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Dean Logan's Blog

RWU Law Awards First Loan Forgiveness Grants to '08 Alums

Posted by David Logan on 07/30/2009 at 12:00 AM

RWU Law launched its Public Interest Loan Repayment Assistance Program this summer. Created through the generosity of **RWU President Dr. Roy J. Nirschel**, and **Jack and Sara McConnell**, the program provides financial assistance to alumni who represent indigent clients in civil and criminal proceedings. Our first recipients are a terrific group of recent grads who as students took full advantage of our exemplary clinical, externship and public service programs while at RWU Law. Here are brief descriptions of the important work that the program supports and below that some pics from a summer gathering to thank Jack and Sara.

Our first grant awards went to:

Kara Henderson

A public defender at the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) in Fall River, Mass., Kara first connected with CPCS during the fall of her third year, through our Public Interest Externship Program. Kara also served as a student attorney in our Criminal Defense Clinic, and interned for the Rhode Island Attorney General and the New Hampshire Public Defender – with a public interest summer stipend from RWU Law each summer.

Rebecca Kratz

As the first staff attorney at the Freedom from Religion Foundation in Madison, Wis., Rebecca works primarily on First Amendment cases for low income clients. At RWU Law, she served as vice president of the Association for Public Interest Law and was active in the Women's Law Association. During law school, Rebecca interned with two Wisconsin DA offices, with the Wisconsin Coalition against Domestic Violence.

Kareem Morgan

Also a public defender at the CPCS – in their Brockton, Mass., office – Kareem was a member of the Honors Program at RWU Law, and served as an intern for the Honorable Edward C. Clifton in the Providence Superior Court through our Judicial Externship Program. Kareem also participated in our Community Justice and Legal Assistance Clinic, representing clients incarcerated at Rhode Island's Adult Correctional Institute on family law cases involving visitation, custody, and child welfare issues.

Nina Sá

A Bart Gordon Fellow at the Legal Assistance Center of Central Massachusetts in Worcester, Mass., Nina handles both individual and systemic immigration cases, and conducts outreach to underserved immigrant communities. In law school, she was a member of the Honors Program, participated in the Pro Bono Collaborative, served as a public interest extern at the Immigration, Law, Education and Advocacy Project at Catholic Social Services in Fall River, and was a student attorney in our Criminal Defense Clinic.