

Roger Williams University

DOCS@RWU

Law Library Newsletters/Blog

Law Library

10-2019

Law Library Blog (October 2019): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: https://docs.rwu.edu/law_lib_newsblog



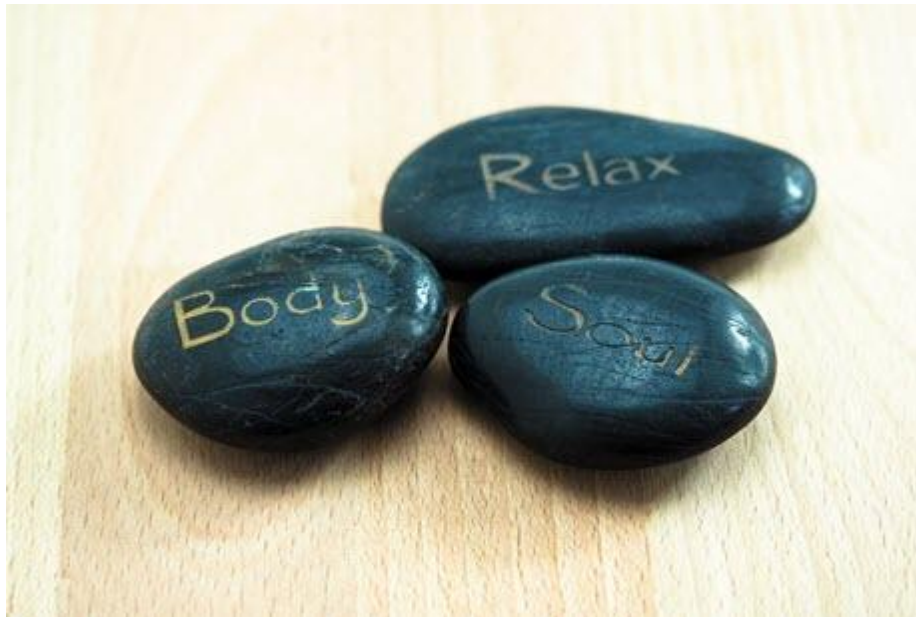
Part of the [Counseling Commons](#), [Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Commons](#), [Law and Society Commons](#), [Legal History Commons](#), [Legal Profession Commons](#), [Leisure Studies Commons](#), and the [Mental and Social Health Commons](#)

October 2019 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

October 4, 2019

Wellness Week @ RWU Law



October 4, 2019

Next week, the law school will be celebrating [Wellness Week](#). The Global Wellness Institute defines wellness as “[the active pursuit of activities, choices and lifestyles that lead to a state of holistic health](#)”. The site goes on to set out and define six dimensions of wellness: Physical, Mental, Emotional, Spiritual, Social, and Environmental.

As an RWU Law student, you have access to a variety of resources that can help you address these six dimensions:

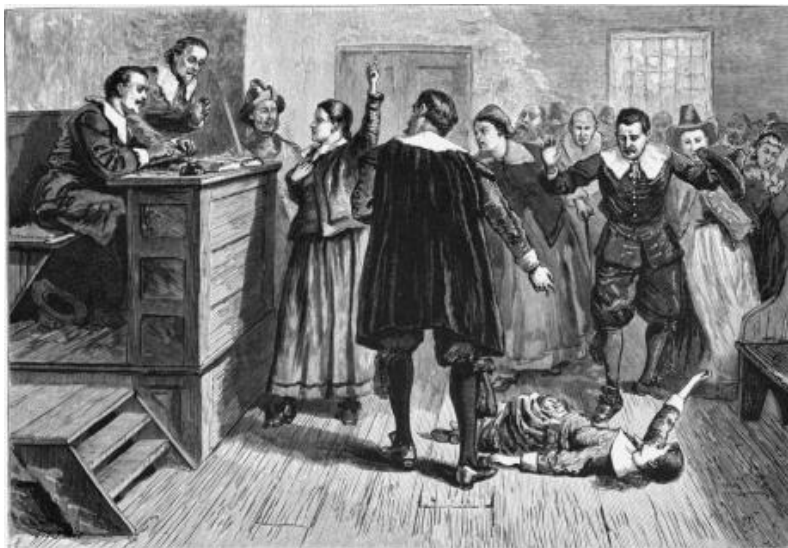
- **Physical:** The [RWU Recreation Center](#) contains a two floor fitness center, offers [fitness classes](#), a [pool](#), and courts for a variety of recreational and intramural sports. The Upper and Lower Commons can also contribute your physical wellness by providing a variety of nutritious meals from locally sourced ingredients and healthy snacks.
- **Mental:** In addition to learning in the classroom, RWU offers ample opportunities to expand your mind. We frequently tell you about the Law Library resources. Did you know that the [University Library](#) is open to all RWU students? It offers digital and print collections, including a popular fiction collection located near the elevators.

- Emotional: The [Counseling Center](#) provides “an affirming, confidential, equitable, and safe environment encouraging self-exploration, reflection, and resiliency,” which can help nurture your emotional wellness.
- Spiritual: The University supports your spiritual wellness through its [spiritual life](#) program that includes a resident multifaith chaplain and affiliate chaplains from various traditions.
- Social: RWU Law is home to a large variety of [student organizations](#) that promote law related events and networking, often with a social component. Join one or more of these organizations and get involved to build your legal career and social network.
- Environmental: RWU’s location by the East Bay offers wonderful opportunities to interact with our gorgeous natural habitat. The [RWU Waterfront](#) is home to the Bready Sailing Center and a variety of water sports to help you get in tune with The Bay. A shell covered path near the water offers a lovely walk by the ocean with views of the East Bay and beyond.

