closely with Professor Sack in setting up a very successful pilot program for handling domestic violence cases in Puerto Rico through specialized “problem-solving courts.” These courts focus on comprehensive services, intensive monitoring and defendant accountability rather than retribution. Sack has also consulted for the creation of such courts in Alaska, Maine, New Mexico, Oklahoma and elsewhere.

RWU Law's Marine Affairs Institute, in partnership with Rhode Island Sea Grant and University of Rhode Island, is preparing the next generation of marine law professionals. With rigorous courses, extracurricular opportunities, and regional, national and international conferences, the Institute is a comprehensive clearinghouse for marine law and policy.

Marine Law Jobs!

Despite the tight economy, RWU Law's Marine Affairs students and grads are securing good positions in the evolving fields of ocean and coastal law:

Nick Battista '08 was recently assigned to serve a one-year paid Knauss Fellowship as legislative assistant to **U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree** (D-Maine). He will be working primarily on ocean and coastal issues.

Gavin Black '10 interned this summer at the International Maritime Organization in London, researching international maritime law.

Jennifer Mehaffey '07 is an attorney at the United States Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, Jennifer (a 2008 Knauss Fellow) was with the Committee on Marine Transportation System of the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.

Allison Novelty '10, recipient of the 2009 ABA Environmental and Diversity Fellowship, was a summer intern with the Coastal States Organization in Washington, under the guidance of CSO Executive Director **Kristen Fletcher**, former director of RWU Law's Marine Affairs Institute and R.I. Sea Grant Legal Program.

Jackie Rolleri '11 interned in the Providence office of U.S. Senator **Sheldon Whitehouse** (D-R.I.) this summer.

Maureen Wagner '10 served a summer internship with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's General Counsel in Washington, D.C.

Sea Grant Law Fellows

As Rhode Island's Sea Grant Legal Program, the Marine Affairs Institute hires law students as Sea Grant Law Fellows, who conduct legal research and analysis for government agencies, industry and non-profit organizations that request assistance. These fellowships provide valuable legal information to the community, while offering law students valuable hands-on experience. Said 2009 Fellow **Pamela Cunningham '11**, "I was able to utilize all the skills I had mastered in my first year of law school and apply them to real problems."

Last summer, fellows worked on a diverse range of projects: **Kirby Aarsheim '10** researched the permitting process for marine construction and dredging projects for the Quonset Port Development Corporation, while **Chris Connolly '11** worked for Pacific Energy Ventures LLC, a consulting firm in Portland, Ore., analyzing federal, state and local regulations and policies for offshore wave and tidal energy projects along the eastern seaboard. Cunningham contributed to the publication, *A Local Official's Guide to Regulating Land Use in Wetland Buffers and High Water Tables to Protect Water Quality*, produced by URI's Cooperative Extension, URI's Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials, and Save The Bay. Finally, **Alastair Deans '11** researched the potential for memorandums of understanding to increase cooperation and coordination between governmental regulating agencies with regard to offshore renewable energy projects.



Chris Connolly, Alastair Deans and Pamela Cunningham all, '11.

MAI Hosts Regional Ocean Law Workshop

The Marine Affairs Institute recently brought together managers, lawyers and advisors from across the region with federal agencies and national legal experts to discuss legal issues and policies surrounding the siting of offshore wind energy facilities.

Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine are all currently exploring such siting issues. As a new industry, there are many "first impression" state and federal legal issues emerging. Furthermore, electricity is managed regionally, whereas many marine issues such as fisheries are managed on a regional basis. Attendees surveyed



common legal issues, considered the benefits of more coordinated efforts to address these and future legal issues, and explored continued collaborative efforts. The workshop, funded by the National Sea Grant Law Center, was held in Newport, R.I.

RWU Law is committed to the belief that lawyers should use their legal skills to serve their communities – and that introducing students to public interest law can set the stage for a lifetime of valuable societal contributions. The vehicle for this mission is the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service.

Public Service Requirement Rises to 50 Hours

In furtherance of RWU Law’s commitment to public service, the faculty voted last spring to raise the public service requirement from 20 to 50 hours, beginning with the Class of 2012. The requirement mirrors the aspirational goal set for lawyers by the **American Bar Association**. In order to graduate, students will complete at least 50 hours of unpaid, law-related public service, for which they will not receive academic credit. Students may work on a pro bono matter or project in a non-profit law or policy setting, or for a government agency. If you are interested in working with a law student through the Public Service Program, please contact **Liz Tobin Tyler** at the Feinstein Institute.

Public Interest Students Honored

Twenty-eight students who received Feinstein Institute **Summer Stipends** enjoyed placements in Alaska, Georgia, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Washington, D.C., and many other locales. The students worked in civil and criminal settings; represented adolescents, adults, and the elderly; advocated in trial, appellate and policy settings; and contributed their skills to offices focused on human rights, civil liberties and children’s rights.



Jennifer Coliflores '11 worked with the Providence Law Department in a summer fellowship under Providence Mayor David Cicilline.

Eight students received grants from the **Equal Justice Works Summer Corps** program. These prestigious fellowships provide a \$1,000 **AmeriCorps Education Award** upon completion of 300 hours of service at a nonprofit public interest organization. We congratulate **Rebecca Aitchison '11**, **Eric DiMarzio '10** and **Robert Self '10** (Rhode Island Public Defender), **Jennifer Bartlett '10** (Snohomish County Public Defenders Association, Wash.), **Brandy Hughes '10** (New Hampshire Public Defender), **Katie Kelliher '10** (Alaska Public Defender), **Heather O'Connor '11** (South Coastal Communities Legal Services) and **Greg Rosenfeld '11** (Public Defender Service of D.C.). You made us proud!

Heather O'Connor was also selected not only for a **Massachusetts Bar Foundation Fellowship**, but as one of nine students from a pool of 400 across the country to receive an **EJW Summer Corps Standout Award**. Heather worked at **South Coastal Counties Legal Services** in Fall River, Mass., in the **Homeless Prevention Project**. Heather’s experiences were detailed in a post on the **Equal Justice Works Blog** (equaljusticeworks.wordpress.com).

Sarah Mazzochi '10 was one of only two recipients of the “Ms. JD Public Interest Summer Scholarship” for her work at the **ACLU Voting Rights Project** in Atlanta. Ms. JD chose Sarah for her commitment to public interest law based on her work, studies and life story. Sarah’s winning essay is posted on the Ms. JD website (ms-jd.org).

The Pro Bono Collaborative

RWU Law’s **Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC)** mobilizes Rhode Island law firms, law students and community organizations to provide desperately needed legal assistance for underserved residents of the state.

Over the summer, the PBC welcomed two additional law firms: **Ratcliffe Harten Burke & Galamaga LLP** and **Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC**. In addition, the PBC launched a new project partnering the **Disability Law Center of Rhode Island** with **Hinckley Allen Snyder LLP** to provide special education advocacy.

With assistance from Advisory Board member **Matthew Plain '05**, the PBC launched its bi-monthly **Thirsty Thursday** events, which bring together pro bono-minded attorneys to socialize and share their pro bono experiences.

In observance of the ABA’s **National Pro Bono Celebration Week**, the PBC would like to extend its thanks to all of its partnering attorneys and law students, who have donated more than 2,500 hours of pro bono legal service to low-income Rhode Islanders and the organizations that serve them.





RWU Law Goes to HOLLYWOOD

AN ALUMNA'S CRUSADE TO FREE HER WRONGLY CONVICTED BROTHER BECOMES A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE

No one would call **Kenny Waters** a model citizen – but was he a murderer? Waters swore he wasn't; police and prosecutors insisted he was. Tried and convicted for the robbery and brutal stabbing death of a neighbor, Waters was sent to prison for life.

