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RWU Law

ISSUE 6 | WINTER 2013

The Magazine of Roger Williams University School of Law



*20th Anniversary
Special Issue*

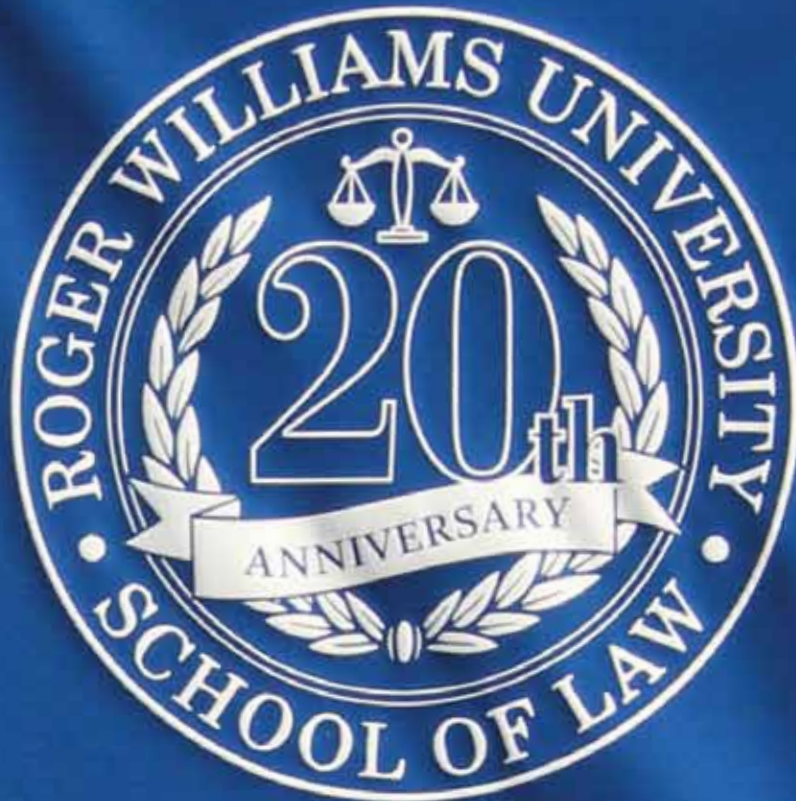
BIG LEAGUE EXPERIENCE

Getting down to business in the real world



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Roger Williams Law celebrates two decades of tradition and achievement.



"Fulfilling the Promise"

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To the Editor:

As discussed in your Summer 2013 cover article, "Shifting Seas," global climate change poses many threats to the Northeastern United States. Much of the national dialogue is focused on policy proposals to mitigate impacts through cap-and-trade or carbon taxes, and so on.

However, effectively addressing climate change requires attention to details that often do not make the headlines. Here are four important, and largely unknown, fronts that should be part of any state (or national) strategy for avoiding the worst effects of climate change:

1. Improve and Expand Access to Public Transportation. Public transportation is a key way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state; however, chronic underfunding of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, coupled with a lack of integration with other regional public transit options, results in underutilization by residents. The Coalition for Transportation Choices (www.rictc.net) is advocating for investment in this system in order to increase ridership and reduce our state's reliance on automobiles.

2. Make Product Manufacturers Responsible for Waste Disposal. Product manufacturers should be assigned increased responsibility for managing the waste they help create. This would provide an incentive to reduce the overall amount of waste their products generate, while also giving manufacturers an opportunity to recoup costs through materials collections for recycling.

3. Increasing Distributed Generation and Long-Term Contracting for Renewable Energy. Distributed generation programs are designed to encourage the creation of smaller power generation units in order to decentralize power sources, resulting in lower environmental impact and better supply security. Rhode Island's program is a leader in the U.S. and has us on the path to drawing 19 percent of all our energy from renewable sources by the end of this decade. The distributed generation program ensures that small renewable energy producers will have a market in which to sell their electricity.

4. Composting and Organic Waste. Organic kitchen and yard waste materials account for about one-third of the nation's overall waste stream and 17 percent of the methane gas released in the U.S. A backyard compost pile is the easiest way to dispose of yard and kitchen waste and will significantly reduce household waste generation. In urban areas, organic collection programs are a viable alternative. Not only is this a growth industry (because of the value of the soil that is created), but facilities such as anaerobic digesters (one was recently proposed for Quonset Point in North Kingstown, R.I.) also produce an emerging form of renewable energy.

Clean Water Action (www.cleanwateraction.org) works on a state-by-state basis to develop innovative campaigns that address local environmental issues. Across New England, all of our campaigns attempt to address the overarching threat of climate change locally, as part of a larger global strategy.

Jamie Rhodes '12,
Rhode Island Director, Clean Water Action

Erratum

An article about Professor Steven G. Calabresi serving as the first Chief Justice Weisberger Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law Issue 6/Summer 2013 misquoted a statement by Professor Carl T. Bogus. Professor Bogus' actual statement was: "Calabresi is one of the most prominent conservative legal scholars in the nation. He's also an original and creative thinker, and it's wonderful that our students had the opportunity to engage with him in a class about the Fourteenth Amendment." We regret the error.

WRITE TO RWU Law

We welcome and encourage your comments, feedback, suggestions and letters to the editor.

Email letters to: rwulawmagazine@rwu.edu

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Bristol, RI 02809

Please include your full name, address and RWU Law affiliation, if applicable. Letters may be edited for clarity and/or length.

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A Chat with the Dean

Our Q&A with Dean David A. Logan

Reflecting on a decade of legal changes...

In a “Mindsetter” opinion piece recently published by GoLocalProv (and reprinted here with permission), the Dean reflected on the changing face of the legal profession in Rhode Island.

Much has changed in the legal profession since I became dean of Roger Williams Law in 2003, and the completion of 10 years as head of Rhode Island’s only law school prompts some recollections and predictions.

First, legal education will continue to respond to the needs of the marketplace, as legal employers continue pressuring law schools to turn out graduates better equipped to add value on Day One. No longer are clients willing to pay for junior lawyers to learn at the side of seasoned lawyers, and efforts by the organized bar to formalize mentorships for beginners – or to insist on “bridge-to-practice programs” – have largely failed. Fortunately, virtually all law schools are doing a better job of skills training than they did a generation ago; here at Roger Williams, we are now so committed to this aspect of a well-rounded education that we are guaranteeing every student a substantial practical/clinical experience before graduation.

Second, the legal profession, and thus the bench and bar, will better reflect the diversity of our state. The fastest-growing (perhaps the only growing) ethnic group in Rhode Island is currently Hispanics, but – with some notable exceptions – the leadership of the legal profession looks largely like it did a generation ago. At Roger Williams, fully half of this year’s entering class is female, and 25 percent come from groups traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession. Both are signs of great promise as these young lawyers begin to make their mark in the coming years.

Third, while we all hope that the Rhode Island economy will improve and that the benefits of this growth will be broadly spread, it is naive to ignore the fact that many of our fellow Rhode Islanders will remain unable to afford legal assistance, despite the valiant efforts of Rhode Island Legal Services and the Rhode Island Bar Association’s Volunteer Legal Services Program. One innovation that has made a significant difference is our Pro Bono Collaborative, which links leading law firms, community-based organizations and RWU Law students to provide a broad array of service to help, for example, the homeless,

at-risk youth, immigrant workers, low-income families with severely disabled children, and individuals in need of expungement counseling.

Finally, the rule of law will continue to improve in Rhode Island. Two decades ago, the late Chief Justice Joseph Weisberger, together with some (but not all) of the leaders of the profession, argued that a law school in Rhode Island would raise the level of debate and discourse on important public issues, while also enhancing public respect for the legal profession and the rule of law. I believe this has happened, as members of the RWU Law faculty have tackled important issues, such as separation of powers and judicial selection, and offered fearless opinions on issues that were, and often are, too controversial for practicing lawyers to address publicly. This ability to provide “unbossed and unbought” opinion on the issues of the day must continue in order for this great state to reach its full potential as America’s “lively experiment.”

Dean David A. Logan, who has led RWU Law for half its existence, has announced that he will step down at the conclusion of this academic year and return to teaching full-time. Look for full coverage of his work and legacy in the next issue of *RWU Law Magazine*.



Introducing...The Guarantee

Experiential learning center and real-world legal experience guarantee add RWU Law to a short list of schools that fully commit to practice-ready training

Further expanding its already strong commitment to rigorous and marketable legal education, Roger Williams University School of Law has introduced two key initiatives: a new experiential learning center, and an explicit guarantee that students will get the hands-on training essential to success in today's market.

The recently launched Feinstein Center for Pro Bono and Experiential Education is now RWU Law's flagship for coordinating experiential learning opportunities for students. It is the vehicle through which the school will fulfill a new guarantee that, starting with the incoming Fall 2013 class, every qualified student will be afforded a substantial clinical experience, either via RWU Law's in-house legal clinics or through its growing array of externship programs.

"What we're offering is a continuum of opportunities," says Laurie Barron, the Center's executive director. "Whether a student wants to forge a career in business law, immigration law, criminal law or anything in between, they can come to us and plan for a structured sequence of legal experiences. Whatever the specialty, we'll guarantee them a semester in the trenches gaining real-world legal skills."

While the law school has offered clinical experiences since its early years, the

guarantee that every qualified incoming student can participate in at least one clinical experience before graduation makes RWU Law one of the few schools in the country to commit to such a promise.

"There is really no substitute for learning from experience," explains Professor Andrew Horwitz, director of RWU Law's clinical programs. "Real life presents an array of challenges and situations that can never be replicated in a simulated exercise."

The Center grew out of the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service, founded in 1996 as the hub of RWU Law's public service initiatives and offering pro bono legal services for low-income populations. The institute was established with a \$1 million donation from Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein, who offered input on the recent expansion and refocus of the Institute's name and mission.

"Pro bono service is experiential learning," Barron says, emphasizing a philosophy that remains largely unique to RWU Law. "But now we're taking the well-honed model we have developed – which has won recognition as a best-practices approach for pro bono programs nationwide – and using it to deliver an even wider range of experiential learning opportunities to our students."

RWU Law was founded at a time when legal education first began trending toward hands-on training. "The school built into its initial curriculum a greater attention to skills training than was prevalent at the time," says Dean David A. Logan. "Since then, the number and type of experiential opportunities have dramatically multiplied. The result is practice-ready graduates who are prepared to give back to their communities and enhance their profession."





Sen. Whitehouse Teaches at RWU Law

U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) will be teaching a course about the United States Senate this spring at RWU Law.

Senator Whitehouse, now serving his second term, will teach a half-semester course entitled “The Role of the Senate in the American Government,” covering areas including separation of powers and the Senate’s role in approving presidential nominations and impeachment. This is the first time a member of Congress has taught at the law school, although U.S. Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.) taught here as an adjunct before he became a congressman.

Noted Dean David Logan, “Attending the only law school in the state, our students learn not just from our highly-credentialed full-time faculty, but also from leading judges like Bruce Selya of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and leading attorneys like Mark Mandell, one of the top trial lawyers in the Northeast. This spring, they’ll enjoy a special opportunity to take a course taught by a United States Senator.”

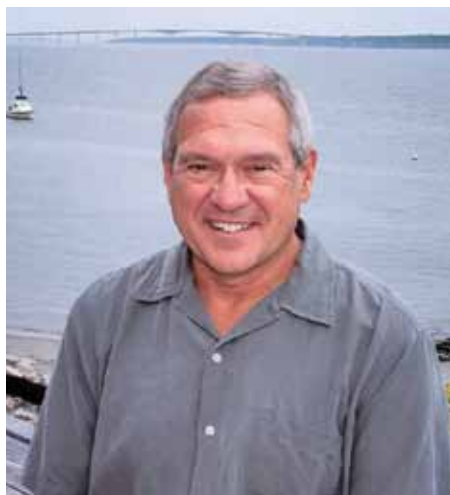


New Faces of the Law Review

The newly appointed Board of the Law Review gathers in the Library at the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year.

The Best Man for the Job

Marine lawyer extraordinaire Dennis Nixon picked to head R.I. Sea Grant



Professor Dennis Nixon – architect of RWU Law’s joint J.D./Master of Marine Affairs degree program with the University of Rhode Island – has been named director of Rhode Island Sea Grant (RISG), one of 32 programs making up the National Sea Grant College Program, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“Our goals are really about having

a healthy coastal ecosystem,” Nixon said. “We deal with things like sea-level rise, climate change along the shore, and sustainable seafood supply.”

Susan Farady, director of the Marine Affairs Institute, said Nixon’s work highlights Roger Williams Law’s unique partnership with both RISG and URI. RWU Law is home to one of only four Sea Grant Legal Programs in the country.

“Dennis has taught and mentored many of our alumni,” Farady said. “He is also unique as a lawyer in this position; most Sea Grant directors are scientists.”

A marine lawyer by training, Nixon is a member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States and the Rhode Island bar. He is general counsel for the Point Club, a fishing vessel insurance cooperative he cofounded over 20 years ago. He is also cofounder of the International Marina Institute, which provides educational programs and certification for professionals in the marine industry.

Nixon has lectured on marine law topics in 27 states and 25 countries on six continents. He is the author of more 50

articles, and co-author – along with Farady and Michael Daly ’02, a partner at Pierce Atwood LLP – of *Marine and Coastal Law: Cases and Materials* (Praeger, 2nd ed., 2010). However, as a native of the landlocked Midwest, he said fell into his life’s work by a combination of chance, luck – and perhaps grace.

“I was in my first year of law school and I hadn’t found the area of law that really grabbed me,” Nixon recalled in an interview with the *Jamestown Press* following his appointment. “Then I was in the basement of the law library doing a research project, and a shaft of light came through the window and it shone down on the *Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce*. The rest is history. That’s what I’ve been doing ever since.”

U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) said RISG would benefit greatly from Nixon’s leadership and expertise, noting, “I can’t think of a better person to continue Rhode Island Sea Grant’s excellent work to address the many issues facing our coasts today.”

Marine Law Standouts Recognized

- Melissa Chalek ’13 received the 2013 Marine Affairs Achievement Award, and is on course to complete her joint J.D./Master in Marine Affairs degree at URI. Melissa is a Rhode Island Sea Grant Marine Affairs Fellow handling law and policy research to assist in the Rhode Island Shellfish Management Plan.
- Christopher McNally, Kyle Smith and William Yost (all ’13) were awarded the inaugural William J. Coffey Excellence in Maritime Writing Prize. The trio placed second in the national 2013 Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition.
- Marc Fialkoff ’14 was awarded a scholarship by the Propeller Club of the United States-Narragansett Bay Chapter, given annually to one or more students “enrolled in an accredited program with a concentration in Maritime, Ports, Logistics Management or a Merchant Marine License or Certificate.”



