Champions For Justice 8th Annual, May 6, 2022

Roger Williams University School of Law

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RWU Law presents Champions for Justice

Please join us for this special evening that celebrates and supports the students, alumni, partners and friends who exceptional devotion to social justice increases access to justice for all.

Friday, May 6, 2022
Omni Providence Hotel | One West Exchange Street

Questions? | RWU Events | events@rwu.edu

Purchase Your Ticket Today

Meet the Honorees: 2022 Champion for Justice
The Honorable O. Rogeriee Thompson LHD’10
Judge Thompson was appointed to the First Circuit Court of Appeals in March 2010. She graduated from Brown University in 1973 and Boston University School of Law in 1976. She worked as a Staff Attorney at Rhode Island Legal Services from 1976 to 1979. From 1979 to 1988, she worked in private practice, and she served as an Assistant City Solicitor in Providence, Rhode Island from 1980 to 1982. She served as a Judge on the Rhode Island District Court from 1988 to 1997, and as a Justice on the Rhode Island Superior Court from 1997 to 2010. She currently sits on RWU Law’s Board of Directors.

Thank you to all of our 2022 Sponsors

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Jenna Hashway, Esq. L’11 and John Barylick, Esq.
We invite you to support the social justice initiatives at RWU Law through a sponsorship of the Champions for Justice!
For additional details regarding sponsorship opportunities and benefits, please contact Matt Devecchi at mdevecchi@rwu.edu or (401) 254-3735.
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, May 6, 2022
Omni Providence Hotel
One West Exchange Street

5:30 PM Registration/Doors Open
6:00 PM Dinner, Awards & Auction

Tickets for Students will be $25

We look forward to an exciting evening!
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.

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Omni Providence Hotel
One West Exchange Street

5:30 PM Registration/Doors Open
6:00 PM Dinner, Awards & Auction

Tickets for Students will be $25
Scan the QR code below to register and purchase tickets
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022

OMNI PROVIDENCE HOTEL
ONE WEST EXCHANGE STREET

5:30 PM REGISTRATION/DOORS OPEN
6:00 PM DINNER, AWARDS & AUCTION
New Date Set for Champions for Justice

Please join us on Friday, May 6, 2022 for 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.
May 6, 2022

5:30 PM    Registration & Reception
6:15 PM    Champions for Justice Dinner, Awards & Auction

REGISTER HERE

Masks are required when not actively eating or drinking.
Questions? | Special Events | events@rwu.edu

WATCH THE 2021 VIRTUAL PROGRAM!
READ MORE ABOUT THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2021 PROGRAM

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:

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

Social Justice Program Highlights
In 2021, RWU Law transformed Alternative Spring Break into remote Alternative Winter Break. 110 students provided pro bono legal services through 28 public interest placements across the country – many under the guidance of seasoned RWU Law alumni.
RWU Pro Bono Collaborative Eviction Help Deck Project team with Mayor Elorza at the Garrahy Judicial Complex District Court, Providence, RI. Pictured from left to right: Abby Barton (Brown Senior & RI Center for Justice intern), Jordan Mickman (RI Center for Justice), Hanna Kahn (Policy Associate, Office of Mayor Elorza); Mayor Jorge Elorza, Maria Rice (RILS, Inc.), Alexus Bonilla (RWU Law ’23), Nellie Large (RWU Law ’23), Tony Henson (RWU Law ’23), Eliza Vorenberg (Director Pro Bono Collaborative).
In 2020 students in RWU Law’s Immigration Law Clinic scored an impressive victory for Manuela Grave, an asylum seeker. The basis of Grave’s case was discrimination based on ethnicity as an indigenous woman living in Guatemala. “We had at least 10 semesters of students working on this case over the past several years,” said Professor Deborah Gonzalez, Director of the Immigration Law Clinic. Among those participating were (in photo L-R): Tarisha Augustine ‘20, Brenda Reyes ‘20, Natalie Vega Crespo ‘20, Zoe Sperber ‘20, Jess DeYoung ‘20, client Grave, and Professor Gonzalez.
The Pro Bono Collaborative Expungement Project supervising attorneys Amy Goins RWU Law ’12 and Peter Skwirz RWU Law ’12 review client case files and project law student work. Partnered with McAuley House and several other community based organizations that serve low-income communities the Expungement Project attorneys and law students review individuals’ criminal records to see if they can be sealed or expunged. When possible to seal or expunge a record the team does the legal work to make that happen in so doing, allow their PBC client to get back on their feet without being hampered by these records.
2021-22 Pro Bono Collaborative Street Law first training. Suzy Harrington-Steppen, Association Director of Pro Bono Programs, teaching law students about their role in educating and empowering youth. This year 38 students are volunteering in 16 classrooms to bring the law to the middle and high schools, reaching 320 youth.
Student leaders, Alissa Lynch (3L), Katriina Juntunen (2L), and Margarita Icaza (2L) conducting a practice class session – Is It a Crime or Not a Crime?
Laurie Barron, Director of the Feinstein Center and Director of Clinical Externship and Experiential Experience, welcoming the 1Ls and giving an overview of RWU Law’s public interest programming.
Dear RWU Law Community:

