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Roger Williams University eNewsletter

RALPH R. PAPITTO SCHOOL OF LAW



David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Roger Williams School of Law is committed to providing its students a challenging legal education in a supportive environment. One important manifestation of this was our decision to significantly reduce enrollments in the foundational courses of the first year curriculum: Contracts, Torts, Civil Procedure, and Criminal Law.

More evidence of our success comes from the reports of RWU students that form the basis for the Princeton Review's evaluations of the top law schools. (If you want to read the glowing review, here is the link <http://law.rwu.edu/news/spotlight/archive.aspx>).

A recent addition to our trove of information about the student experience at RWU comes from our participation in the "Law School Survey of Student Engagement." The study seeks and collects the opinions of our students on a broad range of topics and then compares the results with those obtained from students at law schools across the country. Here are some of the key findings:

- RWU students report that they come to class fully prepared much more often than students at other schools
- RWU students spend much more time outside of class discussing the law
- RWU students spend much less time memorizing material
- RWU students work harder to meet the expectations of their faculty
- RWU students spend much more time performing pro bono work
- The faculty and staff at RWU are more helpful outside of class

These findings are consistent with our goal of providing a personalized and rigorous educational experience. This, in turn, is the basis for the successes of our current crop of talented, hard-working future attorneys. Read on to learn more.

Three Law Review members to publish in outside publications

The 2006-2007 Law Review Editorial Board announced the names of *Roger Williams University Law Review* members who have accepted offers for publication with outside journals. The following students have forthcoming publications:

Mathew Jill, *One Small Step: The Past, Present and Future of the Federal Sentencing System*, CRIM. L. BULL. (West Group).

Kimberly A. Tracey, *Non-Market Economy Methodology under U.S. Antidumping Laws: A Protectionist Shield from Chinese Competition*, CURRENTS: INT'L TRADE L.J. (South Texas College of Law).

Margreta Vellucci, *Fishing for the Truth: Achieving the Best Available Science by Forging a Middle Ground Between Mainstream Scientists and Fishermen*, ENV'NS ENVT'L. L. POL'Y J. (UC Davis).

Wayonnoh Nelson awarded a National Black Law Students Association scholarship



Wayonnoh Nelson awarded a National Black Law Students Association scholarship

Wayonnoh Nelson '07 was awarded the Rodney Pulliam Memorial Scholarship in the National Black Law Students Association's (NBLSA) essay competition. Nelson's essay focused on whether affirmative action has outlived its usefulness to the African American community and how the legal system should focus on factors outside of the current scope of affirmative action in order to increase higher educational opportunities for African American students.

Nelson is the recruitment chair for the Multi-Cultural Law Students Association and a member of the Black Law Students Association and the International Law Society. She represented Roger Williams in the National Environmental Law Moor Court Competition.

Interesting Student Jobs (Cont.)



Alex Baer '08
Robinson & Cole,
Boston, Mass.

This summer I will be an associate for Robinson & Cole, a major commercial law firm with offices in the Northeast and Florida. I will be working at the firm's Boston office. The firm's summer associate program is designed to provide a first-hand experience of what a career as an attorney for Robinson & Cole is like. Each summer associate is assigned two mentors (usually a partner and associate), who provide guidance and address questions about the firm.



Weayonnoh Nelson '07
U.S. Human Rights
Network, Atlanta, Ga.

I served as the immigration fellow at the U.S. Human Rights Network in Atlanta, Georgia. The Network, with a membership of over 180 US-based human rights organizations, was formed to promote US accountability to universal human rights standards by building links between organizations, as well as individuals, that work on human rights issues in the United States. The highlight was my human rights critique of the current immigration debate in the United States, and I used the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC) as a framework. The MWC specifically addresses the treatment, welfare, and human rights of both documented and undocumented migrant workers and their families.



Katherine Sulentic '08
General Counsel
Senior Vice President
for the Denver Broncos,
Denver, Colo.

During the summer I will be working for Rich Slivka, General Counsel/Senior Vice President of Administration for the Denver Broncos. While not all NFL teams have General Counsels, Mr. Slivka has had a relationship with the Denver Broncos for many years going back to when he worked with Pat Bowen (the Broncos' team owner) in a business capacity. I will be working with Mr. Slivka, providing him with support in many diverse aspects of his job including licensing, team operations, and NFL league office duties.



Marcus Jones '07
Rhode Island Legal
Services, Providence, R.I.

My internship with Rhode Island Legal Services (RILS) provided me with the unique opportunity to learn about the detrimental effects of environmental degradation and injustice. In addition, I researched and wrote about environmental problems associated with school sitings for the state of Rhode Island. During the internship, I collaborated with another RWU student to research and write portions of a research project by the RILS. The report, *Environmental Justice for States: A Guide for Developing Environmental Justice Programs for State Environmental Agencies*, was funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the agency's Environmental Justice Small Grant program. The internship introduced me to an area of law that initially did not interest me. However, I can now honestly say that I would be extremely happy to be an environmental attorney.



Jonathan Lew '07
Block Island Planning
Board, R.I.

I am a Sea Grant Law Fellow working with the Block Island Planning Board to determine the ownership of the land for a controversial marina project. There are plans to expand and improve the existing marina, but the land that Block Island wants to use for the new marina is divided into eight parcels. The town will attempt to condemn the privately-owned parcels. The whole Block Island community has an interest in the outcome because a new harbor will bring more tourists during the peak season, but also impose stresses on the marine environment.



Kate Ahern '07
Tarlow, Breed,
Hart & Rodgers, P.C.,
Boston, Mass.

Recently, I accepted an offer for full time employment with Tarlow, Breed, Hart, & Rodgers, P.C. in Boston. Initially, I didn't feel that the large firm environment was a good fit for me but such firms usually house the majority of sophisticated business attorneys. TBH&R offers its clients the highest level of legal services, yet does so in the smaller firm environment I prefer. This will enable me to cultivate the type of client relationships I was concerned I'd never find while practicing business law. I've already started working there part-time and found the environment at TBH&R to be a very supportive and encouraging.