

2009- 2010 Relationship Grant Recipients Announced

Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., is pleased to announce the recipients of the Foundation's 2009-2010 Relationship Grants program. These annual grants seek to improve inner-city education by supporting relationships with a tax-exempt organization. That relationship with the Foundation optimally includes providing financial support, pro bono legal representation and volunteer time. In all, 12 grants will be awarded to non-profit organizations across Boston, MA; Providence, RI; Hartford, CT; New York, NY; and Washington, D.C.

RECIPIENT	PURPOSE: GRANT WILL...
REACH OUT & READ (Boston, Providence, NYC) www.reachoutandread.org	Grant will be used to continue fifth year of support for pediatric literacy program. Brown Rudnick currently provides the organization with pro bono representation as "general counsel."
FACING HISTORY & OURSELVES (Boston) www.facinghistory.org	Grant will support in-depth programs teaching tolerance in two Boston public schools, Harbor School (6-8 grades) and TechBoston Lower Academy (6-9). Brown Rudnick currently provides the organization with pro bono representation as "general counsel."
CITIZENS SCHOOLS (Boston) www.citizenschools.org	Grant will support development and delivery of Legal Apprenticeship Program, and Brown Rudnick will participate in coaching middle school mock trials, as it has for a decade.

(Grant recipients are continued on page 2)



Center for the Public Interest Executive Assistant, Kym Patricio, amidst the 2009 - 2010 grant applications

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<p>ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL OF GREATER BOSTON, INC. (formerly, Volunteer Lawyers For The Arts) (Boston) www.vlama.org</p>	<p>Grant will be used to continue encouraging the arts in Boston public schools through the annual Brown Rudnick VLA Holiday Card Contest. As well as supporting the Art Law Program teaching intellectual property in Boston public schools. Brown Rudnick will continue to provide pro bono legal representation to indigent artists referred by this organization.</p>
<p>THOMPSON ISLAND/ OUTWARD BOUND (Boston) www.thompsonisland.org</p>	<p>Grant will be used in support of the Connection Program, a middle school hands-on learning program designed to enhance team work and self-esteem.</p>
<p>WRITER'S EXPRESS (Boston) www.wex.org</p>	<p>Grant will continue to provide support for a 4-week summer writing program (in 2010) for 130+ junior and high school Boston students. Brown Rudnick currently provides pro bono representation to the organization.</p>
<p>CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL FOUNDATION ("CREC") (Hartford) www.crec.org</p>	<p>Grant will expand a 3 year old Truancy Court Prevention Project which will work with 60 8-9 graders at high risk of dropping out of school. This program, using judges to establish an intervention plan and mobilize resources, has been successful in keeping 90% of participants in school with increased academic performance. Grant will be used to add career exploration activities to the project, to expose students to perspectives and options not otherwise available to them.</p>
<p>SHELTER FOR WOMEN (Hartford) www.shelterforwomen.org</p>	<p>Grant will continue supporting Girl Power: Girls Making Democracy Work program, an educational program on civics and government for women who live at and/or are educated at the Shelter.</p>
<p>B.E.L.L. FOUNDATION INC. (New York City) www.bellnational.org</p>	<p>Grant will fund a 34 week after-school program serving 100 children and their families at P.S. 36 in Harlem. BELL is a longtime recipient of Relationship Grants.</p>
<p>PROVIDENCE PLAN (Ready2Learn Program) (Providence) www.r2lp.org</p>	<p>Grant will provide continued support for Ready2Learn Program.</p>
<p>WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE for CIVIL RIGHTS (Washington D.C.) www.washlaw.org</p>	<p>Grant will provide continued support for D.C. Public School Project pairing law firms with schools. Brown Rudnick is partners with the Whittier School.</p>
<p>UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Washington D.C.) www.uschs.org</p>	<p>Grant will provide funds for 250 8th grade students to participate in tours of the US Capitol and receive classroom resource materials. It will also create a Brown Rudnick student essay contest.</p>

Continuing Summer Traditions

Each June, Brown Rudnick invites its Summer Associates and Clerks to devote one lunch time to community service at Rosie's Place, a long-standing firm pro bono client. Again this year, this group prepared and served lunch to homeless women and children.



