



# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SOPHIA ACADEMY OF PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND RECEIVES GRANT FROM BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

*Grant will help establish school's only after-school sports curriculum*

**Boston, MA, December 20, 2004** – Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a non-profit, tax-exempt entity established by Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, has awarded one of its Insight/Foresight grants to the Sophia Academy in Providence, Rhode Island. The grant will support an after-school basketball program for students of the Sophia Academy, a non-denominational, culturally diverse middle school for girls in grades five to eight. Specifically, the Insight/Foresight Grant will be used to pay for referee fees and to purchase team uniforms, sweatshirts and trophies, as well as for an end-of-season banquet.

Spearheaded by the volunteer efforts of Brown University student Sarah Swett and supported by the Swearer Center at Brown, the basketball program is the only after-school sports curriculum offered by the academy. The program can currently accommodate 20 academy students, with female volunteers from Brown University accepting coaching responsibilities. The Sophia Academy hopes to expand its sports offerings in the future. Swett and Brown Rudnick attorney Paul Laudano were co-applicants for the Foundation grant.

“We are thrilled that Sarah has received this Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grant on behalf of the girls at Sophia,” comments Judy Costa, Principal of the Sophia Academy. “Sarah is a great role model for our students. Her enthusiasm and creativity are exactly what we needed to begin our after-school sports program for the girls.”

According to Albert W. Wallis, executive director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., “We are delighted to award this grant to the Sophia Academy. Helping to establish the school’s only basketball program provides students with the opportunity to participate in a sports curriculum, which is important to creating a holistic learning environment for these young students.”

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation’s Insight/Foresight Grant Program provides funding to assist educators with small, concrete projects or needs, which will make an improvement in inner city education in Boston, Hartford Providence or New York within the coming year. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/grant.asp>.



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## **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.

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](http://www.brownrudnick.com/what/center.htm)

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