Roger Williams University

Life of the Law School (1993-)

Archives & Law School History

2013

20th Anniversary: Fulfilling the Promise: Timelines

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Academics

Admission Campus Life Careers

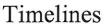
Alumni Faculty



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Then and Now

Mark Gemma '97 With a father and brother already practicing law together at Gemma Law Associates, Inc. , Mark Gemma '97 knew exactly what he was getting into when ... Read More ...





Twenty years may not seem like a long time, but since its founding, RWU Law has seen the Bosnian War, the popular rise of e-mail and the World Wide Web, the O.J. Simpson trial, the introduction of Windows 95, the cloning of Dolly the sheep, the handover of Hong Kong to China, the deaths of Process Diana and JFK, Jr., the turn of the Millennium, the 2000 election and Florida recount, the September 11 terror attacks, the Station Nightclub fire, the War on Terror, the Asian tsunami, the death of John Paul II, Hurricane Katrina, the Great Recession, the election of Barack Obama, the Haiti earthquake, the death of Osama Bin Laden, the Arab Spring, the Newtown shootings, the Boston Marathon bombing ... to name just a few of the more prominent events.

Along the way, we've grown from an upstart law school with outsized dreams into an established and highly regarded institution, raising the level of legal debate and development across the state and region, and continually fulfilling the promise of our founding

Click on the years indicated in the left menu to revisit a few highlights from our history - so far! Back to Top

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HaterFire M TUH Providence	
SEP 22	RWU Law 20th Anniversary CVS Caremark Downtown 5K Team
	11:15 am - 12:30 pm Providence, RI
	2nd Annual Professor Anthony J. Santoro Business Law Lecture Series
	5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Omni Providence Hotel, One West Exchange Street, Providence, Rhode Island
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	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Aidan's Irish Pub, 5 John Street, Bristol, Rhode Island
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	All Day RWU Law Bristol Campus
SEP	14th Annual Law Alumni Association Scholarship Golf Tournament
29	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm Metacomet Country Club, 500 Veterans Memorial Parkway, East Providence, Rhode Island
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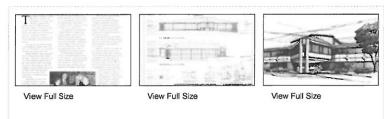
Campus Life

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1990-1994

Photo Gallery



66 "There is almost a universal belief that Rhode Island is badly served by the lack of a law school. In addition to educating aspiring lawyers, [a law school would] enhance the delivery of legal services in the state by becoming the focal point for legal reform, legal research and continuing legal education of the bar" – The Honorable Joseph Weisberger, 1990 **99**

1990 Roger Williams College President Natale Sicuro appoints a blue-ribbon committee to explore the feasibility of establishing a law school at Roger Williams College.



1991 The Honorable Joseph Weisberger, as chair of the exploratory committee, officially recommends that Roger Williams College establish a law school, based upon an intensive "Feasibility Study to Establish a Law School" prepared by Anthony Santoro, then Dean and Professor of Law at Widener University School of Law.



1992 Dean Anthony Santoro is appointed as RWU Law's founding dean. Construction of law building begins. Faculty recruiting begins. In May, Roger Williams College is renamed Roger Williams University, partially as a result of its decision to add a law school.



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Then and Now



Professor Michael Yelnosky Founding faculty member Michael Yelnosky is RWU Law's Distinguished Service Professor of Law. With his deep and extensive background in Employment... Read More...

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SUPPORT ANU LAW

1993 The School of Law opens. Its first class, the Class of 1996, consists of 110 full-time (Day Division) students, and 74 Extended Division students. Breakdown is 56 percent Rhode Islanders, and 44 percent from out of state; they were chosen from among 600 applicants.

Dean Anthony Santoro is named President of Roger Williams University, effective August 23.

John E. Ryan is appointed Dean, effective September 7. Ryan was former dean of McGeorge Law School in Sacramento, Calif., and a two-term chair of the American Bar Association's accreditation committee.



1994

The School of Law building is officially dedicated, May 1.





