The School of Law’s International Reach Extends Further Than You Might Think ...
Friends,

RWU School of Law has assembled a remarkable group of teacher/scholars with international law practice as part of their intellectual portfolio.

On our full-time faculty we have an expert on comparative constitutional law; the author of a treatise on international litigation; a senior teacher of comparative IP law; a foreign-born and trained lawyer who specializes in international business regulation; a public intellectual and scholar in the area of national security; a lawyer who represents clients incarcerated at Guantanamo; another who teaches human rights and publishes in two languages; and a United Nations veteran.

Our visiting faculty includes a dynamic English barrister with extensive practice in the E.U., and a judge advocate officer who is representing a Marine charged with murder in Iraq. We have distinctive summer programs in London and Lisbon, as well as faculty who have taught there and in Germany and Austria.

Our students can take a broad array of electives with an international component, some taught by experts available by dint of our proximity to the Naval War College, the Naval Justice School, and the Defense Institute for Legal Studies. We have increasingly been able to find interesting externships for our students and graduates who have international interests.

We are home to the Portuguese-American Comparative Law Center and regularly bring students from Lisbon to Bristol for a taste of the American legal system as well as the chance to take classes from our terrific faculty.

This issue of Amicus focuses on faculty, staff, and students who “do” International Law, while a future issue will explore the more scholarly side of their work. Read on to learn more about how RWU Law is changing the world for the better.

David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law
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New Faculty

John J. Chung joined the Roger Williams law faculty this academic year, fresh off a several-year stint with the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva, Switzerland. Chung is a *cum laude* graduate of Harvard Law School and a *summa cum laude* graduate of Washington University. Before serving in Geneva, he was a partner with the law firm of Katten Muchin & Davis in Los Angeles, handling bankruptcy and commercial litigation. Chung has articles in the *UCLA Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs*, the *Northwestern Journal of International Law and Business*, and the *Duke Journal of Comparative and International Law*. He teaches contracts and commercial law, and is profiled in this issue of *Amicus* on page 22.

Professor Andrew Horwitz Receives Two Awards

Andrew Horwitz was awarded the Dorothy Lohmann Community Service award by the Rhode Island Bar Association at their annual meeting. This community-service award reflects the many hours of pro bono legal counsel that Professor Horwitz provided to the Rhode Island NAACP. In addition, he was awarded the Lauren E. Jones Writing award for best article in the *Rhode Island Bar Journal*. The winning piece, “Police Prosecution in Rhode Island: The Unauthorized Practice of Law,” was co-authored by John R. Grasso, a 2006 graduate of the School of Law and former police officer.
Gail I. Winson has been named Associate Dean for Library and Information Services. A founding member of the Roger Williams faculty, Dean Winson brought valuable experience from her decade with the library at the University of California at Hastings. Her expertise was instrumental in creating the School of Law’s library facility as well as shaping its collection, which factors helped the School of Law earn ABA accreditation in only three years and membership in the Association of American Law Schools in 2006. She provides exceptional support for the research needs of faculty, students, and practitioners.


David M. Zlotnick is serving as the inaugural “Distinguished Service Professor of Law,” reflecting his important contributions to both the School of Law and law reform. A popular and respected teacher of criminal law and related courses, Zlotnick co-founded the law school’s “Innocence Project,” in conjunction with his work in the school’s Criminal Defense Clinic. He was awarded a grant from the Open Society Institute to perform an empirical study on the attitudes of federal judges toward the restrictions imposed upon them by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Building on this pathbreaking research, he organized and hosted a symposium at the School of Law, entitled “Sentencing Rhetoric: Competing Narratives in the Post-Booker Era.” David has also done important appellate litigation for the non-govermental organization, Families Against Mandatory Minimums.
Professor Elorza Recognized For Pro Bono Work

Jorge Elorza was awarded the “Beyond the Call of Duty Award” by the Childhood Lead Action Project. The award reflects the many hours that Elorza has devoted to improving the lives of children in Rhode Island. He litigated Mackie v. R.I., an important case pending in the Rhode Island Supreme Court, on behalf of a group of plaintiffs fighting to protect children from lead-paint poisoning.

Feinstein’s Tobin Tyler Honored

The Board of the National Legal Services Corporation has recognized Liz Tobin Tyler for her work with the Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership for Children. This innovative project pairs Roger Williams law students with Brown medical students to provide necessary legal advice for families at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. The students work with attorneys from Rhode Island Legal Services to address a range of issues that can affect child health, including access to public benefits, safe housing, educational rights, and family violence.

RWU Essay Wins Scholarship

Weayonnoh Nelson ’07 has won the Rodney Pulliam Memorial Scholarship in the National Black Law Students Association’s (NBLSA) essay competition. Nelson’s essay focused on whether affirmative action has outlived its usefulness to the African-American community, as well as how the legal system can focus on other factors – outside the current scope of affirmative action – to increase higher-educational opportunities for African-American students.

Nelson is recruitment chair for the Multi-Cultural Law Students Association, and is a member of the Black Law Students Association and the International Law Society. She competed on the Roger Williams School of Law team in the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, and also serves as a student attorney with the Community Justice clinic.
Love for Liberia

The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and Multi-Cultural Law Students Association (MCLSA) teamed up to show “Love for Liberia,” holding a fundraiser to purchase school supplies for Liberian grade-school students. The combined efforts of the organizations’ members, together with generous contributions from law school faculty and staff, helped fund seven boxes of school supplies for the ICF Mission School in Bong County, Liberia.

In addition to the grade-school fundraiser, BLSA and MCLSA also held a book drive collecting materials for the University of Liberia’s Arthur Grimes Law School. The Roger Williams law school community responded with enormous support, donating both new and used books.

Equal Justice Works
Summer Corps Program

Three Roger Williams law students were selected from a competitive field for the Equal Justice Works Summer Corps Program. Lauren Graham ’07, Tenee McKinley ’07, and Amy Snelling ’08 each completed internships with nonprofit public-interest organizations during the summer. Lauren worked with the Virginia Justice Center on workers’ rights issues. Tenee worked with the Legal Aid Society, Prisoners’ Rights Division, New York, N.Y. Amy worked with the Rhode Island Legal Services on civil rights/liberties in Newport. Summer Corps members provide legal assistance to low-income and underserved communities across the nation. Participating students gain firsthand experience and legal skills in such areas as client intake, individual representation, research, and writing.
Judge Selya Joins RWU Faculty

Last semester, 20 students spent two hours a week discussing litigation strategy with the Honorable Bruce M. Selya of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, one of the most distinguished appellate judges in the federal system. Judge Selya is nationally known for his brilliant and scholarly opinions, as well as his incisive and active questioning from the bench. Judge Selya received an honorary degree from the School of Law in 2002 and is a member of the School of Law’s Board of Directors.

His course, entitled “Lessons of Litigation,” is based on materials assembled by the judge himself. Each week, class discussion focuses on a judicial opinion or series of opinions selected to emphasize some phase or facet of the litigation process.

Judge Selya joins Judge Ernest C. Torres, United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island (teaching “Fair Trials and Freedom of the Press”), Judge Frank J. Williams, Chief Justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court (teaching “Local Government Law”), and Judge Stephen J. Fortunato (teaching “The Nature of the Judicial Process”), as a member of the School of Law’s distinguished adjunct faculty.

Professor Kent Joins Board of Directors

The latest member of the law school’s Board of Directors is none other than Professor Robert B. Kent, who retired from the School of Law last spring after 55 years in legal education. Professor Kent brings to the Board his wisdom and experience gained from service on the School of Law faculty as well as the faculties of Boston University School of Law and Cornell Law School. He also served in administrative capacities during his years in legal education – as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Cornell and Dean of the University at the Zambia School of Law. Finally, he is well known to most members of the Rhode Island bar as the author of the seminal reference, Rhode Island Civil Procedure.

Professor Kent’s absence from the classrooms and offices of the School of Law is palpable, but we look forward to his continued guidance as a member of the team of leaders who will help guide the school into the future.
National Guantanamo Teach-In

Roger Williams participated in the “National Guantanamo Teach-In,” in which experts familiar with Guantanamo linked with colleges and law schools across the country via satellite to explore America’s “Antic-Statute of Liberty.” Professor Jared Goldstein spoke to the Roger Williams students about his own experience representing foreign detainees held at Guantanamo. He addressed the lack of legal processes for the detainees and the conditions in which they are held.

“The Teach-In succeeded in bringing issues about the indefinite detentions of accused enemy combatants to the Roger Williams University campus,” said Goldstein, whose work is profiled in this issue on page 18.

