

An Interview with Emily Heisler, Esq.

by Nicole P. Dyszlewski, Esq., MLIS and Meghan L. Hopkins, Esq.

Focus on the Future is a spotlight series where members of the *Rhode Island Bar Journal* Editorial Board interview attorneys who are newer to the Rhode Island Bar.

> **What is your current title and position?**

I am an associate attorney at Mancini Law LLC. My practice engages exclusively in Workers' Compensation Law, representing employers. Before starting my current position, I clerked for the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court.

> **What do you actually do all day?**

I am always busy. For a small office, we have a lot of clients. I spend my workdays reviewing medical records, deposing doctors and employees, conducting legal research, and attending hearings. This morning, I had 3 pre-trial conferences, although all were via telephone because of COVID-19. However, we look forward to returning to the courtroom in person again, hopefully soon.

> **Can you tell us what you have learned while being a new attorney in Rhode Island?**

I have had a wonderful experience. As a law student, I interned at the Rhode Island Attorney General's office three times and knew almost nothing about the Workers' Compensation Court. When I began my clerkship with that Court, I was blown away by the differences in litigation practice among the different courts in Rhode Island. I have the pleasure of working in an area which has a small bar and is so collegial. Someone once described the Workers' Compensation bar to me as "Rhode Island's hidden legal gem," and it really is.

> **Who is your biggest inspiration inside or outside of law?**

My inspiration comes from both of my parents. My dad exemplifies kindness, decency, and intelligence. My mom is an example of courage, leadership, and independence. Together they inspire my strong work ethic and have given me the support to pursue a career I am passionate about.

> **What do you do to de-stress?**

I spend time with my boyfriend, who is also a new attorney. We have a dog, Lumi, who we rescued. Her name means snow in Finnish. We enjoy hiking and exploring all the beautiful scenery in Rhode Island – especially the water views. I also just got a Peloton and am enjoying the convenience of it after a busy workday.

> **What is the next goal you hope to accomplish in your career?**

I would like to develop my reputation as both a fair and effective lawyer. In the future, I would like to work toward becoming a partner at my current firm or starting a firm of my own. I would also like to teach a Workers' Compensation law course at RWUSOL as an Adjunct Professor someday.

> **What is your favorite restaurant in Rhode Island?**

Pomodoro Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria in Bristol is my favorite place to get dinner. They have the best vodka sauce.



EMILY HEISLER, ESQ.

> **You are not originally from Bristol – how did you end up here?**

I am from Gwynedd, PA. When I was applying to law schools, my older sister was attending JWU's Physician Assistant Studies program. During a visit to see her, I toured RWU Law and was very impressed. I toured the campus and met former Dean Michael Yelnosky. When I returned to my car, he had left a handwritten note on the windshield which read, "[w]e don't have cheesesteaks in Rhode Island, but the Providence food scene is pretty good." That personal touch meant a lot to me and indicated that RWU would care about me as a student. Rhode Island is now home to me.

> **Name one thing that you could not live without and why?**

My planner! President Eisenhower said, "plans are useless but planning is everything." I believe this quote rings particularly true for attorneys.

> **Name the most influential lawyer in your career so far.**

Of course, my boss, Nick Mancini, is an inspiration for me. I am constantly amazed by his keen instincts in the courtroom and during depositions. However, the person who has impacted me the most thus far has been Assistant Attorney General Daniel Guglielmo. I was



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an intern for him when he led the Domestic Violence Unit. Dan taught me that you can be kind and empathetic and still be an effective, successful lawyer. Under his guidance, I developed skills that I will carry with me throughout my entire career.

> **What do you find the most meaningful in your work?**

For me, the most meaningful part is appearing in the courtroom. I find it rewarding when I can craft and deliver a legal argument, resulting in a fair result for the client. The unique thing about the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation system is that it has its own trial and appellate level courts, which allows me to appear in court quite frequently.

> **How have you chosen to decorate your office?**

I have only been in my office for a few months, but I have added a few green plants and pictures of my family, friends, and dog. The best part of my office is a fireplace that the former (now retired) attorney left behind. Not only does it warm my office, but my boss's French Bulldog named Blueberry, likes to come in and nap in front of it.

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