Champions For Justice & Public Interest Auction 2019

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Please join us for a special evening to celebrate and support the students, alumni, partners and friends whose exceptional devotion to social justice increases access to justice for all.

Friday, January 25, 2019
Omni Providence Hotel
One West Exchange Street
Champions for Justice Reception
5:00 p.m.

Dinner, Awards, Auction & Dessert Reception
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Registration is required for this event. Tickets will not be available at the door. Online registration closes on Friday, January 19, 2019.

Register HERE!

For event registration questions or requests for special assistance needed to attend the event, please call Special Events at
(401) 254-3166

Champions for Justice is quickly becoming a hallmark of the Rhode Island legal landscape, and we are proud to count so many as friends and supporters of the Law School. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the many social justice programs within RWU Law:

Alternative Spring Break
Pro Bono Collaborative
Public Interest Clinical Externships
Public Interest Summer Stipends
RWU Law Clinics

Connect With Us
For event and package details, visit law.rwu.edu/go/champions or search #RWULawChampions on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor - Motley Rice LLC
Dinner Sponsor - Mandell Schwartz & Boisclair, Ltd.
Reception Sponsor - Jones Kelleher LLP
We look forward to an exciting evening!

The 2019 Champions for Justice Award Recipients

Champion for Justice
Robert J. McConnell, Esq.

Alumni Public Interest Champion
Diana deGroof, Esq. L'03
Champions for Justice

A special evening that celebrates and supports the students, alumni, partners and friends whose exceptional devotion to social justice increases access to justice for all.

This Year’s Event

Date: January 25, 2019
Time: 5 p.m.
Location: Omni Hotel, One West Exchange Street, Providence, RI
*Business attire suggested

Champions for Justice Reception
5:00 p.m.

Dinner, Awards, Auction & Dessert Reception
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Registration is Now Closed
Friday, January 25, 2019
Omni Providence Hotel

Evening Program

Welcome
Dean Michael J. Yelnosky

Dinner
Champions for Justice Awards Presentation

2019 Alumni Public Interest Champion
Diana deGroof, Esq. ’03
Presented by Laurie Barron

2019 Community Partner Champion
Rhode Island Public Defender
Presented by Andy Horwitz

2019 Champion for Justice
Robert J. McConnell, Esq.
Presented by Eliza Vorenberg

Dessert Reception
Silent Auction
The Public Interest Silent Auction is open throughout the evening and will close at 8:30 p.m.

Thank you to our sponsors!
Presenting Sponsor
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Marcia Morris, Esq., MPA, Vice Chair,
RWU Board of Trustees
The McConnell Family
The Impact

Champions for Justice is quickly becoming a hallmark of the Rhode Island legal landscape, and we are proud to count so many as friends and supporters of the Law School. Proceeds from the evening benefit the many social justice programs within RWU Law:

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Public Interest Summer Stipends  
RWU Law Clinics

Social Justice Program Highlights

Citizens Bank  
Decof, Barry, Mega & Quinn, P.C.  
Elizabeth Duffy ’97  
Professor Jenna Wims Hashway ’11 & John Barylick, Esq.  
Higgins, Cavanagh & Cooney, LLP  
Hinckley Allen LLP  
Howland Evangelista Kohlenberg Burnett LLP  
Partridge, Snow & Hahn LLP  
Pierce Atwood LLP  
Lisa J. Raiola & Waterman F. Brown VII  
Ratcliffe Harten Galamaga LLP  
Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly  
Sloane & Walsh, LLP  
The Honorable Brian Stern  
Arlene Violet, Esq., RWU Board of Trustees
This year, five law students and two pro bono attorneys, spent every other Friday afternoon in the medium facility at the Adult Correctional Institution. During each visit, Pro Bono Collaborative attorneys Dawn Euer and John Karwashin, supervised law students Alex Terry (2L), Shea
Griffin (2L), Peter Sabian (3L), Amanda Seekin (2L) and Autumn Guarnaccia (2L) to identify inmates’ civil legal issues and decide whether there was legal information or advice that could be provided to inmates or whether additional research was need to assist them. This year, the project worked with over 50 inmates on discrete civil issues ranging from child support to handwritten wills.
Alternative Spring Break started in 2005 by the Association for Public Interest Law (APIL) and has grown into a large and successful program placing students in local and national pro bono legal service projects during spring break. The 2018 program was one of the largest and most
successful in history with 53 participants working on 18 different projects in 8 different states and Puerto Rico. Twelve of our trips were hosted by RWU Law alumni, many of whom participated in ASB when they were students at RWU Law.
The first RWU Law Alternative Spring Break in 2005 took students to New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. ASB 2018 harkened back to these roots with a trip to San Juan Puerto Rico to work with Ayuda Legal Huracan Maria (ALHM), which in cooperation with local community organizations, provided legal aid brigades throughout Puerto Rico’s 78 municipalities following Hurricane Maria. RWU Law student volunteers worked alongside students from Columbia, Harvard and Yale.
Since September 2016, Locke Lord LLP has been providing pro bono representation to low-income families who are eligible for 601A waivers (a special waiver for families of immigrants to stay together during legalization process). The project receives referrals from Dorcas International.
Institute of RI in Providence. A team of attorneys from Locke Lord LLP and RWU Law students provide full representation for individuals applying for a 601A waiver.

