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Newsroom

Professor Elorza Appointed to Housing Court

Bristol, R.I., March 18, 2009: Roger Williams University School of Law Professor **Jorge O. Elorza** has been appointed as a judge on the Providence Housing Court by **Mayor David N. Cicilline**. In announcing the appointment, Mayor Cicilline described Elorza as a brilliant attorney and legal scholar with a “deep commitment to helping low-income families navigate the legal system.”

“I am pleased to appoint someone with Jorge Elorza’s strong credentials, breadth of experience and sharp legal mind to the Housing Court,” said Mayor Cicilline. “Jorge’s extraordinary legal skills and his deep understanding of the challenges facing those in need make him uniquely qualified to adjudicate cases that impact the quality of life for families in our neighborhoods.”

The three-member Housing Court is responsible for hearing and determining all actions concerning violations of housing laws, building codes and zoning ordinances. The Mayor’s selection of Elorza requires confirmation by the City Council.

An associate professor at RWU Law since 2005, Elorza teaches several courses including Property, Housing Law and Policy and Advanced Constitutional Law. He is also founder and co-director of the Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University.

“Jorge’s extraordinary record of academic and professional achievement speaks for itself,” said RWU Law **Dean David A. Logan**. “As a law professor, as a community leader, as a social advocate and as a valued colleague, he is an ideal selection for this essential post.”

Elorza previously worked as a staff attorney at Rhode Island Legal Services where he represented private and public housing tenants in Rhode Island District and Superior courts. He also served as an Associate Forensic Auditor for Magnan Graizzaro & Associates in Hingham, Massachusetts and as an Associate Auditor at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP in New York, New York.

He received his law degree from Harvard University in 2003 where he served as a teaching assistant and a fellow for prominent professor Lani Guinier, who became nationally known as President Bill Clinton’s nominee for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in 1993. Elorza graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in accounting from the University of Rhode Island.