After his court-appointed lawyers had exhausted all avenues of appeal, a near-suicidal Waters turned to his younger sister, **Betty Anne Waters '98** – then an unemployed waitress, high-school dropout and single mother of two – and asked her to save him. So she earned a GED, then a college degree and a master's in education, then a law degree; and finally, teamed with famed criminal defense attorney **Barry Scheck** of The Innocence Project to win her brother's freedom in a DNA case that drew massive national publicity.

If all this sounds like something straight out of the movies, that's exactly what it is about to become: "Betty Anne Waters," a major Hollywood feature film – starring **Hilary Swank** in the title role, along with **Minnie Driver**, **Juliette Lewis** and 2009 Academy Award Best Actress nominee **Melissa Leo** – wrapped production earlier this year and is slated to hit theaters soon.

Meanwhile back in Bristol, the real-life Betty Anne Waters said the film – along with a recent \$10.7 million judgment against Ayer, Mass., authorities for Kenny's wrongful imprisonment – provides long-awaited closure in a crusade that has now consumed half her life.

"For me, that's the whole reason for the movie," she recently told *Amicus*. "Not only is it a sort of vindication for Kenny, it also makes people aware that there are many, many innocent people in prison – as a result of eyewitness misconduct, prosecutorial misconduct and police misconduct."

Though she's never practiced law full-time, Betty Anne still works on behalf of The Innocence Project, a nonprofit legal clinic associated with Yeshiva University's Cardozo School of Law that works to overturn wrongful convictions through DNA evidence and the promotion of criminal law reform. She is currently representing an Innocence Project client in New York.

"Of course, everybody in prison says they're innocent," she said. "But there have now been more than 250 DNA-based exonerations. There are a lot of people out there in Kenny's situation."



(above) Betty Anne Waters '98 at home today in Bristol, R.I.

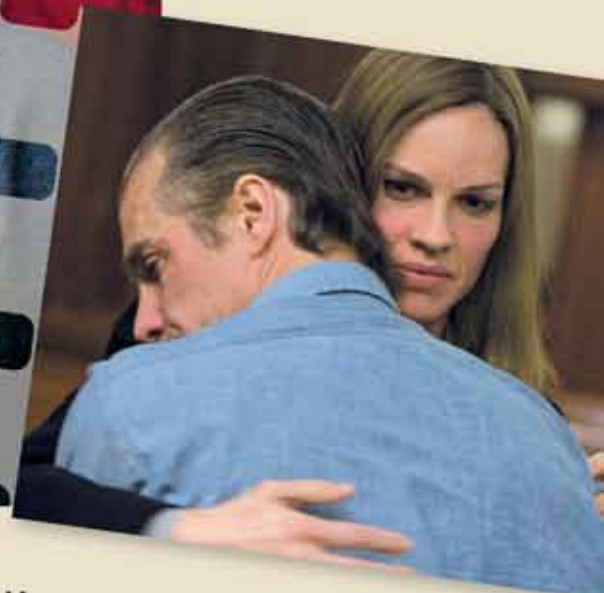
(inset) Academy Award-winning Actress Hilary Swank plays the title role in the upcoming feature film, 'Betty Anne Waters.'





(above) On March 15, 2001, Kenneth Waters, accompanied by his sister Betty Anne, emerged from a Boston courtroom as a free man after 18 years of wrongful imprisonment. AP Photo/Steven Senn.

(above inset) A still from the upcoming motion picture 'Betty Anne Waters,' featuring Hilary Swank as Betty Anne and Sam Rockwell as Kenneth Waters. Photo courtesy of Omega Entertainment.



'GET A LAW DEGREE!'

Kenneth Waters' ordeal began in May 1980 when his next-door neighbor in Ayer, Katharina Brow, was found dead in her trailer home with more than 30 stab wounds. She had also been robbed of cash and jewelry. The investigation languished unsolved for two years – until one of Kenny's ex-girlfriends told police she'd heard him confess to the crime.

Waters, described in media reports of the time as a "well-known town rowdy" who had "tangled with police" more than once, was soon arrested and charged. He actually had an alibi: on the night of the slaying, he was working the night shift at the restaurant where he was a chef, and early the next morning he'd appeared in court to answer for an unrelated charge. A police fingerprint analysis also seemed to clear Waters, but this information was never shared with prosecutors or defense attorneys.

Then a second former girlfriend – the mother of his baby daughter – came forward to claim that Kenny had also admitted to the crime in her presence, while a third witness said he had tried to sell her the dead woman's jewelry. Authorities reported that blood found in Brow's trailer, believed to be that of the murderer, belonged to Kenny.

Police further speculated that the

crime's motive was a two-decade-old vendetta: it turned out that Kenny had broken into Brow's home before, when he was only 10 years old, and that her testimony had landed him in reform school. The killing, police alleged, was a belated act of revenge.

In 1983, a jury convicted Kenneth Waters of first-degree murder and armed robbery and sentenced him to life in prison. Several appeals failed, and by 1985 Kenny was suffering from severe anxiety attacks in prison and had made several attempts at suicide, Betty Anne recalled.

"He just felt there wasn't any chance of getting out; he didn't trust attorneys anymore at that point," she said. "He told me the only way he was ever going to get out of there was if I decided to go back to school and get a law degree." Fearing for her brother's life and sanity, Betty Anne prompted to give it a try.

"I told him I'd go back to school, although I didn't even have a college degree," she said. "I had to start from scratch, and he knew it. But he had a lot of faith in me. I don't know how, but he just knew I would somehow get him out." Years later, Kenny revealed his reasoning, telling reporters that, even as a child, "I knew how smart she was – every time I copied her papers I got A's!"

'I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO'

Betty Anne, who had been living in Florida, moved back to New England, earned her GED and enrolled at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), eventually earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in hopes of positioning herself for an eventual career as a teacher.

By 1995 she was living in Bristol, tending bar at Aidan's Pub (Betty Anne and Aidan were engaged at the time and remain friends today). Having finally completed the educational prerequisites, she decided to take a chance on the fledgling law school that had opened a few years earlier at nearby Roger Williams University. She was accepted and entered its third class.

Professor **Larry Ritchie**, who taught Betty Anne in several courses, said she stood out as an inquisitive and highly focused student with an unusually acute grasp of the law as a living, evolving tool for achieving justice, rather than a static set of rules and cases to be learned by rote.

"She was very inventive in making her arguments and in her presentations of demonstrative evidence," he said. "She clearly thought through her representation of clients with a realistic, practical approach."

Told of Ritchie's comments, Betty Anne nodded. "Oh definitely, I was there to try and figure out a way to help my brother, so I was thinking of the law, exactly, as a tool – how it worked, and how I could make it work for Kenny." Nonetheless, she made it a policy never to mention her brother, or her mission to free him, to her classmates or professors.

"For the most part, if you tell somebody that you have a brother in jail for murder, they assume he's guilty," Betty Anne explained. "And then you have to have a conversation about, 'No, he's innocent' – and they never believe you. They think, 'You're his sister, you're biased.' Nobody gets past that. So over the years I just learned not to even talk about it. I just did what I had to do."

One major exception to this "no tell" rule was classmate **Abra Rice '98** – remembered by Professor

Andy Horwitz as an "energetic, enthusiastic, dynamic, fun, interesting and motivated student" – who remains Betty Anne's best friend to this day.

Now a public defender in New Haven, Conn., Abra said she met Betty Anne after showing up late for one of her first classes in the large Moot Courtroom. The professor pointedly stopped lecturing and waited silently while a mortified Abra made her way to her seat. Betty Anne approached her after class to offer sympathy and an encouraging word, and the two ended up chatting over drinks. Sensing a kindred spirit, Betty Anne decided to share her story – and Abra offered to help in any way she could.