*"What a great name for
a law school to have!"*

- Morris Dees

Commencement 2013!

**RWU Law celebrates with famed civil rights attorney Morris Dees
and Superior Court Presiding Justice Alice Gibney**

Under sunny blue skies, Morris Dees – the preeminent civil rights attorney and founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center – addressed the 164 graduates of the Class of 2013.

"After 53 years of law practice, I can tell you that I am so proud to be a lawyer," he told the graduates. "America is a nation of laws, and lawyers led the way long before we were a country. Lawyers wrote our Constitution and our Declaration of Independence. They're essential to democracy."

Dees, who won a series of groundbreaking civil rights cases aimed at integrating government and public institutions, received an honorary degree, along with state Superior Court Presiding Justice Alice B. Gibney. Gibney's son, Nicholas Parrillo '13, was also awarded an RWU Law degree.

Other speakers at the event included valedictorian Andrew S. Tugan; Rhode Island Bar Association President J. Robert Weisberger; Mark Mandell, chairman of the School of Law's Board of Directors and a popular adjunct professor; and RWU President Donald J. Farish, Ph.D., J.D., who noted the law school's positive effect on Rhode Island legal and political culture.

"We have seen, in the 20-year history of this school, how profound the impact of a law school has been on the workings of the State of Rhode Island," Dr. Farish said.

Dees paid tribute to the school's namesake and Rhode Island's founder as "a courageous man who got run out of Massachusetts and set up this state for freedom, for individual rights and liberty. What a great name for a law school to have!"



Laliemthavisay '13 Honored as 'Progressive Leader'

In a rare award for a lawyer just beginning her career, Lipou Laliemthavisay '13 was honored – along with iconic public intellectual Noam Chomsky – as a "progressive leader" by the National Lawyers Guild at its Massachusetts Chapter's Annual Gala.

Addressing the event, Laliemthavisay recounted how a small group of RWU Law established and organized the school's NLG student chapter. During her years at Roger Williams, Laliemthavisay's experiences included stints as a judicial extern to the Honorable Ronald R. Lagueux of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island, as an intern for the NLG's National Immigration Project and Street Law Clinic Project, as well as interning for the Immigration Law, Education and Advocacy Project in Fall River, Mass., among others.

"My hands-on legal experiences at RWU Law have been amazing, exciting, invaluable – and occasionally breathtaking!" she said.

Ethics at the ‘Earliest Stage’ of Legal Practice

Gregory Abilheira '13 received the 2013 Association of Corporate Counsel Northeast Chapter Law Student Ethics Award, given to students showing commitment to high ethical standards in clinical programs.

Abilheira was nominated by the Immigration Clinic's director, Visiting Assistant Professor Deborah Gonzalez.

“Greg carefully studied all avenues available to his clients and the potential ethical issues of each avenue, all the while considering his clients’ best interests,” Gonzalez said. “His dedication to each client, his tenacity for justice, his hard work and his concern over his professional ethical obligations put Greg at the top of the class.”

The ACC awards ceremony was attended by many members of the Massachusetts bench and bar, and presided over by former U.S. Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.). It was established “to recognize and encourage the ethical practice of law at the earliest stages of a

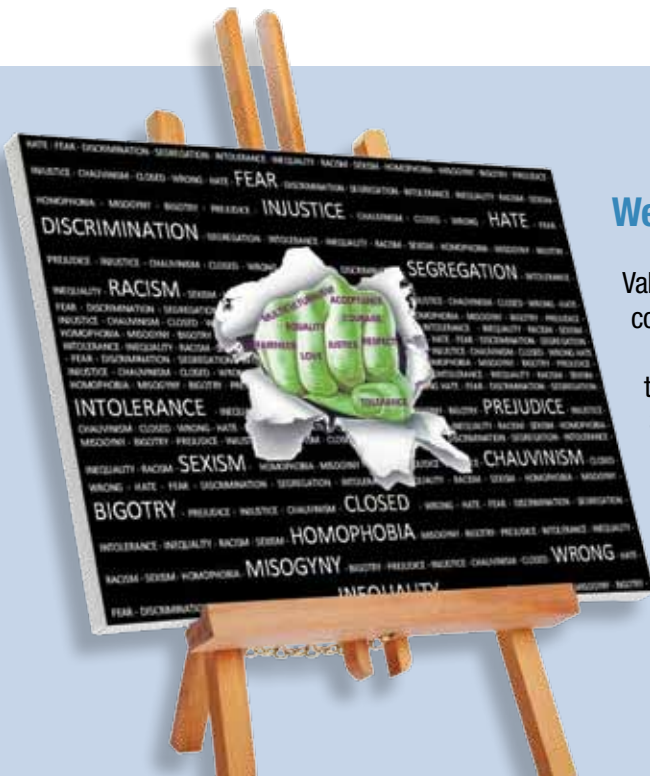


Jim Peck, ACC-NE Ethnics Chair; Gregory Abilheira; and Kathleen Burke, ACC-NE President.

young lawyer's professional career,” said Kathleen Burke, vice president and general counsel of MKS Instruments and president of ACC-Northeast.

The award, which includes a \$1,000

scholarship, is given to 12 students chosen from regional law schools, who have demonstrated an early commitment to ethics through work in clinical programs representing their first real clients.



We Stand United

Valerie León '14 was named winner of “We Stand United,” a campus-wide competition to create a design symbolizing acceptance of others.

León's design received more than 900 of the 1,700 total votes cast. Her three-by-four-foot canvas currently resides in the second-floor atrium at the School of Law.

The competition was organized by Alejandro Leguizamo, assistant professor and co-chair of the LGBTQ sub-committee of the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee, under an RWU Inclusive Excellence Mini-Grant.

Artwork: León's winning entry.

THE BOBBLEHEADS REVEALED!

The last issue of *RWU Law Magazine* contained a contest to identify the denizens of Dean David Logan's bobblehead collection, with a prize to the entrant with who identified the largest number. That winner was...Kas R. DeCarvalho of Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West!

Though the contest is over, you can still try your hand at identifying the bobbleheads – they're online (along with an answer key) at <http://law.rwu.edu/bobbleheads>.



GETTING TO KNOW...

Kim M. Baker

Writing Specialist

Learning to write well can be a daunting, even terrifying task – yet there are few skills a good lawyer needs more. Fortunately for RWU Law, resident writer, poet and playwright Kim M. Baker is here to help. Just don't expect her to help you hone your legal arguments – for Baker is neither a lawyer nor an expert in legal writing (which students learn in the first-year writing program). Rather, her focus is more elementary: teaching future lawyers to write *clearly*. **Back to basics:** “I am an English-language teacher here at the law school. My focus is on students’ basic, sentence-level writing skills,” says Baker, who calls herself a “one-woman writing center.” **Come as you are:** Students come voluntarily, often at the recommendation of a legal writing professor; in one-on-one sessions, Baker helps them identify where their writing isn't conveying what they mean it to, whether they're drafting a cover letter, a brief, or something else. “My mantra is that I try to help students be better writers, not just to have better papers.” **A lost art:** Over the past decade, Baker says she has seen a decline in grammar skills. “It used to be I'd refresh students with rules of punctuation, and once I started talking the lingo, they understood,” she says. Today, language mavens are noticeably fewer. “A lot of our students are incredibly bright and capable, but they've never had their feet held to the fire at the level the law requires in terms of clarity and word choice.” That's where she steps in. **Open-door policy:** Baker, who holds a B.A. and a master's degree in English from Rhode Island College, began teaching writing to RWU undergrads in 1992, and moved full-time to the law school in 2000. She estimates that she meets with three-quarters of each class before they graduate. She also gets calls from alumni struggling with sentence structure for a brief or searching for the perfect word to persuade a judge. That's fine too. “Just come,” she says, “I'm here, it's free, and all good writers like to improve their writing.” **Poetic justice:** Baker's first book of poetry, *Under the Influence: Musings on Poems and Paintings*, was published in April, and she recently launched a poetry journal, *Word Soup*.



Preparing for **Cyber War**

A sobering, cutting-edge conference explores the next frontier of crime – and how the law should respond

Cybersecurity is the next frontier for clients in finance, health care, and energy, as well as for law enforcement and national security. Cybercrime is on the rise – from the White House to the Pentagon, from America's biggest corporations and health-care organizations to the small business next door.

"We are in a cyber-war," said Timothy Edgar, a visiting fellow at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies and adjunct professor of law at Georgetown. But in a realm where actions, technologies and identities are often deeply hidden, "we don't have a lot to go on, and so it's difficult to develop laws."

Edgar – who previously served under President Barack Obama as the first-ever director of privacy and civil liberties for the

White House national security staff, and under President George W. Bush as deputy for civil liberties for the director of national intelligence – was one of a host of experts panelists participating in a Roger Williams University conference this summer titled, "Cyber Threats and Cyber Realities."

Jointly sponsored by RWU's School of Law and School of Justice Studies, the conference offered an interactive forum with nationally known experts and practitioners in cyber law, policy and regulation. RWU Law Professors Peter Margulies and Zoe Argento were instrumental in planning the conference and participated in a number of the panels.

"Cyber is increasingly important, and only a few experts and practitioners have a working knowledge of how cyber interacts

with law, policy, and regulation," noted Dean David Logan.

"We don't want to have a cyber-9/11," said Theresa Murray, former director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency. "We don't want to have a cyber-Pearl Harbor." At RIEMA, Murray helped formulate plans to protect the state's critical cyber-infrastructure in event of an attack or a natural disaster. Rhode Island was one of the first states to implement such a plan.

Other topics included "National Security Lawyering and Cyber Defense"; "Cyber Attacks, Counterinsurgency and International Human Rights"; "The Global Threat Environment"; "The Use of Force in the Cyber Context", and a debate on the National Security Agency's controversial surveillance programs.



Honoring the Founders

One very special highlight from Alumni Weekend 2013, part of RWU Law's 20th anniversary celebration, was the unveiling of a new plaque in the law school lobby honoring the institution's founders, deans and transformational philanthropists. The plaque – featuring likenesses of the school's Founding Fathers, Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger (1920-2012) and Professor Anthony Santoro (who was present for the event), and honoring philanthropists whose support helped the school through its formative years – was well received by the sizeable group of students, alumni, faculty, administrators and friends of RWU Law who attended the event and a luncheon immediately following.

"It's an appropriate tribute to those who have gone above and beyond to make the law school possible," said Eileen Graham, RWU Director of Donor Relations, who joined Dean Logan in the unveiling. "It's a way of recognizing those who had the original vision and those who helped bring it to fruition."



Remembering Professor Rice

It was with great sadness that RWU Law noted the passing, on June 15, 2013, of longtime friend and faculty member Professor David A. Rice, following what the *Boston Globe* characterized as "a protracted but spirited bout with cancer during which he lived fully with grace, style and optimistic determination."

Professor Rice was a "true gentleman with a warm heart," said RWU Law's Faculty Secretary Supervisor Shirley Staskiewicz. A graduate of Columbia Law, he was a part of RWU Law from its formative days, joining the faculty in 1997. He taught an array of commercial law topics and displayed a late-career interest in how the Internet impacted commerce. He had previously been a tenured law professor at Boston University and Rutgers, and visiting faculty at Yale, Maine and elsewhere. The *Globe* noted that "his scholarly prowess was usually muted by his self-effacing style and humor."

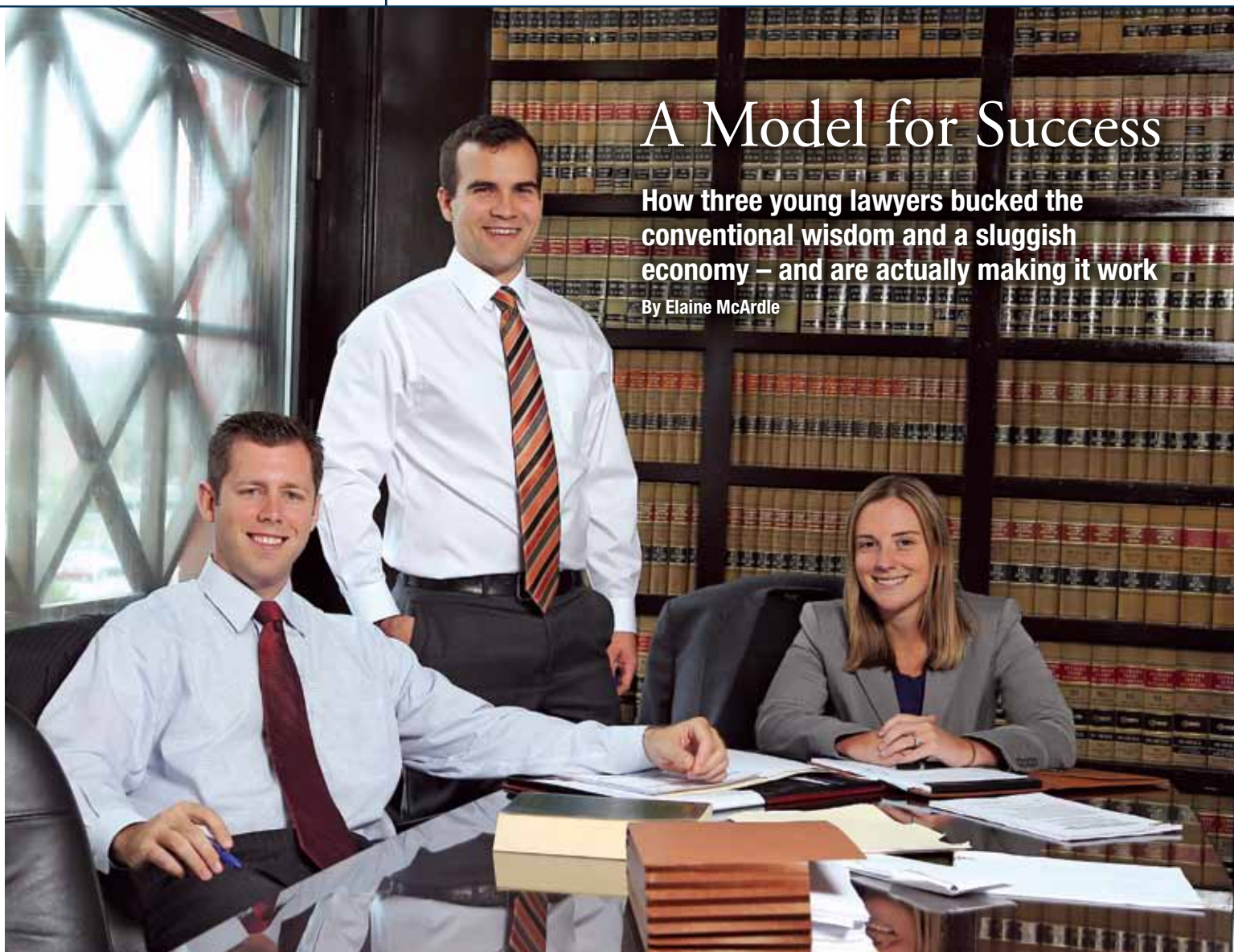
For years, Professor Rice led RWU Law's Lisbon Summer Program at the Catholic University of Portugal, as well as spearheading the school's Portuguese-American Comparative Law Center. In his retirement, he resided in Chestnut Hill, Mass. He was the loving and beloved husband of Virginia Griffin Rice, and is survived by many members of his extended family.