**RWU Law Alums Providing Pro Bono Through the Pro Bono Collaborative**

**Brian A. Fielding, Esq. L’10** of Adler Cohen Harvey Wakeman & Gueguzian LLP is supervising a RWU Law student and assisting families served by the Medical Legal Partnership and other organizations by addressing their children’s special education legal needs.

**Jenna Algee Giguere, Esq. L’12** is supervising our law students on our ACI Women’s Facility Civil Legal Clinics Project. During the semester she supervises our law students as they interview inmates and provide civil legal advice and counsel.

**Dawn Euer, Esq. L’10, Josh Xavier Esq. L’14,** and **Brett Beaubien, Esq. L’16** are supervising attorneys on our ACI Medium Facility Civil Legal Clinics Project. During the Spring semester they supervise our law students as they interview inmates and provide civil advice and counsel. **John**

**Karwashan, Esq. L’15** was a supervising attorney on the project for two years until he joined the RI Public Defender and became conflicted out.
At the heart of RWU Law’s Pro Bono Collaborative and the Pro Bono Experiential Learning Requirement is the goal of instilling in our law students a pro bono ethic that will lead them to continue providing pro bono legal service as attorneys. We are always thrilled to see RWU Law alums display this pro bono ethic and we are especially proud to report that many former law students are now serving as pro bono attorneys and supervising attorneys on our PBC projects. Thank you to these wonderful alums. (Slide 1 of 3)
RWU Law Alums Providing Pro Bono Through the Pro Bono Collaborative

**Ken Rampino, Esq. L’08** is providing community presentations and health care proxy clinics throughout the state as part of the Elder Law and End-of-Life Planning Project.

**Amy Goins, Esq. L’12** and **Peter Skwirz, Esq. L’12** are now providing pro bono legal service and supervising law students on our McAuley House Expungement Project. Throughout the year, Amy and Peter attend monthly clinics at McAuley House, a family style meal site for homeless people on Elmwood Avenue in Providence, where they, along with two law students, meet with anyone interested in talking to an attorney about their criminal record. Amy and Peter are going into their third year on the project. As law students, both Amy and Peter participated in the Expungement Project.

**Matt Plain, Esq. L’05 of Barton Gilman LLP** is participating in our Guardianship Project with Bradley Hospital’s Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, assisting parents of disabled children turning 18 by providing advice and counsel regarding their options and, where appropriate, establishing legal guardianship of their children.

At the heart of RWU Law’s Pro Bono Collaborative and the Pro Bono Experiential Learning Requirement is the goal of instilling in our law students a pro bono ethic that will lead them to continue providing pro bono legal service as attorneys. We are always thrilled to see RWU Law
RWU Law Alums Providing Pro Bono Through the Pro Bono Collaborative

Rui Alves, Esq. L’05 of Barton Gilman LLP and Joe Farside, Esq. L’06 of Locke Lord LLP are providing Family Law assistance to participants of the H.O.P.E. Federal Re-Entry Court Project.

Samantha M. Vasques, Esq. L’14 and Benjamin Rackliffe, Esq. L’07 of Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O’Gara LLC provide legal advice, counsel and representation to non-profit organizations that serve low-income communities.

Dave Pellegrino, Esq. L’05 of Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP is participating in our Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Project, providing direct legal representation to children applying for Special Immigrant Juvenile status—a pathway to citizenship for children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by their caregivers and cannot return to their home country.