"We bonded pretty quickly," Abra recalled. "Basically I told her I went to law school to become a public defender, to help both the guilty and the not-so-guilty. And Kenny's situation was exactly the kind of thing that made me want to go into the legal profession in the first place."

subject, fearing there were insufficient cases and scholarly articles to support a major student paper. "I told her, 'I don't think there's enough to write about!'" Balliot recalled. "But she was very persistent – she wanted to write about DNA, though she didn't make her reasons clear at the time."

Betty Anne laughed at the memory. "Nan couldn't figure out why I was so adamant. I just told her, 'No, I have to do it on DNA! I'll find enough material!'"

So Balliot suggested beefing up the paper with a section on groups that advocate for DNA evidence – which is how Betty Anne discovered The Innocence Project. She contacted the organization, only to learn there were already hundreds of cases already on the waiting list, most in need of painstaking, time-consuming investigation and dedicated legal work.

"So I took it upon myself to find the evidence," Betty Anne said. She began by calling the Middlesex Superior Courthouse in Boston – using Abra's name.

'If you tell somebody that you have a brother in jail for murder, they assume he's guilty. So over the years I just learned not to even talk about it. I just did what I had to do.'

– *Betty Ann Waters '98*

'NOW I'M HIS LAWYER'

It was also at RWU Law that Betty Anne first learned about the nascent field of DNA evidence. She was intrigued enough to choose it as the topic of a paper in her Legal Research class. "I just kept looking into it, thinking, 'This could help my brother,' because there was a lot of blood evidence in the case; there was a lot of blood inside that trailer," she said.

Law librarian **Nanette Balliot** advised her to find a more established

"Because my brother and I had the same last name, we were honestly fearful that if somebody in authority knew we were looking for the evidence they might get rid of it," she said. "So we would call the courthouse in Boston all the time and ask the clerk, 'Would you mind looking to see if there is any evidence left from the Waters case?' – just saying we were law students doing a research paper. And they kept saying, 'Oh that's gone, it wouldn't still be here, it's been too long.'"

Then one day, soon after graduating from RWU Law and passing the bar, she got lucky: a clerk called to say she'd found an old box labeled "Waters" in

a courthouse storeroom. Betty Anne dashed to Boston – and realized her fears about her name had been justified. “At first, when she found out I was Kenny’s sister, she said, ‘Oh, I don’t know if I can show you this.’ But I told her, ‘Oh no, now I’m his lawyer too.’”

The clerk opened the yellow cardboard box and Betty Anne immediately recognized the evidence from the trial –

from the witnesses. She came to us with a strong case.” Nor was the extraordinary nature of her effort lost upon him.

“This is one of the most inspirational stories you’ll ever find,” Scheck said. “Here you have this high-school dropout, a single mother, who gets her teacher’s degree, all the while earning two degrees as she focused on going to law school – all because she wanted to free her brother. It’s truly unbelievable.”

‘VERY HAPPY TO BE FREE’

DNA testing conclusively proved that the blood evidence that sent Kenny to prison belonged to someone else. Based on the new findings, Betty Anne and Scheck filed a motion to vacate the conviction, and prosecutors agreed that Kenny’s release “would be in the interests of justice.”

On March 15, 2001, Kenneth Waters, by then 47 years old, emerged from the Middlesex Superior courtroom into a crush of reporters, holding his sister’s hand. He told the gathered media it was “pretty scary” how easily an innocent man could wind up in prison or facing the death penalty. “The legal system works if you have the money to make it work. If you don’t, you’re going to prison. I’ve seen it. I’ve lived it. I had a five-day trial and I was sitting in Walpole for the rest of my life.”

Kenny enjoyed his brief time in the spotlight. He became reacquainted with his baby daughter, now a young woman. He savored his first Starbucks coffee. He marveled at cell phone technology. Meanwhile, media inquiries were constant. “I took time off from my job to help handle all the calls,” Abra recalled. “They were on all the national news shows, ‘Today,’ ‘Oprah’...”

Less than six months after his release from prison, however, Kenny died in a freak accident. While taking a shortcut to his brother’s house after dinner with his mother, he scaled a 15-foot wall, slipped and fractured his skull in the fall. Betty Anne remained by his bedside during his final hours at the hospital. “Kenny had a lot of tragedy in his life,” she said. “He was very happy to be free.”



(above) In one of countless public appearances following his release from prison, Kenneth Waters joined Betty Anne and Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-R.I.) for a March 27, 2001, press conference at the Rhode Island State House in Providence, where Kennedy announced his support for House legislation to increase funding for DNA testing. AP Photo/Victoria Arocho.

(top right) Betty Anne’s RWU Law classmate Abra Rice ’98, now a public defender in New Haven, Conn., helped collect the evidence that freed Kenny Waters. Photo ©2009 New Haven Advocate/Kathleen Cei.

(right inset) Actress Minnie Driver portrays Betty Anne’s classmate and friend Abra Rice. AP Photo/Chris Pizzello.

(bottom right) Betty Anne bonded with Hilary Swank when the actress visited Bristol earlier this year. Photo courtesy of Betty Anne Waters.

including the knife used in the slaying and the victim’s bloody nightgown. She asked the clerk to close the box. “I was really nervous leaving the evidence there, just sitting on the desk,” she said. “The next day I got a court order to have it preserved.”

While working to locate the evidence box, Betty Anne and Abra had also managed to track down and re-interview the main witnesses in the case. Their efforts revealed that some key testimony had been coerced by police – testimony that several witnesses were now willing to recant.

With this plus the DNA evidence in hand, Betty Anne called the Innocence Project again and said, “Okay, now I’m a lawyer and I have the evidence. Can you help me?” And I went right to the top of the list. They said as long as I would be the attorney, they’d be the consultant and do the case right away – and I said, “That’s all I wanted.”

Innocence Project founder and director **Barry Scheck** said accepting Betty Anne’s case was a no-brainer. “She did re-investigation. She got recantation

Following Kenny's death, Betty Anne and Scheck filed a civil suit on behalf of his estate against the Town of Ayer, alleging that local police had coerced false testimony to convict Kenny and withheld evidence that could have cleared him.

This September, a federal judge handed down an award of more than \$10.7 million for the nearly two decades that Kenny was "wrongfully deprived of his liberty." Damages included \$1,000 for each of his 6,729 days in prison, plus \$3 million for pain and suffering, and another \$1 million for physical injuries and sickness sustained both during and due to his incarceration.

Shortly before the case went to trial, the town and five of its six insurers settled the claim for \$3.4 million. The town also assigned to the plaintiff its rights against the sixth insurer, Western World Insurance Co. A spokeswoman for Betty Anne's attorneys said they would pursue Western World for the balance of the court's judgment and other damages.

"It's been half of my life, exactly," Betty Anne, who is now 54, told the *Boston Globe*, following the settlement. "I can't quite feel that it's over. It's been a long 27 years.

"Of course, I wish [Kenny] was here," she added, fighting back emotion. "That's part of the sadness of all this. I know he would have been very pleased with how this worked out."

THE ROAD TO THE BIG SCREEN

Among the barrage of calls received in the days following Kenny's release was one from Hollywood producer and director **Tony Goldwyn**, who expressed an interest in making a movie about Betty Anne's quest. Goldwyn said he'll never forget the date of his first meeting on the project: it was held in Manhattan on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001 – and cut short by news of the World Trade Center terror attacks.

Goldwyn recruited veteran screenwriter Pamela Gray to write a script for "Betty Anne Waters," and it circulated for seven years. Originally set at Universal as a vehicle for **Naomi**



Watts, the project stalled and was later resurrected with independent financing by Omega Entertainment, and **Hilary Swank** stepping into the title role. Andrew Sugerman ("Shopgirl" produced, along with Andrew S. Karsch ("The Prince of Tides") and Goldwyn; Swank served as executive producer.

