Dean Logan's Blog: RWU Students on “Alternative Spring Break,” from NOLA to New Bedford

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Now in year nine, RWU Law students gave up a spring break of hanging to learn how the law works in the real world by participating in Alternative Spring Break (ASB). Sponsored by our Association for Public Interest Law, this year’s effort was ably headed by two dynamic 2Ls, Danielle Dufault and Curtis Pouliot-Alvarez, and saw RWU Law students honing their lawyering skills at:

- Bronx Defenders (Bronx, NY, Public Defender)
- Brooklyn Defender Services (Brooklyn, NY, Public Defender)
- Clean Water Action RI (Providence, RI, Environmental Law)
- Committee for Public Counsel Services (Fall River, MA, Public Defender)
- Immigration Law Education Project (Fall River, MA, Immigration Law)
- Juvenile Rights Project (Brooklyn/Manhattan, NY, Children’s Rights)
- Legal Services of New Jersey (Edison, NJ, Hurricane Sandy)
- Pittsburgh Federal Defender (Pittsburgh, PA, Federal Public Defender)
- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (New Orleans, LA, Civil Legal Services)
- United Mountain Defense (Knoxville, TN, Environmental Law)
- Women in Prison Project (Cranston, RI, Prisoner Rehabilitation)

Here are some reflections on the ASB experience from three terrific 1Ls:
During my ASB placement my mind was blown. I saw first hand how organizations like LSNJ, the Hurricane Sandy Relief Clinic at Tuoro Law School, and others, played an integral role in changing a law that would have resulted in widespread financial hardship for millions of people. - Casey Charkowick 1L

My ASB experience, “Women’s Prison Project,” at the Department of Corrections in Cranston, RI changed the way that I will approach client advocacy as a future lawyer. In working with and speaking to the female inmates, I was enlightened and educated as to the problems they face “in the system” and beyond their incarceration and what role I might play in their rehabilitation. Not only did I end the week with a newfound passion for effective client advocacy, but a desire to effectuate change within my community. - Kyla Pecchia 1L

The attorneys at CPCS in Fall River truly showed me what practicing law looks like outside the classroom. The hands-on learning I received supplemented my course readings in a way lectures, presentations, and panels never could. - Kelley Nobriga 1L