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# Dean Logan's Blog

## “Women Who Lead” Series Wraps Up

Posted by David Logan on 04/09/2010 at 08:21 AM

The spring portion of the Women Who Lead series wrapped up for the year with two outstanding programs. The first, entitled “Law Graduates Making a Difference,” focused on women who have achieved much, despite being relatively early in their legal careers. The panelists were: Kim Ahern (‘09) who has already made her mark as a community activist, and who was an Obama delegate to the Democratic National Convention; Leah Donaldson (‘07), a litigator at the leading firm Motley Rice and President-elect of the RI Women’s Bar Association; Betty Anne Waters (‘98), whose pioneering work with DNA is the basis of a [soon-to-be-released film](#) (starring Hilary Swank as Betty Anne, Sam Rockwell, Minnie Driver, and Melissa Leo; click here for info on the film); and current 1L Melanie Shapiro, who spearheaded the recent effort to close sex trade loopholes in Rhode Island. The panel was moderated by our terrific Assistant Dean of Students, Lorraine Lalli (‘01), who leads both within the law school and within her home state of RI. [More information on the panel](#) is available online.



Ass't Dean of Students Lorraine Lalli with the panelists



Melanie Sharipo '12, Betty Anne Waters '98, Kim Ahern '09, Dean David Logan, Leah Donaldson '07, and Ass't Dean of Students Lorraine Lalli '01



Kim Ahern '09, Nan Balliot (RWU Law librarian), and Betty Anne Waters '98

The final “Women Who Lead” event was a visit from Nancy Rapoport, the Silver Professor at the University of Nevada School of Law. Nancy is an expert on bankruptcy and corporate leadership, topics that meshed beautifully while she was Dean at the University of Houston School of Law when Enron, a local corporation, became the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history because of reckless leadership. Nancy became a familiar voice in media critiques of the Enron debacle, and she even appeared in the award-winning documentary film [“Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room”](#). Nancy’s talk was entitled “Why We Need Nay-Sayers,” and she focused on

how to create an institutional environment that could nip in the bud massive missteps like those seen in Enron, the Madoff scandal (and the Wall Street melt-down more generally), and most recently (perhaps) Toyota. While on campus Nancy also had breakfast with students and a luncheon with the women who lead Roger Williams Law (faculty and Senior Staff). Here are some pics from Nancy's visit.



Students had an opportunity to have breakfast with Professor Rapoport before her lecture.  
(left to right - Celine Gaston '12, Lynn Laweryson '11, Kelly Rafferty '11, Andrew McElrow '11;  
Dawn Euer '10, Sean Ewing '12, Lydia Dawson '12)



Professor Nancy Rapoport speaking on "Why We Need Naysayers"



Dean David Logan & Professor Nancy Rapoport



Ass't Dean of Career Services Tony Bastone & Professor Nancy Rapoport





Students, faculty & staff listening to Prof. Rapoport.