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Roger Williams University School of Law

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Are You Experienced?

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Three Judicial Nominations

Dean Yelnosky hails Governor Raimondo’s nominations as a “bold and long overdue step” to add diversity to the state judiciary.

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Public Interest Fellowship

3L Michaela Bland will use coveted Skadden Fellowship to seek legal solutions to “school-to-prison pipeline”

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Amanda J. Argentieri '09

Argentieri has made home in Shanghai, working for a Boston-based tech firm and serving as president of the International Professional Women’s Society.

Rachael Rollins, Boston's first African-American female DA, will deliver MLK address

Public defender Terrence Haas '07 appointed as a judge on Alaska's Bethel Superior Court.

The NCDC will hold its Trial Practice Institute at RWU Law for the first time this summer.
Are You Experienced?

At 25, RWU Law is doing more than ever to ensure its students know how to think like lawyers, act like lawyers – and do good while doing well.

Experiential education is an integral part of RWU Law's academic culture.

Image Credit: Peter Silvia/RWU Law

January 18, 2019

Michael M. Bowden
As Rhode Island’s only law school, RWU Law is uniquely positioned to offer its students broad educational options, deep experiential opportunities, and unparalleled access to the region’s legal, business, nonprofit and government communities – ensuring that they graduate with the tools they need to change their world.

At Roger Williams Law, experiential education is a priority. That's why every student is guaranteed at least one substantial clinical experience (85 percent take advantage; 65 percent complete two or more). And expansion of the school’s experiential opportunities over the past 25 years has been extraordinary.

“I’m very proud of the ways in which our experiential programs have developed,” says Professor Andrew Horwitz, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education. “We’ve been deliberate and thoughtful in the way we’ve developed our programs, and in the rigor with which we’ve monitored how well they work for our students. We’ve made experiential education and readiness to practice very much an integral part of what it means to graduate from RWU Law.”

Clinical Programs

By the time the school’s first class reached its 3L year in 1996, there were two clinics up and running. Today there are four: the Business Start-up Clinic, the Criminal Defense Clinic, the Immigration Clinic, and the Veterans Disability Appeals Field Clinic. Three are based at Roger Williams' dynamic new experiential campus in downtown Providence (the Veterans Clinic is located a few blocks away in the offices of Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick, one of the nation’s leading veterans disability law firms). All are focused on delivering what Horwitz terms “true clinical depth.”

“Many law schools today use the word ‘clinic’ very loosely,” he explains. “That can make it confusing for prospective students who are trying to comparison shop. In the field, however, ‘clinic’ is a term of art referring to a program with a full-time faculty member who is the licensed attorney of record for all the program’s cases, and whose only job is to run that program. And that’s what we mean by ‘clinic’ at RWU Law. Our clinics are run by professional educators who have as their one and only mission the education of the law student. That creates a very different dynamic from a program run by somebody who’s perhaps being pulled in different directions, teaching other classes, practicing law on the side. There are a lot of schools out there offering what they call ‘clinics’ for many fewer credits and with much less intense supervision.”

Roger Williams, by contrast, offers its three in-house clinics only at a credit load of eight credits, meaning it accounts for half of a student’s academic load in a semester.

“That allows us to assign a fair volume of work,” Horwitz says. “Part of the learning experience comes from volume and repetition: if you interview two clients, that’s a different experience than when you interview five or six. So obviously you’re going to progress faster and farther and learn more, aided by self-reflection, evaluation and feedback, all of which are very much part of the learning process.”

Externship Programs
In addition to developing its clinical programs, Roger Williams Law has also expanded its externship offerings in powerful ways.

Just a decade ago, there were only two such options: the Judicial Externship Program and the Public Interest Externship Program. Today, they have been joined by the Corporate Counsel Externship Program, the Environmental & Land Use Law Externship Program, the D.C. Semester-in-Practice Program and the New York Pro Bono Scholars Program.

“We haven’t only expanded in terms of breadth with all these programs,” says Laurie Barron, director of RWU Law’s Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education. “We’ve also expanded in terms of the number of credit hours students can earn. Where they could once work only two days a week in an externship program, students can now choose to work two, three, four or five days a week.”

“That’s why we call them clinical externship programs,” Horwitz notes. “Because they remain true to our emphasis on clinical depth.”

