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Roger Williams University School of Law

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Dean Logan's Blog

Top Massachusetts Lawyers Join RWU Law Senior Staff

Posted by David Logan on 02/25/2011 at 01:17 PM

I am delighted to report that we have made two key additions to the Senior Administration of the School of Law: **Raquel Ortiz** will be the new **Assistant Dean of Library and Information Services** while **Deborah Johnson** will be on board later this month as **Director of Diversity**.



Raquel Ortiz

The Law Library is at the heart of every law school's teaching and research mission, so adding a talented lawyer/librarian like Raquel will enable us to continue the high level of service that has been provided since our inception.

Raquel comes to us from the Pappas Law Library at Boston University, where she has held a number of posts, most recently as the Associate Director and Head of Research Services and Associate professor of Law. Prior to BU, Raquel worked for a number of years at the Harvard Law Library and libraries at her alma mater, Harvard College. Raquel was the #1 choice of everyone who interviewed her: besides having substantial administrative experience, she has published widely and has presented to various bar and library groups, plus has a strong grasp of the rapidly evolving technologies that must be harnessed in order for our Law Library to continue to provide top-shelf service.



Deborah Johnson

Because we are a student-centered institution, the role of Director of Diversity is very important, and like the head of the law Library, reports directly to the dean. Deborah was the top choice from an excellent pool of candidates. She brings with her a strong academic record (Notre Dame BA, Northeastern JD), a federal clerkship (for Judge Napoleon Jones of the US District Court for Southern California), and practical experience from her 6 years at the leading New England firm Mintz Levin and 2 years at the Boston Center for Community and Justice.

Deborah was Director of Youth Programs at the Boston Center for Community & Justice is a member of the Board of Directors for both the Center for Collaborative Education and the Elizabeth Stone House, which assists women and families suffering the effects of domestic violence and other trauma. Johnson is a member of three state bars: California, Massachusetts, and New York.

But it was Deborah's combination of an upbeat personality and thoughtful answers to the challenging questions posed by the search committee that convinced us that she was the perfect person for the job. Deborah made her informal debut at Dean's Movie Night last week, and will hit the ground running for us in early March.