"From the moment I heard Betty Anne's incredible story on the evening news, it was my consuming passion to make this film," Goldwyn said in a statement. "In Hilary Swank, we have the perfect embodiment of this brilliant, funny, deeply passionate and wonderfully self-deprecating woman. Hilary brings a spirit and indomitability that is a strong match for [Betty Anne]'s fierce commitment."

Filming was completed in Michigan earlier this year; a small film crew came to Bristol in January to shoot incidental footage of the town and campus.

Around the same time, Swank herself visited the area to meet Betty Anne (with whom she shared a few drinks at Aidan's Pub), and to tour her and Kenny's old hometown of Ayer. Later, Betty Anne and Abra were invited to Michigan to consult on factual details during the filming of several scenes.

"They didn't know in the beginning if Hilary wanted me to be on the set or not," Betty Anne said. "I guess a lot of actors who are playing a real person don't necessarily want the real person to be there. But after Hilary came out here and met us she said, 'No, I want her to come!'"

While on location, Abra also got acquainted with **Minnie Driver**, who plays her in the film. "She's a lovely person, and it's a wonderful compliment that she was cast as me, though we don't resemble one another at all," she laughed. "Tony [Goldwyn] told me he based the choice more on personality."

Neither Betty Anne nor Abra has yet seen more than a five-minute montage of scenes-in-progress from the film, but both say they relished reliving their mission for Kenny and their heady student years at RWU Law.

"I loved Roger Williams; it was an excellent education and all the professors were great," Betty Anne said. "Plus we had a lot of fun," added Abra with a grin. "Maybe sometimes a little *too* much fun!"



Coming to AMERICA

RWU LAW'S NEW IMMIGRATION CLINIC ADDRESSES AN URGENT PUBLIC POLICY CONCERN

Ashley Ham Pong '10's first client as an aspiring attorney is a Liberian national facing deportation for criminal convictions. The seriousness of the case, and the consequences it carries, were apparent the first time she interviewed the man behind a glass window at a Massachusetts detention facility.

"I think it really makes you do your homework," she said.

Ham Pong is one of 10 participants in a new immigration law clinic at Roger Williams, where students working under a professor's supervision represent detained immigrants facing deportation. The students have their own office hours, map out defense strategies for clients and, though not yet licensed attorneys, will have opportunities to make arguments at the federal immigration court in Boston.

"We run it like a small law firm where I'm the partner in charge," said **Professor Mary Holper**, director of the clinic. "They're all associates working under me." Holper previously supervised a similar program at Boston College Law School.

Law schools routinely offer clinics to give students practical experience in representing clients and help ease the transition from the classroom to the courtroom. Roger Williams offers two other clinics in criminal defense and mediation.

The decision to add a third clinic in immigration law reflects a growing interest in what recently has been a tempestuous, hot-button issue in Rhode Island and throughout southern New England. Nationally, too, immigration remains a contentious topic: **President Barack Obama** has called the country's immigration system "broken," and his administration is pursuing a strategy of targeting



PROFESSOR MARY HOLPER, DIRECTOR OF RWU LAW'S NEW IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC

employers who hire illegal workers.

Federal agents in March 2007 raided a leather goods factory in New Bedford, Mass., arresting 361 workers – mostly women from Central America – on federal immigration charges.

Then, last year, Rhode Island **Gov. Don Carcieri** announced a crackdown on illegal immigrants, requiring vendors that do business with the state to check new hires' legal working status and demanding that state police and prison officials do more to identify illegal immigrants for deportation.

Six courthouses were raided in July 2008 for having suspected illegal immigrant cleaning workers; the following month, a Chinese immigrant held at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls died of advanced liver cancer after being neglected by staff there.

"We saw what happened at the Wyatt detention center, and you know what happened in New Bedford," said RWU Law **Dean David Logan**. "This is a very big issue of public policy, and there are frankly very few lawyers in Rhode Island who specialize in this."

Though criminal defendants are entitled to court-appointed lawyers, the

same privilege does not extend to civil deportation proceedings. Holper said this creates an urgent need for lawyers who can help clients navigate the complex federal code of immigration law, assist non-English speakers in making sense of documents that order their deportation, or argue for bond for immigrants in detention.

Holper said she became interested in immigration law after studying abroad in Paris during college in the 1990s, and living with North African immigrants strained by xenophobic sentiments in France. She later volunteered in Costa Rica and – while preparing for a career in immigration law – worked as an intern researching country conditions for asylum applications and conducting asylum intake applications.

She was a supervising attorney at BC's immigration law clinic for four years. She spent this past summer working with immigrant-services nonprofits in the area to help line up clients for her students.

Holper said the September 11 terrorist attacks led to more stringent enforcement of 1996 changes to immigration laws. The result was a longer laundry list of crimes for which



CURRENT IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC STUDENTS INCLUDE, IN FRONT (L-R) ANGELA CORSO AND ELVIRA ARIAS AND IN REAR RISHMIL PATEL AND ALEJANDRO VERA, ALL '10.

a person could be deported – which, in turn, necessitated a more intense focus on detained immigrants.

“The expansion of detention raised more human rights, due process and civil rights issues than existed pre-9/11,” Holper said.

Students are able to make court appearances so long as they are not being paid by the client – and they’re not – and if they are acting under an attorney’s supervision. Holper said she will oversee all of her students’ written filings and communication with clients.

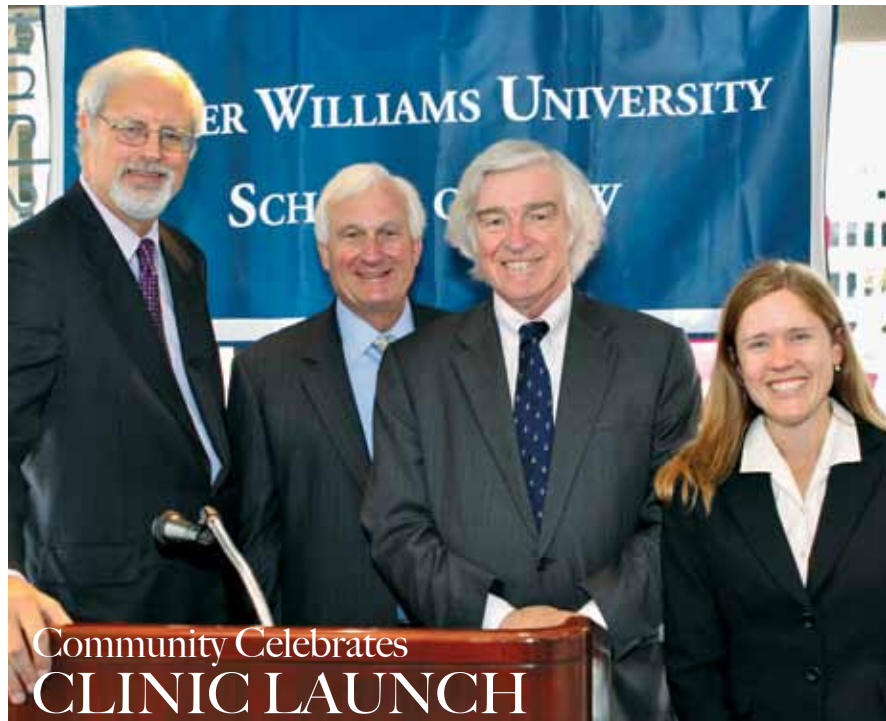
“It’s not the most efficient way to practice law, but the idea is to give them space to learn it themselves, to make their decisions,” she said.

On a recent Tuesday morning, Ham Pong and classmate **Jessica Grimes '10** were working out of the clinic, helping to build a timeline for their client’s case and researching conditions in Liberia to support his defense against deportation.

Grimes said the responsibility is daunting, but recalls being struck by Holper’s reassuring words.

“In the alternative,” she recalled Holper saying, “he’d have no attorney.”

