

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

CHARITABLE GIVING	PRO BONO
COMMUNITY SERVICE	PUBLIC INTEREST

IT HAPPENED IN **FEBRUARY, '02.**

Here are some Center-related activities we thought that you would be interested in hearing about.

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CHARITABLE GIVING



PRO BONO

Our Firm works for equal access to Justice:

- **Pro Bono Representation.** In fiscal year 2002 (2/1/01-1/31/02), BRF&G provided at least **6735 hours** of pro bono legal assistance. Figures for the beginning of FY'03 will be available shortly.
- **Other initiatives.** The following new pro bono matters were among those opened in February.
 - § **The Bukhari Institute** (non-profit incorporation) - Brett Little
 - § **Consilio Hispano of Cambridge** (representing Board of Directors of a non-profit) - Phil Schneider
 - § **Colonial Theatre Renaissance Corp.** (Easement) - Doug Cohen
 - § **Warren Gardens Resident Association** - Jeff Sacks
 - § **Estate of Guillermo Corrales** (probate of estate) - Angel Taveras

The **Hartford** BRBI office held a breakfast to support a book drive for the **Village for Families and Children** in Hartford. The Village does many things in the Hartford community, including a day care center, after school program, counseling services for families, etc. - all for underprivileged families. The Hartford office has been collecting hard cover books for ages 3 - 12 and raised over \$100 to donate to the library there.

The **Boston** office, facilitated by Phil Schneider, has provided free meeting space for the **Executive Service Corps of New England**. The ESC is a regional nonprofit corporation drawing upon volunteer senior-level executives and professional who are committed to helping public service organizations more effectively serve their constituents.

THE BROWN RUDNICK FREED & GESMER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Board of the Foundation met on February 28 for this year's Annual Meeting. Each of the Directors and Officers were reelected for year's term. See below for information about activities being undertaken in conjunction with grant recipients.

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Insight/Foresight Grant Application Now Being Accepted.

The BRF&G Charitable Foundation has approved this grant program. In 3 easy steps, you can be a philanthropist.

STEP # 1. Go here: <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/grant.htm>

STEP # 2. Fill out application.

STEP # 3. Get money/help kids?

COMMUNITY SERVICE



§ **THE BRAVO GROUP**

The **BRAVO Group** (Brown Rudnick All Volunteer Organizing Group) monthly meeting for February was postponed due to a scheduling conflict with the conference center. A combined February-March meeting will be held on March 8 from 12-1:00 p.m.

- **Notable Activities**

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



Students from the Neighborhood House Charter School prepare for the Constitutional Convention.

Photo by Connie Kelly.

THE PUBLIC INTEREST
CENTER SPONSORS
GUBERNATORIAL
CANDIDATES' DEBATES

A BOSTON GLOBE EDITORIAL
Grounds for more debate
2/27/2002

For an hour last week the five Democratic candidates for governor of Massachusetts focused on just one subject, the environment, and still managed to miss important issues affecting the state's land, air, and water. It was a strong argument for more forums - more on the environment, more on the economy, and more on everything else on voters' minds in this election year. ..

BRBI, through the Center for Public Interest, sponsored the first in a series of **candidate forums on New England Cable News** (NECN) during the 2002 Massachusetts gubernatorial contest. The first forum was a live debate between the Democratic Party candidates for the governor, televised on Tuesday, February 19 from 8-9:00 p.m.

§ The Boston office on February 13th hosted an **in-character Re-enactment of the 1787 Constitutional Convention** performed by the 7th grade students of the Neighborhood House Charter School. The School is a recipient of a grant from the BRF&G Charitable Foundation.

[more photos](#) F

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The debate was jointly sponsored with the **Environmental League of Massachusetts** and focused on environmental issues. Promotional ads featuring our own **Steve Leonard** of BRBI's Environmental Practice Group aired on NECN.

Two **additional events** are being planned, one involving Republican Party Lieutenant Governor candidates and the other involving "Third Party" gubernatorial candidates. More information will follow as the details of these two events are finalized.

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Students from the Neighborhood House Charter School and Al Wallis getting into costume for the Constitutional Convention. Photo by Connie Kelly.

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MENTORING

§ The Hartford office on February 27th hosted a presentation on the **Mentoring Program in Hartford Public Schools**. This program is supported by the BRF&G Foundation through a grant made to the American Leadership Forum of Hartford. Doug Cohen has been instrumental in the creation of the mentoring initiative and the Hartford office is working towards active participation of BRBI staff as mentors in the program. (See <http://mentors.hartfordschools.org/> for more information on this program.)

RACIAL PROFILING – TEACHING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



Randy Ravitz & Sharifa Atkins address the class at the Massachusetts State House. Photo by Claire Massimo.

Through the BRAVO Group, the Boston office on February 28th initiated its legislative training program with Another **Course to College**. The kick-off class was held in at the Massachusetts state house and both Sen. Dianne Wilkerson and Rep. James Murphy participated in the teaching. This innovative program, developed by a committee of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, is designed to give high school students an opportunity to learn about the process of enacting legislation, debate a current issue of concern to them, and discuss that issued with outside experts through an interactive format that imitates the legislative process. The topic focused on is "racial profiling."

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The Center Committee responsible for this effort includes Sharifa Atkins, Lorraine Lalli, Carlotta McCarthy, James McGuire, Julia Olsiewski, Joseph Quinn, Randy Ravitz, Al Wallis and Mike Paris.

TEACHING PERSUASIVE WRITING.

• **Eighth Grade Academy.** The BBA initiative to pair law firms with selected Citizen School 8th graders is in progress, coordinated by Benjamin Albert



HELPING SCHOOLS ACROSS MASSACHUSETTS

Mass Bar Association Mock Trial Program funded by BRBI through the Center for Public Interest draws statewide praise. (Jim McGuire plays a lead role in the program and Stephanie Taverna served as judge.) Read what local papers across the Commonwealth have said about this effort.

[See articles.....](#) F

CELEBRATION!

Hats off to those engaged in other Charitable/Community Service Activities within the BRF&G community:

§ **Eric Josephson** for the eleventh time in as many years will be participating in the Project Bread Walk for Hunger to take place on Sunday, May 5, 2002. The Walk is 20 miles long, starting and ending on Boston Common, and pledges can be made per mile or as a straight donation. If you'd like to participate in the Walk yourself, as a walker or volunteer, you can contact Project Bread for more information at 160 North Washington Street, Boston, MA 02114, phone 617-723-5000, or e-mail at www.projectbread.org.

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Senator Diane Wilkerson addresses Another Course to College students at State House as part of BRAVO Group program.

Photo by Claire Massimo.

ACC student reads the Brown Rudnick Center for Public Interest newsletter during State House presentation. Photo by Claire Massimo.

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Spectator (Somerset, MA) - February 6, 2002

Case High students to serve as Mock Trial litigators

SWANSEA - Joseph Case High School students will be competing against their peers in the Massachusetts Bar Institute's 17th annual Mock Trial Program, sponsored by Boston law firm **Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer**.

News (Bristol, RI) - February 6, 2002

Case High students have date to debate their peers

SWANSEA - Students at Joseph Case High School will be arguing a case about high school sports when they compete in the Massachusetts Bar Institute's 17th annual Mock Trial Program, sponsored by Boston law firm **Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer**...

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Seekonk Star - January 17, 2002

SHS Mock-Trial club melds students of many interests by **Tim Norton**

... For some students at Seekonk High, a mock trial club has peaked a genuine interest for students who want to master the art of public speaking. ...program which enjoys the active and

HELPING BOSTON SCHOOLS

Boston Bar Association's Children's Outreach Project.

• **Excerpt From BBA Week 2/11/02: SURVEY MEASURES LAWYER VOLUNTEERISM RE: BOSTON SCHOOL CHILDREN**

In what is believed to be the first survey of its kind in the United States, the Boston Bar Association today released data indicating that between August 2001 and January 2002, 847 volunteers in more than 40 Boston law firms, law offices, and legal departments donated their time to educational partnership programs serving more than 1,557 Boston school children. The actual survey was conducted by the Boston Bar Association's Children's Outreach Project, and is published in the January/February 2002 issue of the Boston Bar Journal.

"This data is just a starting point," said BBA President Michael B. Keating. "Our goal is to expand the pool of volunteers. The presence of caring adults in the lives of these children can make a tremendous difference."

Operating under the tagline, "Inspiring Lawyers to Inspire Children," the Children's Outreach Project links lawyers and law firms with volunteer opportunities serving Boston school children, K-12. Although the survey reflects partnerships with a wide variety of organizations, Keating has held a number of lawyer recruitment events to highlight the needs of five community-based organizations, all of whom use volunteers for reading, tutoring, mentoring, and apprenticeship programs: B.E.L.L. Foundation, Boston Partners in Education, Boston Private Industry Council, Citizen Schools, and TechBoston.

"We measure what we treasure, and we treasure what we measure," said **James E. McGuire, Chair of the BBA Children's Outreach Project, and a partner at Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP.** "It's important that we establish a baseline allowing us to measure our progress in building lawyer and law firm involvement."

To see the results of the survey, go to the PDF document at:
http://www.bostonbar.org/nr/child_outreach.pdf.

The BBA Children's Outreach Project is funded by the Boston Bar Foundation.

enthusiastic support of all 26 mock trial team members...
....The mock trial program, sponsored by the Massachusetts Bar Institute and the law firm of **Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer**, helps students learn about the fundamentals of American justice by creating an environment which simulates how a legal trial is conducted and carried out. Students must adhere to rules of evidence, an exacting list of guidelines which helps to ensure that parties receive a fair hearing during a mock trial...

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MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Please contact Al Wallis or Sandy Brewer to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for Public Interest. Please join us at the next **BRAVO Group** meeting (chaired from Boston) on Friday, March 8 from noon to 1:00.

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.

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