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# Newsroom

## 3Ls Win Client Freedom Through Immigration Clinic

3Ls Jessica Grimes and Ashley Ham Pong score new Immigration Law Clinic's first win, securing freedom for a Liberian student.

RWU Law's fledgling Immigration Law Clinic hit the ground running this month, when two 3Ls won the freedom of a 27-year-old Liberian college student.



The student had suffered the horrors of the Liberian civil wars and came to the U.S. as a refugee, later becoming a permanent resident. The Department of Homeland Security sought to deport him because of two Rhode Island offenses (receipt of stolen property and assault) for which he received no jail time. He had been in detention for ten months when the Immigration Clinic got involved in his case.

**Jessica Grimes '10** and **Ashley Ham Pong '10** represented the client in his application for withholding of removal, for which they had to prove to the immigration judge in Boston that it was more likely than not that the client would suffer persecution in Liberia because of his ethnicity. They successfully conducted a trial on the merits, and the judge granted the application. The government waived appeal, and the client was released the next day.

Thanks to Grimes' and Ham Pong's hard work and skill – along with that of their supervisor, **Professor Mary Holper** – the client celebrated the holidays at home with his girlfriend and infant daughter. Noted Ham Pong, "The hands-on experience I gained through the clinic helped me turn classroom theory into a real-life courtroom victory."