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Community Celebrates CLINIC LAUNCH

AT THE LAUNCH OF THE IMMIGRATION CLINIC: (L-R) DEAN DAVID LOGAN, THE HONORABLE PAUL SUTTELL, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT, WILLIAM P. ROBINSON III, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT, AND PROFESSOR MARY HOLPER, DIRECTOR OF THE CLINIC.

In September, a large gathering of RWU Law students, alumni, faculty and staff joined local community leaders at the University’s Providence campus to celebrate the launch of the school’s new Immigration Clinic, a state-of-the-art legal facility that will enable law students, working under the guidance of a full-time professor, to get hands-on immigration law experience while serving needy clients from around the state and region.

“Rhode Island’s immigrant communities form a large, fast-growing and underserved segment of the state’s population, and those most in need of complex legal representation are frequently least able to afford it,” said **Dean David Logan**.

Professor **Mary Holper**, the new clinic’s director (*see main story*), explained that immigration law is “the equivalent of the tax code” in its labyrinthine complexity, and that immigrants need expert guidance to successfully navigate the system. Clinical students will therefore deliver a range of legal services, from conducting “know your rights” educational forums to handling complex asylum cases.

“It’s a good time to be opening an immigration clinic in Rhode Island,” said **Carl Krueger**, senior immigration lawyer at the International Institute of Rhode Island, the state’s largest immigration agency. Calling himself a “card-carrying member of the law-school clinic fan club,” Krueger said the clinic would help answer “a crying need for accurate, competent legal services” in a “very, very daunting and complicated system.”

Ramon Martinez, president and CEO of Progreso Latino, Inc., one of the state’s largest ethnic advocacy groups, underscored the clinic’s importance to Rhode Island’s many immigrant communities, saying, “Democracy happens when we enable our society’s newest arrivals to become fully participating members of the community.”

Among other guests attending the clinic dedication were Rhode Island Supreme Court **Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell** and Associate Supreme Court **Justice William P. Robinson III**, as well as representatives from the offices of U.S. Senator **Sheldon Whitehouse** (D-R.I.) and Providence **Mayor David Cicilline**. – MMB

TRIAL PRACTICE MEETS MEDITATION IN A REVOLUTIONARY LEGAL COURSE



By Kristin Howley

Om's the word

"I want you to feel your feet resting on the ground – feel grounded as you're sitting. Notice what's happening in your breath, feel it as you inhale into the entirety of your lungs. Feel the back of your body, fill your lungs, feel your jaw and stretch your neck. Notice what's happening in your shoulders as you loosen them a little. Notice where your neck is in relation to your shoulders...

Let your eyes close, or pick a point you can focus on. Release the tension from your forehead, from the sides of your jaw, from your neck and shoulders. Feel an awareness of your arms, continuing through your hands, releasing any tension or muscle engagement that may have come from using your BlackBerry, computer, cell phone or even from driving. Continue to feel your breath deepening in your body."

Feel relaxed?

You should. This is part of a stress-reduction technique that uses visualization and breathing – but it's not from a yoga studio or meditation center. In fact, it's part of a groundbreaking law course titled "Advanced Trial Advocacy: Integrating Mindfulness Theory and Practice," taught by Professor **David Zlotnick** in the decidedly un-Zen setting of a mock trial courtroom at RWU Law.

Sound unorthodox? It is. At present it's believed to be the only fully integrated mindfulness trial-advocacy course in the country. With the help of a \$10,000 grant from the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, Zlotnick – who is also the law school's associate dean for academic affairs – built his course around the emerging field of mindfulness, drawing



on practices found in Buddhist as well as other religious and secular traditions. Students learn and practice techniques for remaining “in the moment” during stressful situations, for understanding conflict and dealing with strong emotions and for extending compassion and understanding to their witnesses and clients.

“Trial lawyers suffer from high rates of burnout and substance abuse, and they often adopt cynical attitudes toward their clients and themselves,” explained Zlotnick, whose interest in Eastern philosophy led him to begin a personal yoga and meditation program about 10 years ago.

“Everyone needs this, especially in the service professions,” he continued. “We take on other people’s stress, we learn about the difficult situations they’ve been in, we listen to the terrible things that have happened to them, and we have to be able to relate to our witness and our jury. We need to be human and vulnerable.”

Being “human and vulnerable” is actually something of a course prerequisite, Zlotnick added. Students are asked to open their minds and be

willing to experiment and participate in mindfulness exercises – sometimes led by outside guests, sometimes by Zlotnick himself and sometimes by fellow students.

“The course was like any other advanced trial class in some ways,” said **Megan Kilzy ’09**, who took the course last spring and is now pursuing an L.L.M. in intellectual property law at Cardozo Law School. “We learned how to control witnesses and present cross examinations, but we also incorporated alternative ways of thinking. I found it very useful. I learned how to be a strong litigator by maintaining my calm.”

According to Zlotnick, maintaining composure in the courtroom is half the battle. “As a lawyer, you are supposed to be in control – but you have witnesses, other lawyers and a judge who can all mess with that,” he said. “What we are trying to teach these students is that change is constant; that we are never truly in control. We want them to learn to be compassionate and understanding of others. They need to truly hear other people in order to effectively communicate.”

Although he is the instructor, Zlotnick is committed to promoting an “egalitarian” environment in class. “I may be more experienced in trial law,” he explained, “but we’re all equal when it comes to learning about our own minds.”

Zlotnick invited many speakers over the course of the semester, including an actor, a lawyer-turned-yogi, a clinical psychologist and a social worker – each of them providing different perspectives on meditation and mindfulness. Even the reading list speaks to the diversity of views: the only two assigned textbooks at the start of the course were a straight-ahead legal tome – *Modern Trial Advocacy* – and David Guterson’s popular 1994 novel *Snow Falling on Cedars*. Other readings included an article on “Trial Theory and Blind Poetics,” from the *Northwestern University Law Review*; and a slim paperback primer called “Buddhism Plain & Simple.”

As its title indicates, the course is also about learning to be an effective lawyer in the courtroom. Many of Zlotnick’s guests remain for the entire class session and offer constructive criticism of student presentations. Their insights are twofold in many cases – for example, pointing out nervous habits to help improve public-speaking skills, but also reminding students to find their calm

state while addressing the courtroom.

For example, when yoga instructor **Rebecca Foster** was a guest lecturer she demonstrated how students could use yogic techniques to “remain in the present” during cross-examinations, thereby becoming more flexible, responsive and effective in fielding witness responses.

“It’s this sense of body that you want to keep with you as you start to move into your cross examinations,” she told the class. “It’s a very subtle sense of rooting down into who you are in this moment without being entirely, 100 percent wrapped up in a spinning mind.” Another guest yoga instructor, **Michelle Silberman Hubbard**, suggested that, because there is just so much going on in the courtroom, students should take a moment to occasionally “scan” themselves, even the position of their feet. “So many times we favor one foot, or we lean a little,” she said, “and that shift literally throws you off balance. The more open and receptive your stance is, the more receptive the jury is likely to be to you.”

Zlotnick agreed, adding, “We tend to live in our heads, but we also have to live in the rest of our bodies. Focus on how you are in the world, maintain your center in chaos, choose your reaction – and you won’t be overwhelmed.” He said, “Be present and aware of what is happening right now. You can’t live life in enlightenment – life is too crazy. You have to learn how to take yourself in and out of it.”

Judging by the response of his class, Zlotnick has made considerable headway in proving his theory.



PROFESSOR DAVID ZLOTNICK ADVISES A STUDENT DURING HIS ‘MINDFULNESS’ LEGAL COURSE

LAA President's Message



Margreta Vellucci, Esq. '07
President,
Law Alumni Association

With a new academic year upon us, I am pleased to provide the RWU Law community with an update on the Law Alumni Association.

