

## center news

### 2017 Dushman Award Winners

At the 2017 State of the Firm, Chairman and CEO Joseph A. Ryan continued a Brown Rudnick tradition which honors some of the most enduring values of our Firm as he awarded the tenth annual *Brown Rudnick Center R. Robert Dushman Public Interest Awards*.

These two awards honor a successful Brown Rudnick attorney and a staff member whose professional or work life has demonstrated the qualities and commitment to the public interest that distinguished our late partner and friend Bob Dushman.

**Pro Bono Award winner, TOM PHILLIPS.**

**Community Service Award winner, MAY WEEKES.**

**TOM PHILLIPS** is an exceptional role model. He has devoted almost 1200 hours to pro bono engagements at our Firm. His pro bono work has included serving as general counsel to Facing History and Ourselves; representing Bridge Over Troubled Waters, a homeless shelter involved in a critical real estate dispute; and the representing Simon Youth Foundation. Tom has been a champion of pro bono representation as the leader of Brown Rudnick's Real Estate practice and a mentor to many of our attorneys.

*Tom Phillips (second from left) with Dushman Selection Committee Andrew Strehle, Jeff Jonas and Joe Ryan. (Not pictured, Al Wallis).*



*Pictured above, Tom Phillips and Elisabeth Jackson, Executive Director of Bridge Over Troubled Waters*

### In this issue

Cover Story .....	1
Foundation News .....	3
Grantee News.....	10
Community Involvement .....	13
Awards/Pro Bono .....	15
Just Us .....	16

## center news

### 2017 Dushman Award Winners Continued

Visit the [Center Website](#)



**MAY WEEKES** has been a Legal Executive Assistant resident in Brown Rudnick's London office since 2010. May is a model for camaraderie, community service and charitable giving both in and outside of the office.

*"Thank you very much for selecting me to receive the Dushman Award at our State of the Firm meeting. This is one of the most memorable events of my professional career. To be recognized by Brown Rudnick colleagues, is a highlight I will remember over*

*and over with gratitude. I appreciate that my charity work has contributed to my professional growth and skills and that many of you have kindly donated and continue to donate since I started here 7 years ago. I am very grateful."*

*-May Weekes*

As part of the Dushman awards, the Firm makes a one-time contribution of \$2,500 to a tax exempt charitable organization chosen by Tom and similar amount to one chosen by May. Tom has directed the charitable contribution to his pro bono client, "Bridge Over Troubled Waters", a Boston homeless shelter for young adults. May has directed hers to the Dominica UK Association whose focus is on the key areas of Poverty Relief, Health Care Provision, Education, Culture and the Youth primarily in Dominica and the United Kingdom.

*"Doing charity work started when I was 13 and did a sponsored book read for multiple sclerosis, it was then that I realized that there are lots of good causes in the world, and that I can make a difference, however small, in helping to alleviate some of the burden of having to suffer with pain each day. From then, in my various jobs along the way, I have raised money for all types charities, mainly children's ones, not all of them are personal. More recently I have been focusing on ones which have directly affected me or someone close to me. So my last one few were for Alzheimers, the British Heart Foundation, a local church, a Help the Homeless charity and a hospice. With my Dushman Award I have chosen the Dominican UK Association ("DUKA"), which is the country my parents are from and reside in."*

*May Weekes*

## foundation news

### **Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. Elects New Board Director from Firm's Washington, D.C. Office.**

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a non-profit, tax-exempt entity established by attorneys from the law firm of Brown Rudnick LLP, elected Brown Rudnick DC Paralegal, Candace Simpson, as a Board Director during its Annual Meeting on February 2, 2017. She will serve a one-year term.

The Board also voted to re-elect the following Brown Rudnick attorneys as Board Directors, each to a three-year term:

Jeffrey Jonas, President (Boston office)

Catherine Gardner, Vice-President (New York office)

Omega Poole (London office)

Christian Toms (London office)

Joel Reck (retired, Boston office)

Since its inception in 2001, the Foundation has awarded millions of dollars in educational grants, and through the law firm of Brown Rudnick, generated hundreds of hours in pro bono representation and volunteer support.



Candace Simpson



## foundation news

### Grantee New York City Urban Debate League travels to Boston to compete in the Harvard National Debate Invitational.

2016-2017 relationship grantees from the New York City Urban Debate League (NYCUDL) traveled to Boston in February to compete in the Harvard National Debate Invitational. Prior to the tournament, students and NYCUDL leaders Erik Fogel and Aubrey Semple attended a “good luck” lunch at the Brown Rudnick Boston Office.

