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Newsroom: Goldstein on RI Constitutional Convention

Roger Williams University School of Law

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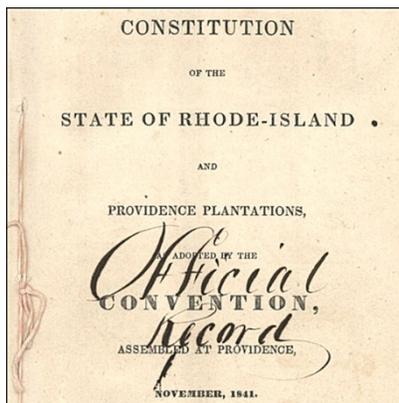
Newsroom

Goldstein on RI Constitutional Convention

Professor Jared Goldstein joined a panel discussing whether Rhode Island should convene a state constitutional convention and which areas should be amended.

From the PROVIDENCE JOURNAL: "[Three R.I. experts debate value of a constitutional convention](#)" by

Linda Borg, Journal Staff Writer



SMITHFIELD, R.I., March 29, 2014 — [...] At Bryant University on

Saturday, local experts discussed whether Rhode Island should convene a convention, and, if so, what areas of the state Constitution should be amended.

The forum was sponsored by the Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership at Bryant, the **Roger Williams University School of Law**, Common Cause Rhode Island and the R.I. League of Women Voters. [RWU Law Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Diana Hassel** moderated.]

Three local experts, Robert Flanders Jr., former associate justice of the state Supreme Court; Steven Brown, executive director of the Rhode Island affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union; and **Jared Goldstein, a professor of law at RWU**; debated the pros and cons of a Constitutional Convention before about 100 participants. [...]



Goldstein staked out the middle ground, saying he “mildly supported” a Constitutional Convention. Certain issues, such as ethics reform and judicial selection, rise to the level of a Constitutional Convention. Others, such as abandoning high-stakes testing as a high school graduation requirement, do not.

But a convention faces substantial obstacles, **Goldstein said**.

“Most voters will know very little about the issues,” **he said**. “In order to be successful, there must be a campaign to inform the voters.” [...]

For full story, click [here](http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20140329-3-r.i.-experts-debate-value-of-a-constitutional-convention.ece). [http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20140329-3-r.i.-experts-debate-value-of-a-constitutional-convention.ece]