The Semester-in-Practice, in particular, has become a popular option because it enables students to earn academic credit while training full-time (locally or anywhere in the U.S. or abroad) in a government, nonprofit or judicial setting, under the supervision of attorneys or judges.

“It’s a five-day-a-week, full-time immersion experience that allows the student to go much deeper in terms of the work they’re involved with at the placement site, while still participating in a classroom component remotely,” Horwitz says. “It opens up all kinds of doors and works especially well for out-of-state students who want to return home and spend the last semester of law school in their home community. So they’re still enrolled in school and advancing academically, but they’re also networking and fostering employment opportunities in the place where they want to wind up.”

Pro Bono Programs

RWU Law’s Pro Bono Experiential Learning Requirement means that every student must provide at least 50 hours of pro bono legal service – law-related volunteer work for neither compensation nor credit – prior to graduation, a requirement that only a handful of law schools can match.

In 2009, the requirement was raised to 50 hours from the 20-hour requirement set in 1997, and one of the biggest qualitative changes since the shift has involved bringing the organization and “scaffolding” of this work in-house through the Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) program.

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“Of the schools that require pro bono as a graduation requirement, there’s no one else doing anything like us in terms of cutting-edge pro bono programs,” says Suzanne Harrington-Steppen, associate director of Pro Bono Programs. “And a large part of that is because our students are completing the requirement through school-facilitated projects.”
Examples range from the burgeoning popularity of Alternative Spring Break to such eye-opening opportunities as the Adult Correctional Institution Medium Security Facility Civil Legal Clinic Project, in which law students provide inmates with advice and counsel on civil legal issues.

“In essence, we’ve gone from simply matching students up with organizations, to developing and managing our own projects,” Harrington-Steppen says. “More than half of our students now fulfill their pro bono requirements through a project that we have directly facilitated. That transition first happened five years ago, and every year since then we’ve had a greater number of students join these well-facilitated, well-structured, very intentional PBC projects – meaning that students receive consistently high-quality training while also gaining an understanding of why the work is considered pro bono.”

“The goal is twofold,” Barron notes, “We want students to provide as much service as possible while they are in law school, but also to really instill in them a pro bono ethic – trying to maximize the likelihood that they will continue to see providing pro bono legal services as part of their professional responsibility.”

In the process, RWU Law has successfully brought pro bono service into the realm of experiential learning.

“Many schools still think of pro bono as being strictly a community service opportunity,” says Harrington-Steppen. “But at Roger Williams, we have always seen it as another way for our students to get really great hands-on learning experiences while also doing good. That’s why we’ve tightened up our training and supervision, while also trying to keep it much more flexible than a credit-bearing clinic.”

“We really do view pro bono as part of RWU Law’s experiential educational program,” Barron adds. “So many schools don’t place it on that continuum – but it is experiential in nature; there’s training involved, there’s journaling, there are ethical requirements, there’s reflection at the end.”

Notes RWU Law Dean Michael Yelnosky, “I like to say that at RWU Law we teach students not only ‘how to think like lawyers’ (the traditional explanation of what law schools do), but also how to act like lawyers. Students benefit from this approach because – through their experience in clinics, externships and pro bono projects – they begin to develop lawyering skills as well as their own professional identity. We are proud of our approach because in most instances, our students are, at the same time, providing legal assistance to individuals and organizations that cannot afford legal representation in the open market. It is a cliché, but it is hard not to think of this approach as ‘win-win.’
Three RWU Law Graduates Nominated for State Judgeships

Dean Yelnosky says Governor Raimondo’s nominations represent a “bold and long overdue step” to add diversity to the state judiciary

From left, Christopher Knox Smith, RWU Law Dean Michael Yelnosky, Melissa R. DuBose and Keith A. Cardoza Jr. at Governor Raimondo's announcement of nominating them as Rhode Island judges.

December 10, 2018

BRISTOL, R.I. – The Roger Williams University School of Law on Monday applauded Gov. Gina M. Raimondo’s nomination of new state judges, including three RWU Law graduates.

Melissa R. DuBose was nominated for a District Court seat. Since 2008, she has worked as senior legal counsel at Schneider Electric in Foxboro, Massachusetts, providing in-house legal support for the company’s global units. From 2005 to 2009, she worked as a special assistant attorney general in the criminal division of the state attorney general’s office. She graduated from RWU Law in 2004 and is a member of the RWU Law Board of Directors.

