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Dean Logan's Blog

Annual Trip to DC Nets a Face-to-face with Justice Sotomayor and a Capitol Tour by Senator Whitehouse

Posted by David Logan on 04/29/2013 at 03:45 PM

A signature RWU Law event is a coveted spot in the annual trip to Washington, D.C., which enables students to meet with leaders of the Judicial, Legislative, and Executive Branch all in a couple days.

This year's highlight: after hearing arguments in two cases on the Court's morning docket, they were treated to a private session with the newest member of the Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor. She graciously signed copies of her best-selling book, *My Beloved Life* (which is flying off the shelf).

<http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers-books/hardcover-nonfiction/list.html>



Happy 2Ls (Asia-Sierra Millett, Josh Xavier, and Leticia Tavares) with their autographed Sotomayor autobiographies

Other highlights from the trip: a session with the lawyers from the Department of Justice who argued that day, and a tour of the Capitol hosted by a great friend of RWU Law, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, which prompted the good senator to tweet about how much he loved RWU law students.



Below are some reactions from some of the lucky students, and below that some pics from the fun trip:

“The whole trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We heard oral arguments at the Supreme Court, met Justice Sotomayor alone for almost an hour, where we asked questions, then had a personal meeting with the two lawyers from the Solicitor Gen.'s office who had just argued the cases we watched! Without RWU Law’s amazing connections we could never have such access to the Supreme Court or a personal tour of the Capitol with a U.S. Senator.... Like I said once-in-a-lifetime!” Paige Munro, ‘14

“After hearing about the Supreme Court class and the final trip to Washington, D.C. as a 1L, I knew I had to enroll. But this experience was far better than I could have ever imagined. Although we did so many amazing things in two short days, the highlight of the trip was having an intimate meeting with Justice Sonia Sotomayor after hearing oral arguments. To end out a great experience, I connected with my mentor, RI Superior Court Justice Edward Clifton, who was in D.C. for the 25th annual conference of National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. Overall, the trip was amazing!” Asia-Sierra-Millette, ‘014



Asia and Paige

“I will never forget the day I met Justice Sotomayor. I asked her about her role as someone who has inspired an entire country through her ability to overcome tremendous obstacles, and what motivation she has for those who are facing the same obstacles. She responded by stressing that these obstacles are not excuses justifying an individual to give up on their dreams. Rather, obstacles “are opportunities to embrace a new perspective, to grow in one's confidence, and to inspire others.” Justice Sotomayor is a living testament that the American Dream is still alive and is can be achieved when a person's resiliency, confidence, and ambition is supported by education and loving support from family and friends.” Josh Xavier, ‘14

