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## 13th Annual Diversity Symposium Dinner 04-07-2016

Roger Williams University School of Law

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#### **Recommended Citation**

Roger Williams University School of Law, "13th Annual Diversity Symposium Dinner 04-07-2016" (2016). *School of Law Conferences, Lectures & Events.* 78. https://docs.rwu.edu/law\_pubs\_conf/78

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# THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Diversity Symposium Dinner

April 7, 2016 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Providence Marriott Downtown

## Presented by:

Roger Williams University SCHOOL OF LAW

Roger Williams University School of Law Multi-Cultural Law Students Association

> Thurgood Marshall Law Society of Rhode Island

RHODE ISLAND HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION

### Welcome

#### Moderator:

Diony Garcia, Esq. '12 Rhode Island Hispanic Bar Association

#### Remarks

**Michael J. Yelnosky** Dean, Roger Williams University School of Law

**William Trezvant, Esq.** President, Thurgood Marshall Law Society

## Dinner and

## TABLE DISCUSSION

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

David A. Cooper, Esq. Cooper Law Offices

Linn Foster Freedman, Esq. Robinson & Cole LLP

Michael Thomas, 2L Roger Williams University School of Law Student

#### CLOSING

**Deborah L. Johnson, Esq.** Director of Diversity and Outreach Roger Williams University School of Law



#### Privacy and the Law

#### U.S. Constitution, Amendment IV

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

#### **Discussion Questions**

Recently the FBI sought a court order to compel Apple to unlock the iPhone of the alleged San Bernardino gunman. Has this case and the issue of whether Apple was required to comply with the government's demand impacted or changed your view of the right to privacy?

Over



How far should an individual's expectation of privacy extend? Is there an expectation of privacy in one's emails, voicemails and/or text messages whether sent or received or with regard to the internet sites that one visits?

- How far should the government's right to search and seize an individual's person or property extend? In certain instances, such as in the interest of national security, should the government be permitted to search and seize a person or his/her property without "probable cause?"
- Can there be a balance between a person's expectation of privacy and the government's interest in national security or law enforcement's interest in investigating criminal activity?

Does an individual's behavior impact one's expectation of privacy? For example, if you have the location services feature activated on your mobile phone, is it okay for your movements to be tracked and investigated by law enforcement/the government?

Some individuals believe that there is more monitoring or use of lawful searches and seizures in communities of color, leading to more arrests and higher rates of incarceration for people of color. Do you agree?

• Do you think that having more diversity in law enforcement and in the legal profession (i.e., lawyers and judges) would have any impact on the reported incidents of alleged privacy violations?

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Symposium Dinner Thursday, April 7, 2016 5:00 – 8:00 pm

#### BIOGRAPHIES

#### **MODERATOR:**

**Diony Garcia**, **Esq.** is a 2012 Alum of Roger Williams University School of Law and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Rhode Island. He is a product of the Providence Public Schools, from K to 12. Diony is currently a Special Assistant Attorney General with the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General. Prior to working in the Attorney General's office, he was employed at the Providence City Solicitors office. He is a founding member of the Rhode Island Hispanic Bar Association and of the Millennial Professional Group of Rhode Island. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors for Roger Williams University's Latino Policy Institute and for STEAM Box RI, an education-based nonprofit that works primarily out of Providence Public Schools.

#### **PANELISTS:**

**David A. Cooper, Esq.** is an alum of Boston College (Class of 1973) and Boston College Law School (Class of 1976). He is admitted to practice in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, and the United States Supreme Court. He has tried cases in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut and a few states in between those states. He has been in private practice for more than 30 years, handling criminal, personal injury, divorce, and civil matters.

Linn Foster Freedman, Esq. is a partner at Robinson & Cole LLP where she practices in data privacy and security law, and complex litigation. She is a member of the firm's Business Litigation Group and chairs its Data Privacy + Security Team. She currently serves as general counsel to the Rhode Island Quality Institute. Ms. Freedman focuses her practice on compliance with all state and federal privacy and security laws and regulations, as well as emergency data breach response and mitigation. She counsels clients on state and federal data privacy and security investigations and data breaches.

Prior to joining Robinson & Cole, Ms. Freedman was a partner at Nixon Peabody, where she served as leader of the firm's Privacy & Data Protection Group. She also served as assistant attorney general and deputy chief of the Civil Division of the Attorney General's Office for the State of Rhode Island.

**Peter F. Neronha, Esq.** was appointed by President Barack Obama as the United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island on September 16, 2009, after having served in the United States Attorney's Office since 2002. In his capacity as chief federal law enforcement officer for Rhode Island, Mr. Neronha supervises the prosecution of federal crimes and the litigation of civil matters in which the federal government has an interest either as a plaintiff or defendant. Mr. Neronha meets frequently with members of the Muslim American community, Narragansett Indian tribal leaders, and faith-based community leaders and organizations to discuss community safety, civil rights protection and outreach programs. He also works closely with federal, state and local law enforcement, the courts, and federal probation, and is among the leaders in the discussion and implementation of programs to reduce the rate of recidivism of citizens returning to the community from prison by ensuring that critical services, employment training and opportunities, and supervision are available.

A fourth generation native of Jamestown, Rhode Island, and a proud graduate of North Kingstown High School, Mr. Neronha graduated in 1985 summa cum laude from Boston College. In 1989, he graduated magna cum laude from Boston College Law School, where he was a member of the Boston College Law Review. After five years in private practice, Mr. Neronha entered public service when he was appointed a Special Assistant Attorney General of the Rhode Island Department of the Attorney General. He was later appointed an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island in 2001.

**Michael Thomas** is a second year law school student at RWU Law. After graduating from Everett High School in Massachusetts, he attended the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. While at UMass Dartmouth, Michael was elected president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee ("SAAC," pronounced like "Sack"), a group charged with representing the interests of all NCAA athletes at the school as well as being active in the community. Through SAAC, he: directed road races to raise money for the Special Olympics, coordinated basketball tournaments so Special Olympians had a place to play, and advocated on behalf of student athletes. In addition to his work with SAAC, Michael played football for UMass Dartmouth all four years, and was named a captain for his junior and senior year. Aside from athletics, Michael worked closely with a team of around six seniors to raise money to endow the DREAM Scholarship at UMass Dartmouth. This scholarship focuses on giving students with big dreams the means to see their dreams come true.

During his first year at RWU Law, Michael was a Team Leader for the Alternative Spring Break placement in Pittsburgh. His team researched, wrote, and brainstormed for the Federal Public Defenders Office there. In the summer following his first year, he had the pleasure of working with Judge John J. McConnell of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. Michael is currently the President of the American Civil Liberties Union chapter at RWU Law and the Vice-President of the Multi-Cultural Law Students Association. He is also a member of the Law School's Trial Team. This summer, Michael is eager to work with Assistant Federal Public Defender Tara Allen in the Federal Public Defender Office of Rhode Island.