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## Newsroom: White '04 in Chicago Tribune

Roger Williams University School of Law

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# Newsroom

## White '04 in Chicago Tribune

Larry White '04, is cited as an International Law expert in the Chicago Tribune, regarding extradition of a Polish national charged with homicide in a U.S. car crash.

**From the CHICAGO TRIBUNE:** "[Chicago fugitive nabbed in Poland: Polish native faces extradition, homicide charges in 2004 car crash](#)" by Gary Marx and David Jackson, Chicago Tribune reporters



**February 29, 2012:** A Chicago fugitive was captured in Poland this week, more than seven years after he fled the U.S. while under investigation for allegedly crashing a car and killing two people while driving drunk.

Andrzej Rybka was picked up by police Tuesday at his home in Poronin, a village near the mountain resort town of Zakopane in southern Poland, according to Zakopane police spokesman Kazimierz Pietruch.

Polish authorities issued formal papers Wednesday requesting court approval to extradite Rybka back to Chicago to face trial on reckless homicide charges, according to a spokeswoman for the district prosecutor's office in Nowy Sacz.

Rybka is currently in police custody pending an extradition court proceeding that is scheduled to begin Thursday, she said. Extradition hearings often last months, and under Polish law the final decision rests with the Poland's minister of justice.

Poland historically has prohibited the extradition of its citizens, but began to allow extradition to other European nations after joining the European Union in 2004.

Then in September, Poland's Constitutional Tribunal found that extradition to the U.S. was consistent with Poland's constitution.

"It is a remarkable step — I think it is a very important decision," **said Larry White [RWU Law '04], an international law expert with TOBB-ETU University in Ankara, Turkey.**

While driving his BMW with three friends in the 6000 block of South Archer Avenue in 2004, the then 21-year-old Polish-born construction worker sped through two red lights without stopping and struck a signal pole and a parked vehicle, police said at the time. Rybka allegedly killed two of his passengers and badly injured the third — all of them also young Polish immigrants.

Rybka fled on foot without reporting the wreck or giving aid, and two days later he took Swiss International Airlines Flight 17 from New York to Zurich, using his Polish passport, according to a federal warrant issued by the FBI in 2005.

Three weeks later, Rybka was charged with reckless homicide. A confidential informant soon advised Chicago police that Rybka had fled to Poronin.

In Poland, the newspaper Tygodnik Podhalanski reported that in 2005 Rybka was chased by police but managed to elude apprehension.

Rybka was one of several dozen border-crossing criminal suspects whose cases were featured in online case summaries for the Tribune investigative series, "Fugitives From Justice," published in October.

"Efforts to bring him to justice have been ongoing since the time he fled," FBI spokeswoman Joan Hyde said Wednesday.

***For full story, click [here](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-02-29/news/ct-met-fugitives-rybka-20120301_1_extradition-homicide-charges-reckless-homicid).*** [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-02-29/news/ct-met-fugitives-rybka-20120301\_1\_extradition-homicide-charges-reckless-homicid]