“I enjoyed speaking with the group, which consisted mostly of undergraduate students who had not previously been exposed to the issue.”

Larson Heads Mass Governor’s Transition Team

Gloria Larson, a member of the School of Law Board of Directors, was co-chair of the Transition Team for Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. Larson’s duties included assisting in setting policy agendas and personnel recruitment. This is not Larson’s first high-level appointment; she was also chief economic advisor to former Massachusetts Governor William Weld, and is currently Chair of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. In addition, Larson heads the government-practices group at Foley Hoag LLP in Boston.

Russian Judges Visit RWU Law

Roger Williams University School of Law recently hosted five judges from Russia under the auspices of the Open World Program, a professional and cultural exchange program intended to “highlight some differences between the American and Russian legal systems,” according to the judges’ facilitator.

At the law school, the judges – all women – were introduced to the American legal system, observed classes, and met faculty and top student advocates for lunch. Judges, faculty, and students were able to converse through a translator, but the judges especially enjoyed the chance to speak in Russian with several bilingual students.

“The visit exposed the judges to how lawyers are trained in the U.S.,” said Dean David A. Logan. “They sat in on a traditional class that featured the Socratic Method (Evidence), as well as a forensic training course (Trial Practice). They also had a chance to learn about the RWU experience by speaking with faculty and students.”

The week-long visit was coordinated by the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island and the World Affairs Council.

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Law Review Publishes the Annual Survey of Rhode Island Law

The Roger Williams University Law Review published its annual survey of Rhode Island law in February 2007, featuring articles by local judges, practitioners, scholars, and students.

Students Aid in State Environmental Report

Two RWU law students helped research and write a project report sponsored by Rhode Island Legal Services (RILS).

Weayonnoh Nelson ’07 and Marcus Jones ’07 contributed their skills to the report, entitled Environmental Justice for States: A Guide for Developing Environmental Justice Programs for State Environmental Agencies, which was the product of a research project funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the agency’s Environmental Justice Small Grant program. Their positions were funded by The Diversity Environmental Law Fellowship, which places minority law students in paid summer internships with non-profits that do environmental work.

Anthony L. Bastone II, assistant dean for the Office of Career Services, worked to ensure continued funding for the fellowship, and was instrumental in bringing Nelson and Jones together to work on the RILS project.

Moot Court Team Wins Big

Majessire Smith ’08 and Swapna Yeluri ’07, won top honors at the National Moot Court Competition – the largest appellate moot court competition in the world – receiving the Best Brief award for the New England region.

The award represents the first time in the School of Law’s history that a moot court competition team has received a best-brief award in national competition.

Smith and Yeluri’s brief defeated entries by nine other law schools including Harvard, Boston College, Boston University, Syracuse, Maine, Vermont, Suffolk, Quinnipiac, and Western New England. The team was coached by Professors Larry Ritchie and Jon Shelburne.

Smith is a member of the Black Law Students Association and the Moot Court Board, and serves as treasurer of the Multi-Cultural Law Students Association. She works in the Office of Diversity and Outreach at the law school. Yeluri is president of the Multi-Cultural Law Students Association, and a member of the Edward P. Gallogly Family Inn of Court. She works for the Bridge to Success program at Roger Williams.

Student Elected to National ABA House of Delegates

Christopher Casey ’07 was elected to the National ABA House of Delegates, where he served on the Commission on a Renaissance of Idealism in the Legal Profession. The commission focused on increasing pro bono and public-interest service in the law profession. This year, Christopher is serving on the Commission on Youth at Risk, which works to improve the juvenile justice system, concentrating on education of those in positions of influence who can make such changes happen.
Shelburne Will Represent Marine in Haditha Incident

Professor Jon Shelburne was recently assigned as lead defense counsel for the senior Marine charged in a score of civilian murders in Haditha, Iraq, during November 2005.

Shelburne, a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve and the Reserve Regional Defense Counsel for the Western Pacific, will represent Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Chessani on charges stemming from Chessani’s alleged failure to investigate and properly report the slaying of a number of civilians killed by Marines under his command.

Some media reports have tried to compare the so-called “Haditha Massacre” to the 1968 My Lai Massacre in Vietnam, but as of press time, no hearings had been scheduled and no evidence presented in open court. Shelburne’s work is profiled on page 16 of this issue of Amicus.

Law Review Standouts to Be Published

The 2006-2007 Roger Williams University Law Review Editorial Board has announced that three of its members have accepted offers for publication with outside journals. They are:


- **Margreta Vellucci**, *Fishing for the Truth: Achieving the Best Available Science by Forging a Middle Ground Between Mainstream Scientists and Fishermen*, ENVIRONS ENVTL. L. POL’Y J. (UC Davis).

Alum Named to Board of Examiners

Carly (Beauvais) Iafrate ’00 was appointed to the Rhode Island Board of Bar Examiners in September 2006. The Board is responsible for administering the bar exam and scoring responses to the essay questions.

Congratulations, Carly!
Marine Affairs Institute's 6th Marine Law Symposium

More than 120 participants attended the Marine Affairs Institute's 6th Marine Law Symposium at the School of Law.

The symposium – entitled “The Evolution of Ecosystem-Based Management: From Theory to Practice” – provided lessons and discussed successes of ecosystem-based management for the protection of the marine environment.

Leaders implementing ecosystem-based management on the regional and local levels presented their experiences with an eye toward developing practices and lessons that could be applied in other regions.

The event added to the information base of marine-ecosystem management by assessing successes of on-the-ground programs, and presented innovative ideas from the private and nonprofit sectors that may augment and advance the emerging national and regional marine resource management regimes.

This year’s Symposium joined with the 5th Annual Sea Grant Science Symposium to broaden the individual focus of the marine law symposia to include legal, policy, and scientific analysis.

In addition, the Institute’s first Marine Law Summer Program was held over the summer, offering law students an opportunity to focus on maritime, ocean and coastal-law classes. A suite of maritime and admiralty courses – as well as ocean and coastal/natural resource law courses – were taught by RWU faculty and visiting professors. The coursework was complemented by field trips including a cruise aboard the Alletta Morris, the Save the Bay research vessel, and a visit to the Conley Container Terminal Port in Boston. Special lectures were offered by Prof. Victor Flatt, the A.L. O’Quinn Chair in Environmental Law from the University of Houston School of Law; and Catherine Robinson Hall, Esq., Professor of Marine Policy at Williams College, Mystic Seaport.

Marine Affairs Student Spotlight

Law student Weayonnoh Nelson ’07 served as legal immigration fellow at the U.S. Human Rights Network in Atlanta, Georgia last summer.

The U.S. Human Rights Network, with a membership of more than 180 U.S.-based human rights organizations, was formed to promote U.S. accountability to universal human-rights standards by building links between organizations and individuals working on human-rights issues in the United States.

During her internship, Nelson provided a human-rights analysis and critique of the current immigration debate in the United States by using the “International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families” (MWC) as a framework. The MWC specifically addresses the treatment, welfare and human rights of both documented and undocumented migrant workers and their families. This framework was appropriate for the immigration debate Nelson said, because it guarantees that human rights are properly applied to all migrant workers.

Nelson is a member of the Environmental Moot Court Team. She received the “Best Oralist” awards in competition in 2006 and 2007.
Pro Bono Collaborative

Following a successful year as a pilot project, the Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) has received a generous $75,000 follow-up grant from the Rhode Island Foundation.

“This valuable collaborative enables some of our state’s poorest residents to obtain essential legal services,” said foundation president and CEO Ronald V. Gallo, in announcing the renewed funding.

“The Rhode Island Foundation is pleased to support Roger Williams University, which leads the project,” Gallo said. “And area law firms – which provide pro bono counsel – are also to be commended, both for assisting low-income individuals in such areas as housing law and for providing opportunities for students in the Roger Williams University School of Law to obtain practical experience.”

Laurie Barron, director of RWU’s Feinstein Institute, described the gift as “critical for the PBC, which brings an added dimension of community work to the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service.”

“We are particularly pleased by the opportunity the PBC brings our students to learn hands-on about the issues facing indigent clients in our community, and to appreciate firsthand the challenges of juggling competing demands while incorporating pro bono work into a private-sector career,” Barron said.

The PBC was launched as a pilot project in January 2006, supported by an initial grant from the Rhode Island Foundation. The collaborative designs discrete projects – informed by the legal needs of non-profit providers and their clients, and tailored to match the talents, skills, and interests of participating law firms and their attorneys – to maximize existing resources in the community. Students undergo a rigorous selection process to ensure the maximum effectiveness of each team.

