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Newsroom: Coombs Named Weisberger Professor

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Newsroom

Coombs Named Weisberger Professor

'WikiLeaks Lawyer' David Coombs is named the Joseph R. Weisberger Visiting Professor of Law, effective this semester and continuing into 2015-16 academic year.



Roger Williams University School of Law is proud to announce that renowned criminal defense lawyer **David Coombs** will serve as the **Joseph R. Weisberger Visiting Associate Professor of Law** for the remainder of this academic year and for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Coombs – who previously taught at RWU Law as an adjunct faculty member and rejoined the faculty this year as a visitor – will coach the school's trial team and teach subjects related to criminal law and trial advocacy.

Coombs's law practice focuses on defense work in military courts-martial proceedings. He became the focus of national media attention as the lead defense counsel for **Chelsea Manning f/k/a PFC Bradley Manning**, the soldier accused of the largest leak of government documents in United States history.

Coombs was widely praised for his representation of Manning in the complex trial, which was followed by a request for a presidential pardon and a lawsuit seeking gender-reassignment hormone therapy for Manning while she serves her sentence in an Army prison.



The Professorship is named in honor of one of Rhode Island's most esteemed jurists, **Joseph R. Weisberger (1920-2012)**, who was the Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court (1993-2000), an early and enthusiastic supporter of the idea of creating a law school at Roger Williams University, and Chair of RWU Law's Board of Directors. **Professor Steve Calabresi** from Northwestern University School of Law was the first Weisberger Visiting Professor, holding the position in Spring 2012.