

# center news

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## CHEERS FROM LONDON

*An Interview With Patrick Elliot*

Earlier this year, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation expanded its reach to London. In September, the Foundation awarded its first-ever London Relationship Grant to LIFEbeat Arts Practice Training, a UK charity providing transformational learning experiences for teenagers. The grant will be used specifically to support mentoring and summer camps.

A few weeks ago, the Foundation awarded its first Community Grant in London to the West London Free School Library for the purchase of non-fiction books that will support the school's academic studies. All books that are purchased through the grant will bear the legend, "This book was a donation from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp."

We caught up with Brown Rudnick London Partner and Charitable Foundation Director, Patrick Elliot, to learn more about recent grants activity and future plans for the Foundation in London (continued on page 2).



### in this issue...

Cover Story	p1
Grantees	p3
Foundation News	p4
Community Grant Recipients	p5
Community Involvement	p6
Pro Bono Legal Activity	p7
Summer Associate Activities	p8
Just Us	p9

&  
 THE  
 BROWN  
 RUDNICK  
 CHARITABLE  
 FOUNDATION  
 CORP.

### Why did the Foundation expand the grants program to London?

In the U.S., for over a decade, the Foundation has been awarding grants to tax-exempt organizations for programs designed to improve inner-city education in a city where Brown Rudnick has offices. The recent growth of the London office established a strong platform for the Foundation to expand its mission to this region. The London office has increasingly taken on pro bono engagements, for example. During the last two years, we have been engaging in pro bono work through our membership in *LawWorks* which was coordinated through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. The partners, associates and staff have been eager to do more to give back to the local community through charitable giving and volunteerism as well. For example, this year our office took part in the annual London Legal Walk to raise funds for providing free legal representation to poor. With this level of interest, the Foundation Executive Director, Al Wallis, and Foundation President, Jeff Jonas, felt the time was right to introduce the grants program to London.

### What is your role as a Foundation Board Director?

Near the beginning of the year, the Foundation elected Brown Rudnick London Associate, Christian Toms, and me to be Foundation Board Directors. Together, with fellow Board Directors in the U.S., we review and approve grant applications and help facilitate collaboration between Brown Rudnick's London office and grant recipients.



### How did the Foundation select its first London grant recipients?

We select our grantees carefully to find the right match that will contribute to the improvement of inner city education. Early on, our goal was to identify educational programs as Relationship Grant applicants. This was a challenging task, since there are so many worthy charities in need. We took a grassroots approach, meeting with a number of charities and philanthropists to better understand the needs and goals of the education sector in London. Through a request for proposals process, we eventually narrowed the scope to six or seven candidates and encouraged them to apply for a grant. The Foundation's Grants Committee, which Chris serves on from London, reviewed all the applications. Based on the merits of their submission, LIFEbeat was selected to be the first London Relationship Grant recipient.

The process was similar for the Community Grant. We encouraged West London Free School Library, among other local educational programs, to apply. West London was selected by the Foundation Grants Committee.



### The London grantees recently visited the London office. What was the purpose of the meeting?

The meeting was part of a London office celebration to formally launch the Foundation's expansion to London. Al and Jeff came over from Boston, and the Firm hosted a small gathering of attorneys and staff to mark this important Foundation milestone. Relationship Grant Recipient LIFEbeat and Community Grant Recipient The West London Free School were present and explained how the grants will impact their programs. The event was a huge success. We learned about the mission of each grantee, and we were all amazed and inspired by the LIFEbeat students. The London office was highly engaged and we look forward to supporting these organizations.

### What are the future plans for the Foundation in London?

As is the case in the U.S., in London we will seek to form a relationship with non-profit organizations that optimally includes financial support, pro bono legal representation and volunteer time. In London, we will continue to extend our monthly Community Grants to other schools and charities. Community Grant proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis with one grant awarded each month to front-line educators to address a one-time, tangible, immediate inner-city educational need.

Additionally, we look forward to providing ongoing support during the year, exploring opportunities for members of our London office to provide volunteer support and contribute to the programs in meaningful ways.

## 2013-14 RELATIONSHIP GRANT AWARDS

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a non-profit, tax-exempt entity established by Brown Rudnick LLP, announces the recipients of its 2013-14 *Relationship Grants* program. In all, the Foundation awarded 11 grants totaling over \$200,000 dollars to non-profit organizations in Boston, Harford, Providence, London, New York and Washington DC. These grants, which support inner-city education programs, commence in September, in line with the current academic year.

Following the expansion of its educational grants program to London, the Foundation awarded its first-ever Relationship Grant to **LIFEbeat Arts Practice Training**, a UK charity providing transformational learning experiences for teenagers. The grant will be used specifically to support mentoring and summer camps.

