

eNewsletter

A Message from the Dean:



David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law

Commencement is a special time in the life of a University – especially for the graduates, their family and friends. Commencement 2009 at RWU Law was yet another memorable event – or actually, a series of memorable events.

Kicking off the festivities was the annual ceremony sponsored by the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service recognizing students for displaying leadership in an area at the very heart of our mission

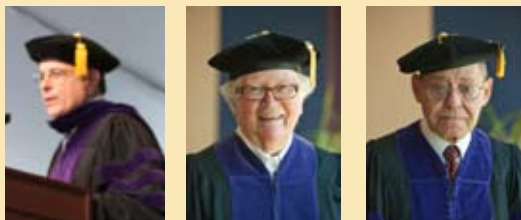
– public service. A highlight is the award given to the graduating student who displayed the greatest devotion to public service. This year’s winner, **Amy Peltier '09**, was a tireless volunteer for the Association for Public Interest Law. She helped plan the first Student Hurricane Network trip to New Orleans and has represented juveniles and criminal defendants at the Alaska Public Defender’s Office and the Committee for Public Counsel Services.

Next up was an elegant affair at the stunningly beautiful waterfront estate of Glen Manor in Portsmouth, where a range of graduates were recognized for various accomplishments, including the Dean’s Achievement Award and the John Birnberg Memorial Award.

The capstone, of course, was the Commencement Ceremony itself. The tradition of having our “Professor of the Year” lead the faculty procession continued, with **John Chung** carrying the ceremonial mace. Faculty Marshalls included newly tenured Professor of Law **Niki Kuckes**, as well as **Kathleen Miller**, who is completing her first year on the Legal Writing faculty. Highlights of the ceremony included comments from the Valedictorian **Jessica Stanford '09**, and recognizing the graduation of our first father-daughter team of RWU Law graduates, **Mark D. Sokol '00** and **Carly Sokol '09**.

Another important Commencement tradition was continued: awarding Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees to lawyers whose careers reflect dedication to public service, and who thus are excellent role models for our graduates. Past Honorary Degree recipients have included the Honorable Shirley Abrahamson, Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court; Linda Greenhouse, the Pulitzer-Prize winning *New York Times* correspondent who covered the Supreme Court for decades; Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Anthony Kennedy, the Hon. Bruce Selya (United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit); and Rick West, founding Director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

(click on Jessica Stanford’s name to listen to her speech)



This year the School of Law recognized the **Honorable Federico Hernández Denton**, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, who spoke on “The Rationing of Justice in Times of Economic Downturn”; **Louise Durfee**, a trailblazing lawyer and an early champion of legal protections for the environment in Rhode Island; and the **Honorable Jacob Hagopian**, Senior U.S. Magistrate of the United States District Court of Rhode Island.



Amy Peltier '09



Jessica Stanford '09



Professor Niki Kuckes receiving a ceremonial flower from Professor Robert Kent to recognize her recent promotion to tenured Professor of Law.



Carly Sokol '09



Professor John Chung



This summer, **Tanya Monestier** will join the Roger Williams University School of Law faculty. Tanya is a terrific international addition to an already stellar faculty who has been a visiting professor at Queen's University since 2007. She graduated first in her class from Osgoode Hall, Canada's top law school, earned an LL.M from Cambridge (with First Class Honors), and clerked for the Honourable Frank Iacobucci of the Canadian Supreme Court. At RWU Law, Tanya will focus on teaching Commercial Law and Advanced Commercial Litigation.



Another exciting piece of news is the August launch of an Immigration Law Clinic that will work with the burgeoning immigrant population in Rhode Island. Complementing our excellent Criminal Defense and Mediation Clinics, the new program has been conceived and will be directed by **Mary Holper**, who ran a similar clinic at Boston College and will get RWU Law's project off to a fast start. Mary is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Illinois and earned her law degree from Boston College, where she graduated magna cum laude. The new clinic is also a terrific companion to the Latino Policy Institute that RWU recently opened, and which is housed in the downtown Providence offices.

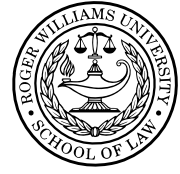
Upcoming Events



11TH ANNUAL OPEN GOVERNMENT SUMMIT

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2009

SCHOOL OF LAW, BRISTOL, R.I.
Appellate Court Room 283, 2nd floor



Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch will host the state-wide Open Government Summit
Co-sponsored by: The Roger Williams University Law Alumni Association.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Summit: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend.

3.5 CLE Credits (1 Ethics)

To reserve seating, e-mail agsummit@riag.ri.gov or contact (401) 274-4400, Ext. 2101.



10TH ANNUAL LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009

CRANSTON COUNTRY CLUB
69 Burlingame Road
Cranston, R.I.



Tournament Sponsor

MOROWITZ & BARRY, LTD.

A VOICE FOR INJURED RHODE ISLANDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Registration: 11:30 a.m.
Lunch: 12:00 noon
Shotgun Start: 1:30 p.m.
Dinner, Raffle, Silent Auction & Prizes 6:30 p.m.

\$125 PER PLAYER

All proceeds benefit the Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund