

6-6-2011

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Roger Williams University School of Law

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Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law, "Dean Logan's Blog: RWU Law Students Nab Prestigious Equal Justice Work Summer Corps Stipends" (2011). *Law School Blogs*. 286.
https://docs.rwu.edu/law_pubs_blogs/286

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Dean Logan's Blog

RWU Law Students Nab Prestigious Equal Justice Work Summer Corps Stipends

Posted by David Logan on 06/06/2011 at 09:02 AM



I am pleased to report that RWU Law was among the top schools in the Northeast when it comes to recognition of our excellence in public interest. Eight of our students recently learned that they would be receiving stipends from [Equal Justice Works](#), the national organization "dedicated to creating a just society by mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice."

The stipends support summer jobs for a fascinating array of NGOs, from RI, Massachusetts, to Georgia and Alaska. This is quite an accomplishment, especially since there were almost 1,990 applicants and only 163 awardees.

Congratulations to:

- Carolan Chanko - Catholic Social Services, ILEAP
- Lydia Dawson - Pine Tree Legal Assistance (Bangor, ME)
- Angelina DePetrillo-Bucci - Rhode Island Legal Services
- David Ellison - Alaska Public Defender Office (Kenai, Alaska)
- Jessica McArdle - Augusta Circuit Public Defender (Georgia)
- Amanda Montgomery - MetroWest Legal Services (Framingham, MA)
- Jaime Rogers - Youth Advocacy Department, Committee for Public Counsel Services (Worcester, MA)
- Jay Werther - Rhode Island Legal Services

Here is a reaction from Jaime Rogers, one of the winners:

"I was very excited to receive an Equal Justice Works Summer Corps grant for the work I will be doing this summer with the Committee for Public Counsel Services Youth Advocacy Department (YAD) in Worcester, MA. My primary responsibility at YAD will be to represent a small caseload of young people charged with acts of delinquency, but I will also be assisting staff attorneys with research and writing tasks and helping to facilitate the office's Know the Law program. For me, underprivileged youth present a particularly compelling cause for attention. The opportunity to represent young people was the

impetus for my pursuing a law degree and will be the focus of my summer internship with the Youth Advocacy Department.”

Another winner, David Ellison, shares his thoughts:

“I was excited to get the Equal Justice Works Summer Corps Award. It's great that there are organizations out there who support law students who have a passion to help others. For the Alaska Public Defender, I represent clients at daily arraignments, bail hearings, and changes of plea. I also assist public defenders with jury trials and motion hearings. I might sit second chair on a felony trial by the end of the summer. I ghostwrite motions and do research for the attorneys.”

And, finally, here is how law schools in the region stacked up:

Boston University - 12

Boston College - 9

Harvard - 9

Roger Williams - 8

New England - 3

Maine - 2

Northeastern - 2

Suffolk - 2

UConn - 2

Western New England - 2

Mass School of Law - 1

Quinnipiac - 1

UMass - 1

UNH - 1

Yale - 1