A Model for Success

How three young lawyers bucked the conventional wisdom and a sluggish economy – and are actually making it work

By Elaine McArdle



Moments after they were sworn in as new lawyers on the Rhode Island Bar, a judge at the ceremony asked Lisa Bowie '12 and the two friends standing with her – Jonathan F. Whaley '12 and James Bagley '12 – where they would be practicing law.

"I said, 'We're starting our own firm,'" recalls Bowie. "He looked at us, like, really? He said, 'Well, good luck. That's not what I would have done.'"

Bowie chuckles at the memory. After all, the judge wasn't the only one who thought the trio of freshly minted young lawyers was insane to launch a firm in the midst of the Great Recession, when many established law firms were struggling to survive.

"We had a couple of people say, 'You're

either really brave or really dumb,'" she says, adding, "The jury's still out on that."

Actually, the verdict is in – and it's good news for the three buddies, who met as 1Ls in the same section and were all in the honors program together (all three also graduated from the University of Rhode Island, though they didn't know each other there). After opening the doors of Whaley, Bowie & Bagley, LLC in January, in downtown Providence, they are doing better than they or anyone else predicted.

"Right now, we're doing well, better than many warned us," says Bowie. "We were told the first year would be awful, even from those who suggested we do this." Adds Whaley, "Our goal is to grow, grow, grow as

much as can, to meet as many people, join as many groups as we can, and to satisfy the clients we get. We're trying to build on the good business model we have, and have a solid foundation."

Commiseration to Conspiracy

As much as they're enjoying the autonomy, they admit they're surprised at where they've ended up. "It's not like we hung out together all the time and had plans to open a law office," says Whaley, a native of North Kingston, R.I. Adds Bowie, who's from Long Island, "If you told us in our first year we'd end up doing this, we'd have laughed." The idea germinated in late spring of 2012,

“Running your own business is like swimming. You can take classes all day long, but you have to get in pool if you want to swim.”
– James Bagley ’12

when the soon-to-graduate 3Ls – despite excellent academic records – found themselves getting nowhere in the economic climate.

“Jon, Lisa and I were all in the top percentage of our class, all honors students, all sending out resumes left and right,” Bagley says. Without immediate success in the job market, “We said, ‘All right, why don’t we just do this ourselves?’”

As Whaley recalls it, he approached Bagley with the concept, and Bagley recommended they invite Bowie. The plan quickly snowballed. “We started to meet, and it turned out our vision was similar for starting a firm,” says Bagley. “We set a plan that, if we passed the bar, we’d do it.”

Since none of them had experience running a small business, they knew they’d need a lot of guidance, and they launched a very deliberate and strategic plan to learn how to succeed. While studying for the bar and waiting for the results, Whaley worked at a hotel, Bowie as a Boy Scout counselor, and Bagley in a restaurant to support themselves. And they met with every seasoned lawyer who would give them a few minutes of time and words of advice on opening a law firm. Over time, they met with more than 40 lawyers and other professionals. They compiled the notes from these meetings, and created their own guide to success.

Bagley says their informal advisers fell into two groups, the first being lawyers who’d hung out their own shingles. In general, this group was very encouraging, most saying their only regret was not making the leap into solo practice right

out of law school. They advised the three to go ahead with their plan now, before any of them had serious obligations such as children or had gotten used to the steady paycheck of a big firm.

And then there were the naysayers, Bagley laughs. “The other group was saying, ‘You guys are crazy – the market is barely supporting existing law firms,’” he says.

But they were not dissuaded. “I think there’s just an incredible level of trust and respect among the three of us,” says Bagley. At RWU Law, “We’d all worked on projects together and admired each other’s abilities. I don’t think any of us would have been comfortable doing it alone but as a team, we didn’t think we could fail if put in right amount of effort.” And, he adds, “Running your own business is like swimming. You can take classes all day long, but you have to get in pool if you want to swim.”

Opening the Doors

The three combined their financial resources and had several months of operating costs saved up when they opened their doors nine months ago at 127 Dorrance Street, a shared office space next to the Garrahy Judicial Complex, where many lawyers going solo start off, since the rent is inexpensive and the camaraderie of other lawyers is beneficial.

And they’d already built their own group of senior advisers during their planning stage, who answer questions about law practice and refer clients to them. “As long as you have a good network of people to rely on, when you’re in a tight

spot, they’ll help you out, especially in Rhode Island,” says Bowie.

They get referrals from the Rhode Island Bar Association for reduced-fee work, which they are happy to take, seeing this as a loss-leader that will lead to greater benefits down the road. By putting an emphasis on client satisfaction – they’re meticulous about returning phone calls, for example – they plan to retain the clients they serve. For now, their bread and butter is divorce, child custody, and other family law work, for which they feel well-prepared.

“[Adjunct Professor] Janet Gilligan taught all of us family law our third year,” says Bagley. “That was a big source of knowledge for us moving forward.” Whaley is also doing estate work and landlord-tenant, Bagley handling criminal defense matters, and Bowie doing civil litigation including personal injury and medical malpractice.

And – since their survival depends on it – they remain very disciplined about putting significant effort into marketing their firm, including on Facebook, and doing community outreach every opportunity they can.

Bagley, who comes from a military family and grew up in Rhode Island, is very active in assisting veterans groups. Whaley serves on the Main Street Association in West Greenwich, and Bowie coaches the mock trial team at Mt. Hope High School in Bristol.

Already, they find themselves giving advice to other young lawyers who want to follow in their footsteps. “We definitely tell them to get out in the community, to do a lot to meet people,” says Bowie, “and we do preach pro bono because we’ve all done our fair share.”

They hope they’ll continue to serve as role models for hanging a shingle, even under the toughest of economic circumstances. “We’re giving it a good try, and it’s been awesome,” says Bowie, “so we hope it keeps going.”



From Mount Hope Bay to the Hellespont

For 3L Morgan McCarthy, swimming and marine law are a natural combination

Among the 262 swimmers who crossed outer New Bedford Harbor last July in the 20th annual Buzzards Bay Swim, the fastest female (and second overall) was RWU Law 3L Morgan McCarthy, who completed the 1.2 mile course in 22:50, just seconds behind the overall winner.

That's some seriously fast swimming (members of the top team entrants in the event averaged 30:14), but it's nothing new for McCarthy, 23, of East Orleans, Mass. She was the race's fastest female in 2010 and 2011; in 2012 she was fastest female in the 18- to 22-year-old category.

"I started competitive open-water swimming when I was really young, and did my first official race at age 12," McCarthy said, adding that she strongly supports the work of the Buzzards Bay Coalition. "I've seen firsthand how much of a positive impact it has had on the bay in terms of recreational swimming and coastal activities."

This year's swim raised \$95,000 to support the education, conservation, research and advocacy work of the non-profit Coalition, for whom McCarthy served as a legal intern in 2012. A candidate

in RWU Law's J.D./Masters in Marine Affairs joint degree program, she interned this summer with Cape Wind, where she "got to be involved in the marine and environmental aspects of the renewable energy industry."

For McCarthy, swimming provides "an awesome break from classes and studies; but the real perk is the self-discipline I've learned through training, racing, winning and losing." She's passing that wisdom along as assistant coach for the undergraduate men's and women's swim team at RWU. She is also an ocean lifeguard in her hometown of Orleans, a job that "reminds me why I went to law school in the first place – to preserve beautiful areas along the coast for everyone to enjoy."

After taking the bar exam in August 2014, McCarthy plans to celebrate with a trip to Turkey to compete in one of the world's best-known (and toughest) open-water swims, and her first international competition. "I'm going to swim the Hellesponte from Europe to Asia with my dad – three miles in the strongest current in the world. I'm really looking forward to it!"

– Michael M. Bowden

A Service Trifecta

It's no secret that RWU Law graduates are making a significant impact on the regional legal culture. But three recent alumni appointments – all focused on serving the larger legal and general community – are worth singling out.

Lorraine Lalli '01

Judicial Nominating Commission

RWU Law's Assistant Dean of Students, Lalli was appointed by Governor Lincoln Chafee to the Commission, which is charged with screening applicants for vacancies on all of Rhode Island's courts, selecting candidates to be interviewed, soliciting public comment and conducting background checks.

Adam Ramos '06

Board of Bar Examiners

A former law clerk for the Honorable Francis X. Flaherty of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, and now an associate with Hinckley, Allen & Snyder, Ramos was appointed by R.I. Chief Justice Suttell, thus becoming the youngest-ever member of the Board, which is charged with administering and proctoring the bar exam, and evaluating the essay portion of the test.

Amy Goins '12

Common Cause R.I. Board President

A former law clerk to the Honorable Gilbert V. Indeglia of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island and now an attorney with the City of Providence Law Department, Amy was elected President of Common Cause Rhode Island, the leading good-government organization in the state. As a lifelong Rhode Islander, she previously served as Secretary of the Board.

Inside the WikiLeaks Trial

RWU Law appearance marks a homecoming for Wikileaks defense lawyer David Coombs

In a special 20th anniversary event this fall, RWU Law welcomed David E. Coombs, lead counsel for WikiLeaks defendant Chelsea Manning, f/k/a PFC Bradley Manning, for an intimate and candid discussion about the high-profile case that had ended only weeks earlier. Heavily covered by local and national media, the visit made headlines from Los Angeles to London.

Coombs, 44, hails from Boise, Idaho, and lives and practices law in Providence. As an adjunct professor at RWU Law and husband of Associate Professor Tanya Monestier, he told the 150-plus students and faculty members packing the appellate courtroom, “Although this is not my law school, I feel like it is.”

Coombs was interviewed by RWU Law’s Professor Emily Sack, who then opened the floor to questions. Before commencing the discussion, Sack noted that Manning is serving a 35-year sentence for a July conviction on espionage and other offenses related to his sending more than 700,000 documents to the website WikiLeaks. After the sentencing, Manning announced her wish to live as a woman and receive hormone therapy, which the military has so far declined to provide.

Coombs expressed hope that the situation would change, noting that Manning was being assessed by experts “with their heart in the right place. They want to make sure they get the call right and they want to do what is in the best interest of Chelsea.”

Army Failed ‘Every Step of the Way’

Manning, 25, was convicted on 20 of 22 counts but acquitted on the most serious charge, that of aiding the enemy, which could have resulted in life imprisonment. Although Manning could be released in as little as seven years, Coombs said he didn’t view the outcome as a complete success. “I always thought something under 20 would be a win for the defense,” he said.

Manning told the court he leaked the material to expose wrongdoing and provoke debate, and apologized for hurting any people or the United States. But Coombs asserted that there was no harm, and that Manning leaked the material selectively.

“I don’t know if the government really had a theory, to tell you the truth,” he said. “I think their theory was that this was information that embarrassed the United States government – ‘we don’t like it, and aiding the enemy sounds like a good offense, so we’re gonna go with that.’”

The evidence, Coombs said, showed Manning choosing 700,000 thematically related documents out of more than 100 million he had access to.



Adjunct Professor David Coombs speaking at Roger Williams.

“It was a very selective release,” he said. “It wasn’t indiscriminate.” His choice of documents, in turn, revealed Manning as “a humanist, someone who cares about human life, debating how he could best serve his command to ensure that every soldier, every Marine, every contractor, even local nationals, got home safely – really taking on a lot of pressure on his shoulders, thinking that his job was one in which, ‘If I do it successfully, I could save lives.’”



Coombs added that the Army failed to heed multiple, often dramatic “red flags” that Manning was not psychologically fit for the responsibility and clearance he was granted.

“At every step of the way, Pfc. Manning’s leadership failed him. [At any point,] a good leader could have said, ‘You know what? Perhaps you need a little bit of time off; you’re not going back to work. We’re going to walk you over to Mental Health and let you talk to somebody.’ But from company all the way up to brigade, it was a complete and utter failure.”

