

Brown Rudnick Honored as Corporate Philanthropy Leader

For the second consecutive year, Brown Rudnick has been recognized by the *Boston Business Journal* as a philanthropic leader among Greater Boston businesses. On September 5th, 2008 at the BBJ's third annual Corporate Philanthropy & Citizenship Summit, Brown Rudnick was named one of the top charitable contributors in Massachusetts for our donation of pro bono services and charitable grants. The award celebrates the work of our Center for the Public Interest and Charitable Foundation, and illustrates our enduring commitment to the communities in which we live and work.

Brown Rudnick Remembers 9/11



September 11 is a profound day in our history, one that touched all of us in a very personal way. As a small gesture of our appreciation, the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest organized the seventh annual visit to local firehouses in Boston and New York City in remembrance of September 11. We had lunch delivered for the firefighters and Brown Rudnick volunteers walked to the firehouses to say "thank you" for all that public safety personnel do for us.

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Above: Boston participants with Fire Engine 10 Division
Below: New York participants with Fire Station #65





Pro Bono Ranking Climbs

Last year, the American Lawyer magazine ranked Brown Rudnick at # 161 in Pro Bono representation among top U.S. firms. This year, Brown Rudnick's ranking has climbed to # 91.



Christian Rivera Named to the Board of Directors for the Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness

In August, Christian Rivera was named to the Board of Directors for the Boston Bar Association's Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness. At Brown Rudnick Mr. Rivera represents financial institutions, for-profit and non-profit organizations and government agencies in connection with complex development and real estate financing transactions. Christian stated, "I look forward to working on the development of affordable housing, as well as reducing homelessness and strengthening communities, which are the three goals of the Lawyers Clearinghouse. As a member of the board of directors, I will work to ensure that housing is accessible to those in need, especially in these challenging economic times." Through The Clearinghouse, Brown Rudnick staffs legal clinics at homeless shelters in Boston at least twice a year.

Sample of New Pro Bono Matters:

National Consumer Law Center:

Representation of this national legal support center with complicated real estate issues arising from the condominiumization of their building. (Attorneys Carl Axelrod & David Bright)

Low-Income Energy Affordability Network:

We will assist this nonprofit entity with a complicated tax issue. (Attorney Jim Avery)

Washington D.C. Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights:

We will assist this organization, which is a recipient of a Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grant regarding education, with work on reviewing and drafting regulations for the D.C. school department. (Attorneys Katy Gardner & Peter Reynolds)

Aerovax: Representation of a socially conscious business venture developing an innovative means of providing vaccinations in developing nations. (Attorneys David Gammel & Adriana Schick)

Additional Representation:

Representing an indigent tenant in a jury trial defending against a residential eviction. (Attorneys Margaret Pinkham, Amanda Varella, & Steve Veenema)

Representation of a non-profit organization regarding immigration/tax issues. (Attorneys Jim Hauser & Rebecca Alperin)

Representation in conjunction with the Boston Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, of individuals in a potential suit for racial discrimination. (Attorneys Wayne Dennison, Brian Lamoureux, Amanda Varella, Amber Elias, & Al Wallis)



Welcome BRAID Associates

In early September, our 2008 BRAID (Brown Rudnick Associate Integration and Development) Associates joined the Firm. All 21 young attorneys will be participating in pro bono publico representation as associates at Brown Rudnick.

Accolades

Brown Rudnick presented a Pro Bono Accolade to the attorneys who supervised a coordinated effort by 2008 summer associates in New York City and Boston. The associates provided representation to unemployed individuals contesting denial of their unemployment benefits. Pro Bono Chair, Andrew Strehle, and Center Executive Director, Al Wallis, presented the accolade to partner Elise Busny and associates Ben Welch and Diane Nardi (not shown).



Brown Rudnick Creates GBLS Fellows

With funding through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) has created two Brown Rudnick/GLBS Fellows positions in its Family Law Unit. The first two fellows, law students, Kelly Leighton from Northeastern University Law School and Lauren Vitale, from New England School of Law, will focus on providing representation to victims of domestic violence.



Pictured from left to right: Andrea Gomez, Fellow Kelly Leighton, GBLS Executive Director Bob Sable, and Brown Rudnick's Lynne Zagami, Andrew Strehle, and Al Wallis.

Thompson Island / Outward Bound

Brown Rudnick volunteers from the Boston office spent most of the day helping out Thompson Island /Outward Bound in the Boston Harbor. The Island has only three maintenance staff, so they depend upon volunteers for upkeep. The Brown Rudnick volunteers helped to paint a weathered building. Thompson Island/Outward Bound receives a grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation.