Happy National Pro Bono Celebration Week! We have so much to celebrate!

For the past several years, each RWU Law graduating class has completed an average total of about 15,000 hours of pro bono legal service – far more than is required for our Pro Bono Experiential Learning Requirement! The majority of this service was directly with low-income individuals and families. Our most popular pro bono opportunities are through our Pro Bono Collaborative and Alternative Spring Break Program and, in 2021, even with the pandemic, over half of RWU Law students met their 50-hour pro bono requirement through one of our law school facilitated pro bono programs.

We are so proud of our law students’ service and their budding commitment to use the power of their legal education to help low-income people.
“...justice is bigger than criminal law, it is about the fairness we all deserve to live our life....to live and function in society should not be contingent on the amount of our funds....Pro Bono legal service is a necessary part of our community.”

Victoria Clausell (3L) on her pro bono experience at Rhode Island Center for Justice Providence, RI

As part of the 2021 National Pro Bono Celebration Week, the Feinstein Center selected 10 students’ quotes on their pro bono experience. This is one of them.

Thank You To Our 2022 Sponsors:

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Brian P. Stern
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Read more about the highlights of the 2021 program:

Making a Difference Together

RWU Law's extended family gathered Thursday night for an 'online edition' of its signature Champions for Justice event, raising more than $95,000 for the school's public service legal initiatives in Rhode Island, Southeastern Massachusetts, and beyond.

March 15, 2021

Michael M. Bowden

Glimpses of Champions for Justice 2021. Top row (l-r): Dean Gregory W. Bowman, Feinstein Center Director Laurie Barron, RWU President Ioannis N. Miaoulis; middle row: Joshua Xavier
It wasn’t the packed ballroom event that the Roger Williams University School of Law community has grown accustomed to over the years, but Thursday night’s "online edition" of Champions for Justice still delivered an intimate, spirited evening – one that raised a grand total of $95,495 for the school's pro bono, clinical and externship programs.

And because the law school saved many of the costs associated with a physical event, the funds left for student programming “should be about the same as last year’s net,” said RWU Law Dean Gregory W. Bowman. “That's pretty amazing during a pandemic.”

Champions for Justice is one of the premier annual events for the Rhode Island legal community. “Tonight’s program, because it is online, is different than in previous years,” Dean Bowman noted in introducing the event. “We will not be handing out any awards this evening. We are waiting until next year to do that, when we are all back together in person.”

Instead, Thursday’s event featured inspiring testimonials from two current law students – 3Ls Jessica Insurriaga from El Paso, Texas, and Sophia Weaver of Charlestown, R.I. – and alumnus Joshua Xavier ’14, now an associate with Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP. The three talked in turn with Laurie Barron, director of RWU Law’s Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education, about how they benefited from funds raised at past Champions events.

“What started out as an auction at the law school to support our public interest summer stipend program has grown and transformed into a huge gala that raises thousands upon thousands of dollars for the Pro Bono Collaborative, our Alternative Spring Break Program, Clinical Externships, Clinical Law Programs, and our public interest summer stipend program,” Dean Bowman said.

“We are Rhode Island’s law school, and we are fiercely proud of that. We succeed because of you – and you make us better. Collectively, we are making a difference in Rhode Island and the world.”

Fundraising efforts Thursday focused largely on a Silent Auction organized by 3L Cory Lee and featured items donated by RWU Law alumni, faculty, and staff, as well as corporate partners such as Kaplan and Themis (which contributed bar review courses worth more than $1,000 each). Popular items included a wine-and-cheese board donated by the Feinstein Center; a one-month pass to park in the Dean’s parking space in front of the law school; and dinner with four RWU Law deans – Bowman, Bruce Kogan, David Logan, and Michael Yelnosky.