In addition to the first London grant made to LIFEbeat (see Patrick Elliot interview on p. 2), there were two other first-time Relationship Grant recipients in the U.S.:

**East Boston High School** for a scientific literacy program at the school through curriculum enhancements and science fairs.

**Massachusetts Bar Association – Mock Trial Program** to provide Boston High School students with an opportunity to experience hands on learning regarding the court system, law and the role of the legal system in their communities.

The Foundation also awarded new one-year grants to a number of longtime grant recipients including:



East Boston High School

**Thompson Island Outward Bound**  
to support the Connections education program for Boston public school students.

**Hull Lifesaving Museum**  
to support the Maritime Apprentice Program serving older, high-risk population in Boston through work and education program.

**Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston**  
to continue the popular Brown Rudnick Holiday Art Contest and Teen Art Law program in Boston public schools and, for the Corporate Art Lending Program where public school student art is loaned to businesses.

**The Mark Twain House & Museum**  
to continue its summer reading and writing program at the museum in Hartford for 10th graders as part of Capital Prep's 6-week summer academy.

**The Village for Families & Children**  
to support GED program participation by low-income, unwed parents in Hartford.

**The New York City Urban Debate League**  
in support of this award-winning debate program which is expanding city-wide.

**Ready to Learn Providence/Providence Plan**  
to support AmeriCorps Volunteers working on early child literacy programs.

**United States Capitol Historical Society**  
to support the *We, the People Constitutional Program* which educates D.C. public school students through historical tours and classroom lessons, underscored by the Constitutional Challenge essay contest Brown Rudnick created through this relationship.



LIFEbeat



New York City Urban Debate League



Ready to Learn Providence



Thompson Island Outward Bound



At its September Board Meeting, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation hosted several of its 2013-14 Relationship Grant recipients. (In photo, from left to right Hull Lifesaving Museum Education Manager Ed Norton, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Executive Director Jim Grace, BR Charitable Foundation Board President Jeff Jonas, BR Charitable Foundation Director Kiersten Taylor, Thompson Island Corporate Relations Director Angel Santos Burres and BR Center Executive Director Al Wallis).



At its September Board meeting, the Foundation Directors elected Kiersten Taylor as the newest Director of the Board. Kiersten is an associate in the Boston office of Brown Rudnick LLP.

### London Office Celebrates Foundation Expansion

In September, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation celebrated its expansion to London with an in-office celebration hosted by Foundation President Jeff Jonas, Board Directors Patrick Elliot and Christian Toms, and Executive Director Al Wallis. Relationship Grant Recipient LIFEbeat and Community Grant Recipient The West London Free School were present and explained how the grants will impact their programs. LIFEbeat is a UK charity providing transformational learning experiences for teenagers. The grant will provide this by supporting group mentoring and summer camps. The West London Free School Community Grant will be used to purchase books for the school's library (See photos on page 1).

### Accepting Applications for Community Grants

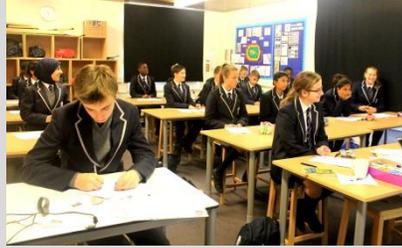
Each month the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation accepts applications for educational grants to support inner-city educators through its *Community Grant Program*. Created to support front-line educators who often do not have a voice in funding decisions, the *Community Grants* subsidize small, concrete projects, which will improve inner-city education within Boston, Hartford, London, Providence, New York, or Washington, DC within the coming year. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/community-grant>.

## recent foundation community grant recipients

### Foundation Awards First-Ever London Community Grant to West London Free School Library

The Foundation awarded its first Community Grant in London to the West London Free School Library for the purchase of non-fiction books that will support the school's academic studies. All books that are purchased through the grant will bear the legend, "This book was a donation from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp."

According to grant applicant, Mr. Naismith, "The West London Free School Library, which has been opened for just over a year, provides quality education at no cost to local families. As a new state school, we currently do not have the funds to further invest in the library. Thanks to this Community Grant, we will be able to provide our students with new, quality books as part of our literacy program."



### Grantee NYC Urban Debate League Continues to Win High Honors

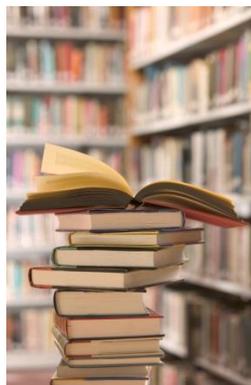
In August, Relationship Grantee, the New York City Urban Great Debaters were recognized with four different presidential honors! The team also traveled to Washington to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" Speech and March on Washington.



