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Roger Williams University School of Law

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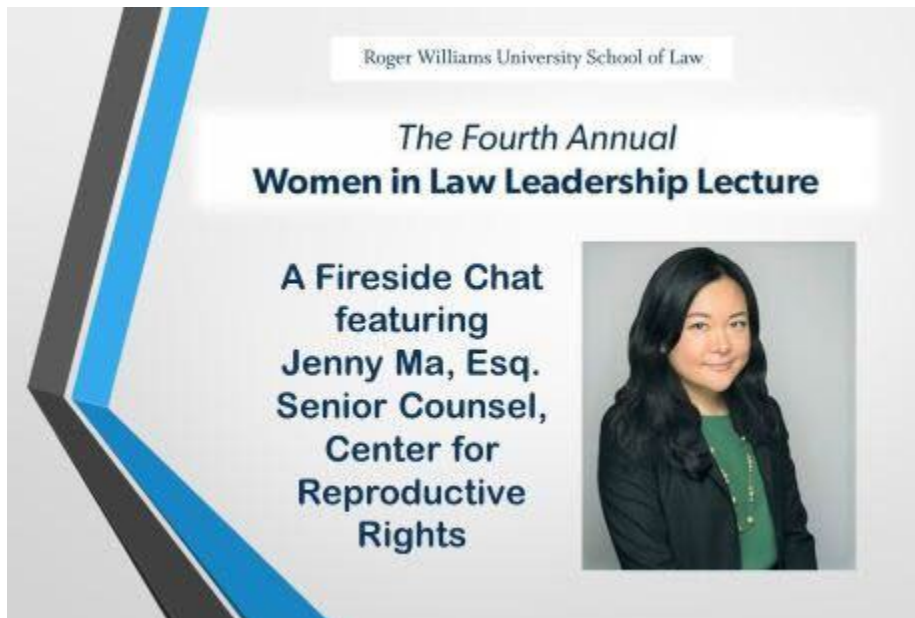
March 2023 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

March 3, 2023

Women in Law Leadership Lecture

March 3, 2023



In April 2019 Roger Williams University School of Law honored the First Women of the Rhode Island Bar. The celebration was the start of a variety of events to honor the work women do in the field of law. Soon after, the school began the Women in Law Leadership Lecture series as well as the Ruth Bader Ginsberg Essay contest.

This year, Roger Williams University School of Law will hold its 4th Annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture on March 23. A fireside chat will take place between [Emily L Sack](#), Professor of Law, and [Jenny Ma](#), Esq.

Jenny Ma serves as Senior Counsel at the Center for Reproductive Rights in the U.S. Litigation Program. The Center for Reproductive Rights is a human rights organization working to ensure reproductive rights are protected in law across the globe. Jenny Ma has represented the Center's clients in cases in state and federal courts across the country, including in [Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization](#) before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Jenny Ma's commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession is evident in her work in the budding Center for Reproductive Rights (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) DEI Task Force.

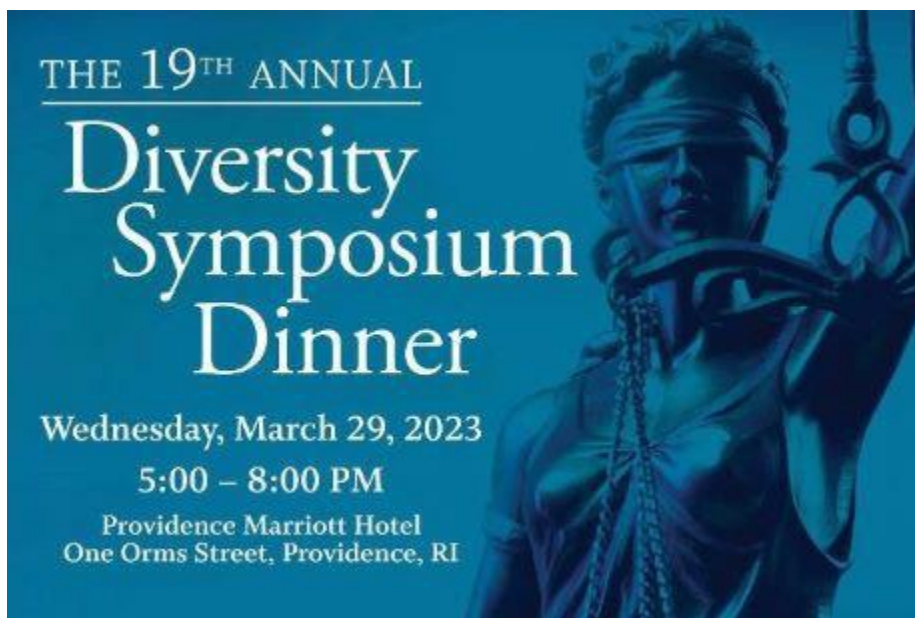
Before joining the Center for Reproductive Rights Jenny served as a law clerk for the Honorable John T. Noonan, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Honorable Robert W. Sweet of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Jenny also worked at the law firms Jones Day and Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, where she co-authored an amicus brief in *Obergefell v Hodges*.

