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Diana Hassel

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Professor Diana Hassel's Post

Providence, Here We Come!

Posted by Diana Hassel on 06/24/2015 at 10:07 AM



Plans are well underway for the RWU School of Law's expanded presence in downtown Providence.

The four-story building at One Empire Street will be devoted almost exclusively to Roger Williams University use and will be ready for occupancy a year from now – June 2016. The fourth floor of One Empire Street will become the center for RWU law's experiential learning opportunities.

Furniture is being purchased and paint colors chosen for the offices of our in-house clinics: Criminal Defense, Immigration, and Business Start Up. The Feinstein Center will also be gaining additional space at One Empire (in addition to its already existing offices at the Bristol Campus), from which the work of the Pro Bono Collaborative and our clinical externships – Judicial, Public Interest, Prosecution, Corporate Counsel, and Environmental/Land Use – can be conveniently coordinated.



Another exciting feature of the new building is the expanded class room space it affords, allowing for classes to be scheduled in Providence with more ease and convenience. Many upper-level, legal practice skills classes, currently taught by members of the bar and judiciary, will be held in the new building, providing easy access for instructors and for students who are enrolled in clinical externships or in-house clinics in Providence. The law school also plans to offer some core doctrinal classes simultaneously both in Providence and at the Bristol Campus, using the distance-learning technology that will be available in the new classrooms.

Sharing the fourth floor with the law school will be the recently created Rhode Island Center for Justice – a nonprofit public interest law center. The newly created center’s mission is to ensure justice for vulnerable individuals, families and communities in Rhode Island through the provision of free legal services and advocacy. The Center, staffed by attorneys and RWU Law alumni as post-graduate fellows, is working in the areas of housing, employment and immigration.

The newly renovated and up-to-date facilities at One Empire Street will also provide space for meetings, presentations, and speakers – bringing the energy of the law school closer to the wider Rhode Island community. There will also be areas to meet informally with other students, prepare for class, take a break, grab a snack, or just watch the world go by.

So mark your calendars – the countdown has begun to the launch of a new home for the law school in the heart of Rhode Island’s capital city!