

WELCOME
NEWS FROM THE CENTER
**THE BROWN RUDNICK CENTER
FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

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CHARITABLE GIVING	PRO BONO
COMMUNITY SERVICE	PUBLIC INTEREST

CHARITABLE GIVING



The BROWN RUDNICK FREED & GESMER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.

The Foundation Directors met on April 25. Some of the actions taken by the Directors included:

- Receiving a presentation from representatives of the Neighborhood House Charter School. NHCS is a Foundation grant recipient and they reported on the progress being made with their "Eighth Grade Placement Initiative." NCHS made particular note of their appreciation for the mentoring that has been done with their students by BRBI's Sara Laroche and Toni Wall Jaudon.
- The Directors accepted the Insight/Foresight Advisory Group's recommendation and voted to approve a one time grant of not more than \$ 2003 to the Crittenton Hastings House for support of their child assessment, development and training program.

Providence Contributes to the McMichael Head Start Center, a Foundation Grant Recipient.

- **Refurbished Computers.** With help from Jim Darsigny and the IT team, the Providence office was able to donate some outdated, refurbished computers to the Head Start program's McMichael Center. Because some of the computers did not have keyboards or a mouse, Angel Taveras coordinated donations from people in the Providence office to purchase these items. Thanks to these efforts, over 200 kids who did not have access to computers at their Head Start Center will now have access everyday. Providence Head start book collection.
- **Reach Out and Read.** Through the coordination of Tim Cross, the Providence office (and some contributors from the Boston office) collected and delivered dozens of children's books to the McMichael Center.

Proceeds from BRF&G Merchandise to be donated to the Foundation.

- As a result of the recent merger creating Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels, P.C. , all BRF&G merchandise is being sold at drastically reduced prices. The Firm has pledged that **all profits from this clearance sale will be donated to the BROWN RUDNICK Charitable Foundation.. BRBI employees may make their purchases by going to the internal intranet site:**
<http://www.brbi.dom/shop/>

GBLS Associates Drive Comments.

- The annual drive by associates at major Boston law firms to raise funds for Greater Boston Legal Services has commenced. Benjamin Albert is coordinating BRBI participation and BRBI Department Captains for this year's Drive include Bjorn Andersen, Bethany Grazio, Randy Ravitz, Elizabeth Koenig, Robert Harris, Sunni Pearson, Darren Baird and James Dickerson.
- BRBI had, by far, the largest number of participants or any firm at the initial law firm associates planning meeting held on April 30.

PRO BONO



The BRBI Pro Bono Commitment.

- BRBI is committed to equal access to justice. In the present fiscal year, as of the end of April, the Firm has devoted the following number of hours to pro bono legal representation:

1813.20

Center Intranet Now Available

- The Center intranet is now available for internal use by BRBI employees. Of particular note: pro bono approval requests and reports will now be done electronically via the Intranet site
- Many thanks for helping on the creation of this site to Keith Shultz, Rebecca Wadsworth, Mike Paris, Mark Newall, Connie Kelly, Sandy Brewer, Carol Ennis, Annette Goodro, Heather Leisenring, Natalie Rosen, Claudia Teitelbaum, Diana Nelson and Kristen Gustavson.
- <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/>



The following new pro bono matters were opened in April.

- Terrance M. J--/SSI Benefits (Paul Laudano).
- Pine Street Inn/ for M. L-- and G. T-- (Sara Laroche & Jessica Yaffie).
- Rosie's Place (Jessica Yaffie)
- Pine Street Inn/Richard H-- (Carol Ennis)
- Pine Street Inn/ Barbara E--(Carol Ennis)
- Norfolk County Group for the Mentally Ill (Kate Haffner; Forrest Milder & Ken Goldberg supervising)
- William & Gina G-- (Jerome Tichner)
- Media and Technology Charter High School Foundation (Bruce Bagdasarian)

Miscellaneous.

- The American Bar Association's Business Law Section, meeting in Boston on April 5th, invited Center Executive Director Al Wallis to participate in the sections discussion of ways to improve transactional pro bono opportunities

COMMUNITY SERVICE



8th GRADE ACADEMY

- On April 13th held its Persuasive Essay contest.
- Among many other successes, three of the Center's 8th Grade Apprentices were accepted into Exam Schools

CHARLESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL.

- On April 23rd, through the Boston Bar Association, Sara Laroche, David Colvard, Sunni Pearson, Catherine Ng and Samantha Gerlovin performed a mock trial Charlestown High School for a class of 11th grade students.
- Also at Charlestown High School, Randy Ravitz participated in the career day forum through the Boston Bar Association's Partners in Education program.



