

# RHODE ISLAND



## OUT OF TOWN GUIDE

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Career Development Office

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## INTRODUCTION

Whether you are a current student or alumna/us of Suffolk University Law School, seeking a summer internship or permanent job, the Career Development Office (CDO) recognizes the difficulties encountered when searching for a position from afar. We hope the following resources will prove helpful as you undertake your search. As always, please make an appointment with one of the CDO counselors for further guidance to help you formulate an effective job search strategy.

## RECIPROCITY

Students and graduates may request a letter of reciprocity which will allow them to use the Career Services Office at another ABA-accredited law school (subject to the other school's reciprocity policy). The services that schools offer reciprocity recipients, and the dates during which reciprocal services are rendered, vary. You can view the reciprocity policies of other law schools on NALP's website (<http://www.nalp.org/reciprocitypolicies?s=reciprocity>). Please request a letter from the CDO at least two weeks before you expect to be visiting the area.

For more information about requesting reciprocity, contact Jessica Bonzek in the CDO at [lawcdo@suffolk.edu](mailto:lawcdo@suffolk.edu) or at (617) 573-8148.

Consider requesting reciprocity from the following school:

- Roger Williams University School of Law  
10 Metacom Avenue, Bristol, RI 02809  
<http://law.rwu.edu/>  
<http://law.rwu.edu/careers/career-services-office>

Please do not visit or call another law school's career services office without first requesting reciprocity access through the Career Development Office.

## BAR ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

Bar associations are professional legal organizations with membership based on factors including common geography and/or specialty. Participation in a bar organization is a great beginning to your legal career. Joining a bar organization while a law school student has many benefits, including opportunities to network, to build contacts and legal skills through pro bono legal work, and to attend lectures on specific topics of interest. After graduation, membership in such organizations will prove invaluable, providing you opportunities to keep your skills sharp by attending CLE seminars and conferences, to build new client relationships through networking events, and to meet other practitioners in

your field of law. Additionally, bar associations frequently offer their members free access to online databases such as Casemaker.

**Statewide:**

- Rhode Island State Bar Association - [www.ribar.com](http://www.ribar.com)

**Specialty:**

- Rhode Island Association for Justice - [www.rijustice.org/RI](http://www.rijustice.org/RI)
- Rhode Island Women's Bar Association- <http://www.riwba.com/>

## ALUMNI RESOURCES

Contacting Suffolk alumni for informational interviews can be a great way to both network and learn about practicing law in a particular geographic area. See the "Informational Interview" section of our Networking handout ([www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career/handouts/documents/Networking.pdf](http://www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career/handouts/documents/Networking.pdf)) to get started.

- 5 ways to search for Suffolk alumni:
  - (1) Martindale-Hubbell Directory – [www.martindale.com/Find-Lawyers-and-Law-Firms.aspx](http://www.martindale.com/Find-Lawyers-and-Law-Firms.aspx)
  - (2) SULS's Online Alumni Community – [www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/SFL](http://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/SFL)
  - (3) 2006 Alumni Directory- this hardcover book is available at the CDO front desk
  - (4) LinkedIn- [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)
  - (5) Search for Suffolk alumni on the websites of firms you are targeting using keyword or law school searches.
- The following alumni have volunteered to serve as networking resources:
  - Jeffrey Padwa '92  
Padwa Law  
(401) 921-4800  
[jeffrey@padwalaw.com](mailto:jeffrey@padwalaw.com)
  - Charles N. Redihan '76  
Kiernan, Plunkett & Redihan  
(401) 831-2900  
[credihan@kprlaw.com](mailto:credihan@kprlaw.com)
  - Christopher C. Cassara '96  
Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP  
(401) 861-8200  
[ccc@psh.com](mailto:ccc@psh.com)

You should also contact the Suffolk Law School Alumni Group's Rhode Island Chapter. Information on the Rhode Island Chapter, including contact information, can be found here: [www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/alumni/getInvolved/chapters.cfm?CID=13](http://www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/alumni/getInvolved/chapters.cfm?CID=13)

## CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

Participation in CLE events offers students and alumni the two-fold benefit of learning practical information about a relevant, substantive legal topic while networking with practicing attorneys in your desired geographical region and substantive interest areas. A CLE program offers myriad ways to facilitate networking with attorneys practicing in your desired field. Often, attorneys attend these events both to gain knowledge and to network themselves. While not all states have a CLE requirement, every state offers CLE opportunities through local bar associations, CLE organizations, and local law schools.