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Then and Now



Adam Ramos '06 Adam Ramos is a former clerk for the Honorable Francis X. Flaherty of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, is now an associate with Hinckley, Allen...

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> 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm Metacomet Country Club,

1995-1999

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66 "I believe we had made a moral commitment to that first class to get the school accredited as fast as humanly possible. So we got John Ryan, because there was no one who knew more about the accreditation process than he

did." – Professor Anthony Santoro 99

1995 Chief Justice Joseph Weisberger commences the tradition of the Justices of the Rhode Island Supreme Court presiding over the final rounds of the annual Moot Court Competition. Weisberger was joined by the Honorable Florence K. Murray, the Honorable Donald F. Shea, and the Honorable Victoria Lederberg.



RWU Law is awarded **provisional accreditation** from the American Bar Association.

1996 Roger Williams University School of Law Review publishes its inaugural issue.

Inaugural Commencement held May 18, with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy as commencement speaker. There are 87 Day Division graduates (Extended Division students from the first class would graduate in 1997).

Marine Affairs Institute is established, July 29.

The Feinstein Institute for Legal Service, the hub of RWU Law's public service initiatives, is established with a \$1 million donation from Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein on September 9.



1997 RWU Law is awarded full accreditation by the American Bar Association. At the time, it is the fastest law school accreditation in ABA history.



Clark Moot Court Competition named for Distinguished Visiting Professor Esther Clark (1929-2002), a pioneering litigator and popular teacher in the school's early years.



500 Veterans Memorial Parkway, East Providence, Rhode Island

Events Calendar »

SUPPORT AWU LAW

1998

Dean John Ryan steps down, effective June 30. Bruce I. Kogan, formerly Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, appointed Interim Dean effective July 1.



1999 Harvey Rishikof is appointed Dean, effective July 1. Rishikof was previously legal counsel to the deputy director of the FBI, serving as liaison to the Office of the U.S. Attorney General. He had also served as U.S. Chief Justice William Rehnquist's chief of staff from 1994 to 1996.

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2000-2004

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66 "Bristol is a wonderful town, and the campus is just breathtaking in its beauty. That plus the youth of the school, and the energy and optimism I feel here made this a very distinctive challenge and a delightful opportunity. All the signs are good. All the winds are blowing in the right direction." – Dean David A. Logan, 2003 **99**

2000 Dean Rishikof introduces courses in National Security Law and the Constitution, in cooperation with the Naval War College in Newport.

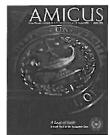
2001 Founding Dean and former Roger Williams University President Anthony Santoro rejoins RWU Law as faculty member.

> Then-Deputy Attorney General under Janet Reno, delivers the RWU Law's first Thurgood Marshall Lecture. **Mrs. Thurgood Marshall** makes her first of several visits to RWU Law for the inaugural lecture.

Honors Program established.

Dean Rishikof steps down, effective June 30. Bruce I. Kogan, formerly Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, appointed Interim Dean effective July 1.

2002 Amicus Magazine, Vol. 1, No. 1, is published. Amicus had previously existed as a student/alumni-run newsletter. In 2011, the magazine was redesigned and retitled RWU Law, with "Amicus" retained as the name of the Alumni department.



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SEP 29

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2003

David A. Logan is appointed Dean, effective July 1. Logan had been a tenured full professor at Wake Forest University School of Law.



Metacomet Country Club, 500 Veterans Memorial Parkway, East Providence, Rhode Island

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SUPPORT RWULAW

2004 The Thurgood Marshall Lecture Series becomes RWU Law's first endowed lectureship (by leading law firm Hinckley Allen Snyder LLP). Topic is the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954).



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2005-2009

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66 RWU Law and the regional bench and bar "have a symbiotic, mutually complementary relationship that helps to attract talented adjuncts, opens doors to internships and jobs, and gets so many of our wonderful judges involved. Students would never have the opportunity to gain that wisdom in any other state – not at the level they do at Roger Williams." – Mark Mandell, Esq., Chair, RWU Law Board of Directors 99

- 2005 Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) established as pilot program. Officially launched as a full RWU Law program in January 2006, with support from the Rhode Island Foundation.
- 2006 RWU Law awarded membership in the AALS (Association of American Law Schools).



