

## RHODE ISLAND WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED THIS MONTH:

Every year, RIWBA's members join in the Children's Friend Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive! Watch your inbox for details on how to get involved this year, and save the date for our holiday party on December 5th when you can drop off any donations!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Monday, November 11, 2019.** Join Common Cause Rhode Island for its 49th Annual Meeting, featuring a conversation with Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha! Topics will include open government and public corruption. The evening starts with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by an awards dinner at 6:30 p.m., both located at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Providence. Check out the event page [here](#) for more details, including the award recipients!

A professional headshot of Deborah Gonzalez, a woman with dark hair, smiling, wearing a dark blue blazer over a white top with a green sash.

### Newsmaker Reception

Join us for an evening of cocktails and networking with your peers, featuring comments by

**Deborah Gonzalez**  
Director of the Immigration Law Clinic

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Wednesday, November 20 - 5:30-7:30pm  
Bravo Bistro  
123 Empire Street, Providence, RI

**TICKETS:** Free to RIWBA Members  
\$20 for Non-Members

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Adelle Koscinski at [akoscinski@lawyersweekly.com](mailto:akoscinski@lawyersweekly.com) or 617-218-8134

**PLEASE REGISTER BY VISITING:** <https://www.squadup.com/events/2019-riwba-newsmaker>

Presented by:

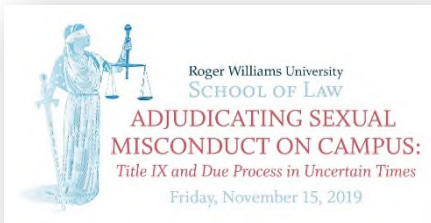
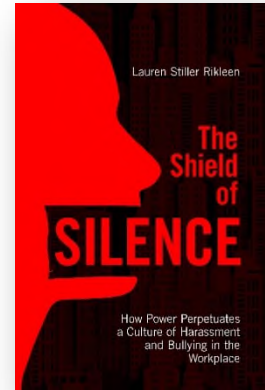
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For sponsorship opportunities, contact: Scott Ziegler at 617-218-8211 or [sziegler@lawyersweekly.com](mailto:sziegler@lawyersweekly.com)

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019.** RIWBA's annual Newsmaker Reception will be from 5:30-7:30 PM at Bravo at 123 Empire Street, Providence. We're thrilled to announce that Deborah Gonzalez, Director of the Immigration Clinic at the Roger Williams University School of Law, will be our featured Newsmaker! Don't miss this awesome event, and be sure to register in advance [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED

**Thursday, November 14, 2019.** Sick of reading stories about sexual harassment and gender discrimination without any tangible steps on what to do about the problem? Well, good news—you're invited to join the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations for the first program in their #OwnTheChangeReaction Discussion Series! This free teleconference will feature a conversation with Lauren Stiller Rikleen, who wrote *The Shield of Silence: How Power Perpetuates a Culture of Harassment and Bullying in the Workplace*. You can get more details on the teleconference [here](#).



**Friday, November 15, 2019.** This year's Roger Williams University School of Law Symposium is on a timely topic: *Adjudicating Sexual Misconduct on Campus: Title IX and Due Process in Uncertain Times*. The all-day program will take place at the law school's Bristol Campus. Get more details, including how to register, [here](#).

## DECEMBER

**Thursday, December 5, 2019.** It's that time again! Join RIWBA for its annual holiday gathering at Milk Money at 5:30 p.m. Delicious appetizers, cash bar, mingle with your fellow members and contribute to a great cause by dropping off your donations for the Children's Friend Holiday Drive. Mark your calendars!



**Monday, December 9, 2019.** Do you frequently find yourself practicing before the bankruptcy court? You won't want to miss the upcoming *open meeting with the Rhode Island Bankruptcy Court* on Monday, December 9 at 3:45 p.m. Please see the [linked invitation](#) for complete details, and be sure to RSVP by Wednesday, December 4.

## REMINDERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Don't forget to answer our member survey!** In an effort to bring you the programs that you want, the RIWBA Board is asking you to take a few minutes to answer our brief, anonymous member survey. We look forward to your input and suggestions. Click [here](#) to participate!



## MEMBER NEWS:

**New firm, role, or honor? New publication?** If you have an announcement to share in our newsletter, or better yet – if you'd like to brag on one of your fellow members – please [email Stephanie Simon](#) and we'll include it in a future edition!

## ARTICLES AND RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

**Is Law School Worth It?** Of course, it depends who you ask! U.S. News posed this question to many young lawyers who graduated law school less than twelve years ago. The responses varied greatly and were highly personal. Some of the factors include student loan debt, available jobs and salaries, and satisfaction with the day-to-day life of a lawyer. Can you relate to any of their responses? Read them [here](#). (*U.S. News*)

**What's Going on With Those Opioid Lawsuits?** Check out this [article from NPR](#) and this [one from Vox](#) for a general guide on the history and status of the massive opioid litigation involving thousands of lawsuits. You can also read a [more recent article from the Washington Post](#) with more insights and discussion about the litigation. (*NPR, Vox, Washington Post*).

