

# center news

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Pictured: (L to R) Robert B. Fraser Award Winners, Nicholas Dunn and Steven Levine

## **Brown Rudnick's Steven B. Levine and Nicolas Dunn Recognized by Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston for Excellence in Pro Bono Legal Work**

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston awarded the 2014 Robert B. Fraser Award for Pro Bono Excellence to Brown Rudnick Partner Steven B. Levine and Associate Nicolas Dunn. Steve and Nick accepted the award on June 10th, during the Council's annual "Martinis and Masterpieces" event at the Royal Sonesta in Cambridge, MA.

Steve and Nick were recognized for their pro bono legal representation of the Council in a case certified to the Supreme Judicial Court arising out of bankruptcy case in which 13 artists challenged the trustee of a gallery for ownership and return of their work. The case involved the interpretation of a provision of the Massachusetts Fine Arts Consignment Act. Brown Rudnick filed an amicus brief for the Council arguing that the Act creates a strong presumption that an artist continues to own work delivered to a gallery unless s/he is paid on delivery, and in the event of the gallery owner's bankruptcy, s/he can compel its return. The outcome of this case will have a significant impact on artists' control over their work.

Steve commented, "Nick and I find it deeply gratifying to have been able to use our legal skills and the Firm's resources to help indigent artists protect the ownership and value of their artistic creations. Brown Rudnick has a long history of helping artists to achieve justice and supporting the mission of the Arts & Business Council. Nick and I are honored to receive the Robert B. Fraser Award in recognition of this work."

This is the third time that Brown Rudnick has received the Robert B. Fraser Award. Through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, the Firm and the Arts & Business Council have had a longstanding partnership. In 2012, Brown Rudnick Partner Andrew Strehle received the Robert B. Fraser Award for inspiring and leading the Firm's Artists' Fee Collection Initiative, which focuses on representing indigent artists who have not been paid amounts due for their artistic endeavors or whose loaned art work has been lost or damaged. In 2006, Brown Rudnick and Al Wallis, the Executive Director for the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, were also recipients of this distinguished award. Additionally, Brown Rudnick and the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts were recognized as the 2007 Corporate Philanthropy Partners of the Year by the *Boston Business Journal*.

### *in this issue...*

Cover Story  
page 1

Foundation News  
page 2

APBCo Update  
page 3

Grantee News  
page 4

Relationship Grantee  
News  
page 5

Grantee News  
page 6

Community  
Involvement  
page 7

Pro Bono Legal  
Activity  
page 7

Just Us  
page 8

**The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Expands to the O.C. and Elects Orange County Partner Cathrine Castaldi to Foundation Board**

Earlier this year, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation expanded its educational grants program to include Orange County, California. Brown Rudnick LLP established an office in this area by combining with commercial litigation boutique Rus Miliband & Smith in the spring of 2013.

Foundation Executive Director Al Wallis said, "Involving the Orange County office in the Foundation is a logical next step in advancing the Foundation's mission to support inner-city schools and non-profit educational programs in cities where the Firm of Brown Rudnick has offices."

As part of the Foundation's expansion, Orange County Partner Cathrine Castaldi was elected to the Foundation Board. Together, with Foundation President Jeffrey Jonas, Executive Director Al Wallis, and fellow Board Directors, Cathrine will review and approve grant applications and help facilitate collaboration between Brown Rudnick's Orange County office and grant recipients. The Foundation anticipates making grants in Orange County "to address the educational and other needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and groups" in the immediate future.



Orange County Partner Cathrine Castaldi

Commenting on the expansion, Castaldi said, "According to a 2013 report published in The Orange County Register, poverty is on the rise among O.C. schoolchildren, with more than 12% of school-age children impoverished, and 43% receiving free or subsidized meals at school. We are delighted that the Foundation is bringing its resources and influence into Orange County to reach those in need and introduce new initiatives that support inner-city schools and non-profit educational programs. I am honored to be a part of that effort."



Pro Bono Recognition:

THE AMERICAN LAWYER

Results of *The American Lawyer's* annual survey of pro bono performance of the nation's 200 largest law firms was published in July. Brown Rudnick ranked well among peer firms at # 69 on the list of top pro bono firms.