5/1/02 - Students from Maria Sanchez & Miss Porters school (and Hanson Guest) visit the Hartford office as part of their "Career Options Day".

Community Service...



4/22/02 - Children from McMichael Head Start Center perform **Click, Clack, Moo -- Cows That Type** for the Providence office as a way of saying "thank you" for the Center's support.



4/24/02 – Al Wallis receives recognition at Volunteer Law Project of the Boston Bar Assoc. for his 3 years of service as President of the VLP Board.



4/26/02 - Neighborhood House Charter School students receive pointers on good writing from Bert Waters before to working on publishing their literary magazine at the Firm.



Community Service...



4/22/-02 - A Center for the Public Interest multi-week legislative program engaged students from Another Course to College in the issue of racial profiling. The course culminated in a mock hearing by the students at the Massachusetts State House.

The PUBLIC INTEREST

Hosting Legal Services Directors.

- On 4/25, the Center hosted the Massachusetts Legal Services Project Directors planning meeting at the One Financial Center office.

CHAPA.

- BRBI is an organization member of the Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA). CHAPA periodically holds breakfast forums, hosted by different CHAPA members to focus on housing and planning issues. Recently, they have been inviting the various Massachusetts gubernatorial candidates to such forums to hear the candidate's perspective on housing and development issues.
- On April , through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, BRBI hosted the CHAPA breakfast forum in which Democratic gubernatorial candidate Robert Reich was the featured guest.



Center activities in the News

From RI Lawyers Weekly April 29, 2002

➤ Moo-ving Experience

Members of the Providence firm Brown, Rudnick, Berlack, Israels recently got a break from writing briefs and filing pleadings. Rewarded for their volunteer work, the firm's attorneys were treated to a theatrical rendition of "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type," A group of youngsters from the McMichael Center in Providence, part of the Head Start Program, put on the play to show their appreciation.

Attorney **Angel Taveras** says that lawyers from the firm read at the McMichael Center at least once a week courtesy of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. As a former Head Start child himself, Taveras says the experience of reading to children is not only "very rewarding," but "near to his heart."

The reading program was the brainchild of **Albert W. Wallis**, executive director of the Center for Public Interest. Wallis was assisted by Brown, Rudnick attorney **Timothy G. Cross**.

"The kids are wonderful," Cross says. "Every time I volunteer I leave feeling glad that I went. I have never seen a bunch of kids who were so enthusiastic, loving and interested. It's a great experience."

The play was part of the National Association for the Education of Young Children's "Week of the Young Child."

Awards were also given to Brown, Rudnick volunteers **Mariko Miki** and **Sauna Meegan** [and Kerry DiLoreto]

From the Boston Globe 4/6/02

➤ Class action

James McGuire makes a practice of teaching the law to Boston teens...

Under prodding from the Boston Bar Association, more and more lawyers are following McGuire's lead and volunteering to work with Boston students.

Many attorneys, their idealism tested by the pressures to rack up billable hours, are looking for meaning in their careers that goes deeper than the bottom line. Some have found it in the BBA's Children's Outreach Project, chaired by McGuire. For some, it means leading seminars for students on alternative dispute-resolution and contract-negotiation, or overseeing summer-jobs programs at their firms. For others, it means going into the schools and tutoring students in reading, writing, algebra, chemistry, or history. All told, nearly 1,000 lawyers and paralegals from more than 40 firms are involved in volunteer efforts linked to Boston schools, according to BBA president Michael B. Keating...



From Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly 4/29/02

➤ Feeling Minnesota

The 17th annual statewide competition, sponsored by the Massachusetts Bar Institute and the firm of Brown, Rudnick, Berlack, Israels, was held last month with Supreme Judicial Court Justice **Roderick L. Ireland** presiding over the finals. **Paul G. Farrell** of Falmouth, MBF president, says the mock trial program sponsored by his organization with the help of Brown, Rudnick "is an extremely popular and effective way to acquaint young citizens with the importance of the rule of law and the role lawyers play in our society."

Last Words..



Please contact Al Wallis or Sandy Brewer to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for Public Interest.



And finally, apologies for any errors or unintentional omissions which may from time to time occur in the Center e-mail news - maybe even this one.

Please join us at the next BRAVO Group meeting (chaired from Boston) on Friday, May 31 from noon to 1:00.