In addition to the lecture, the program will feature the announcement of the winners of the [RWU Law RBG Essay/Art Contest for RI school children](#). To attend the lecture with a reception immediately following please [register](#). For additional information please visit [4th Annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture](#).

March 17, 2023

19th Annual Diversity Symposium Dinner

March 17, 2023



In 2004, Roger Williams School of Law established its annual Diversity Symposium Dinner.

The Diversity Symposium Dinner is a unique program that brings lawyers, judges, legal academics, and law students together with high school and college students for an evening of discussion on important legal issues. The function is organized around “table talks,” with all tables a mix of lawyers, judges, and students, discussing a set of questions around diversity and the law. The event is a key part of the School of Law’s efforts to inspire young people in our greater Rhode Island communities to the possibility of a career in law. On March 29, 2023, Roger Williams School of Law will hold its [19th Annual Diversity Symposium Dinner](#). The discussion for the 19th Annual Diversity Symposium Dinner will address the titular topic, “Being Authentic; Diversity in Policy & Legislative Work.”

This year's moderator is the Honorable Braxton Howard Cloutier, L'19, trial attorney and immigration law practitioner from Chapel Hill, NC. During his time at RWU Law, Attorney Cloutier was President of the Student Bar Association, a member of the Trial Team, and the 2019 Public Interest Award recipient. Cloutier worked as a Public Defender in Colorado and as a staff attorney for the Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island before joining Bremer Law & Associates, LLC. Cloutier's practice focuses on supporting asylum seekers, individuals facing deportation, and providing legal representation to recent arrivals to the United States. He also represents individuals on their journey to become lawful permanent residents or citizens of the US. Cloutier volunteers with several organizations committed to uplifting and supporting the Black and Latino community, including New Bridges for Haitian Success and YouthBuild Providence. Most recently, Cloutier became the first Black elected official in Barrington, RI.

Cloutier will be joined by panelists Kimberly Ahern, Esq. L'09, RWU Law Professor Jorge Elorza, Carlos Lopez Estrada, Esq. L'01, and Weayonnoh Nelson-Davies, L'07. We are fortunate to host such an impressive panel, who represent tireless advocacy for diversity in the legal profession in government, higher education, and research and policy organizations. Please join us for what is sure to be a stimulating night of discussion, debate, and dialogue among Rhode Island's legal professionals and young people of Rhode Island.

[Register to attend the Diversity Symposium Dinner.](#)

March 31, 2023

2023 Marine Law Symposium

March 31, 2023



On Thursday, April 20, and Friday, April 21, 2023, the Marine Affairs Institute at Roger Williams University School of Law and The Nature Conservancy will cohost the 2023 Marine Law Symposium.

This year's symposium applies the theme of "net positive impact on biodiversity" (NPI) to offshore wind: *Can Offshore Wind Development Have a Net Positive Impact on Biodiversity? Regulatory and Scientific Perspectives and Considerations*.

The symposium will bring together scientific, regulatory, legal, and industry experts from the United States and Europe to discuss: (1) the concept of NPI generally, and specifically in the offshore wind context especially as it relates to a well-established mitigation hierarchy; (2) the various rationales—including environmental, governmental, financial, and corporate—for incentivizing this approach in the offshore wind development context; (3) the existing approaches to incorporating NPI into agency decision-making in the United States and in the Netherlands; and, (4) technological and project specific examples of how this concept is being applied in the United States and the Netherlands.

The program has been approved for 12.5 Rhode Island MCLE credits.

Consult the [Agenda](#) (draft, subject to change) and [Register for the Symposium](#) today!

Want to learn more about offshore wind, NPI, and the law before the Symposium? We recommend starting with these titles in our collection:

- Ben Backwell, [Wind Power: The Struggle for Control of a New Global Industry](#) (2015).
- Mark Zacharias & Jeff Ardron, [Marine Policy: An Introduction to Governance and International Law of the Oceans](#) (2020).
- [International Marine Environmental Law and Policy](#) (Daud Hassan & MD Saiful Karim eds., 2019).
- Jukka Similä et al., [Towards Sustainable Blue Energy Production: An Analysis of Legal Transformative and Adaptive Capacity](#), 40 J. Energy & Nat. Resources L. 61 (2022).
- Carlos Soria-Rodriguez, [The International Regulation for the Protection of the Environment in the Development of Marine Renewable Energy in the EU](#), 30 Rev. Eur. Comp. & Int'l Env't L. 46 (2021).