



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BROWN RUDNICK AND ALBERT W. WALLIS RECEIVE 2006 ROBERT B. FRASER AWARD FOR PRO BONO EXCELLENCE

*Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Honors
Law Firm and Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest*

Boston, MA, June 5, 2006 –The Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts, Inc. (VLA) has selected both the law firm of Brown Rudnick and Albert W. Wallis, Executive Director of The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, to be individual recipients of the 2006 Robert B. Fraser Award for Pro Bono Excellence. The award is given annually to an attorney, firm, or legal services organization that shows a sincere dedication to servicing the needs of the cultural and artistic communities of Massachusetts. This is the first time the VLA is recognizing both the accomplishments of an individual attorney and the pro bono work of a law firm in the same year.

Brown Rudnick was honored for its ongoing pro bono work on behalf of low-income clients referred through the VLA, and most recently for creating a *Fee Collection Initiative*, where firm attorneys provide pro bono representation to a variety of artists who are having difficulty getting paid for their work. Al Wallis was individually named for his outstanding leadership of The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, the umbrella entity that encompasses all of the firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts. The awards ceremony will be held on June 15, 2006 during the VLA's annual Jazz Night Benefit at Sculler's Jazz Club in Cambridge, Mass.

According to James Grace, Executive Director of the VLA, "This is the first time we are presenting two Robert B. Fraser awards. We identified Brown Rudnick as this year's award recipient, but we found we could not undervalue the individual commitment, enthusiasm and leadership of Al Wallis. Under his strategic direction and guidance, the Center has taken a leadership role in supporting the mission of the VLA and helping indigent artists gain access to legal counsel."

Comments Al Wallis, "Brown Rudnick strives to take a leadership position on many public interest matters in the community including education and children's issues, public health and homelessness, and cultural and social enrichment. It is an honor for the firm -- and for me personally -- to be recognized by the VLA, an organization whose public focus is to help address the unmet legal needs of the artistic community."



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Andrew Strehle, Brown Rudnick's Administrative Partner who also chairs the Firm's Pro Bono Committee and leads the *Fee Collection Initiative*, adds, "Pro bono work is an integral part of Brown Rudnick's culture, and our representation of VLA clients has been particularly rewarding. Al Wallis worked with other Brown Rudnick attorneys to establish our *Fee Collection Initiative* when we noticed that a number of VLA clients were having difficulty collecting outstanding fees for work rendered. Our pro bono efforts are helping talented artists sustain a living at their craft. We are honored to receive the Robert B. Fraser Award in recognition of this work."

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 an international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm's attorneys provide representation across key areas of the law: Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Structured & Commercial Finance, Corporate & Securities, Real Estate, Intellectual Property, Complex Litigation, Energy, Government Law & Strategies and Health Care. 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. For more information, please visit www.brownrudnickcenter.com.

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