At the end of the summer we hosted the Tenth Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament. Thanks to the strong response from alumni and other members of the legal community, the Golf Tournament was an enormous success, contributing significantly to our Scholarship Fund, which annually benefits two first-year law students. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the tireless effort of the Golf Committee, volunteers and the Alumni Office. The committee is already planning next year's tournament, and it is never too early to start thinking about your involvement.

Other upcoming events to look out for include our fall and spring alumni "After Hours" receptions, as well as our annual Holiday Reception. At each of these events, you will enjoy an opportunity to reconnect and network with other RWU Law alumni. I encourage everyone to participate in at least one alumni event this year – or, if you cannot, take an active interest in our law school and let your ideas be heard. Together we can influence the future of our alma mater and strengthen its reputation.

Finally, I would like to thank the outgoing Board of Directors for their years of service and welcome those new directors whose terms recently commenced. To get involved, please contact the Alumni Office or me directly at margretav@gmail.com.

Margreta Vellucci, Esq. '07

2009 LAA Scholarship Recipients

Rebecca Carey '11 of Feeding Hills, Mass., and Jacqueline S. Rolleri '11 of Warren, R.I., are the recipients of the 2009 Roger Williams University School of Law Alumni Association Scholarships. The scholarships are awarded to law students who have demonstrated academic excellence in their first year of law school.

Carey is a founding member and secretary of the Criminal Law Society and a member of the Women's Law Society and Intellectual Property Law Society. She has also worked as a contract and rights coordinator for **Eric Carle Studio** in Northampton, Mass. Carey earned her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Legal Studies from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Rolleri is the president of the Environmental Law Society and treasurer of the Maritime Law Society. She is also a member of the sustainability committee and Save the Bay. She worked last summer as a legal intern for U.S. **Senator Sheldon Whitehouse** (D-R.I.) in Providence. Rolleri earned her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Colby College in Waterville, Maine.



*Jacqueline S. Rolleri (left)
and Rebecca Carey both '11.*

Congratulations to the 2009/2010 Law Alumni Association Board of Directors

Effective July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

2009/2010 Executive Committee:

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Margreta Vellucci '07

Vice President

Nicole Dulude '06

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Robert Pirri '97

Kevin Rolando '07

Margreta Vellucci '07

Joel J. Votolato '03

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

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Meetings will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Roger Williams University Metro Campus, 150 Washington Street, Providence. A conference call capability will be set up for each meeting.

10th Annual LAA Golf Tournament Raises \$14,000

The Tenth Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament raised more than \$14,000 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,” noted tournament co-chair Anthony R. Leone II '97. “This year we were fortunate to have our friends from Morowitz & Barry

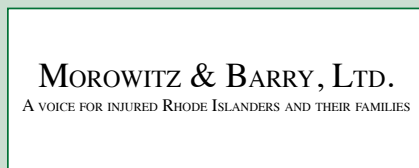
be our first tournament title sponsor. The weather was perfect, and there was plenty of food, fun and prizes for all. It is always a great day to see old friends, have a fun day on the golf course, and raise scholarship funds for our law school students.”

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

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

Tournament Sponsor

Morowitz & Barry, Ltd.



Supreme Sponsor

Home Loan Investment Bank



Lunch Sponsor

Bon Appétit at Roger Williams University



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS!

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DeWolf Tavern
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Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
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Forge Consulting
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Gemma Law Associates
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Law Office of Carly Beauvais Iafrate
Jay-El Trophies
Professor Bruce Kogan
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& Chamberlain
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William Grant Inn

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Kate Andresen '08
Mary Aswell
Lyndsey Bannon '10
Neville Bedford '03
Arthur DeFelice '10
Kyle Dervishi
Lydia Hanhardt
Kathy Gaskell
Mary Kibble '08
Kimberly Moore '01
Hadley Perry '08
Lauren Regan
Kevin Rolando '07
Maquel Skowronski
Michael Smuda '08
Margreta Vellucci '07

2009 LAW ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Anthony R. Leone II '97, *Co-Chair*
Kimberly Tracey '07, *Co-Chair*
Mary Kibble '08
Robert Knychalski '07
Ron LaRocca '08
Eric Miller '01
Jason VanVolkenburgh '07
Margreta Vellucci '07
Meghan Hansen, *Office of Alumni, Programs & Events*
Chelsie Horne, *Office of Alumni, Programs & Events*



1996

Bill Chamberlin and his wife Kim (and their Newfoundland Savannah) welcomed a new addition to the family, Jackson Dean Chamberlin, on July 21, 2009.

1997

Don Brown and his wife Terri welcomed their daughter Molly Jean on October 30, 2007.

Brook Deangelis Rowan and her husband Rob welcomed Baylee Deangelis Rowan on June 29, 2009. She joins her 4-year-old brother Reed and 3-year-old sister Blake. The family resides in Little Compton, R.I.

Andrea Krupp has accepted the directorship of the Catholic Foundation of Rhode Island. Andrea had previously been an estate, business and real estate attorney with Kenyon Law Associates in South Kingstown, R.I. She lives in South Kingstown with her husband Brandon and their two-year-old son Harris.

Anthony R. Leone, his wife Chelsie and son Zachary are proud to announce the arrival of Emma Amelia, born August 9, 2009. Anthony has also been named chairperson of the continuing legal education committee of the Rhode Island Association for Justice and a Rhode Island state delegate to the American Association for Justice. Anthony manages his own law practice, Leone Law, LLC, in Warwick, R.I.

Daniel J. McCusker is happy to announce his involvement as an equity owner of Priority Archives. Priority is a national provider of document management, security and secure destruction services with corporate headquarters outside of Philadelphia. Dan also continues to operate a commercial debt collection law practice out of Media, PA.

Robert E. Pirri and his wife Julie welcomed their daughter Angela on December 14, 2008. Robert was promoted to national manager for the Philanthropic Trust Services for Bank of America. In this capacity he manages a national group of trust officers in administering foundations,

endowments, not-for-profits and healthcare charitable accounts for both administration and investments.

1998

Brian Berkowitz was selected as one of Rockland County, New York's "40 under Forty" in October 2008. This honor is bestowed upon professionals under the age of 40 who are making their mark on the county in positive ways through commitment to growth, development, professional excellence and the community at large. Brian, his wife Nicole and their two-year-old daughter Natalie, welcomed their second child, Jonah Sidney, in May 2009.

Lisa Kolb has relocated to Greeneville, Tenn., where her husband Marc is the offensive co-coordinator/QB Coach at Tusculum College. They have three children, Matthew, Hannah and William.

Lincoln Lennon is the assistant city solicitor with the Law Department of Providence.

2004



Gina (Ramacciotti) Iannone '04 is an assistant public defender in Elk River, Minn., and her husband **Jason Iannone '04** is with the Department of Veteran Affairs in Minn.

Joseph R. Marion III is a senior associate with Burns & Levinson LLP, in the firm's trusts and estates group.

Dennis Meyers was named to the board of directors of the Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance, in which capacity he will provide strategic focus and guidance to assist TBWA with work force development services. Meyers is also a solo practitioner focusing on civil litigation and insurance defense. A veteran of the U.S. Naval Reserves, Meyers also serves on the military and government affairs committees of the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce.

Kimberly J. Moore is a financial services professional for MassMutual Financial Group in Providence.

Ann Sheppard Mores and her husband were transferred from FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C., to the Boston Division in February 2009. They live in Quincy, Mass.

2002

Carrie L. Abatiello is in-house counsel for the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority.

Michael J. Daly joined the Providence firm of Pierce Atwood LLP as an associate in the litigation practice group.

Cris Mattoon is a campaign advisor and public speaker, and notes that he, his wife Kimberly and their four-year-old daughter Elizabeth are "enjoying a blessed life."

Jonathan Saunders and his wife welcomed a daughter, Mattingly Jayne Saunders.

Rebecca (Yeager) Dye is a part-time LSAT instructor for Kaplan. She is pleased to announce Macy Noel, born on December 23, 2008.

