

RHODE ISLAND WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION **DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**



UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER 2-4

The Time is Now: Gender Justice, Antiracism and Systemic Change

Please join the Women's Fund of Rhode Island and other sponsors for the 4th Biennial New England Women's Policy Conference. The Keynote Speaker, Rep. Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), will be speaking on December 3rd. Policy topics addressed by panelists and in interactive discussions during breakout tracks will include health and healthcare, childcare and education, low-wage and essential workers, and policing women of color and LGBTQ communities. Ticket prices range from \$15-\$50; price can be waived for those experiencing economic hardship. **[Register Now.](#)**

Rhode Island Foundation's "Virtual Brainstorming"

The Rhode Island Foundation is conducting a community survey on how the Foundation should invest their diversity, equity and inclusion fund over the next three years. Please take the time to offer your thoughts [here](#).

Children's Friend Holiday Drive

For the 7th year in a row, RIWBA is supporting the Children's Friend Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive! Founded in 1834, Children's Friend is Rhode Island's oldest child welfare organization and a leading provider of child welfare, family support, mental health, and child development services. You can learn more about this great organization at <http://www.cfsri.org>. This year, we have signed up to help two families, with a total of 10 children. Children's Friend is offering virtual shopping this year. If you are interested in helping out, please email Kelly McGee at Kelly.McGee@Lifespan.org.

RIWBA's Mindfulness and Stress Management Class with Tenth Gate Yoga is still ongoing. Classes are Friday afternoons via Zoom. Please contact [Mary Cavanagh Dunn](#) with questions or to participate.

RI Bar Association Survey The Rhode Island Bar Association has convened a Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce. Please take the time to fill out the survey sent to all members of the bar and available [here](#).

Keep an eye on your inbox for information on our upcoming events in 2021!

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

Congrats to Kathryn Rattigan who has been promoted to Counsel at Robinson+Cole! Kathryn is a member of the firm's Business Litigation Group and Data Privacy + Cybersecurity Team. Click [here](#) to learn more about Kathryn's practice.

Thank you to our members who attended our Newsmaker Event highlighting Lara Montecalvo, RI Public Defender. Lara discussed the many issues that the Public Defender's office is facing in light of COVID-19 and racial justice within the RI criminal justice system. In honor of Lara the RIWBA has made a donation to the [Amos House](#), a non-profit organization that helps to support many of the Public Defender's clients.

RIWBA Referral List. We are preparing an internal referral database. If you would like to be included, please email your name, contact information and up to 3 areas of practice to Aubrey Lombardo at alombardo@hcllawri.com

Want to brag on one of your fellow members? Including yourself? Email Jessica Rider at jrider@riag.ri.gov so that we can include those accomplishments in a future edition!

ARTICLES AND RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

Scotland is First Nation to Make Sanitary Products Free. In an effort to end "period poverty," Scotland [extends its laws](#) to provide free sanitary products to anyone in need. (The New York Times)

Which of these 6 Time Traps is Eating Up All Your Time? [Analyzing](#) the signs and consequences of "time poverty." (TED)

Portraits of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Favorite Collars and the Stories Behind Them. Check out this [awesome article](#) showcasing beautiful photographs and stories about Justice Ginsburg's iconic collars. (Time)

Would you like to understand the connection between "radical self-love" and social justice? Check out Brené Brown's podcast [Unlocking Us](#) as she speaks with author Sonya Renee Taylor about her book "The Body is Not an Apology."

“Stuck at Home Moms”: The Pandemic’s Devastating Toll on Women. The numbers are shocking and this [article](#) digs into what is at stake. (NPR)

The Best Books to Give (or Receive) this holiday season. It’s going to be a long winter, better stock up! Check out the list [here](#). (The New York Times)

Keep in mind the services offered to small businesses from the SBA. The SBA offers *free* business counseling where you can talk 1:1 with an expert on a variety of issues like marketing, managing costs, and financial strategies. See the attached information at the end of the newsletter for full details.

Have a valuable article or resource for our membership? Email Leigh Furtado at LFurtado@heklawllp.com to add it to next month’s edition!

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Business Transactions Staff Attorney. Robinson+Cole an AmLaw 200 law firm is seeking a highly motivated staff attorney for a flexible, off-track position to work with our busy Business Transactions practice. Our ideal candidate will have a minimum of five years’ experience as a practicing attorney, and will have experience drafting and negotiating agreements and documents relating to mergers and acquisitions, commercial transactions and general corporate matters.

This position can be based in our Hartford, CT; Stamford, CT; New York, NY; Boston, MA; or Providence, RI office. Remote work may be available, but the candidate must be resident in a state where we have employees and should be within traveling distance of one of the listed offices. Admission to the bar in the state of practice is required. Candidates should work well as part of a team, have great attention to detail, and excellent communication and drafting skills.

Long-term or short-term, full-time or part-time positions are available. Compensation will be commensurate with experience and agreed upon billable hours.

To apply, please submit your cover letter, resume and transcript in confidence by clicking [here](#). Your cover letter should include the office of interest, your preference for a long-term or short-term position, a general idea of work hours available per week (i.e., 15 hours, 20 hours, 35 hours, etc.), and should be addressed to: Lisa M. Vooyo, RP, Legal Recruiting Manager, Robinson & Cole LLP, 280 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103.