Kelly Rafferty Meara, Esq. L’11 and Angelina Landi, Esq. L’12 are both serving as subject matter experts available for PBC law student consultation on SSI/SSDI and Family Law issues, respectively.
At the heart of RWU Law’s Pro Bono Collaborative and the Pro Bono Experiential Learning Requirement is the goal of instilling in our law students a pro bono ethic that will lead them to continue providing pro bono legal service as attorneys. We are always thrilled to see RWU Law alums display this pro bono ethic and we are especially proud to report that many former law students are now serving as pro bono attorneys and supervising attorneys on our PBC projects. Thank you to these wonderful alums. (Slide 3 of 3)

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<tr>
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Honoring the 2019 Champions

Robert J. McConnell, Esq.

Robert J. McConnell (Bob) has practiced law in Rhode Island at the law firm of Motley Rice LLC for over 25 years. A graduate of Suffolk University School of Law and Brown University, Bob has devoted his legal career to protecting the lives and rights of those harmed by asbestos, lead paint
and tobacco. He presently is involved in litigation throughout the country against the opioid industry. He has represented hundreds of asbestos victims who have been injured and died from asbestos exposure. He has represented numerous children injured by lead poisoning and secured the largest lead paint poisoning settlement in Rhode Island on behalf of a child.

In 2014 he was a member of his firm’s trial team that received Public Justice’s Trial Lawyers of the Year Award for obtaining a judgment against former manufacturers of lead pigment ordering the abatement of lead paint from homes in California. In addition, Bob serves on the boards of several organizations devoted to improving the lives of the disenfranchised. For the past seven years he has been board chair of the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence that seeks to promote nonviolence among young people in Rhode Island’s inner cities, based on Dr. Martin Luther King’s principles and practices of nonviolence. He also has been a long time board member of the George Wiley Center that fights to reduce utility costs and the harmful effects of utility shutoffs by organizing and empowering those individuals most affected.

In 2015, Bob was appointed as Housing Court judge in Central Falls, overseeing the rehabilitation of a number of abandoned properties throughout the city. Bob has actively supported the Pro Bono Collaborative since its inception, taking on fraudulent foreclosure practices and assisting immigrant families, among other projects, and serving on the PBC’s Advisory Board.

Diana deGroof, Esq. L ’03

Diana deGroof has devoted her career to serving low-income clients at Rhode Island Legal Services (RILS). She came to law school determined to serve marginalized communities and has never wavered from that path. Throughout her fifteen years at RILS, Diana has worked in a wide range of practice areas including child welfare and family law, housing, disability, and public benefits. She has mentored dozens of RWU law students. Diana is active in the community and currently serves on the Board of Project Weber-Renew, an organization that provides peer-based
harm reduction and recovery services including HIV prevention and testing, needle exchange, support groups, basic needs and case management for at-risk populations including sex workers, transgender sex-workers and high risk women and men.

She has previously served on the Child Custody and Visitation Solutions (CCVS) Project of the RI Coalition against Domestic Violence, the RI Works Community Advisory Committee, and the Advisory Board of the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service - now the Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education. Diana is a recipient of the RI Coalition for the Homeless Legal Clinic Award., and she is a long-time member of RWU Law’s Public Interest Loan Repayment Assistance Program Selection Committee.

While at RWU Law School, Diana was a leader in the public interest community. She worked at several public interest organizations including the RI Office of the Mental Health Advocate, the Immigration Law Education and Advocacy Project of Catholic Social Services in Fall River, and participated in the RWU Disability Law Clinic. She was also awarded a Massachusetts Bar Foundation Fellowship for her summer work at Legal Services for the Cape and Islands. She served as the co-chair of the Association for Public Interest Law and was a leader in the pro bono Women in Transition Project providing educational workshops for women at the ACI.

Rhode Island Public Defender - Community Partner Champion

The Rhode Island Public Defender was created in 1941 and is believed to be the first statewide full service public defender office established in the United States. The dedicated and committed lawyers in the office defend adults and juveniles accused of committing crimes and represent parents who are threatened with loss of custody of their children because of neglect or abuse allegations. Supported by professional social workers, investigators and interpreters, the office represents clients in state court proceedings from the first appearance before a judge through trial or hearing, as well as through appeal if necessary. The office mission statement sets out the goal of providing “client-centered advice, holistic representation and zealous advocacy with support from our team of advocates, social workers, investigators, interpreters and other staff,” with a commitment to treating its clients “with dignity, compassion and fairness.” The office lives up to that goal and commitment on a daily basis. Attorneys in the office have been mentoring RWU Law students – and hiring RWU Law graduates – since the law school opened its doors.
2019 Champions for Justice Host Committee