The renewed funding will enable the PBC to maintain ongoing projects while establishing three additional collaborations in the year ahead.

“A lot of work has gone into the project – and the students, attorneys and community organizations all stand to benefit greatly and learn from one another,” said Casey Williams ’07, a third-year RWU law student and a continuing member of the original Affordable Housing project team.

“Important work is being done,” Williams added. “It will be great to see it through to completion.”

Williams helped develop and administer the survey that originally identified the need for the PBC. Having assisted in preparation of the original pilot-project proposal, she will represent the PBC at the ABA Equal Justice Conference.

‘Street Law’ Gets New Infusion

The Rhode Island Bar Foundation awarded $25,000 to the Thurgood Marshall Law Society (TMLS) in support of its partnership with the Feinstein Institute’s Street Law program for 2007.

Established in 2002, the Street Law program engages law students in teaching Rhode Island high-school and middle-school students about the law and their legal rights. Recently, the Institute partnered with TMLS to further develop the program by targeting schools that serve primarily minority students.

Last October, Roger Williams became one of ten law schools chosen to participate in Street Law, Inc.’s “Diversity Pipeline” initiative, which was created to develop model programs using Street Law as a way to increase minority student enrollment in law schools.

Founded in 1972, Street Law is a practical, participatory educational program focusing on law, democracy, and human rights. Employing a unique blend of content and methodology, Street Law promotes cooperative learning, critical thinking, and active participation in democratic societies. The organization publishes more than a dozen textbooks, most notably Street Law: A Course in Practical Law (Glencoe/ McGraw-Hill), now in its seventh edition, which has sold more than a million copies and is used by school districts in all 50 states.

Approximately 70 law schools in the United States have Street Law programs, in which law students teach practical law in high school, juvenile justice, prison, or community settings either for credit or as part of pro bono programs. Street Law programs now exist in more than 30 countries around the world, educating people about human rights and democracy building.
Rhode Island Lead Paint Victory May Be First of Many

“Community advocates are hopeful that the judge will order the paint companies to pay for lead abatements for every single home where lead paint was used [and] make Rhode Island the first lead-free state in the country.”

Lynch Asks High Court to Uphold Lead Paint Law

Jorge Elorza urged lawmakers seeking to amend a new lead paint law to wait until after the Rhode Island Supreme Court resolved a challenge to the law’s constitutionality.

“[I]t is possible that the Rhode Island Supreme Court will declare the law constitutional,” said Elorza, “and if you do not await its decision you may be reshaping a law that has no deficiencies.”

Judge Takes Responsibility for Derderian Pleas [in Station Night Club Fire Case]

“In a normal case, a case that’s not high publicity and emotionally charged, it’s not particularly unusual for a judge to agree to a disposition that isn’t what the attorney general wants. What is unusual is that it would happen in this kind of case.”

Predator Law Sends Inmate to Treatment

“Sex offenders are a criminal problem and they should be dealt with through the criminal justice system.”
Jared A. Goldstein

*The Providence Journal* (September 28, 2006)

*Habeas Corpus Must Not Be Sacrificed in War on Terror*

“Congress is now poised to do something it has never done before: Take away the right of prisoners to seek habeas corpus. [...] The Courts must be available – as they have been for centuries – to make sure that the people we imprison really are our enemies. If Congress takes away the right of Guantanamo detainees to go to court, the government will be able to wrongly hold people forever. There will be nothing anyone can do about it.”

Peter S. Margulies


*American in al Qaeda Tapes Accused of Treason*

“There is a real issue here as to whether the [government has met the] two-witness requirement [for a treason charge].

*The New York Times* (September 8, 2006)

*Interrogation Methods Rejected by Military Win Bush’s Support*

“[The legislation proposed in Congress] seems to be trying to surgically remove from our compliance with [the] Geneva [Conventions] the section of Common Article 3 that deals with ‘humiliating and degrading treatment.’”

Emily J. Sack

*The Providence Journal* (February 22, 2007)

*Lynch: R.I. to Recognize Mass. Gay Marriages*

 “[Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick] Lynch’s opinion could help shape public policy in several states such as Rhode Island that don’t have a clear law on the subject. Rhode Island’s on the front line now.”

David M. Zlotnick

*The Providence Journal* (September 23, 2006)

*Will Questions About [Station Night Club] Fire Ever Be Answered?*

“Plea bargains [...] have plenty of benefits, such as reducing the risk of losing an important case, and plea deals also avoid costly trials. But trials have benefits. They let the public see all the facts. Sometimes victims want to tell their stories.”
Global Connections:
The School of Law’s International Reach Extends Further – and in More Directions – Than You Might Think …

By Michael M. Bowden

At first glance, the School of Law – seated serenely amid the idyllic coastal scenery and quiet bustle of the Bristol campus – doesn’t appear to be a hotbed of international activity. Don’t be fooled: the school’s faculty includes major players at The Hague, United Nations veterans, lawyers representing detainees at Guantanamo, advisors helping to establish the rule of law in hot spots from Iraq to Rwanda, and litigators on the cutting edge of 9/11 litigation.

“While we have a faculty of distinguished scholars, we also have ‘boots on the ground’ lawyers,” said Dean David Logan of these active academics. “Lawyers who are out there in the real world, making things happen and making a difference.”

Here’s your chance to get acquainted with some dedicated pros with an international focus.
During the days and weeks leading up to the Iraqi elections of January 2005, media speculation ran rampant: Was it too soon to attempt the first general election since the U.S.-led invasion of 2003? Was the political situation too unstable? Was the infrastructure sophisticated enough? Could the U.S.-led coalition realistically, logistically pull it off?

Assistant professor of law Jon Shelburne did not have the luxury of leaving such matters to chance. In addition to his duties at Roger Williams, Shelburne is also a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Between June and December 2004, he was deployed to Baghdad, helping ensure that plans for the assault on Fallujah and the Battle of An Najaf were in compliance with both international law and the U.S.’s own rules of engagement. However, the bulk of his duties in Iraq focused on the then-pending elections.

“We spent an inordinate amount of time working with the Iraqi provisional government to facilitate the Iraqi elections,” Shelburne said. “But in the end it was hugely successful.”

To the amazement of many observers, the 2005 elections were an unqualified triumph for the coalition. With a total of some 8.4 million votes cast – a remarkable 58 percent turnout – the elections took place without any major disruptions.

‘Extremely Sensitive’ Work
A judge advocate since 1992, Shelburne’s international experience is broad, encompassing more than 15 felony jury trials and 150 misdemeanor trials and administrative hearings while stationed in Japan and Italy.

Some of the cases were media circuses. For example, in 1998 Shelburne found himself assigned as lead military attorney for the pilot and navigator of a U.S. Marine Corps surveillance jet that accidentally cut the cables of a ski lift in the Italian Alps, killing 20 people.

“Our work is extremely sensitive,” Shelburne explained. “We have so much interaction with the local people, and the effectiveness of our response often determines whether or not an incident becomes the next CNN headline.”

Shelburne continues his judge advocate duties to the present day. He was recently assigned as lead judge advocate while serving abroad.

‘The effectiveness of our response can often determine whether or not an incident becomes the next CNN headline.’

-Jon Shelburne
defense counsel for the senior Marine charged in the “Haditha massacre” prosecutions, in which a group of U.S. Marines stand accused of the November 2005 slaying of 24 Iraqi civilians – including six children and four women – in what appeared to be retaliation for the death of a Marine in a roadside bombing. (Shelburne was unable to discuss the case in detail for this article, as investigations were still pending and no formal charges had been filed at the time of this interview.)

Ongoing Work
In addition to his reserve status, Shelburne often serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies (DIILS), where he has taught seminars for government and military officials in such far-flung locations as Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Guatemala, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Moldova and Namibia.

“The programs focus on human rights, military law, and the rule of law,” Shelburne explained.

“Discussion tends to focus primarily on international cooperation, and on the use of international conventions and customary international law to improve transnational coordination.”

At Roger Williams, Shelburne teaches bread-and-butter legal courses such as trial advocacy, criminal law, and criminal procedure – not exactly glamorous “international law” stuff.

“Most of the things I’m doing internationally don’t fit into criminal law courses very well,” he said.

