

## foundation news

### “We the People” Tour Introduces D.C. Students to Their Constitution



In February, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation joined with longtime Washington D.C. Relationship Grantee, The Capitol Historical Society, on its “We the People” Constitution Tour. New Foundation Board member Andrew Crawford, an Associate in Brown Rudnick’s DC office , along with Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis and Center Coordinator Liz McGeoy joined a group of 8th graders from Brightwood Education Campus

on their tour at the Lincoln Memorial and the U.S. Capitol. The Foundation’s grant goes towards supporting this educational tour. We caught up with Andrew Crawford to get his impressions of the experience.

### **(Q) What inspired you to become involved with The Capitol Historical Society?**

(A) I was born and raised in Washington, DC, and have always been proud to call this city my home. It is important to me to give back to the community that has given me so much – family, education and opportunity. As a new Foundation Director, getting involved with The Capitol Historical Society presented the ideal opportunity for me to give back in a meaningful and lasting way.

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Andrew Crawford

## foundation news

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#### **(Q) Why do you think it is important for Brown Rudnick to support this type of organization?**

(A) Although I worked hard to become an attorney, I feel blessed that I was given certain opportunities early in my life that helped me achieve my goals. I think it's important for law firms like Brown Rudnick that are in a position of leadership to help the less fortunate to succeed. I think it is particularly important in DC to help young children gain access to our Capitol and all it has to offer. It is our social and civic responsibility.

#### **(Q) How do you think this involvement benefits the firm? How does it benefit you personally?**

(A) I think our philanthropic efforts benefit both me and the Firm in a similar way. It is an incredibly rewarding experience to know that you have helped someone less fortunate in a way that may change lives forever, whether that is by lending a hand, providing access to justice, or inspiring him or her to stand up for what one believes.

#### **(Q) What do you enjoy most about your interaction with The Capitol Historical Society?**

(A) I can't say there is any one thing about my involvement that stands out, but I am impressed by how actively engaged the children were on the tour. They asked good questions and seemed genuinely in awe of the monuments and history. Overall, it was a wonderful and impactful experience for all.

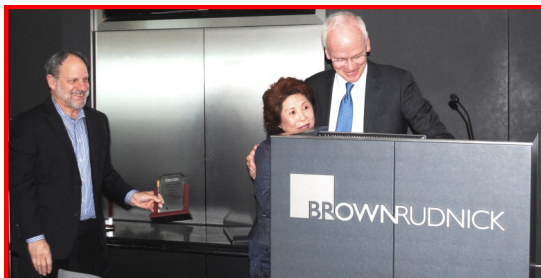
### Longtime Support

Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Treasurer, Steven Wasserman presented long time Board Member Linda Marcus with a Center for the Public Interest Accolade to recognize her service from 2006 – 2018 and especially for her work on the Foundation's Grants Committee.



## center news

### Congrats to the Recipients of the Annual M. Robert Dushman Center Awards



The recipients of the 11th Annual Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest M. Robert Dushman Pro Bono and Community Service Awards were announced by Brown Rudnick CEO, Joe Ryan March 16th. These two awards honor a successful Brown Rudnick attorney and a successful non-attorney whose professional or work life has demonstrated the qualities and commitment to the public interest that distinguished the Firm's late partner, M. Robert Dushman.

The Community Service Award was presented to MWEE FOO, a Hospitality Coordinator in the Boston office since 1987. Mwee was honored for serving as a longtime ambassador with Foundation grantees, community groups and many pro bono clients who visit the Boston office. Her welcome and warmth have represented the Foundation and the Firm well these many years.



