

RHODE ISLAND WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION **OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER**

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MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

Thank you to everyone who attended members who attended the RIWBA Kick Off Event at Narragansett Brewery on September 22, 2022! We had a great turnout and it was wonderful to see everyone!

During our event on September 22, 2022, we highlighted Women's Fund Rhode Island - an organization whose mission includes investing in women and girls through research, advocacy, grant-making, and strategic partnerships designed to achieve gender equity through systemic change.

Donation Match to Women's Fund Rhode Island! Don't forget, we are engaging in a donation match to WFRI. RIWBA is going to make a donation to WFRI by matching our members' donations for the next thirty (30) days, up to \$350!

Once you've made a donation to WFRI and you would like it matched, please email your donation confirmation to Board Member Jessica Rider at jdoyle950@gmail.com.





Want to brag on one of your fellow members? Including yourself? Email Lindsay Lieberman at lindsaylieberman@gmail.com so that we can include those accomplishments in a future edition!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Save the Date(s)! RIWBA is hosting a members-only CLE focusing on employee rights for our members as female attorneys in Rhode Island. This CLE features speakers Carly Beauvais lafrate, Esq. of the Law Office of Carly Beauvais lafrate, PC; and Stacie Collier, Esq. of Nixon Peabody. It will cover topics such as your rights as an employee, including maternity leave, pumping, and equal pay. Save the date for **November 16th at 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. via zoom.**

CLE credit approval is currently pending.

Also, our members-only Annual Holiday Gathering will take place during the evening of **Thursday, December 1, 2022!**

Bryant Mock Trial Competition - Volunteer Judges Needed! This year, for the first time ever, Bryant University is hosting a mock trial competition on their campus. The competition will welcome schools from across the northeast. Competitions like these can't happen without dedicated volunteer judges. This year, the mock trial focuses on a negligence wrongful death lawsuit.

Volunteer judges can receive 1 CLE Credit for any members of the Rhode Island Bar Association who judge any rounds on the weekend of October 22nd and 23rd. There are two rounds each day, one morning and one afternoon and judging any number of rounds can qualify you for CLE credit. More information on time commitments and the competition can be found at this link, where you can also sign up to judge: [Bryant University Mock Trial Competition](#)

Esther Clark Moot Court Competition - Volunteer Judges Needed! This year's competition will take place on Saturday October 22nd, beginning at 9:00 am. This year's competition will ask students to brief and then argue the following two questions:

(1) Whether the objective test proffered in *Kingsley v. Hendrickson* to determine liability for excessive force claims, brought by detainees under the Due Process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, extends to conditions of confinement claims.

(2) Whether pretrial detainees have a "clearly established" constitutional right to protection from heightened exposure to COVID-19.

You, as a judge, will preside as two students argue this issue. After the arguments, we ask that you score and briefly critique the students' performance. You will be provided with a bench brief prior to the competition. If you are able to help by judging one or more rounds, the Moot Court Executive Board here at RWU Law would be tremendously appreciative. Please complete the following form ([Moot Court Volunteers](#)) or email the Moot Court Executive Board at mootcourt@g.rwu.edu with your name and availability by Wednesday, October 12th at 5pm. Please feel free to reach out via email with any questions or concerns you may have.

Federal District Court Conference: Registration for the 2022 District Court Conference, "*Racial and Social Justice in the Federal Courts*" featuring keynote speaker, Fred Gray is now open! 7.0 CLE credits, including 1 ethics offered. Seating is limited. Take advantage of a reduced rate during our early registration period that will remain open through October 3, 2022. Normal rates will apply thereafter. More information, including a full agenda, can be found on the registration page. [REGISTER HERE](#) Please direct any questions to Rana Smith at Rana_Smith@rid.uscourts.gov. We hope to see you there!

Women Owned Law Firms: On October 20, 2022 at 6 p.m., a newly-formed group of women law firm owners, as well as aspiring owners and partners, are meeting to share ideas and inspiration. Please RSVP to Lindsay Lieberman at lindsay@lindsaylieberman.com. All are welcome!

Women in Robes: Our membership is cordially invited to this year's program, Sponsored by the Women's Law Society of Roger Williams University School of Law. On **Monday, November 7, 2022** at 5:30pm. Featured remarks by the Honorable Erin Lynch Prata and the Honorable Melissa A. Long. Honoring Netti C. Vogel, Associate Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court. \$65 per ticket. Registration is required by October 28 [here](#).

ARTICLES AND RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

Lara Montecalvo confirmed to United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit: Rhode Island Public Defender, Lara Montecalvo, was confirmed on September 14, 2022. She will take the seat vacated by Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson. [Biden Sets Record for Public Defenders on Circuit Courts](#) [Check out a clip from Lara Montecalvo's confirmation hearing!](#)



Have a valuable article or resource for our membership? Email Amanda Valentino at avalentino7@gmail.com to add it to next month's edition!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Senior Director of External Affairs with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England: The [Senior Director of External Affairs](#) will be based in Rhode Island. The role is critical staff leader who will drive PPSNE and PPV!RI communications, policy, advocacy, organizing, and political work across the state. The job description is attached and [linked here](#).

Education Legal Counsel - Counsel II (Commonwealth of Massachusetts): The Legal Office of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) advises the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Commissioner, and DESE staff on issues of education law, policy, and administration; works with the Attorney General's Office on litigation; coordinates arbitrations under the Education Reform Act; and provides information to school officials, parents and students, and other constituents on the state and federal laws affecting public elementary and secondary schools, vocational-technical education, and adult basic education programs. The Legal Office includes the Office of Professional Practice Investigations, which investigates allegations of misconduct by licensed educators and pursues revocation or other license limitations in appropriate cases.