– Michael M. Bowden

The Clerkship Experience

There's nothing like a judicial clerkship to give new lawyers an inside look at the profession, and a first-class introduction to the bench and bar in action. We asked a few current clerks for "field reports" on their experience. — *Mary Grady*

	Stephen Nelson '12	Stephanie DeLuca '13	Basannya Babumba '12	Malorie Diaz '13
The Court:	Supreme Court of Rhode Island <i>Providence, R.I.</i> 	New Jersey Superior Court, Criminal Division <i>Trenton, N.J.</i> 	Massachusetts Superior Court <i>Boston, MA</i> 	Supreme Court <i>St. Thomas, Virgin Islands</i> 
The Judge:	Justice Francis X. Flaherty	Justice Thomas M. Brown	Judge Thomas Connors, Judge Charles Hely	Chief Justice Rhys S. Hodge
The Lead-Up:	Studied at Tulane University; clerked for a year at the District Court in Newport. "I tried to take advantage of opportunities to work with judges while I was a student, knowing that I wanted to be a clerk after graduation."	"The previous summer I worked as an intern at the prosecutors' office in Trenton, so I had appeared before some of the judges in this courthouse. I wanted to do a clerkship at the trial level because you're more engaged in the process. You interact with more attorneys and other people directly involved in the court system."	Clerked for the Rhode Island Superior Court, in the Traffic Tribunal. In her new clerkship, plans to focus on her research and writing skills.	"I love traveling to new places and exploring new cultures. To move to a new place for a couple of years — and work in its Supreme Court, no less — was very appealing."
Favorite Moments:	During his first clerkship, in Newport, Stephen "really liked being in the county court," he said. "It was a phenomenal experience. You get a little taste of everything. Plus, you're working in Newport!"	"My judge does a lot of work in criminal expungements, so I interact a lot with people who need these to compete in the tough job market. It gave me a better idea of how what I'm doing affects people's real lives; I'm not in a bubble. It makes practicing law feel a lot more human."	"I'm there during the judges' conference when they're discussing issues about the cases. I wasn't expecting to be that close to such an important part of the process. I learned a lot from that and enjoyed that very much."	"The Virgin Islands is technically part of the U.S., but it's not Rhode Island, by any means! I had never been here before I came for my interview. When I got the job, moving to an island was quite a challenge. But you can't beat the perks — right now, a huge cruise ship is parked outside my office window!"
The Takeaway:	"I hope to become a better writer, gain experience, develop lasting relationships with other clerks and judges, and do my part in terms of making the judges' jobs easier. It should prepare me well to practice law in Rhode Island."	"In my senior year, I worked in the Criminal Defense Clinic, so I was on the opposite side. Now in this position, I'm seeing the law from the perspective of the judge. It's a positive thing, seeing the process from every side."	"My goal is to be a judge someday, so this is perfect. I get to do this work and see what it's like. This is where I start making my mark and building my reputation."	"This is a fairly new court, and there's a real sense of pride in trying to provide the best service possible for the Virgin Islanders. I started my first case on my second day. It's a very quick plunge into very serious matters. My ability to write, research, and multi-task are improving by leaps and bounds."

Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40

Each year, the National LGBT Bar Association recognizes 40 LGBT legal professionals (practicing lawyers, law professors, corporate counsel, members of the judiciary, politicians, etc.) under the age of 40 who have distinguished themselves in their field and have demonstrated a profound commitment to LGBT equality. The organization's Class of 2013 includes RWU Law alumnus Marek Bute '05 of Snell & Wilmer LLP in Las Vegas (profiled in the Fall 2012 issue of *RWU Law*). Its Class of 2011 included Dena Castricone '02 of Murtha Cullina LLP in New Haven, Conn.

— Michael M. Bowden



GETTING TO KNOW...

Nick Hemond '12

Attorney, Caprio & Caprio; Vice President for Government Relations, Capitol Communications Group LLC; Vice President, Providence School Board

Straight to the Top

Just 27 years of age and one year out of law school, Nick Hemond '12 is already a supernova in the rough-and-tumble world of Rhode Island politics. At Capitol Communications Group, he's one of state's "the busiest and best-paid lobbyists," according to the *Providence Journal*, representing such clients as the Fraternal Order of Police, AAA Southern New England and several major developers. As assistant city solicitor for Central Falls, R.I., he prosecutes misdemeanors, and also takes private clients in family law, criminal defense, and personal injury. **Master of multitasking:** As a 1L and 2L, Hemond was communications director for the 2010 gubernatorial campaign of Democratic nominee Frank Caprio (who lost.) While still a 3L he was appointed to the Providence School Board, where he now serves as vice president. While finishing law school and studying for the bar, he managed the 2012 campaigns of 13 state representatives and senators through his own consulting firm – and only one of his candidates lost, by a narrow margin. **Cutting class:** An academic star, Hemond admits he spent many a class partially immersed in campaign work. During the Caprio campaign, he recalls, "I was out in the hallways, running in and out of class, screaming at people on the telephone!" **Never too young:** "I was young to be an assistant varsity baseball coach at 18 years old [at his alma mater, Providence's Classical High School], young to be the communications director for a campaign, young to start my own business. You can't let being young stand in the way of reaching your goals and providing for your family." **Paying his way:** As an undergrad at Providence College, Hemond worked for his mother's title company, waited tables and interned at WPRO's Buddy Cianci Show, which whet his appetite for politics. Today, "I don't have the luxury to work one job. I lobby fulltime and I practice law fulltime." **Competitive edge:** "I played all kinds of sports growing up, and politics is like sports – it's very competitive. A lot of people who are athletes go into politics. It fills a need." **Staying busy:** "I don't know what to do with myself if I'm not working all day or having a function at night. I get anxiety when I sit at home because I'm always on the go."


— Elaine McArdle



YEARS



*20th Anniversary
Special Feature*



Somewhere along the way, Roger Williams University School of Law stopped being the “new kid on the block” and took its place as **an integral part of the state and regional legal culture.** As Peter Kilmartin '98, Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island, observed, “All of a sudden, it’s like RWU Law has always been here.”

Over those past two decades, a surprising number of traditions have taken root at the school. Here, in no particular order, are 20 of our favorites...



TRADITIONS



U.S. Supreme Court Swearing-In

For the past five years and counting, RWU Law alums have been treated to a special professional honor: being **admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.** In addition to the formal swearing-in before the Court, the alumni group gets a tour of the stately Court building and enjoys private meetings with (varying by year) a Justice of the Court, a member of Rhode Island's congressional delegation, and other legal and political luminaries. An amazing professional experience — and a grand RWU Law tradition.



2. Jeopardy

Who says law school is all work and no play? For the past eight years, the most popular fall event for blowing off mid-semester steam has been the Annual Student/Faculty Jeopardy Game, pitting 1L, 2L, 3L and alumni teams against law faculty and adjuncts on emphatically non-legal topics, with always-unpredictable results (every team has taken the crown at least once).

3. Welcome Back BBQ and 1L Class Photo



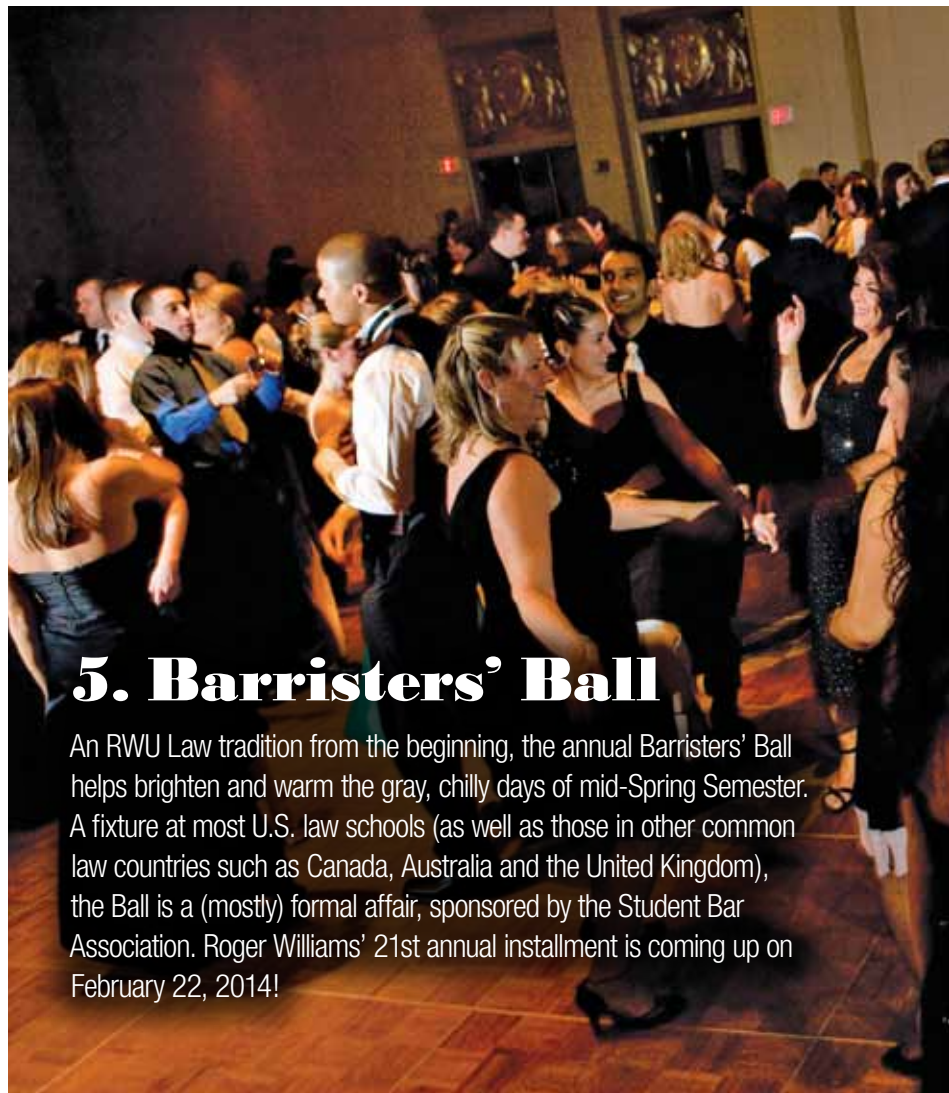
Each academic year begins with a Welcome Back Barbecue on the School of Law grounds for students, faculty, and staff, topped off by a photo of the year's new incoming class. It's a laid-back, social farewell to summer just before that famous 1L workload kicks in!



4

Graduate Reception at Glen Manor

At Roger Williams Law, we celebrate the successful end of the academic year with an elegant reception for graduates held at the Glen Manor House, a beautiful waterfront mansion in nearby Portsmouth, R.I.



5. Barristers' Ball

An RWU Law tradition from the beginning, the annual Barristers' Ball helps brighten and warm the gray, chilly days of mid-Spring Semester. A fixture at most U.S. law schools (as well as those in other common law countries such as Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom), the Ball is a (mostly) formal affair, sponsored by the Student Bar Association. Roger Williams' 21st annual installment is coming up on February 22, 2014!



"Meeting with clients during Alternative Spring Break, and seeing the impact of my contribution in resolving their legal issues, was priceless – one of the most rewarding experiences I've had at RWU Law."

– 2013 RWU Law ASB Participant, Immigration Law Education & Advocacy Project, Fall River, Mass.

Alternative Spring Break

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a longstanding initiative of the Association for Public Interest Law, and is completely student-driven and organized. Rather than taking it easy and relaxing during spring break, several dozen RWU Law students participate in **week-long public service projects** with organizations in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts, and as far afield as New York, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi and Georgia. The projects are diverse – ranging from work on capital defense cases to research on the Clean Water Act to interviews with immigrants in asylum and deportation cases. Our students invariably receive rave reviews from their supervising attorneys, and often comment later on how meaningful the work was to their development as lawyers serving underrepresented clients and communities.



7. Diversity Symposium

Spring 2013 marked RWU Law's 10th Diversity Symposium Dinner showcasing the school's ongoing commitment to diversifying the regional bench and bar. The popular event always draws a crowd, including many alumni who are busily making their mark on the profession, as well as state and federal judges, luminaries of the state bar, and students from local colleges, universities, high schools and, of course, RWU Law.



1L Meet the Bay Boat Trip Symposium

Susan Farady and Julia Wyman of the Marine Affairs Institute take 2L and 3L student leaders on an environmental tour of Narragansett Bay together with Save The Bay staff; past cruises have included a sample trawl to view a net full of creatures from the bottom of the Bay and discussions of current events affecting its future.

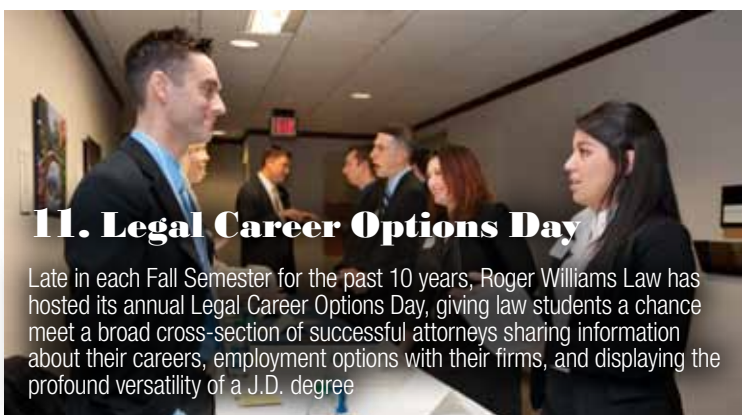
9 1L End of Year Reception

A favorite tradition at RWU Law occurs when the deans and faculty host a party for the 1Ls immediately after completing a major law school milestone – the completion of their 1L exams. Faculty, staff and students gather at popular hangout Jacky's Galaxie for drinks, food and celebration.



10. The Quahogs

The Quahogs – the Student Bar Association’s intramural softball team – good-naturedly battle teams from the Military Law Society, the Multi-Cultural Law Students Association, Law Review and other student groups (plus, starting in 2013, an alumni team). The all-stars coalesce to become the intermural Mighty Quahogs, trekking south for the annual National Law School Softball Championships at the University of Virginia, playing teams from George Washington, Georgetown, NYU, Columbia, Rutgers, Cornell, Yale, Harvard, Michigan, Notre Dame and more – and usually making a pretty darn respectable showing.



