

# center news

Issue 60 :: Summer Edition (July – September 2014) :: [www.brownrudnickcenter.com](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com)



## **Relationship Grants at Work: Advocacy, Volunteerism, and Monetary Support Help Children Become Productive, Educated Adults**

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation (the Foundation) seeks to improve inner-city education in the locations where Brown Rudnick LLP has its offices. The Foundation pursues this mission through grant making, often combining funding with some pro bono legal assistance and/or volunteer support.

### **Meet Hull Lifesaving Museum & Its Maritime Apprentice Program.**

An important grantee of the Foundation is a Boston program, The Hull Lifesaving Museum (HLM). The museum of Boston Harbor Heritage preserves the region's lifesaving tradition and maritime culture through collections, exhibits, experiential and interpretive education, research, and service to others. The museum's open water rowing programs in Boston Harbor educate young people about themselves while developing a constituency that takes stewardship over its maritime history.

And this museum has used its history to advance a novel, modern day "rescue effort" through the unique Maritime Apprentice Program (MAP).

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### Building Boats, Building Lives - the "Sanctuary Model"

Since 2009, Brown Rudnick and HLM have shared a mission to empower Boston's high-risk youth to change their lives. These youth are referred by the MA Department of Youth Services and similar sources to MAP where they receive a stipend, learn wood-working and boat building skills, and enroll in a GED or degree granting program. The Foundation has awarded Relationship Grants to HLM for five consecutive years to advance MAP: an intensive, multi-year program that prepares 25 of Boston's most high-risk youth for adult responsibilities and careers in the technical trades.

In a fully equipped Seaport Boat Shop in South Boston, MAP's "sanctuary" model provides hands-on, skills-based training in combination with education, counseling, and work readiness preparation. Apprentices are paid an hourly wage and are required to co-enroll in partnering GED or diploma-granting programs as a condition of MAP participation. Those who obtain high school certificates are positioned to continue on to college, advanced training, certification programs, internships, or paid employment in a trade.

MAP offers an extraordinarily personalized approach to addressing pervasive unemployment, under-education, and criminal recidivism, and has a record of extraordinarily promising outcomes for this challenging, proven-risk population:

- 95% of MAP's former school dropouts have returned to school, attained a high school credential, or remain in school.
- 85% of MAP apprentices have pursued advanced training, entered a union, attained employment, and/or gone to college.
- 77 % of apprentices have not re-offended since entering MAP.

### A Lifesaving Partnership

Most recently, a Foundation Grant has supported the HLM's staff training. During this training, staff meets with professional clinicians during weekly coaching sessions to provide a multidisciplinary response techniques to help deal with complex workplace violence/conflict situations. HLM uses the funding to integrate the knowledge that they have acquired into the shop milieu. The training provides senior staff with a trauma-informed approach so staff can be more responsive to the trauma-based behaviors frequently exhibited by participants. HLM is also exploring ways to provide participants with the tools to form safe and strong attachments with their adult mentors, to regulate their emotions when they are feeling triggered or overwhelmed by their feelings, and finally, to develop a sense of competence and mastery.



Boston Summer Associates rowing with the Hull Lifesaving Museum.

### Support on Land and at Sea

Brown Rudnick attorneys and staff also volunteer to meet and become acquainted with the youth participating in MAP, and annually participate in on-the-water activities to support the apprentices. Each summer at the Boston Rowing Center in Boston's Fort Point Channel, HLM has organized an experience in which apprentices act as teachers and crewmates with Brown Rudnick personnel. This gives the MAP apprentices an excellent opportunity to teach something they know well (one of the MAP measurements of mastery), to a new and unfamiliar audience (allowing them to practice customer service skills), and to participate in a merit-based activity with people from very different worlds from their own.

*"While working full-time with our apprentices, we and they have sometimes been nearly overwhelmed by the staggering depth and ugliness of the violence, poverty, and social alienation they face daily – and the tsunami-like ripple effect of those conditions. We have also come to appreciate the enormous patience, persistence, creativity, and courage our students summon to try to effect meaningful and lasting change in their lives. We are tremendously grateful for Brown Rudnick's support for these many years, which has allowed for programmatic stability and development."*

- Sue Heilman, Interim Executive Director  
Hull Lifesaving Museum

## The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Awards 11 New Relationship Grants for 2014-15!

In early September, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation announced the recipients of its 2014-15 Relationship Grant program. The Foundation awarded 11 grants totaling over \$200,000 dollars to non-profit organizations in Boston; Hartford; Orange County, California; Providence; London, U.K.; New York City; and Washington, D.C. These grants, which support inner-city education programs, commenced in September.

### First-time Grantees



Following the expansion of its educational grants program to Orange County, California earlier this year, the Foundation awarded its first-ever *Relationship Grant* to the **University of California, Irvine** (UCI) to support a portion of the UCI Saturday Academy of Law, a program offered to disadvantaged, high-achieving 9th grade students from the Santa Ana, CA school district. The grant, coupled with Brown Rudnick volunteer work, will provide coordination and support for education about the law, and support for a UCI law student-led "pro bono fair."



Another first-time *Relationship Grant* recipient is London's **Mousetrap Theatre Projects**, a theater education charity dedicated to bringing the magic of theater into the lives of young people. The grant will be used for educating and connecting disadvantaged youth to the arts.

*"Want [...] to thank Brown Rudnick for another year of incredible, historic and much needed support... Its been an incredible year with incredible growth...that is bringing debate to an additional 100 schools! None of this would be possible without Brown Rudnick - in every sense - from creating the NYCUDL, legal representation, funding, office space for meetings, and any other support that is ever needed. So I cannot express how grateful of Brown Rudnick's continuing support to change an entire city! We had over 1000 students participate in debate tournaments this year!! When we started the NYCUDL we had less than 100. So each year growing exponentially thanks to Brown Rudnick."*

- Eric Fogel  
New York City Urban Debate League Executive Director

### Continuing Relationship Grantees

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



**East Boston High School** (Boston) to increase scientific literacy at East Boston High School through curriculum enhancements and inter-school programming.



**Thompson Island** (Boston) to support the Connections science education program for Boston public school students.



**Hull Lifesaving Museum** (Boston) to support the Maritime Apprentice Program serving older, high-risk population through a work & education program. (See profile of this grantee on page 1 and 2).



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



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



**The New York City Urban Debate League** (New York) to support the award-winning debate program for NYC students now expanded city-wide. Brown Rudnick also provides pro bono legal counsel.



**Ready to Learn Providence/Providence Plan** (Providence) to support AmeriCorps Volunteers working on the early-learning child literacy program, Ready2Learn. Brown Rudnick also provides general counsel representation to the Providence Plan on a pro bono basis.



**United States Capitol Historical Society** (Washington, D.C.) to support the *We, the People* Constitutional program which educates D.C. public middle school students through historical tours and classroom lessons, and to continue the *Constitutional Challenge* essay contest that Brown Rudnick helped to create through this relationship.



**LIFEbeat** (London) for a group mentoring and summer camp program that support the charity's transformational learning programs for inner-city teenagers.



### London Associates Visit LIFEbeat

Emma Jane Price and Peter Wozny, Trainees in Brown Rudnick's London office, visited the LIFEbeat summer camp at Stanford Hall in London this summer. LIFEbeat, a Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship Grant, is a UK charity providing transformational learning experiences for teenagers. The grant supports group mentoring and summer camps.

*"One evening during the camp, all members (staff and young people) joined in the 'Heart Circle' which provides a unique opportunity for individuals to step into the circle and talk about events in their personal lives which are making it difficult for them to develop. They shared personal stories of deep suffering which they have never previously shared, because they felt a true sense of trust, companionship and support within the 'Heart Circle'. This evening of the camp was an extremely positive (and emotional) experience throughout which each individual was able to move forward in their lives after understanding that they are not alone and there are people who care about them; something which a lot of these young people do not necessarily feel in their daily lives." - Emma Jane Price, London Trainee-Solicitor*

### Hartford Office Hosts Mark Twain House

The Center hosted a luncheon in Brown Rudnick's Hartford office this September for Relationship Grantee, the Mark Twain House. This grant supports a summer reading and writing program at the Mark Twain House for 10<sup>th</sup> graders as part of Capitol Prep Public School's 6-week summer academy. Students from Capitol Prep, staff from the Mark Twain House, and attorneys and staff from the Brown Rudnick Hartford office attended the lunch to discuss the students' thoughts on the program which focused on *Huckleberry Finn* and racism.



Students from Capitol Prep and Staff from the Mark Twain House visit the Brown Rudnick Hartford office.

