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Dean Logan's Blog

Controversial Documentary "Hot Coffee" Screened in Joint Event with RI School of Design

Posted by David Logan on 12/16/2011 at 09:12 AM

As the only law school in the state, RWU Law has unique opportunities to co-sponsor events with other leading educational institutions, like our joint degree program with the University of Rhode Island Department of Marine Affairs (a signature joint [J.D./M.M.A. program](#)) and our [Medical-Legal Cooperative with Brown Medical School](#)

We recently had our first co-sponsored event with the Rhode Island School of Design and the [Rhode Island Association for Justice](#) (RIAJ), a screening of the film "Hot Coffee," which takes a very skeptical look at the "tort reform" movement. Debunking the urban legends surrounding the "McDonald's coffee spill case," the documentary tackles 3 subject areas where there have been aggressive efforts by big businesses to constrict the right to a jury trial in civil cases: imposing damage caps and mandatory arbitration, and influencing judicial elections. Underwritten by the RIAJ and moderated by RWU Law Adjunct Professor [Don Migliori](#), a large crowd gathered in the RISD auditorium to see the movie, hear from it's remarkable producer/director Susan Saladoff, and then witness a debate on tort reform featuring the Presiding Justice of the RI Superior Court Alice Gibney, leading defense lawyer [Kelly Sheridan](#), and RWU Law [Prof Carl Bogus](#), author of "Why Lawsuits Are Good for America."

Click [here](#) for the movie trailer and [here](#) for Susan's appearance on the "Colbert Report," and check out the pics below from the fantastic event.



Don Migliori, President of RIAJ



Susan Saladoff



Prof. Carl Bogus, Justice Alice Gibney, and Kelly Sheridan



Federal Judge Ronald Lagueux



Kelly Sheridan