

## A Message from the Dean:



**David A. Logan**  
Dean and Professor of Law

### New, Smiling Faces Arrive to Cap a Great Summer

The new academic year is off to a terrific start, and our largest entering class ever now has two months of law school under its collective belt. RWU Law's Class of 2012 is academically strong, has a remarkable range of work and volunteer experience, and will be taught by one of the strongest faculties in the Northeast – which, by the way, just got stronger thanks to two key additions (more on that in a moment).

But first, here is a snapshot of the Class of 2012: Drawn from an applicant pool up 21 percent over last year (way above the national and regional average), the 209 students who matriculated last month have some of the strongest academic credentials in our school's history.

A quarter of them hail from the Ocean State while another third are from elsewhere in New England. They come from more than 100 undergraduate institutions from within the U.S. and abroad (including Georgetown, Harvard, Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, Wellesley, Brown, Vassar, Tufts, Colby, Wesleyan, Grinnell, Tulane, Chicago, GW and NYU) with the top feeder schools being University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, Providence College, Roger Williams, U-Mass Amherst and Boston University.

Members of the Class of 2012 have led the charge against legalized prostitution here in Rhode Island, canvassed for Greenpeace, helped mobilize Latino voters and demonstrated for gay rights. One worked at Mother Theresa's orphanage, and others assisted the blind in India and worked with disadvantaged kids in South Africa. One class member fought in Iraq and many helped rebuild New Orleans after Katrina. We also have a staffer from the Obama campaign, as well as one from the McCain campaign – not to mention leaders from a remarkable array of co-curricular activities.



Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Suttell  
administering oath of professionalism

## New Faculty



Besides our 209 new students, we have added two supremely talented teacher/scholars to our already-strong faculty. The multi-lingual **Mary Holper** comes to us from Boston College, where she was a visiting assistant professor and ran an Immigration Law Clinic, which is also her primary assignment at RWU Law. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Illinois, and earned her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Boston College. She is going to be an excellent mentor to the student-lawyers she will oversee in her clinic.



The other new faculty face is **Tanya Monestier**, who like Mary, arrives at RWU with both a sterling academic record and law-teaching experience. Tanya, a Canadian, graduated #1 in her class at Osgoode Hall (generally considered Canada's top law school), and continued her studies at Cambridge University, where she graduated with First Class Honors. After clerking for a justice on the Supreme Court of Canada, she practiced for two years at a major U.S. pharmaceutical company before joining the law faculty at Queen's College. Tanya will teach Contracts and continue her scholarly research on complex litigation.

This was also an eventful summer for the members of the RWU classes of 2010 and 2011, who had an array of fascinating summer work experiences, including:

- Kirby Aarsheim '10, Port Director, Quonset Development Corporation
- Jeff Basting '11, Mortgage Fraud Unit, Westchester County District Attorney, White Plains, N.Y.
- Gavin Black '10, International Maritime Organization, London
- Elizabeth Colagiovanni '10, Office of General Counsel, Schneider Electric
- Jennifer Coliflores '11, Office of Providence Mayor David Cicilline
- Chris Connolly '11, Pacific Energy Ventures, Portland, Oregon
- Alastair Deans '11, The Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition, Washington, D.C.
- Kristin Hermiz '10 & Jonathan Myhre '10, Office of the General Counsel, Brown University
- Zachary Mandell '11, Cetrulo & Capone, Boston
- Melissa McGow '10, - Proskauer Rose, Boston
- Dana Merkel '10, Blank Rome, Washington, D.C.
- Shad Miller '11, Mandell Schwartz & Boisclair
- Allison Novelly '10, Coastal States Organization, Washington, D.C.
- Marcia Pereira '10, Servulo & Associados, Lisbon, Portugal
- Natalya Rabinovitch '10, Brown Rudnick, Boston
- Jay Resmini '10, Legal Department, MGM studios, Los Angeles
- Jacqueline Roller '10, Office of U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.)
- Maureen Wagner '10, NOAA General Counsel, Washington, D.C.
- Kristina Watson '10, Pannone Lopes and Devereaux

### Two summer experiences deserve special mention:

Sarah Mazzochi '10 worked with the ACLU Voting Rights Project in Atlanta.

At the end of the summer, Sarah was awarded one of two national "Ms. JD Public Interest Summer Scholarships." Ms. JD chose Sarah for her commitment to public interest law based on her work, academic record, and life story. Sarah's winning essay is posted on the Ms. JD website.

Heather O'Connor '11 received a Massachusetts Bar Foundation Fellowship to support her work at the Homeless Prevention Project of South Coastal Counties Legal Services in Fall River, Mass. At the end of the summer, Heather was selected as one of nine students (from a pool of 400 across the country) to receive a Summer Corps Standout Award for her work.