### Family Pajama Party Encourages Reading

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Charter Oak Cultural Center for its Read It and Sleep program, a free family reading event that invites Hartford children and their families to hear a story read to them by a community leader or a local author, enjoy healthy snacks and take home a copy of the book for their families to read together. In 2011, the Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Charter Oak in support of this same program.

According to the Charter Oak Youth Arts Institute Director and grant applicant, Saige Dupont, "Each year, the program serves about 200 Hartford-area children and caregivers, and we have recently linked the program with our popular monthly family dinners. One of the main goals of Read It and Sleep is to build family literacy in a fun and engaging way that fosters a deep connection with the book that is read. The goal is to increase interest in reading among young children and families."



### Washington DC Charter School Gets New Library Books

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to KIPP DC, a network of public, college-preparatory charter schools in Washington, D.C. which serves the city's under-resourced communities. The grant will be used to purchase library books for the KIPP DC high school library.

According to KIPP DC teacher and grant applicant, Lelac Almagor, "The students at KIPP are working incredibly hard to get to college, often in the face of considerable obstacles. In order to grow as readers, they need access to a wide range of interesting, inviting, and challenging literature. Through the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation's grant, I hope to stock our classroom library with books that will get and keep our kids excited about reading."

## recent community involvement



### Making Strides Bake Sale

The Boston library staff hosted its popular annual Bake sale and raffle in the library to raise funds for breast cancer awareness. Donations are given to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.



### Friday, October 4th was the Brown Rudnick Lee National Denim Day

The annual Lee National Denim Day (<http://www.denimday.com/>) provided an occasion for Brown Rudnick to raise awareness and funds firm-wide for the American Cancer Society (For more information, visit <http://www.denimday.com/>). (In London, donations went to the UK Breast Cancer Campaign). On this day each year, in recognition of the importance of this effort, in exchange for a personal charitable donation of \$5 for a pink ribbon pin, Brown Rudnick relaxes its Firm's business casual dress policy to permit wearing jeans for the day. All Brown Rudnick offices participated in this effort.



Orange County



Boston



Providence



Hartford



New York



London

## recent community involvement

### An Annual Tribute to Fire Fighters on 9-11

As it has done annually since 2002, in recognition of the tragedy on September 11th, the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest coordinated remembrance activities in the Boston and New York Offices. We delivered lunch to our local firehouses, walking over from our offices to give thanks to some of the many Firefighters that help keep our communities safe.



## recent pro bono legal activity

### U.S. Bankruptcy Pro Bono Award

On October 23rd, at the First Annual Pro Bono Awards Ceremony held by the United States District Court in Boston, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court awarded Brown Rudnick partner **Steven D. Pohl** with its first annual **Pro Bono Recognition Award** for Eastern Massachusetts. Several other Brown Rudnick attorneys received recognition as well.

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts 2012 Honor Roll includes the following Brown Rudnick Attorneys:

Shemane Amin	Rebecca Fordon
Erin Apstein	Jonathan Marshall
R. Benjamin Chapman	Thomas Montgomery
Jeremy Coffey	Steven D. Pohl
Nicholas Dunn	Angelo Thalassinis



Brown Rudnick supporters at the Court award ceremony.



### Accolade to Ed Hershfield

The Pro Bono Committee has awarded a Pro Bono Accolade to Ed Hershfield in recognition of his extraordinary commitment in providing pro bono legal support to Community Services, an organization delivering free, nutritious meals to the sick and homebound. (Pictured (L to R): Center Executive Director Al Wallis, Partner Ed Hershfield, and Pro Bono Committee Chair Andrew Strehle).

## recent pro bono legal activity

### Pro Bono Victory in Connecticut Appellate Court



Dylan Kletter and Mark Baldwin in Brown Rudnick's Hartford office recently secured a significant victory at the Connecticut Appellate Court. Due to a conflict of interest between the defendant and the public defenders' office, Dylan had been engaged on a matter as an Assigned Counsel to a criminal defendant on an appeal for writs of habeas. A unanimous panel of the appellate court held that our client received ineffective assistance of counsel in his criminal trial, vacated the underlying conviction and ordered a new trial - a complete victory. In reversing the habeas court's decision, the appellate court adopted Dylan's arguments in full, ruling that the jury instruction on an essential element of the charge was improper and, further, that trial counsel's failure to object to the improper instruction was deficient and prejudiced our client under prevailing legal standards. This victory is particularly impressive given that the habeas court denied our client's petition for certification to appeal, which is essentially the habeas court's determination that a case has absolutely no merit. Against these long shot odds, and in typical Brown Rudnick fashion, Dylan drafted a compelling appellate brief and successfully argued the case to a three judge panel. Needless to say, the client is thrilled with the result.