The Honorable Joseph R. Weisberger becomes first chair of RWU Law's Board of Directors.

Association of American Law Schools

2007 RWU Law's first endowed professorship is established in honor of Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger.

Professor Michael Yelnosky releases his first Faculty Productivity report, measuring per capita productivity of law faculties, based on publication in major law journals between 1992 and 2007, and underscoring the quality of RWU Law's faculty.



2008 Chief Justice John Roberts of the U.S. Supreme Court meets with RWU Students in Providence, and swears in 43 alumni to Federal Bar.



Quick Links



Professor Diana J. Hassel Professor Diana Hassel is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at RWU Law. She regularly leads a group of students to experience "Legal Washington,"... Read More...

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SUPPORT RWU LAW

Associate Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court spends a day at RWU Law as Distinguished Jurist in Residence.



2009 In furtherance of RWU Law's commitment to public service, the faculty votes to require that, in order to graduate, students must complete at least 50 hours of unpaid, law-related public service, for which they will not receive academic credit.

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66 "All of a sudden, it's like RWU Law has always been here. It's the resource people naturally go to when seeking input on issues in the legal community" - Peter Kilmartin '98, Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island 99

RWU Law hosts a special Advance Screening of 2010 "Conviction" (2011), a major-motion picture starring Hilary Swank and Minnie Driver as RWU Law alums Betty Anne Waters '98 and Abra Rice '98.



Peter Kilmartin '98 is elected Attorney General of Rhode Island.

Attorney Mark Mandell is elected chairman of RWU Law's Board of Directors, succeeding the Honorable Joseph R. Weisberger. A prominent Rhode Island attorney and popular adjunct professor, Mandell has served as president of both the Rhode Island Bar Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He has also served on the Rhode Island Supreme Court Ethics Advisory Panel and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Judicial



Then and Now Esther Clark & the Moot Court Competition Distinguished Visiting Professor Esther Clark (1929-2002) - pioneering criminal-defense attorney, law professor, first female president of the ... Read More ... Upcoming Events Allater Fire 114 Brouidena Н, RWU Law 20th Anniversary CVS Caremark Downtown 5K Team SEP 22 11:15 am - 12:30 pm Providence, RI 2nd Annual Professor Anthony J. Santoro **Business Law Lecture** Series SEP 26 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Omni Providence Hotel, One West Exchange Street, Providence, Rhode Island **RWU Law Alumni Celebration Welcome** Reception SEP 27 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Aidan's Irish Pub, 5 John Street, Bristol, Rhode Island RWU Law Alumni **Celebration Weekend** SEP 28 All Day RWU Law Bristol Campus 14th Annual Law Alumni Association Scholarship Golf Tournament SEF 29

Appointments.

2011 Associate Justice Stephen Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court spends a day at RWU Law.



2012 The Santoro Business Law Lecture Series becomes RWU Law's second endowed lectureship. It was endowed entirely by alumni support, following a lead gift from Brian Ali '07. Frank Fahrenkopf – co-chair of the Presidential Debates Commission, former RNC chair, and head of American Gaming Association – is first speaker.

Associate Justice Samuel Alito of the U.S. Supreme Court spends a day at RWU Law.



2013 20th Anniversary Celebration begins, for 2013-14 academic year. As of May 2013, the total number of RWU Law Alumni stands at 2,662.



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You're an integral part of RWU Law's history, too. Here's your chance to share your favorite memories of RWU Law for posterity. Alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the law school are cordially invited to submit their favorite photos of their RWU-related experiences, which will be shared in this space. Please submit photos to mbowden@rwu.edu.

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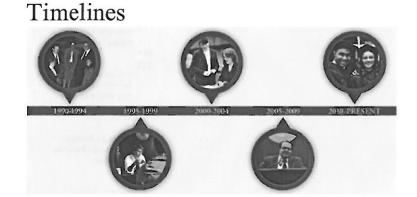
Roger Williams University SCHOOL OF LAW

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