“What I bring to students in the international sense probably happens more outside of class. But I do think I convey an awareness of how different jurisdictions handle cases – and these can give students a sense of other things they can do in the legal profession, opportunities that go well beyond traditional domestic law-firm practice.”
The very term “Gitmo” – referring to the controversial Guantanamo Bay detention facility – conjures up powerful and disturbing images that strike at the heart of America’s current political divide. The camp has drawn strong criticism both in the U.S. and worldwide for its detainment of prisoners without trial, as well as allegations of torture – but to date only a tiny handful of outsiders have actually been allowed to enter its gates.

One of those few is Jared Goldstein, an associate professor at Roger Williams. How did Goldstein – a former associate at Shearman & Sterling in Washington, D.C., who now teaches constitutional and environmental law – end up becoming one of the first civilian lawyers allowed into Guantanamo?

His journey began just five months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when his firm was approached by several Kuwaiti families – wives, parents, and children of detainees at Guantanamo – to represent the prisoners. Shearman & Sterling agreed, thus becoming the first U.S. law firm to undertake this challenge.

“It’s not like American lawyers were lining up for a chance to represent these guys,” Goldstein explained. “In the political climate of the time, it wasn’t exactly a popular cause.”

Making Contact
The government fought back hard, claiming detainees had no right to habeas corpus, to attorneys, or to confidential conferences with attorneys. Goldstein – an appellate specialist – was brought into the picture when the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case. The favorable decision that followed in June 2004 (Rasul v. Bush) cleared the way for representation, and – by the time a slew of lesser hurdles thrown up by the government was cleared at lower court levels – Goldstein was “very heavily involved” with the cases.

“So two and a half years passed before we were finally able to meet the detainees,” Goldstein said. “Most of them had no idea we’d even been working for them, no idea of our existence – so when we met we were strangers; they had no reason to trust us. How did they know who we were? To convince them we were legitimate, we made a DVD of their families [in a Kuwaiti law office] introducing us as their lawyers.”

Some of the prisoners were convinced by the DVD; others weren’t so sure, fearing that their families had been coerced. They asked for DVDs filmed in their respective homes, with their families introducing the lawyers in a familiar setting. After the government minutely screened the recordings for any coded messages or other objectionable content, Goldstein returned to Gitmo to meet his clients.

“Showing the detainees these DVDs was one of the most emotional things I ever experienced,” Goldstein said. “These men were seeing wives, children, parents, brothers and sisters, for the first time in years; babies born while they were in confinement. It was wrenching, because these people were generally very stoic – broken by three years of solitary confinement and other deprivations.”
The Flimsiest Of Pretenses
Goldstein maintains there is no legal or factual basis for holding most of the detainees, including his clients.

“Ninety percent of the Guantanamo detainees were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time,” he said. “At most, ten percent are al Qaeda – but there’s no way of knowing which ten percent. So the best thing to do [in the government’s opinion] is simply to hold them all indefinitely. Better safe than sorry. No one wants to be the one to release a bad guy, so it’s safest to just keep them all at Gitmo – and often on the flimsiest of pretenses.”

Goldstein said the detainees were held in six-by-nine-foot rooms crammed with a toilet, bed, and fluorescent lights left on 24 hours a day – and all meals taken in the cell as well. “They were all given a Koran, but no newspapers, magazines, or books,” he added. “One described it as being locked in a bathroom for five years with nothing to do. And that does not even take into account the interrogation techniques they face day in and day out, whether legally or not.”

An Uphill Battle
Goldstein left Shearman & Sterling in 2005 to teach at Roger Williams. Today, of the 12 Kuwaiti detainees he represented, eight are back in Kuwait; the others will probably soon follow. “Really, the only way anyone is released is through a deal with their home country,” he explained.

Goldstein and his law school colleague Peter Marguiles recently teamed with partners Deming Sherman and Pat Sullivan of Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge, to represent another Gitmo detainee (this one from Afghanistan). Other joint representations are anticipated as the complex legal battles involving detainees continues to unfold.

In the meantime, Goldstein says his teaching at RWU is “fed in a million ways” by his Guantanamo work, particularly his classes on constitutional law. “The issues I’ve worked on come up in class in a very direct and literal way,” he explained.

“I got involved [with the detainee cases] based on an abstract principle that is worth fighting for,” Goldstein said. “But actually going there and meeting these people gave these cases a very different flavor for me. It’s hard to get away from the knowledge that with every technical delay, every day that passes – every minute, even as we sit here talking – my client is still stuck down there in Guantanamo, thousands of miles from home and family, locked in a bathroom.”
A Broader Legal Palette

By Michael M. Bowden

Among the places one might think to search for a Roger Williams law professor, the Bench of the French Supreme Court might not immediately come to mind — but that’s precisely where Professor Louise Ellen Teitz was to be found recently, alongside Justice Stephen Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court and other worldwide legal luminaries.

They were in Paris as part of an ABA International Legal Exchange (ILEX) delegation headed by Breyer. During the exchange, Teitz addressed gatherings of arbitration experts and lawyers in London and Paris on the enforcement of international judgments.

High Profile Player
As one of the world’s leading experts on international procedure, Teitz writes and teaches primarily in the area of transnational and international litigation, which she defines as “litigation that touches on parties or facts that cross borders.”

Teitz has been a U.S. delegate to the Hague Conference on Private International Law for the Jurisdiction and Judgments Convention; a prominent leader in the ABA’s Section of International Law; and is now serving as chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section of Conflict of Laws — a role she assumed when RWU was granted AALS accreditation in January 2006.

Such associations — among literally dozens of others — suggest why associate dean Michael Yelnosky describes Teitz as “RWU’s highest-profile international player.”

Teitz herself is more modest about her role, claiming that she sees her work mainly as a practical contribution to her profession.

“I firmly believe that academics have to be involved with practitioners,” she said. “It’s mutually beneficial, because it helps us deal with real-life problems, and not just theory.”

This philosophy is borne out in Teitz’s writings, which include scores of law review articles and book chapters, as well as her treatise, Transnational Litigation (Michie 1996 and Lexis Law Publishing 1999 Supplement), soon to be republished in a revised and expanded second edition entitled, Transnational Litigation and Dispute Resolution. Teitz is also co-author — along with Southern Methodist University School of Law Professor Peter Winship — of a forthcoming West textbook on conflicts of law.

‘Many lawyers and law students today have a sense of the global culture and global economy — but not so much of how it practically affects day-to-day life and litigation.’

-Louise Ellen Teitz

Professor Louise Ellen Teitz (front row, third from right) posing with the ABA International Legal Exchange (ILEX) delegation in Paris.
Conflicts of Laws
Teitz – a native Rhode Islander who “never thought [she’d] make it back here” until the School of Law opened in Bristol – said her interest in international litigation evolved out of domestic conflict-of-laws problems between states (for example, “a plaintiff from Rhode Island and a defendant from Massachusetts litigating a claim arising out of an automobile accident that happened in New Hampshire”).

While such cases still occupy a considerable amount of her time, an early-80s stint as an assistant professor at the University of Konstanz in Germany helped broaden Teitz’s interest to the international sphere.

Back in the 80’s, this was an “odd and eccentric” field of interest, she explained. “But today most transactions involve transnational elements – from Mercedes Benz cars to Sony laptops to corporate subsidiaries and their parents.

“These, in turn, raise issues of jurisdiction, choice of law, enforcement, and mechanisms for dispute resolution, among other things,” she said. “In legal education as well, there is an increasing movement to incorporate a global component in all courses.”

Leveling The Field
Teitz was a member of the U.S. delegation that in June 2005 signed the Hague Conference on Private International Law’s Choice of Court Convention, a legal instrument likely to have a major impact in commercial transactional planning.

The convention is currently in the hands of the State Department, which is drafting implementing legislation to send to the President, who must then recommend it for ratification by the Senate. Despite the long approval process, Teitz is confident that the treaty will eventually win passage and “offer a viable alternative to arbitration in the international context.”

“It helps create a level playing field for international litigants,” she explained. “The U.S. enforces many more foreign judgments than foreign courts enforce U.S. judgments. I think of it as similar to the balance of trade being uneven. We essentially accept all of these imports – foreign judgments – but nobody wants to enforce U.S. jury awards abroad because they don’t like the punitive damages, and what they feel are overly large awards, because they do not understand [the American legal system in context].”

Teitz believes that an enhanced understanding of international law offers lawyers a broader legal palette from which to choose strategically when litigating a case for their clients’ maximum advantage.

“Many lawyers and law students today have a sense of the global culture and global economy – but not so much of how it practically affects day-to-day life and litigation,” she explained.