**Toot Your Own Horn!** Why is so difficult for women to promote themselves? What is a confidence gap? Women attorneys share tips on self-advocacy in this article – read more [here](#). (*Law.com*)

## ARTICLES AND RESOURCES OF INTEREST, CONTINUED:

**Would You Take Flexible Leave?** A national television station in Britain recently announced that it would offer flexible working arrangements for women, including [paid leave](#) for menopause symptoms. (*The New York Times*)

**One Last Walk in Love.** Read this beautiful [tribute to legal legend Charles Ogletree](#), who is battling Alzheimer's. Ogletree was the attorney who represented Anita Hill during the infamous hearings to confirm Clarence Thomas. (*The Boston Globe*)

**Remember Female Trailblazers.** Check out this profile on the first undergraduate women of [Yale](#) in 1969. Admitting women to this all-male institution was only the first step. (*The New York Times*)

**Set in Stone:** [Central Park](#) will get its first statue honoring women. The statue, featuring Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, will be dedicated next August, which also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage in the US. Check out a prototype of the proposed design below. (*Huffington Post*)



## EMPLOYMENT:

**Litigation Associate.** Barton Gilman LLP seeks a litigation associate to work primarily in the Providence office. Associate must possess a commitment to exceptional client service, strong academic credentials, and excellent writing, research, and advocacy skills. Associate will have the opportunity to learn from accomplished, well-respected trial attorneys, interact meaningfully with clients, and fully participate in all phases of litigation. Rhode Island bar admission required. MA and/or CT Bar admission a plus. Please submit cover letter and resume in confidence to Angela L. Carr, Esq. at [acarr@bglaw.com](mailto:acarr@bglaw.com).

**Are you hiring?** Know someone looking for a top-notch applicant for an open legal position? [Email Stephanie Simon](#) 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 **Krista Schmitz**, a Partner at Olenn & Penza, LLP. Read on to learn more about Krista!

### **What was your first paying job?**

My first paying job was babysitting for families in my neighborhood. I was 13 or 14 years old and I took it very seriously. I remember putting together a backpack full of books, games, nail polish, and candy to bring with me to entertain (bribe) the kids. I even made up my own business cards.



### **What is one of the kindest things someone has done for you?**

I am extremely lucky to have a large pool of friends and family that I constantly lean on for help with my kids and just for general moral support. If I had to pick one thing that stands out, it would be one day that my sister randomly stopped by my office and dropped off a plant just because I was having a tough week and she thought I would like it. That small gesture meant so much to me at the time and helped me to recalibrate and charge ahead with resolving the issues that were causing my stress. You just never know how much a small random act of kindness can mean to someone.

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

One goal that I would still like to accomplish in the future is to become a foster parent. I have two teenagers and would like to open my home to foster teens, many of whom are looking not just for a steady address but also for someone to support them academically and emotionally. It's amazing how much it can mean to a teenager just to have someone to be in their corner cheering on their accomplishments.

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

This will probably not surprise anyone who has worked with me in the past, but I love to shop and specifically love a bargain. I am one of the people you will find standing in the cold on Black Friday with a group of friends and family plotting our buying strategy as we attempt to complete our holiday shopping in one night. I also turn my bargain hunting energies in a philanthropic direction raising funds and requesting donations to benefit my children's school's PTO and marching band programs. You will frequently find me planning trivia nights, raffles and auctions to help raise funds for Cranston Schools.

## **MONTHLY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED:**

**What would you sing at karaoke night?**

My “go-to” karaoke song has always been Dusty Springfield’s Son of a Preacher Man.

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

My practice includes insurance defense, personal injury, and employment. People contact me during difficult times. They had an accident or were wrongfully terminated and need to talk. I believe it’s important to assist as an attorney and, sometimes more importantly, as a person who understands their situation and just listens.

## **NEW! MONTHLY TRIVIA SECTION:**

If you’re nerdy for trivia, this section is for you. Every month we’ll pose a question to our membership. The first one to email the correct response to [Sam Vasques](#) wins the glory of a shout-out in next month’s issue and the freedom to gloat at will about her superior trivia skills.

***What year was Dorothy R. Crockett admitted to practice law in Rhode Island?***



Pictured: Dorothy R. Crockett, Rhode Island’s first female African-American attorney

## **NEXT MONTH’S ISSUE:**

Have something you would like to see in the next newsletter? Let us know by **Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** to include it in the latest edition. And as always, thanks for reading!

**Kelly Kincaid, Chantal Bromage, Jessica Rider, Stephanie Simon & Sam Vasques**

***RIWBA Newsletter Committee***