

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

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

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

CHARITABLE GIVING	PRO BONO
COMMUNITY SERVICE	PUBLIC INTEREST

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CHARITABLE GIVING

\$ The **Hartford** BRBI office contributed \$120 & 4 boxes of children's books to the **Village for Families and Children** Safe House library 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 **Providence** BRBI office will provide refurbished computers to the Providence **Head Start** Program, thanks to Jim Darsigny and the IT team.

\$ From Boston's Mission Hill neighborhood, scholarship candidates may now apply to the **Carol DiMati Stuart Foundation** on the Center website:
www.brownrudnickcenter.com/carol.htm

**THE BROWN RUDNICK FREED &
 GESMER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

The Board of the Foundation met on March

PRO BONO

Our Firm works for equal access to Justice:

G **Pro Bono Representation.** In the present fiscal year (2/1/02-1/31/03), BRBI has provided at least **1,100.3 hours** of pro bono legal assistance.

G **Other initiatives.**

The Firm supported the Boston Bar Association's Affordable Housing and Homeless initiative by staffing the Pine Street Inn Homeless Clinic in March. On March 22. Paul Laudano, Sara Laroche, Julie Herbst, Walter Howell, Jessica Yaffie, Christine Kennedy, and Carol Ennis went to the Inn and interviewed potential clients. Jeff Sacks and Al Wallis helped review the cases upon their return.

G **New Pro Bono Matters.**

The following new pro bono matters were among those opened in March.

- ***Boston Urban Eco-Village*** - Fatema Yaganeh & Sara Laroche with Jeff Sacks

28. The Foundation Directors approved an Insight/Foresight grant to the Noah Webster School in Hartford, as recommended by the Insight/Foresight Advisory Committee. The grant will be used in furtherance of the School's establishment of a "Micro-society" curriculum in its classrooms.

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Insight/Foresight Grant Application Now Being Accepted from Hartford, Providence & Boston.

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

STEP # 1. Go here:

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) last monthly meeting for was postponed due to a scheduling conflict – and yet another scheduling conflict on the last Friday in April will cause the next meeting to be held on Friday, **May 3 from 12-1:00 p.m.** Topics will include discussion of the City of Boston "gun litigation."

Other Notable Community Service Activities

supervising.

- **Rosie's Place** – Dan Sullivan.
- **Lucia Small/small angst films** - C. David Colvard.
- **Sophia Snow House** - Jeff Sacks.
- **Colonial Theatre Renaissance Corp.** - Doug Cohen.
- **Warren Gardens Resident Association** - Jeff Sacks.
- **Consilio Hispano of Cambridge** - Phil Schneider.
- **Estate of Guillermo Corrales** - Angel Taveras.
- **First Baptist Church of Hartford** – Benjamin Albert.
- **Debra L--** – Jessica Yaffie.
- **Marylou L--** – Jessica Yaffie.
- **Nancy G--** Jessica Yaffie.
- **Luis E--** Carol Ennis.
- **Richard E. H --** Carol Ennis.
- **Barbara E. S--** Carol Ennis

G Volunteer opportunities.

The **Legal Advocacy & Resource Center** (LARC), a legal services hotline that serves primarily low-income clients in the greater Boston area and throughout Massachusetts, seeks volunteer attorneys with an employment law background to serve on the pro bono attorney helpline. Attorneys make callbacks from their own offices to pre-screened clients on Wednesday afternoons, once every 1-3 months. LARC will provide a list of up to four low-income clients and a brief description of the client's employment law question along with the client's name, phone number, and opposing party information. Attorneys will provide one-time telephone consultations of 15-30 minutes per client. Interested attorneys should contact

♥ **Another Course to College.** The innovative program combining instruction about the Massachusetts legislative process, using “profiling” as the focal point continues. This month, a mock legislative hearing was held with speakers Nancy Murray from the ACLU and Aamir Rehman from the Islamic Center of Boston, delivering excellent, informative presentations. Creators of this program include Randy Ravitz, Sharifa Atkins, Jim McGuire, Carlotta McCarthy, Joe Quinn, and Lorraine Lalli.

♥ **The Boston Lawyers Group.** The Boston Lawyers Group Mentor Program will provide 100 first-year law students of color with an opportunity to develop a one-on-one relationship with attorneys from member firms, government agencies, and corporations. The 2002 program will run through the end of December and will cover the second semester of the students' first year of law school and the first semester of their second year. BRBI's Pamela **Kearse** & **Catherine Ng** will be mentors in this program.

♥ **Mentoring in Hartford Public Schools.** As part of a program developed with a grant from the BRFG Charitable Foundation, the Hartford Public Schools are now embarking on a system-wide mentoring program. Nine people from BRBI's Hartford office have submitted applications to participate as mentors in this program. (See <http://www.mentors.hartfordschools.org/> for more information on this program.)

Rochelle Hahn, LARC Executive Director, at 617-603-1703. LARC is a project of the Boston Bar Association (BBA) and receives support from the Boston Bar Foundation.



This year, the BBA will hold **Law day in the schools** on April 22, 23, 24, and 25th. Volunteers are sought to go into a school for about an hour to talk with students about the law, conduct mock trials or present mock environmental hearings. The BBA will provide necessary materials and a brief (1 ½ hour) training/reception. Please contact Paul Dullea, BBA Public Service Director, at (617) 742-0615 ext. 308 or pdullea@bostonbar.org.