“Take for example, an accident involving a Toyota car in the U.S.,” Teitz said. “There are a number of courts where suit might be brought, as well as different law that could be validly applied to such a case. Viewing one’s own system from a distance allows one to observe and critique in a positive way why a given court might or might not be [the best forum for the case].”

Teitz added, “In a world where national borders have less and less significance, we need to be aware that there are other systems out there – and this awareness will open up wholly new and different approaches to the cases we handle.”
When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, igniting the Gulf War, former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein’s forces looted homes and palaces, destroyed property, and tried to thwart United Nations coalition forces by taking foreign workers – mainly Europeans and South Asians – as hostages, then using them as human shields.

Upon Saddam’s defeat, the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) was established to process claims of personal injury and property loss suffered by governments, corporations, and individuals (including human shields), awarding compensation out of Iraq’s oil revenues.

One participant in that process was Roger Williams associate professor of law John Chung, the School of Law’s newest faculty member. As a legal officer for the UNCC at its headquarters in Geneva from 2000 to 2004, Chung reviewed and administered claims for construction losses, Kuwaiti corporate losses, and individual losses – more than $1 billion in all.

“One of the sad parts is that people who suffered heartbreaking personal loss were generally limited to five-figure sums, whereas organizations that could prove economic loss received much more,” Chung observed. “Some members of the royal family of Kuwait received tens of millions of dollars, because the royal palaces were looted. Other awards were measured in the hundreds of millions and even billions of dollars.”

Chung explained that processing the claims involved the development and application of new international legal guidelines to govern mass-claims processing in the context of the UNCC.

Chung teaches contracts at Roger Williams, and said he doesn’t draw on his international experience so much as his 15 years of private practice in Los Angeles handling business litigation with a specialty in bankruptcy. In fact, he said, his involvement in international law came almost as an afterthought.

Having developed a successful practice, “I wanted to pursue other things as a lawyer,” he said. “I’d always wanted to live in Europe, I became aware of this position in Switzerland, and I applied.”

Chung added that he never studied international law while earning his degree at Harvard Law School, and did not use international law in his private practice. However, his experiences in Geneva fueled a new scholarly interest in the topic, and he has already authored several law review articles and placed them in top journals.

Still, his feelings regarding the overall significance of international law in the modern world are ambivalent.

“I suppose the world can be called a global village,” Chung said. “The interactions between and among countries and citizens are becoming more and more frequent.”

But he believes that the typical lawyer’s practice will rarely if ever touch upon it.

“I don’t want to shortchange domestic law, and I think there is a bit of a ‘fad’ element to the interest in international law,” Chung explained. “International law – however one might define that term – is not intrinsically better or more desirable than anything domestic. A lot of the glamour of international practice is overblown.”

With that in mind, Chung’s advice to aspiring international lawyers is measured.

“Don’t feel left out just because you’re not immersed in international law – because you may not be missing much,” he said with a laugh. “Sure, it’s helpful; it’s useful to have an international perspective – but it’s not the end-all, be-all of legal practice.

“If you were to spend your entire professional life practicing in Rhode Island, it wouldn’t necessarily be any less important or less interesting. I don’t want students to think they’re missing out on something essential – just because a legal matter happens in Paris doesn’t make it any more important than what’s happening in Providence.”

‘International law is not intrinsically better or more desirable than domestic law. A lot of the glamour of international practice is overblown.’

- John Chung
Professor Robert Webster’s ready smile and gregarious personality have been fixtures at Roger Williams School of Law since its founding, when he was invited to help establish the school’s international curriculum.

As part of that initiative, Webster founded a summer program that he said offers students an “all-access, behind-the-scenes” look at legal London.

Capped at 30 students, the program has two parts: one week of lectures given by barristers, solicitors, and members of the judiciary – “a team of rogues and rascals who were my colleagues on the bar,” said Webster – followed by two weeks of either a “pupillage” [internship] with a barrister selected from among some of the most successful chambers [law firms] of London; or a stint as a “minor marshal” [law clerk] sitting on the bench alongside a judge at Old Bailey, England’s most celebrated criminal court.

“It’s very hands-on; it’s designed to be a practical experience, well removed from the classroom,” Webster explained. “I want our students to leave with a real feeling for the legal culture of the mother country – a sort of ‘everything you ever wanted to know about the English legal system but were afraid to ask’ experience!”

Webster noted that, in the past ten years, Roger Williams and the London program have “grown up together,” giving the program a human dimension and level of personal commitment to students that “summer study in London” programs at other schools lack.

“Our is the only law school in the U.S. with a program in the very heart of legal London, within the Honorable Society of the Inner Temple, one of the Four Inns of Court [the professional associations to one of which every English barrister must belong],” he said.

An ABA consultant recently judged the program “innovative and unique,” and students who have participated overwhelmingly sing its praises.

“I learned more than I thought possible in three weeks’ time,” said one. “The pupillage was valuable both educationally and socially. Since our legal history stems from England’s, it was interesting to observe the similarities and differences – where we’ve stayed the same and where we’ve diverged.”

“It’s one thing to learn about the American legal system,” another added, “but it’s something else altogether to compare it to a different system – that is an invaluable learning experience.”

Webster still maintains an active caseload of both international and domestic cases at his London “set of chambers,” with which he retains an of counsel relationship. His specialties include European Union law, human rights law, and media law.

Webster has taught at the renowned Inns of Court School of Law in London, the University of Salzburg, and Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest, as well as McGeorge School of Law in California, where he headed the international graduate studies program and organized worldwide internships for participants. His continuing education presentations have been sought out across the Far East – notably in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong – where many of his former students are now in practice.

“I think I bring something very different to my subjects,” he said. “Most of my practice has been in European law. The European Union has created a unique legal order that defies any comparison.”

“I’m enormously biased, but I am of the very firm view that globalization is a force to be reckoned with. Its importance cannot be overestimated.’

-Robert Webster

Webster says E.U.’s constantly evolving and expanding nature is something of a signpost for the future.

“If any one factor characterizes law as it’s practiced today, it’s globalization,” he said. “There’s been a really significant surge of interest in international law in recent years – American students earning their L.L.M.’s at overseas institutions; doing their internships outside the U.S.

“Plus there is so much trade between E.U. and the U.S.A. and the rest of the world that some knowledge of [the E.U.’s legal structure] and how it actually works is really essential hand luggage for tomorrow’s lawyers! Of course I’m enormously biased, but I am of the very firm view that globalization is a force to be reckoned with. Its importance cannot be overestimated.”
With such a wealth of international experience among its faculty, it’s not surprising that Roger Williams produces lawyers who go on to excel in the international sphere. A great recent example is Amanda Mertens ’06.

Mertens developed her international interests both while she was in college, and during the two years she spent in Germany after receiving her B.A. After her first year at Roger Williams Law, she interned for the Department of State, U.S. Consulate-General in Munich, Germany, and assisted with contract negotiations between the U.S. government and German sanitation firms. During the fall semester of her second year, she assisted at Edwards and Angell LLC in Providence with a child-custody petition under The Hague Convention.

As a result of her experiences, Mertens hopes to become involved with international pro bono work at Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP in Washington, D.C.

After graduation from Roger Williams law school, Amanda spent a year in Germany as a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow. In that capacity, she worked with the Ministry of Justice (Bundesministerium der Justiz) and the German Federation of Gas and Water Industries (Bundesverband der Deutschen Gas und Wasserwirtschaft), researching applicable U.S. and E.U. law.

During the fellowship, the participants spent a day at The Hague, observing the prosecution of Naser Oric (a former senior commander of Bosnian Muslim forces who has since been convicted) at the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Mertens’ most memorable experience was meeting Spain’s Minister of Justice, Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar. Together, the group discussed international anti-terrorism cooperation, the legality of gay marriage, and women’s rights.

“Roger Williams provided me with a solid legal education and individual professors supported my international interests by writing recommendations for my Bosch Fellowship application, teaching international law courses, and bringing terrific international speakers to campus,” Mertens said.

While at Roger Williams, Mertens added, she had a great mentor in Professor Edward Eberle. They are both fluent in German and share an appreciation for the country. Eberle is author of Dignity and Liberty: Constitutional Visions in Germany and the United States (Praeger Book, Greenwood Publishing, 2002) as well as many articles on legal history, ethics, and freedom of speech.

