



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BROWN RUDNICK SUPPORTS STATEWIDE MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM FOR EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Boston, MA, November 17, 2005 – The Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) has announced that the law firm of Brown Rudnick, through its Brown Rudnick Center for Public Interest, has donated \$25,000 to sponsor the MBA's 2006 statewide Mock Trial Program. The firm has been the sole underwriter, providing ongoing support for the Mock Trial competition for the past eight years. Last year, 119 high schools from across the commonwealth registered for the competition.

"Brown Rudnick's ongoing support of the mock trial program has enabled the MBA to continue to educate students about the law and the legal system," said MBA President Warren Fitzgerald of Meehan, Boyle, Black & Fitzgerald PC in Boston. "To date, Brown Rudnick has provided \$200,000 to help fund the program, affording students from across the commonwealth the opportunity to participate."

"The law affects every part of our lives, and the MBA Mock Trial offers young people a hands-on introduction to the legal system in a meaningful and memorable way," said Joseph Ryan, Brown Rudnick's CEO. "Brown Rudnick is proud to be the flagship supporter of the competition."

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 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 chooses 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.

In all tiebreaker and subsequent championship trials, the two teams conduct 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.



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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 the Massachusetts Bar Association

The Massachusetts Bar Association is a nonprofit 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 http://www.massbar.org/mba_info/releases/.

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: Health Care, Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Corporate & Securities, Complex Litigation, Government Law & Strategies, Intellectual Property, Project and Structured Finance, Energy, Real Estate, and Trusts & Estates. Combining a dedication to excellence with a commitment to superior client service, 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. ###