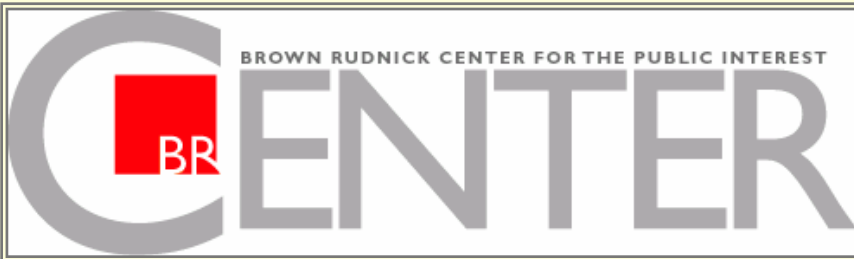




THE CENTER QUARTERLY

Winter Edition (January-March, 2006)



Foundation's 2006 Grants Underway



Recipients of 2006 Relationship Grants in Boston meet with "grant champions" and staff at Brown Rudnick's Boston office.

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The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. presented checks to all fourteen of this year's Relationship Grant recipients, commencing a new year of programs to benefit inner-city education in Boston, Hartford, New York City and Providence. Relationship Grant funding from the Foundation is often supplemented with pro bono legal representation and volunteer support through Brown Rudnick's Center for the Public Interest. (See pages 9-14.)

PROFILE: **Andrew Strehle** Discussing the Firm's Pro Bono Policy

Interview by Lisa Murray.

Profile: Brown Rudnick's New Pro Bono Policy

Andrew P. Strehle, Chair of Brown Rudnick's Pro Bono Committee (and the Firm's Administrative Partner), discusses the firm's new pro bono policy.

What was the firm's objective in refining the policy? What are the major updates?

In refining Brown Rudnick's pro bono policy, our primary goal was to better communicate how the firm values and manages its pro bono work. We sought to clarify the firm's protocols, especially for associates, since pro bono work is linked to internal performance evaluations.

The policy reflects a shift in pro bono strategy as well. It allows for and encourages participation in "Impact Projects." As defined by Brown Rudnick, Impact Projects are substantial matters that have legal or social significance. By adding this provision, our aim is to cultivate greater teamwork in pro bono cases. Attorneys will be working toward a common goal with a meaningful connection to community.

Another update is the elimination of a pro bono "pool of hours." In the past, time spent on large matters was deducted from a pool made up of all the unbilled pro bono hours available to attorneys. This pool has been removed and there is no longer any such limitation.



Continued on next page...

PROFILE: **Andrew Strehle** Continued...

Why did Brown Rudnick update the policy?

The pro bono policy had been enacted five years ago when the Center for the Public Interest was established. Since then, both the firm and the legal landscape in which we practice have changed significantly. We wanted a pro bono policy that adequately reflected the commitment of the firm's partners in today's market climate.

How do you think the new policy will enhance the firm's involvement in pro bono work?

We hope the new policy will expand our reach into the community and increase partner, associate and paralegal enthusiasm for and participation in pro bono matters. Our overall goal is to devote at least 3% of our annual legal time to pro bono engagements. We are confident this new policy will foster new channels for professional development, team building and achievement of professional balance and satisfaction.

Participants in recent retreat of the Brown Rudnick Pro Bono Committee worked together on the new Pro Bono Policy. From left, **Doug Cohen, Amanda Mitchell, Mark Newall, Nancy Reiner, Andy Strehle, Al Wallis, Steve Levine** and **Beth Hurley**. ▼



“Our overall goal is to devote at least 3% of our annual legal time to pro bono engagements.”