Kimberly R. Ahern, Esq. L'09
Jamie J. Bachant, Esq. L'12
Alyssa V. Boss, Esq. L'97
Natalya A. Buckler, Esq. L'10
Ms. Lauren E. Campbell L'15
Robert J. Cavanagh Jr., Esq. L'11
Judge Edward C. Clifton
Angelyne Cooper-Bailey, Esq. L'08
Michael J. Daly, Esq. L'02
John A. Dorsey, Esq. L'10
Danielle Dufault, Esq. L'15
Joseph A. Farside, Esq. L'06
Christopher J. Fragomeni, Esq. L'15
The Honorable Robert G. Flanders
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Ms. Jamie M. Gau L'16
Deborah S. Gonzalez, Esq. '04 L'07
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Gregory N. Hoffman, Esq. L'13
Meghan L. Kruger Hopkins, Esq. L'15
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Michael A Voccola, Esq. L'97
Kristen M. Whittle, Esq.
Joshua Xavier, Esq. L’14

Silent Auction

This year’s Public Interest Auction will feature opportunities to connect with the RWU Law community of champions. Most of the auction items are “experience packages” featuring individuals who share our mission of public service, access to justice and the value of experiential education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Package</th>
<th>Package Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Starting Bid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Package1</td>
<td>Package Title Four EMC Club tickets to Red Sox vs. Yankees</td>
<td>Description Four EMC Club tickets to Red Sox vs Rays game, one parking pass and lunch for four at the EMC Club on Saturday, April 27, 2019</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package2</td>
<td>Package Title Collin Bailey L’08 CVS Tour &amp; Lunch</td>
<td>Description Join RWU Alum Collin Bailey L’08 for lunch and a tour of CVS Health</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package3</td>
<td>Package Title Four Red Sox Tickets with Joe Farside, Jr. L’06</td>
<td>Description Four Red Sox tickets with seating in the Locke Lord Luxury box with Joe Farside, Jr. L’06</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package4</td>
<td>Package Title Lunch with Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office</td>
<td>Description TBD</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package5</td>
<td>Package Title Dean's Night Out</td>
<td>Description The first rule of the Drinking Club is that you do not talk about Drinking Club. Therefore, we cannot say much. You and nine clubbers can join the exclusive “Drinking Club” of Dean Yelnosky, Dean Goldstein, Professor Gutoff &amp; Professor Hassel as they munch on apps and hydrate at Congress Tavern.</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Package</td>
<td>Package Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Package 6</td>
<td>Package Title Karaoke Night</td>
<td>You and five friends are invited to Professor Hashway’s home to belt out show tunes along with Professor Gott, and Professor Barylick. Don’t let their theatre background intimidate you. This priceless karaoke night can be scheduled for any mutually available evening after May 1st.</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package 7</td>
<td>Package Title An Evening in Logan's Home</td>
<td>High bidder gets to pick the flick and bring up to 5 lucky guests to watch at Logan's Chill Cave. Plenty of pizza and libations.</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package 8</td>
<td>Package Title Frose Pops and Fudge with Librarians</td>
<td>You and 3 friends can sit by a toasty fire at Newport Vineyards while sipping frose and noshing on fudge with 3 of your favorite law school staff! Alisha, Britt &amp; Nicole are offering 2 drinks and one piece of fudge per guest on Thursday, February 21st OR Friday, February 22, 2019.</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package 9</td>
<td>Package Title One Barbri Course</td>
<td>Be one of the lucky five to walk away with a bar exam course simply by bidding $1695 (Market Value $3,695)</td>
<td>$1,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package 10</td>
<td>Package Title One Barbri Course</td>
<td>Be one of the lucky five to walk away with a bar exam course simply by bidding $1695 (Market Value $3,695)</td>
<td>$1,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package 11</td>
<td>Package Title One Barbri Course</td>
<td>Be one of the lucky five to walk away with a bar exam course simply by bidding $1695 (Market Value $3,695)</td>
<td>$1,695</td>
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<tr>
<td>Package 12</td>
<td>Package Title One Barbri Course</td>
<td>Be one of the lucky five to walk away with a bar exam course simply by bidding $1695 (Market Value $3,695)</td>
<td>$1,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package 13</td>
<td>Package Title One Barbri Course</td>
<td>Be one of the lucky five to walk away with a bar exam course simply by bidding $1695 (Market Value $3,695)</td>
<td>$1,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package 14</td>
<td>Package Title Drinks at Fortnight with Dean Yelnosky &amp; Laurie Barron</td>
<td>You and three friends can enjoy drinks with Laurie Barron and Michael Yelnosky at Fortnight wine bar in Providence. RWU Law Alum Mike da Cruz L'14 is a founder of Fortnight!</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package</td>