Staff Attorney, Zero Waste Project. Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) has an immediate opening for a staff attorney to work on the organization’s Zero Waste Project team, part of CLF’s Healthy Communities & Environmental Justice Program, on Zero

Waste advocacy in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. More information on the position can be found [here](#).

Associate. Boutique law firm seeks mid-level associate to support litigation and transactional practice groups. West Group Law PLLC represents municipalities and government agencies in public procurement, contracting, administration and litigation involving public infrastructure assets such as water and wastewater, solid waste, public buildings, transportation, and energy. Qualified candidates will have experience in any of the areas of municipal law, construction law, environmental law, administrative law, as well as litigation in any of these practice areas. The successful candidate will have a demonstrated ability to work independently, approach problem-solving with creativity and versatility, and have excellent communication and writing skills. Looking for candidates who are admitted to practice in both Massachusetts and New York, or have sufficient years of practice to waive into or the willingness to take the bar in the other jurisdiction. Please provide a resume and 5-page writing sample to: West Group Law PLLC, Attn: Teno A. West, twest@westgrouplaw.com

Are you hiring? Know someone looking for a top-notch applicant for an open position? Email Leigh Furtado at lfurtado@heklawllp.com to add an opportunity to our employment section!

MONTHLY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

The 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 **CASSANDRA L. FEENEY**, Associate at Adler, Cohen, Harvey, Wakeman and Guekguezian, L.L.P. and RIWBA's Treasurer. Read on to learn more about Cassandra!

Any good work from home tips?

When you can, invest in technology to replicate your office at home. Set boundaries and truly log off at the end of the work day. Be kind to yourself and others.

What was your first paying job?

Lifeguard

What would you sing at karaoke night?

Don't Stop Me Now by Queen

Where is your favorite place in the world?

Venice, Italy



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

I play bass guitar

What was the best concert/play you ever attended?

Phantom of the Opera at Her Majesty's Theatre

What is the last book you read?

The Dichotomy of Leadership by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin

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

As a trial attorney, I represent clients in medical-malpractice defense, product liability, construction and premises liability, toxic-tort claims, employment law, and education law. I defend healthcare professionals and institutions in all aspects of claims of medical malpractice from pre-suit investigation through defense jury verdicts, as non-party witnesses, and before licensing and administrative boards. Additional information, including my litigation and trial experience and recent successful results, can be found at <https://www.adlercohen.com/cassandra-l-feeney>

NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:

Have something you would like to see in the next newsletter? Let us know by **December 31** to include it in the latest edition. And as always, thanks for reading!

Leigh Furtado, Jenna Giguere, Jessica Rider, Stephanie Simon & Sam Vasques

RIWBA Newsletter Committee



IMPACTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS?
FREE COUNSELING AWAITS YOUR SMALL BUSINESS!

By: Lana M. Glovach, U.S. Small Business Administration (November 2020)

The [U.S. Small Business Administration's](#) (SBA) mission is to help small businesses start, grow, expand and, in the event of a disaster, recover. Because the coronavirus pandemic has significantly impacted many small businesses, we at the SBA take this opportunity to remind you that small business training and individualized counseling services are available to you (virtually, at the moment) from experts located here in Rhode Island.

The SBA and its Resource Partners -- independent local organizations that the SBA funds in part -- provide high-quality training (free or at low cost) and confidential, one-on-one counseling (free) tailored to the specific needs of small business owners. Trainings cover a wide variety of topics -- basics such as the steps to starting a business, business plan basics, and record-keeping and accounting, as well as specialized subjects like negotiating contracts during COVID-19, marketing and brand building, social media, and financing preparation and strategies. Who are the SBA's Resource Partners?

- The [Center for Women & Enterprise](#) (CWE) (401-277-0800) is the women's business center here in Rhode Island. To help women build their business skills and create a lifetime network of key resources and contacts, it provides counseling and training to new and existing women business owners on a full range of business topics.

- The [Rhode Island Small Business Development Center](#) (SBDC) (401-874-7232) at the University of Rhode Island provides a variety of counseling, workshop, and information services for growing companies and start-ups. Look at the SBDC as a one-stop resource center for assistance in business plan development, market analysis, sources of capital, and other managerial and technical support services.

- The [Rhode Island SCORE](#) Chapter (401-266-0077) is a volunteer, non-profit organization. With more than 40 years of experience helping small businesses succeed, SCORE matches volunteer counselors with clients needing expert advice. SCORE has counselors in nearly every area of business management.

Whether you are considering starting a business, have a business that is experiencing challenges, or are ready to expand, SCORE can help.

- The [Veterans Business Outreach Center](#) (VBOC) Program (844-404-2171) provides entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling, and referrals for eligible veterans owning or considering starting a small business. The VBOC of New England is located in Providence.

We invite you to take advantage of these resources by becoming a client of one or more of the organizations listed above and, if you'd like, request free, 1:1 confidential business counseling tailored to your small business's specific needs.

As Benjamin Franklin observed, "if you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." Let the SBA help your small business plan for success! Assistance is available in languages other than English, including Spanish, and all SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. To learn more about the SBA's programs and services, please contact Lana Glovach, SBA Economic Development Specialist, at lane.glovach@sba.gov or 401-528-4575, or visit www.sba.gov/ri.