2003

Jessica F. Kallipolites is the assistant administrative director for the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee.

C. Richard Shewack is senior vice president and national claims director at Willis

2002



Wendy Waller '02 was recently recognized by *Providence Business News* as a "40 Under Forty" honoree. A staff attorney with **Save the Bay** in Providence, Waller said she knew from the moment she finished her undergraduate education at Johns Hopkins University that she wanted to be a lawyer and environmental advocate, but she did not get there by the most direct of career paths. Before attending law school, she worked as a real estate broker and ran a successful café. Eventually,

however, she earned her J.D. from RWU Law, along with a master's degree in marine affairs from the University of Rhode Island, interning with the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council while still a student. After graduation she worked as an associate attorney at the Warwick, R.I., law office of Lepizzera, Laprocina & DePalo. Her RWU adviser, **Dennis Nixon**, had "encouraged me to get experience in a courtroom in order to bring added value to any environmental advocacy group." Waller said.

In addition, Waller is a member of Jamestown's Harbor Commission and is volunteering her legal skills to help a group of pet owners and breeders who are pushing for an update of the R.I. Rabies Control Board's regulations. With a brother suffering from a traumatic brain injury, Waller also spends much of her free time raising awareness about such injuries.

2000

John B. Garry is an attorney for the Department of Homeland Security, Office of General Counsel, in Washington, D.C. He was also promoted to Commander in the Navy Reserve.

2001

Susan Rossi Cook opened her own practice offering legal and mediation services in Franklin, Mass., and East Sandwich, Mass.

Megan Higgins is working on offshore renewable energy projects throughout the U.S. in the Providence office of Ecology & Environment, Inc., an international environmental consulting firm.

Global Aviation. Willis is one of the three largest insurance brokers in the world.

Douglas M. Mercurio, a solo practitioner in North Reading, Mass., has been appointed to the board of directors of the Reading-North Reading Chamber of Commerce. He is also chair of the chamber's North Reading Government Affairs Committee, and is president-elect of the North Reading Rotary Club. He lives in Tewksbury with his wife Michelle and their two sons Steven and Jason.

2004

Amanda Foster is an attorney with Wong Fleming, P.C., in Princeton, N.J., and an adjunct legal writing professor at Seton Hall Law School for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Laura Frechette joined Timothy J. Conlon, Esq., in Providence.

Chantal Tocci was interviewed by the *Wall Street Journal*, and featured in that publication's "Career Journal" section in August, speaking about her job as hotline operations manager for the long-running Fox television series "America's Most Wanted" (see *story in Spring 2009 Amicus*).

2005

Maggie (Tarta) Coppens and her husband Chris welcomed a baby boy, Raymond Joseph Coppens, into the world on March 5, 2009. RJ has a new cousin, Sofia, born to **Shaun** and **Meg (McSharry) Spada '05**.

Patricia Ann (Rebello) Hardt is an attorney with the Virginia Beach Public Defender's Office. She is licensed in R.I., Mass., Va., and Washington, D.C.

2005



Dr. Lynn Ewart-Paine '05, deputy chief technology officer at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), Division Newport, was named a **2009 Woman of the Year** by the Rhode Island Commission on Women. The award recognizes

"influential women in Rhode Island who demonstrate a history of individual achievement or who have made lasting and positive contributions in the community to help elevate the presence of women and improve the quality of life for women in the state."

Patricia and her husband Bruce welcomed their first baby, Hunter Lee Hardt, on July 15, 2008.

Ronald M. Metcho is an associate with the law firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, where he focuses his practice on insurance coverage and insurance bad faith issues. He resides in Philadelphia.

Sarah Potter is a public defender with the Rhode Island Public Defender's Office.

Joseph J. Ranone manages his own practice, Ranone Law, in Warwick, R.I. He serves clients in R.I. and southeastern Mass.

2006

Cory J. Bilodeau joined the business and corporate practice group at Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple P.C. in Worcester, Mass., where he concentrates on corporate tax law. Cory earned an LL.M. degree in taxation from Boston University School of Law.

Tom Connolly is an associate with Scott & Bush in Providence, focusing on commercial litigation and intellectual property work. He co-authored the Rhode Island chapter of *Misrepresentation in the*

Life, Health, and Disability Insurance Application Process: A National Survey (ABA Press 2009). He also co-authored an article in the Fall 2009 edition of *The Brief*, the quarterly magazine of the ABA's Tort Trial & Insurance Practice (TIPS) Section. He lives in Thompson, Conn., with his wife Erica, and two daughters, Maggie and Fiona.

Sarah M. Curtis is an associate with Patton Boggs LLP in Anchorage, Alaska, where she advises clients

on issues including business formation, regulation compliance, tax-exempt status and litigation. She also practices in the area of Native American affairs, assisting a variety of Alaska Native Corporations navigate the intricacies of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the Alaska corporations laws. Following graduation from RWU Law, Sarah earned her LL.M. in Taxation at University of Washington School of Law.

Helena P. (Amaral) Downyok is an assistant state prosecutor for Charlotte County, Fla.

Stephen R. Muschiano is a professional environmental engineer and attorney working for the Law Offices of Michael A. Kelly, P.C., in Providence. He works on first-impression environmental cases; construction law and litigation matters; engineering, architecture and construction management insurance defense; arbitration and mediation.

Elizabeth H. Walston is an assistant district attorney with the Norfolk District Attorney's Office in Quincy, Mass.

Brian Waterman and **Rebecca Guendelsberger '06** were married on July 4, 2009.

2007

Regina Marie Hammer was accepted into New York Law School's LL.M. program in real estate law. She opened her own solo practice in Brooklyn, N.Y. to concentrate in real estate law.

Meaghan Mahoney is an attorney with the Law Office of Susan Pittard Weidman, P.A., in Delaware. Her main area of practice is estate planning.

Leah J. Metro is an associate with the Law Office of Joseph P. Lussier, CPA, Esq. in Worcester, Mass.

2006



Alison LaBoissonnière '06 is an associate with the class-action division of Diaz Reus & Targ LLP in Miami, where she focuses her practice on international securities litigation, international antitrust litigation, portfolio monitoring, business transactions, corporate and contractual matters.

"My practice is a bit strange and diverse, but it can really be summed up into international institutional investor protection," Alison said. "Right now, I am heavily involved in international creditor representation on behalf of institutional investors in complex, multinational bankruptcy cases."

After completing her J.D. at RWU Law, Alison earned her LL.M. with honors at the University of Notre Dame Law School in London. Before returning to the U.S., she worked in the international capital markets team at Allen & Overy, one of the U.K.'s leading law firms.

As a law student, Alison was nominated as president of the Moot Court Board, participated in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, and was chief research assistant to Professor **Louise Ellen Teitz**. She was also the champion, best advocate and best brief recipient in the Esther Clark Moot Court Competition, and received the CALI Award in Trial Advocacy and European Union Law.

Earlier this year, Alison addressed the Institutional Investor Educational Foundation Conference in London as a panelist on shareholder activism and latest trends in international securities litigation, and more recently she spoke to University of Miami Law School students on how to build a career in international law. She was also on the Planning Committee for the ABA International Law Section Fall 2009 Meeting in Miami Beach.

2008



Collin Evans and Blake Doughty '08 completed a six-month training for the Army JAG Corps. Evans is stationed at Fort Lee, Va., and Doughty is stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

James Rolstead is a deputy public defender for the Maricopa County Office of the Public Defender, Ariz.

Sara (Posluszny) Sandstrom married in the summer of 2008. She is the legal recruitment coordinator in the Career Services Office at New England Law Boston.

Jason Van Volkenburgh is an attorney for FGX International Corporate Headquarters in Smithfield, R.I.

discipline of jurisprudence." Jason originally wrote this paper for an RWU Law seminar, "The Influence of Sir Edward Coke," taught by Adjunct Professor **B. Mitchell Simpson, III**.