**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>.

## APBCo update



APBCo visiting the Executive Office. White House photo by David Lienemann.

### APBCo Visits with US Vice President Joe Biden

The Association of Pro Bono Counsel ("APBCo") is a professional organization of full-time pro bono managers (mostly attorneys) at major law firms. Center Director Al Wallis is one of the original members of the organization, founded in 2006, and is a past co-president and long-time board member.

In 2012, APBCo leaders and managing partners of their firms met with Vice President Biden to describe their organization, discuss access to justice issues and to explore how their organization and firms might provide further leadership in addressing the gap in representation for the poor. Out of that meeting came the concept of APBCo IMPACT Projects -- locally grown collaborations between APBCo members and legal services programs to address unmet or under-met legal needs of the poor. The Vice-President was very enthusiastic about the idea and asked APBCo to return in a year or so to brief him on APBCo IMPACT's progress.

On June 5th, APBCo again met with the Vice President in his ceremonial office at the Executive Office adjacent to the White House. APBCo Board members and Firm leaders attended, including Andy Strehle and Al Wallis. Co-chairs of the APBCo IMPACT Committee Al Wallis and David Lash (from O'Melveny and Meyers LLP) briefed the Vice-President regarding the nine pro bono legal projects initiated since their last meeting in 2012. These projects have served well over 1000 clients thus far. The Vice President remained encouraging and enthused about the Project and complementary to the firms who have established the law-firm position of APBCo-model full time pro bono managers.



Pictured: (L to R) Brown Rudnick Center Executive Director Al Wallis and Brown Rudnick Administrative Partner /Chair of Pro Bono Committee Andrew Strehle at the Vice President's Executive Office in Washington, D.C.

## grantee news

### East Boston High School Science Program Field Trip

East Boston High School receives a current Relationship Grant to support their unique *Science Enrichment Program* which brings high school students into kindergarten classrooms to teach the younger students about science, recycling and the environment. As part of our volunteer relationship with this grantee, Brown Rudnick's Boston office support staff, Karen Brisbois and Amy Simmons, along with the Center Coordinator, Kellie Cahill, joined the students on a field trip to the New England Aquarium. During this trip, high school students chaperoned a kindergarten class as they learned hands-on about sea life. Chemistry teacher Kristen Cacciatore made her gratitude clear when she said, "Thank you to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation. Without the support of the Foundation, most of these inner-city kids would never have had this opportunity."



### Rowing in Boston Harbor with Hull Lifesaving Museum's Maritime Apprentice Program

In June, the Boston Summer Associates, Brown Rudnick Partner John Wadsworth, Associate Catherine Feldman, Associate Olivia Uitto, Center Executive Director Al Wallis, and Center Coordinator Kellie Cahill went rowing in Boston Harbour with the staff of the Hull Lifesaving Museum. The Museum is a 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.

### Visit to the Jefferson Middle School in D.C.

The Foundation provides a Relationship Grant to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society in Washington, D.C. The grant supports historical and educational programming in Washington, D.C. middle schools which connects in-class teaching about the Constitution with student participation in a five- hour field trip to historic sites through the "We the People Constitution Tour" of the nation's Capital. As a culmination of these experiences, classes compete in a Brown Rudnick-created "Constitutional Challenge" essay contest for students who took the tour. Earlier this month, Al Wallis visited the Jefferson Middle School to present one of the classroom winners with a plaque and a prize check.



Center Executive Director Al Wallis visits the Jefferson Classroom in DC.

## Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation 2014-15 Relationship Grant Recipients to Be Announced in Late Summer

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation's 2014-15 Relationship Grant selection process is nearly complete. After an initial request for letters of interests, the Foundation Grants Committee reviewed scores of letters from tax-exempt organizations. In May, the Committee selected formal grant proposals from final applicants, and in June made its selections. In all, 11 Relationship Grants will be awarded to non-profit organizations in support of inner-city education programs in Boston, Hartford, London, New York, Orange County, Providence, and Washington DC. The 2014-15 Relationship Grants recipients will be finalized soon, and grants will commence on September 1, 2014 for the upcoming academic year. For information about current grantees, please visit:

<http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/relationship-grant-recipients>

## relationship grant recipient news

### One on One with Relationship Grant Recipient, The US Capitol Historical Society

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation supports the participation of students in the We the People Constitution Tour and underwrites the classroom We the People Constitution Challenge. We decided to ask Rebecca Evans, program coordinator of The US Capitol Historical Society's We the People (WTP) Constitution Tour and recipient of a Relationship Grant, to give us an update.

