8-30-2010

Dean Logan's Blog: Rhode Island's Best Places to Work

Roger Williams University School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: https://docs.rwu.edu/law_pubs_blogs

Recommended Citation
Roger Williams University School of Law, "Dean Logan's Blog: Rhode Island's Best Places to Work" (2010). Law School Blogs. 236.
https://docs.rwu.edu/law_pubs_blogs/236

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Law Publications at DOCS@RWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Law School Blogs by an authorized administrator of DOCS@RWU. For more information, please contact mwu@rwu.edu.
The Providence Business News named four law firms as “Rhode Island's Best Places to Work 2010”: Hinckley Allen & Snyder, Taylor Duane Barton & Gilman, Partridge Snow & Hahn, and Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West. The award is based on employee surveys and the criteria are innovative benefit programs, flexible work arrangements, and consistent opportunities for advancement and personal development. We are pleased to report that RWU Law School alumni are well represented in the aforementioned firms. Names and photographs of those RWU alumni and their firms are listed below.

**Alumni at Hinckley Allen & Snyder LLP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas M. Sheehan '97</td>
<td>Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Lough '97</td>
<td>Partner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Partner**

Thomas M. Sheehan '97

Tom practices broadly in the fields of estate planning (foreign and domestic), and trust and estate administration. More particularly, he advises on matters of income, estate and gift tax planning, asset protection, multi-generational planning and business succession planning. As a matter of course, Tom also represents individuals and business entities before federal, state and municipal taxing authorities.

David Lough '97

David’s practice focuses in the areas of acquisition/development and disposition of commercial real estate, commercial real estate finance transactions and land use matters, including zoning, subdivision and permitting for commercial and residential development and permitting dispute resolution as well as land conservation and preservation transactions. David’s areas of departmental specialization involve legal opinions (remedies and zoning) and ground lease financing matters.
Ashley M. Taylor ’08
Associate
Ashley’s practice is focused in corporate and business.

Katie A. Ahern ’07
Associate
Kate’s practice is focused in all areas of federal, state, and local tax matters affecting businesses, individuals, governmental entities, and tax-exempt organizations. Kate’s research and analysis of client tax issues includes those surrounding formation, ongoing operations, and winding up of an organization, application for tax-exempt status of an organization, ongoing tax-exempt organization requirements, tax-exempt bond issuances, and state and local tax requirements.
Matt Plain ’05 devotes a considerable portion of his practice to advising school boards, administrators and teachers on education law issues, including special education, employment, student/staff discipline, and constitutional law. In addition to his school law practice, Matt serves clients in the health care and insurance industries.

Sara Sweeney ’07 is an experienced civil litigator focusing her trial practice on professional liability defense, employment law, premises liability, business litigation and insurance coverage issues. Sara’s been involved in all facets of civil litigation, including a jury trial.

Tim Groves ’06 is an experienced civil litigator focusing his practice on professional liability defense, business litigation and school law. As general counsel for an independent school, Tim among other issues advises on employment contracts, personnel policies, and student disciplinary matters.
Eugene concentrates a significant portion of his practice in the area of tax-exempt financings and municipal law. Mr. Bernardo has been involved in the issuance of tax exempt securities as bond counsel, underwriter’s counsel, issuer’s counsel, borrower’s counsel and letter of credit bank counsel. He has also represented governmental interests in a variety of complex matters before state and federal courts.

Ms. Medina advises and represents clients in civil litigation in state and federal courts. She focuses her practice on real estate, maritime, and commercial disputes. She also maintains an active land use practice, counseling clients involved in real estate development, and representing clients before municipal zoning and planning boards.

Thomas represents the interests of banks and other secured lenders before state and federal courts in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Specifically, Mr. Enright concentrates his practice on defending lenders against various state and federal law claims such as the Truth in Lending Act and state consumer protection statutes.

David concentrates his practice in representing the interests of secured lenders in litigation proceedings before Rhode Island and Massachusetts courts, specifically with regard to state consumer protection and Truth-in-Lending statutes.

Alicia practices general business litigation with a focus on employment law. Ms. Samolis represents corporate entities in business disputes in state and federal court, as well as in arbitration and administrative proceedings. Ms. Samolis
advises management at all stages of the employment relationship, regularly counseling senior management, human resource professionals and business owners on applicable employment laws and pending legislation. Ms. Samolis has experience providing advice on a broad range of issues, including wage and hour compliance, employment discrimination, employee handbooks and individual and group terminations.

Alumni at Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West

Thomas R. Gonnella '06

Associate

Thomas R. Gonnella is an associate with the firm’s Litigation Team. He focuses his practice in the area of general civil litigation and practices at both the trial and appellate levels. He has been involved in numerous cases involving construction contracts, title insurance, condominium law, employment discrimination, state and federal civil rights laws, state and federal labor laws, and questions arising under the state and federal constitutions. Mr. Gonnella has appeared and argued before numerous courts throughout the northeast including the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the Rhode Island Supreme Court, and the Rhode Island Superior Court. From 2006-2007, Mr. Gonnella served as a Judicial Law Clerk with the Honorable Rhode Island Supreme Court Associate Justice Francis X. Flaherty. He was admitted to practice in Rhode Island in 2007 and New York in 2009. Prior to his graduation from law school in 2006, Mr. Gonnella earned undergraduate degrees in music and classical guitar performance from Arizona State University and Rhode Island College, respectively.

Robert S. Knychalski '07

Associate

Robert Knychalski is an associate practicing in the Business Law and Municipal Infrastructure groups. His practice includes contract drafting and negotiation, business formation, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, corporate finance, municipal law and public finance. He counsels corporate and nonprofit clients in connection with acquisitions, financing, commercial and governance matters. Mr. Knychalski also has significant experience representing municipalities and government agencies on governance matters and municipal infrastructure projects, and has served as bond counsel and underwriters’ counsel on various bond financings.