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Newsroom: From Hate to Hope 7/20/2016

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RWU Law Magazine

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Newsroom

July 20, 2016

From Hate to Hope

How the horrific experiences of lawyers and judges under the Third Reich have informed the lives – and legal philosophies – of their descendants.

From RWU Law Magazine: [“From Hate to Hope”](#) by Jill Rodriguez '05



As he hunted through nearly a century's worth of ownership records and auction catalogues to establish a recovery claim for a 19th century painting of a German peasant girl, Glenn Friedemann's thoughts kept returning to his father and grandfather.

This wasn't just a case of returning a possession stolen by the Nazis (some 70 years earlier at the time) to its rightful owner, the Max Stern Estate. It was nothing less than vindication for a livelihood ripped away under the Third Reich.

Under the 1935 Nuremberg Laws abolishing the right for Jews in Germany to own a business or work in professional occupations, Max Stern had been forced to hand over his entire precious art collection – including the contested painting, *Girl from the Sabiner Mountains* – from his Dusseldorf gallery to the Reich Chamber of Visual Arts.

In a similar act of confiscation, the Nazi government had robbed Friedemann's grandfather of his law career – and his father of the family business – simply because they were Jews. ...