Christopher Knox Smith was nominated for another District Court seat. Since 2010, he has represented indigent clients facing misdemeanor and felony charges at the state public defender’s office. He graduated from the RWU Law in 2007 and earned an advanced degree focusing on environmental and natural resources law from the University of Oregon School of Law in 2008.
Keith A. Cardoza Jr. was nominated for a Workers’ Compensation Court seat. Since 2016, he has represented employers, employees, insurance carriers and third-party administrators for all aspects of workers’ compensation claims in Rhode Island and Massachusetts as a founding partner with the firm Izzo, Gardner & Cardoza. He graduated from RWU Law in 2010.

“This is a great day for our RWU Law graduates, each of whom is most deserving of the trust of Governor Raimondo and the Rhode Island Senate,” RWU Law Dean Michael J. Yelnosky said. “This is also a great day for Rhode Island. The Judicial Nominating Commission and now Governor Raimondo have taken a bold and long overdue step toward making the Rhode Island judiciary more reflective of the population it serves.”

All three RWU Law graduates are African-American and will add much-needed diversity to the state judiciary, law school officials said.

This also marks a great day for RWU Law, Yelnosky said. “Attracting and supporting students from diverse backgrounds has always been part of our mission, and it is gratifying for all members of the law school community to see the sustained efforts of so many bear fruit during our 25th anniversary year in the upcoming formal nominations of three alumni of color,” he said.

“Today’s announcement goes to show the significant role Roger Williams plays and will continue to play in shaping a bench and bar that reflects the entire Rhode Island community,” RWU Law Assistant Dean of Admissions Michael Donnelly-Boylen said. “Today gives us so much pride that our long-term efforts are really making a difference.”
Third-year law student Michaela Bland will work with Rhode Island Center for Justice to find legal solutions to “school-to-prison pipeline”
passionate as Michaela. I am thrilled for her that the Skadden Foundation has recognized that her vision and talent are worthy of their investment.

The vast majority of Skadden Fellowships have gone to graduates of the most elite law schools. In the last 10 years, the law schools with the most Skadden Fellowships have been Harvard (55), Yale (40), New York University (28), Stanford (20) and the University of Pennsylvania (15). This marks the first time a RWU Law student has received a Skadden Fellowship, and it represents a milestone in RWU Law’s development as a law school with genuine depth in public-interest law.

“Michaela is an extraordinary student – full of passion, commitment, and talent – who came to law school specifically to be a public-interest lawyer,” said Laurie Barron, director of the Feinstein Center for Pro Bono and Experiential Education at RWU Law. “Her project on the school-to-prison pipeline is one that will change the landscape in Rhode Island. As the first RWU law student to ever receive a Skadden Fellowship, she is poised to be a trailblazer inspiring future generations of public interest students. We could not be more thrilled for Michaela, who is so deserving.”

Bland, an Ithaca College graduate born in Chili, N.Y., said receiving the Skadden Fellowship has been a surreal experience.

“I cannot thank the Feinstein Center for Pro Bono and Experiential Learning at RWU Law and the Rhode Island Center for Justice enough for their constant support and guidance,” Bland said. “My fellowship project will dismantle discriminatory discipline practices, which have funneled minority students into the school-to-prison pipeline, and it will continue to build Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream for children to ‘one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character’ into a reality.”

The Skadden Fellowship Foundation launched in 1988 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, which has become the largest public-interest law firm in the United States. The applicants must propose a public-interest project and find a sponsoring organization willing to host them. The sponsoring organization must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides civil legal services to the poor, including the working poor, the elderly, the disabled or those deprived of their civil or human rights.

Based in downtown Providence, the Rhode Island Center for Justice is a nonprofit law center created in cooperation with RWU Law and home to the RWU Law Center for Justice Fellowship Program, which hires RWU Law graduates interested in pursuing careers in public interest.

“It is a great honor and privilege to serve as the host for Michaela's Skadden Fellowship,” said Jennifer Wood, executive director of the Rhode Island Center for Justice. “Using the legal system to address the school-to-prison pipeline at its source – in the schools – is an exciting approach, and we are looking forward to getting this work underway."
Meet Maine’s New AG, Aaron Frey ’08

As attorney general, Frey will focus on opioid crisis, criminal justice reform, environmental safeguards and state relations with Maine's tribal nations.

