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Newsroom: "Litigation Academy" Launched

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Newsroom

"Litigation Academy" Launches

The Academy's first program, "Deposition Skills," will take place on November 13-15, 2014. Deadline to sign up is October 1, so register today!



Roger Williams University School of Law has joined with the **United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island** and the **Rhode Island Chapter of the Federal Bar Association** to launch the "Litigation Academy," an innovative project designed to help lawyers who are new to federal litigation practice.

The purpose of this program is to create a low-cost, high-quality forum for teaching less-experienced litigators the skills needed to successfully litigate cases. The project founders have accomplished this by bringing together the donated resources of the court, experienced members of the bar, and the law school.

The first program, **Deposition Skills**, will take place on **November 13-15, 2014**. The course will be an intensive two-day program (noon Thursday to noon Saturday), to be held at the federal courthouse in Providence on Thursday, November 13 and Friday, November 14, and **Roger Williams University School of Law** on Saturday, November 15. The course will be limited to 24 students, and is targeted to attorneys who have been members of our bar for less than 10 years. We expect demand for the program to be high, so an effort will be made to admit a class that is diverse in terms of experience, size of firm, public/private sector practice, and experience level.



If this program is successful, the goal is to develop additional offerings in trial skills, including opening statements, closing arguments, and conducting direct and cross examinations, as well as jury selection. **Chief Judge William E. Smith**, who is spearheading the project at the federal court, says that “We are hopeful that by combining the resources of the court, the bar and the law school we can create an environment where less experienced lawyers can learn and practice the skills that will enable them to become exceptional litigators from some of the best attorneys in our bar.” (See Judge Smith’s [letter](#) about the program.)

Click [here](#) to register!

If you have any questions about the program, please contact the program chairs, [Brooks Magratten](#) (401-490-3422) or [Niki Kuckes](#) (401-254-4505).