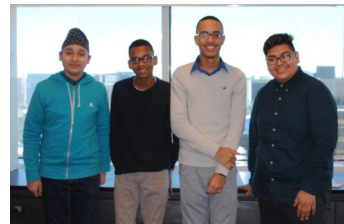
The team of Harlem students, Julio Cordero and Rajendra Singh, won multiple rounds to reach the triple octo finals then the double octo finals where they placed in the top 32 teams out of over 200+ teams in the nation! Center Executive Director Al Wallis and Coordinator Elizabeth McGeoy attended the teams second round of the day in which the debate topic was whether the U.S. government should lift the current embargo on Cuba.



*Pictured above at the groups “good luck lunch” Andy Strehle, Aubrey Stemple, Rajendra Singh, Julio Cordero, Feiry Guaba, Luis Benitez, Erik Fogel and Al Wallis.*



Pictured above, the NYCUDL team following the winning double octo finals!



Pictured above NYCUDL Debaters, Rajendra Singh, Luis Benitez, Julio Cordero and Feiry Guaba

## foundation news

### Grantee New York City Urban Debate League Continued.



Dear Mr. Wallis,

*Thank you so much for accompanying us and showing your support towards us. It is because we have the support from the UDL that we are able to accomplish such difficult tasks!*

*We definitely owe a lot to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for funding the New York City Urban Debate League so that we are able to have Mr. Beattie accompanying us on these great journeys where it's not only to win but also to have fun while you are at it. Again Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to come and watch us, and we sincerely appreciate it.*

Best,

Rajendra Singh, NYCUDL Debater



Pictured here, the team preparing for the next round.



## foundation news

### Orange County Principal for the Day

2016-2017 relationship grantees from Century High School welcomed Brown Rudnick Associate Samuel A. Moniz (photos to the right) as Principal for the Day visiting classrooms and sharing some of the unique programs followed by a brief luncheon at McFadden Intermediate School.



### Saturday Academy of Law Closing Ceremony

Over 200 parents, family members, and students attended the 2017 (SAL) Closing Ceremony at UC Irvine School of Law, making this one of the largest closing ceremonies to date. Keynote speaker was Hon. Elizabeth Macias, an Orange County Superior Court Judge who grew up in the City of Santa Ana and graduated from Santa Ana Unified School District. Judge Macias' speech was particularly touching and meaningful to the SAL participants because she addressed the challenges that underprivileged youth face and encouraged parents to stay involved with their children's experiences and aspirations. Her motto was "DREAM BIGGER."



*Continued on page 5.*



*Pictured, the SAL group, judges, the BR Associate Arjun Sivakumar (far right) and Senator Joe Dunn (far left).*



## foundation news

### SAL Closing Ceremony Continued

Each closing ceremony, the 3 top students from the SAL session are chosen to make speeches. Each student reflected on the newfound relationships with their peers and the appreciation for newfound skills that will aid them throughout high school. One of the chosen students, Laryssa Velarde, made a touching speech and also shared how her older sister, Leslie, had inspired her to attend SAL. Leslie attended SAL 7 years ago – and ironically was also chosen to be the student speaker at her SAL closing ceremony. Leslie is currently an undergraduate at UC Merced. These siblings brought an unexpected excitement to the Ceremony and it was especially heartwarming to witness how things had come full circle for their family.



### Community Grant to MLK Elementary in D.C.



Earlier this year, Foundation Board member Candace Simpson and Executive Director Al Wallis made a site visit to one of the Foundation's Washington D.C. Community Grantees, the ML King Jr. Elementary School. Our grant supports student enrichment programs to improve engagement in educational programs.



Candace and Al met with the principal and teachers and had a demonstration by two students who had built a remote controlled model car from Legos.

## foundation news

### Orange County Grantee Lunch and Celebration

In conjunction with a celebration of the Center for the Public Interest's 15th Anniversary, the Brown Rudnick Orange County Office and Center Executive Director Al Wallis, and Foundation Board member Cathrine Castaldi held a lunch in January for attorneys and staff as well as for foundation relationship grantees. Representatives from the 2016-2017 Relationship Grantee's at UC Irvine School of Law and Century High School presented program updates and described the success of the past year's grant funds.

Stay tuned for an upcoming Center for the Public Interest video by Alisa Selman highlighting the Orange County office, relationship grantees and pro bono efforts.



*Pictured here, a celebratory cake!*



**A special thank you to the  
Orange County Office,  
Jessica Pels, Judy Finnegan,  
Cathrine Castaldi and Chris  
Mamrot for their help with  
the celebration!**



## foundation news

**Send us your photos!**



What does the Center mean to you? Has a Relationship Grant or Community Grant helped your school, or helped bring an innovative educational program to life? Maybe as a lawyer, your work on a pro bono matter helped make a difference in someone's life. Or, perhaps you participated in a volunteer day organized by the Center that you found particularly fulfilling. Share your experience with us!