#### How did you begin partnering with the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation?

The US Capitol Historical Society (USCHS) was introduced to Brown Rudnick through Ruth Ravitz Smith who volunteered on our Capitol Women's Golf Classic, a fundraiser we held for several years. When she left the firm, she introduced us to Buddy Menn, believing that our We the People Constitution Tour might be of interest to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation. We were thrilled when the program was awarded a grant and we have been even more pleased that the folks at Brown Rudnick have been so involved in the program.

#### How has the Relationship Grant helped you to bring the We the People Constitution Program to D.C. area children?

The Relationship Grants have helped support the participation of hundreds of students on the WTP tour. They also inspired us to create an interactive classroom component -- the WTP Constitution Challenge -- and provided additional funds to support its coordination and school award. We have worked with Brown Rudnick and D.C. teachers to develop a Challenge that helps further classroom learning, draws on teacher creativity and encourages student engagement.

#### What's on the horizon for 2014-15?

The D.C. public school system has just created a task force to help promote hands-on and experiential learning throughout the city. We anticipate that their "The City as Our Classroom" initiative will create increased participation in our We the People Constitution Program in the 2014-15 school year. We are preparing for a banner year!

#### A Teacher's Perspective:

In the 2013-14 school year, more than 26 schools and 1,705 students and teachers attended the tour, and 8 schools participated in the Challenge. Kathryn Alwon Instructional Coach & Humanities Teacher at Jefferson Academy DC Public Schools and her students were among the participants in the tour and in the Challenge. Kate commented:

*As a DC Public School teacher for the past six years, I'm always looking for opportunities to enhance my students' learning and expose them to new experiences. We the People Constitution Tour accomplished that and so much more. This tour allowed my 8th students an opportunity to visit the Department of Agriculture, the Supreme Court, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Capitol. The tour was convenient; it picked us up at my school, dropped us off, included lunch AND came with a tour guide who was entertaining and informative. My students had been studying the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but it wasn't until we took the tour did the document really come alive for them. The information gained on the tour plus the new experiences (i.e. seeing the Constitution for the first time ever) was irreplaceable. I hope that all students are granted enriching opportunities such as this.*



The US Capitol Historical Society's We the People Tour.



Center Executive Director Al Wallis and United States Capitol Historical Society Vice President of Development, Rebecca Evans (far right), visited Teacher Kathryn Alwon (green dress) and her class at the Jefferson Academy in DC.



### LIFEbeat visits the London office

The firm's London office recently hosted current Relationship Grantee, LIFEbeat in an interactive learning experience between Brown Rudnick staff and attorneys and LIFEbeat youth participants. LIFEbeat provides transformational learning experiences for disadvantaged London teens. The grant is used to support mentoring and 2014 summer camps.



The Village for Families and Children visits the Brown Rudnick Hartford office.



### Hartford office hosted Village for Families & Children

The firm's Hartford office recently held a luncheon for The Village for Children and Families. The Village received a 2013-2014 Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship Grant to support a program assisting single parents in acquiring their GED. The luncheon was attended by Brown Rudnick Hartford attorneys and staff.



Brown Rudnick's Al Wallis and Kellie Cahill visit the Hartford Public Library to present a community grant check. Photo by Pramod Pradhan.

### Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Grants Support:

#### ● Early Reading Skills in Hartford

The Foundation presented a Community Grant to the Hartford Public Library in Hartford, CT to support the library's Early Literacy Intervention Program.

#### ● Whittington Health Charitable Fund in London

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Whittington Health Charitable Fund in London. The grant will be used in purchasing supportive/diagnostic play materials for the Camden Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service.

#### ● Let's Get Ready in Providence

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Let's Get Ready in Providence, RI to support the purchase of calculators for Providence high school students.

#### ● Music at the Arbor School in New York City

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Brooklyn Arbor School to support an after-school music program.