New Pro Bono Engagements

- **Cheryl Pinarchick & Andreas Andromalos** are advising a disabled indigent individual regarding a potential challenge to an inequitable insurance settlement agreement made on his behalf when he was a minor.
- **Tom Saunders** is representing an indigent artist referred by the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts, providing advice regarding a contract and rights to an illustration.
- **Steve Levine, Cheryl Pinarchick & Ian Prior** have provided counsel in a commercial lease dispute and related issues involving a non-profit organization promoting the arts in Boston public schools and the Boston community.
- **Mark Leonardo & Joe Quinn** are helping to form a non-profit, tax-exempt organization which provides care packages to U.S. troops.
- **Andrew Strehle & Joseph Selvidio** are representing an indigent individual with an identity theft problem involving the Department of Motor Vehicles.



- **Kevin Nulton, Michael Dolan & Jennifer Brooks** are representing Community Housing Land Trust of R.I. Brown Rudnick is one of 3 law firms to be invited to participate in a new public interest initiative by Roger Williams Law School. This project involves development and preservation of affordable housing in Rhode Island.

The Brown Rudnick Pro Bono Commitment.

Brown Rudnick is committed to equal access to justice. Thus far, in the present fiscal year (2/1/06 – 1/31/07) the Firm has devoted the following resources to pro bono (free) legal representation:

HOURS: 1,412

*(The equivalent of more than **\$608,660** had it been billed at standard billing rates.)*

Brown Rudnick attorneys and paralegals continue to provide representation in new and ongoing pro bono engagements.

- **Brenda Cotter** is representing an indigent defendant in a defense of a civil lawsuit alleging assault and battery.
- **Tom Saunders** represents an indigent artist in her dispute with someone who is merchandising her art without her authority.

New Pro Bono Engagements (continued...)

- **Dan Gusenoff** is reviewing and revising corporate documents for a nonprofit client.
- **Phil Small** is helping this Connecticut tenant in an effort to recover her security deposit and rental overcharges under the Section 8 rental payment program.

- **Andrew Sroka & Andrew Strehle** are advising an indigent artist with regard to a conversion claim for loss/destruction of her artwork and related matters.
- **Elizabeth Leonard & Tom Ritter** represent an indigent tenant seeking return of her rental deposit.
- **John Feeney & Marilyn Stempler** are representing a nonprofit health related foundation with regard to the terms of their commercial lease.

- **Paul Laudano & Nancy Reiner** represent a small non-profit educational institution with respect to a tort claim and legal audit .

- **Jason Mahler & John Feeney** are representing a non-profit arts organization in a joint venture re-development of an abandoned municipal firehouse for use by the organization.

Recently, I had the pleasure of representing ... a local artist referred to Brown Rudnick through the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Program that the firm supports. [The Artist] came to us for help in collecting [a modest fee] that was owed to her for a highly visible and well-known mural that she had painted on the outside of [a Boston neighborhood commercial building] approximately one year ago. After sending out a 93A demand letter and ... several rounds of negotiation, ... and multiple drafts of settlement agreements, [the building owner and our client] agreed upon a payment schedule ... With Andy Strehle's help and supervision, as well as some assistance from Erin Gannon on the weekend, I successfully recovered the full amount owed to [the Artist.]

- Associate Dorothy Puzio

- **Larry Litwak & Dorothy Puzio** are representing an indigent individual who has a rare incurable disease in the formation of a nonprofit organization which will work to find a cure for the disease.

Pro Bono Accolade Awarded In Recognition of *Breast Cancer Awareness Day* Success



^ The Brown Rudnick Pro Bono Committee awarded its Pro Bono Accolade to **Christina Micchelli & Dawn Maxey** in recognition of their outstanding volunteer efforts in organizing Denim Day at the Firm for the past two years. **Andrew Strehle**, Chair of the Pro Bono Committee, presents the Accolade.

I am proud to be a part of such a great firm. Unfortunately, cancer touches us all, and breast cancer has recently touched [my family]. I cannot express my appreciation enough, ... for the Firm's ... contributions to this cause.

– A Brown Rudnick employee.

