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## Newsroom: Federico '03 Makes '10 To Watch' List

Roger Williams University School of Law

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# Newsroom

## Federico '03 Makes '10 To Watch' List

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**Stephanie Federico '03** has been named to [Providence Monthly's](#) annual '10 To Watch' list of the city's 'rising stars.' This marks the third year in a row in which the RWU Law community has been able to boast a presence on the list (in 2010, [Kim Ahern '09](#) made the cut; in 2009, [Professor Jorge Elorza](#) was selected).

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### **Stephanie Federico [RWU Law '03]: Chief of Staff, Providence Public School Department**

On the surface, **Stephanie Federico's** lawyer-turned-government-official story might seem pretty standard for Providence, but she is that archetype so rare as to almost make us question its existence: the tireless public servant. "It's not about feeling good," she says of the grueling business of running the state's largest public school system. "It's about knowing that you've made the community in which you live a better place."



Indeed, service is a word that comes up a lot when Federico discusses her career. **The Roger Williams Law School grad** practiced law in a number of capacities and served several roles throughout the Cicilline Administration (including Deputy Chief of Staff) before being tapped for her current position under Superintendent Tom Brady in 2008. “The opportunity presented itself and I couldn’t say no,” she explains, “because what is most important to me is being able to serve.” While Federico never set out to work specifically in education, she embraces the challenge, crediting time spent as a liaison between the Mayor’s Office and the School Department her helping her “see how important public, urban education is to the wellbeing of a city. It is at the base what makes a city great.”

Many observers, including sources who suggested her as a candidate for this list, expect to see Federico move on to bigger challenges in the near future. She is an admitted political junkie, and campaigned enthusiastically for Mayor Cicilline during his successful run for Congress. Rumors had several newly elected officials eyeing her for possible positions in their administrations, but for the moment, she’s staying put. Although her star is rising, Federico maintains that it’s not about her. “You get into public service because you want to serve,” she stresses. “Because you feel there is a need to make a difference.

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### **30-Second Bio**

32; New York native

#### **Professional background:**

- Clerk for RI Superior District and Family Courts
- Assistant Solicitor for City of Providence

- Civil defense in Superior Courts
- Prosecutor for Board of Licenses, Housing Court, Municipal Court, RI District Court
- Legal Counsel for Providence External Review Authority and Human Relations Commission
- Deputy Chief of Staff for Mayor Cicilline
- Double-majored in political science and theater; spent a semester with the National Theater Institute and traveled to Russia to participate in the Moscow Art Theater's centennial.

**Quote:** "I love politics. I love the adrenaline rush that comes along with making decisions that are in the best interest of people."

*For complete story, click [here](#).*