

JUDICIAL SELECTION  
IN RHODE ISLAND:

*Assessing the  
15-Year Experience with  
“Merit Selection”*

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 13, 2009

Sponsored by the Roger Williams University Law Review

## AGENDA

12:00 p.m.

### WELCOME

David A. Logan

*Dean, Roger Williams University School of Law*

Brian Fielding '10

*Editor-in-Chief, Roger Williams University Law Review*

12:15 p.m.

### INTRODUCTION: OVERVIEW OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

Michael J. Yelnosky

*Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

### PANEL I

*Moderator:*

Jared A. Goldstein

*Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*

### JUDGING HOW WE PICK JUDGES: FIFTEEN YEARS OF MERIT SELECTION IN RHODE ISLAND

John Marion

*Executive Director, Common Cause Rhode Island*

### RESPONSES

Stephen J. Carlotti, *Partner, Hinckley, Allen & Snyder;*

*former Chair, Rhode Island Judicial Nominating Commission*

Rachel Caufield, *Professor, Drake University; Research Fellow, American Judicature Society*

Alan S. Flink, *Partner, Edwards, Angell, Palmer & Dodge (ret.);*  
*former Commissioner, Rhode Island Judicial Nominating Commission*

Joseph S. Larisa, Jr., *Larisa Law and Consulting;*

*Chief of Staff and Executive Counsel to former Governor Lincoln Almond*

Scott MacKay, *Political Analyst, WRNI; former political reporter, Providence Journal*

### QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE



2:30 p.m.

### COFFEE BREAK

3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

### PANEL II

*Moderator:*

Jared A. Goldstein

*Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*

### WHAT DO PREVIOUS STUDIES SHOW ABOUT THE IMPACT OF MERIT SELECTION ON THE TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS SELECTED FOR JUDGESHIPS?

Rachel Caufield

*Professor, Drake University; Research Fellow, American Judicature Society*

### MEASURING THE IMPACT OF “MERIT SELECTION” ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JUDGES APPOINTED TO RHODE ISLAND COURTS

Michael J. Yelnosky

*Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*

### MEASURING MERIT IN RHODE ISLAND’S NATURAL EXPERIMENT IN JUDICIAL SELECTION

Mirya Holman

*Empirical Research Associate, Duke University School of Law*

### RESPONSES

Lynette Labinger, *Partner, Roney & Labinger*

Emily J. Sack, *Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*

The Honorable William E. Smith, *United States District Court*  
*for the District of Rhode Island*

Angel Taveras, *Taveras Law Offices*

### QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

