

## **RHODE ISLAND WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION**



### **SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER**



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

##### **RIWBA 2021-2022 Kickoff Event, IN PERSON - OUTDOORS, September 23, 2021**

Keep an eye on your inbox for more information about our annual kickoff event, to be held in person at Rooftop at the Providence G from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 23. Looking forward to seeing many of you for some Fall cocktails while supporting our community partner who will be announced soon!



**Yoga For Lawyers.** RIWBA member Charlene Pratt of The Jubilant Frog is hosting 15 minute yoga for lawyers sessions. Proposed session days and times are: Tuesday 1:15-1:30pm, Thursday 7:30-7:45am or Friday 8:45-9am or 1:15-1:30. To schedule a session, please reach out to Charlene by email at [thejubilantfrog@gmail.com](mailto:thejubilantfrog@gmail.com) or via Instagram message [@thejubilantfrog](https://www.instagram.com/thejubilantfrog). Charlene's full virtual yoga schedule is online at [thejubilantfrog.com](http://thejubilantfrog.com).

#### **Practical Everyday Tools for Stress Management with Tenth Gate Yoga. (Every Friday at 12:30, virtual)**

In collaboration with RIWBA, the Tenth Gate Yoga WorkPlace WellBeing Program will offer lessons in stress management for professionals, with a particular focus on a return to "normal" activities. Please see the flyer attached at the end of the newsletter for more details.

**It's BACK! Concepts of Justice In Literature session with Adele Geffen Eil, Esq. Wednesday, September 29, 2021 and Tuesday, October 5, 2021, both at 12:30pm.**

Our book choice for this session is *Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America* by Gilbert King. Two remarkable true stories at once: one of Thurgood Marshall's (pre- Supreme Court) career as a crusader for civil rights for Black Americans; and one of Jim Crow terror for Black Americans living in rural mid-twentieth century America. This program has been approved for CLE credit. Please RSVP to [Sam Vasques](#) by September 15, 2021 with the event date of your choice. And remember, spots are limited -- first come, first-serve!



### **Women, Influence & Power in Law Event, October 6-8, 2021**

From the event's description, "Women Influence & Power in Law (WIPL) offers an opportunity for unprecedented exchange with women in-house and outside counsel. This unique event was created with the assistance of an advisory board comprised of high ranking women, General Counsel or direct reports to the GC, and were drawn from across the globe. These attorneys have the highest levels of expertise and experience leading legal departments and practice areas." For more information on this event, visit the website [here](#).

### **Ada Sawyer Centennial Celebration, October 14, 2021**

The Rhode Island Bar Association Ada Sawyer Centennial Celebration Planning Committee invites all to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first woman to pass the bar exam and be admitted to practice law in Rhode Island, Ms. Ada L. Sawyer. The celebration will be held at the historic Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet, and will feature a plated dinner, cash bar, and a brief speaking program.

## Women in Robes, Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Save the date for this annual event, hosted by the Women's Law Society at Roger Williams University School of Law! Mingle with members of Rhode Island judiciary and enjoy a festive dinner at the Downtown Providence Marriott Hotel. Details to come, but mark your calendars!

## ABA Guided Conversations Project, ongoing

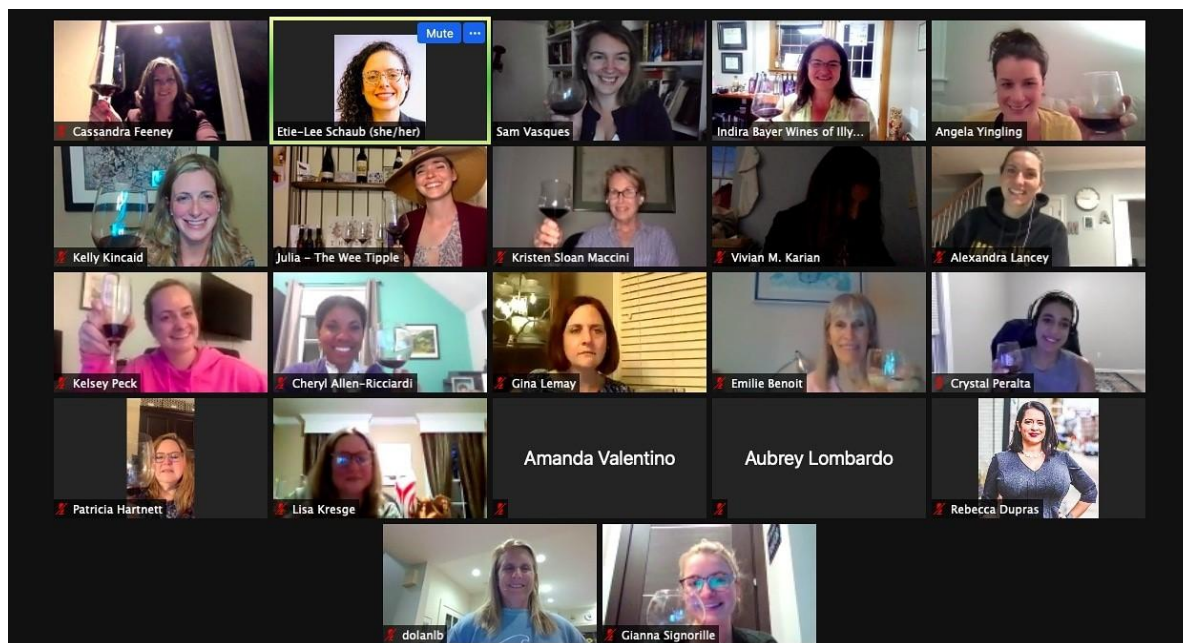
"The Guided Conversations Project addresses the intersectionality of race/ethnicity and gender in the legal profession. Through structured dialogue women of color and white women can bridge gaps in understanding and build allyship to promote racial equity." The Report and Toolkit can be found [here](#).

## MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

Want to brag on one of your fellow members? Including yourself? Email [Jessica Rider](#) so that we can include those accomplishments in a future edition!

Thank you to our members who attended our Zoom-based annual meeting and wine tasting in June! Although we hope to see everyone in person again soon, it was wonderful to spend time together supporting two local businesses, Wines of Illyria and The Wee Tipple.

*Just a snapshot of a few of the attendees at our annual meeting!*



**Want to join a RIWBA Committee?** As we enter a new membership year we would love to add some fresh perspectives and voices to our committees. Please see below for information on each of the committees and contact the the committee chair listed for more information:

- **Events.** Tasked with planning future RIWBA events reflecting the interests of our members. Contact [Cassandra](#) to join!
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.** Seeking to create a more equitable and representative RIWBA and bar. Contact [Rebecca](#) to join!
- **Membership.** Membership outreach and retention are particularly important to us as we further our commitment to being an inclusive group representative of our profession. Contact [Etie](#) to join!
- **Social Media and Website.** Keeping up the dialogue on our social media outlets and maintaining our website. Contact [Kelsey](#) to join!
- **Community Engagement.** Connecting RIWBA members with good causes and volunteer opportunities in our community. Contact [Lynne](#) to join!
- **Newsletter.** Sourcing articles of interest and spotlighting the accomplishments of our members. Please reach out to [Leigh](#) to join!

## **ARTICLES AND RESOURCES OF INTEREST:**

**What Does Justice Look Like?** The Rhode Island Judiciary's new campaign involves stories from individual judges and [public outreach](#). (*Providence Journal*)

**How Secondary Trauma Impacts the Health of Legal Professionals.** [Signs](#) of burnout and distress to watch out for in yourself and others. (*ABA*)

**This Lawyer Loses Most of His Cases.** The dedication of a human rights lawyer in [Myanmar](#). "I am free, free to dedicate myself to the law." (*NY Times*).

**SCOTUS Conservative Majority is Dominant but Divided.** An analysis of the statistics of Justice Barrett's first [term](#). (*SCOTUS Blog*).

**Have a valuable article or resource for our membership?** Email [Leigh Furtado](#) to add it to next month's edition!

## **VOLUNTEER AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Special Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division; Special Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division; Environmental and Energy Unit Chief; Health Care Unit Chief.** The Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General is seeking applicants for several open positions. Interested applicants should visit the Office's Career Opportunities page at <http://www.riag.ri.gov/career/> for more details, or check out the details included at the end of this newsletter.

**Corporate Associate.** Adler Pollock & Sheehan, P.C. is seeking two associates (1-6 years of relevant experience) to join a sophisticated corporate practice in either the Providence or Newport offices. Please see description at the end of this newsletter for additional details.

**Labor and Employment Law Attorney.** Adler Pollock & Sheehan, P.C. is seeking an attorney with 2-5 years of relevant experience to represent management in both labor and employment matters. Position is located in the Providence office and more information can be found in the ad at the end of the newsletter.

**Are you hiring?** Know someone looking for a top-notch applicant for an open position? Email [Leigh Furtado](mailto:Leigh.Furtado) to add an opportunity to our employment section!

## **MONTHLY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**

In this edition, we are spotlighting some of the members of your 2021-2022 RIWBA Board. Each member of the Board was asked to answer the same two questions, but all said they are looking forward to seeing their fellow members (hopefully in person) again soon.



**Sam Vasques**, President

**What was one of the most embarrassing moments in your legal career?** It's only tangentially related to my legal career, but I fainted in the middle of a date in law school. We were watching a scary movie and I was so terrified that I passed out. Luckily that has yet to happen in court!

**What is one action, event or cause you hope to see RIWBA involved with this year?** I hope to see RIWBA more involved in serving our community, and to see our members in person soon!



**Cassandra Feeney**, Vice President and Events Committee Chair

**What was one of the most embarrassing moments in your legal career?** Everybody has or will experience perceived embarrassing moments or mistakes during their practice of law. The important thing is to learn from these moments and become a better attorney in the process.

**What is one action, event or cause you hope to see RIWBA involved with this year?** I would like to hear from our members about how their workplaces and practices are achieving or failing to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as suggestions for improvement. I encourage members to reach out to me directly or any of my fellow board members.



**Etie-Lee Schaub**, Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair

**What was one of the most embarrassing moments in your legal career?** I was working for a firm in Massachusetts and was asked to cover a hearing. I had not been to that particular courthouse before, so I left early to get in on time. Once I got there, I couldn't figure out where the courtroom was on the notice. It seemed like it didn't exist.... because it didn't...because I was in the wrong courthouse. I frantically called my office to ask my assistant to call the court and opposing counsel to apologize for my lateness while I booked it to the right place.

**What is one action, event or cause you hope to see RIWBA involved with this year?** I'm hoping that we invite more allies to become active members with the RIWBA.



**Aubrey Lombardo**, Secretary

**What was one of the most embarrassing moments in your legal career?** In the middle of a hearing, I was questioning a witness and went to approach them with a document, fell and literally landed on my face.

**What is one action, event or cause you hope to see RIWBA involved with this year?** I'd like to see us attract a wider pool of lawyers with more diversity in all ways, including more experienced lawyers.



**Leigh Furtado**, Board Member and Newsletter Committee Chair

**What was one of the most embarrassing moments of your legal career?** On my first day as a first year associate my badge didn't work and I was trapped in the stairwell between the floors of my firm. I had to bang on the door until one of the veteran secretaries came to rescue me.

**What is one action, event or cause you hope to see RIWBA involved with this year?** I think we (women attorneys and the RIWBA) are an important segment of the Rhode Island bar and I would like us to push the judiciary and state leaders to undertake meaningful and actionable steps towards making our justice system more fair and accessible.



**Lisa Kresge**, Board Member and Member of the Events Committee

**What was one of the most embarrassing moments of your legal career?** I block those out and move on to the next thing of course!

**What is one action, event or cause you hope to see RIWBA involved with this year?** I hope that our group is able to get back into a full calendar of events again—always a great way to network and support one another in this profession



**Kelsey Peck**, Board Member and Social Media and Website Committee Chair

**What was one of the most embarrassing moments in your legal career?** The first time I appeared in Court, I literally yelled my name into the microphone because I was so nervous. Both the Judge and Court Reporter jumped. The next time I appeared in front of that Judge, he reminded me that yelling was not allowed in his Courtroom.

**What is one action, event or cause you hope to see RIWBA involved with this year?** I hope to see RIWBA continues to foster an inclusive environment to ensure that every member has a seat at the table and that every member feels welcomed and respected. I hope to see RIWBA actively prioritize racial equity and justice as part of our internal structure in an effort to effectuate change not only within our organization, but also the legal profession in Rhode Island.



**Amanda Valentino**, Board Member

**What was one of the most embarrassing moments in your legal career?** As a younger, newer public defender starting out, I was caught sitting at the wrong table in a new courtroom (prosecution side by accident) that I was practicing in. Have not made that rookie mistake since!

**What is one action, event or cause you hope to see RIWBA involved with this year?** Hopefully getting involved and being active volunteering in local communities and agencies now that things have changed a little with COVID.



**Angela Yingling**, Board Member

**What was one of the most embarrassing moments in your legal career?** After my first oral argument in the Supreme Court, I finished very calmly (and, I would like to think, professionally) and left the courtroom through the soundproof doors. I didn't realize, however, that the door had swung backwards, which negated the soundproofing for a few seconds...just long enough for the entire courtroom to hear



my loud “WHOOOO” of relief!! The justices had a sense of humor about it – one of them said that I had “apparently popped the champagne already!”

**What is one action, event or cause you hope to see RIWBA involved with this year?** I am really glad that the WBA has taken more of an interest in the issue of criminal justice reform, particularly with respect to the BIPOC community. I know that the entire country has started paying more attention to this issue in the past couple of years, but, as a public defender and a citizen, I don’t want the reform efforts to be a flash in the pan. I hope the RIWBA continues to stay involved in this important work.

### **NEXT MONTH’S ISSUE:**

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

*Leigh Furtado, Jessica Rider, Stephanie Simon & Sam Vasques*

**RIWBA Newsletter Committee**



## CORPORATE ASSOCIATES

Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C., seeks two associates to join its Business and Corporate Law Group to work in its Providence and/or Newport offices. Our sophisticated corporate practice serves local, national and multinational companies, as well as non-profit and government clients. It includes mergers and acquisitions, commercial transactions, securities, taxation and business planning, public finance, energy and regulated businesses, and general corporate and commercial law. Qualified candidates will possess superior academic credentials, 1-to-6 years of relevant law firm experience, and a desire to become a versatile business lawyer. Significant experience in M&A/transactional work a plus. We offer a competitive compensation package and a long-term career path within a collegial practice that is committed to excellence. Qualified candidates are invited to apply directly by email and to send a resume and letter of interest to: John Russell, Corporate Chair, [jrussell@apslaw.com](mailto:jrussell@apslaw.com).

*Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C. is an  
Equal Opportunity Employer Committed to Diversity*



## LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW ATTORNEY

Adler Pollock & Sheehan, P.C. seeks an attorney with 2 to 5 years of experience to work in its Labor & Employment Law Group in their Providence office. The firm concentrates its Labor & Employment Law practice representing management in both labor and employment law matters. Employment litigation experience is essential. Federal and state labor and collective bargaining experience preferred. Candidates must also have good writing skills and a strong academic background. We offer a competitive compensation package and a long-term career path within a collegial practice that is committed to excellence. Qualified candidates are invited to apply directly by email and to send a resume and letter of interest to: Robert P. Brooks, Esq., Managing Partner, [rbrooks@apslaw.com](mailto:rbrooks@apslaw.com).

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**SPECIAL ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**CIVIL DIVISION**

**RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**PAYGRADE 8730 (\$69,213 - \$78,249)**

**July 23, 2021 – September 7, 2021**

***POSITION CURRENTLY OPEN***

The Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General is seeking a candidate for a Special Assistant Attorney General (SAAG) position within the Civil Division. The attorney in this position will be expected to work in both the Government Litigation Bureau and the Public Protection Bureau.