The Pro Bono Award was presented to DOUGLAS A. COHEN, pictured to the left, a partner in Brown Rudnick's Hartford office. During his tenure at the Firm, Doug has devoted nearly 2,000 hours to pro bono engagements. His pro bono work has included serving as counsel to the Colonial Theatre restoration project, which has revitalized a critical decaying area in Hartford. He has been a Hartford pro bono leader, championing everything from legal clinics for the homeless to an innovative suit against the state of Connecticut in an attempt to gain broader dental care for the poor. Doug has also served as a Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation since 2007, serving several terms as Secretary, and as a very active member of the Foundation's Grants Committee.

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As part of the Dushman awards, Brown Rudnick will make two \$2,500 contributions to non-profit charitable organizations chosen by Doug and Mwee.

## foundation news

### Visiting with Grantees

**Debate Team in Beantown**— Longtime Relationship Grantee, the New York City Urban Debate League traveled to Boston to compete in the 44th Annual Harvard National Forensics Tournament to debate the topic: "The U.S. Capital Gains Tax Should Be Abolished". Center Executive Director Al Wallis and Coordinator Elizabeth McGeoy attended to lend support to the debaters Mohammed and Courtney who had four debate wins out of six overall for the day.



**Reading Together**— First-time Relationship Grantee, Horizons for Homeless Children, hosted Center Executive Director Al Wallis, Coordinator Elizabeth McGeoy and Brown Rudnick Director of Research Services & Libraries Kathleen Gerwatowski, at the Jamaica Plain Center in Boston where they each read “Where the Wild Things Are” to classrooms of students, ages 2-5 years old.

## foundation news

**2017 VLA Holiday Art Contest and Awards**—On December 5, 2017, Brown Rudnick and the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts (“VLA-MA”), a program of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston, announced the winners of its 13th annual Holiday Card Contest for Boston Public High School students. This contest is supported by a Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Grant. Brown Rudnick and VLA-MA welcomed more than 80 Boston public school teachers, students and their families to Brown Rudnick’s Boston office for a reception to recognize and celebrate the winners. Student artists were honored for their holiday artwork, with awards presented to winners from multiple categories including elementary school, middle school, high school, people’s choice, overall card winner and artistic merit. The first-place winner had her artwork made into a holiday card which was used by the Firm and sold to raise funds by VLA-MA. Every winning student received an award certificate and art supplies.



### A Holiday Tradition - DCF Gift Wrapping Party

Volunteers from Brown Rudnick’s Boston office participated in a gift drive for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in Boston. Individuals in the Firm “adopt” a DCF child and purchase gifts from the child’s wish list. 100 children throughout the Boston area received gifts and clothing from Brown Rudnick in 2017. Those gifts were wrapped and bundled by volunteers at a “wrapping” party. Thank you for your generosity !

*Dear Brown Rudnick Team,*

*We are truly grateful and overjoyed by your involvement in our 2017 holiday drive. This year the DCF Kids Fund has grown and blossomed into the Wonderfund; but the real reason for our success is donors like you, who have made it possible for our kids to dream big and for us reach even more children this year.*

*You and your team at Brown Rudnick have made a significant impact this holiday season for our kids. Your dedication, support and passion are an inspiration to us all here at the Wonderfund. With the help of the 332 corporate, community and individual donors like you, the Wonderfund has been able to provide 45,984 children with gifts to open this holiday season.*

*Wishing you a healthy and happy holiday season,*

*Jennifer Kitchenham*

*Executive Director, Wonderfund*

## grantee news

### **Community Grants were recently awarded to the following tax exempt organizations**

#### **Young Women's Leadership School in Queens, NY**

The grant will be used to purchase materials for 60 eighth-grade students to participate in an inquiry-based exploration program, focused on grow-

“Over the years, my students have shown remarkable aptitude when it comes to kinesthetic learning activities. Providing this type of laboratory investigations program will nurture the intellectual curiosity, creativity and developmental needs of these young women.”

-Janu Mathai, TYWLS, Queens teacher and grant applicant

#### **Horace Mann School for the Deaf in Boston, MA**

The grant will be used to help purchase four iPads for bilingual students to use to record their writing and improve their fluency in both American Sign Language and English.

