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## Defamation: The Play

Roger Williams University School of Law

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RWU LAW PRESENTS

# DEFAMATION –THE PLAY

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2015

School of Law  
Room 283 (Appellate Courtroom)  
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.  
Program begins promptly at 5:30 p.m.

*Pizza will be served before the show*  
Please register your attendance by emailing  
[lawevents@rwu.edu](mailto:lawevents@rwu.edu)

*Presented by the Office of Diversity & Outreach  
Sponsored by the President's Council on Inclusive Excellence  
through an Inclusive Excellence Mini-Grant*

Tuesday evening, **November 3 at 5:30 pm in Room 283**, the Law School will present a performance of **DEFAMATION – THE PLAY**. (Please see the attached for full details.) As some of you know, my office received a University Inclusive Excellence Mini-Grant to support this show. Below is a brief description of the play.

**DEFAMATION** is an old-fashioned courtroom drama. The premise is a civil suit: A South Side African-American woman sues a Jewish North Shore real estate developer for defamation. The legal issue is whether or not she was falsely accused of stealing his watch and causing her financial harm. **DEFAMATION** explores the highly charged issues of race, religion, gender, class and the law with a twist: our law school audience is the jury. Through deliberations and post-show discussions, the audience will engage in civil discourse that challenges pre-conceived notions. After the trial, the audience engages in a 15-minute deliberation led by the judge. The judge polls the audience twice - before the deliberation begins and at its end. The final vote 'for the plaintiff' or 'for the defendant' decides the outcome of the trial.

Defamation is designed to facilitate conversation around issues that are often difficult to discuss such as race, class, gender and religion, and it is our hope that this will help our students (and ourselves) to be more comfortable with talking about these social and legal issues in the classroom. I invite you to attend the performance. It is open to the entire law school community, but the majority of the 2L class will be attending so seating will be limited.