Boston Brown Rudnick Library is Home to Giving

The Library Staff in the Boston office recently completed a book drive, collecting children's books from Brown Rudnick contributors for donation to the Reach Out and Read Program at Boston Medical Center (ROR receives a grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation). They also initiated a drive in the Boston office to collect food donations to help restock the pantry at Rosie's Place shelter for women. Pictured are Library Staff members Joan Perry and Kathleen Gerwatowski.



Rosie's Place Volunteer Effort in Boston

Support staff, including summer Project Clerks, visited Rosie's Place on several occasions this summer to prepare and serve lunch to homeless women and children. Rosie's Place is a long-standing pro bono client.



I am always humble and grateful to go to Rosie's. Sometimes we need friendly reminders of how blessed and fortunate we are. Thank you!

LaSonnya Hart
Rosie's volunteer

Mock Trial Program Commences

The annual Discovering Justice/Citizen School Mock Trial program has commenced in Boston. For a decade, Brown Rudnick has coached teams of middle school students in this 3-month after-school program culminating in a mock trial held at the U.S. District Court. All of the Boston BRAIDS are participating as coaches of our two teams. Valerie Merisier captains the Umana Academy team and Monica Cafaro captains the Edwards School team. Associates Camille Gerwin and Eitan Steiber mentor this effort. Pictured below are Brown Rudnick associate Monica Cafaro and students from The Edwards School in Boston, Massachusetts.



Applause!



- To **Hartford** associate Elizabeth Arana who hosted a phone-a-thon in the Hartford office on behalf of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association.
- To **Washington, D.C.** counsel Howard Wolf-Rodda for his successful service as a co-chair for the Generous Associates Campaign in support of the Legal Aid Society of DC. (Before this year, Brown Rudnick attorneys and staff had not participated in the campaign. This year, nearly half of our professional and administrative staff came together to contribute close to \$2000! Howard says he has never seen this level of participation from any DC firm in all his years as a co-chair.)
- To the **Boston** Library staff and the Brown Rudnick's Making Strides Walk team (Julia Forbes, Linda Charron & Diana Pierce) for their successful bake sale raising \$500 for the cause!

Brown Rudnick Eyeglass Donations

August was Children's Eye Health and Safety Month and the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest sponsored a collection of old eyeglasses to be distributed to those in need. The eyeglasses collected were sent to medical missions and international charitable organizations for distribution to the poor in developing nations. Associate Dan Brown coordinated this effort.



THE BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CORP.

MAKING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO INNER-CITY EDUCATION AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN BOSTON, HARTFORD, NEW YORK AND PROVIDENCE

The Foundation is a non-profit entity created in 2000 by partners of the law firm of Brown Rudnick. The Foundation's primary mission is to address the educational and other needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and groups, in cities where Brown Rudnick is located through a full menu of giving, which could combine financial support, volunteer efforts and the provision of pro bono legal representation. The Foundation accepts contributions from all individuals, businesses and entities concerned about improving inner-city education.



Al Wallis presents Community Grant to Brooke McMillan and Principal Ellen Dunn at Beethoven Elementary School in West Roxbury, Massachusetts

Boston: Beethoven Elementary School -- The school will use the grant to enhance a 4th grade classroom library with non-fiction reading such as biographies, science, and social studies books, as well as low-level readers which will help students who are reading below a 4th grade reading level. These books will support the geography and social studies curriculum, as well as the general literacy curriculum, called "Writer's Workshop," for the class.

Boston: The Charles Sumner School -- The school will use the grant to help continue the "Project Praise" program, which is designed to address violence and bullying on school playgrounds.

Specifically, grant dollars will purchase recess playground equipment, materials for curriculum workbooks, and classroom materials as well as supplies for staff members and playground monitors.



Al Wallis presents grant check to Principal Lourdes Santiago, G. Mia Khera, and Assistant Principal Francis Campbell.



Grant applicant Howard Rosenberg (left) accepts grant check from Foundation Treasurer Ken Asher (right)

New York: Intermediate School 61 Leonardo DaVinci -- The school will use the grant to bring 100 eighth- graders to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty in order to augment their classroom lessons on immigration.

Eighth-grade teacher and grant applicant, Howard Rosenberg, says, "Topics of immigration always spark a great interest in the classroom, mainly because many of my students are children of immigrants or are immigrants themselves. A large number of the students are from disadvantaged backgrounds, and this grant will enable them to see and appreciate one of our country's finest cultural institutions."

