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## **BROWN, RUDNICK, FREED & GESMER CREATES UMBRELLA ENTITY TO MAXIMIZE PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES**

- *“Brown Rudnick Center For The Public Interest”  
will contribute \$1 Million in 2001 -*

**Boston, Mass.** – April 24, 2001 – Continuing its 50 year commitment to the public interest, Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer has created an innovative umbrella entity that encompasses all pro bono, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest cases at the firm. The newly created Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest will maximize the firm’s philanthropic efforts and community outreach through coordination of personnel and resources. Albert Wallis, former Corporation Counsel for the City of Boston, has been hired as Executive Director.

The Center’s mission is to ensure effective pro bono services and community involvement that will have a positive impact and make a difference in people’s lives. “We wanted to formalize Brown Rudnick’s longstanding commitment to philanthropic activities. There has always been a high level of pro bono, charitable services and public interest efforts at the firm. The Center allows us to coordinate those efforts for maximum impact,” stated Michael Paris, one of the founders of the Center. Brown Rudnick hopes the creation of the Center will have a motivating impact among the legal community at large, and will provide a philanthropic model for law firms nation-wide.

One important facet of the Center is the Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer Charitable Foundation, a newly created non-profit entity whose mission is to fund inner city education-oriented activities. The Foundation has chosen grant recipients in each of the three U.S. cities where Brown Rudnick's offices are located. The recipients are the Neighborhood House Charter School in Dorchester, MA, the American Leadership Forum in Hartford, CT, and three Rhode Island organizations – the Business Education Roundtable, Providence Head Start, and the Providence Chapter of the American Lung Association.

“The Foundation is based on partnerships. The Foundation partners with each of its grant recipients to provide opportunities for service, as well as funding. Through the Foundation and the Center, Brown Rudnick employees experience first-hand the positive impact they are having on their community,” stated Joel Reck, President of the Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer Charitable Foundation, and a past president of the Boston Bar Association.

Brown Rudnick also has a lengthy history of involvement with a number of community-based organizations. Involvement with these organizations will continue under the auspices of the Center.

“The Center will also serve as a major forum for public interest activities,” noted Paris. “The Center will establish partnerships for the purpose of hosting special events, forums and joint pro bono projects. We're excited about the Center because all of us – lawyers and staff, will have a tremendous opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.”

The Center will be officially launched on April 24, 2001, with simulcast programs in the firm's Boston, Providence and Hartford offices. Albert Wallis, the new Executive Director of the Center, will be introduced at the event. Brown Rudnick was encouraged by public response to their search for an Executive Director. “We had an overwhelming number of extremely qualified candidates apply for the position, not to mention the numerous calls we received from people simply wanting to show their support for the ideas behind the Center,” stated Mark Newall, Director of Human Resources.

Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer is a full-service and fully integrated law firm with 225 professionals and a total of 450 employees operating from offices in Boston, MA; Hartford, CT; Providence, RI; and London, England.

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