The law library also offers resources to address a few dimensions of wellness. Mental: Use our [coloring book collection](#) along with coloring supplies or read our popular magazines in the Kent Law Student Lounge; Social: Meet with friends and colleagues in the law student lounge to chat or eat lunch; Physical: Sit on the law student lounge comfy chairs and look at the Mount Hope Bridge mural or close your eyes for a few minutes; Environmental: Our stress management, mindfulness, and wellness [LawGuide](#) can help you find [reflective spaces](#) on campus; and Emotional: Resources on [gratitude and happiness](#) in our guide.

October 11, 2019

The Salem Witch Trials



October 11, 2019

The Salem Witch trials started in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692 and ended in 1693. According to [Smithsonian Magazine](#) there were more than 200 people accused of witchcraft and 20 of those people were executed.

The hysteria started in January 1692 when Reverend Parris' daughter Elizabeth and niece Abigail started to experience "[violent contortions and uncontrollable outbursts of screaming](#)." After the doctor diagnosed the two girls with bewitchment, five other women and girls began to experience the same fits. Arrest warrants were issued in February for Reverend Parris' slave, Tituba, and two other women. The arrested were questioned by Jonathan Corwin and John Hathorne. Tituba was the only one who confessed and told the men that there were other witches. Several more of the accused confessed and there were so many trials that the local court had too many cases. To alleviate the burden on the local court, Governor Phips [created the Court of Oyer and Terminer to hear and decide any cases involving witchcraft](#).

John Hathorne, Samuel Sewall, and William Stoughton were among the judges on the court. They [convicted Bridget Bishop on June 2, 1692](#) and she was hanged eight days later. Cotton Mather wrote a [letter to the court](#) discussing whether the accused should be convicted based on [spectral evidence of dreams and visions](#) since "a demon may...appear...in the shape of an innocent...man." The court did not respond to his letter and continued with the trials.

Later that same year, on October 3, Harvard President Increase Mather spoke against spectral evidence like his son. He stated, "[It were better that ten suspected witches should escape, than that one innocent person should be condemned](#)." On October 29, Governor Phips proclaimed that the Court of Oyer and Terminer "[must fall](#)" in response to both Mather's requests and the fact that Phips' wife was being questioned for witchcraft. In all, [fourteen men and women were convicted by the court and died](#) before the court was disbanded by Governor Phips.

Since the trials ended there have been attempts to right the wrongs that were inflicted on the individuals accused, those killed, and their families. The trials were declared unlawful in 1702 and in 1711, [a bill passed](#) which restored the rights and good names to the accused. It was not until 1957, though, when Massachusetts issued a [formal apology](#) for the events that took place in Salem in 1692.

For more information and resources, see our [LawGuide](#) on the Salem Witch Trials.

October 18, 2019

The History of Lawyer Pro Bono Services



October 18, 2019

The term "pro bono" comes from the Latin phrase "pro bono publico", which means "for the public good." While that is clear enough, the history of attorneys providing services pro bono is long, complicated, and a bit hazy.

[According to some sources](#), "providing legal counsel for those who cannot afford to retain an attorney takes its precedent from fifteenth-century English law." According to [another source](#), this pro bono practice was common in early America: "As far back as 1770, just a few years before the United States came into being, John Adams (later the country's second president) took on the pro bono defense of British soldiers prosecuted for what became known as the Boston Massacre. He also did less-remembered pro bono work for needy members of his community. Pro bono was already established as an accepted practice at the birth of this country, and Adams' effort – even though some roundly criticized him for it at the time – shows its deep roots in this country." Still [another source explains](#), "the history underlying our current conceptions of pro bono lawyering is complex, of course. One clear source can be traced to the explosion of national organizations working for civic improvement in the decades surrounding the turn of the twentieth century--that is, from 1890 or so until the United States' entry into World War I in 1917, a period sometimes referred to as the Progressive Era."

Despite some disagreement about its origin story, there is wide agreement that pro bono service by lawyers is an important foundational concept in American law. The American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service [explains](#), "When society confers the privilege to practice law on an individual, he or she accepts the responsibility to promote justice and to make justice equally accessible to all people. Thus, all lawyers should aspire to render some legal services without fee or expectation of fee for the good of the public."

Every year lawyers, legal aid societies, and law schools celebrate Pro Bono Week in October. This year Pro Bono Week is celebrated nationally during the week of October 20-26, 2019. For

more information on celebrating Pro Bono Week, see www.celebrateprobono.org. For more information on pro bono opportunities nationwide, see https://www.probono.net/aba_oppsguide/.

October 24, 2019

Happy Halloween!



October 24, 2019

[Amityville, NY](#) is famous for having a haunted house and a movie based on it. [Fall River, MA](#) is famous for having a haunted house and movies based on it.

But did you know that we have our own haunted house with a famous movie here in Rhode Island?

Perhaps you have seen the movie *The Conjuring*? Well that house was built in 1736 and is located in Harrisville, RI. In fact, earlier this year a [new owner purchased the house](#) and said doors started opening by themselves on day one. Yikes!

Want to go visit the house this Halloween? You are not the only one. Apparently, since the movie came out the property has been plagued not by ghosts but by [trespassers](#). This story was even covered by [Inside Edition](#)!

For more information about the Harrisville Hauntings, see [this Entertainment Weekly web post](#).