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Dean Logan's Blog

Judges Reflect on Importance of Diversity

Posted by David Logan on 04/29/2014 at 10:08 AM

RWU Law and the Thurgood Marshall Law Society recently held the 11th annual Diversity Symposium Dinner, and once again, a mix of high school, college, and law students joined an impressive array of lawyers and judges for dinner and discussion at the Providence Marriott. This year's event was special for a number of reasons, not least a panel of five judges discussing their deeply personal stories en route to the bench. Judges Rogeriee Thompson (United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit), Ed Clifton and Luis Matos (Rhode Island Superior Court), Bill Clifton (Rhode Island District Court), and Rossie Lee Harris (Rhode Island Family Court) participated. My favorite anecdote: Bill Clifton's discussion of his interaction with the Beverley Hills, California draft board as a black kid from South LA. One interesting fact came out: only Judge Matos is a RI native (and he was a first generation American!): Judge Thompson is from South Carolina, the Cliftons from California, and Judge Harris is from from New York. Here are some pictures from that fascinating evening.











