



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOSTON STUDENTS HONORED IN VLA'S HOLIDAY ART CONTEST

Students from Boston, Roslindale, Dorchester, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, and Mattapan receive awards

Boston, MA, December 14, 2005 – The Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts, Inc. (VLA) has announced the winners of the second annual Holiday Card Contest for Boston Public High School students. Contestants were honored at an awards reception on November 17, 2005, which was hosted by the contest sponsor, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation at the law firm of Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP. Each winning student received an award certificate and art supplies.

First place honors went to Brighton resident and BPS/MFA Scholarship Program student, **Stacey Leonard**, for her entry, a painting entitled "For the Very First Time". As the contest winner, Miss Leonard's artwork has been reproduced on a holiday card which is available for purchase at www.vlama.org. Additional contest winners include:

<u>Award:</u>	<u>Student Name:</u>	<u>School Attending:</u>	<u>Residence:</u>
Second Place:	Ka Wei Wu	BPS/MFA Scholarship Program	Roslindale
Third Place:	Michelle Gildea Timothy Hicks Shoshima Cadet	Boston Latin Academy ACC (Another Course to College) Boston Latin Academy	Dorchester W. Roxbury Hyde Park
Artistic Merits:	Kathy Chau Soda Mao Jason Liao Philip Afable Yennifer Pedraza Veronica Droser Caitlin Chisholm Shantel Gooden Joshua Hernandez Glendy Rodriguez and Elizabeth Ortega Melanie Sakhta	BPS/MFA Scholarship Program Boston Latin Academy BPS/MFA Scholarship Program Boston Latin Academy Boston Latin Academy Boston Latin Academy Boston Latin Academy Brighton High School Brighton High School	Boston Dorchester Boston Boston W. Roxbury Boston Dorchester Mattapan Dorchester



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Created to support young artists in Boston Public Schools, the contest provides an opportunity for educators to encourage students to explore their artistic sides. The contest was initiated with a grant from The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation and with assistance from the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, as well as through the support of the Boston Public Schools.

According to James Grace, Executive Director of the VLA, "While only in its second year, the holiday card contest is having a direct impact on Boston area students by offering a platform for self expression through art. With ongoing support from the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest and The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, along with the Boston Public Schools, we will continue to encourage young talent in the community."

Comments Albert Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, "The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation was pleased to underwrite the VLA's Holiday Card Contest for the second year. At a time when many schools are straining to provide art programs, the contest supports and nurtures the creativity in our high school students."

About the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts, Inc.

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts, Inc. (VLA) is a non-profit organization established to meet the legal needs of the state's artistic community. VLA is the only organization in Massachusetts designed specifically to address the legal concerns of the art community. VLA provides a Legal Referral Program, seminars and workshops to artists and arts organizations from all creative disciplines including, among others, visual arts, music, literary arts, performing arts, and film and video. For more information, visit www.vlama.org.

About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP

Brown Rudnick is a full-service, international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm's 200 attorneys provide representation across key areas of the law: Corporate & Securities, Corporate Finance, Intellectual Property, Project and Structured Finance, Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Energy, Government Law & Strategies, Health Care, Real Estate, Complex Litigation and Trusts & Estates. Combining a dedication to excellence with the implementation of sophisticated technologies, Brown Rudnick provides its clients with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs. For more information, please visit www.brownrudnick.com.

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is a measure of the Firm's strong commitment to the community and serves as an umbrella entity encompassing the Firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts. The Center supports the mission of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., which provides grants in support of improving inner city education. For more information about the Center, please visit www.brownrudnickcenter.com.

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