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Dean Logan's Blog

A Salute to Women's Rights

Posted by David Logan on 08/27/2012 at 05:23 PM

Yesterday was the 92nd anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, culminating 70 years of struggle by woman suffragists. Here is the text: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex" and "Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

This is a good moment to pause for a moment to reflect on the progress that women have made not just in our larger society, but also in the legal profession. (The Supreme Court of the United States once held that a state can [ban women](#) from the profession!).

Here are some data points: women make up just under half of the law students at ABA-accredited schools; 1/4 of the deans at these schools are women, as are 1/3 of the faculty, while 1/3 of the justices on the SCOTUS are women (a considerably higher rate than on the state and federal courts generally).

Clearly, remarkable progress has been made, and reflected at RWU Law, where women are 49% of the class of 2015, a majority of their teachers are women, as are 4 of the 7 deans. But there is work to be done, especially in larger law firms, where partnership positions are still overwhelmingly (80%) male; leadership positions are even more rare. <http://www.catalyst.org/publication/246/women-in-law-in-the-us>

We are proud that RWU grads are taking their place in all aspects of the legal profession, and that they are getting there after by being taught by faculty who not only are dedicated teachers with impeccable credentials, but who increasingly look like America.