11. Legal Career Options Day

Late in each Fall Semester for the past 10 years, Roger Williams Law has hosted its annual Legal Career Options Day, giving law students a chance meet a broad cross-section of successful attorneys sharing information about their careers, employment options with their firms, and displaying the profound versatility of a J.D. degree

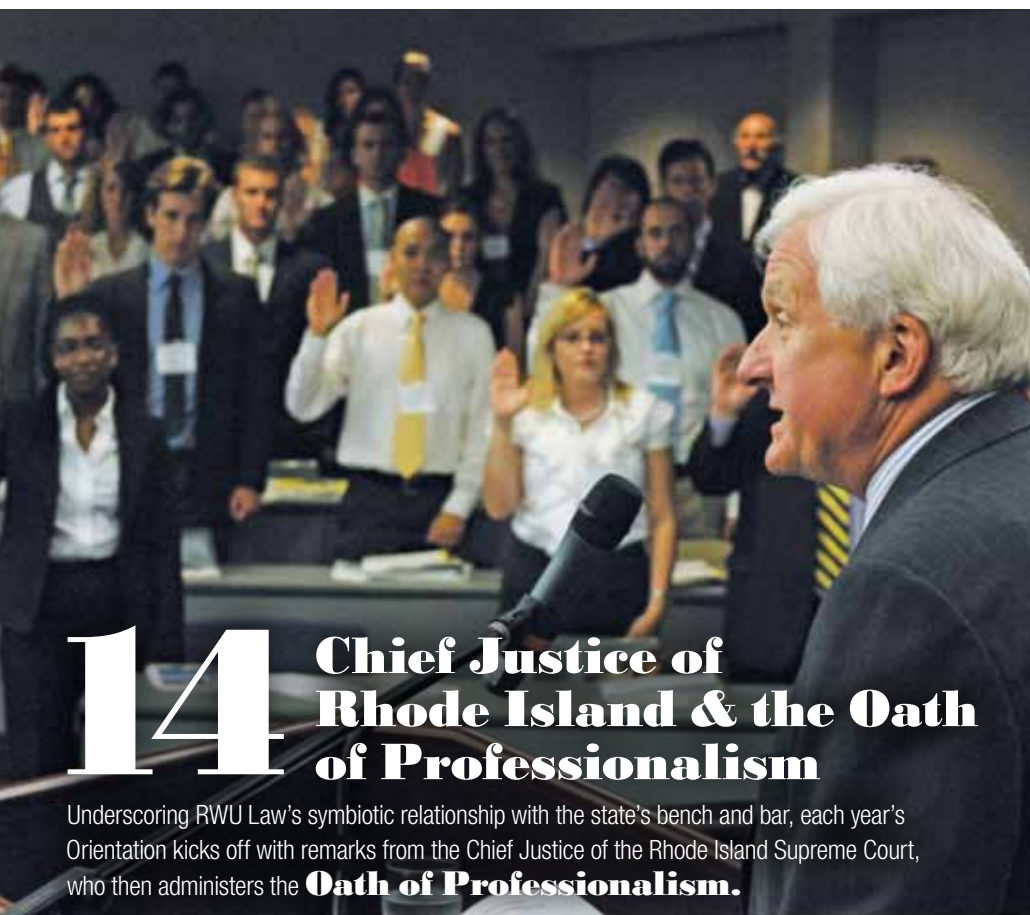
12 Public Interest Potluck Dinners

For years, husband-and-wife team Michael Yelnosky and Laurie Barron – distinguished service professor of law and Feinstein Center executive director, respectively – have held popular potluck dinners at their Tiverton home, usually once a semester, for 50-plus students studying public interest law.



13 Rhode Island Supreme Court & the Clark Competition

For 18 years, RWU Law has enjoyed an annual tradition in which arguments in the final round of its intramural Clark Moot Court Competition are heard at the school by **the justices of the Rhode Island Supreme Court**. This year, in observance of the 20th anniversary, arguments were heard at the Rhode Island Supreme Court itself.



14

Chief Justice of Rhode Island & the Oath of Professionalism

Underscoring RWU Law's symbiotic relationship with the state's bench and bar, each year's Orientation kicks off with remarks from the Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, who then administers the **Oath of Professionalism**.



17

The Public Interest Auction

The annual Public Interest Auction is the law school's mid-winter social extravaganza, drawing students, alumni, faculty, luminaries of the regional bench and bar, and even members of the state's congressional delegation. The event raises significant funds to support students engaged in summer public interest legal work.



18

Marine Law Symposium

Every other year, the Marine Affairs Institute sponsors a major symposium that brings together leading legal practitioners, scholars, scientists and planners from across America and abroad to share expertise and experience, hear top experts speak, and participate in panels and in-depth discussions on vital developments in Ocean and Coastal Law issues. The last few symposiums have covered the law's response to climate change; policies and realities relating to diminishing fisheries; and creating a viable marine renewable energy industry. Non-symposium conferences also draw big crowds for important topical discussions such as, "Blowout: Legal Legacy of the Deepwater Horizon Catastrophe."



15

Sea Grant Law Fellow Colloquium

Each year, RWU Law's Rhode Island Sea Grant Law Fellows, along with their sponsoring organizations, gather to present on their work at an informal colloquium.

16

Alumni Holiday Reception

In a longstanding holiday tradition, alumni join RWU Law faculty and staff for the annual Alumni Association Holiday Reception.

19. Extraordinary Speakers & Events



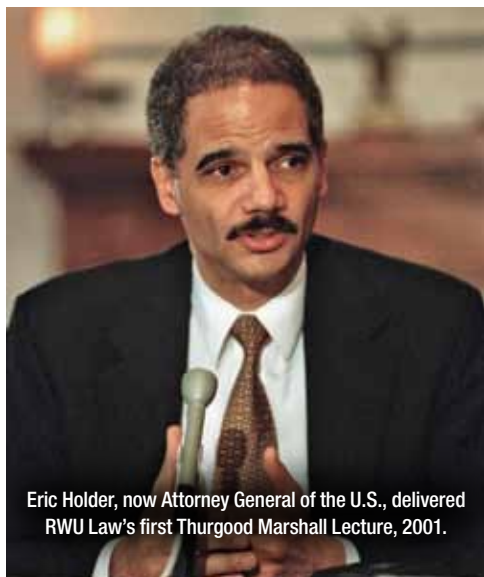
Martha Minow, dean of Harvard Law School, on *Brown v. Board of Education* (1955).



Nan Aron, founder and president of the Alliance for Justice, on U.S. Supreme Court appointments.



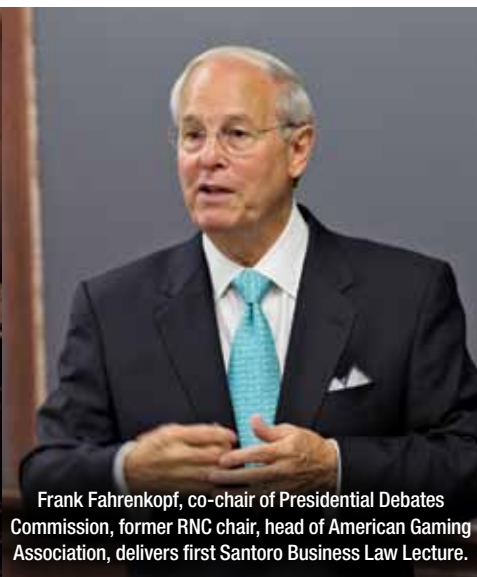
Sarah Weddington, prevailing attorney in the seminal case of *Roe v. Wade* (1973), on women in the law.



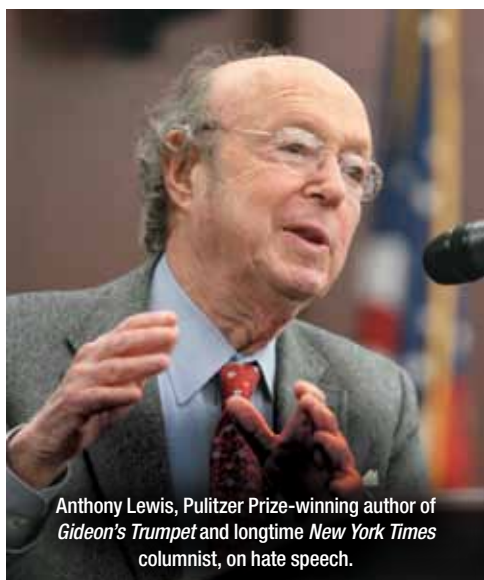
Eric Holder, now Attorney General of the U.S., delivered RWU Law's first Thurgood Marshall Lecture, 2001.



Mrs. Thurgood Marshall and UCLA Law Professor Devon Carbado on the persistence of racial discrimination.



Frank Fahrenkopf, co-chair of Presidential Debates Commission, former RNC chair, head of American Gaming Association, delivers first Santoro Business Law Lecture.



Anthony Lewis, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Gideon's Trumpet* and longtime *New York Times* columnist, on hate speech.



Linda Greenhouse, Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* reporter who covered the U.S. Supreme Court for three decades, delivers 2008 commencement address.



U.S. Senators Sheldon Whitehouse and Jack Reed attend Veterans Day observances at RWU Law, 2012.

20. U.S. Supreme Court



Chief Justice John Roberts, 2008



Justice Kennedy, 1996
Speaker at RWU Law's First Commencement



Justice Stephen Breyer, 2011



Justice Samuel Alito, 2012,
with Justice Francis X. Flaherty and students

Court Justice Visits



Justice Antonin Scalia, 2008
with Dean Logan and BOD member the Hon. Ronald Cass



Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
have visited with RWU Law students in Washington, D.C.



Justice Elena Kagan, 2013



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 2013,
with Judge Bruce Selya and Dean Logan

A man, Evan Thomson, stands on the green warning track of Fenway Park. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt, khaki pants, and brown shoes. He is holding a white book or folder with a red logo on it. The background shows the stadium seating and the Fenway Park scoreboard.

Evan Thomson '13
Fenway Sports Group



GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

For corporate externs, on-the-job experience brings classroom theory vividly to life

By Denise Perreault

One late summer afternoon in Boston, as Evan Thomson wrapped up a busy day at the office, he could hear the murmur of crowds starting to gather outside, of vendors pitching their wares; that unique sort of electricity that fills the air before a big, exciting event.

“It is kind of cool to hear that escalate throughout the day,” Thomson said. “It’s a very different, very busy environment, and one that most people never see.”

Thomson, 25, a native of upstate New York and a current RWU Law 3L, was completing one of his first days as an RWU extern at Fenway Sports Group. The sounds he heard outside came from the hullabaloo at Fenway Park before an evening Red Sox game against the Baltimore Orioles, at a moment when the Sox had taken a firm hold on first place in the American League.

Exciting as it was, Thomson said the atmosphere was really nothing out of the ordinary.

“This is not your typical office,” he explained. “I’m always excited to go into work, because you get a game-day experience almost every time you go. The people I’m working with are fairly young; they’re enthusiastic and energetic – so they fit the idea you’d think of as the Red Sox. It’s an upbeat organization.”

Thomson is one of about a dozen third-year students enrolled in RWU Law’s Corporate Counsel Clinical Externship Program

for the Fall 2013 semester, earning academic credit toward his law degree while getting real-life, business-oriented legal experience.

His fellow externs work at organizations as diverse as Care New England, CVS Caremark, GTECH, IDC/Newport Experience, the Kraft Group (owner of the New England Patriots), Moran Shipping Agencies, Textron and Schneider Electric – an impressive roster of world-class companies participating in the program as it enters its second year.

Michael Mullane ’13, who participated last spring, can attest to the effectiveness of the experience. Working as an extern at CVS Caremark from January through April, he helped negotiate and draft a number of commercial contracts, the largest of which concerned an \$11 million deal. He also drafted company policy on accommodating the disabled, including consideration of medical marijuana use.

By graduation, Mullane had three corporate job offers lined up. In September, he became assistant vice president and contract specialist for the Citizens Financial Group in Providence. His story “shows that students get great exposure” in the externship program, he said. “These were real, evolving issues that I was able to work on.”

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR EXPERIENCE

RWU Law has always offered its students an array of experiential learning opportunities, most prominently through its flagship in-house clinical programs – Criminal Defense, Immigration and others – and clinical externships outside the law school. But corporate law? Not so much.

That changed when Dean David A. Logan – inspired in part by the wisdom and advice of Professor Anthony Santoro, the law school’s founding dean and still a popular law professor – decided it was time for RWU Law to “get down to business.”

“We’ve worked really hard to ramp up our experiential opportunities in all areas, especially business,” said Dean David A. Logan. “That was a missing part of our portfolio. Not everyone wants to be a criminal defense lawyer or go into government service.”

In an ambitious initiative announced earlier this year, RWU Law became one of just a handful of law schools in the country to offer an explicit guarantee that every qualified student will be afforded a substantial clinical experience.

At a time when other law schools are cutting back, Logan said, the Corporate Counsel Clinical Externship Program has positioned itself to send about 20 graduates each year into the work world “who can add practical, specifically business-oriented skills to their resumes” that other newly minted lawyers can’t match. “Business and economic growth are a big part of what keeps a community healthy,” Dean Logan observed. “We want to be part of that.”

Ed Weiss, general counsel for the Fenway Sports Group and a member of the RWU Law Board of Directors, applauds Logan and the law school for being on the “cutting edge” of promoting experiential learning. His work with RWU interns and externs has been “tremendously positive,” Weiss said, adding that “I am a fan of the apprenticeship model.”

“The more a law school can do to make students in the third year more prepared for the real world, the more valuable those graduates are to companies like mine,” Weiss said. More law schools should follow RWU Law’s example, he added, “producing lawyers with as much practical experience as possible.”

“We provide students with an end-to-end perspective of major corporate business deals”

– Collin Bailey ’08



Collin Bailey '08 supervises RWU Law interns at CVS Caremark.

CVS
CAREMARK



Michael Mullane '13 & Christian Infantolino '13 - CVS Caremark

A WEALTH OF ACCESS

Cecily Banks, the professor of legal writing and contract drafting who heads the Corporate Counsel Clinical Externship Program, modestly notes that she was “in the right place at the right time” when she first proposed the initiative. It was an idea whose time had clearly come, she said, and Dean Logan and the law school administration enthusiastically supported the concept.

Key to the program’s success, Banks said, is the quality of the companies that have been willing to participate – and of the in-house lawyers who supervise the law school’s externs. These lawyers have been “generous, kind and welcoming,” she said. “They have committed fully to the educational mission of the program by planning a meaningful semester of exposure and training for the externs.” The other key, she added, is the professionalism and skill displayed by RWU Law students.

Collin Bailey '08, director of strategic procurement, contracts and compliance at CVS Caremark, stressed that the work externs undertake is the real thing.

“We provide students with an end-to-end perspective of major corporate business deals – from the beginning stages of developing requirements, through competitive bidding, and finally to contract negotiation memorializing the parties’ legal obligations,” Bailey said. “The program is a success because the externs work closely with industry-leading experts and best-in-class business groups from our legal department. This exposure provides invaluable practical experience that will benefit the externs throughout their legal careers.”

Mullane, who worked under Bailey during his externship, could not agree more.

“Teaming up with CVS allowed me not only to sit in the office, but to feel like I was an integral part of that office,” he said. “No other placement could have provided this experience.”

These are precisely the sorts of results Banks aims for.