(front) Summer Associates and Clerks Matthew Carney, Jamal Briscoe, Kamilah Land; (back) Ian Boardman, Randol Mora, Natasha Rabinovich and Jonathan Marshall
(Not shown - group leader Al Wallis)



Summer Associates and Clerks prepare to serve meals.

For the third consecutive year, Brown Rudnick summer associates in New York spent the better part of a day helping a school in Harlem. In conjunction with Building Educated Leaders for Life ("BELL"), a Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation relationship grant recipient, the summers (with help and coordination from Brown Rudnick's Kate Alloy) painted our third mural on the playground at P.S. 38.



Summer Associates Choose Charities

Each year, through our Center for the Public Interest, our summer associates participate in SAILS, the *Summer Associates' Initiative for Legal Services*. This charitable program helps to educate the summers about the national system of delivering public legal services. Over lunch (usually outside on the grass, but not this rainy summer) the associates forego one day's lunch paid for by the firm and instead, they "brown bag it" and the firm donates the money that would have been spent for lunch to a legal aid or public interest organization chosen by the summer associates. This year Boston summers selected **South Coastal Legal Services, Inc.** because of the representation they provide to immigrants on Massachusetts' South Shore, while NYC summers selected **Sanctuary for Families** because of their work on behalf of battered women.



Above, Boston summer associates discuss their selections

Summer Associates Participate in Annual Anti-Defamation League Project

Several of the summer associates in the Boston and New York are participating in the annual Anti-Defamation League Summer Associate Research Project in which they provide legal memos on cutting edge issues the ADL is likely to encounter in the coming year. The ADL is a long-standing pro bono client and the Firm has participated in this project for a decade or so. Carl Axelrod, Ed Hershfield, Jeff Freedman, Andy Dash and Al Wallis are supervising the summer teams.



From left to right: Al Wallis, Ed Hershfield, Natasha Rabinovich, Christopher Houck, Jonathan Marshall, Kevin Gallagher, Christian Rivera and Carl Axelrod.

Community Grants

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awards one “Community Grant” per month to support a one-time purchase which will improve inner-city education. Guidelines and applications may be found at the Center’s website.

A Round-Up of Recent Community Grants



Haley Elementary School, Boston. The grant will support an innovative summer reading program for 3rd and 4th grade students who are reading below grade level and have limited access to books. Specifically, grant dollars will be used to purchase age-appropriate books for those students who are at risk for experiencing a decline in reading ability over the summer vacation. Preferred books will be selected by each student and mailed by the School to his or her home each week in July and August.

“Despite dedicated efforts to remind and encourage students to read over the summer, once school is out for some students, their reading ends. These students return to school each fall having lost as much as two reading levels. Last summer we experimented with mailing books home to a small number of students at risk of summer reading loss and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Thanks to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, we will have the opportunity to repeat and expand that success.”

– Jennifer Morrison, Haley Elementary School Literacy Coach and grant applicant



P.S. 168, South Bronx, New York. The grant will support the purchase of new reading materials for kindergarten through second-grade students who have emotional disturbance issues and learning disabilities. The materials will help these children learn how to read and write using a multi-sensory approach in conjunction with the school’s Preventing Academic Failure Program.

“The Brown Rudnick grant will help to provide an amazing learning opportunity for students at our school. They will learn their letter sounds and the way to write each letter properly using an innovative multi-sensory approach. The program helps these children not simply to be able to read and write, but also to build self-esteem and enjoy attending school.”