## 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, Washington, DC, or Orange County, California within the coming year. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/community-grant>.



**Summer Associates Volunteer with the New York City Urban Debate League**

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest coordinated a summer event with Foundation Relationship Grantee the New York Urban Debate League. The Firm's New York Summer Associates, Center Executive Director Al Wallis, and Center Coordinator Kellie Cahill volunteered to judge debate tournaments of middle school and elementary school students held at Hunter College in NY. The Relationship Grant supports the New York City Urban Debate League's free summer debate camp for New York City public school students.



**Brown Rudnick Volunteers with Thompson Island**

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest led what has become an annual summer event: the Thompson Island/Outward Bound Brown Rudnick Corporate Volunteer Day. Thompson Island receives a Relationship Grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation to support the Connections Program. *Connections* allows thousands of Boston middle school students to visit Thompson Island and to participate in academic achievement and character building programming. The Brown Rudnick team this year volunteered to help build a patio that will serve as an additional function space for Thompson Island programs.

Brown Rudnick participants included: the Boston Summer Associates, Partners Gordon Penman and Sunni Beville, Center Executive Director Al Wallis, Recruiting Coordinator Monique Sterling, Center Coordinator Kellie Cahill, and Boston Summer Clerks Christopher Dean and Mariama Sano.

## community grants and community involvement



### Serving Women and Children at 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 164 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.

### Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Grants Support:

#### ● Helping Brooklyn School to Create a Math Blog

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to PS 399 Stanley Eugene Clarke in Brooklyn, N.Y. The grant will be used to purchase digital cameras and a video camcorder to support a math blog as part of the *Math All Around Us Program*.

#### ● Purchasing iPads for Special Needs Students in the Bronx

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the P.S. 721X Steven McSweeney School in Bronx, N.Y. The grant will be used to purchase five iPads as part of an educational curriculum for special needs students at the high school.

#### ● Supporting an Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Program in London

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Whittington Health Charitable Fund in London, England. The grant will support the work of the Camden Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service, which works with preschool children with speech and language delays and disorders. Using grant dollars, the Whittington Health Charitable Fund will purchase story sacks and update the play corners in each of the health centers where the Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service operates.



### Running to Support Thompson Island

The Brown Rudnick Running Club ran in the 14th annual Thompson Island 4K Trail Run on Thursday, September 18th. Thompson Island is a Brown Rudnick Foundation grant recipient. (Pictured: Front Row: Melanie Dahl, Tia Chatterjee, Keith Schultz, Nick Dunn and Catherine Feldman. Back Row: Steve Pohl, Andy Strehle, Mark O'Leary and Gordon Penman.)



### Annual September 11th Remembrance

For the 13th year, in memory of September 11th, the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest coordinated remembrance activities in the Boston and New York Offices. Brown Rudnick's Boston and New York offices visited their local firehouses and had lunch delivered to the firefighters as a way of remembering those who were lost on 9/11 and giving personal thanks to some of the many firefighters that help keep our communities safe.



## The Center Awards Three Pro Bono Accolades

Brown Rudnick Litigation Partner **Edward Naughton** received a Pro Bono Committee Accolade in recognition of his initiative, leadership, and diligence in the Center's pro bono efforts, including his: (1) direct personal pro bono representation of clients; (2) supervision of associate pro bono engagements, including the Unemployment Benefit Appeals Pro Bono Impact Project (Boston); (3) service on the Board of Greater Boston Legal Services; and (4) co-chairing the annual BR Massachusetts "Walk to the Hill" in support of funding for legal aid. *In photo, Center Executive Director Al Wallis and Partner Andy Strehle present the award to Edward.*



Brown Rudnick Associate **Aidan Delgado** was awarded a Pro Bono Committee Accolade for his pro bono work for the American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights to create a Human Rights Legal Manual. The ABA issued the Manual in June of 2014 at an event attended by Aidan. *In photo, the Accolade is presented to Aidan by two former Brown Rudnick "Dushman Award" recipients, Firm DC Partner Paul Enzinna and DC Office Manager Diana Nelson.*



Brown Rudnick Partner **Katy Gardner** received a Pro Bono Committee Accolade for her service as a Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation and her pro bono work in creation of the New York City Urban Debate League. *In photo, Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Treasurer Steve Wasserman presents the award to Katy.*



## Pro Bono Victories with Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts

● **Fee Collection Initiative.** Brown Rudnick has a multi-year project with the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of MA, one of the Foundation's grantees, in which the Firm provides pro bono representation to qualified low-income artists who have not been paid for their art work or labor. Recently, through this *Brown Rudnick/VLA Fee Collection Initiative*, the Firm represented an elder sculptor who had been hired to create a sculpture for a religious order. The Order told him to halt his work because it was not in keeping with what they had in mind and they refused to pay him.