**You can also post photos to the [Brown Rudnick Facebook page](#) at and don't forget to include [#CenterSelfie!](#)**

**To participate, send your digital photo (with proper photo credit and a brief caption) to [Elizabeth McGeoy](#)**

### Relationship Grants

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation recently received scores of "letters of interest" from tax-exempt organizations wishing to be invited to submit full proposals for Foundation 2017-8 Relationship Grants. Every one of those letters demonstrated how creative, sincere and robust our community is in working to improve inner-city education. We thank all of those who took the time to submit a sketch of your grant plans.

Invitations to submit a full proposal have been made and each organization submitting a letter of interest has been informed of their status. The Foundation is currently reviewing the full proposals submitted. It is anticipated that funding decisions will be made and all proposal applicants will be notified of their status by early summer.



*Photo submitted by NYCUDL.*

*By submitting your photo you agree that you are responsible for ensuring that you have the right to submit the photos, including authorization for the photos use by the Center and Foundation from anyone appearing in the photo.*



## grantee news

### **Grant to the James D. St. Clair Court Public Education Project, Discovering Justice in Boston**

The Foundation has awarded a Community Grant to The James D. St. Clair Court Public Education Project, Discovering Justice (Boston, MA) for the purchase and implementation of the second edition of Children Discovering Justice literacy and social studies curriculum to be distributed to the entire second grade class at Orchard Gardens K-8 pilot school.

### **Foundation Grant Helps Josiah Quincy Elementary School Create a Makerspace Learning Area**

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Josiah Quincy Elementary School located in the Chinatown area of Boston, MA. The grant will help fund a Makerspace learning area in the school's library and will help purchase STEM books, Lego's, science kits, robotics, and additional art and technology projects for students.

Heidi Boulogne, Josiah Quincy Elementary School librarian and grant applicant, said, "We are thankful for the support of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation. We hope to create a space that encourages student exploration, science experiments, engineering, building, art projects, and more."



### **Center Video**

**To learn more about the Foundation's Community Grants, watch the Center's latest video**

**HERE**



## grantee news

### Foundation Grant Helps Brooklyn High School Students Learn About U.S. Immigration History

The Foundation has awarded a Community Grant to Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Brooklyn, New York. The grant will enable 45 students to take a trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Regina Karagach, Franklin D. Roosevelt High School guidance counselor and grant applicant, said, “Franklin D. Roosevelt High School is a public high school with the largest immigrant population in the city. Many of our students are English language learners, and I think taking them to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty is a great way for them to learn about the city and our country’s history.”

### Foundation Grant Helps Establish Food Pantry for Washington, D.C. Middle School

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to The Kramer Middle School in Washington, D.C. to help establish a food pantry for students and their families. The grant will help purchase a variety of canned foods, cereals, condiments and snacks. The Kramer Food Pantry will be led by community volunteers, the school parent coordinator, parents, Kramer teachers and staff. Additionally, Turning the Page, an educational non-profit that focuses on family engagement and student success in Washington, D.C., will provide children’s books for each Kramer student when they use the food pantry.

Talia Crosby, Partnership Manager at Turning the Page and grant applicant, said, “We believe the food pantry will meet a great need within the school community. Our goal is to provide each family with over 25 pounds of food and the pantry will operate every first and third Wednesday of the month. We are grateful for the Foundation’s support.”



**KRAEMER**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

 **BOSTON**  
Public Schools  
Focus on Children

 *Turning the Page*

## grantee news

### Foundation Grant Helps Boston Middle Schoolers Publish Their Own Stories

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Edwards Middle School in Boston, MA. to help fund a student publishing project. Specifically, the grant will help purchase publishing kits for 80 sixth-grade students as part of their Common Core English/Language Arts class. As part of the class curriculum, students write personal narratives which they will publish and share with family, teachers, and community members.

Stephanie Crement, Edwards Middle School sixth-grade English/ Language Arts teacher and guidance counselor, said, “This publishing project is the highlight of my students’ sixth-grade year. We are thankful for the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grant, which will help these students foster a lifelong love of reading and writing.”

#### Apply for a Community Grant!

All year the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation seeks 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 [HERE](#).



*Photos of Community Grantee Kiddie Science*

## community involvement

### GO RED DAY



Thank you to all at Brown Rudnick who participated in the February 3rd Center Event GO RED Day, in support of heart research and care **raising a total of \$1,300.00.**

Special thank you to the team collecting funds including Judy Downey, Jessica Pels, Denise Kaer, Claudia Teitelbaum, Val Jones, Barbara McCoy, Amy Bull, Jacqueline Copp and Elizabeth McGeoy.