Rhode Island has a mandatory CLE requirement of 10 hours annually.

- Rhode Island MCLE Commission - [www.courts.ri.gov/mcle/defaultmcle.htm](http://www.courts.ri.gov/mcle/defaultmcle.htm)
- ABA Center for Continuing Legal Education - [www.abanet.org/cle](http://www.abanet.org/cle)

## LEGAL NEWS PUBLICATIONS

Reading area legal news publications is a beneficial way to familiarize yourself with the local legal market. The information you learn will help you define your target audience during networking and job search efforts. You can also use your new familiarity with the local bar to distinguish yourself in an interview situation. These publications may also contain job postings.

It would be advantageous to review any, or all, of the following legal resources:

### **Local:**

- *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly* - [www.rilawyersweekly.com](http://www.rilawyersweekly.com)
- *Providence Business News* - [www.pbn.com](http://www.pbn.com)

### **National:**

- *American Lawyer* - [www.law.com/jsp/tal/index.jsp](http://www.law.com/jsp/tal/index.jsp)
- *National Law Journal* - [www.law.com/jsp/nlj/index.jsp](http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/index.jsp)

## LOCAL NEWS PUBLICATIONS

When considering relocation, it is essential to possess some knowledge of the area. Reading local news publications, such as newspapers and business journals, will provide a general understanding of the local landscape and current topics. In addition, these publications can help you investigate the local market, including real estate conditions and cultural activities. Most importantly, during an interview the demonstration of your

acquired knowledge of the geographical region will reflect the intensity of commitment to relocate.

The following resources are the mainstream local news publications for the region:

- *Providence Journal* - [www.projo.com](http://www.projo.com)
- *Providence Business News* - [www.pbn.com](http://www.pbn.com)
- *Newport Daily News* - [www.newportdailynews.com](http://www.newportdailynews.com)

## GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

Government and public interest organizations present valuable opportunities not only as full-time work but also for volunteer opportunities during your job search. Some of the following resources also contain job postings. For additional information and guidance about this search, contact SULS's Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service at 617-573-8644 or visit [www.rappaportcenter.org](http://www.rappaportcenter.org).

### Federal:

- Careers in Government - [www.careersingovernment.com](http://www.careersingovernment.com)
- Federal Jobs Digest - [www.jobsfed.com](http://www.jobsfed.com)
- FedWorld - [www.fedworld.gov](http://www.fedworld.gov)
- Government Honors & Internship Handbook - [www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm](http://www.law.arizona.edu/career/honorshandbook.cfm) - Published by the University of Arizona; a username and password are available in the CDO
- Government Jobs - [www.govtjobs.com](http://www.govtjobs.com)
- Govtjob.net - [www.govtjob.net](http://www.govtjob.net)
- Hill Zoo - [www.hillzoo.com](http://www.hillzoo.com)
- Opportunities in Public Affairs - [www.opajobs.com](http://www.opajobs.com)
- RCjobs - [www.rcjobs.com](http://www.rcjobs.com)
- StudentJobs.gov - [www.studentjobs.gov](http://www.studentjobs.gov)
- USAGov - [www.usa.gov/index.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/index.shtml)
- USAJOBS - [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov)
- U.S. Attorney's Office - District of Rhode Island - [www.usdoj.gov/usao/ri](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ri)
- U.S. Department of State - [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)
- U.S. Office of Personnel Management - [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov)
- White House - [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) - Access to all U.S. government sites through "Your Government"

### State:

- Rhode Island - [www.ri.gov](http://www.ri.gov)
- Rhode Island Department of Corrections - [www.doc.ri.gov/index.php](http://www.doc.ri.gov/index.php)
- Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training - [www.dlt.ri.gov](http://www.dlt.ri.gov)
- Rhode Island General Assembly - [www.rilin.state.ri.us](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us)
- Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General - [www.riag.ri.gov](http://www.riag.ri.gov)
- Rhode Island Office of the Governor - [www.governor.ri.gov](http://www.governor.ri.gov)
- Rhode Island Secretary of State - [www.sec.state.ri.us](http://www.sec.state.ri.us)
- State and Local government on the Net - [www.statelocalgov.net/state-ri.cfm](http://www.statelocalgov.net/state-ri.cfm) - Links to state and local government.