This was a very challenging case. The sculptor earlier in his career had achieved some fame in being commissioned to create artwork for federal government celebrations and he was upset by the rejection of his artwork as well as by the lack of payment. Brown Rudnick was ultimately able to negotiate a settlement agreeable to all in which the sculptor completed and delivered the sculpture and received a very respectable payment for his work, the largest amount the Firm has recovered as part of the *Brown Rudnick/VLA Fee Collection Initiative*. Andrew Strehle and William Currie were counsel on this matter.

● **SJC Consignment Decision.** The Center has previously reported that Brown Rudnick represented the Arts and Business Council of Greater Boston/Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts this spring in a Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court case. The case involved interpreting a provision of the Massachusetts Fine Arts Consignment Act when an art gallery seeking bankruptcy is in possession of an artist's art work delivered to it on consignment. Thirteen artists challenged the trustee of a bankrupt gallery seeking a ruling that the artists - not the gallery -- owned their artwork and that it should be returned to them. Brown Rudnick filed an amicus brief arguing that the Act creates a strong presumption that the artist continues to own his/her work unless s/he had been paid on delivery and therefore, in the event of the gallery owner's bankruptcy, s/he can compel return of the art work.

The SJC agreed with the Firm's amicus position, ruling that the artwork belongs to the artists. This decision will have a significant impact on artists' control over their work. Steve Levin, Nick Dunn, William Currie and Jessica Lu worked on the brief. Last spring, even before learning of the SJC ruling, the Arts and Business Council/Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts presented the Firm with their 2014 Robert B. Fraser Award for Pro Bono Excellence.



### **KIND (Kids in Need of Defense)**

In September, the Brown Rudnick Boston office hosted Laurie Carafone, Supervising Attorney for the KIND Boston office, who presented a KIND Training to Brown Rudnick and other Boston firms. In 2013, Brown Rudnick decided to partner with the nonprofit screening and advocacy group established by Angelina Jolie and Microsoft, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), creating a Brown Rudnick Pro Bono Impact Project in Boston and New York (and more recently, Washington, D.C.) in which associates may receive full billable credit for representing unaccompanied immigrant children threatened with deportation. In the past year and a half, Brown Rudnick has been involved in several KIND engagements and devoted more than 460 hours with a total "market value" of \$220,235. Brown Rudnick is handling KIND pro bono engagements in Boston, New York and Washington D.C. Partners Amanda Varella, Andy Dash and Paul Enzinna are supervising these matters.



### **London Office Expands Pro Bono Work; Teams with Law Centre**

The ability of poor and marginalized individuals in the United Kingdom to gain access to legal counsel has become even more difficult in recent years due to government funding cutbacks and changes in some rules governing programs serving the poor. Many law firms in London have been stepping up their efforts to provide legal assistance given this new reality. In addition to expanding on the pro bono work that Brown Rudnick is already doing through LawWorks, TrustLaw and other referral sources, the London office has formed a partnership with the Croydon Legal Advice Clinic, where a rotating Brown Rudnick legal team will provide screening and brief advice to low-income clients on a monthly basis. London attorneys Christian Toms and Imogen Steiert are leading this effort.



### **LawDragon500**

LawDragon magazine has chosen Al Wallis, as one of 2013's "500 Leading Lawyers in America for excellence and leadership in the legal profession." Al was recognized as a dedicated advocate in his role as Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest and Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation.

[www.lawdragon.com](http://www.lawdragon.com)





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



**Just Us.**  
**IN MEMORIAM**

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino  
December 27, 1942 – October 30, 2014  
We celebrate the life of Boston's longest serving Mayor.



Oath of office, 1993  
(Al Wallis, Boston Corporation Counsel to Mayor's right.)



It was a few weeks into Mr. Menino's summer tenure as acting mayor in 1993, when some pundits fancied him a temporary caretaker, that he offered a seemingly modest ambition:  
"I want to help people, help one individual a day. Just to make their life a little bit better."  
- Boston Globe, 10/31/14 p.1