



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Lisa Murray
617.856.8509
lmurray@brownrudnick.com

BROWN RUDNICK SUPPORTS STATEWIDE MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

Boston, MA, October 7, 2004 – The Massachusetts Bar Association has announced that the law firm of Brown Rudnick through its Brown Rudnick Center for Public Interest, has generously donated \$25,000 to sponsor the MBA's 2005 statewide Mock Trial Program. The firm has been the sole underwriter, providing ongoing support for the Mock Trial competition, for the past seven years. Last year, more than 115 high schools from across the commonwealth participated in the competition.

"Since 1999, Brown Rudnick has generously provided \$175,000 to help fund the Massachusetts Bar Association's statewide Mock Trial Program," said MBA President Kathleen M. O'Donnell of the Marcotte Law Office in Lowell. "The goal of the program is to give students an understanding of the law, court procedures and our legal system while helping them hone analytical, listening and speaking skills. Through the significant support of Brown Rudnick, students from across the commonwealth will be able to participate in this year's Mock Trial competition."

"Brown Rudnick has a long-standing commitment to improving education and to the enrichment of our society gains when its citizens have a vital understanding of our legal system. The MBA Mock Trial brings these goals together in a powerful way for the hundreds of Massachusetts students who participate each year," said Joseph Ryan, Brown Rudnick's CEO.

The annual Mock Trial competition is a program of the Massachusetts Bar Institute, a supporting organization of the Massachusetts Bar Association. First organized in 1985, the program is overseen by the MBA's Mock Trial Committee and supported by the volunteer efforts of more than 200 lawyers and judges across the state, who serve as high school team coaches and as competition judges.

Mock Trial places high school students in a simulated courtroom situation where they assume the roles of lawyers and witnesses in a hypothetical case. The case is developed by the Mock Trial Committee, which choose topics that are timely and relevant to the lives of young people. Through the years, Mock Trial case topics have included such issues as eyewitness identification, assault with a dangerous weapon, 1st and 4th amendment rights, sexual harassment, hate crimes, and search and seizure of a student and his belongings.

(more)



Press Release

Under the rules of Mock Trial, the two teams conducted a coin toss to determine which side of the case each would argue. This strategy requires that members of each team be prepared to handle the roles of prosecutor, defense attorney, defendants and various witnesses.

The program was established with several important goals in mind:

- Mock Trial should promote a greater understanding of and appreciation for the law, for court procedures and for the American judicial system...
- It should give students a real-life opportunity to challenge and improve such basic life skills as critical thinking, reading, public speaking and advocacy for ideas...
- Mock Trial can improve communication and cooperation among community members, including schools, teachers, legal professionals and citizens...
- It also can heighten our appreciation for the principle of equal justice for all among the members of our communities, and promote an awareness of current legal issues...
- And Mock Trial should promote the exchange of ideas among students from throughout the commonwealth in a rewarding and memorable environment.

For its sustained support of this major public program, the Massachusetts Bar Association gave Brown Rudnick its prestigious President's Award in January 2003. The award is given to "a member of the MBA who has made an especially significant contribution to the work of the Massachusetts Bar Association."

About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israel 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.

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.brownrudnick.com/what/center.htm

(more)



Press Release

About the Massachusetts Bar Association

The Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization, founded in 1910, that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law.

More information and recent press releases from the Massachusetts Bar Association, including the MBA's Journalists' Court and Legal Handbook, can be found online by visiting www.MassBar.org/media_center.

####