THE PUBLIC INTEREST

* The **Pro Bono Institute Conference**, the premier international gathering of pro bono coordinators from law firms and corporations was held in Washington, D.C. March 20-23. **Al Wallis** attended and presented as part of two panels: *The Big Tent: Blending Pro Bono & Community Service*, and *The Nexus Between Pro Bono & Charitable Giving*, a panel Al chaired. “Best practices” materials prepared by conference organizers included materials from the Brown Rudnick Center.

* As a follow up to the **Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate's debate** on New England Cable News sponsored by the Center in March, **Steve Leonard** wrote an article published in the Boston Business Journal's March 8 edition. Click here to read the article: [Broader perspective needed for municipal land-use decisions.](#)

□ **Louise Durfee** has received a well



♥ **Race for the Cure.**

To raise money in the fight against breast cancer, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation holds races across the country, including races in Boston, Providence, NYC and New Britain, Connecticut. The Komen Race for the Cure® Series says that it is the largest series of 5K (3.1 miles) runs/fitness walks in the world.

In 2002, races will be held in more than 100 U.S. cities and three foreign countries with over 1.3 million participants expected.

Heather Leisenring of the Hartford office is coordinating a team for the Connecticut race (held in New Britain) & helping to encourage creation of a Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest running/walking group which would participate together in all four races occurring where BRBI has U.S. offices. An initial group has been formed: 4-5 people for the Race for the Cure in Connecticut, 8 from Boston, 1 from New York. Heather Leisenring, Lynnell O'Brien, Alyssa Vleck, Danika Haueisen and Sara Laroche are all interested in the doing the races in all four cities. Others are welcome to join - **please let Heather (x 6540) know** as soon as possible.

For more information, visit the Komen Foundation's website address:

<http://www.raceforthe cure.com/>.

- **MBA Mock Trial Program.**

BRBI is the sole sponsor of the state-wide mock trial program. The program involved more than 110 high schools state-wide. This year the state championship finals were held in the Great Hall of Faneuil Hall on Tuesday, March 26.

deserved Lifetime Environmental Achievement award from Save the Bay for all of her efforts over the years. Click here to read about it: [Brayton Point to get new permit.](#)



Larry Levy & Sally Donovan, Board Chair of Boston Arts Academy. Photo by Forrest Milder.

- * To introduce the Firm to the concept of "Pilot Schools" (a public school with some characteristics of a charter school), the Center and Larry Levy hosted a breakfast for the **Boston Arts Academy** on March 5 at the Boston BRBI offices.

Boston Arts Academy student sings at breakfast. Photo by Forrest Milder.

- * **Gun litigation.** Long-standing public interest litigation on behalf of the City of Boston against gun manufacturers was recently withdrawn from court by the client. News accounts omitted some of the achievements of the litigation. **Nancy Reiner** will discuss this case at the May 3rd meeting of the BRAVO Group.

CELEBRATION!

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

- **Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day.** Cheryl McGrail will be supporting her daughter in this walk, which begins on Friday, May 17th in Fitchburg, MA, walking 20 miles a day, and finishes in Boston on Sunday, May 19th. Cheryl says: "Last year, with the generous help and support of friends, family, and many of you at Brown Rudnick, [my daughter] was able to raise over \$2,700.00. This year she has increased her goal and is eagerly looking forward to



Supreme Judicial Court Justice Roderick Ireland addresses the Mock Trial competitors.

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• **Eighth Grade Academy.** (Courtesy of Benjamin Albert.) Many have asked about the BRBI-sponsored 8th **Grade Academy**. Attached is the Academy's Newsletter. Inside you will find information and pictures about high school happenings, apprenticeship offerings, the writing-law partnership, and more. It's a great way to keep informed on all aspects of our apprentices' lives. Click here to see the 8th

Grade Academy Newsletter:

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

BRBI New York. Mike Paris, Chair of the BRBI Pro Bono Committee, and Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for Public Interest, paid their first visit to the New York office on March 4. As the dust settles from the recent merger, the Center looks forward to increasing inclusion of BRBI New York in Center activities.

Breast Cancer Prevention. Benjamin Albert notes: The **Breast Cancer Site** is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet its quota of donating *at least* one **free mammogram** a day to an underprivileged woman. It takes less than

participating again in this incredibly moving event." Lisa A. Gentile, who did this walk last year, reports that it is an outstanding, worthwhile event.

Interested in learning more?
www.bethepeople.com/avon_3days/landing_3day.htm.

• **Honors for Sensitive Employment Practices.** BRBI's mailroom is staffed by Pitney Bowes. Last week, Pitney Bowes employee John Orlandella was filmed while at work for a presentation by the Jewish Vocational Services. As anyone who has worked with him knows, John's ability to get the job done is not hampered by his disability and JVS will be presenting Pitney Bowes with an award for their enlightened employment practices.

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Final Words. 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, April 19 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.

a minute to go to the site & **click on**
"donating a mammogram" (pink window
in the middle). The named sponsors use the
number of daily visits to donate a
mammogram in exchange for advertising.

Click here:

<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com>



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