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## Law Library Blog (March 2021): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

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March 2021 Library Blogs

# *Legal Beagle's Post*

March 5, 2021

## Food Bank

March 5, 2021



Food banks have secured and distributed billions of meals each year in the United States. Food insecurity and hunger are experienced by millions across the country. Food insecurity “describes a household’s inability to provide enough food for every person to live an active, healthy life.” A leading resource in combating food insecurity in the United States is [Feeding America](#). The Rhode Island Community Food Bank is a member of Feeding America’s network of food banks found across the United States.

The [Rhode Island Community Food Bank](#) has been helping Rhode Islanders combat food insecurity since 1982 with its network of partnered food banks and pantries. According to the Rhode Island Food Bank, [68,000 Rhode Islanders receive food assistance](#).

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank has a [variety of programs](#) that offer help in a variety of ways to those living locally with food insecurity. The Rhode Island Community Food Bank, located on Niantic Ave in Providence, is a distribution hub for a local network of food pantries and meal sites that can be found in local communities. If you know someone that could use help

with food assistance visit their page on [food assistance](#) to find a local pantry or meal site and other ways to get help.

Members of the Roger Williams University Law School staff and faculty as well as student organizations have spent time volunteering at the Rhode Island Community Food bank or organizing food donation drives to assist the Rhode Island Community Food Bank or a local pantry member of their network. The past year has seen a rise in the number of people getting assistance from food banks. If you are in a position to help, are interested in volunteering, or interested in finding out how you can be involved in combating food insecurity more information can be found on the [Rhode Island Community Food Bank's "Get Involved" page](#).

March 12, 2021

## Environmental Justice: A Law Library Collection

March 12, 2021



According to the [EPA Office of Environmental Justice](#), the term "environmental justice" means "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." They further explain that this goal will be achieved when everyone has access to the same degree of protection from environmental and

health hazards and to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

Another definition of environmental justice can be found on the [Natural Resources Defense Council \(NRDC\) website](#). The NRDC defines it as a movement championed primarily by African-Americans, Latinos, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans "to improve and maintain a clean and healthful environment, especially for those who have traditionally lived, worked and played closest to the sources of pollution." In this respect, environmental justice is an idea, but it is also a movement related to the civil rights movement. The [EPA has a timeline on its website](#) which shows the milestones in this area of law and explains the link between civil rights and environmental justice as follows:

The environmental justice movement was started by individuals, primarily people of color, who sought to address the inequity of environmental protection in their communities.

Professor Robert Bullard wrote, "whether by conscious design or institutional neglect, communities of color in urban ghettos, in rural 'poverty pockets', or on economically impoverished Native-American reservations face some of the worst environmental devastation in the nation.

As we move into Spring, we have [created a guide](#) that features content on environmental justice. This guide contains books and digital resources available at the RWU Law Library on this topic. As always, if you have any reference or research questions, please contact us at [lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu](mailto:lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu).

March 19,2021

## Meet the Staff: Richard Segel

March 19, 2021



What is your title?

Collection Services Assistant

Can you explain to our readers what you do using non-librarian terms?

I open the mail - the beginning of the pipeline for new materials. I check in the materials and make sure they go to the appropriate location or person -- to the stacks as new issues, to Kathleen [MacAndrew] for cataloging, etc. I help at the circulation desk when the need arises. I also complete collection related projects -- book moves, making space in the stacks, etc.

Another big task I do is "looseleaf filing". Some publications come in looseleaf binders and the pages need to be replaced and interfiled regularly (so that they are updated). [*Eds. note -- this task is super important and takes a lot of attention to detail so that the right pages are removed, and the new pages are added where they belong.*]

What is your favorite reading genre?

History, because if we don't learn from history we don't learn. All history -- throw a dart and that's what I will read.

What part of your job is most satisfying?

Helping students that appear to be "lost" in the stacks. I try to help them to the best of my capacity and then lead them to the reference librarians for additional assistance if I cannot help.

What's the most profound positive change you've seen in the library since you joined it?

Going from a primarily physical collection--books and microforms--to more digital materials and moving toward technology as it becomes available.

We hear that you are a sports fan. What's your favorite sport and team?

I don't have one favorite. I like the New York Yankees for baseball and the Montreal Canadiens

for hockey. [Eds. note: Richard was born and raised in Upstate New York, so he gets a pass from the Boston fans in the library.]

Name something you dislike, but everyone else seems to love.  
The Kardashians. [Eds. note - AGREED!]

March 26,2021

## What is Cultural Misappropriation and Why Does it Matter?

March 26, 2021

**Cultural Misappropriation**  
Wednesday, March 31st, 2021 5:30-7:30pm EST Zoom

**Featuring**

- Prof. Madhavi Sunder (Georgetown Law)
- Prof. John Tehranian (Southwestern Law)
- Prof. Margaret Chan (Seattle U. Law)
- Prof. Jane Anderson (NYU)
- Prof. Maui Hudson (U. of Waikato)
- Prof. Trevor Reed (ASU Law)
- Jacqueline Keeler (@notyourmascol)

**Presented by Intellectual Property Law Association (IPLA)**  
Co-sponsored by The Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education,  
Office of Diversity and Outreach,  
American Indian Law Student Association (AILSA),  
and The Tomoquag Museum

Susan Harjo (Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient)  
Moderated by Jeffrey Pryshowsky (RWU Law '23)

THE COPYRIGHT SOCIETY

Cultural appropriation (or cultural misappropriation) is defined as "the adoption or exploitation of another culture by the more dominant culture." (See [Ijeoma Oluo's So You Want to Talk about Race?, chapter 10](#))

It has also been defined as, "[t]aking intellectual property, traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, or artifacts from someone else's culture without permission. This can include unauthorized use of another culture's dance, dress, music, language, folklore, cuisine, traditional medicine, religious symbols, etc. It's most likely to be harmful when the source community is a minority group that has been oppressed or exploited in other ways or when the object of appropriation is particularly sensitive, e.g. sacred objects." (See [Who Owns Culture? Appropriation and Authenticity in American Law by Susan Scafidi](#))

On Wednesday, March 31, 2021, several organizations within and without the RWU Law community are holding an event about the misappropriation of indigenous culture. This conversation between legal experts and activists will cover copyright and trademark issues of cultural misappropriation in areas such as sports (*Harjo v. Pro Football* and its relationship with *Matal v. Tam*), fashion (*Urban Outfitters v. Navajo*), photography, and music on reservations. The program will also be discussing traditional knowledge labeling.

In support of this programming, the law library has created a [lawguide which contains a variety of resources on the topic of the cultural appropriation of indigenous cultures](#). This guide has links to biographical information on the speakers and a selection of books, articles, and web resources to help dive into this important area of scholarship. If you have any questions about the guide or need additional resources on this topic, please email the Reference Desk at [lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu](mailto:lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu).