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### A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

This time of year is filled with events that manifest the trademark energy of the Roger Williams University School of Law and that mark the end of one academic year and the prelude to the next. First-year students are wrapping up, making appellate arguments before their Legal Method teachers and the many volunteer practitioners who share their expertise. Many of our students attended our annual Diversity Symposium Dinner, which introduces high school and college students to the challenges and opportunities of the study and practice of law. Student members of our Women's Law Association joined a panel of successful practitioners in a spirited discussion of the evolving role of women in the profession. Leaders of important student groups pass the torch to their successors, as the cycle of life inside the institution seamlessly goes forward. Next stop is May 14 (Commencement 2005), and before we know it a new group of bright, ambitious men and women will be with us to begin their lives in the law.

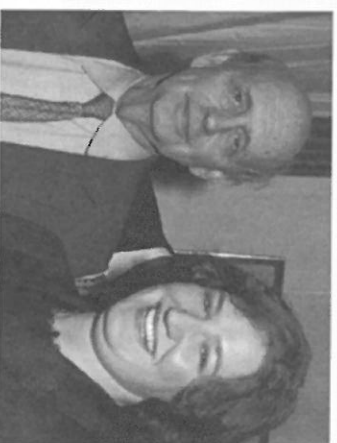
### Criminal Defense Clinic's Innocence Project wins first case

In February, the Criminal Defense Clinic's fledgling Innocence Project won its first case. For the last two and half years, Professors Andy Horwitz and David Zlotnick, and



*Above, l to r: Professor David Zlotnick, J.P., and Professor Andrew Horwitz. Below, l to r: Professor Andrew Horwitz, Professor David Zlotnick, J.P., Kyle Zambiarano, and Sarah Potter*

students Sarah Potter and Kyle Zambiarano ('04) worked to exonerate J.P. from a felony drug conviction that would otherwise have sent her to prison for three years. In 2001, economic circumstances forced J.P. to share a two bedroom apartment with a person who, unbeknownst to her, began dealing drugs from the apartment. After a police raid, he fled the country and she was prosecuted for cocaine found under the floorboards in his room. Faulty mid-trial rulings by the judge and erroneous jury instructions led a jury to convict her of felony possession. The Clinic's first brief got the Attorney General's Office to take a hard look at the case. An affidavit from the real dealer, who had been deported to the Dominican Republic, exonerated J.P. and convinced the State that her conviction should be vacated.



*Sarah Curtis ('06), pictured above with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Bryner, recently returned from London and Paris as part of an International Legal Exchange (ILEX) delegation discussing the value of comparative law and forms of alternative dispute resolution. Other delegation members included American Bar Association President Robert J. Grey Jr., American Bar Association International Law Section Chair Kenneth B. Resznfeldt and Roger Williams Law Professor Louise Ellen Teitz with the Justice Rapporteur for a variety of panel discussions which delved into such topics as the role of comparative law, the effect of attorney-client privileges in the US and abroad, and mediation.*

