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Saying Goodbye to David Rice

In June we were saddened to learn of the death of David Rice, who was a valued member of the RWU law faculty from 1997-2012. David was a multi-talented man, who had the rare ability to keep reinventing himself professionally. After a distinguished career at Columbia Law School and a plum clerkship on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, David held tenured positions at Boston University and Rutgers-Camden, before coming to Roger Williams. David’s academic specialty was Commercial Law, but he also helped adapt the Uniform Commercial Code to the world of electronic business transactions and to draft the legislation that helped Massachusetts develop coastal planning. He also became the leader of various initiatives linking RWU with the Portuguese legal community.

We gathered to celebrate David’s life at a memorial service last month. The speakers were Bob Kent, a colleague from both BU and RWU, Bill Ryckman, a close friend from BU, Emily Sack, who thanked David for the mentoring he provided during her early years at RWU, and David’s sister-in-laws Kathleen Griffin and Susan Griffin. Also in attendance was Phillip Rapoza, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. David was remembered for many qualities, perhaps captured best by the word “gentleman.” He will be missed.

Below are pictures from the service.