Attendees included students, alumni, faculty, and staff; members of the federal and state judiciary; elected officials; members of the law school’s Board of Directors, the Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, and the University’s Board of Trustees, and past RWU Law honorary degree recipients, as well as returning Champions for Justice honored in previous years. Besides Bowman, speakers included the RWU President Ioannis N. Miaoulis; RWU
Provoast Margaret Everett, and the chairman of RWU Law’s Board of Directors, U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith.

Bowman closed Champions for Justice 2021, saying: “If you are a graduate of RWU Law, we are your law school. And if you are not a graduate – we are still your law school. We are Rhode Island’s law school, and we are fiercely proud of that. With your support and your help, we will continue to support the dreams and ambitions of our students, and the work of our great faculty and staff. Everyone here this evening has supported our law school in some way, and we are very, very grateful for that. We succeed because of you – and you make us better. Collectively, we are making a difference in Rhode Island and the world.”

RWU Law would like to express its deep gratitude and appreciation to the presenting sponsor of Champions for Justice, Jones Kelleher LLP.; to title sponsors Mandell, Boisclair & Mandell, Ltd., and Robinson & Cole LLP; to program sponsors Adler Pollock & Sheehan PC, Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick Ltd., and the Smith-Kushmerick Family Fund – In Honor of Caitlyn Horbert; and to event sponsors ACS Industries Inc.; Barton Gilman LLP; Cameron & Mittleman LLP; Coia & Lepore Ltd.; Decof, Barry, Mega & Quinn, P.C.; Gonzalez Law Offices, Inc.; Jenna Hashway, Esq. ’11 and John Barylick, Esq.; Higgins, Cavanagh & Cooney, LLP; Howland Evangelista Kohlenberg LLP; Keches Law Group; Locke Lord LLP; Marasco & Nesselbush LLP; Motley Rice LLC; Partridge Snow & Hahn, LLP; and Ursillo, Teitz & Ritch, Ltd. None of this would be possible without your generosity, friendship and supp

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- Pro Bono Collaborative
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- Public Interest Summer Stipends
- RWU Law Clinics

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Champion for Justice – 2022

The Honorable O. Rogeriee Thompson ’10HL
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Akin Adepoju is Assistant Federal Defender for the District of Delaware and the Western District of Pennsylvania, where he served in both the Trial and Capital Habeas Units. He has also handled cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals. Before joining the Federal Defenders, Adepoju worked with the Fair Trial Initiative in North Carolina, focusing on capital trial cases. His practice now focuses on complex criminal matters, including representing those sentenced to death. Adepoju earned his B.A. at the University of Maryland, College Park, his J.D. from RWU Law, and his LL.M. from Temple University School of Law as a Public Interest Scholar.
Rhode Island Legal Services provides high quality legal assistance and representation to low-income individuals and eligible client groups for the purpose of improving their economic condition and overall wellbeing by protecting and enforcing legal rights, stabilizing the family unit and communities where clients live, promoting self-reliance, ending domestic violence, preventing homelessness, affording dignity to all people, and reaching out to groups with added burdens on their ability to access the civil justice system.

Champions for Justice Past Honorees

Champion for Justice
2020 Amato “Bud” DeLuca and Miriam Weizenbaum
2019 Robert J. McConnell, Esq., Motley Rice, LLC
2018 The Honorable Edward C. Clifton
2017 Stephen M. Prignano, Esq., McIntyre Tate, LLP
2016 The Honorable Judith Colenback Savage
2015 Linn Foster Freedman, Esq., Robinson + Cole

Alumni Public Interest Champion
2020 Weayonnoh Nelson-Davies, Esq. L’07, Community Legal Aid
2019 Diana deGroof, Esq. L’03, Rhode Island Legal Services
2018 Luis Mancheno, Esq. L’13, The Bronx Defenders
2017 Swapna Yeluri, Esq. L’07, Homeless Persons Representation Project
2016 Dena Castricone, Esq. ’98 L’02, Murtha Cullina, LLP
2015 Deborah Gonzalez, Esq. ’04 L’07, Gonzalez Law Offices, Inc.

