

Monica Teixeira de Sousa, a native of Portugal born to Cape Verdean parents, is a Distinguished Research Professor of Law at Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, Rhode Island. At RWU Law, she teaches Property, Housing Law and Policy, Education Law, Family Law, and Race & the Foundations of American Law. Professor Teixeira de Sousa also serves as the Director of the Housing Policy Clinic.

Professor Teixeira de Sousa joined the RWU Law Faculty in 2022, where she co-created the Mandell-Boisclair Social Justice Camp for middle school students and was honored as Professor of the Year in 2024. She is a co-author of the Aspen Casebook “Race and the Foundations of American Law,” published in 2025.

Previously, she was a tenured professor at New England Law | Boston, where she established and directed the First Generation Students Program. She also served as Director of the Summer Program on International and Comparative Human Rights Law in partnership with the Irish Centre for Human Rights in Galway, Ireland. Her academic work focuses on critical class studies, education law and policy, and housing.

Professor Teixeira de Sousa began her legal career at Rhode Island Legal Services as a Skadden Fellow, addressing the unmet civil legal needs of people living in poverty. She created an innovative school-based legal clinic at her former elementary school in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, representing parents and students in matters including public benefits and eviction defense. In 2014, she returned to Rhode Island Legal Services during a sabbatical to volunteer in their Public Benefits Unit.

Committed to community service, she has served on the Rhode Island College Upward Bound Program Alumni Scholarship Committee and currently serves on the boards of Justice at Work, Project Weber/RENEW, and is a member of the Rhode Island Community Investment Cooperative’s Investment Committee, supporting investments in local real estate projects and related ventures to create and preserve local ownership and economic activity.

Professor Teixeira de Sousa holds a J.D. from Georgetown Law and a B.A. from Brown University.