The Counsel II position involves administrative law practice including legal research and writing; negotiation; public speaking and training; drafting regulations, legislation, and advisory opinions; addressing issues relating to public records, records retention, and data privacy; preparing for and conducting administrative adjudicatory hearings, including matters relating to licensure; drafting and reviewing contracts and interagency agreements; and collaborating with the Attorney General's Office on litigation. This position focuses particularly on legal work relating to special education and other programs and services for students with disabilities. The Counsel II reports to the Deputy General Counsel and works closely with other colleagues in the Legal Office. The Counsel II interacts with educators and policymakers throughout DESE. More information here: [Education Legal Counsel - Counsel II Description](#)

Associate Attorney, Brennan Recuperio Cascione Scungio & McAllister LLP: We are a full-service law firm with offices in Providence, Rhode Island and Taunton, Massachusetts. We work with businesses, financial institutions, school districts, municipalities and individuals throughout southern New England. Our work for individuals includes residential real estate, wills and trusts, divorce and family matters and personal injury. We represent businesses in commercial finance and bankruptcy matters as well as commercial real estate, labor and employment and general business matters. Our practice areas include education law, bankruptcy, restructuring and

creditors rights matters, civil litigation, real estate, estate planning, labor, and commercial transactions.

We are looking to hire a full time Associate Attorney to join our firm as a general practitioner willing to engage in our multiple practice areas and in both transactional and litigation type work. The attorney will work out of our Providence, RI office. Our preferences include:

- 1 - 5 years of experience
- RI and MA Bar admissions
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Strong critical thinking skills
- Adaptability and attention to detail
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work with a team of attorneys
- Ability to communicate in writing and verbally effectively

\$70 to \$90K annual base salary for full time depending on experience. Health benefits, great working environment.

Email application materials to lkresge@brcsm.com.

Please include: Resume, Cover Letter, Legal Writing Sample

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Nowell Leadership Academy, a charter school focused on serving pregnant and parenting high school students is seeking a Spanish speaking attorney to serve on a panel to discuss career options. If you're interested, please email Rebecca Dupras at Rebecca@DuprasLaw.com.

New England Basecamp supports teachers, schools, and students by providing professional development and coaching support. Our mission is to empower all students by showing up for and following up with educators as they imagine equitable teaching and learning through authentic partnerships. We are currently seeking leadership support on our board of directors. The NE Basecamp Board of Directors comprises leaders from the nonprofit and for-profit sector who are dedicated to the organization's mission. Serving on the NE Basecamp Board of Directors is an opportunity for individuals who are passionate about strengthening professional development for educators. Board terms are three years and board members may serve up to two

consecutive terms. To learn more, visit [our website](#) and download [this PDF](#) for more information regarding our board opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you!

Are you hiring? Know someone looking for a top-notch applicant for an open position? Email Amanda Valentino at avalentino7@gmail.com to add an opportunity to our employment section!

MONTHLY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



Monthly Member Spotlight is your cheat sheet to the incredible women who are your fellow RIWBA members. Keep an eye on your inbox, because you might be next!

This month, we are delighted to spotlight **Chantal Bromage, Administrative Law Clerk for Judge O. Rogerie Thompson at the First Circuit.** Read on to learn more about **Chantal!**

What was your first paying job?

My first job was scooping Italian gelato at Piccolo Grande, a neighborhood gelato and coffee shop in Ottawa (where I grew up). I started a life-long love for waffle cones and learned that you really can get sick of eating ice cream! I also learned so many key lessons about working in a customer service industry - how to be on my feet for hours serving endless lines of customers, how to respond to frustrated and difficult customers, and especially how to clean up and restock properly at the end of the day when all you want to do is lock the door and go home!

What is one goal you'd still like to accomplish in your lifetime?

A triathlon. I have been running for years and have talked about training for a triathlon, but that has been beyond my bandwidth so far. Someday!

Can you share something about yourself that others would be surprised to learn?

Others might be surprised to learn that I used to compete in hunter/jumper horse shows. I grew up riding, started horse shows in 7th grade, and rode with the riding team at St. Lawrence University when I was an undergrad. After taking several years off while having kids, going to law school, and getting my law career started, I returned to riding

during the pandemic and am loving being on horseback again and jumping around a course of jumps at a weekly lesson.

Where is your favorite place in the world?

My favorite place to be is underwater, especially in the ocean. I started scuba diving when I studied abroad in Australia during my junior year and fell in love with the underwater world. My kids got their open water certifications in the spring of 2021 and I got to share some magical diving and snorkeling experiences with them in the Galapagos Islands in June 2021, including swimming with lots of sharks.

In fifty words or fewer, describe what you want other RIWBA members to know about your practice.

My days are spent working on pending cases -- researching, discussing, drafting, editing, cite-checking, etc -- as well as training, supervising, and mentoring student interns. I also take care of the day-to-day management of chambers.

NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:

Have something you would like to see in the next newsletter? Let us know by **October 26, 2022** to include it in the latest edition. And as always, thanks for reading!

Amanda Valentino, Cassandra Feeney, Lindsay Lieberman, Jessica Rider, and Meredith Thommen.

RIWBA Newsletter Committee