Maine Attorney General Aaron M. Frey ’08

Image Credit: Troy R. Bennett/Bangor Daily News

January 11, 2019

Michael M. Bowden

AUGUSTA, Maine, Jan. 11, 2019 – Bangor defense attorney and three-term state representative Aaron M. Frey ’08 was sworn in on Jan. 8 as Maine’s new Attorney General, succeeding Janet Mills, who was elected the state’s first-ever female governor.

"I am honored and excited to lead a department with such a talented professional staff who work tirelessly on behalf of the people of Maine," Frey said. "I look forward to working productively with Maine's legislature and executive branch in what I hope will be a new era of cooperation and civility in state government, leading to positive results for our state."

In a conversation Thursday, Frey, 39, credited Roger Williams School of Law with shaping many of his legal perspectives. “By my first or second day at RWU Law, I’d met the justices of the Rhode Island Supreme Court,” he said, “Throughout my time there, I had access to top-notch lawyers, well-established in their fields. Roger Williams opened a lot of doors for me, and also opened my mind about what was possible with a law degree.”
RWU Law Dean Michael Yelnosky returned the compliment.

“We are proud to count Attorney General Frey as one of our alumni, not least because of his dedication to public service,” Yelnosky said. “He has been a member of the Maine House of Representatives since 2012 and now, just over ten years after graduating from the law school, he has become the top law enforcement officer in Maine. He came from Maine to Rhode Island to get the training he needed to return home and pursue his dreams. We congratulate him and wish him the best of luck.”

Frey noted that the number of Roger Williams lawyers in Maine was significant and growing fast.

Much Work to Do

Two of Frey's early goals as AG, he said, include finding better ways to fight Maine’s growing opioid crisis, and instituting criminal justice reform – issues he sees as intimately related.

“Our jails are essentially being used to control populations that are already under siege by drug and economic issues,” he explained. “There has been too much focus on retribution and not enough on addressing the underlying issues and encouraging rehabilitation.”

Other priorities include bolstering state environmental protections and improving governmental relations with Maine’s four federally recognized tribal groups – the Micmac, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot – which have deteriorated since outgoing Republican Gov. Paul LePage rescinded the state's agreement setting guidelines for the relationship.

“I want to get all parties sitting at a table again, and ensure that a constructive dialog resumes,” Frey said.

Maine Democrats surged to power after winning the governorship and 110 of 186 legislative seats in last November's election, which – in a famously “purple” state – was widely seen by pundits as a referendum on both President Donald Trump and LePage. In a speech following his election, Frey criticized the pair for policies “inconsistent with our Maine values,” citing rollbacks of environmental protections and efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Frey won the AG seat in a five-way race among Democrats in December. Under the state’s unique system for filling three important government posts (AG, secretary of state, and treasurer), the Maine Legislature elected Frey – a three-term Democratic representative for Bangor and Orono – to a two-year term.

Because Frey had just won his fourth term in the Maine House in November, a special election to fill his now vacant seat is likely to take place in February.
Amanda J. Argentieri manages business policies, training and communications for Global Business Operations at PTC – a Boston-based computer software and services company – at its Shanghai offices. She is also president of the International Professional Women’s Society (IPWS) in Shanghai, where she has resided since 2014.

In her role at PTC, Argentieri supports and enables the GBO organization of over 120 employees in seven countries across the globe, and works directly with the leadership team in strategy planning, designing communication frameworks, and implementing policy governance. She also created a standardized onboarding program for new employees in her organization, which will be leveraged by PTC company-wide.

“I originally came here with my partner at the time on an expatriate package for his job, but, ultimately, we didn’t work, and I decided to stay in Shanghai and ‘go local,’” Argentieri said. “I just didn’t feel ready to leave. I went from living in one of the nicest serviced compounds in the city to a lovely small apartment in Changning, where I currently live with my rescue dog, Bao Bao – and I couldn’t be happier!”
During her time in China, Argentieri has worked as a foreign associate attorney with a China-based law firm; supported community relations and marketing efforts at one of China’s leading private healthcare companies; and volunteered for several community initiatives. Prior to becoming President, she served on the IPWS Board of Directors as Membership Executive and Vice President, as well as the organizing committee for Mentor Walks Asia.

