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Roger Williams University

eNewsletter

SCHOOL OF LAW



David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The 2007-08 academic year is off to a great start, with our best-credentialed entering class enjoying the benefits of our new small section program, while our upper-level students learn from excellent full-time and adjunct faculty, one that mixes theory and practice in just the right measure. Because we are the only law school in the state, our top-shelf adjunct faculty includes leading jurists in the region, like Chief Justice of the RI Supreme Court Frank Williams and Bruce Selya from the First Circuit.



Frank Williams
Rhode Island Supreme Court



Bruce Selya
First Circuit Court of Appeals

Visit the **DEANS BLOG:** <http://blogs.rwu.edu/law/dean>
for our most current events and news!

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW ANNOUNCES NEW ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

The School of Law has appointed Courtney Megan Cahill as an associate professor of law. Professor Cahill joins the School of Law from the University of Toledo College of Law. She has also been a visiting professor at the University of Michigan Law School and the Washington and Lee University School of Law.

Professor Cahill is an established scholar. Her articles examining contemporary issues of law and sexuality draw upon her deep knowledge of the portrayal of law and sexuality in classical and early modern texts.

Those articles have appeared in *Northwestern University Law Review* and the *Washington and Lee Law Review*. She is also as an excellent teacher and will offer Sexual Orientation, Family Law and Property at Roger Williams.

Professor Cahill has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Barnard College, *summa cum laude*, a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Princeton University, and a J.D. from Yale Law School, where she won the Colby Townsend Prize, and served as Chief Essays Editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and a Coker Teaching Fellow. After graduating from Yale she clerked for the Honorable Harold Baer, Jr., of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.



RWU is also a faculty of excellent scholars, as proven by a comprehensive study of faculty productivity recently completed by Associate Dean Michael Yelnosky. RWU faculty is the fifth most productive faculty in New England, trailing Yale, Harvard and Boston University (and we are just behind Boston College), and ahead of University of Connecticut and Northeastern. Among the schools outside of the US News "Top 100," RWU comes in second. <http://law.rwu.edu/facultyproductivity>

These are remarkable achievements for a young law school and our productivity rankings may rise even higher next year when we can include articles by some of our terrific faculty that have been accepted (but not yet published) by top journals.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the successes of six of my colleagues who recently received tenure (Nancy Cook, Anne Lawton, George Nnona and Emily Sack) or were promoted to Full Professor (Diana Hassel and Gail Winson). As has so often been the case in recent years, the talents of our new hires, join a strong senior faculty.

A Study of Scholarly Productivity of Law Faculties in New England and the 3rd and 4th Tiers of US News

Methodology

Dataset

Journal List

Per Capita Productivity of Articles in Top Journals, 1993-2007 New England Law Schools

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Yale University (17.52) | 7. University of Maine (2.85) |
| 2. Harvard University (13.59) | 8. Northeastern University (2.75) |
| 3. Boston University (8.79) | 8. Quinnipiac University (2.70) |
| 4. Boston College (5.09) | 10. New England School of Law (2.47) |
| 5. Roger Williams University (4.84) | 11. Western New England College (1.72) |
| 6. University of Connecticut (4.60) | 12. Suffolk University (1.46) |
| | 13. Vermont Law School (0.86) |

Per Capita Productivity of Articles in Top Journals, 1993-2007 U.S. News 3rd & 4th Tier Law Schools

- | | #s 21-40 | #s 41-63 |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Hofstra University (7.16) | California Western School of Law | Creighton University |
| 2. Roger Williams University (4.84) | Cleveland State University | Duquesne University |
| 3. Michigan State University (4.30) | Drake University | Golden Gate University |
| 4. New York Law School (4.17) | Loyola University - New Orleans | Gonzaga University |
| 4. Wayne State University (4.14) | Samford University | Hamline University |
| 6. Capital University (3.71) | Southern Illinois University | John Marshall Law School (IL) |
| 7. University of Mississippi (3.52) | Southwestern Law School | Mississippi College |
| 8. Chapman University (3.34) | St. Thomas University (FL) | Northern Kentucky University |
| 8. Widener University (3.35) | Syracuse University | Nova Southeastern University |
| 10. Villamette University (3.20) | University of Akron | Ohio Northern University |
| 11. University of Wyoming (3.00) | University of Arkansas – Fayetteville | Pace University |
| 12. Northern Illinois University (2.94) | University of Arkansas – Little Rock | South Texas College of Law |
| 13. University of Maine (2.85) | University of Baltimore | St. Mary's University |
| 13. University of Memphis (2.85) | University of Missouri-Kansas City | Suffolk University |
| 15. William Mitchell College of Law (2.77) | University of South Dakota | Texas Tech University |
| 16. Quinnipiac University (2.70) | University of Tulsa | Touro College |
| 17. Albany Law School (2.54) | Valparaiso University | University of Dayton |
| 17. Oklahoma City University (2.57) | Washburn University | University of Detroit Mercy |
| 19. Howard University (2.46) | Western New England College | University of Idaho |
| 19. New England School of Law (2.47) | Whittier Law School | University of Montana |
| | | University of North Dakota |
| | | Vermont Law School |
| | | West Virginia University |

Methodology

This study was conducted during the summer of 2007. The objective was to create a unique dataset – an inventory of the scholarly output in top law journals of the faculties at “non-elite” law schools. That dataset, which is available on this website, provides objective information to assess the relative strength of the “non-elite” schools in scholarly research. It is the basis for the ranking of “Per Capita Productivity of Articles in Top Journals, 1993-2007: U.S. News 3rd and 4th Tier Law Schools.” In that ranking we compare the scholarly output of all law schools that are ABA-accredited, members of the Association of American Law Schools, and appeared in either the 3rd or 4th tier of the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT 2008 Rankings.

In addition, we included in the dataset an identical inventory of the output of several faculties at law schools generally considered more “elite.” That additional information permits us to assess the relative strength of “elite” and “non-elite” schools in this form of scholarly research. That information is the basis for the ranking of “Per Capita Productivity in Top Journals, 1993-2007: New England Law Schools.” In that ranking we compare the scholarly output of all law schools in New England that are ABA-accredited and members of the Association of American Law Schools.

To build the dataset we employed the methodology used by Professor Brian Leiter in his study of per capita faculty productivity based on articles in top journals. Leiter focused exclusively on schools he determined might likely rank in the top 50 nationally, see Brian Leiter, *Measuring the Academic Distinction of Law Faculties*, 29 J. LEGAL STUD. 451, 461-68 (2000)(describing the methodology and results); http://www.leiter rankings.com/faculty/2000/faculty_product_journals.shtml#tations (same), which created the void we hoped our study would fill.

For each school we studied, we considered faculty listed in the 2006-2007 AALS DIRECTORY OF LAW TEACHERS, eliminating all emeritus faculty and all faculty members with library, clinical, or legal writing titles. (We included Roger Williams professors who teach clinical courses because they are all tenured and expected to produce scholarship). The resulting faculty lists, like Professor Leiter's, were intended to include all tenured and tenure-track academic faculty in 2006-2007 who were expected to produce scholarship as a major part of their duties. (The exceptions are the faculty lists for Yale, Harvard, Boston University, and Boston College, which came from Professor Leiter's most