### ADL Summer Associate Project



Continuing a Brown Rudnick tradition, every one of our 2013 summer associates in Boston, New York and D.C. provided pro bono guidance to the Anti-Defamation League. This tradition has become a very important part of the summer program and of our pro bono assistance. Each research and writing project team was supervised by a Brown Rudnick partner, including: Sunni Beville, Joe Ryan, Edward Naughton, Mary Laura-Greely, Steve Cook, Sig Wissner-Gross, Andy Dash, Jon Storz, David Molton and Fred Levy.

The summers were universally enthusiastic about this project. The ADL is impressed also. We may be the only firm in which all of our summers, in all offices participate in this project. Our memos will assist the ADL for years to come in fulfilling their mission.



### Pro Bono Accolade

For their wonderful work on a sexual assault matter, our legal team of Neil Shrimpton, Christian Toms and Ben Williams (pictured left) last week each received a Pro Bono Accolade from the Pro Bono Committee and the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest for their efforts. (Pictured, from left: Neil Shrimpton, Christian Toms, Al Wallis and Ben Williams)

## summer associate activities



In August, the Boston Summer Associates, Center Executive Director, Al Wallis, and Center Coordinator, Kellie Cahill, went rowing in Boston harbor with the Hull Lifesaving Museum. The Museum is a Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship Grant Recipient (<http://www.hulllifesavingmuseum.org>). This organization takes some of the hardest cases from the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, enrolling the individuals in a Boston Maritime Apprentice Program (MAP)(supported by our grant) where they receive a stipend, learn wood working and boat building skills, and enroll in a GED or degree granting program.

## summer associate activities

### Rosie's Place

As part of the Center for the Public Interest's Summer Associate Program, Boston Summers led by Center Coordinator Kellie Cahill volunteered at Rosie's Place to help serve and prepare lunch to over 150 women and children. Rosie's, a long-time Firm pro bono client, offers emergency and long-term assistance to Boston's homeless women. Rosie's accepts no government funds, and relies instead on committed volunteers and private supporters to accomplish its effective and innovative work.



*"I enjoyed the pro bono opportunities I received at Brown Rudnick. It gave me a chance to take on a lot of responsibility as a summer associate and allow me to see a case start to finish. Brown Rudnick's emphasis on pro bono work not only demonstrates its values as a firm, but demonstrates Brown Rudnick's focus on associate development by giving summer associates client interaction from day one. The single most important takeaway from the pro bono work I did at Brown Rudnick is the human element to these cases...pro bono work brings it back into perspective."*

- Feedback from a Summer Associate

## just us



Al Wallis  
Executive Director  
Brown Rudnick  
Center for the Public Interest

### Addressing the "Shame of Unemployment"

In 2009, "Half of jobless Americans feel unemployment has fundamentally changed their life for the worse, according to a New York Times/CBS poll. The findings are hardly surprising, save perhaps for the degree and breadth of people's hardship: just under 50% of respondents are suffering from mental health woes, more than half have borrowed money from friends, and 60% had been forced to spend their savings to survive... 25% who have lost their homes to foreclosure or are now

receiving food stamps ... nearly 50% of respondents who report feeling embarrassed or ashamed about losing their jobs." - Leigh Graham, December 15, 2009 [www.change.org](http://www.change.org). The intervening four years has not shown much improvement.

Brown Rudnick began taking a volume of unemployment benefit appeals engagements six years ago, in response to pleas for help from the Volunteer Lawyers Project in Boston and Manhattan Legal Services in New York. At the time, it seemed that it might be a short-term legal commitment. We have continued this work ever since, winning awards along the way. The real reward, though, comes from using our legal abilities to help indigent clients through a legal maze to get their crushing debt problems under control. In the process, this work also helps to lift the burden of shame that sits upon so many of our clients thrown adrift by a recession not of their making. A note this summer to our lawyers from one of our clients captures what I mean.

*Dear [Brown Rudnick attorney] Rebecca, My name is ----- and you supervised Jill --- and Katherine --- in my unemployment appeal, which we won [in] July... Katherine and Jill really were great, the best! I know that they relied on you, so I wanted you to know how grateful I am for you and your company. This was done pro bono for me, and I am just so grateful that you would give me that help. I am a 60 yr. old widow that has worked for the past 38 years and raised two sons that are --- college graduates. I was shocked when I was fired and to this day have not told my sons. I find it hurtful and degrading to do that to me at the level of my career, so I can't bring myself to tell my sons. Anyway, I supported myself all these past 15 years and when I got fired it was like the end of the world for me. I want you to really understand how truly grateful I am for all your help -- you got some of my world back.*

As good as it gets, I think: Brown Rudnick pro bono work, providing access to justice and a boost to human dignity.

- Al Wallis

Center for the Public Interest  
Executive Director