# PUBLIC INTEREST & NONPROFIT RESOURCES

Government and public interest organizations present valuable opportunities not only as full-time work but also for volunteer opportunities during your job search. Some of the following resources also contain job postings. For additional information and guidance about this search, contact SULS's Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service at 617-573-8644 or visit [www.rappaportcenter.org](http://www.rappaportcenter.org).

## **Public Interest & Nonprofit (Nationwide):**

- ABA Division for Legal Services - [www.abanet.org/legalservices](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices)
- ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service - [www.abaprobono.org](http://www.abaprobono.org)
- Career Education Institute - [www.internships-usa.com](http://www.internships-usa.com) - Site offers information on internships nationwide; contact the CDO for username and password
- Equal Justice Works - [www.equaljusticeworks.org](http://www.equaljusticeworks.org)
- Essential Information - [www.essential.org](http://www.essential.org)
- Idealist - [www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)
- National Lawyers Guild - [www.nlg.org](http://www.nlg.org)
- National Legal Aid and Defense Organization - [www.nlada.org](http://www.nlada.org)
- Office of Public Interest Advising - [www.law.harvard.edu/students/opia](http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/opia) - Harvard Law School has made these Specialty Guides available to all students
- Partnership for Public Service - [www.ourpublicservice.org](http://www.ourpublicservice.org)
- PSLawNet - [www.PSLawNet.org](http://www.PSLawNet.org)

## **Public Interest & Nonprofit (Local):**

- Directory of Rhode Island Nonprofits - <http://nonprofitdir.rifoundation.org/>
- Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. - [www.rils.org](http://www.rils.org)
- Rhode Island Public Defender - [www.ripd.org](http://www.ripd.org)

# PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

Whether you are already employed or looking for a job, doing legal volunteer work is an excellent way to acquaint yourself with a new city and to make a positive contribution to the community. Below are some resources to introduce you to pro bono opportunities in the area:

- Pro Bono Net, RI - <http://www.probono.net/oppsguide/search?state=RI>
- Rhode Island Bar Association VLP - <https://www.ribar.com/>
- Ocean State Lawyers for the Arts - <http://www.artslaw.org/>
- Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. - <http://www.rils.org/>

# JOB LISTINGS

Listed below are a few national and regional websites you may want to use. It is by no means an exhaustive list, but we hope it will be a good starting point.

## General:

- America's Job Bank - [www.jobbankinfo.org](http://www.jobbankinfo.org)
- CareerBuilder.com - [www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com)
- Indeed- [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)
- Yahoo Hot Jobs - [www.hotjobs.com](http://www.hotjobs.com)
- Job-Hunt - [www.job-hunt.org](http://www.job-hunt.org)
- Monster - [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)

## Legal:

- Job Listings available through the Career Development Office - <https://law-suffolk-csm.symplicity.com/students>
- The ABA Resource Center - [www.abanet.org/careercounsel](http://www.abanet.org/careercounsel)
- Lawjobs.com- [www.lawjobs.com](http://www.lawjobs.com)
- EmplawyerNet - [www.emplawyernet.com](http://www.emplawyernet.com)
- Heiros Gamos - [www.hg.org/index.html](http://www.hg.org/index.html)
- Legal Staff - [www.legalstaff.com](http://www.legalstaff.com)
- Vault - [www.vault.com](http://www.vault.com)
  - Through the SULLS Community link on the CDO website, you have free access to Vault.com's Career Insider, which provides numerous research tools in addition to job listings- [www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career/search/login/joblist.cfm](http://www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career/search/login/joblist.cfm) (Contact the CDO office for the password. You will be asked to set up an account using your email address before beginning your research).

## Local:

- Rhode Island Lawyer's Weekly Jobs- <http://classifieds.dolanmedia.com/LWJ01/>
- Jobs in Rhode Island - [www.jobsinri.com](http://www.jobsinri.com)
- New England Job - [www.newenglandjob.com](http://www.newenglandjob.com)
- Rhode Island Department of Labor - [www.dlt.state.ri.us](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us)
- Rhode Island Employer - [www.riemployer.com](http://www.riemployer.com)
- Rhode Island Job Store - [www.rhodeislandjobstore.com](http://www.rhodeislandjobstore.com)

# LEGAL DIRECTORIES

The following legal directories can be valuable tools in researching and collecting contact information for targeted mailings and networking outreach.

- Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory - [www.martindale.com](http://www.martindale.com)
- NALP National Directory of Legal Employers - [www.nalpdirectory.com](http://www.nalpdirectory.com)  
Information regarding all NALP members, including law firms, corporations, public interest organizations and government offices. Includes demographic information, an organizational narrative, hiring information and other useful resources. The listings are broken down by state and by practice area. Print Resource available in the CDO.

- West Legal Directory - [www.westlaw.com](http://www.westlaw.com) or [www.lawyers.findlaw.com](http://www.lawyers.findlaw.com)  
Site through which one can search for individual attorneys and firms by name, geographic location, law school, undergraduate institution, firm-size and more.

## COURT INFORMATION

Regardless of your career goals, knowing the ins and outs of the local, state, federal and specialty court systems in the area is an important first step towards a successful transition into the legal market. The information is also helpful in preparing for judicial clerkship interviews.

Use the following resources to start your research:

### **Federal:**

- General information on Federal Courts - [www.uscourts.gov/allinks.html](http://www.uscourts.gov/allinks.html)
- United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit - [www.ca1.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca1.uscourts.gov)
- United States District Court of Rhode Island - [www.rid.uscourts.gov](http://www.rid.uscourts.gov)
- United States Bankruptcy Court, Rhode Island District - [www.rib.uscourts.gov/newhome](http://www.rib.uscourts.gov/newhome)

### **State:**

- Rhode Island Judiciary - [www.courts.ri.gov](http://www.courts.ri.gov) - Information about all state courts is available on this Web site.

### **Resources:**

- *Bureau of National Affairs Directory of State and Federal Courts, Judges and Clerks, 2010 Edition* (available in the CDO library) - Lists all the federal and state courts. For each state, there is a one page chart with the organization of the state courts – a great snapshot of that particular state court system!

## PUBLIC LAW LIBRARIES

Public Law Libraries are invaluable resources. Many have free, public access to Westlaw and Lexis and other legal databases. They're great places for alums to go to do legal research, and to prepare for job interviews. Every state and most big cities have a public law library.

Check out the following library:

- Rhode Island State Law Library - <http://www.courts.state.ri.us/library/defaultlibrary.htm>

# LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDES

Librarians at public and private law libraries throughout the country put together detailed state-specific research guides. Many of these guides are available for free from any computer in the world. These guides allow you to get a quick overview of case reporters, statutes, regulations and other legal research for a specific state.

Some good examples are listed below:

- Suffolk University Law Library, Rhode Island Practice Guide - <http://www.law.suffolk.edu/library/research/a-z/resguides/riguide.cfm>
- Law Library of Congress, Rhode Island Research Guide - <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/states/us-ri.php>

# SALARY INFORMATION

Starting salary figures **vary greatly** region by region, and by type of legal employer. The information below should provide you with some guidance. We encourage you to make an appointment with a CDO counselor should you need further assistance regarding salary negotiations with a particular employer.

- One of the best sources of salary information for private sector, government, and public interest jobs can be found on NALP's website. Visit [www.nalp.org](http://www.nalp.org), go to "Research & Statistics" and click on "Salaries & Compensation."
- Federal Government Pay Scales - <http://www.opm.gov/oca/10tables/pdf/gs.pdf>
- FindLaw.com's Career Center provides data that it collects via the web concerning regional legal employers - <http://www.infirmation.com/shared/insider/payscale.tcl>. Please be aware that this site contains information supplied ANONYMOUSLY via the internet and cannot be confirmed.
- Payscale.com- [www.payscale.com](http://www.payscale.com). Includes tools for calculating salary ranges, benefits, cost of living, etc. The data is obtained through surveys run by third parties and real-time data from all members that enter information directly into the system via the web site daily.
- Law Employment Center - [www.lawjobs.com](http://www.lawjobs.com). This contains the National Law Journal's most recent report on *What Lawyers Earn*.
- Paycheck City - [www.paycheckcity.com](http://www.paycheckcity.com). Offers several online tools to calculate take home pay, gross pay, 401(k)s, bonuses, etc.
- Salary.com- [www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com). Tools, such as the "salary wizard," allow you to research salary ranges for particular positions, among other things.
- The Salary Calculator - [www.homefair.com](http://www.homefair.com). Provides cost-of-living comparison between U.S. cities and towns, as well as internationally.
- The following figures are from the Home Fair ([www.homefair.com](http://www.homefair.com)) and are the median expected salaries as of June 2010. This basic market pricing report was prepared using their Certified Compensation Professionals' analysis of survey data collected from thousands of HR departments at employers of all sizes, industries and geographies.

