



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Awards *Community Grant* to Paul Public Charter School in Washington DC

Grant will help purchase educational materials for middle school students with learning disabilities

Boston, MA, April 2, 2009 – The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity established by attorneys from Brown Rudnick LLP, today announced that it has awarded a *Community Grant* to **Paul Public Charter School** (Paul PCS) to help implement intensive reading intervention programs in seventh- and eighth-grade special education classes. Specifically, the grant will be used to purchase NEO Alphasmart® portable word processors and the Wilson Language Reading System® for students who struggle with basic reading skills.

Paul PCS is a public school that serves students from all quadrants of Washington DC. The school's structured and highly individualized program provides vital support for students during the critical middle school years. Paul PCS offers students in grades 6-8 a quality education, which enables them to become responsible and productive individuals, critical and independent thinkers, open-minded and cooperative team players, and outstanding community leaders. Coupled with leadership and community service opportunities, the Paul PCS program promotes activism and a strong work ethic.

JuDonn DeShields, Paul PCS Special Education Teacher and grant applicant, said, "I work with seventh- and eight-grade students with learning disabilities, and I strive to implement strategies that help them learn in an inclusive environment. Thanks to Brown Rudnick's support, we can offer reading intervention programs that will prepare struggling students for high school. These small implementations will go a long way to ensure the long-term academic success of our students."

Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., added, "Studies show that many middle school students struggle to master the critical skill of reading. To advance and succeed in high school, these students often need intensive reading programs to help them decode words and gain a better understanding of phonemes. We are delighted to assist Paul PCS, and we applaud teacher JuDonn Deshields for his diligence in seeking new resources to help the school in its work to remove the barriers that prevent students from learning."

Created to support front-line educators who often do not have a voice in funding decisions, the *Community Grants* subsidize small, concrete projects, which will improve inner-city education



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within Boston, Hartford, Providence or New York within the coming year. The Foundation will generally consider grant applications monthly and award grants in an amount totaling not more than \$2000 in any one month. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp>.

About Brown Rudnick LLP

Brown Rudnick is an international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm represents clients from around the world, providing business-focused solutions that address today's ever-changing, ever-demanding competitive marketplace. With an entrepreneurial and collaborative mindset, Brown Rudnick offers a broad slate of capabilities and talents in areas that include: Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Complex Litigation, Corporate & Securities, Energy, Finance, Government Law & Strategies, Health Law, Intellectual Property and Real Estate. 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. For more information, please visit www.brownrudnickcenter.com.

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