Community Partner Champion
2020 Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General
2019 Rhode Island Public Defender
2018 Barton Gilman, LLP
2017 Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership
2016 Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island
2015 Committee for Public Counsel Services

Host Committee Members - 2022

Kimberly R. Ahern, Esq. L’09, Office of the Governor
Natasha A. Buckler, Esq. L’10, RI Dept. of the Attorney General
Diana deGroof, Esq. L’03, Rhode Island Public Defender
Trustee Linn Foster Freedman, Esq., Robinson + Cole LLP
Patrick T. Jones, Esq., Jones Kelleher LLP
Dadriana A. Lepore, Esq. L’10, Coia & Lepore, Ltd.
Zachary M. Mandell, Esq. L’11, Mandell, Boisclair & Mandell, Ltd
Kelly N. Meara, Esq. L’11, RI Legal Services Inc.
Michael J. Moloney, Esq. L’09, Fall River Housing Authority
Valerie Morozov, Esq. L’14, RI Lottery
Adam M. Ramos, Esq. L’06, Hinckley Allen LLP
Joshua Xavier, Esq. L’14, Partridge Snow & Hahn LL

Sponsorship Opportunities and Benefits - 2022

We invite you to support the social justice initiatives at RWU Law through a sponsorship of the 8th Annual Champions for Justice!
This special event benefits the Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education, RWU Law Clinics, and the Pro Bono Collaborative at Roger Williams University School of Law.
Champions for Justice has become RWU Law’s signature event for the bench and bar, business, and academic communities, and has drawn over 400+ guests each year. We are excited to host this event once again in person which allows members of the academic, legal, and student community to engage with each other.
Join us in celebrating the array of social justice initiatives at RWU Law while showcasing your firm/company, honoring the award recipients, and demonstrating your commitment to RWU Law’s public interest programming and pro bono legal service.

Champions for Justice Dean’s Signature Sponsor $20,000
This sponsorship includes recognition as the Dean’s Sponsor during the event, 24 tickets (three tables), preferred seating for three tables, recognition during the event, your logo on the Champions for Justice website, invitations, signage, and event communications.

Champions for Justice Presenting Sponsor $15,000
This sponsorship includes recognition as the Presenting Sponsor during the evening’s event, 16 tickets (two tables) to the event, and your logo on the Champions for Justice website, invitations, signage, and event communications.

Champions for Justice Title Sponsors $12,500
This sponsorship includes recognition during the evening’s event, 8 tickets (one table) to the event, and your logo on the Champions for Justice website, invitations, signage, and event communications.
Champions for Justice Program Sponsors $7,500
These sponsorships support RWU Law students involved in public interest programs throughout the year. This sponsorship includes special recognition during the evening’s event and 8 (one table) tickets to the event.

Reception Sponsor $5,000
Support the reception at the Champions of Justice Event. This sponsorship includes formal recognition during the reception as well as the logo throughout the early event hours. This sponsorship includes 4 event tickets.

Event Sponsorships $2,000
This sponsorship includes special recognition during the evening’s event and 2 tickets to the event.

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Matt Devecchi at mdevecchi@rwu.edu or 401-254-3735.

Thank you!
Purchase Your Ticket Today

The 2022 Champions for Justice Award Recipients

Champion for Justice
The Honorable O. Rogeriee Thompson LHD’10
United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

Alumni Public Interest Champion
Akin Adepoju L’07
Office of Federal Public Defender

Thank you to all of our 2022 Sponsors
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\textbf{Jenna Hashway, Esq. L'11 and John Barylick, Esq.}

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\textbf{For additional details regarding sponsorship opportunities and benefits, please contact Matt Devecchi at mdevecchi@rwu.edu or (401) 254-3735}

Unsubscribe

Roger Williams University
1 Old Ferry Road Bristol, RI 02809
RWU Law congratulates its 2022 CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE: The Honorable O. Rogeriee Thompson '10 HL, of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Champions for Justice -- coming up on Friday, May 6 -- has become RWU Law's signature event for the bench and bar, business, and academic communities. To learn more, and to register, visit http://ow.ly/Wo7b50ILBt9

Judge Thompson was appointed to the First Circuit Court of Appeals in March 2010. She graduated from Brown University in 1973 and Boston University School of Law in 1976. She worked as a Staff Attorney at Rhode Island Legal Services from 1976 to 1979. From 1979 to 1988, she worked in private practice, and she served as an Assistant City Solicitor in Providence, Rhode Island from 1980 to 1982. She served as a Judge on the Rhode Island District Court from 1988 to 1997, and as a Justice on the Rhode Island Superior Court from 1997 to 2010.

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Akin Adepoju is Assistant Federal Defender for the District of Delaware and the Western District of Pennsylvania, where he served in both the Trial and Capital Habeas Units. He has also handled cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Before joining the Federal Defenders, Akin worked with the Fair Trial Initiative in North Carolina, focusing on capital trial cases. His practice now focuses on complex criminal matters, including representing those sentenced to death.

