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Dean Logan's Blog

National Coverage of Data on Faculty Quality

Posted by David Logan on 03/21/2011 at 11:38 AM

For the fourth consecutive year, RWU Law has released a study that looks at one key form of faculty scholarly productivity – the publication of articles in top law journals. Because of the influence of the U.S. News and World Report rankings, schools in their top 50 tend to attract the lion's share of attention. By focusing instead on schools outside the U.S. News top 50, we provide objective information that shows the relative strength of other schools as research institutions. Here are the top-rated schools as reported by a [leading law blog](#).

We rank the Top 40 Non-Top 50 law schools. Here are the Top 25:

- 1 Florida State (14.67)
- 2 San Diego (12.52)
- 3 Yeshiva (Cardozo) (12.09)
- 4 Case Western Reserve (10.29)
- 5 Richmond (10.07)
- 6 Missouri-- Columbia (9.15)
- 7 Brooklyn (8.91)
- 8 Cincinnati (8.75)
- 9 Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago-Kent) (8.68)
Nevada -- Las Vegas (8.67)
- 11 Pepperdine (7.50)
- 12 Roger Williams (7.20)**
- 13 Temple (7.06)
- 14 Hofstra (6.92)
- 15 Pittsburgh (6.69)
- 16 Loyola -- Los Angeles (6.51)
Tennessee (6.47)
- 18 DePaul (6.28)
Seton Hall (6.26)
- 20 Seattle (6.10)
- 21 Rutgers -- Newark (5.84)
- 22 Houston (5.77)
- 23 Rutgers -- Camden (5.54)
Indiana -- Indianapolis (5.52)
- 25 Kentucky (5.34)

Other [leading blogs](#) have also picked up the news.

The results show, among other things, that the faculty at Roger Williams is among the most productive of the approximately 120 law faculties' studied each year, finishing just below the

10th spot in each year's rankings. This consistent result reflects a dramatic mismatch between our U.S. News ranking and the objective strength of the faculty in pursuing a core mission of the school, to produce original research that advances understanding of the law. The study reveals that other schools suffer from similar mismatches, although none as dramatic. (Moreover, the study shows that at least on this measure there are many law schools whose faculties dramatically underperform their U.S. News ranking).

In addition, each year we study [New England law schools](#) to try to present a snapshot of the schools in our region on this measure. The results for this year have just been added to our website, and they once again reflect the relative strength of Roger Williams in the region, where we rank 4th behind Yale, Harvard, and Boston University.

New England Law Schools

- 1 Yale (20.98)
- 2 Harvard (19.02)
- 3 Boston (11.12)
- 4 Roger Williams (7.20)**
- 5 Boston College (5.85)
- 6 Connecticut (5.14)
- 7 Maine (3.46)
- 8 Quinnipiac (3.38)
- 9 Northeastern (2.72)
- 10 New England (2.18)
- 11 Vermont (2.00)
- 12 Western New England (1.89)
- 13 Suffolk (1.50)
- 14 New Hampshire (1.04)
- 15 Massachusetts (0.82)