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Dean Logan's Blog

Landing Judicial Clerkships: A “Quality Indicator”

Posted by David Logan on 05/23/2011 at 10:38 AM



One objective measure of the quality of a law school is the ability of its graduates to land prestigious judicial clerkships upon graduation. US News recently reported the percentage of graduates who go on to be clerks and I am gratified that RWU placed well.

The methodology was simple: US News tallied the % of 2009 graduates of ABA-accredited law schools who secured judicial clerkships and then ranked them. An impressive 14.6% of the RWU Law class of 2009 secured clerkships with state judges. Here what the data showed:

- The RWU rate is more than 4 times the rate of St. Johns, Hofstra, Florida State, Georgia State, DePaul, Denver, George Washington, Florida Coastal, and New York Law School;
- triple the rate of SUNY-Buffalo, Miami, Chapman, Wisconsin, Wash U (St. Louis), Chicago-Kent, Touro, and Houston;
- more than double the rate of Northeastern, Pace, Kansas, Lewis & Clark, New England, Illinois, Cincinnati, Stetson, Maine, New Hampshire, Cardozo, Suffolk, Utah, Florida, SMU, George Washington, Fordham, Albany, Ohio State, UC-Davis, Dayton, Case Western, and Brooklyn;
- and ahead of many schools in our region--Syracuse, Boston University, Boston College, Connecticut, Columbia, Western New England, Cornell, and Quinnipiac, as well as Georgetown, Michigan, Catholic, American, Wake Forest, UNC, Northwestern, Iowa, Georgia, NYU, American, Virginia, Vanderbilt, Minnesota, Tulane, Maryland, Indiana, Chicago, Texas, Emory, UCLA, Villanova, and Cal-Berkeley.

According to US News, Roger Williams graduates also had more success on the federal court clerkship front than many schools in our region, including New York Law School, Rutgers-Newark, SUNY-Buffalo, Hofstra, Quinnipiac, Suffolk, Touro, Maine, CUNY, New Hampshire, Western New England, and Pace; we also topped schools from around the country, like Utah, Wisconsin, Catholic, Chicago-Kent, Chapman, Florida Coastal, Denver, Georgia State, Santa Clara, Florida State, Baltimore, Cincinnati, and DePaul.

Kudos to our terrific Clerkship Committee for that class (John Chung, Kim Baker, Laurie Barron, Veronica Paricio and the chair, Jane Rindsberg) for their success in supporting our graduates!

Review the entire [US News report](#) online.