### Upcoming Events: Women Who Lead Series



**OUR AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONS: *Models for the 21st Century***  
CHIEF JUSTICE MARGARET H. MARSHALL, *Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts*

**Thursday, October 29, 2009**

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

School of Law, Bristol

Appellate Courtroom 283

Please RSVP to (401) 254-4659 or [lawevents@rwu.edu](mailto:lawevents@rwu.edu)



**LEADING LAWYERS: *Defining Success in Work & Life***

**CYNTHIA THOMAS CALVERT ESQ.**

*Deputy Director of WorkLife Law Center of UC Hastings College of Law*

**Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

Roger Williams University School of Law, Bristol, RI

Appellate Courtroom 283

*Part of the Women Who Lead Series & the Fall 2009 Feinstein Institute Public Interest Speaker Series*

- 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** by **Cynthia Thomas Calvert, Esq.**  
*Barrier Update: The Glass Ceiling and Maternal Wall in Law Firms Today*  
Cynthia Thomas Calvert is the co-director of the Project for Attorney Retention (“PAR”), at the Center for WorkLife Law. The Center studies law firms’ retention and advancement of female attorneys and work/life issues in legal employment. As one of its hallmarks, PAR works with all stakeholders to develop practical solutions to issues of attorney retention and the advancement of women lawyers.
- 2:15 – 3:30 p.m. **PANEL PRESENTATION: *Women Who Broke Through***  
**Moderator: Mary Holper**, *Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*  
This panel will feature women who have broken through the “glass ceiling,” focusing on the path these women followed to their current position, including how they overcame challenges along the way.  
  
**Beverly Ledbetter**, *Brown University*  
**The Honorable Judith Savage**, *RI Superior Court*  
**Patricia Sullivan**, *Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP*  
**Miriam Weizenbaum**, *Deluca & Weizenbaum Ltd.*
- 3:30 – 3:45 p.m. **BREAK**
- 3:45 – 5:00 p.m. **PANEL PRESENTATION: *Balancing the Scales***  
**Moderator: Colleen Murphy** *Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*  
This panel will explore the strategies that women practitioners implement in their professional careers to address work/life issues, highlighting different ways that they both define and achieve success.  
  
**Patricia Andrews** *Law Offices of Patricia Andrews*  
**Ondine Galvez-Sniffen**, *Catholic Social Services of Fall River*  
**Martha Holt**, *Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI*  
**Olayinka Oredugba**, *City of Providence*
- 5:00 p.m. **RECEPTION** *Law School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Atrium*

***RSVPs are requested but not required.***

Please email [Feinstein.Institute@rwu.edu](mailto:Feinstein.Institute@rwu.edu)  
if you plan to attend.

A collaboration of the RWU School of Law, Feinstein Institute for Legal Service, Office of Career Services, Office of the Dean of Students, Office of Diversity and Outreach, Women’s Law Society and the RI Women’s Bar Association.



**JUDICIAL SELECTION IN RHODE ISLAND:**  
*Assessing the 15-Year Experience with “Merit Selection”*

**Friday, November 13, 2009**

School of Law, Bristol

12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Appellate Courtroom 283

Sponsored by the Roger Williams University Law Review

Admission is free of charge, however registration is required.

Please RSVP to the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events at (401) 254-4659 or email [lawevents@rwu.edu](mailto:lawevents@rwu.edu)

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**WELCOME**

David A. Logan, *Dean, Roger Williams University School of Law*

12:15

**INTRODUCTION: Overview of the Selection Process**

Michael J. Yelnosky, *Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*

12:30 – 2:30

**PANEL I**

*Judging How we Pick Judges: Fifteen Years of Merit Selection in Rhode Island*

**SPEAKER:** John Marion, *Executive Director, Common Cause Rhode Island*

**COMMENTATORS:**

Stephen J. Carlotti, *former Chair, Rhode Island Judicial Nominating Commission*

Rachel Caufield, *Professor, Drake University; Research Fellow, American Judicature Society*

Alan S. Flink, *former Commissioner, Rhode Island Judicial Nominating Commission*

Joseph S. Larisa, Jr., *Chief of Staff and Executive Counsel to former Governor Lincoln Almond*

Scott MacKay, *Political Analyst, WRNI; former political reporter, Providence Journal*

**QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

2:30

**COFFEE BREAK**

3:00 – 5:30

**PANEL 2**

*What Do Previous Studies Show About the Impact of Merit Selection on the Types of Individuals Selected for Judgeships?*

**Speaker:** Rachel Caufield, *Professor, Drake University; Research Fellow, American Judicature Society*

*Measuring the Impact of “Merit Selection” on the Characteristics of Judges Appointed to Rhode Island Courts*

**Speaker:** Michael J. Yelnosky, *Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*

*A Study of Qualitative Measures of the Performance of the Rhode Island Supreme Court Before and After “Merit Selection”*

**Speaker:** Mirya Holman, *Empirical Research Associate, Duke University School of Law*

**COMMENTATORS:**

Lynette Labinger, *Partner, Roney & Labinger*

Emily J. Sack, *Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law*

The Honorable William E. Smith, *United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island*

Angel Taveras, *Taveras Law Offices*

**QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**