



# Connelly Law Offices, Ltd.

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CONNELLY LAW OFFICES, LTD. WORKS WITH TOLMAN HIGH SCHOOL LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY**

Connelly Law Offices, Ltd., a firm that specializes in Elder Law with offices in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and Mystic, Connecticut, is proud to continue its student internship program in 2018.

RJ Connelly III, a certified elder law attorney, states that by hosting student interns, young people are introduced to the importance of law in society and the rewarding and diverse careers a degree in the legal field can provide.

“The field of law offers many exciting opportunities and by having internships available at our firm for those with an interest in pursuing a legal career, I hope we provide a path for them to move in the right direction,” Connelly said.

“At the heart of a legal professional’s role is service to the client,” continues Connelly, “whether you are a lawyer representing clients in a probate case, a paralegal helping a family with a nursing home placement, a tax issue or Medicaid planning or a law clerk researching real estate deeds for a client downsizing after retirement, the purpose of our role is to help others resolve their legal issues and provide them with a better quality of life.”

A degree in law can also open doors in other professions. “Having that degree offers an array of other opportunities including careers in research, teaching, finance and public service,” said Connelly, “but if they want to become an attorney, a law degree presents clear postgraduate options that can take the student way beyond the bar exam. In fact, a strong percentage of Fortune 500 CEOs hold law degrees.”

The majority of Connelly Law Offices’ interns have come from the Law and Public Safety Academy at Tolman High School in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. This program is supervised by Christopher A. Souza, the Social Studies Department Chairperson and Lead Teacher of the Academy.

“Our program is associated with Roger Williams University in an articulation agreement with them. Students that enroll in Law and Society, Criminal Justice or Advanced Forensics and fulfill the



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requirements of the University are eligible to receive three free college credits for each of the classes I mentioned. It's a great opportunity for the students," said Souza.

Students are asked to keep a portfolio of work from the class, maintain an 88 or higher average in class, complete a ten-page research paper and then present their work to a faculty panel at Roger Williams University in late May or early June to earn the credits.

As a testament to the integrity of the program, Connelly Law Offices has even hired a student intern to work part-time as a legal assistant.

"We are pleased to have her as part of our team," stated Connelly, "and she has learned the basics such as the importance of filing legal correspondence correctly to assisting in the drafting of legal documents for the court. She certainly has benefitted from the supervision of other legal and fiduciary professionals in our office."

"Although I may be biased given the fact that I have chosen elder law as my specialty, I believe that having experience working with our clients gives the student an appreciation for what they face as they grow. With luck, not everyone will have an experience with the criminal justice system or be faced with a personal injury case, but everyone will be faced with an aging family and the death of a loved one. Without a will or an estate plan, their relatives may face an extended probate process and unnecessary legal costs, adding additional stress to families as they struggle to grieve the loss of their loved one", said Connelly.

For Attorney Connelly, the internship program is also a way he can give back for what he has received on his way to passing the bar exam.

"I remember my years of doing internships both at the Statehouse as a page and in law offices and I cannot stress enough how important those internships were for me. Having someone as a mentor who provided me with insights fed my love of the legal field. Even if a student chooses not to pursue a career in the law, we hope that while spending time with us they learn and develop a range of skills and an appreciation for all aspects of the human experience that will serve them well in their future endeavors."

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