LEE JEANS THANKS BROWN RUDNICK FOR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF LEE NATIONAL DENIM DAY

Law firm makes a valuable contribution to raising awareness and finding cure for breast cancer.

Boston, MA, March 20, 2006 – In a congratulatory letter from Lee Jeans, the law firm of Brown Rudnick and its employees were recognized for their outstanding support of the 2005 Lee National Denim Day®. The money raised in the single-day event ranks Brown Rudnick in the top 500 companies out of the 29,000 that participated. The Firm-wide initiative was coordinated through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, the umbrella entity encompassing the Firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts.

Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, commented, "The Center was pleased to coordinate and host the third annual *Denim Day/Breast Cancer Awareness Day* at Brown Rudnick. This is a staff driven event, which is met each year with great enthusiasm, because so many of us have a personal connection to someone impacted by this disease. We realize that our individual charitable donations will not only help to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease, but the effort that day connects all of us at Brown Rudnick in a common expression of compassion." Lee National Denim Day is the world's largest single-day fundraiser for breast cancer.

Participating businesses and organizations allow employees and members to wear denim on one Friday in October in exchange for a nominal donation to the Komen Foundation (www.komen.org), a nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating breast cancer. Since 1996, Lee National Denim Day has raised more than \$60 million for breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment programs.

Partnering with Facing History and Ourselves

A Conversation with South African Justice Albie Sachs. Center Co-hosts Event with Facing History and Ourselves

Boston, MA, January, 2006 – Facing History and Ourselves and Brown Rudnick presented a community-wide conversation with **South African Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs**, the human rights activist world-recognized for his role in creating South Africa's new constitution.

Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, welcomed guests and provided a background on the longstanding relationship between Facing History and Brown Rudnick. After opening remarks by Margot Stern Strom, Executive Director and President of the Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation, Justice Sachs addressed a crowd of approximately 80 guests. He and his life partner, Vanessa September, shared their perspective on South Africa's emerging democracy following the fall of apartheid. They also provided a presentation on the art and architecture in the new courthouse in Johannesburg.

Appointed by President Nelson Mandela in 1994, Justice Sachs is a member of the South African Constitutional Court. His life partner, Vanessa September, is an architect working on urban rebuilding. Justice Sachs has played an active role in the creation of South Africa's new constitution, and is the author of several books on human rights including *The Soft Vengeance of a Freedom Fighter*. In his most recent book, *The Free Diary of Albie Sachs*, Justice Sachs and Ms. September describe how South Africa is being healed and rebuilt.

Brown Rudnick has provided pro bono legal representation to Facing History since 1976 and today serves as the organization's General Counsel (Pro Bono). The firm has assisted in every aspect of Facing History's growth and development on issues ranging from employment, employment benefits, contract negotiations, intellectual property, real estate, corporate governance, and dispute resolution. The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation also provides grant funds to Facing History to support its educational mission. More information about Facing History may be found at www.facinghistory.org.

*"Convert pain of the past
into hope of the future."*

- Justice Sachs



Providing Pro Bono legal representation to Facing History and Ourselves are Brown Rudnick attorneys (from left) Tom Saunders, Nancy Wilsker, George Haight, Larry Levy, Phil Flink and Margaret Pinkham.



Reaching Out to Our Community

Walk to the Hill for Legal Services ►

Brown Rundnick attorneys (from left in front) **Al Wallis, Andy Strehle, Nancy Wilsker, Joel Reck** and (not shown) **Tom Saunders** joined 450 Massachusetts attorneys in walking the halls of the State House to speak with legislators about the need to increase funding for legal aid.



Job Shadow Day

◀ On Groundhog Day, Brown Rundnick 's Boston office participated in Job Shadow Day organized through the Boston Private Industry Council. Brown Rudnick participants (back row) **Dan Brown, Lindsey Hanscom, Connie Kelly** and organizer of the day, **Lisa Gentile** are shown with the students they mentored for the day. Other Brown Rudnick participants included **Cheryl Cronin, Jennifer Mercado, Kym Patrico** and **Al Wallis**.

