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Dean Logan's Blog

Visiting Justice Scalia

Posted by David Logan on 08/06/2009 at 12:00 AM

One of the highlights of the 2007-08 academic year was the extended visit we had from Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. While many law schools get a cameo appearance from a Justice, the entire RWU Law family got to spend time with the outspoken jurist: breakfast for leaders in the bench and bar, a lunch with faculty, a public session, a meeting with student leaders, and a Constitutional Law class for all 2Ls.

More recently, I traveled to Washington to present the Justice with an Honorary Degree which the law school Board of Directors had voted to give in recognition of Justice Scalia's nearly three decades of service as a federal judge, first on the United States Court of Appeals (where one of our top profs, Niki Kuckes was his law clerk) and since 1986 on the United States Supreme Court. It was an honor to go "behind the curtains" at the Court, in a visit arranged by Ron Cass, a member of the School of Law Board of Directors. (Years ago, while still in practice, I went to the Court for the oral argument of a civil rights case I worked on, but I had never been to chambers.) At the appointed time, we were ushered in, and we had a relaxed visit. The Justice graciously accepted his degree, sent along his regards to Prof. Kuckes, and remarked on how much he had enjoyed his visit to RWU Law. He also traded quips with his long-time friend Ron (in case I wasn't sure of their friendship, Ron called him by his nickname "Nino"). Here is a picture from that fascinating visit.