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Newsroom: Horwitz on Closed Courtroom Debate

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Newsroom

Horwitz on Closed Courtroom Debate

U.S. District Court Judge Mary Lisi's order to seal the courtroom during a plea hearing for a woman accused of sex trafficking has raised concern among legal observers.

From the PROVIDENCE JOURNAL: ["Prosecutors, defense object to closed hearing in R.I. sex-trafficking case"](#) by Katie Mulvaney



PROVIDENCE, R.I., May 27, 2015 — Federal prosecutors have joined a defense lawyer in objecting to U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi's order closing a courtroom during a plea hearing for a woman accused of sex trafficking. [...]

Andrew Horwitz, a professor at Roger Williams University School of Law, said he had only seen a courtroom closed in cases involving a child witness or a confidential informant. "The law frowns upon the sealing of a courtroom," he said.