– Nicole Sivilich, P.S. 168 teacher and grant applicant





Imagine Hope Lamond Community Charter School in Washington D.C. The grant will fund the “Handwriting without Tears” curriculum in three preschool classrooms with the goal of improving young students’ writing skills.

“As an early childhood educator, I feel that writing and penmanship are aspects of education that are sometimes overlooked. I believe with a strong foundation in writing and motor skills, literacy and communication in the older elementary grades will improve and the children will excel. With support from organizations like the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, we can introduce sustainable handwriting curricula into our preschool classrooms.”
– Gabrielle Montgomery, PreK3 teacher and grant applicant



New Community for Children (NCFC), Washington D.C. The grant will purchase age-appropriate library books in support of the school’s A.B.L.E. (Adolescents Building Literacy through Expression) program. Developed for 5th – 12th graders, the A.B.L.E. program provides creative educational activities that enrich and enhance the literacy of NCFC students.

“NCFC is building a library of books that will help our adolescent students gain, through reading, knowledge and exposure of the wide range of human experiences that can define a person’s life. Brown Rudnick’s *Community Grant* will help purchase fiction and non-fiction books that examine adolescence from different local, regional, and global perspectives. This collection will serve as an important resource in supporting our A.B.L.E. program.”
– Dr. Dwayne Williams, A.B.L.E. program director and grant applicant

Dr. Dwayne Williams, A.B.L.E. program director and Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest



Recent Pro Bono Matters

Unemployment benefit appeals. The Firm continues a multi-year tradition in partnership with the Volunteer Lawyers Project in Boston and with Legal Services of Manhattan. Each summer associate in our Boston and New York offices provide direct representation to at least one client in an appeal of the denial of his/her unemployment benefits. Many of these clients are in crisis, and the unemployment check may be their only financial lifeline for the moment. *(Supervising Attorneys Elise Busny, Rachel Lipton & Diane Nardi)*

Homeless legal clinics. In conjunction with the Boston Bar Association's Clearinghouse, Brown Rudnick twice yearly staffs a legal clinic at a shelter for the homeless in Boston, providing advice and, in some cases, ongoing representation. *(Coordinating Attorneys David Bright, Christian Rivera & Al Wallis)*

Representing veterans. Both our Washington, D.C. and our Hartford offices have recently commenced projects representing veterans. Recent new matters include:

- Representation by our D.C. office of a veteran in appeal before U.S. of Appeals for Veterans Claims as part of the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. *(Attorneys Amy Kingston Walborn & Kenneth Weckstein)*
- Representation by our Hartford office in 3 appeals regarding combat-related special compensation in conjunction with National Veterans Legal Services Program. *(Attorneys Michael Camilleri, Michael Koslik, Stephen Klaffky, Marc Lombardi & Jeffrey Matrullo)*

Representing survivors of German ghettos. In conjunction with Bet Zedek, Brown Rudnick provides representation to these clients in pursuit of reimbursement claims from the German government. Recently, we have assisted four client with these matters through our New York office. *(Attorneys Christopher Carolan, Diane Nardi, Patrick Cox, Shoshana Kaiser & Aaron Lauchheimer)*

ADL Summer Research Project. On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League, summer associates and partners in New York and Boston provide research on cutting edge constitutional issues. *(Supervising attorneys are Carl Axelrod, Ed Hershfield, Andrew Dash & Al Wallis)*

Representing indigent artists. Through the Brown Rudnick/ Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of MA Fee Collection Initiative, the Firm provides representation where the artist has been unable to recover payment for their work. The Firm provides representation to artist in other contexts as well. Recent engagements have included:

- Assisting an art organization with its tax exempt status.
- Representing a BR/VLA Fee Collection Initiative client seeking payment for a mural painted in a commercial establishment.
- Representation of a Hartford artist seeking to recover the value of their damaged/lost/missing art work.

