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Newsroom

Practicing Law with Amazon.com

Arash Heidarian '05, an in-house corporate counsel with Amazon.com, talks about the fast pace of working for the largest internet-based retailer in the U.S.



Arash Heidarian '05 recently returned to RWU Law to celebrate his ten-year reunion at the Third Annual Law Alumni Weekend. “I have a lot of great memories here,” says Heidarian. “I think the school gave me a really solid basis to build and develop my own career.”

Now an **in-house corporate counsel with Amazon.com**, Heidarian juggles the fast pace of working for the largest internet-based retailer in the United States. Between compliance counseling, launching products and establishing new business relationships, “no three days are really typical at Amazon,” he says. “Working with a company that’s constantly trying to push the envelope and do new things – to be a part of that is exciting to me.”

Heidarian supports Amazon’s public sector work in their Washington D.C.-area offices. “I’m trying to figure out what regulatory requirements are going to be applicable to us based on our accepting the work; how we can set up a compliance program, identifying the risks and making sure we have executive buy-in to go forward,” he says. “There’s a lot going on and you don’t have a lot of time to figure things out.”

Before heading to Amazon, Heidarian worked in private practice for seven years at McKenna, Long & Aldridge. “It was a really good experience, but I wanted to try something different,” he says. “When the opportunity came up with Amazon, it was exactly what I wanted.”

Heidarian notes that his RWU Law externship experience at the Rhode Island Supreme Court was extremely helpful in getting him where he is today. "It was my first experience at a private-level brief review, which ended up being a huge part of what my job was at McKenna."

"I got a lot out of Roger Williams, but then the larger piece of it is putting time in and figuring out what you need to figure out once you're on the job," says Heidarian. "All it takes is one opportunity for you to be able to showcase yourself. If you don't get to where you want to be right out of law school, that's okay. You can get a lot of experience and it will allow you to develop professionally while you look for your dream job."

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