“IPWS is a dynamic, diverse, supportive community of professional women – and supporting men – from all nationalities and backgrounds,” she noted. The group has a reach of about 8,000.

Prior to relocating to Shanghai, Argentieri was an associate with Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP in Boston, where she focused her practice in consumer litigation, insurance coverage and defense matters, and professional liability defense. Amanda also served three terms as a judicial law clerk, most notably for Justice Gilbert V. Indegia of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. After graduating first in her undergraduate class at the University of Rhode Island, Argentieri earned a Master of Business from the University of Queensland in Australia. Returning to the States, she received her J.D. with honors at RWU Law. She is a member of the federal and state bars in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Amanda also served as the treasurer and membership chair of the Rhode Island Women’s Bar Association for three terms before moving to China.

“My favorite aspect of Shanghai is its reputation as a city of opportunity,” she said. “You can truly create your own destiny here. People come from all over the world for this reason. There is also an endless number of events, festivals, meetups, and more – you literally have to try to be bored in Shanghai. My least favorite part of living in Shanghai is the heartache of losing a favorite café, cocktail bar, or restaurant without notice. But thankfully there are always great new places popping up across the city to ease the pain. In addition to frequenting the great food and beverage establishments in Shanghai, I also enjoy biking to my next destination – squeezing in yoga and group classes at Z&B Fitness when I can, and of course attending all of the great professional and personal development events that IPWS puts on throughout the year.”

Argentieri has no immediate plans to return to the States.

“I can’t tell you how many times my friends and family back home in the U.S ask me if I will live in Shanghai forever,” she said. “I don’t have a good answer! Every time I think I may head home, a new opportunity presents itself. I often describe this city as ‘addicting.’ Even though I did not come to Shanghai entirely for myself, I have embraced the city and all it offers in building my life here. I have a fun job, a vibrant lifestyle, a supportive network, and have been able to travel to places I never imagined going.

"I wouldn’t trade this experience for the world.”
Boston's New DA Will Deliver MLK Address

The first African-American woman to serve as a District Attorney in Massachusetts, Rachael Rollins will address mass incarceration and criminal justice reform.

Rachael Rollins, District Attorney for Suffolk County, Massachusetts.

Image Credit: Diana Levine

January 10, 2019

Michael M. Bowden

BRISTOL, R.I., Jan. 10, 2019 – Rachael Rollins, the first African-American woman to serve as District Attorney in Massachusetts and the first female DA in Suffolk County, will deliver this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. Keynote Lecture at Roger Williams University School of Law.

In one of her first speaking engagements since being sworn in on Jan. 2, Rollins will appear for a conversation with RWU Law students, faculty, alumni and staff on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 285. The event is also open to the public. Those wishing to attend should RSVP to lawevents@rwu.edu.

A former state and federal prosecutor, Rollins was elected in November on a criminal justice reform platform that focused on reducing racial disparities in the criminal justice system. Rollins’ election was historic. Only 1 percent of elected prosecutors in the United States are women of color. Her goals include eliminating cash bail for minor offenses, reducing mass incarceration, and ending the use of mandatory minimum sentences.
“We are no longer going to criminalize poverty, mental illness and substance use disorder,” Rollins said. “We are going to end the wealth and racial disparities in our incarceration rates. We are going to hear and listen to the voices of survivors of sexual assault and of homicide. And we are going to focus our resources on those who undermine public safety with acts of gun violence, domestic violence and sexual assault, and homicide.”

Rollins has been a lawyer for over 20 years. As a state and federal prosecutor, she handled cases involving civil rights violations, fraud, sexual predators, narcotics, violence and weapons. She also clerked on the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Rollins served as general counsel of both the MBTA and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. In those roles, she managed over 150 employees and was responsible for overseeing thousands of cases per year. She left to become the Chief Legal Counsel for the Massachusetts Port Authority. She has sat on Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey’s Advisory Council on Racial Justice and Equity, was an appointee of former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick to the state’s Judicial Nominating Commission, is a past president of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, and served a three-year term on the Boston Bar Association Council.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Keynote Lecture is presented in honor of the contribution of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the Civil Rights Movement, and with the generous support of Nixon Peabody LLP, and the RWU Law Office of Diversity & Outreach.
Judges appointed for Kenai, Juneau, Bethel, Court of Appeals

By

The Cordova Times

-December 3, 2018

Gov. Bill Walker has announced the appointment of four new judges to the Alaska Court of Appeals and the Kenai, Juneau and Bethel Superior Courts.