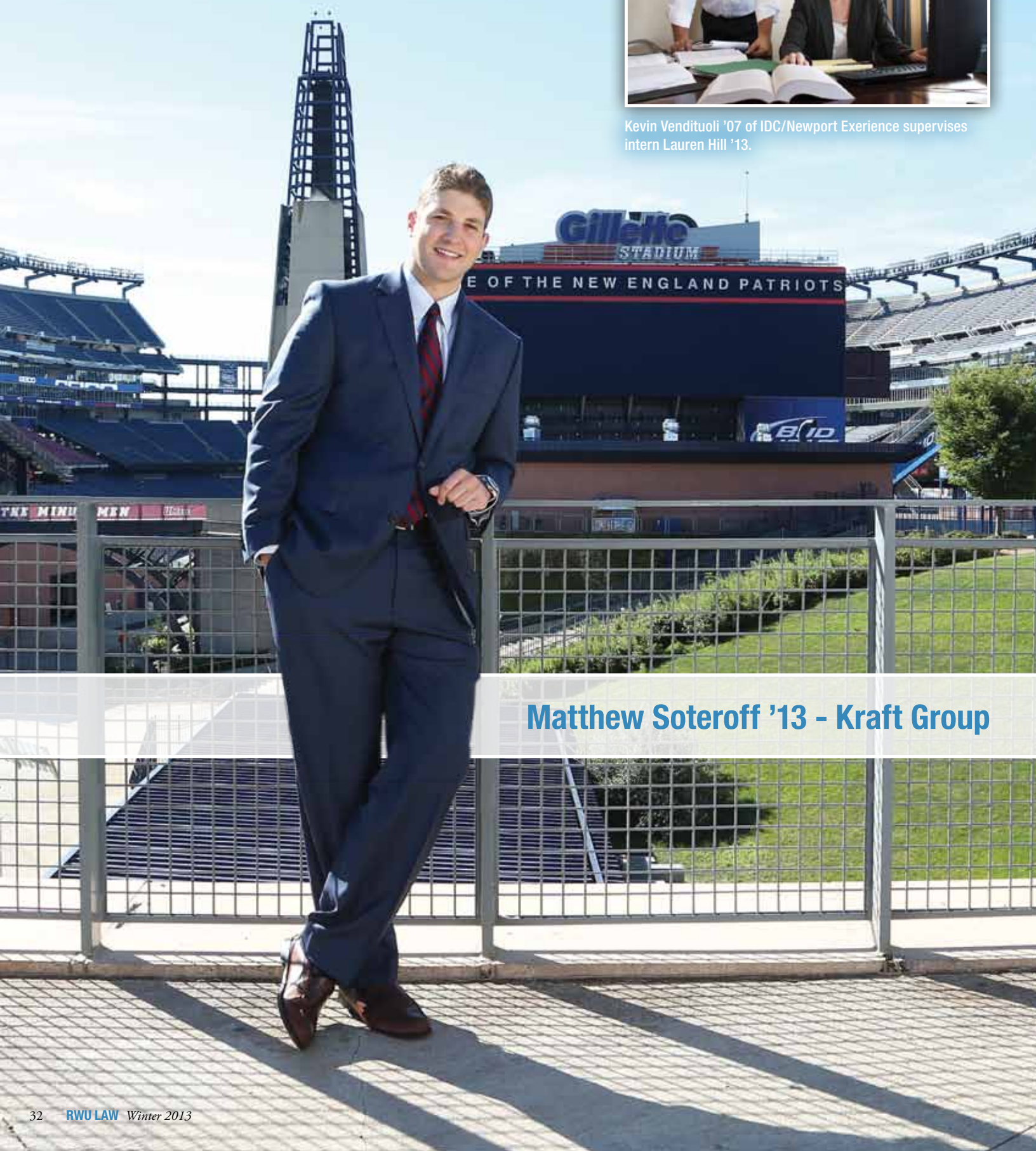
“We have this wealth of access in Southern New England,” she said. “Corporate counsel experience is uniquely available because we have so many highly successful companies headquartered here, and we have so many highly talented, experienced lawyers working in their corporate legal offices.” More than a few of those lawyers, she noted, are RWU Law alums.

Students participating in externships “want real hands-on experience with and feedback from lawyers,” Banks said. “They want to work with practicing lawyers so they can hit the ground running.” Those interested specifically in the Corporate Counsel Clinical Externship program generally aim to be business-focused or in-house attorneys, or they want to broaden their substantive knowledge in the myriad subject areas handled by a chief legal officer, she said. Interestingly, one in five students admitted in the fall of 2012 had a business studies background, she noted.

Strong demand for the program means the selection process is “rigorous,” Banks added, and is based on faculty references as well as grades and work experience. All externs to date have been in their final year of law school. “We are lucky to have a pool of top students who have not only excelled in their academics but proven themselves as true professionals,” she said.



Kevin Vendituoli '07 of IDC/Newport Exerience supervises intern Lauren Hill '13.



Matthew Soteroff '13 - Kraft Group

SHIFTING GEARS

Kendra Levesque '13, a native of New Hampshire now living in Cranston, originally entered law school with plans to become a public interest lawyer. "I had never been in a corporate setting before," she said. "It was never even on my radar." But when she learned about the Corporate Counsel Clinical Externship Program, she decided it might be a great way to broaden her horizons.

Levesque's externship was with GTECH Corporation, and entailed extensive domestic and international work for the leading gambling technology and services company, including "small, fast-paced projects, and a lot of research and writing," she said.

One longer-term project that "turned out to be gigantic" involved preparing reviews of separate GTECH contracts in 30 states, and summarizing each for inclusion in a reference volume for company attorneys. GTECH was "thrilled" with the result, Banks reported.

"I shifted gears," said Levesque, describing the program's impact on her professional ambitions – she's now intrigued by the idea of business-oriented law. "In many ways, I learned a lot more practical legal skills as an extern than any of my doctrinal courses taught me."

Lauren Hill '13 had an equally positive experience working for IDC/Newport Experience, a hospitality company specializing in oceanfront weddings, social events and corporate retreats, with a portfolio of fine properties in the Newport, R.I., area.

"I was treated as a full-fledged member of the legal team," Hill said. "I had the responsibility of drafting company-wide clauses, researching and weighing in on important legal issues, and assisting the general counsel and outside counsel on litigation matters. I

could not have imagined a more perfect way to finish up my law school career."

Her supervisor was equally enthusiastic.

"Lauren demonstrated an incredible ability to take on tough assignments working with complex areas of law," said Kevin Vendituoli '07, general counsel of IDC. "The work she produced was of a quality I have rarely seen come from associate attorneys, let alone law students."

Matthew Soteroff '13 always wanted to work in sports but -- realizing that few can become professional players -- decided to get there by obtaining a law degree instead. It would be an amazing experience, the Toronto native thought, to be legal counsel to a major sports team. So he was delighted when he was chosen last year to be an extern with the Kraft Group, owner of the New England Patriots, headquartered at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass.

Because the Kraft Group owns dozens of business entities spread over more than 80 countries, Soteroff's legal work also went far beyond "the product put on the field, i.e., the football team," he said. For one project, he analyzed annual reports and bylaws for accuracy and consistency; for another, he managed a database of Kraft companies. "People think working for a football team is glamorous, but that's different than what it actually is," Soteroff said, considering the broad nature of the corporate governance and management involved in running such a vast organization.

However, Soteroff remains intent on a legal career in sports, and this experience will help him make that happen, especially now that his sports law Rolodex has grown considerably: "I now have roughly 25 contacts who work for a football team," he said with a smile.

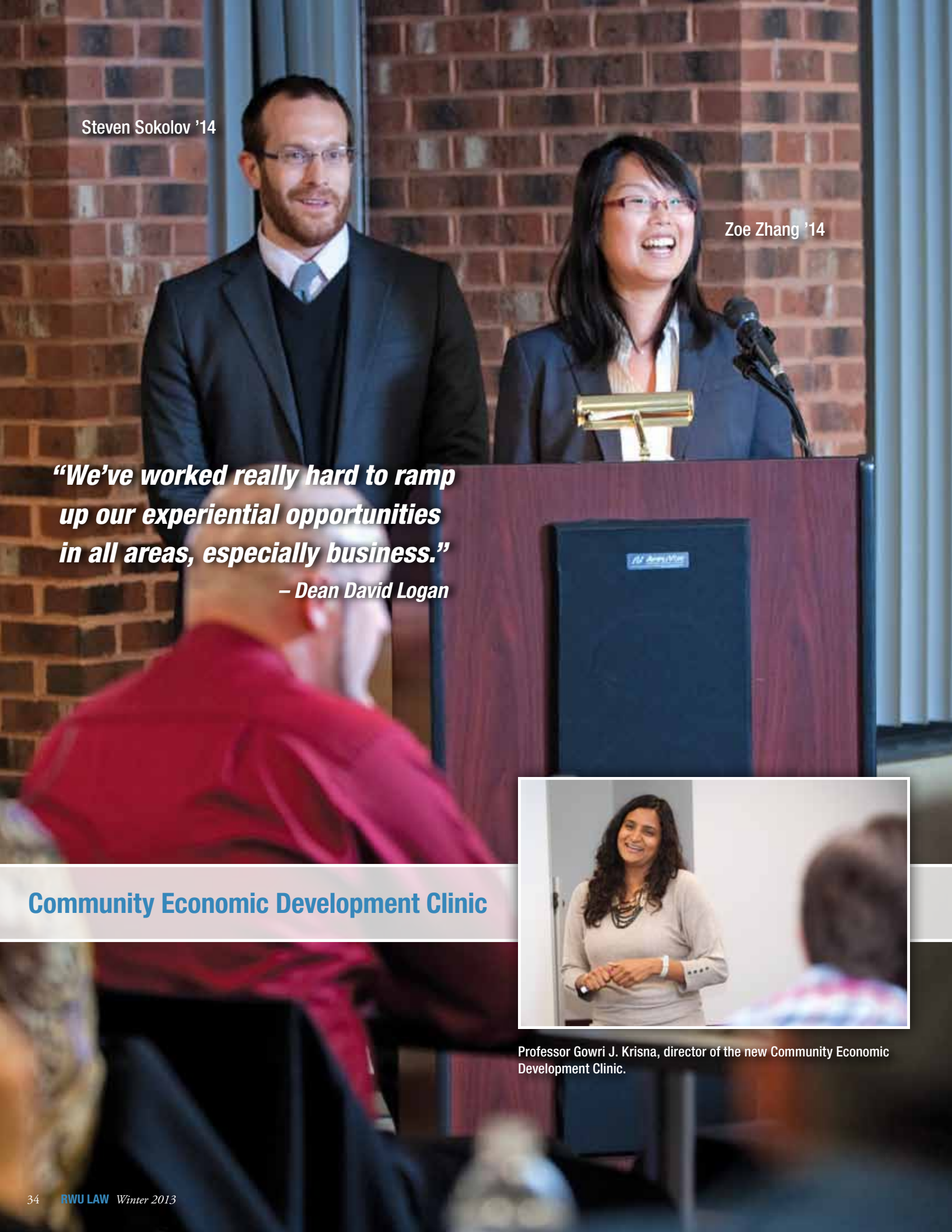
The Santoro Lecture Series

The Professor Anthony J. Santoro Business Law Lecture Series, named for the law school's founding dean, who is also a former Roger Williams president and current law professor, brings leading lawyers to Rhode Island to discuss important issues in the area of business law.

In September, the second Santoro Lecture was delivered by Jan R. Schlichtmann, subject of the 1996 best-selling book and 1998 movie "A Civil Action," about corporate contamination of the water supply in Woburn, Mass., and how he helped beleaguered residents achieve some justice.

Responding to the environmental and economic challenges of our time, Schlichtmann recently embarked on a new career in oceanic research and innovation. Speaking at the Omni Providence Hotel about his latest venture, Oceanic Innovations, LLC, he spoke of his hope to seed sustainable 21st century harbor-front development and marine industry based on the latest principles in ecological engineering, green chemistry, and biomimicry. Believing that "the interplay between food, energy, and water use is determinative of our quality of life," Schlichtmann said he is "driven by the desire to work with others in developing a vitalizing industrial metaphor that is symbiotic with nature."



A photograph of two individuals, Steven Sokolov '14 and Zoe Zhang '14, standing behind a dark wood podium. Steven, on the left, is a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit and tie. Zoe, on the right, is a woman with glasses, wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored top. They are both smiling. The background is a brick wall. A microphone is positioned in front of Zoe. A small blue nameplate is visible on the podium.

Steven Sokolov '14

Zoe Zhang '14

“We’ve worked really hard to ramp up our experiential opportunities in all areas, especially business.”

– Dean David Logan

Community Economic Development Clinic



Professor Gowri J. Krisna, director of the new Community Economic Development Clinic.



‘A Win-Win-Win Scenario’

RWU Law Launches Community Economic Development Clinic

This fall, RWU Law students have a new way to give back to the community while also gaining significant practical legal experience – with the added benefit of driving sustainable nonprofit and business development along the way.

RWU Law’s new Community Economic Development Clinic – which formally launched this fall at the University’s Providence campus, at a ceremony featuring Governor Lincoln D. Chafee, among other state and local officials – will focus on teaching students to represent clients in business-related transactions, by providing legal services to nonprofit and community-based businesses in Rhode Island. Under full faculty supervision, students will work one-on-one with nonprofit leaders and small business owners to determine and facilitate their legal needs.

“This initiative is a win-win-win scenario that RWU Law is uniquely positioned to offer,” said Dean David A. Logan. “Our students win because they learn important skills working with a seasoned law teacher; clients win because they get much-needed, high-quality legal representation for free; and Rhode Island wins because stronger small businesses and nonprofits make for more robust communities.”

The new clinic’s director is Associate Clinical Professor of Law Gowri J. Krishna, who has taught in similar clinical programs at Michigan Law and Fordham University School of Law. For the last couple of months, Krishna has been meeting with local entrepreneurs, as well as community and government leaders, to get a sense of how the clinic can best serve its goals.

“We’re getting out there and seeing what the communities are,


what their needs are, what’s happening on the ground, with the idea of supporting local, community-driven initiatives,” Krishna explained. In selecting clients, she is prioritizing “organizations that provide a community benefit, that aim to build community wealth or power over the long term; and that incorporate democratic ownership and control.”

Organizations partnering with the clinic to date include the Urban Greens Food Co-op, a consumer-owned cooperative working to open a retail grocery store aimed at providing healthy food options for residents in Providence’s urban neighborhoods; the Sol Chariots Pedicab Cooperative, which offers bike taxis, tours and deliveries in Providence; and Navigant Credit Union, which will work with the clinic to develop business law workshops for small businesses in Central Falls. Talks with other organizations are under way.

