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Newsroom

Commencement 2012

Renowned jurist Judge Jack B. Weinstein and R.I. Supreme Court Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg will be awarded honorary degrees on Friday, May 18.

PIONEERING JURIST WILL DELIVER 2012 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Madeleine Albright to deliver University address

BRISTOL, R.I., May 3, 2012 – The **Hon. Jack B. Weinstein** – a United States district judge for the Eastern District of New York, who is a pioneer in criminal sentencing law and one of the most renowned and respected judges in America – will be awarded an honorary degree and deliver the Commencement address during the **Roger Williams University School of Law Commencement exercises on Friday, May 18.**

The law school ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. on the main athletic field of the Bristol Campus at One Old Ferry Road. Rhode Island Supreme Court **Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg** will also receive an honorary degree during the RWU Law ceremony.

The next day, on Saturday, May 19, **Madeleine K. Albright**, who in 1997 became the first female Secretary of State in U.S. history, will address the Roger Williams University Class of 2012 and receive an honorary degree during Commencement ceremonies.

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m., also on the University's main athletic field. **Trudy Coxe**, chief executive officer of the Preservation Society of Newport County, will also be awarded an honorary degree.

The Honorable Jack B. Weinstein



Jack B. Weinstein was born in Wichita, Kansas, and educated in New York City. He received a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College in 1943, and a law degree from Columbia University in 1948. In 1949 and 1950 he was a teaching Associate at Columbia Law School. In 1949 and 1950 he served as a law clerk to Judge Stanley Fuld of the New York Court of Appeals. After a brief time in private practice, he joined the law faculty of Columbia University. He continued to teach there and in other law schools until 1998. He was the chief drafter of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, and was a member of the Advisory Committee that drafted the Federal Rules of Evidence.

After serving as County Attorney of Nassau County, New York, Judge Weinstein was appointed to the federal bench in 1967 by President Johnson on the recommendation of Senator Robert Kennedy. He was chief Judge of the Eastern District of New York from 1980 to 1988.

In recent years, as U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Judge Weinstein has influenced substantive and procedural aspects of the law of mass tort litigation. He has helped create efficient yet compassionate solutions to problems created by Vietnam veterans' exposure to Agent Orange and to the health hazards associated with asbestos, DES, ergonomics problems, breast implants and other such matters.

The Honorable Maureen McKenna Goldberg



Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg was appointed to the Rhode Island Superior Court on July 9, 1990, and the Rhode Island Supreme Court on May 30, 1997.

An honors graduate in the first class of women at Providence College in 1973, Justice Goldberg graduated with honors from Suffolk University Law School in 1978. She began her professional career as a prosecutor in the Rhode Island Office of Attorney General and rose to the rank of Administrator of the Criminal Division. In 1984, she entered private practice of law with her husband, Robert D. Goldberg, but remained active in public service. She was the town solicitor for the towns of South Kingstown and Westerly and worked as Westerly's acting town manager at a difficult time in the town's history – a pro bono position that was especially gratifying.

As a Justice of the Superior and Supreme Courts, Justice Goldberg has worked toward the improvement of the law and the legal profession. She is the recipient of several awards and honors, including the Ada Sawyer Award of Excellence from the Rhode Island Women's Bar Association, Citizen of the Year by the Rhode Island Trial Lawyers Association, "Women We Admire" from the Big Sisters of Rhode Island and the "The Rhode Island 85" from the Junior League of Rhode Island.



Madeleine K. Albright

Madeleine K. Albright is Chair of Albright Stonebridge Group, a global strategy firm, and Chair of Albright Capital Management, an investment advisory firm focused on emerging markets.

Dr. Albright was the 64th Secretary of State of the United States. In 1997, she was named the first female Secretary of State and became, at that time, the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. Dr. Albright reinforced America's alliances, advocated for democracy and human rights, and promoted American trade, business, labor and environmental standards abroad.

From 1993 to 1997, Dr. Albright served as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations and was a member of the President's Cabinet. From 1989 to 1992, she served as President of the Center for National Policy. Previously, she was a member of President Jimmy Carter's National Security Council and White House staff and served as Chief Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Edmund S. Muskie.

Dr. Albright is a Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. She chairs both the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the Pew Global Attitudes Project and serves as president of the Truman Scholarship Foundation. Dr. Albright serves on the Boards of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Aspen Institute and the Center for American Progress. In 2009, Dr. Albright was asked by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen to Chair a Group of Experts focused on developing NATO's New Strategic Concept.

Dr. Albright is the author of four New York Times bestsellers: her autobiography, *Madam Secretary: A Memoir*, (2003); *The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs* (2006); *Memo to the President: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership* (2008); and *Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat's Jewel Box* (2009). Dr. Albright's forthcoming book, *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948*, will be released in the spring of 2012.

Trudy Coxe



Trudy Coxe joined the Preservation Society of Newport County as Chief Executive Officer in December 1998. She oversees more than 400 employees and under her leadership, visitation, membership, fundraising and retail sales have all grown significantly.

Since her arrival, 10 of the Society's properties have been designated as Official Projects of Save America's Treasures, a public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In April of 2004, the Society received accreditation by the American Association of Museums; only 750 of the nation's 16,000 museums are accredited.

Immediately prior to joining the Preservation Society, Coxe served as Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs from 1993 through 1998. Previously, she was Executive Director of Rhode Island's Save the Bay for 11 years, turning it into the largest citizen action organization in New England. She also served for two years as Director of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

About Roger Williams University School of Law

Roger Williams University School of Law is the only law school in Rhode Island, offering future attorneys a rigorous, world-class legal education in a supportive, personalized environment. A top-notch faculty and strong student culture, plus a commitment to public service, drive the school's rapidly growing reputation for preparing graduates to practice in a complex, interconnected world.

About Roger Williams University

Roger Williams University, located in Bristol, R.I., is a leading independent, coeducational university with programs in the liberal arts and the professions, where students become community- and globally minded citizens. With 42 academic majors, an array of co-curricular activities and study abroad opportunities on six continents, RWU is an open community dedicated to the success of students, commitment to a set of core values and providing a world-class education above all else. In the last decade, the University has achieved unprecedented successes including recognition as one of the best colleges in the nation by Forbes, a College of Distinction by Student Horizons, Inc. and as both a best college in the Northeast and one of the nation's greenest universities by *The Princeton Review*.