“Professor Louise Ellen Teitz also was an amazing mentor to me,” Mertens said. “She encouraged my international interests and challenged and improved my international law knowledge in her international litigation course. During my externship at the German Ministry of Justice, I relied heavily on the knowledge I gained in Professor Teitz’s course. In one instance, I relied on a case we discussed in Professor Teitz’s course to give advice to a senior diplomat on a conflict of laws issue.”
Ten days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Congress created the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, which settled claims of the nearly 3,000 people who died that day, provided the families agreed not to pursue their claims in court. Ninety families opted out of the fund, and 30 have since settled. Of the 60 remaining, 53 are represented by Roger Williams adjunct professor of law Donald Migliori.

Migliori is a partner in the Providence office of Motley Rice, a South Carolina-based law firm that built its national reputation on high-visibility, high-stakes litigation against the asbestos, drug, and aviation industries (and locally, in the Rhode Island lead-paint cases) – but is most famous for its role in the record-smashing $248 billion settlement against the tobacco industry in 1998. The financial windfall from that victory, Migliori explained, gave the firm the means to pursue longer-term, higher-risk, lawsuits.

“What the litigating families want more than money is to establish the accountability of the airlines and the security companies for their wrongs, lapses, and negligence that contributed to 9/11,” he said. They are also seeking “terror damages,” defined by Migliori as an emotional distress claim based on “what the passengers experienced between hijacking and crash.”

Even more ambitiously – and controversially – Migliori’s firm has filed suit seeking approximately $1 trillion in damages from a group of approximately 200 charities, banks, and individuals in Saudi Arabia, whom he claims acted as financiers of the 9/11 attacks. In that action (which does not exclude families who settled out of the compensation fund), Motley Rice represents 1,700 estates of those killed on 9/11, 5,000 surviving family members, and 1,500 rescue and recovery workers.

“You have to believe in this [work] as an arm of social change,” Migliori said in an interview with Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly. “You can’t be a plaintiffs’ lawyer just because it is profitable; these cases are just too involved.”

Migliori – a Cranston, R.I., native – explained that “the electronic nature of filing and legal practice today makes it possible for me to be anywhere and do my job, so why not be at home?” Being in Rhode Island has also freed him to teach law at Roger Williams.

“I’ve seen it from both sides,” Donaldson explained, “the passenger’s viewpoint as well as the airline’s viewpoint. I know that some procedures are not followed. I also know the obstacles the airline is facing – for example, lack of supervision.”

Donaldson spent last summer working with Migliori, and continues to put in 12 to 16 hours a week at his office in her final semester of law school. That makes her a de facto member of Motley’s “9/11 and Anti-Terrorism” practice group – consisting of five partners (including Migliori), six associates, and about 40 support staff.

“Our international terrorism practice was born out of 9/11,” Migliori said. “Prior to that, the firm had no real international component.”

This new component is controversial, to say the least. But the New York Times Magazine recently noted that those who brush off Motley Rice’s cases as “nothing more than worldwide ambulance chasing will be startled to learn that it is theoretically possible, in today’s borderless society, to follow a screaming siren all the way to Riyadh. … In going after wealthy Saudis and Saudi financial institutions with considerable assets in the United States, Motley is part of the first generation of lawyers trying these cases who might actually be able to collect.”

Migliori is counting on it.

“I prefer fighting for principles, not just compensation,” Migliori said. “Sure, there are financial incentives. There are also multi-million dollar risks to each case in the costs you accrue. But you have to do something that your children – and, most importantly, your clients – can be proud of.”

[This article is an abridged excerpt from a full feature by the same author, appearing in the Winter 2007 issue of The Bridge, the flagship magazine of Roger Williams University.]
Adjunct professor Gregory Noone, who has taught courses in international law, U.S. military law and genocide law at Roger Williams since 1996, is a walking advertisement for the saying “practice what you preach” – his courses are a direct reflection of his extensive experience in the field.

“Without question, my work influences my teaching style and content,” Noone explained. “On the ground, international law is done a bit differently than what you read in books. I’ve read the books too but I also practice – and I hope that deepens what I’m able to bring to the classroom experience.

“Whether the topic is treaty negotiations or genocide, the whole conversation we have at RWU is – it’s not just what happens but how you deal with it,” he added. “It’s where the theory of international law meets the reality of international politics, and I find it exciting and gratifying to be among the bright legal minds of RWU students as they work through these mental gymnastics in great detail.”

Rwanda Genocide

Until recently a program officer at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Noone is an adjunct faculty member at the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies (DIILS), teaching international law, international humanitarian law, war crimes, civil-military relations, criminal law, and military law. Prior to joining USIP, Noone was a judge advocate in the U.S. Navy.

From high-level diplomatic conferences in Russia early in its transition from a closed-market dictatorship to a free-market proto-democracy, to more hands-on efforts in Malawi, Sudan, and Afghanistan, Noone says his jobs are rarely the same and never boring.
For example, he worked in Rwanda following that country’s devastating genocide, helping local lawyers to set up domestic tribunals – and pick up the considerable slack left by the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ITCR), set up by the United Nations at Arusha in neighboring Tanzania.

“The problem is that there are people in Rwanda who walk four miles each day for water – for them, Arusha may as well be the moon,” Noone said. “Also, the ITCR basically skimmed the cream off the top – they wanted to try the top 100 bad guys. Unfortunately that left 140,000 more accused war criminals in lockup.”

**New Rule of Law**

So Noone and a team from DIILS were invited to Rwanda to help train the country’s 39 surviving prosecutors.

“Our role was to assist them in understanding and administering their own law,” he said. “It’s a new law – a more adversarial system; more like the United States, rather than a rubber stamp system for predetermined decisions. We assisted them with training and preparation and dealing with various obstacles. All of them were formerly civil lawyers, and didn’t really have a grasp of how to prepare a criminal case for trial.”

So far the lawyers trained by Noone and his team have tried approximately 6,000 of those accused of genocide and associated crimes, with about a 50 percent conviction rate – which is a good thing, Noone notes.

“That shows it’s not a kangaroo court, with trials in the morning and executions in the afternoon,” Noone said. “They did it all themselves. It was really a Rwandan effort – an amazing achievement considering their limited resources; they are literally working with pens and pads of paper.”

**Get Out In The Field**

Noone was on hand with another DIILS team to advise the Iraqi National Congress on criminal prosecutions during the lead-up to the trial of Saddam Hussein.

“It was not a matter of throwing our weight around and acting like Big Brother,” he said. “It was more just being there and helping them in whatever ways we could – including talking to them about the U.S. system, some mistakes we’ve made, what we learned from them, and how we corrected them.”

For law students interested in following a similar career path, Noone offered some practical advice.

“Get out in the field,” he said. “There are not that many ‘international law’ jobs, so to break in [you have to] get a job, even as a volunteer – and not necessarily a legal job. For example, you could take a six-month contract to go to Mozambique as an election monitor. It’s not a ‘legal job’ per se, but once you’re in the field and they find out you’re a lawyer, you will get legal work.

“Lots of people say they want to ‘get into international law’ – but they want to do it from behind a desk at the UN or in Washington, D.C., and that’s not generally how it works. In the same way, it’s not enough to sit in Bristol saying, ‘I want to be an international lawyer.’ You’ve got to get out there and do it – get out and practice the kind of law you always dreamed you’d be practicing.”

‘It’s not enough to sit in Bristol saying, I want to be an international lawyer. You’ve got to get out there and practice the kind of law you always dreamed you’d be practicing.’

-Gregory Noone
I am honored to serve as President of our Alumni Association. Having graduated its eleventh class last May, the School of Law now has more than 1,300 alumni — with Rhode Island alums representing less than half the total as the law school continues to broaden its appeal to students regionally and, indeed, nationally. The meteoric rise of the School of Law since its founding in 1993 is nothing short of amazing. Being a member of the prestigious Association of American Law Schools (AALS) only adds to the appeal of a Roger Williams legal education. What this means to alumni is a law degree that continues to appreciate in value.

As our alumni numbers grow, the Alumni Association plans to host additional gatherings in geographic areas where the school now has a sufficient concentration of alumni. These events are designed to bring alumni together, as well as allowing alumni the opportunity to get firsthand news about the law school from key members of the faculty and administration.

I thank alumni for their generous financial support in the 2006-2007 Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is critical to the operation of the law school and the ability to continue to attract top students through scholarships. I would ask that alumni continue to show the same financial support in the upcoming year.

