

News Advisory

From the Rhode Island Judiciary



Courts recognized for employment diversity

March 15, 2019: The Rhode Island Judiciary’s efforts in employment diversity were commended this week by the American Society for Public Administration.

The Society presented the state’s court system with its Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Exemplary Practice Award. The award is presented to individuals and organizations that have made contributions to a more equal society in the areas of government, education, nonprofit institutions, and private sector organizations.

On Sunday, March 10, in Washington, D.C., the Rhode Island Judiciary was cited for its “holistic approach to promoting diversity and inclusion by expanding its efforts beyond hiring and recruitment to include increasing minority representation in the legal field.”

The Judiciary has launched several initiatives designed to encourage middle school, high school and college students to pursue a career in the legal field, to attend law school and to practice in Rhode Island. The Judiciary partners with educators, school administrators, and service organizations to offer the Judiciary Shadow Program and the Judiciary Employment Education Program, which were launched to bridge the population versus workforce representation gap in the legal field.

In 2017, Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell hired Dorca M. Paulino as the Judiciary’s first diversity coordinator to enhance minority hiring in the courts and to promote minority interest in the legal profession. Paulino was on hand in Washington to accept the award on Sunday.

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