Maria L. DiPilato is an associate with Seder & Chandler, LLP in Worcester, Mass.

Matthew Jerzyk created a new, legal-focused blog called "Closing Argument." It focuses on legal matters in R.I. and Mass.

Megan K. Maciasz will join the business litigation group at Burns & Levinson, LLP, in their Providence office after completing a clerkship with **Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell** of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Hadley Perry is an associate with Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP, in Boston.

2008

Robert Coulter has been heavily involved in pro bono work, including the Guantanamo Bay lawyer controversy and an election law challenge, at Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP in Providence. In a solo effort, after a year and several administrative appeals, he was finally able to get unemployment benefits for his RWU Criminal Defense Clinic client who lost his job after being arrested without probable cause.

Jason Crye has had his paper, "Ancient Constitutionalism: Sir Edward Coke's Contribution to the Anglo-American Legal Tradition," published in *The Journal Jurisprudence* in Melbourne, Australia. The editor describes it as "an original and important contribution to the history of law that is central to the

In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of **Andrew Craig Marsh** on August 4, after a two-and-a-half-year battle with melanoma. Andrew graduated from Boston College in 2000 and was in the final week of his first year at the Roger Williams University School of Law when he was diagnosed with melanoma. He would have been a member of the Class of 2009, graduating this past May. While he wasn't there with his classmates on Commencement Day, he was there in spirit, and many of Andrew's former classmates spoke of him on their special day.

Andrew was a friend to all who knew him and had a huge heart. His family considered him "bright" and "a beacon of love" and are extremely proud of who he was. He will be greatly missed. One of Andrew's hopes was that a scholarship fund would be established to continue his giving spirit. If you are interested, donations may be sent to: *The Andrew C. Marsh Memorial Scholarship Fund*, PMB 117 11 Main St. Suite 7 Westbrook, Maine 05092-5199.

It is with great sadness that the RWU Law community notes the passing of **Michael E. Hopton '99** on October 12. Michael began his career with the Smithfield Police Department, holding several appointments before retiring as captain and detective commander after 20 years of service in 2004. He was appointed as a full-time police officer with the Gloucester Police Department in 2006, later serving as a school resource officer in 2008. During his law-enforcement career he received many awards, including a life-saving commendation in 2007. He coached the Mt. St. Charles softball and boys' cross country teams, as well as Warwick PAL wrestling and NRI Hockey. He earned his bachelor's degree from RWU, and a master's degree from Salve Regina University.

Alumni Chapter List Serves

Interested in joining any of the Roger Williams University alumni list serve areas?

D.C. Area lawdcare@rwu.edu **Rhode Island Area** lawri@rwu.edu **N.Y.C. Area** lawny@rwu.edu

You must become a member in order to receive or send correspondence through the list serve to other alumni members.

Email your request to: lawalumni@rwu.edu



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 photographs are welcome.

Thursday, December 3, 2009
Law Alumni Association Holiday Reception

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 Location: Federal Reserve
 60 Dorrance Street
 Providence

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 also 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.

Saturday, March 6, 2010
17th 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

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) 254-4659.

Friday, May 21, 2010
School of Law Commencement



Time: 1:00 p.m. Ceremony - Open seating
 Location: Bristol Campus

The latest Commencement news may be found online at law.rwu.edu/sites/commencement. Please contact the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at lawevents@rwu.edu or call (401) 254-4659.

Thursday, June 10, 2010
Law Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Breakfast

Time: 7:45 - 9:15 a.m.
 Location: The Westin Providence
 One West Exchange Street,
 Providence

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.

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



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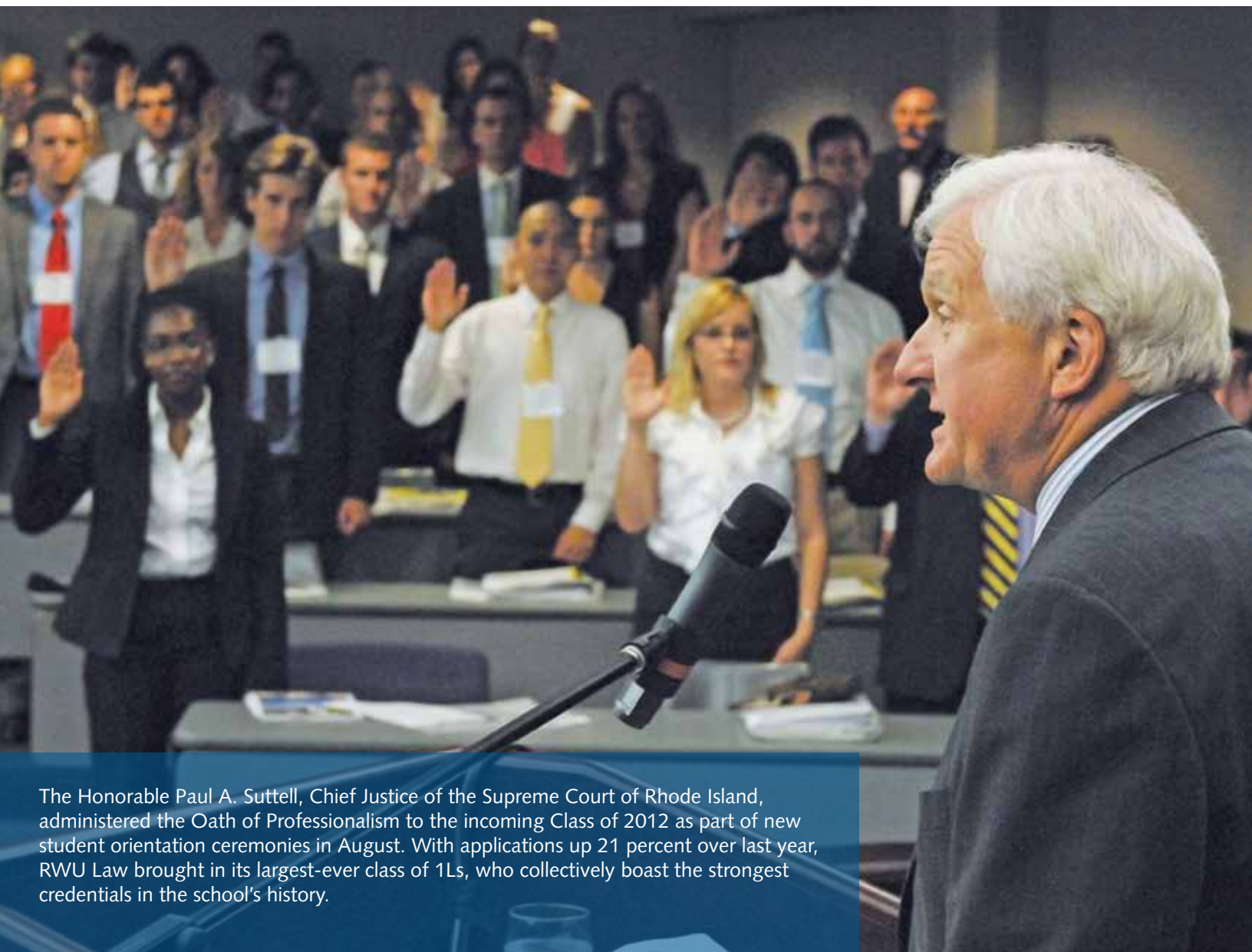
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Office of Alumni, Programs and Events
Ten Metacom Avenue
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

Change Service Requested



The Honorable Paul A. Suttell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, administered the Oath of Professionalism to the incoming Class of 2012 as part of new student orientation ceremonies in August. With applications up 21 percent over last year, RWU Law brought in its largest-ever class of 1Ls, who collectively boast the strongest credentials in the school's history.