Bethany Harbison, presiding Superior Court Judge for the Fourth Judicial District in Fairbanks, was named to the Court of Appeals.

Harbison, a 1993 graduate of Harvard Law School, has practiced law in Alaska for almost 25 years. She has clerked for Superior Court Judge Mary Greene, worked as a public defender and magistrate judge.

Terrence Haas, supervisor for the Bethel and Dillingham public defender offices for the past decade, will join the Bethel Superior Court. A 2007 graduate of Roger Williams University School of Law, Haas clerked for the Rhode Island Supreme Court before moving to Bethel.

Judge Daniel Schally, who is joining the Juneau Superior Court, has practiced law in Alaska for over 20 years. He clerked in Kodiak and worked as an assistant district attorney for Southeast Alaska before becoming a district court judge and superior court judge pro tempore in Southcentral Alaska in 2005.

Assistant District Attorney Jason Gist, who has practiced law in Alaska for more than 14 years, will join the Kenai Superior Court. Gist, a 2008 graduate of the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, clerked for Alaska Chief Justice Alexander O. Bryner and worked in private practice before his current state job.

“Their history with Alaska, their excellent records, and the personal conversations I had with each of them made me confident they will serve Alaska well in their new roles,” Walker said.
National Criminal Defense College to hold Trial Practice Institute at RWU School of Law

Some of nation’s top criminal defense lawyers will come to Bristol campus this summer to teach two-week sessions

November 15, 2018
Edward Fitzpatrick

BRISTOL, R.I., Nov. 15, 2018 – The National Criminal Defense College will hold its Trial Practice Institute at the Roger Williams University School of Law for the first time this summer.

A pair of two-week sessions will take place from June 16-29 and July 21-Aug. 3, bringing more than 100 defense attorneys from across the country to the Bristol campus.

“We are thrilled to partner with Roger Williams University School of Law to host our Trial Practice Institute,” National Criminal Defense College Co-Deans Natasha Silas and Karen Perdew Smolar said. “We were drawn to RWU Law because of its outstanding commitment to public service and its reputation for excellence. We also share RWU’s belief in the power of experiential learning. As we prepare for the 34th year of the NCDC Trial Practice Institute, we are looking forward to a magical time in Bristol, Rhode Island, at RWU Law.”

“Hosting the NCDC Trial Practice Institute is a perfect fit for RWU Law,” RWU Law Dean Michael J. Yelnosky said. “We have great depth in and a commitment to criminal law and procedure, public interest law and experiential education. Many of our alumni are public
defenders or criminal defense lawyers in private practice, and many are prosecutors. We believe, as does NCDC, that effective representation is essential to equal justice under law, and I am proud that we are in a position to welcome them to Bristol and to Rhode Island in summer 2019.”

The Trial Practice Institute is a two-week-long transformative experience for public, private, military and federal defense attorneys from all over the United States and beyond. Participants are challenged to master courtroom skills by attending lectures, performing case exercises with live professional actors, and by watching demonstrations by NCDC’s nationally renowned faculty.

“Our goal is to empower passionate and committed defense lawyers to become the most formidable client-centered courtroom advocates they can be,” Silas and Smolar said.

Last year, about 80 faculty members taught in the two institutes, which were attended by 208 participants. The faculty come from coast to coast and from the judiciary, law schools, private practice, and state and federal public defender offices. Associate Professor Tara Allen, who recently joined the RWU Law faculty and is an alumna of NCDC, will join the institute’s visiting faculty for summer 2019.

“Having NCDC’s Trial Practice Institute at RWU Law will bring some of the best criminal defense lawyers from across the country to Bristol and Rhode Island to serve as Institute faculty,” Yelnosky said.

The institute will also provide tremendous summer experiences for four RWU Law students who will work with the deans of NCDC, as well as the institute faculty and staff.