“The primary goal of the clinic will be to teach the practice of transactional lawyering while providing service to underserved entrepreneurs and organizations,” Krishna explained. Students will interview and counsel clients, grasp legal and ethical issues, determine the best legal entity choice, assist with the creation and filing of organizational documents, agreements, leases and other contracts. The bottom-line question that will govern all clinical activities is, ‘What do I need to do to become an excellent lawyer?’ she said. But her students definitely see the bigger picture as well.

“I initially was attracted to the clinic because I wanted to gain some practical experience in transactional work,” said Zoe Zhang, a third-year law student. “But I very quickly realized that clinic serves a much more important mission in the Rhode Island community. Our work, even in this first semester, could be felt in the community for years to come.”

– Michael M. Bowden

A portrait of Melissa Nafash '08, a woman with dark hair, smiling, wearing a white ruffled jacket over a dark top. She is positioned on the right side of the page, with her arms crossed.

Righting Corporate Wrongs

Melissa Nafash '08 fights for those harmed by medical devices or drugs

PROFILE

Melissa Nafash '08

By Lesley Riva

Sometimes the driest of legal documents can offer a compelling glimpse into real human suffering. That's what Melissa Nafash '08 learned as she worked at a temporary job, coding documents for a major New York law firm in a case against a medical device company.

Nafash was just out of law school, with dreams of becoming a prosecutor. But the year was 2008, the economy had just entered the spin cycle, and federally funded positions were suddenly scarce. When RWU Law Dean David Logan suggested that she consider a short-term position at the Providence office of Motley Rice – which was acting as local counsel on a case for Manhattan-based megafirm Milberg LLP – she leapt at the chance.

The job was supposed to be one of those cut-and-dried tasks – time consuming, but not emotionally challenging. “It was going to be five months, do it with your eyes closed,” Nafash recalled. But her eyes were wide open, and as she began to examine medical records and read the stories of the terrible injuries various plaintiffs had suffered, she found herself growing indignant.

“I could see how this company and its device had affected all these lives, and how its negligence had done awful things to these people and their families,” she said. “And as I got more deeply involved, the firm nurtured my passion for justice for these people.”

Nafash threw herself into the work, and so impressed her colleagues that, at the end of her contract job, she was hired by Milberg fulltime. Today, she focuses her practice on medical device and pharmaceutical cases for the firm, which is widely recognized as a leader in defending the rights of victims of corporate and other large-scale wrongdoing. She has been deeply involved in several high profile trials, including the Composix Kugel cases, involving a defective mesh hernia patch, and has litigated cases against the tobacco industry in Florida state courts.

She may not have foreseen her affinity for this particular specialty, but Nafash always knew she wanted to be an attorney. She grew up in Bergenfield, N.J., with two older sisters and a dad who had unfulfilled dreams of becoming a lawyer. “My father always told my sisters and I about his

“And as I got more deeply involved, the firm nurtured my passion for justice for these people.”

passion for the law, though he never became an attorney,” she said. “He loved movies like ‘A Few Good Men,’ and ‘My Cousin Vinny,’ and we would watch those together. He always hoped one of us would follow through on it, and yes, he’s very proud that I did.”

Nafash first announced her plans for law school at the age of eight, and her drive never wavered. She was on the debate team in high school, took classes related to law throughout college, and worked as a paralegal for a year before entering RWU Law. While in law school, she gained hands-on experience in several different areas, trying them on for size and determining what was a good fit.

“I had experiences that showed me what I did not want to do, which is just as important,” she said. “I’d originally planned to be a divorce attorney. I certified as a mediator, and mediated at small claims court in Newport and at family court. I saw the need for good attorneys with a lot of heart, but I also saw it was an area that I would have to take home with me every night. I would have tried to save the world and it would have broken my heart.”

She cites a number of professors who helped set her on her current path, including Professor Larry Ritchie, who made the difficult subjects of evidence and criminal procedure fun, and Professor Bruce Kogan, who taught mediation. “He not only gave us guidance in his subject areas; he studied the people we were and said ‘Here are your strengths and here are your weaknesses,’” she said. She also credits Motley Rice partner and popular RWU Law Adjunct Professor Donald Migliori as being instrumental in nurturing her career.

It’s a complex field, but one that also has powerful satisfactions, Nafash said. “Helping a person who has been injured in their fight for justice, knowing that these injuries stay with them for a lifetime, and watching them finally win some compensation – it’s very rewarding.”



Class Notes

1996



Matthew P. Keris, of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin in Scranton, Penn., moderated the session “The Ex-Employee: Discovery/Privilege Issues When the Plaintiff’s Lawyer

Comes Knockin’” during the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance’s annual conference in Texas. Keris also spoke at the Lehigh Valley Health Network’s Annual Risk Symposium regarding “Deposition Issues Pertaining to the Electronic Medical Record.” Keris has been with Marshall Dennehey since 2005 as a member of the firm’s health care department.

2000



Jessica Cleary was named one of the 2013 “40 Under Forty” honorees by *Providence Business News*. Jessica is an attorney with Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick Ltd. in Providence, and focuses her practice on veterans’ rights.

2001

Ann (Sheppard) Mores and her husband, Frank, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Rose, on April 30, 2013. Ann has been working for the FBI for 10 years and currently resides in the Boston area.

2002



Michael Daly was named one of the 2013 “40 Under Forty” honorees by *Providence Business News*. Michael is a partner at Pierce Atwood LLP in Providence. Michael’s practice focuses on commercial, insurance, construction and maritime disputes.

2003

Holly Briggs Allan and her husband Bill welcomed a daughter, Hadley Emma, in November 2012. After 10 years with the R.I. Public Defender’s Office, Allan accepted a job in compliance assurance at Citizen’s Bank.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark your calendar.
Events and Important RWU Law Alumni Dates

January 31

Public Interest Auction
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Providence Biltmore Hotel



February 12

Thurgood Marshall Memorial Lecture Series
presents **Harvard Law Professor Randall Kennedy**
1:00 p.m.
RWU Law, Bristol, R.I.



February 21

Reassessing *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*:
Freedom of the Press, 50 Years Later
RWU Law, Bristol, R.I.



February 25

Washington, D.C., Law Alumni Networking Reception
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Marriot Washington Metro Center



March 21

Symposium: Independent Review of
NCAA Enforcement Actions
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
RWU Law, Bristol, R.I.



For details on these and many other exciting upcoming events, visit
law.rwu.edu/calendar



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Class Notes

2004



Chad Edgar
received the
2013 Attorney
General's
Award for Fraud
Prevention,
for his work

prosecuting tax refund fraud and identity theft
at the U.S. Department of Justice's Tax Division.
Over the past two years, Edgar has focused on
stolen identity refund fraud (SIRF) prosecutions.

Alissa Gearhart joined the law firm of
Thomas & Associates in Chicago. Gearhart is
responsible for arbitration, trial and appellate
litigation for AIG in Springfield, Ill. She continues
to provide pro bono representation to Illinois
Valley Animal Rescue, and serves on multiple
municipal and charitable boards. Gearhart is
also a lecturer with Circuit Judge C. Raccuglia
at Illinois Valley Community College.

2005

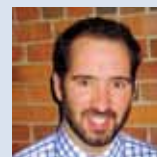


Tyler Ray was named
as one of the 2013 "40
Under Forty" honorees by
Providence Business News.
Tyler is an attorney with
Duffy & Sweeney LTD in
Providence, focusing his
practice on corporate law,
mergers and acquisitions,

intellectual property, employment law, and
technology.

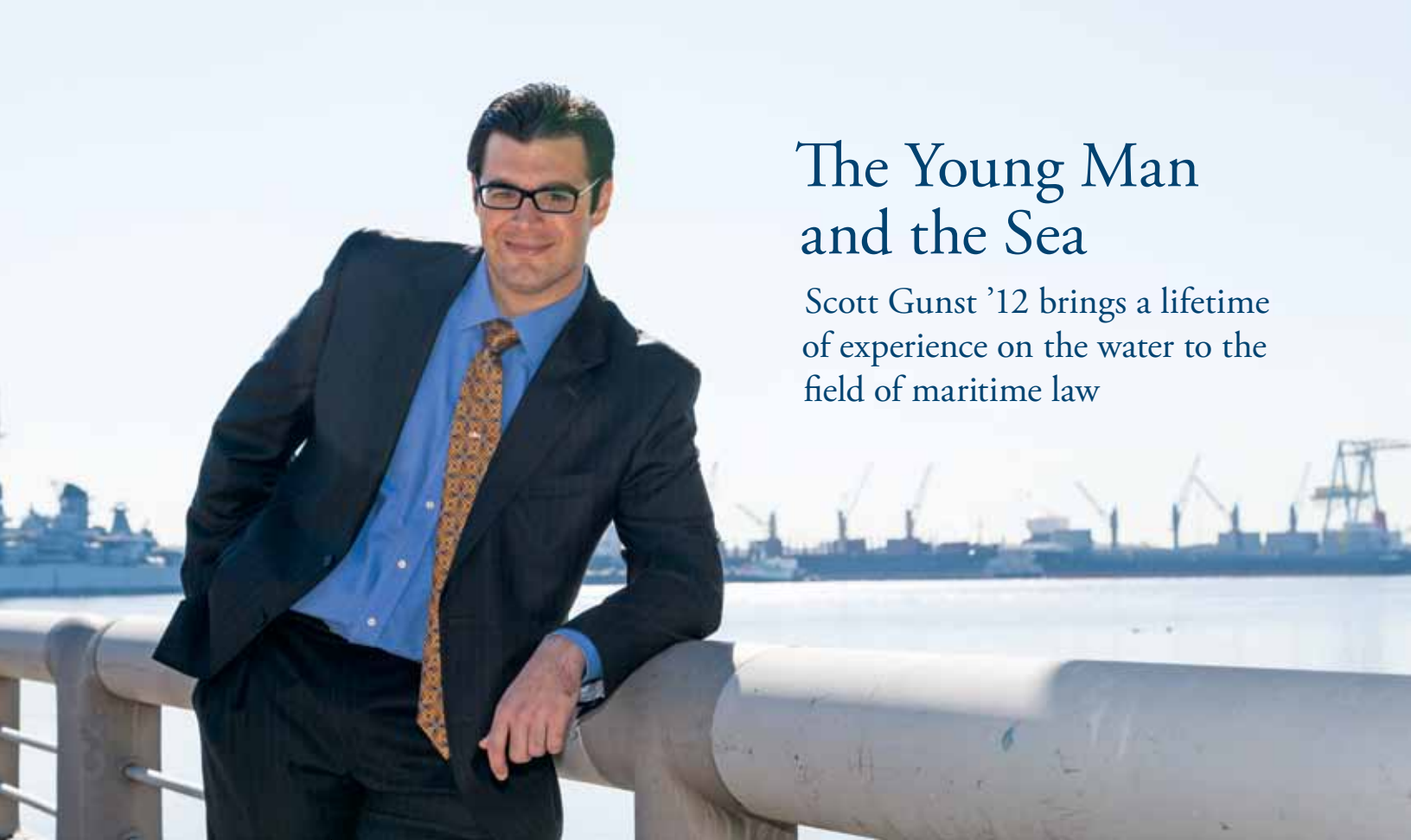
2006

Adam Ramos was appointed to the Rhode
Island Board of Bar Examiners.



Jonathan R. Samolis
was named as one of the
2013 "40 Under Forty"
honorees by *Providence*
Business News. Jonathan
is responsible for the

management of the vendor management
systems office at Bridge Technical Talent.



The Young Man and the Sea

Scott Gunst '12 brings a lifetime of experience on the water to the field of maritime law

PROFILE Scott Gunst '12

By Lesley Riva

It takes most young attorneys a few years to develop their sea legs. Scott Gunst '12 appears to have been born with his.

An associate at the Philadelphia office of maritime firm Reeves McEwing LLP, Gunst came to his field naturally. His grandfather held a captain's license; his grandparents and uncles owned a marina; his father grew up selling and chartering boats. Gunst himself took his first steps on the deck of a Grand Banks trawler, and spent his childhood on the waters off the south shore of Long Island. By high school, he was working as a deckhand for a large water taxi operation, running passengers back and forth to the barrier beaches on Fire Island. Within a few years, he qualified for his license and became the fleet's senior captain.

And yet, just beneath the surface of his seaman's slicker, beat an attorney's heart. "I always wanted to be a lawyer," Gunst said. "I'll never forget going to an attorney's office with my dad when I was six or seven. We were waiting in a conference room, and I sat at the head of the table, and they all said, 'Not yet, but you'll be there one day.'"

After graduating from the University of Scranton and taking a year off to work (on boats, of course), Gunst decided to combine his dual passions for the sea and the law. At RWU Law, he concentrated his studies in environmental

and maritime law, taking courses in marine salvage, marine insurance, and admiralty and coastal law. He was selected as a Sea Grant Law Fellow through the school's Marine Affairs Institute, researching legal issues associated with hydroelectric power and the barriers faced by commercial fishermen who want to supplement their income by taking tourists along for the ride.

"It was great experience," he says now. "You have real clients, and – while you can't yet give legal advice – you present the legal issues involved, and you manage your client's expectations. That's a big part of what I do now in real life."

While in law school, Gunst also interned at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, working on regulations for ports in Galilee and Newport. "I still talk to everyone I worked with at the DEM to this day," he says.

Gunst feels fortunate to have been able to knit together these twin passions of his life so effectively – as a licensed mariner, he has a deeper understanding of his client's concerns; and as he clambers around on shipboard, he brings an attorney's eye to the legal issues that can arise at sea. "Maritime Law is one of the few areas of law recognized in the U.S. Constitution," he says. "It's a unique specialty, and a tight community – I always knew it would be a great fit."

Nobody likes to draw a blank...



FRIENDS ARE LOOKING FOR YOU IN THE NEW RWU LAW ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY. BUILD YOUR PROFILE TODAY!

As a graduate of RWU Law, you are automatically a member of the RWU Law Alumni Association – some 2,600 strong and growing – and you have access to the benefits of its secure online community. Unlike Facebook and LinkedIn, this network is exclusive to RWU Law alumni. To get started, go to <http://lawalumni.rwu.edu> and enter your unique login ID*

- You can **Submit Class Notes Online!**
- New Job? Promotion? Award Recipient? Recently Married? New Child?
- Keep us informed and your fellow alumni in the loop! You may upload submissions for the Class Notes section of the next issue of *RWU Law* using the RWU Law Alumni Online Community or you can email lawalumni@rwu.edu.
- Professional and personal photos are welcomed. Please be sure the image is at least 300 dpi at a print size of 4 x 6 inches or larger. Please note that we publish as many images as space allows in the magazine.