Additional Matters:

Representation through the NY Lawyers Alliance of a nonprofit organization seeking help with tax exempt status and by laws etc. (*Attorneys Chiara Goodyear, Steve Wasserman & Linda Goebel*)

Assisting a Massachusetts south shore militia group with nonprofit issue. (*Attorneys Andy Strehle & Adriana Schick*)

Representation of a non-profit organization with real estate issues related to their summer camp. (*Attorney Tom Phillips*)

Defending an non-profit homeless shelter against a discrimination claim. (*Attorneys Amanda Varella & Cheryl Pinarchick*)

Assisting a charitable foundation with legal issues involved in removing lead paint from their homeless shelter. (*Attorney Douglas Cohen & Scott Muska*)

Providing limited representation regarding employment issues to indigent pro se clients at a Washington D.C. walk-in advice clinic. (*Attorneys Daniel Abrahams & Howard Wolf-Rodda*)

Assisting a resource depleted non-profit providing food for the poor with organizational document review and corporate name change. (*Attorneys Elizabeth Kennedy & Douglas Cohen*)

Providing assistance to a non-profit school serving low-income children with issues related to the removal of asbestos from the school. (*Attorney Douglas Cohen & Scott Muska*)

Pro Bono Accolades

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest this spring presented a Pro Bono Accolade to associate Christian Rivera for his outstanding work in leading legal clinics for the homeless in Boston.



Honored for Contribution to Public Education in Washington D.C.

On June 16th, Brown Rudnick received the Washington D.C. Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs 2009 Outstanding Achievement Award. The award recognizes the Firm's work in the field of public education and was presented at the Committee's Annual Wiley A. Branton Awards Luncheon. Al Wallis, Executive Director of Brown Rudnick's Center for the Public Interest, and Katy Gardner, a partner in the Firm's Corporate Department and a Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, accepted the award.

Brown Rudnick was selected specifically for its role in responding to an on-going impasse in negotiations over a new teacher contract with a concise and highly informative memorandum on teacher and management rights pursuant to the WTU contract, D.C. regulations and statutes, and federal constitutional provisions. The Washington D.C. Lawyer's Committee is sharing this summary with parents, teachers, citizens and other participants. Also highlighted was Brown Rudnick's active partnership with Whittier Elementary School, in which it has organized field trips for students to visit the Capitol and be introduced to the legislative process.



The award is displayed by Anna Lindel (on left), from our D.C. office who coordinated volunteer events with D.C. Whittier School, and Katy Gardner, Partner in Brown Rudnick's D.C. office and a Charitable Foundation's Board Member.

Recognized for Helping the Homeless

Brown Rudnick's **Christian A. Rivera**, an attorney in the Firm's Real Estate Practice Group, and **Al Wallis**, Executive Director of the Firm's Center for the Public Interest, were recognized for their dedication to the **Massachusetts Legal Clinic for the Homeless** by the **Boston Bar Association's Lawyers Clearinghouse**. Through a collaborative of Boston law firms, the clinic provides onsite legal services to the guests of the Pine Street Inn, St. Francis House, Medeiros Center, and hopeFound. A long-time supporter of the Lawyers Clearinghouse, Brown Rudnick's attorneys participate twice a year in these legal clinics for the homeless. In addition, Mr. Rivera currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Lawyers Clearinghouse.



An Historical Visit to Our Nation's Capitol

Brown Rudnick's Washington, D.C. office recently organized a tour of Capitol Hill and a meeting with Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton for students from the District's Whittier Elementary School. Despite their proximity to the Capitol, most of these 11-12 year old students have never visited this landmark. Brown Rudnick has formed a relationship with the school as a result of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp.'s grant to the Washington, D.C. Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights (www.washlaw.org) Public School Partnership Program. Foundation Directors Buddy Menn and Katy Gardner helped to conceive of this project and Anna Lindel led the student visit to the Hill.



