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Recommended Citation

Kuckes, Niki, "Trending @ RWU Law: Professor Niki Kuckes's Post: Video Highlights Litigation Academy: September 20, 2016" (2016). *Law School Blogs*. 450.

https://docs.rwu.edu/law_pubs_blogs/450

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Professor Niki Kuckes's Post

September 20, 2016

Video Highlights Litigation Academy

Posted by Niki Kuckes on 09/20/2016 at 03:40 PM

A video just released by the **United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island** highlights the role of the **Roger Williams University School of Law** as a founding partner in an innovative new program known as the **Litigation Academy**.

The Litigation Academy provides high quality, affordable trial skills training to new law graduates and others. Training sessions actually take place inside the federal courthouse, with constructive feedback by federal and state judges, experienced trial lawyers, and law school professors. Witnesses are played by professional actors from the **Trinity Rep** and **Gamm Theater**. As you can see from the video, the close collaboration between experienced lawyers and those seeking training is richly rewarding for everyone involved, and the participants have uniformly raved about the experience.

This video also highlights the uniquely close connections between RWU Law and the Rhode Island legal community. The film opens with words from law school **Professor Niki Kuckes** and **Brooks Magratten, Esq.**, an experienced Rhode Island trial lawyer and law school adjunct professor, who serve as the program co-directors. It features an interview with **Chief Judge William E. Smith**, who not only heads our federal court but also chairs the law school's Board of Directors and teaches at the law school. Alumni from Roger Williams law school are also highlighted in interviews in the film, including **Nicole Benjamin '06** and **Mason Waring '07**.

The Litigation Academy's newest offering is coming up on **October 27 to 29**, and features hands-on training in **Deposition Skills**. The program offers 14 CLE credits (including 1 ethics CLE credit) and costs \$400 for the multi-day program. Some partial scholarships are available from the **Rhode Island Chapter of the Federal Bar Association**, another founding partner in the program.