

Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



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ROLE MODELS - ASPIRATIONS AND INSPIRATIONS!

Legal role models are everywhere! They can be your law professors (check out Dean Logan’s blog or the law school’s *eNewsletter* to read about the great works of the RWU School of Law faculty), family members and relatives who practice law, lawyers in your community who perform *pro bono* services (issues of the *Rhode Island Bar Journal* profile members of the Rhode Island Bar who have provided *pro bono* services) or lawyers (celebrities, legends, or others lesser known) who champion unpopular clients or causes. Even fictional attorneys in literature and film can serve as role models.

In the law library’s collection are a few books for those who like to read inspirational stories, words of wisdom or sage advice. According to Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz, his *Letters to a Young Lawyer* (KF373 .D47 2001) is not a compilation of actual letters, but a written rendition of the oral advice he has given to others over the past forty years. His stated goal in writing the book is to encourage others to learn from his successes and failures, from his

correct decisions and his erroneous ones. *Success Briefs for Lawyers: Inspirational Insights on How to Succeed at Law and Life* (KF352 .S87 2001) is a compilation of biographical essays consisting of positive stories, lessons learned, and advice. *Dear Sisters, Dear Daughters: Words of Wisdom from Multicultural Women Attorneys Who’ve Been There and Done That* (KF299 .M56 D43 2000) contains letters by eighty-four women that describe the obstacles they faced and how they have overcome them to be successful in their legal careers. *In Search of Atticus Finch: A Motivational Book for Lawyers*, 2d ed. (KF298 .P37 1997) offers to its readers lessons from Atticus Finch, the fictional lawyer in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* (PS3562 .E353 T6 1999).

Watching the great “reel” attorneys can be quite inspirational. As part of the Law in Popular Culture collection, The Jamail Center for Legal Research of the Tarlton Law Library at the University of Texas School of

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● *In your life and your legal career, never forget the basic human traits of integrity, civility, patience, tolerance and compassion.*
● Professor Marcia Canavan
●

Law has compiled a filmography of their collection of over 700 films featuring lawyers (note that not all involve an attorney hero). The filmography is available at <http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/lpop/film.html>. In addition to the filmography, a bibliography of publications and articles discussing lawyers in popular culture is available at <http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/lpop/lpopbib2.html>. A compiled listing of women lawyers in film is maintained by Professor Christine Corcos of the Louisiana State University Law Center. The listing is accessible at <http://faculty.law.lsu.edu/ccorcos/lawhum/womenlawyersinfilms.htm>.

For those who like to read compiled listings of great lawyers in the United States, there is the *Great American*

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● *Legal advocacy has the power to shape public policy and has been central to every important social movement of the past century. As you study various areas of the law, I hope that you will be inspired by some of the lawyers who achieved significant change through innovative legal argument. You will also see that in order to be successful, these lawyers had to excel at critical legal skills: close reading, precise and thoughtful analysis, and well-crafted writing. The foundation in these skills that you build in law school will permit you to be a star in your legal career, no matter what the field. As you travel through law school, I hope that you will never forget the dreams that brought you here. To achieve those dreams, I challenge you to do the exciting and hard work of learning to ‘think [and read, write and argue] like a lawyer.’*
● Professor Emily Sack
●

Lawyers: An Encyclopedia (Reference, KF353 .G74 2001). This two volume set contains essays on the lives and the major cases of one-hundred great American lawyer-litigators throughout the history of the United States. Another compilation of interest is the *Super Lawyers: America's Courtroom Celebrities: 40 Top Lawyers And The Cases That Made Them Famous* (Reference, KF372 .E93 1998). Although not all the individuals profiled in this compilation are lawyers, *The Legal 100: A Ranking of the Individuals Who Have Most Influenced the Law* (Reference, KF353 .M38 1998) will appeal to those who like reading about historical figures and legal icons. To locate an autobiography or a biography of a particular lawyer, search the WebCatalog using the lawyer's name as an author or a subject. Use the subject **Lawyers United States Biography** to view a listing of available autobiographies and biographies in the law library's collection.



New Westlaw Student Rep

Joining Colin Evans as a Westlaw Student Rep is second-year student Katherine Sulentic. Kathy is from Waterloo, Iowa. She has her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa and her graduate degree from the University of Nebraska. Both of her degrees are in history. Prior to attending law school, she worked for 10 years providing academic support to college athletes, helping to raise the football graduation rate from 43% to 79%. After

graduation from law school, Kathy hopes to work for a large law firm in the mergers and acquisitions area.

Continuing as the LexisNexis student reps are Pam Elia and Jennifer Lemieux.



New Computer Lab Assistants

Recently hired as Computer Lab Assistants are Daniel Caswell, Benjamin Lemcke, Ashley Parker, David Petrarca, David Rosen, and Alicia Schaffner. They join returning Computer Lab Assistants David Borchese, Amaryah Ju, and Cara Hall.

Daniel Caswell is a second-year student from Stonington, Connecticut. He graduated from the University of Connecticut where he majored in Political Science and Sociology and minored in Human Rights. His areas of interest are criminal law and international law. As Daniel has wanted to be a lawyer since he was a kid, he says that he is now "living the dream" in attending law school.

Benjamin Lemcke is a second-year student from Albion, New York. He is a graduate of Gordon College and received his Master's in Criminal Justice from Niagara University. He worked as a probation officer between graduating from college and attending graduate school. He plans on being a criminal trial attorney.

Ashley Parker is a second-year student from South Windsor, Connecticut. She has a degree in Political Science and minors in Psychology and Italian from Roger Williams University. While attending college, she worked with Laurie Barron and Liz Tobin-Tyler in the Feinstein Institute

for Legal Service. She has also worked for UTC Power in Connecticut as a legal intern and for the Rhode Island Office of the Child Advocate.

David Petrarca, Jr. is a second-year student from Coventry, Rhode Island. A graduate of Roger Williams University, he has a B.A. in History and minors in Political Science and Philosophy. The versatility of the law degree is what interested David in attending law school. He is contemplating practicing law in the traditional sense for a few years before starting his own business.

David Rozen is a first-year student from New Hyde Park, New York. He has a B.A. in Political Science with a Public Law concentration and a minor in Philosophy from the State University of New York at Albany. What initially drew David to the law was the opportunity that he could speak for people who could not speak for themselves. He hopes to use his law degree as a stepping stone into the workings of government where he will be able to be a public servant and work to improve the quality of life for the people whom he serves.

Alicia Schaffner is a second-year student from Ledgewood, New Jersey. She graduated from Villanova University where she majored in Biology and minored in French and History. As a biologist, she has an interest in the environment and the ways in which it can be protected. Alicia came to law school because of her interest in environmental law and marine law.

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