*If you do not know your unique login ID number for the online community, please contact the Alumni Office at (401) 254-4659 or email lawevents@rwu.edu

2007



Margreta Vellucci and **William Gardner** were married on September 14 at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center in Providence. Margreta is a senior associate at Pond North LLP and William is an attorney at McKenney Quigley Izzo & Clarkin LLP. Margreta was named a Massachusetts Rising Star 2013, by the publishers of *Super Lawyers*, recognizing her as an outstanding young attorney in the Massachusetts legal community.

Lauren Graham Sullivan and **Brendan Sullivan '08** relocated to Miami. Brendan is with the Coast Guard 7th District Office, and Lauren is working at Montiel Davis and Fonte, an immigration law firm.

2008

Teresa Giusti is an associate at Brosco & Brosco in Providence. Teresa and her husband welcomed a baby girl, Emilia Katherine, in July 2012. The two also have a son, Alexander Michael, who is three years old.



Hadley Pacheco was recognized in *Charlotte Business Journal* as one of Charlotte's "40 Under 40" honorees. She is the vice president and general counsel of Perry's Fine Antique and Estate Jewelry at SouthPark in Charlotte, N.C. Pacheco was also recognized with the Gold Stevie Award for Women in Business for outstanding performance in the workplace.

2009



Joseph Land has established a solo practice in Los Angeles. His practice focuses on family law, criminal law and child dependency.

Abby (Hodge) Wessel was named partner at Rickert Law Office in Reinbeck, Iowa. After her wedding in October 2013, the office became Rickert & Wessel Law Office, P.C. She is also the city attorney for Reinbeck, and an adjunct professor at the University of Dubuque, teaching criminology and criminal procedure.

2010



Jordan Barry and **Jonathan Cook '12** were married on May 26 at Linden Place in Bristol, R.I., surrounded by many friends from the RWU Law alumni community. Jonathan is an associate

attorney at Wu, Grohovsky & Whipple in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Colagiovanni is a senior associate in international tax at McGladrey, LLP in Boston. She works with middle-market corporations and partnerships regarding foreign structuring, as well as high-wealth individuals with expatriation issues.

Melissa McGow, valedictorian of the class of 2010, is serving as legal counsel for Terex Financial Services, Inc. Previously, Melissa was employed as an associate at Proskauer Rose LLP and as a law clerk for Rhode Island Chief Justice Paul Suttell.

2011



Lauren J. Mack and **James Harry Oliverio, '13** were married on December 31, 2012, at Our Lady of Rosary Roman Catholic Church in Providence. Lauren is employed by the Law Offices of Richard

Palumbo, LLC. James is working as a law clerk at the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Nicholas Pereira was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Rhode Island Army National Guard on August 25.

Misty G. Delgado is an associate at Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC, Providence. She concentrates on corporate/business and litigation matters. Delgado serves on the board of directors of the East Providence Boys & Girls Club and the Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academic, and is chair of the board of directors at the Starfish Collaborative.

2012

Jamie (Johnson) Bachant married Patrick Bachant on April 27, 2013 at the South Ferry Church in Narragansett, R.I. A reception followed at the Narragansett Towers. Fellow classmates in attendance included Amy Goins '12, Peter Skwirz '12, Kate Kishfy '12, Stephen Nelson '12, and Adam Riser '12. Feinstein Center director Laurie Barron and Professor Michael Yelnosky were also present. Jamie is an attorney at Adler Pollock & Sheehan in Providence.



Basannya Babumba completed her clerkship with the Rhode Island Law Clerk Department and started a clerkship at the Massachusetts Superior Court for the 2013-2014 term.

Amy Goins was elected president of the Board of Common Cause in Rhode Island in November 2012 after serving as Secretary of the Board for one year. Amy joined the Board in 2010. Amy is employed as an assistant city solicitor for the City of Providence Law Department.



Jenna Pingitore is an associate at Taylor Duane Barton & Gilman in Providence.

Timothy Grimes is an associate at K&L Gates in Boston.

2013



Luis Mancheno is a staff attorney with the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Arizona.



At a special WaterFire reception, Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C. presented a generous \$15,000 20th Anniversary donation to RWU Law. Left to right, standing: Kyle Zambarano '04; Robert Brooks, AP&S Managing Partner; RWU Law Dean David Logan; John Russell '05. Left to right, sitting: Jamie Bachant '12; Robert Humm '08; Nicole Benjamin '06.

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

14TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT



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DAVID A. LOGAN
Dean and Professor of Law

ANTHONY J. SANTORO
*President Emeritus
and Professor of Law*

**NEW ENGLAND
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TRUST**

Proceeds benefit the RWU Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Closing Argument





Reflections on the First 20 Years

By Nicole J. Benjamin '06
Counsel, Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.
Co-Chair, RWU Law 20th Anniversary Honorary Committee

When ground broke in Bristol, R.I., on May 12, 1992, for the 140,000-square-foot building that would house Rhode Island's only law school, there were skeptics as well as visionaries.

Skeptics dismissed the school as a "daunting and expensive proposition" that had been rightly rejected by other institutions, as noted in a 1994 *Providence Journal* article on the school's dedication ceremony. Some held the belief that there was simply not sufficient demand for legal services in Rhode Island to justify a new influx of law graduates. A 1991 feasibility study suggested otherwise.

Less than two years later, the law school opened its doors to its first class of 110 day and 70 night students. On that occasion, then-Dean John Ryan aptly observed that it was "the culmination of the dreams of many people and the start of a brand new player in the legal culture of the State of Rhode Island."

The next two decades would be a testament to Ryan's prediction, as the law school rose to become a dominant player in the state's legal community. In 20 short years, the law school would attract well-credentialed and diverse applicants, forge strong relationships with the state and regional bench and bar, provide its students with an exceptional legal education and graduate practice-ready lawyers. Even beyond what was initially envisioned, those 20 years saw the law school become a respected name not only in Rhode Island but also throughout New England and beyond.

As the state's first and only law school, the impact of RWU Law is most strongly felt here in Rhode Island. In the foreword of the first edition of the *Roger Williams*

University Law Review in 1996, Joseph R. Weisberger, then Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, wrote: "The mission of a law school is not just to educate persons who wish to become members of the bar, but also to contribute to and enhance the legal culture of every jurisdiction which the law school touches."

He added that legal scholarship issuing from the law school would "assist the judges and justices in evaluating and improving their own opinions and in elevating their perspective upon the jurisprudence of their state." True to that prediction, from its inception RWU Law has made its mark by publishing a significant amount of original scholarship. Its student-run law review has published 17 volumes of thoughtful analysis and commentary written by scholars, practitioners and students and prominently features an informative survey of recent Rhode Island decisions and newly enacted laws.

In addition to its position as a publishing powerhouse in Rhode Island, the law school's scholarship has made its mark nationwide. A study undertaken by Professor Michael J. Yelnosky during his tenure as associate dean for academic affairs in 2007, demonstrated that RWU Law's faculty ranked fifth in New England in per capita scholarly productivity, trailing only Yale University, Harvard University, Boston University and Boston College. When the study was updated in 2010, RWU Law had moved to fourth place.

As Rhode Island's only law school, it has forged a tremendous relationship with Rhode Island Judiciary – the state Supreme and Superior Court, the federal District Court and the United States

Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, paving the way for its students to serve as interns and externs, and for its graduates to serve as law clerks. Historically, the Rhode Island Supreme Court has presided over the law school's annual Esther Clark Moot Court Competition, allowing second-year law students an opportunity to argue a mock appeal before the state's highest court.

The law school has also welcomed many United States Supreme Court Justices to Rhode Island as guests, including Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito and Elena Kagan, as well as – just this fall – retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, providing opportunities for its law students and alumni and the bench and bar to interact with the high Court.

The law school's relationship with the United States Supreme Court has been reciprocal. Through a law school program, RWU Law professors have moved the admission of nearly 60 alumni into the high court's bar. In conjunction with the admission ceremony, alumni have had the opportunity to visit with Supreme Court justices in the Court's West Conference Room, including Justices Alito, Kagan, Sonya Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Since its opening in 1993, the law school has always provided plentiful opportunities for its students. In addition to courses taught by top-notch faculty, they also have had the opportunity to learn from an adjunct faculty comprised of prominent jurists and leading lawyers. Such experiences have enabled its graduates to easily transition from the



academic environment to the practice of law. The law school and its graduates have also enjoyed more than a decade of outstanding leadership with Dean David Logan at its helm. A constant advocate for the law school and champion of its students' and graduates' successes, Dean Logan and his tireless efforts have elevated RWU Law's stature on a national level.

The common thread that unites RWU Law graduates is the exceptional legal training they received as students. In these times of intense discussion about the importance of experiential learning, the law school can tout a long-standing commitment to graduating practice-ready lawyers.

Clinical programs, externships and hands-on, skills-based courses have long

been a part of RWU Law's curriculum. In its 20th year, RWU Law reaffirmed its commitment to practical skills training and, for the first time, offered its incoming class the guarantee that every qualified law student can participate in at least one clinical experience before graduation, a guarantee made by only a handful of other law schools in the country.

The law school's emphasis on practical skills training complements its equally strong doctrinal curriculum and has made it a leader in legal education. Its more than 2,600 graduates are proof of its success. They have become leaders in their communities as judges, partners in law firms and general counsel in prominent corporations. Some have opened their own

practices, while others have used their degrees in the business sector. Many have dedicated themselves to careers in public service. Several serve in the state's General Assembly, two are mayors and another is our state's Attorney General.

At its inception, Chief Justice Weisberger predicted that "the School of Law will be a great source of strength to the legal system of the state of Rhode Island as well as an institution for the education and training of young lawyers in the ethical practice of a noble profession."

Our state is, indeed, fortunate at the leadership shown by RWU in this vital area. RWU Law has more than fulfilled that prophecy. The next 20 years promise to be equally as remarkable. [RWU LAW](#)



The “20 for 20” Campaign



As Roger Williams University School of Law alumni, we are all essential participants in *Fulfilling the Promise* of our alma mater – today and in the future. A gift of any size to the RWU Law Annual Fund will help support our “**20 for 20**” Campaign – with a goal of reaching 20 percent alumni participation to mark the law school’s 20th Anniversary year.*

To maintain our excellent quality and reputation among peer institutions, it is essential to ensure that the percentage of our alumni who make an annual gift to their alma mater remains competitive as well. As we reflect upon RWU Law’s two decades of outstanding scholarship and profound impact on the legal culture in Rhode Island and throughout the region, let’s demonstrate our collective pride – both in our school’s profound legacy and in its promise for the future.

So please show your support and help us reach our goal of “**20 for 20**” by making your gift today!

RWU Law
ANNUAL FUND

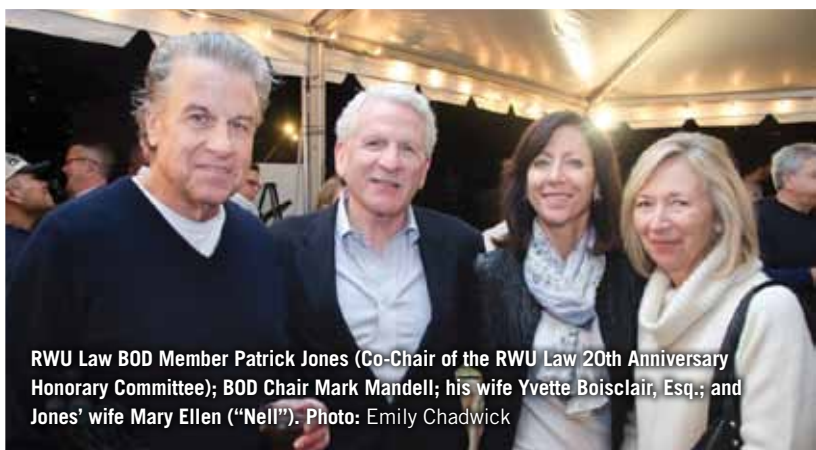
The RWU Law Annual Fund is a vital resource that preserves and enhances the comprehensive, student-centered and practice-ready learning experience that distinguishes a Roger Williams University legal education. Please visit <http://law.rwu.edu/give> to make a secure online gift to the RWU Law Annual Fund. Or if you prefer, you can mail your gift, made payable to “RWU Law”, to: The Office of Annual Giving, Roger Williams University School of Law, Ten Metacom Ave., Bristol, R.I. 02809.

*Gifts must be received before the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2014, to be counted toward the “20 for 20” campaign.

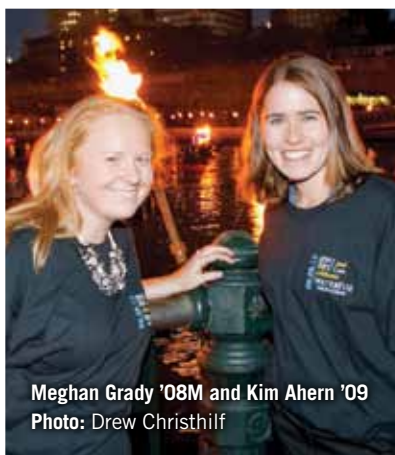
The Providence River shone brightly with WaterFire as Roger Williams University celebrated the School of Law's 20th anniversary in grand style. At sunset a ceremonial torch-lighting ceremony, featuring members of the RWU community, set the river basins ablaze as canoes bearing glowing koi fish wove between the cauldrons from Waterplace Park to Marketplace. A short stroll upriver, the RWU Law sponsor's tent was packed throughout the evening with mingling students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends.



Photo: John A. Simonetti



RWU Law BOD Member Patrick Jones (Co-Chair of the RWU Law 20th Anniversary Honorary Committee); BOD Chair Mark Mandell; his wife Yvette Boisclair, Esq.; and Jones' wife Mary Ellen ("Nell"). Photo: Emily Chadwick



Meghan Grady '08M and Kim Ahern '09
Photo: Drew Christhilf



Photo: John A. Simonetti

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, Roger Williams University prints RWU Law Magazine entirely on paper certified by the Rainforest Alliance™ to FSC® standards. By using FSC certified paper, we're sure that the raw materials used to produce this magazine come from forests that are managed according to FSC's strict social and environmental standards.



Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra, Providence Mayor Angel Tavares, Dean David Logan, and RWU President Donald Farish. Photo: Emily Chadwick