Akin earned his B.A. at the University of Maryland, College Park, his J.D. from RWU Law, and his LL.M. from Temple University School of Law as a Public Interest Scholar.
RWU Law presents Champions for Justice: Silent Auction

The silent auction is now live! We are excited to open the auction to all. Even if you are not able to attend in-person, you can still bid on your favorite items from anywhere.

**Bidding closes at 8:30 PM on Friday, May 6, 2022**

Questions? | RWU Events | events@rwu.edu

**Auction Items**

It's not too late to reserve your tickets.

Registration closes on Friday, April 29, 2022.

Friday, May 6, 2022
5:30 PM Registration & Reception
6:00 PM Champions for Justice Dinner, Awards & Auction
Omni Hotel Providence
One West Exchange Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Register Here

Thank you to all of our 2022 Sponsors

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Silent Auction Items:

ALL ITEMS

100

Park Like the Dean
$295
FMV $310
Dinner with the Deans

$315

FMV $625
No Bids

Dinner with President Miaoulis

$375

FMV $750
Lunch with Prof. Spacone
$100
FMV $150
Rhode Runner Gift Card

$105

FMV $100
No Bids

Jumpstart Fitness Package
$140
FMV $275
RI Food Fight Passports
$275
FMV $500
Red Sox at Fenway Park

$440

FMV $800
Wine Gift Basket

$80

FMV $50
Passes to Newport Mansions

$85

FMV $80
Game Night at Snookers

$40

FMV $50
Geoff's Superlative Sandwiches

$40

FMV $50
Peaceable Kingdom

$25

FMV $30
RI Philharmonic Orchestra
$70
FMV $94
Enjoy a Summer Wine Picnic

$100

FMV $140
Drag Brunch
$100
FMV $200
Pizza with Michael and Laurie

$105

FMV $50
Golf at Montaup Country Club

$160

FMV $236
No Bids

Sam Adams Beer

$45

FMV $90
Axe-citing Evening with Dr. K

$100

FMV $100
Dinner at Sakonnet Point Club

$150
Dinner with chez Gutoff

$85
A Taste of Italy

$55
Red Sox v. Yankees

$935

FMV $1,872
Mini golf and Ice Cream

$65
A Night on the Town

$150

FMV $209
No Bids

**Themis Bar Course**

*$500*

*FMV $2,595*
Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition

$500

FMV $3,499
202

No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition
$500
FMV $3,499
Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition
$500
FMV $3,499
Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition
$500
FMV $3,499
Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition
$500
FMV $3,499
206
No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition
$500
FMV $3,499
Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition

$500

FMV $3,499
Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition
$500
FMV $3,499
209
No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition
$500
FMV $3,499
Kaplan Bar Prep - Full Tuition
$500
FMV $3,499
211
No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition
$200
FMV $3,499
Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition
$200
FMV $3,499
213
No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition
$200
FMV $3,499
No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition

$200

FMV $3,499
Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition

$200

FMV $3,499
Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition

$200

FMV $3,499
No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition
$200
FMV $3,499
No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition
$200
FMV $3,499
No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition
$200
FMV $3,499
220
No Bids

Kaplan Bar Prep - 50% Tuition
$200
FMV $3,499
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022
Omni Providence Hotel

WELCOME
Dean Gregory W. Bowman

DINNER

CHAMPIONS FOR JUSTICE AWARDS PRESENTATION
Alumni Public Interest Champion
Akin Adepoju, Esq. L’07
Presented by Andrew Horwitz, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education

Community Partner Champion
Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc.
Presented by Eliza Vorenberg, Director of Pro Bono & Community Partnerships

Champion for Justice
The Honorable O. Rogeriee Thompson, HL’10
Presented by The Honorable Angelyne E. Cooper-Bailey, L’08

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

For event and auction package details, visit QR CODE below or search #RWULawChampions on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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  Locke Lord, LLP
  Motley Rice, LLC
  Partridge, Snow & Hahn, LLP
  Savage Law Partners, LLP
  Sloane & Walsh, LLP
RWU Law celebrated the 8th Annual Champions for Justice on Friday, May 6. It was wonderful to see everyone gathered together to support the important work of our students, faculty and staff. Thank you to all who gave, bid on an auction item, or attended the event. The evening was a tremendous success, raising over $100,000 for social justice programs at RWU Law. We are grateful for your support.

Thank you to all of our 2022 Sponsors

Presenting Sponsors

CHISHOLM CHISHOLM KILPATRICK

JONES KELLEHER LLP
Attorneys at Law

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