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Roger Williams University School of Law

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# Newsroom

## Coombs Represents Wikileaks Defendant

Adjunct Professor David Coombs is representing Pfc. Bradley Manning, accused of leaking U.S. military documents to the website WikiLeaks.

*From the Fall River Herald News: "[Attorney with Fall River office represents Army private jailed in WikiLeaks case](#)" by Staff Reporter Grant Welker*

### SEE ALSO:

\* [CNN Interviews David Coombs on Wikileaks Suspect.](#)

\* [Dean Logan's blog on Coombs.](#)



**FALL RIVER, Jan 21, 2011** — An attorney with law offices on North Main Street gives the city a connection to one of the biggest ongoing international stories: the jailing of Pfc. Bradley Manning on suspicion of leaking U.S. military documents to the website WikiLeaks.

**[RWU Law Adjunct Professor] David Coombs**, who is based in Fall River but travels often for work, is Manning's attorney. Manning, an Army intelligence analyst, could face up to 52 years in prison if he is convicted of releasing hundreds of thousands of diplomatic cables and intelligence reports, much of which were classified.



**Coombs**, who is traveling this week for work, said by e-mail that he was contacted by Manning and his family to represent Manning in court. The family liked that **Coombs**'s firm deals only with Army cases and that **Coombs** is still in the Army Reserve as a

lieutenant colonel. Coombs said he has represented hundreds of members of the Army on cases including murder, rape, drug use and robbery.

But the Manning case is different, he said.

“The Manning case requires a great deal of travel, time and resources,” **Coombs said**. “It is unlike any other case, given the classified nature of the evidence and the amount of attention it has received.”

**Coombs** is originally from Idaho and has defended cases in Italy, Iraq and Kuwait, as well as at military bases in Colorado, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia. He left active duty in April 2009 to open his court-martial-defense practice.

When his wife, a law professor, took a job at the **Roger Williams University law school**, he chose to open an office in Fall River because he said he met a group of great attorneys from the Bristol Bar Advocates.

Since taking up the Manning case, **Coombs** has actively blogged about the confinement conditions at Manning has faced since July while awaiting trial at a facility in Quantico, Va.

Earlier this month, **Coombs** filed a complaint that Manning was illegally being held in solitary confinement, initially for 24 hours a day while on suicide watch and more recently for 23 hours a day, with a single hour each day for exercise outside his cell.

*To read full story, click [here](#).*