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# Dean Logan's Blog

## RWU Alum and Prof Square Off over Access to Public Records

Posted by David Logan on 01/28/2011 at 12:31 PM



RWU Law Prof Michael Yelnosky has had a long interest in open government and judicial selection. These two interests coincided recently in the decision of the



office of the Rhode Island Attorney General to refuse a request by a Providence Journal reporter to review the materials submitted by candidates for judicial appointments. Defending the position was Special Assistant Attorney General Mike Field (RWU Law '97), the AG's expert on open government law, who concluded in an advisory opinion that the submissions did not constitute "public records." Yelnosky demurred, commenting that though the AG's position was "reasonable," secrecy about the background of candidates for a life tenured job was bad public policy and he (and other experts interviewed) urged amendment to state law to shine more light on this important aspect of government. Read more details in the [ProJo coverage of the dispute](#).