About the Office: The Attorney General is the state's top lawyer and law enforcement official, protecting and serving the people and interests of Rhode Island through a broad range of duties. Every day, the Office's attorneys fight to ensure the public safety of the state's communities, improve the economic security of its citizens, safeguard the state's spectacular natural resources, and restore the public's trust in government. Assistant and Special Assistant Attorneys General represent the people of Rhode Island in civil and criminal matters before trial courts, appellate courts, and the supreme courts of Rhode Island and the United States. The Office is unique among attorneys general offices across the country. Out of fifty states, only two other offices share the same broad criminal mission. The Office's attorneys prosecute complex and violent crimes but also functionally serve as one of the nation's largest district attorney's offices, prosecuting all felonies throughout the state.

Civil Division: The Civil Division defends the State through its Government Litigation Bureau and brings litigation and other initiatives through the Public Protection Bureau.

In the Government Litigation Bureau, the Civil Division leads litigation on behalf of the state, counsels the Attorney General and other government officials, and performs a range of regulatory duties.

The Public Protection Bureau, recently created within the Civil Division, is comprised of four units – Healthcare, Consumer and Economic Justice, Environmental and Energy and Civil & Community Rights. Each of these units affirmatively develops legal work and initiatives by using the legal authority of the Office of Attorney General to advance and protect dignity, quality of life and equity for all Rhode Islanders.

From identifying and pursuing landmark civil actions against businesses and individuals that have harmed Rhode Islanders to defending state laws, state agencies, state general officers, legislators, and employees, the Division and its attorneys are at the forefront of matters being litigated before trial courts, appellate courts, and the supreme courts of Rhode Island and the United States.

**Duties and Opportunities:** For this position, a SAAG in the Civil Division will be responsible for case development, pre-trial litigation (both defensive and affirmative), negotiation, written and oral argument, regulatory and agency advising and trial work. This work may be in one or more of a broad range of civil areas including: administrative law, antitrust, civil rights, consumer and deceptive practices, data protection & privacy, environmental, healthcare & insurance, labor & employment, charitable trusts, open government, and public utilities. The applicant will be expected to carry a full civil litigation caseload in the capacity as first and as second chair, and be expected to draft, file, and argue motions/legal memoranda, as well as litigate, in state and federal court on behalf of the state of Rhode Island, its agencies, and its officers or employees.

Opportunities for Special Assistant Attorneys General in the Civil Division also include: attending National Association of Attorney General trainings and conferences throughout the country, serving on state, local, federal, and/or non-profit boards, commissions, working groups, and/or task forces as a designee of the Attorney General, providing substantive expertise to legislative or policy initiatives, supervising student interns as part of the Office's legal internship program.

**Eligibility:** The successful applicant must have a law degree from an accredited law school and be an active member in good standing of the bar of any jurisdiction. If not a member of the Rhode Island Bar, the candidate must be eligible for admission to the Rhode Island bar.

**Qualifications:** Candidates with five years of litigation experience are preferred. Strong candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to public interest law. Candidates must have strong written/oral advocacy and negotiating skills and possess the capacity to function in a sometimes-high stress, demanding environment. Applicant must work well independently and as part of a team, including with other attorneys and support staff. Ability to work with other state government employees and communicate with members of the public is a must. Litigation experience in both state and federal court is preferred. The applicant should bring innovative thinking to the ways in which the Office of the Attorney General can consistently and increasingly meet the needs of Rhode Island residents.

The Attorney General's Office is stronger, more credible, and more capable when its attorneys bring diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives to their work. The Office encourages all qualified applicants from all ethnic and racial backgrounds, veterans, LGBTQ individuals, and persons with disabilities to apply.

If applying for position by submitting cover letter and resume via mail or email, no need to apply through online system.

Application Process: Applicants should submit a (1) a cover letter summarizing why you are interested and describing the skills and abilities you possess that will enable you to succeed in this position, (2) resume, (3) list of three references, and (4) a writing sample to:

Aida Crosson  
Director of Administration  
Office of the Attorney General

150 South Main Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
acrosson@riag.ri.gov

Equal Opportunity Employer:

All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, or covered veteran status.

Other Information:

The selected applicant will be subject to a background investigation including reference checks.

Start Date: *This position is currently open.*

**SPECIAL ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**CIVIL DIVISION**

**RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**PAY GRADE 8728 (\$64,000 - \$72,379)**

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