### 7th Annual Lawyers Have Heart 5k Road Race

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Brown Rudnick team ran the 7th Annual Lawyers Have Heart 5k Road Race in Boston, placing 7th out of 98 registered teams. The firm has fielded a team since inception of the event. This year's Brown Rudnick co-captains were associates Ryan Moore and Kiersten Taylor. The event raised over \$275,000 to support the American Heart Association.



### Summer SAILS

For more than a decade, the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest has held a summer associate lunch known as SAILS (Summer Associates in Support of Legal Services.) Summer associates are invited to bring their own brown bag lunch and gather with the Center to discuss the history of providing legal representation to the indigent as well as the present day needs and nature of the delivery of legal services in the communities in which Brown Rudnick operates. The Center sets aside the amount the Firm would ordinarily pay for a summer lunch to use as a donation to a legal services program chosen by the summers. We describe some legal services programs and invite the Summer Associates to "nominat" others they may have worked with or know of. The Summer Associates then make a collective decision about which organization the Firm should make a donation to this summer.

The Boston associates met and voted to make a donation to Kids in Need of Defense ("KIND"), an organization we partner with on pro bono matters to provide counsel to unaccompanied immigrant minors facing deportation. A similar lunch will be held later in the summer with New York and D.C. Summer Associates.

## pro bono legal activity

### Representation of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Brown Rudnick was engaged to represent the Law Center in conducting a 50 state analysis of current law regarding the criminalization of homelessness. This project will include a survey of case law evaluating, for example, the constitutionality of ordinances that prohibit sleeping in public when there are no sheltered alternatives. The project will culminate in an update of the Law Center's Practice Manual, the bedrock of its support for legal work nationwide on behalf of the homeless. Brown Rudnick Partner Marek Krzyzowski heads the Firm's multi-jurisdictional legal team which includes Josh Herman, Ben Maggin, and Imogen Steiert.



The American Bar Association launched its new Human Rights Manual at an event held in Washington D.C. at the end of June. Brown Rudnick, on a pro bono basis, provided much of the legal support and drafting of the manual. Present at the launch were Brown Rudnick associate Aidan Delgado (far left) and former Brown Rudnick associate James Bair (far right), both of whom worked on the manual. Both of them have also been involved in international pro bono litigation seeking to halt genocide in North Sudan (ABA Photo.)

### Serving as Special Counsel for California State Bar

Brown Rudnick has been engaged by the State Bar of California as a result of the state bar counsel's inability to handle a specific disciplinary complaint due to a conflict. Firm Partner Joel Miliband will act as special deputy trial counsel for the Bar, and will be responsible for investigating the complaining witness's complaint, determining whether to file a disciplinary complaint in the State Bar Court, conducting discovery, and then settling or trying the matter.



*Al Wallis*  
*Center for the Public Interest*  
*Executive Director*



## The "Us" in *Just Us*.

Creating a regular newsletter is a worthwhile and enjoyable way of informing and involving you, whether you participate in Center activities, receive or seek Center support or are just interested in the scope and success of a public interest effort largely advanced by the altruism and creativity of a major law firm and its people.

But a newsletter doesn't write, layout and produce itself. Many people are engaged in the activity we try to capture in the pages of this newsletter: the Foundation grant-makers, the pro bono legal teams, the community volunteers.

When it comes to actually forging that information into the newsletter you are reading, however, there are two very key players "behind the scenes."

Kellie Cahill, Coordinator for the Center, creates all of the layout, and does the production and delivery. She takes a basket of seemingly raw & chaotic material and fashions into something approaching a work of art.

Lisa Murray, Public Relations Consultant to the Center, shapes and writes much of the content. Lisa is a major champion of the Center's work and her keen insight, ease in conducting interviews and talent with the written word (and an editorial pen) are the bedrock of telling our story each quarter.

When it comes to the Center Newsletter (and many, many other things Center-related) Kellie and Lisa are immensely gifted and indispensable.



Photo: (L to R) Brown Rudnick Center Coordinator Kellie Cahill and Public Relations Consultant Lisa Murray

*- Al Wallis*

*Center for the Public Interest*  
*Executive Director*