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Newsroom: 'Champions for Justice' Honored

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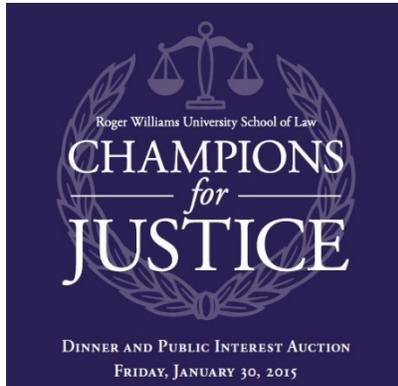
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'Champions for Justice' Honored

Linn Foster Freedman, Deborah Gonzalez '07, and the Committee for Public Counsel Services are honored as Champions for Justice in supporting public interest law.



January 30, 2015: RWU Law's Feinstein Center for Pro Bono &

Experiential Education today honors two outstanding legal luminaries and a legal organization as Champions for Justice in recognition of their "impact and accomplishments" in supporting the school's public interest programs.

The special awards dinner preceded the law school's annual Public Interest Auction at the Providence Biltmore, with both events "shining a light on RWU Law students and alumni, and celebrating their dedication to serving low-income and disenfranchised communities in New England and around the country," said the Feinstein Center's Executive director, Laurie Barron.

This year's Champions for Justice honorees are:

- **Linn Foster Freedman**

Linn Foster Freedman is a partner in the Providence office of the international law firm of Nixon Peabody



LLP. Freedman practices in the areas of data privacy and security law, as well as complex litigation.

She is leader of the firm's Privacy & Data Protection group and chair of the firm's HIPAA Compliance team. She currently serves as General Counsel to the Rhode Island Quality Institute.

Freedman's work focuses on compliance with all state and federal privacy and security laws and regulations, as well as emergency data breach response and mitigation. She advises clients on state and federal data privacy and security investigations and data breaches.

Freedman is also a member of RWU Law's Board of Directors.

- **Deborah Gonzalez '03, L'07**



Deborah Gonzalez has been working for the benefit of the Rhode Island immigrant community for the past 22 years. She is experienced in all aspects of immigration law including, deportation and removal cases, family and business immigration cases. Gonzalez also practices in the area of family law, including divorces, child custody and child support issues.

Born in the United States to Brazilian parents, and fluent in both Portuguese and Spanish, Gonzalez is founder of the Brazilian Information Group, which provides Brazilian and Portuguese-speaking communities with information regarding a variety of topics in an effort to help the community to adjust to life in the United States.

Gonzalez has also served at RWU Law as visiting assistant professor and as acting director of the school's Immigration Law Clinic

- **The Committee for Public Counsel Services**



Appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts, the Speaker of the Commonwealth's House of Representatives and the President of its Senate, and the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, the Committee for Public Counsel Services is a 15-member board overseeing the provision of legal representation to indigent persons in criminal and civil cases and administrative proceedings in which there is a right to counsel.

Most representation is provided by approximately 3,000 private attorneys trained and certified to accept appointments. Support for and supervision of these attorneys is provided by the Private Counsel Division, the Children and Family Law Division, the Youth Advocacy Division, and the Mental Health Division. Approximately 500 staff attorneys, working in offices located across Massachusetts, provide representation to clients in Superior, District, Juvenile, and Probate and Family Court cases and in appeals of those cases. The Chief Counsel, appointed by the Committee and assisted by the Senior Management Team, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency.