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Dean Logan's Blog: Top New York Judge Delivers 9th MLK Lecture

Roger Williams University School of Law

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For the past nine years, RWU Law has commemorated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a week of activities, including a keynote speech, inspired by the life of the great civil rights leader. This year we were delighted to host the Honorable Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge from New York’s highest court, the Court of Appeals. Judge Rivera was a terrific guest, and in her formal remarks reflected on the importance of public service in general, and the role of lawyers in helping our society move closer to the vision of equality of the Declaration of Independence and Dr. King in particular. She also saluted RWU Law's commitment to pro bono and public interest work, noting that as of last year all applicants for the NY Bar must have performed 50 hours of public service before admission, something that has been a requirement at RWU Law for some years. Before delivering her keynote, the Judge met and spoke with several of our students and other law school community members, and was clearly at ease in the law school setting, which was no surprise because she was a tenured member of the faculty at the City University of New York School of Law before ascending to the Court last year.

Among the distinguished guests were the head of the Rhode Island judiciary, Paul Suttell, Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court; Will Smith, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for Rhode Island; and the mayors of Providence (Angel Taveras) and Central Falls (James Diossa). In true RWU Law style, law students got a chance to mingle with these dignitaries, along with Rhode Island Superior Court Associate Justice Ed Clifton and Anna Cano-Morales, the Director of the RWU Latino Policy Institute. Here are some pics from that busy day.
Paul Suttell, Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court

Will Smith, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for Rhode Island

Suzanne Harrington-Steppen, Associate Director of Pro Bono Programs and former student of Judge Rivera
Erin Rogel 2L, Deborah Johnson, Director of Diversity and Outreach, Veronica Paricio, Assistant Dean for Career Development and Antonio Viana 3L

Angie Cardona 2L and Alberto Cardona, Esq. ’04

Alvaro Pirir-Zet 1L
Ana Cano-Morales, Director of RWU Latino Policy Institute

Angel Taveras, Mayor of Providence

Ed Clifton, Associate Justice, RI Superior Court, James Diossa, Mayor of Central Falls, Chief Justice Suttell and Dean Logan