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Dean Logan's Blog

Prof. Emily Sack - Reforming Domestic Violence Law

Posted by David Logan on 07/02/2009 at 12:00 AM

One of the stars of the RWU Law faculty is Emily Sack, who has already earned a national reputation for her work on a broad array of domestic violence issues.

Emily, a Magna Cum Laude graduate of New York University School of Law, has published articles in a number of important law reviews, including the Northwestern University Law Review, the Wisconsin Law Review, and the Washington University Law Review, and has participated in symposia at Brigham Young, Catholic University, and St. John's law schools. One of Emily's articles was cited repeatedly in Justice Steven's dissenting opinion in *Castle Rock v. Gonzales* (545 U.S. 748), and she has presented at the American Society of Criminology, American Probation and Parole Association, and the National College of District Attorneys. She has tackled knotty jurisdictional and constitutional issues, and her reputation has grown so that Emily is now a peer grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Justice, evaluating proposals seeking funding from the Office of Violence against Women and the Office for Victims of Crime.

One of Emily's most important accomplishments builds upon her pre-RWU work as Deputy Director of the Center for Court Innovation, which has led to the creation of "problem-solving courts" in a number of jurisdictions. These courts, which typically hear cases that involve substance abuse, domestic violence and mental health, focus on comprehensive services, intensive monitoring, and defendant accountability rather than retribution. In this regard, Emily has consulted for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Anchorage, Alaska; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Portland, Maine; and Seminole County, Oklahoma.

Below is a picture of Emily with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, with whom she worked setting up a very successful pilot program for handling domestic violence through a specialized court, and here is the link to a recent [New York Times editorial](#) applauding President Obama's announcement that has appointed a special advisor on domestic violence.