“The entire experience was eye-opening for them, as almost none of the kids had ever been to the Capitol, or to the House Office Buildings before, despite being from DC.”
– Anna Lindel, Brown Rudnick, Washington Office

Greening the Firm; Greening the Planet



Brown Rudnick celebrated Earth Day 2009 and marked the Firm's one-year anniversary as a signatory of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Lawyers Eco-Challenge with a "Green for Jeans" fundraiser to help offset the Firm's carbon emissions. In exchange for a \$5.00 donation, each attorney and staff member was able to wear denim jeans to work on Earth Day. We had strong participation across all of our offices, and together we raised \$1,205.00.

Through our Center for the Public Interest, the Firm donated the proceeds to the Carbonfund.org Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides carbon offsetting and greenhouse gas reduction options to individuals, businesses and organizations. Our donation to Carbonfund.org will offset 120 metric tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In addition, Carbonfund.org will invest a portion of the proceeds in global reforestation projects that reduce carbon dioxide emissions and help to lessen the threat of climate change.

Guest Column: From the Frontlines of Inner-City Education



Located in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington, D.C., the New Community for Children (NCFC) empowers children through educational, cultural, and spiritual enrichment. NCFC works with parents, teachers, the community, and other social service organizations in the District of Columbia to address the comprehensive educational needs of children. NCFC prepares students for post-secondary education, careers, and/or vocational training to become responsible, productive adults who, in turn, give their time and talents back to their communities. NCFC recently received a Community Grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation. We invited NCFC Executive Director, Dr. Dwayne Williams to tell us more about the organization and particularly, its A.B.L.E. Program.

Are You A.B.L.E.: Thinking Outside of School in the Nation's Capital

Adolescents Building Literacy through Expression (ABLE) is designed to enrich and enhance the visual, reading, writing, mathematical, scientific, health and historical literacy of students ages 10-20. The majority of the youth and families we serve live in the historic Shaw community near Howard University in Washington, DC. Our program engages middle and high school students in a wide-range of learning activities that will build their capacity to successfully function in any learning environment. We do this by purposely creating learning opportunities for students to go beyond the boundaries of their experiences. Our focus at A.B.L.E is on creating the space for students to reflect, respond, and resolve questions that are shaping their lives inside and outside of school.

The Brown Rudnick Community Grant has allowed A.B.L.E. to build a library that can more fully support our nine program components including the following projects:

1. **Black, Brown, and White in the 'Chocolate' City:**

Being a Teenager in the Nation's Capital. This project encourages adolescents to use photography to build visual literacy skills.

2. **The Algebra Project/Algebra in Middle Schools.**

This program supports students who are having trouble with math build core skills in pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry and Calculus by doing hands-on math activities for 90 minutes four days a weeks.

3. **Love Supreme: Adolescent Health and Identity Development.**

This program provides a safe space for adolescent girls to discuss and explore questions related to physical, emotional, and cultural development.

4. **Lost in the City: The Literature, Language, and Legacy of Washington, DC.** This program uses stories by authors from Washington, D.C. or about Washington D.C. to encourage students to build their writing skills and critical thinking skills.

5. **Spectacular Vernacular: Hip-Hop Culture and the Art of Expression.** This program draws on the core elements of hip-hop to help students grasp how language, music, and movement can shape learning.

6. **The Meaning of Freedom: Public History and Civic Engagement.** Students explore how to improve their skills in history, civics, and writing by taking a thematic approach to the exploration of 'freedom.'

7. **Science for Poets: Astronomy and Physics in the After School Universe.** This 13-15 science program uses a curriculum developed by Goddard Space Center to introduce middle and high school students to the basic concepts of physics and astronomy by using experiential learning.

8. **The Hosea Project: Building Character/Making Choices.** This project is aimed at helping boys ages 10-20 learn how to make smart choices as they navigate the challenges of adolescent life.

9. **ABLE Visions: Adolescents on Film, Adolescents in Society.** This is a weekly film series that explores how society views adolescents and how adolescents view society.