“Just as an English class needs dictionaries, pencils and paper, our bilingual classes have a similar need. Students need a method for capturing their thoughts as they write in their native language or English. Thanks to this Community Grant, our students will have iPads to use as a library of reference and as a tool for recording writing in American Sign Language and translating the signs into English.”

-Rebecca McVey, Horace Mann School for the Deaf fifth-grade teacher and grant applicant



The Young Women's  
Leadership Schools.

### **SEND US YOUR PHOTO**

**Send your digital photo (with proper photo credit and a brief caption) to Elizabeth McGeoy**

**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

### Robert L. Bailey, Elementary, IV School in Providence, RI

The grant will be used to help purchase a Leveled Literacy Intervention System, which is designed to improve literacy achievement for struggling readers through engaging leveled books and fast-paced systematically designed lessons.

“Improving our school’s reading program is particularly important for our English learners and our struggling readers. With the help of the Brown Rudnick Community Grant, we will have the proper resources to expand our literacy program and help strengthen our students’ reading skills.”

-Maureen Nosal, Robert L. Bailey Elementary, IV School reading coach and grant applicant

### Phillips Brooks House Association’s (PBHA) Mission Hill Afterschool Program (MHASP) in Boston, MA

The grant will be used to expand PBHA’s library through the purchase of age-appropriate nonfiction and poetry books. To further increase student engagement, the grant will also support a campaign where student-written book reviews and student reviewer photos are printed and placed inside the book cover.

“The addition of nonfiction and poetry books to our program’s library will support students’ literacy, while exposing them to new topic areas. Students will have an active role in choosing the books we purchase and in sharing them with their classmates. Furthermore, they will write a review of their book to be placed inside the book along with their photo, which will help encourage other students to read books they might not read otherwise.” -Laura Kanji, PBHA Administrative Director and grant applicant

Robert L. Bailey, IV  
Elementary School

### CENTER VIDEO

For more information  
on community grants,  
applications and  
videos, please visit

[http://  
www.brownrudnickce  
nter.com/foundation/  
community-grants/](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/community-grants/)





## pro bono



### **Housing with Washington D.C. Legal Aid**

**Society**— Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis presented Brian Oldham and Elliot Weingarten, with a Center for the Public Interest Accolade to recognize their admirable initiative, teamwork, and skill in the initiation of pro bono project's through a relationship with the Washington D.C. Legal Aid Society. Pictured from left, Eric Angel, Brian Oldham, Elliot Weingarten, Al Wallis and Jodi Feldman.



**Bankruptcy with VLP**— Brown Rudnick Boston attorneys were recently recognized for their pro bono bankruptcy representation. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts included these attorneys on the Court's Pro Bono Honor Roll for this year. Recipients pictured from left (photographed on a Friday "denim day" in the office) are Steve Pohl, Andy Strehle, Fouad Kurdi, Tyler Lewis, Emily Koruda,

Shari Dvoskin, Tristan Axelrod and Steven Levine. (Not pictured, recipients Kellie Fisher and Tia Wallach.)

**Immigration with KIND**— The Center awarded Pro Bono Accolades to Brown Rudnick Boston Attorneys, Rinne Blair, Brian Alosco and Anyel Alvarez Guerra for their outstanding representation of a client who was facing imminent deportation. Immigration authorities sought to revoke the client's visa due to a mistaken belief that his marriage to a U.S. citizen was a sham. The legal team was able to prove that the information the immigration authorities was using as the basis of their decision was incorrect and the result of a translation misunderstanding. This was an urgent matter and the team responded rapidly and effectively to prevent an injustice, allowing the client to obtain a Green Card and remain in the U.S. with his wife and family. 8



## community involvement

### Involved & Giving Back



#### Go Red for Women

An annual Brown Rudnick Firm wide tradition, “Go Red Day” raised over \$700 in support of heart research.



*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*

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