I encourage all alumni to stay connected with the law school, and to use the Online Alumni Community. The annual Law Alumni Holiday Party, held at the Brown Faculty Club last December, provided an excellent forum for touching base with longtime faculty, meeting some of the terrific new faculty, career networking, and having a few laughs. I would also like to encourage you to become an active member in our Association, as your voice and thoughts are eagerly sought. If you have an interest in the Alumni Association, please contact the alumni office, or write me directly at:

stephen.g.bernardo@bankofamerica.com

— Stephen G. Bernardo
7th Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament

The Seventh Annual Law Alumni Golf Tournament raised over $14,000, and brought together more than 130 alumni and friends at the Cranston Country Club last August for a day of golf, food, fun, and reminiscing. Continued support for this fundraising event has enabled the Law Alumni Association to award outstanding law students with an annual Law Alumni Association Scholarship.

“The Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament embodies the important goals of the Association,” said Anthony R. Leone, II ’97, who chaired the event. “It brings alumni together with the law school community and our supporters to continue to build on the friendships we made as students. In so doing, we raise scholarship money for law school students.”

Each year the committee seeks to grow the tournament, and so far their efforts have been a success. If you wish to become involved with the planning of 2007 golf tournament activities, silent auction, raffle, or volunteer for the day, please e-mail your interest to lawevents@rwu.edu.

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SAVE THE DATE
Sunday August 26, 2007
8th Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament
1999

Katherine Dickenson was promoted to assistant vice president of Citizens Asset Finance. She welcomed the birth of their second child, Giuliana.

Paul M. Kugelman was appointed general counsel for Agentrics LLC, Alexandria, Va.

Cheryl Robertson and her husband, Andy, welcomed a son, Malcolm Andrew, on August 9, 2006.

Erica Brynes is a senior associate at Hughes & Gill, Walnut Creek, Calif.

Amy Gentile Cardulo is employed at the Family Law Center in Newport, R.I.

Randall Lewis is the senior legal counsel for Danone Asia PTE, Ltd., in Shanghai, China. Danone is the world’s largest producer of yogurt, biscuits, and bottled water. He provides legal counsel to 41,000 employees throughout 23 countries.

Rhonda Maggiacomo co-authored an article published in the Journal of Equipment Lease Financing on corporate aircraft financing. She is a group operations manager for a team of contract specialists that support the Corporate Aircraft Finance Division of Bank of America Leasing in Providence.

Amy Parker welcomed a son, Luke James, on November 7, 2005.

Robert Pellegrini, Jr., has been named counsel for Smolak & Vaughan. He specializes in commercial real estate, land use, zoning, and real estate development.

1998

Eugene Bernardo was recognized as being one of the Best and Brightest Professionals (under age 40) in Rhode Island by the Providence Business News. He is a partner at Partridge Snow & Hahn in Providence, R.I.

Dawn Sears Callaghan is the vice president and counsel for Porterfield and Lowenthal, LLC in Washington D.C. She welcomed her first child, Christian Charles Callaghan, on December 19, 2005.

Sheila Harrington was recognized as one of the Best and Brightest Professionals (under age 40) in Rhode Island by the Providence Business News. She is a partner at Harrington & Rhodes, Ltd., in East Greenwich, R.I.

Katherine Allen is the special counsel to the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She resides in State College, Pa. with her husband, Mark and two sons, Brooks, 3, and Tobin, 1.

Steven H. Crawford is an associate at Murphy & Fay, LLP, in Providence, R.I. He has two sons, Steven Jr., 5, and Brian, 2.

Linda Mathewson announces the opening of Linda M. Mathewson, Attorney at Law, in North Kingstown, R.I.

David Platt was recognized as one of the Best and Brightest Professional (under age 40) in Rhode Island by the Providence Business News. David is a co-managing shareholder at Tofias PC’s office in Providence.

Jana Berger has been nominated to serve on the Michigan Lawyers Weekly Board of Editors. Jana received the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel Golden Gavel award. She is a member of the Michigan Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Trial Counsel.

Raymond J. Angell III is a partner at Cassel & Angell, LLP, in Cranston, R.I.

Stephen E. Brooks is an associate with the Law Office of Feuerstein & Smith, LLP, Buffalo, N.Y.


Bethany Florio is an associate director of contracts for Universal Music Enterprises in Blue Jay, Calif.

Shannon M. Garvey announces her engagement to Kevin P. Roach, both of Brookline, Mass. They will marry on July 28, 2007.

David Hunter and Sarah (Heaslip) Hunter welcomed a daughter, Lauren Kendall, in June of 2006. David is an associate at Pierce Davis & Perritano in Boston. Sarah is vice president/counsel for Human Resources for Citizens Financial Group, Inc., in Smithfield, R.I.

Carly (Beauvais) Iafrafe was appointed to the R.I. Board of Bar Examiners.

Michael J. Kennefick and his wife ToniAnne (De Leva) ‘99 welcomed their third son, Matthew Thomas, on March 29, 2006. Matthew joins Michael James, 6, and Ethan Salvatore, 2. Michael is an associate at Perry, Hicks, Crotoy and Deshaies, LLP, in New Bedford, Mass. The family resides in Rochester, Mass.

2000

Kerri M. Mprey is an associate at Rindler Morgan, PC, in Boston.

Olayinka Y. Oredugba is employed with the Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority and Women-Owned Business Programs, organization in Providence. She is married to attorney David A. Cooper of Cooper Law Associates. The couple welcomed a son, Daniel Alexander Olajide Cooper on May 29, 2006.

Matthew John White is an operations manager in Gales Ferry, Conn.

2001

Jennifer Coleman and Michael Coleman were married on March 17, 2006 in Las Vegas. Jennifer is an attorney for the public advocacy program at Dakota Plains Legal Services in Rapid City, S.D.

Mark Pilaro is an attorney advisor for the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in Alexandria, Va.


Ann B. Sheppard announces her engagement to Frank J. Mores, both live in Washington, D.C. Ann works for the F.B.I.

Carolyn Asquith Tebben is a partner at Stout Crocker, P.A., in Portland, Me. She and her husband, Brian, welcomed a son, Carson Riley Tebben, on March 26, 2006.

Bethany M. Whitmarsh is an associate at Coia & Lepore, Providence.

2002

Mike Daly and his wife, Kate, welcomed their third daughter, Lauren, in April 2006.

Rebecca Dye (Yeager) welcomed a son, Ethan Kanoa Dye, on February 3, 2006. The family resides in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Nancy S. Fazzino-Hunter is an associate for Kinney, Scocol & Gunning, LLC, New Haven, Conn.

Brie Fanning married Steven DiLibero, Jr., in Newport, R.I. Law alums in attendance were Carrie Abatioli ’01, Kristen Klimaj ’01, Francesca Villari ’01, Lisa Anjos ’03, and John & Courtney Tutelo ’04. The couple resides in Barrington, R.I.

Kelli Moore is an assistant public defender for the Cook County Public Defender’s Office, Chicago.

2003

Mark P. Gagliardi and his wife, Sherri, welcomed a son, Jack Ryan, on October 23, 2004. Mark is licensed to practice law in Conn., R.I., and Mass.

Jessica F. Kallipolites graduated from Central Conn. State University in May 2006 with her Master’s in Biomolecular Sciences. She passed the patent bar and has been admitted to practice before the USPTO and in Washington, D.C.

Rebecca MacGregor has been accepted to the graduate law program at Boston University School of Law.
Douglas M. Mercurio and his wife Michelle welcomed a son, Steven Michael, on October 17, 2006.

Carl Shewack welcomed his fourth child, Samantha.

Richard Shewack is an in-house attorney with Global Aerospace Inc., in Short Hills, N.J. He manages all of the asbestos litigation for the company.

Kelly L. Swan married Jonathan M. Taylor on October 1, 2004. She is a partner at Exemplar Law Partners in Boston, Mass. She practices intellectual property and corporate law for the firm.

Joel J. Votolato announces the opening of Votolato Law, LLC, in Smithfield, R.I.

2004

Callin C. Brennan is an attorney for Connor, Curran & Schram, P.C., in Hudson, NY. She resides in Kinderhook, N.Y.

Captain Chad Edgar, U.S. Army, has been deployed to Iraq. He is the command judge advocate for the 3rd Signal Base Brigade based out of Fort Hood, Texas. He is responsible for providing advice to commanders on military justice, administrative law, and government contract & fiscal law.

Alissa Gearhart was elected president of the Rotary Club of the City of La Salle, Ill. for 2007 – 2008. She married Nicolas Vargo on October 14, 2006. Kiran (Advani) Jhamnani ‘04 was the maid of honor, Megan Snowberger ‘04 was a bridesmaid, and Jackie Costanza ‘06 was in attendance.

Nick Kapa graduated in May 2006 from the Kranert School of Management at Purdue University with a Masters of Science in human resource management. He is a junior human resources partner for IBM in Rochester, Minn.

