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Newsroom

Reluctant Hero: Betty Anne Waters '98

As a freshly minted lawyer, Betty Anne Waters rescued her brother from a murder conviction. Now that her story is a Hollywood movie, will the spotlight help—or hinder—this media-shy attorney and her latest, controversial case?

The February 2010 issue of [Rhode Island Monthly](#) ran a feature on alumna Betty Anne Waters '98, titled "[Reluctant Hero](#)." By John Larrabee and Russ Olivo.



The scene: a Massachusetts courthouse, sometime in the spring of 2000. Betty Anne Waters stands at the front counter of the basement evidence room, peering into a cardboard box labeled with her brother's name, "Kenneth Waters." He's spent the past seventeen years behind prison walls, serving life without parole for the brutal murder of a housewife in Ayer, his hometown, thirty-five miles north of Boston. There were no witnesses to the crime, but during his trial several people testified they heard him make incriminating statements. Through it all, his sister's belief in his innocence has never wavered. Winning his freedom has become her life quest. Though she dropped out of high school as a teen, her crusade sent her back to the classroom, first at Community College of Rhode Island, then Rhode Island College, then Roger Williams University School of Law. She's now a brand-new lawyer, with her brother as her only client.

Inside the box, in a clear plastic bag, Betty Anne sees a blue and green window curtain that once hung in the victim's home. It's the lost puzzle piece she's been desperately seeking. Dark stains are smeared across the cloth, stains that years earlier the prosecutor had presented as . . . the killer's blood!

Click [here](http://www.rimonthly.com/Rhode-Island-Monthly/February-2010/Reluctant-Hero/) for full story. [<http://www.rimonthly.com/Rhode-Island-Monthly/February-2010/Reluctant-Hero/>]

