

8-16-2011

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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: Kudos to Our 'Under 40' Standouts" (2011). *Law School Blogs*. 291.
https://docs.rwu.edu/law_pubs_blogs/291

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Dean Logan's Blog

Kudos to Our 'Under 40' Standouts

Posted by David Logan on 08/16/2011 at 01:40 PM

Roger Williams lawyers featured prominently in two key "Under 40" listings issued in recent days:



Dena M. Castricone '02, Murtha Cullina LLP

Dena was named one of the U.S.'s Best LGBT Attorneys Under 40 by the National LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Bar Association, an affiliate of the ABA.

Dena is a litigation associate in the New Haven, Conn., office of Murtha Cullina LLP, working primarily in the areas of construction, employment and business litigation. Prior to joining Murtha, Dena served as a law clerk to the Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. As a law student, Dena founded the Alliance – the law school's LGBT group – which has now grown to be one of the most active student groups on campus.

She's also the president of the board and founder of the Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunities (CABO), the state's LGBT chamber of commerce. In 2010, the *Connecticut Law Tribune* recognized Dena in its "Women in the Law - High Achievers" edition and in March 2011, *Connecticut Magazine* named Dena one of Connecticut's "40 Under Forty."

On August 1, Providence Business News published its annual "40 Under Forty" edition, showcasing the city's top "young professionals who have made a commitment to making a difference on a local, national or international scale." RWU Law grads are traditionally well-represented on this listing, and I'm pleased to report that this year is no exception. Our three 2011 winners are:



Katie Ahern '07, Hinckley Allen & Snyder LLP

At 29, Katie is already the prestigious, 130-plus-lawyer firm's go-to expert on taxation – local, state and federal. Marc Crisafulli, a Hinkley Allen partner and chair of the firm's Corporate and Business Law Group, calls her "one of our best and brightest up-and-coming lawyers." At RWU Law, she was a great student and an active participant in our Pro Bono Collaborative. She currently teaches business-law related classes at URI, and serves on the board of the Rhode Island Women's Bar Association.



Katy Hynes '02, Adler Pollack & Sheehan PC

RWU Law's Class of 2002 valedictorian, Katy is now a senior litigation associate at Adler Pollack & Sheehan. She has developed a broad practice encompassing criminal law, animal law, products liability, toxic tort and business litigation. While still at RWU Law, she served as director of court-advocacy services at Sojourner House, concentrating on victims of domestic abuse. At APS, she remains dedicated to providing pro bono legal service – and still with a focus on domestic abuse cases.



Matthew Plain '05, Taylor Duane Barton & Gilman LLP

Matthew Plain has worked as a public school teacher and athletic coach in North Carolina, as a Law Clerk to Chief Judge George E. Healy Jr. of the R.I. Workers Compensation Court, and a member of Judge Healy's Uninsured Employers Task Force. He was a primary drafter of the state's charter public schools act, served on the advisory board for our Pro Bono Collaborative, and much more. Eliza Vorenberg, PBC Director said: "Since he first joined the PBC, Matt has been an enthusiastic and committed participant as well as a terrific ambassador for this innovative program." Giving back, he says, is "something that's been a part of me since as long ago as I can remember."