*Donations were made to the American Heart Association (U.S.), British Heart Foundation (London) and the French Federation of Cardiology (Paris).*



PARIS



WASHINGTON, D.C



BOSTON



NEW YORK



HARTFORD

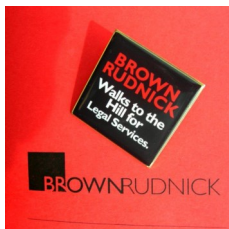


ORANGE COUNTY



## community involvement

### Walk to the Hill



Brown Rudnick again joined the Boston and Massachusetts legal community on January 26th in advocating for increased state funding of civil legal aid and equal justice for all. Funding is critical to legal aid programs around the state that provide free legal advice and representation to low-income individuals and families that are facing critical, non-

criminal legal problems. At Walk to the Hill, after a short speaking program, attorneys and law students visit the offices of their representatives and senators and voice their support for civil legal aid.

Every major Boston law firm had a team of attorneys participating in the Walk. Brown Rudnick committed to participate as well and Brown Rudnick CEO **Joseph Ryan** sent a letter of support.



## pro bono

### Lawyers Clearinghouse Legal Clinic

Brown Rudnick has once again partnered with the Boston Bar Association's Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness. For about 20 years, we have joined with other major Boston firms who visit homeless shelters in Boston and interview individuals who are facing or experiencing homelessness, representing them if possible.

A special thank you to Mia Friedman the Lawyers Clearinghouse Legal Clinic and Fellows Program Director, Attorney Dick Bauer, and the Brown Rudnick Team.

### Orange County Pro Bono Accolades

On January 25th, the Center Executive Director Al Wallis Presented Pro Bono Accolades to STEPHEN R. COOK, JUSTIN MORGAN, ARJUN SIVAKUMAR and LAUREL R. ZAESKE for their admirable initiative, leadership, and skill in providing pro bono representation on multiple matters.



### Lawyers Clearinghouse

*Pictured at the Medeiros Homeless Shelter, from top left Mary Ann Kramer, Graciela Agüero, Dick Bauer, Emily Koruda, William Cushing, Ethan Siler, Tristan Axelrod, Al Wallis and Mia Friedman.*

## just us

### Helping Providence

Brown Rudnick has been the "general counsel" to the Providence Plan ("the Plan") for more than a decade, providing regular advice and representation on a pro bono basis. This representation is provided in conjunction with a Relationship Grant awarded to the Plan over many years in specific support of the Plan's ReadytoLearn program for preschool children.

Last year, the State Police informed the Plan that it had discovered that the Plan's CFO had been embezzling funds from the Plan. This was a staggering blow to the organization. They immediately turned for guidance to their pro bono legal counsel, Brown Rudnick's Ed Pare.

As the Providence Journal reported, early this year, the embezzler pled guilty. Much of the damage had been done, however, as some funding sources for the Providence Plan had been frozen and the Plans programs struggling to survive. With the guilty plea made public, Providence Plan's Board Chair Richard R. Spies wrote an open letter to the Providence Journal describing the impact of the embezzlement and the Plan's actions to rebound from the harm it had done to the organization.

In his letter, Chairman Spies singled out Brown Rudnick's legal team for praise:

"...[W]ith the pro bono support of our longtime legal advisers at Brown Rudnick, the embezzlement has been thoroughly investigated in cooperation with state and federal authorities.



*For more information on the full story please visit the [Providence Business News](http://www.pbn.com/provplan-rebounds-from-embezzlement,121274)*

<http://www.pbn.com/provplan-rebounds-from-embezzlement,121274>





## just us

### Helping Providence Continued

All funding agencies directly affected have been informed of these findings. Last month, the U.S. Attorney's Office issued a statement specifically referencing the high degree of cooperation and support provided by ProvPlan and its legal advisers.

None of this could have ever been realized without the extraordinary efforts and commitment of some very special Rhode Island community leaders and institutions.

... Of particular note are Ed Pare and his colleagues at Brown Rudnick, who provided invaluable pro bono legal support and wise counsel. Andy Hodgkin – a former Brown Rudnick partner and former ProvPlan board member – also pitched in on a pro bono basis at several key points in this process.

Together, our community made certain that the criminal acts of one person did not diminish the impact of what we accomplished together in service to the community and the excitement we share for the future achievements of the four programs that are continuing on."

We are proud of the extraordinary effort and premier representation, pro bono, provided by the Brown Rudnick legal team: **Ed Pare, Justin Weddle, Julia Catania, Vincent Guglielmotti, Nicole Bouchard, Caitlin MacDowell, Mary Ambacher, Wayne Dennison, Adam Cantor, Stephanie Bollheimer, and Amanda Buck Varella.**

Please contact Al Wallis or Elizabeth McGeoy to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Lisa Murray, and Elizabeth McGeoy for their assistance with this newsletter. And finally, apologies for any errors or unintentional omissions, which may from time-to-time, occur in the Center Quarterly - maybe even this one.

- Al Wallis