"...thank you for giving me the opportunity to take on this task and giving me the support I need to make Brown Rudnick a great place to work. I think more and more people are talking about this... It feels good to be able to inspire children of all ages, ..."

— a Brown Rudnick participant in Job Shadow Day.

**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

**2006 BOARD MEMBERS
AND OFFICES ELECTED**

**Foundation's 2006
Officers/Directors**

Joseph Ryan, Chairman
Carl Axelrod, President
Franca DeRosa, Vice-President
Michael Dolan, Vice-President
Kenneth Asher, Treasurer
Cheryl Pinarchick, Clerk

Cheryl Cronin
Wayne Dennison
Linda Goebel
David Golden
Paul Hartnett
Jeffery Keffer
Brian Lamoureux
Joel Reck
Elizabeth Ritvo
Robert Stark
Nancy Wilsker

Al Wallis, Executive Director

Two new board members were elected, and five existing board members were re-elected at the Foundation's annual meeting in January as the Board voted to expand its board to 17 members.

The new board members, both partners from the New York office of Brown Rudnick are **ROBERT STARK** and **LINDA GOEBEL**. Board members re-elected are **CARL AXELROD**, **CHERYL CRONIN**, **WAYNE DENNISON**, **FRANCA DEROSA** and **BRIAN LAMOUREUX**. All members are attorneys at one of Brown Rudnick's offices in Boston, Hartford, NYC or Providence and all serve for three-year terms.

Each of the Foundation's officers was re-elected to another one-year term.

Grants In Action



Reach Out & Read

To support early childhood reading, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation has embarked on its third year of funding the Reach Out & Read Program (ROR) in multiple cities. ROR works with pediatricians to provide books and reading encouragement to children each time they have a pediatric appointment.

Volunteers, like Brown Rudnick's **Lisa Murray** and **Al Wallis**, (above) at the Boston Medical Center, often visit pediatric waiting rooms to read to children waiting to see their doctor.

For more information regarding the Foundation, please visit www.brownrudnickcenter.com

The Center Hosts 2006 Foundation Grantees



This winter, to introduce the 2006 Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grant recipients to those who may wish to volunteer or provide pro bono support to the grantees, the Center hosted introductory lunches in Brown Rudnick's law offices in Boston, Hartford, New York & Providence.



< After meeting with the Brown Rudnick **Providence** office over lunch, grant recipients from Reach Out & Read and Providence Plan/Ready2Learn met with Brown Rudnick's Al Wallis (left), **Michael Dolan** (4th from left) and **Brian Lamoureux** (far right.).

At the **Boston** "Meet & Greet" >

In March, Foundation Relationship Grant Recipients and their Brown Rudnick "Grant Champions" met with people from the Firm. Those participating included: Boston Medical Center (Grant Champion: **Nancy Reiner**); Citizen Schools/Discovering Justice (Grant Champions: **Dorothy Puzio & Andrew Sroka**); Facing History and Ourselves (Grant Champions: **Larry Levy & Nancy Wilsker**); Neighborhood House Charter School (Grant Champion: **Joel Reck**); Reach Out and Read (Grant Champion: **Andy Strehle**); Treehouse Foundation (Grant Champion: **Steven Pohl**); and Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts (Grant Champion: **Marilyn Stempler**).



The Center Hosts 2006 Foundation Grantees



< After the "Meet & Greet" lunch in **New York**, representatives from Foundation grant recipient B.E.L.L., Bronx Prep Charter School and Reach Out & Read talked with Brown Rudnick's grant champions **Amanda Mitchell** (2nd from left), **Andrew Strehle** (center) and **Linda Goebel** (far right.)