Sarah Kern and her husband, Kristopher, welcomed a daughter, Carley JoAnn, on November 10, 2005. Sarah has opened her own practice in Tiverton, R.I., concentrating on estate planning, Medicaid planning, guardianships, and other probate matters.

Terri-Lynn McLaughlin is a barrister and solicitor for Jenkins & Jenkins in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada.

Ann Nguyen married Joe Luu on May 20, 2006, in Herndon, Va. Monique Brady ‘02, Ann’s sister, was matron of honor. In attendance at the wedding were Amanda (Bertrand) Foster ‘04, Amy (Puccio) Minchillo ‘04, and Ashley Barriger ‘04. Ann is employed with Condo, Roop, Kelly, and Byrnes, P.C., in McLean, VA., with a concentration in family law.

Vaughn R. Pickell is the city planner for Bluffdale, Utah. He has a joint master’s degree in Community Planning/ JD.

Jonathan Pincince is an associate at McKinney & Associates, LLC, in Wakefield, R.I.

Jessica Vander Ploeg and Michael Siedlecki were married during the summer of 2006. Alums in attendance at the wedding were Kathleen Giles ‘04, Daniel Williams ‘03, and James Westgate of the Roger Williams University Law Clinic.

Gina Ramacciotti and Jason Ianonne announce their engagement. A wedding is set for the fall of 2007. Gina is a public defender and Jason is an associate at a law firm specializing in probate. The couple resides in Minn.

Kelly C. Sullivan is an associate attorney at D’Ellena Law Office, Ltd., East Greenwich, R.I.

Nagesh Tammana is a judicial clerk for the Hon. Brenda J. Hollar with the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands (St. Thomas). This court is unique because it applies all federal procedural law and a combination of U.S. Congress laws passed for U.S.V.I.

Peter V. Tekippe is an associate for Casey and Thompson, P.C., in Attleboro, Mass.

Chantal Toci is the admissions coordinator at George Washington Law School, Washington, D.C.

Eric Wiberg is a senior associate recruiter for The Directorship Search Group in Greenwich, Conn. Eric and his wife, Alexandra, reside in Norwalk, Conn.

2005

Allen G. Bowman is an associate with Bowman and Brooke LLP, in Phoenix, Ariz. The firm specializes in products liability defense.

Eric Brainsky is an associate at the Law Offices of Michael A. Kelly, in Providence, R.I.

Amanda Browning is an assistant state attorney for the Florida State Attorney’s Office – First Judicial Circuit. She is a prosecutor in the Domestic Violence Unit.

Donna L. Caisse is an in-house counsel for Patriot Disposal Company in Johnston, R.I. She is responsible for collections and contracts.

Jillian Colby is legal counsel for the Narragansett Bay Commission in Providence. She is responsible for overseeing tax sales, receiverieships, bankruptcies, and collections for the Commission.

Ronald J. Grant is assistant asset manager with Commercial Defeasance, LLC, in Charlotte, N.C. He is working on government securities, loans, and mortgages.

Erik Hammarlund welcomed a son, Simon Horatio, on June 8, 2006. Simon shares a birthday with his older sister, Delilah.

Mary H. Hayes is practicing general civil litigation for John Reilly & Associates in Warwick, R.I.

Wayne Helge is a patent attorney at H.C. Park & Associates in Vienna, VA. He received honorable mention in the Seak, Inc., Legal Fiction Writing Competition.

Kara Hoops completed her LL.M. in trial advocacy at California Western School of Law. She is an associate with Gidley, Sarli, & Marusak, LLP, in Providence, R.I.

Judith Jamieson is employed with Kalander and Shaw in Warwick, R.I.

Margaret McSharry is a legal product manager for Fidelity Investments in Boston.

Curtis P. Patalano announces the opening of Curtis P. Patalano, Attorney at Law in Franklin, Mass. His practice will concentrate on family law, real estate transactions, corporate law, wills, trusts, and estates. He is also a CPA.

Morn Phoen is an associate at the Saab Law Firm, Lowell, Mass.

Matt Plain is an associate with Taylor, Duane, Barton, & Gilman, in Providence.

Megan B. Rozell is an associate with Greenberg & Prince, LLC, Stamford, Conn.

Bryan Summinger received his LL.M. in taxation from the University of Washington. He is employed at

In Memoriam

John Birnberg ’01

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of John Birnberg ’01, who died on April 7, 2006. John exemplified so many things: genuine concern for others, loyalty, sense of humor, entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, and a determination to surmount obstacles to his law studies.

After John’s graduation, the Birnberg Family Foundation made a generous gift to create an annual award, honoring a graduating student who strongly contributed to the community and, like John, set an example for others by overcoming significant and difficult obstacles in the course of earning her or his J.D. degree.

Professor David Rice, a close friend of John, said, “Those who have known John think of the award as honoring him as a person, the law school community’s contributions to his law study achievements, and his family’s strong support that enabled John to earn his J.D. and walk with his class at the 2001 Commencement. Henceforth we will think about the award in the same way, but with a new feeling of loss as John can no longer be present when the award is announced and made at the annual graduating class reception.”
Alumni Chapter List Serves

Interested in joining any of the Roger Williams University alumni list serve areas?

D.C. Area
lawdarea@rwu.edu

Rhode Island Area
lawri@rwu.edu

N.Y.C. Area
lawny@rwu.edu

or Email your request to:
lawalumni@rwu.edu

You must become a member in order to receive or send correspondence through the list serve to other alumni members.

What’s New With You?


Share your news with the Roger Williams University School of Law community.

E-mail your Class Notes to:
lawalumni@rwu.edu

Professional head shot photographs are welcome.

Lovingood Law, P.C., in Dalton, Ga. He will be specializing in estate planning and asset protection.

Maggie Tarta and Chris Coppens were married in September 2005. In attendance were Katie Fyans ’05, Amy Dodge ’05, Meg McSharry ’05, Tyler Ray ’05, Curtis Patalano ’05, and Bryan Summerrlin ’05. Chris and Maggie reside in Boston.

Elizabeth Walston is an assistant district attorney for the Middlesex District Attorney’s office in Mass. She resides in Salem, Mass.

2006

Brian Ali is an associate within private client services for Credit Suisse, located in New York City. He provides high-net-worth individuals and small and mid-cap companies with investment advice and management services. He specializes in sophisticated private equity, lending, and hedge fund products.


Jacqueline Costanza married Kenneth Fillmore, Jr. on September 21, 2006. The couple resides in South Kingstown, R.I.

Patrick T. Cullinan is an assistant district attorney for the Plymouth County District Attorney’s Office in Brockton, Mass. He works in the adult and juvenile District Court.

Nicole Labonte is an associate with LaPlante & Sowe, LLP, in Providence, R.I.

Stephen R. Muschiano is an environmental project manager for Crossman Engineering, Inc. in Warwick, R.I. He specializes in environmental engineering, land use planning, zoning, and regulatory consulting.

Shelley R. Perry is the gift-planning officer for the Rhode Island Foundation, Providence.
**Sunday, August 26, 2007**

8th Annual Law Alumni Association Golf Tournament

11:30 a.m.  –  Registration
12:00 noon  –  Lunch
1:30 p.m.  –  Shotgun Start
6:30 p.m.  –  Dinner, Raffle, Silent Auction & Prizes

$110 per player

All proceeds benefit the Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at (401) 254-4659 or email lawevents@rwu.edu.

Cranston Country Club
69 Burlingame Road
Cranston, Rhode Island

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**Friday, November 9, 2007**

Legal Dilemmas in a Dangerous World: Law, Terrorism, and National Security Conference

For additional information, please contact the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at (401) 254-4659 or email lawevents@rwu.edu.

School of Law
Ten Metacom Avenue
Bristol, Rhode Island

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**Friday, November 16, 2007**

Fourth Annual Legal Career Options Day

For additional information, please contact the Office of Career Services at (401) 254-4650.

School of Law
Ten Metacom Avenue
Bristol, Rhode Island
Weisberger Endowment

The School of Law recently honored retired Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Joseph R. Weisberger – one of the most revered figures in the state’s judicial history, and an early champion and supporter of the law school – by naming its first endowed professorship after him.

The February ceremony marked the culmination of a fundraising effort that proved “a remarkable achievement for such a young school with a young alumni base,” said Dean David Logan.

“We’ll conduct a national search for an outstanding teacher, scholar and public servant worthy of serving in a position with Chief Justice Weisberger’s name,” Logan added.