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<tr>
<td>Package15</td>
<td>Park like the Dean</td>
<td>For the month of February, enjoy parking in Dean Yelnosky's parking space</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package16</td>
<td>Dinner for four with Professor Deborah Gonzalez L'04</td>
<td>Authentic homemade dinner for four by Professor Gonzalez L'04. Enjoy authentic Puerto Rican or Brazilian cuisine at the Gonzalez's while taking in a great water view.</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package17</td>
<td>One Night Stay at Omni Hotel</td>
<td>Enjoy a one night stay at Providence's luxurious Omni Hotel</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package18</td>
<td>Lunch for two with Professor Andrew Spacone</td>
<td>Lunch for two at Café Nuovo with the Man All About Business</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package19</td>
<td>Let's Run Out for a Beer!</td>
<td>Enjoy a nice long (but not too long!) run to a pub with Dean Yelnosky, Dean Lalli L'01, Professor Colleen Brown, and Ed Fitzpatrick and a $100 gift card to Rhode Runners</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package20</td>
<td>Breakfast for three at the Beehive Cafe with the Feinstein Ladies</td>
<td>You and two friends can enjoy a delicious breakfast at the Beehive Cafe with Laurie Barron, Eliza Vorenberg, Suzanne Harrington-Steppen and Lisa Quinn.</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package21</td>
<td>Year of Passports for RI Food Fights Events</td>
<td>Rhode Island Food Fights is the best value in food and fun. These light-hearted, friendly culinary competitions give you a fast and lively opportunity to discover the best local pizza, wings, burgers, cupcakes, ice cream, tacos, and lots of other favorites in Rhode Island. This package includes a complete set of passports for the 2019 season. *Students Only</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Package22</td>
<td>Year of Passports for RI Food Fights Events</td>
<td>Rhode Island Food Fights is the best value in food and fun. These light-hearted, friendly culinary competitions give you a fast and lively opportunity to discover the best local pizza, wings, burgers, cupcakes, ice cream, tacos, and lots of other favorites in Rhode Island. This package includes a complete set of passports for the 2019 season.</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Package Title Trivia and Tots with Professor Kishbaugh and Dean Lalli L’01</td>
<td>Description You and 3 friends can join Professor Kishbaugh and Dean Lalli L’01 at Ogie's Trailer Park in Providence for drinks, snacks, and trivia.</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Package Title Wine tasting with Professor Raposa at Newport Vineyards</td>
<td>Description You and two friends can join Professor Raposa for a wine tasting at Newport Vineyards.</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Package Title Night out with Office of Career Development</td>
<td>Description You and five friends can enjoy a night of bowling with Career Development.</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Package Title Evening in Boston with Michael Donnelly-Boylen and Deborah Johnson</td>
<td>Description You and 5 friends are invited to join Boston locals, Michael Donnelly-Boylen and Deborah Johnson, for an evening in the city. Your visit to Boston will include dinner at Carrie Nation on Beacon Hill (or similar restaurant) and a walking tour of some of the city’s historic sights. Bring your walking shoes and an appetite!</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Package Title Hope &amp; Main Food Basket and 2 RI Red Food Tours</td>
<td>Description Gift Certificate for two to RI Red Food Tours including food and three alcohol tastings, and a basket from Hope and Main.</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Package Title Taste of Rhode Island</td>
<td>Description Experience a sampling of one of the best delicacies RI has to offer: bring along some wine to pair with a cheese board or pick some gourmet cheeses for later at Edgewood Cheese Shop, enjoy RI’s famous coffee syrup - *Students Only</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Package Title Celtics Tickets</td>
<td>Description Two Luxury Box tickets to a Boston Celtics vs. Oklahoma Thunder game on February 3, 2019, at 2pm. Luxury Box tickets include food and beverage service.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Package Title Red Sox Tickets</td>
<td>Description Four Tickets to Red Sox game/section TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Make a donation from your smartphone and see your name appear on screen!

Step 1: Send a new text message to 41444
Step 2: Text VERDICT <space> pledge amount <space> your name
Step 3: Click the link in the reply message to fulfill your pledge

Each year, dozens of RWU Law students accept unpaid public interest summer internships at amazing organizations in RI and around the country. Last summer, 28 students received public interest summer stipends and provided over 8800 hours of legal service in organizations such as The Rhode Island Public Defender, Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc., RI Center for Justice, Providence Youth Student Movement