< In the **Hartford** office of Brown Rudnick, potential volunteers had an excellent opportunity to hear from our Foundation and Insight/Foresight Grant Recipients: Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), Grey Lodge Shelter for Women, The Science Center of Connecticut, Heartbeat Ensemble and the Hartford Jazz Society.

More information about the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation's 2006 Relationship Grant Recipients may be found at www.brownrudnickcenter.com

Foundation Presents 2006 Relationship Grant Checks



▲ Surrounded by attorneys from Brown Rudnick who served as this year's Mock Trial Coaches, Al Wallis presents grant check to Citizen School's Jean Horstman (left) and Discovering Justice's Deb Tracy.

The **Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp.** is a non-profit, tax exempt organization making grants to improve inner-city education. Formed in 2000, the Foundation awards grants to worthy programs in Boston, Hartford, Providence and New York through its *Insight/Foresight* and *Relationship Grant* Programs.



▲ Center Executive Director Al Wallis hands check to Family Advocates Project's Pam Tames (above) in a presentation at Boston's Lee School. Below, **Al Wallis presents a check to Linda Stundis of the Treehouse Foundation.** ▼



Foundation Presents 2006 Relationship Grant Checks

Executive Director Al Wallis presents Foundation Relationship grants (clockwise from top left) to Reach Out & Read, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts and Neighborhood House Charter School.



Foundation Grants Help Students in the Bronx

Brown Rudnick Associate and Foundation Grant Champion for B.E.L.L. Foundation, **Amanda Mitchell** talks with students at P.S. 78 in the Bronx. **Building Educated Leaders for Life (B.E.L.L.)** is a community-based, non-profit organization founded by Black Harvard Law School students in 1992. B.E.L.L. is designed to increase educational opportunities and achievements of children living in low-income communities. B.E.L.L. serves underperforming elementary school children, grades K-6 in NYC and Boson. Brown Rudnick also provides pro bono legal representation to B.E.L.L.



◀ Brown Rudnick Partner, **Linda Goebel** (5th from left) School. Bronx Prep, a recipient of a 2006 Foundation grant, is a rigorous, college preparatory academic program that operates on an extended-day and extended-year schedule, allowing students to spend 50% more time in school than students attending traditional public schools. Strong academics and college prep are at the core of the mission, but it also believes that to educate well-rounded students, a wide variety of opportunities especially in music and art need to be provided. The new Relationship Grant will be used to create a new program: Bringing Public Interest Law, Service and Advocacy to the South Bronx. The grant will support the creation of a public interest service curriculum, including the study of current social issues and development of a public service program associated with that study.

HELPING TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD



Tickets

The Firm recently has donated tickets to several events for some of the Foundation's grant recipients. These have included the Neighborhood House Charter School (circus tickets), Mozart Elementary School (Disney on Ice tickets), Citizen Schools (Celtics tickets) and Treehouse Foundation (Disney on Ice).

Boston's Future Leaders

Cheryl Pinarchick, Brown Rudnick Partner and Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, has been selected by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor's Office of the City of Boston as a member of the 2006 class of *Boston's Future Leaders*. The program is designed to engage and develop the region's outstanding young professionals as future business, civic and government leaders.

Camp for Children with Muscular Dystrophy

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. awarded an Insight/Foresight Grant to the **Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)** of Boston. The grant will enable several disabled youth from Boston to attend the MDA Summer Camp. Some funds will also be used to purchase life jackets for the camp.

I'm so proud to be affiliated with a firm that places such value on all of these public interest/pro bono projects.

- A manager on Brown Rudnick's Senior Administrative team.

Last Words...



Please contact **Al Wallis** or **Kym Patrico** to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the 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.

▲ Bronx Preparatory Charter School in New York has received a Relationship Grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation to support creation of a public interest service curriculum. (from left) Margo Doolittle, Brown Rudnick's Linda Goebel, teacher Erik Fogel, principal Fred Givens, and Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Foundation and the Brown Rudnick Center.

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