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Newsroom: Diversifying the Legal Pipeline

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Newsroom

Diversifying the Legal Pipeline

The RI Urban Debate Leagues partners with RWU Law alumni and students, state judges and lawyers to prepare urban high school students for success in law.



Bristol, RI, November 19, 2014 – Advancing its critical mission to diversify the legal pipeline, Roger Williams University School of Law has teamed up with the Rhode Island Urban Debate League (RIUDL) to help the state’s urban students build the skills they need to succeed.

Preliminary rounds of the policy debate tournament will be judged by local attorneys and current law school students, and the final round will be judged by a panel of Rhode Island judges that includes **Hon. Rossi Harris, Hon. Luis Matos, Hon. Judith Savage, and Hon. Walter Stone.**

Additional guests will serve on a legal careers panel during lunch. Kas DeCarvalho, president of Rhode Island’s Thurgood Marshall Law Society, will moderate the panel. Panelists will include **Hon. Edward Clifton** of the Rhode Island Superior Court, the law school’s assistant dean of students **Lorraine Lalli**, Governor Chafee’s chief of staff **Kenny Alston**, Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West’s **Misty Delgado '11**, and current law school students **Bienvenido Perez** and **Monsurat Ottun.**

The event coincides with the RIUDL’s “100 Steps Toward Justice” campaign to grow support for its important educational work within the legal community. In addition to volunteering their time on a Saturday, many tournament judges have also made a financial contribution to ensure that Rhode Island’s

most underrepresented populations have a chance to develop the skills necessary to pursue careers in the law.

The RIUDL engages RI's urban high school students in policy debate programs in order to improve academic outcomes and increase college readiness. Academic debate is a powerful – and proven – means of improving student outcomes in urban contexts and developing the skills necessary for success in the legal field.

More details about the event and the RIUDL-RWU School of Law partnership can be found at www.riudl.org under “100 Steps Toward Justice.”

WHO: Rhode Island Urban Debate League

Roger Williams University School of Law

RWU President Donald Farish, Law School deans, faculty, students

Superior, District, and Family Court judges

Local attorneys

RI urban high school students

WHEN: Saturday, November 22nd 9 a.m. - 6:15 p.m. (final round begins at 4:30 p.m.)

WHERE: Roger Williams University School of Law, 10 Metacom Ave. Bristol, RI