Promoting Breast Cancer Awareness

On October 3rd, all Brown Rudnick offices participated in the annual Lee Denim Jean Day for Breast Cancer Awareness. In total, \$2,236.00 was collected in the U.S. offices with over £70 collected from the London office.



Boston



Hartford



New York City



Washington D.C.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

OCTOBER

- 23 **NYC:** German Ghetto Worker's Reparations Clinic
- 24 **Boston:** Lawyers Clearinghouse for Affordable Housing Legal Clinic at the Pine Street Inn (9-2pm)
- 27 **Boston & Hartford:** United Way Campaign Week
- 28 **Boston:** 5th Annual VLA Holiday Art Contest Judging

NOVEMBER

- 7 **Washington D.C.:** Veteran's Consortium Pro Bono Training
- 12 **All Offices:** Charitable Foundation Board Meeting (8-9am)
- 13 **Boston:** VLP Unemployment Benefits Appeals Training (10-11:30 am)
- 20 **Boston:** Volunteer Lawyers for Arts of MA Holiday Art Card Contest Award Ceremony (4-7pm)

DECEMBER

- 9 **All Offices:** Pro Bono Working Group Meeting (12-1:30pm)
- 9 **Boston:** Citizen Schools/Discovering Justice Mock Trial WOW! Event (5-8pm)
- 10 **All Offices:** Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Board Meeting (8-9am)



COMMUNITY GRANT REMINDER

A reminder to our friends in education:

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. awards one Community Grant each month in Boston, Hartford, NYC, Providence or Washington, D.C. for a one-time, immediate improvement in inner-city education.

Applications may be found on-line at

<http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp>

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

Just Us.

The housing crisis. The credit crunch. The banking collapse. No one can deny that we have urgent matters on our collective minds. Times like these can lend themselves to an understandable sense of uneasiness, a pessimistic view of our future, and a tendency toward panic. Even the pro bono legal community can find itself on slippery footing under such extreme circumstances.

That seemed to be the case in October, when *The American Lawyer* (relying on the *Daily Record of Rochester*), reported the following remarks from a respected member of the Bench:

Second Circuit Judge Slams Pro Bono Work as "Antisocial" *At a Federalist Society event earlier this week, Second Circuit Chief Judge Dennis Jacobs stirred up a hornet's nest with his rather shocking statements about pro bono work... Judge Jacobs said pro bono is an "antisocial" and misguided activity used only to benefit law firms in recruiting and retaining associates and furthering a political agenda...*

<http://amlawdaily.typepad.com/amlawdaily/2008/10/am-law-litiga-2.html>

When someone like Chief Judge Jacobs declares pro bono representation anti-social, that must mean the sky is finally falling, that "The End" is finally here. After all, providing pro bono legal representation is a long-standing bed-rock principal of the legal profession, incorporated as an aspiration or a rule in almost all state ethical provisions governing attorney conduct. Were Judge Jacobs comments the opening salvo in an attack on provisions of pro bono legal representation to the poor or the unpopular in our country?

Probably not. At the end of October, *The American Lawyer* printed a clarification, noting that in the context of the full remarks by the Judge, he was raising issues not unfamiliar to law firm pro bono managers regarding whether there is an

appropriate political or ideological balance in a law firm's pro bono undertakings – a crisis of professional conscience, if you will.

At Brown Rudnick, I think we've averted this crisis. Our attorneys provide pro bono representation to those in need, using as our guide the definition of the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, a national standard which is promulgated, interpreted and monitored by the highly respected national Pro Bono Institute.

Most premier national law firms have subscribed to the Pro Bono Challenge's aspirations. Recently, I was at a conference where the managing partners of three of the nation's largest premier law firms were discussing pro bono in a time of economic downturn. While each of their firms, or their clients, is wary of the country's financial future in the short-term, none of them is considering backing off their long-term commitment to providing pro bono representation. It isn't a question of dollars. They saw it, as we at Brown Rudnick do, as a question of firm character, professional responsibility and societal need.

During this economic and emotional rollercoaster ride, when many folks may be feeling less altruistic, it is heartening to know that leaders of the legal profession are calmly committed to continuation of its philanthropic efforts.

I can speak for Brown Rudnick when I say that the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest will vigorously continue our good faith efforts to devote at least 3% of our Firm's time to providing free, pro bono legal representation to those who meet the Law Firm Challenge definition. It is a sign of our profession's integrity that I can also say we are hardly alone in this seemingly counter-intuitive effort.

The proverbial sky may be falling, but we won't let it fall on our collective pro bono mission.



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





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



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