Dr. Dwayne E. Williams

*Deputy Executive Director/ABLE Program Director
New Community for Children*

Just Us.

" 'Secret Millionaire', ... on [Fox]... isn't quite an hour of stoning rich people, but it asks them to eat some crow and shell out at least \$100,000 for the needy while the cameras roll... Each episode... multimillionaires mix anonymously with the people they'll help, and they learn firsthand about how brave and resourceful the poor can be. They encounter cockroaches, supermarkets, and - oh no! - wrinkled clothing.... Finally, the big reveal: The wealthy folks dress up, come out of the money closet, apologize for lying to the poor, and donate thousands of dollars before chugging back to their mansions for post-undercover R&R."

-TELEVISION REVIEW: Fox's 'Secret Millionaire' makes a show of charity, By Matthew Gilbert, Boston Globe | December 10, 2008

The present level of poverty and need in our nation is so visceral and undeniable, that I guess *any* effort to help ease that burden by those who have the resources and inclination should be welcomed.

Our approach differs a bit from that of the Secret Millionaire, however. In this edition of the Center newsletter, we announce the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp.'s selections for 2009-10 Relationship Grant recipients. While our overarching goal is to fund and partner with organizations to improve inner-city education, we strive to make our grant process an asset in pursuing that goal by being sensitive to the limitations and needs of those seeking to apply, and by encouraging the good works of all applicants, whether or not we are able to give them grant funds.

This year has had its own unique challenges for non-profit organizations, and we have tried to be sensitive to them by making adjustments to our process. Despite the thumping our endowment took in the investment market, the Foundation Directors determined that it was important to continue to make grants at about the same level as last year. To better align with our grantees' programmatic years, we adjusted our grant funding year from a calendar to an academic year.

We also refashioned our application process, dividing it into two phases. Applicants could submit an initial short (2 page max) letter of interest based on criteria placed on our website. After reviewing those letters, only if we thought there was a realistic chance that our Foundation might fund their concept did we invite them to undertake the more intensive task of preparing a full-scale proposal. In both phases, each applicant (whether selected or not) received individualized written responses, often followed by a telephone call.

A record number of applications were received this year. The Foundation Grants Committee -- each member of whom is already extraordinarily busy practicing law -- read two thick notebooks full of initial letters of interest, and then two more filled with complete proposals. They met for hours on end in numerous meetings. They understood what was at stake for the resource-strapped applicants, and they took their responsibilities seriously, as did the full Board in considering, and approving the Grant Committee's recommendations.

We think that the Foundation made excellent selections this year, despite the acute realization that the majority of requests received had to be declined. In the end, the selections reflect the best choices our Foundation could make in providing important, though limited resources, to support a beleaguered, but still feisty, non-profit world. We look forward to telling you about the success of these grants as the year progresses.



Al Wallis, Executive Director,
Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JULY

- 7/24 **Boston:** Volunteering at Rosie's Place (11 am)
- 7/29 **Boston:** Anti-Defamation League Summer Research Closing Breakfast, Brown Rudnick Event Center (8 am)

AUGUST

- 11 **All Offices:** Charitable Foundation Board Meeting (2 pm)

SEPTEMBER

- 8 **All Offices:** Charitable Foundation Board Meeting (2 pm)

**HAVE
A
GREAT
SUMMER!**

For more information, please contact Kym Patrico at (617) 856-8175

A public interest focus is alive and well in our Firm. The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is an integral part of the Firm, with a mission to champion, coordinate and celebrate the Firm's involvement in pro bono legal representation, community service activities and charitable giving.



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Please contact **Al Wallis** or **Kym Patrico** to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Kym Patrico, Lisa Murray, Alexis Zukowski and Connie Kelly for their assistance with this newsletter. And finally, apologies for any errors or unintentional omissions, which may from time-to-time occur in the Center Quarterly – maybe even this one.

- Al Wallis