- Attorney Jobs in Providence, Rhode Island
  - Attorney I (0-3 years of experience) - \$94,017
  - Attorney II (2-5 years of experience) - \$120,638
  - Senior Attorney (5-8 years of experience) - \$150,536
  - Managing Attorney (8+ years of experience) - \$174,039
- Cost of Living Comparisons (taken from [CNNMoney.com](http://CNNMoney.com)) based on an annual salary of \$70,000 in Boston.
  - Comparable salary in Providence, RI - \$63,582
    - Groceries will cost: 6% less
    - Housing will cost: 17% less
    - Utilities will cost: 20% less
    - Transportation will cost: same
    - Healthcare will cost: 7% less

## BAR EXAMINATION & ADMISSION INFORMATION

Bar admission requirements, bar exam deadlines and fees **vary by state** so educate yourself early.

- Rhode Island Bar Admission - [www.courts.ri.gov/supreme/bar/baradmission.htm](http://www.courts.ri.gov/supreme/bar/baradmission.htm)
- National Conference of Bar Examiners - [www.ncbex.org](http://www.ncbex.org)
- The American Bar Association's *Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements 2009* is now available for download as a free PDF at [www.ncbex.org/comprehensive-guide-to-bar-admissions](http://www.ncbex.org/comprehensive-guide-to-bar-admissions).
- Bar Exam - [www.barexam.org](http://www.barexam.org)
- Bar Bri - [www.barbri.com/app.aspx?cmd=go\\_home](http://www.barbri.com/app.aspx?cmd=go_home)

## BLOGS & LINKEDIN

Blogs are a really great way to keep current on cutting edge issues as they unfold. Blogs can be found through a general Google search ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)) for the terms blog, law or legal, and the name of the city or state (i.e. "blog law Rhode Island").

LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)) is a business-oriented networking site that focuses on employment and professional networking as opposed to social networking. Users can connect with others in their field and search by geographic area, practice area and law school.

## **LEGAL DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Joining a legal discussion list is an excellent way to network and stay on top of cutting edge issues and job openings. The ABA has the best, most comprehensive list of legal discussion lists. Go to [www.abanet.org/discussions/](http://www.abanet.org/discussions/) and on the right side of the screen, click on "View the ABA email lists." Another discussion list directory tool is List Tool: [www.listtool.com](http://www.listtool.com).

## **SULS'S MOAKLEY LAW LIBRARY**

Have questions about how to find state-specific legal material, need to find free online resources since you no longer have access to Westlaw or Lexis, or want help starting a research project? Whether you're in Boston or Hawaii, reference librarians at Suffolk University Law Library welcome your questions. Call them at 617-573-8516 or email [lawref@suffolk.edu](mailto:lawref@suffolk.edu). If you're in Boston, stop by the reference desk on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Law Library. They're there to help.

## **SULS'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

The Career Development Office (CDO) maintains an open door policy; students and alumni with questions should feel free to drop by anytime. However, whenever possible, you should schedule an appointment with a career counselor to reduce your waiting time.

The staff is available to assist you with all aspects of your job search including assessing skills, preparing resumes and cover letters, sharpening interviewing skills and exploring a variety of legal job opportunities, alternative careers and various geographic locations.

While you are in law school, it is important for you to define your career goals and develop your legal skills. Participation in various law school activities, competitions, clinical programs, internships and part-time jobs can help you accomplish these objectives. Employers seek to hire highly motivated, self-confident students who have specific skills to offer. As a graduate, you will want to continue to develop and cultivate your career-long job searching skills and contacts.

Although the Career Development Office will assist you with every aspect of your job search, the ultimate responsibility of securing a job rests with you. Keep in mind, securing a job is a job in itself; the Career Development Office serves as an important resource to complement your own efforts and initiatives.

The Career Development Office welcomes any requests or questions you may have with respect to career development. Our office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:45am to 6:00pm and Friday from 8:45am to 4:45pm. Feel free to call us with any questions at 617-573-8148.

Additionally, visit the Career Development Office's web site ([www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career](http://www.law.suffolk.edu/offices/career)) for more information, including handouts, audio broadcasts of CDO programs, links and other useful resources.