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Roger Williams University School of Law

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Dean Logan's Blog

A Visit from the Environmental Protection Agency Office of International Affairs

Posted by David Logan on 05/04/2010 at 01:05 PM

The RWU Law community enjoys a steady stream of terrific speakers, and this is especially the case in our signature programming areas, Marine/Environmental Law, Public Interest Law, and International Law. A late semester speaker touched on all three areas: Barry Hill is currently the Senior Counsel for Environmental Governance at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of International Affairs.

Prior to assuming this position, Mr. Hill was the Director of EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice. Mr. Hill’s governmental experience includes positions at the U. S. Department of the Interior, the Attorney General of the District of Columbia, and the Brooklyn, New York, District Attorney's office. He also has worked in private practice, representing a wide range of individual, corporate, government, and institutional clients on a variety of environmental law issues. Mr. Hill has published a law school textbook entitled, “Environmental Justice: Legal Theory and Practice” as well as numerous articles on environmental law and policy, and environmental justice. In 2001, he was awarded the American Bar Association’s “Award for Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy.” He has taught environmental justice and sustainable development at the American University Washington College of Law, among other law schools.
In addition to sharing a breakfast with Marine Affairs students and faculty, Mr. Hill made a presentation titled "Addressing Human Environment Challenges Related to Water in Florida, Puerto Rico, and Yemen." He explored the importance of water access and water quality on human health and the environment, and the potential impacts of climate change on the water supplies in Florida, Puerto Rico, and Yemen, as well as on coastal communities more generally. Mr. Hill discussed law and policy lessons he has learned and then addressed the challenges facing future environmental law practitioners, who will confront the legal and policy implications of climate change amidst complex international politics.