

BROWN RUDNICK CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST
CENTER Quarterly

Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest
www.brownrudnickcenter.com

2009- 2010 Grant Programs Get Underway

This year’s Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship Grants were awarded to correspond with the 2009-10 academic school year. These annual grants seek to improve inner-city education by forming a relationship with a non-profit organization that optimally includes providing financial support, pro bono legal representation and volunteer time. In all, 12 grants were awarded to non-profit organizations in Boston, MA; Providence, RI; Hartford, CT; New York, NY; and Washington, D.C. A description of this grant program and a full listing of this year’s grantees can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/recipient.asp>. The grants were awarded for this academic year to the following organizations:

Hartford's Shelter for Women

The Hartford Shelter for Women provides excellent residential treatment and educational services for at-risk girls and young women, ages 13 to 21. The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation has awarded one of its Relationship Grants to the Shelter for the academic year 2009-10 in support of its educational program *Girl Power: Girls Making Democracy Work*.

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In photo, Hartford office's Michael Camilleri (a Foundation Director) and Al Wallis (Center for Public Interest Exec. Director) recently visited the Shelter to meet the staff and residents, to make plans for the year and present the grant check.

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The Capital Regional Education Council (CREC)'s Truancy Court Prevention Program

CREC intervenes in the lives of 60 Hartford 8th-9th graders at risk of dropping out of school to mobilize resources that will help to keep them in school. The Foundation grant will support this program, in particular, its "Street Smarts to Business Smarts" initiative which will offer these students perspective on the career/business reasons for staying in school.



In photo, Hartford office's Michael Camilleri (a Foundation Director) and Al Wallis (Center for Public Interest Exec. Director) recently visited CREC to meet the staff, make plans for the year and present the grant check.

Citizens Schools

The autumn after-school coaching of eighth grade students has begun in the Boston office. Through **Citizen's Schools**, five of our first-year associates will coach students from the Edwards School once a week from now until December 8 when all of the effort culminates in a mock trial *WOW!* in the U.S. District Courthouse in front of a real judge and a "celebrity jury".



In photo, coaches Maureen Sturtevant, Elizabeth O'Donoghue and Ryan Moore engage students. (Also coaching, but not shown: Ben Chapman and Team Captain, Travis Rodgers.)

Thompson Island/Outward Bound

Thompson Island/Outward Bound has been awarded a Foundation grant to support its *Choices* program. Choices provides Boston middle school students with a multi-disciplinary program built around classroom curriculum and a day-long visit to one of Boston's harbor islands to investigate why the island is eroding. The grant will allow students from the McCormack Middle School to participate and these students will be invited to visit Brown Rudnick's Boston office later to discuss their experiences with us. *(continued on p. 3)*



In photo, a grant check is presented during a visit to Thompson Island headquarters. From left: Center Executive Director Al Wallis, Thompson Island's President Arthur Pearson and Director of Corporate Relations Sarah Swanson, Brown Rudnick Foundation Director Mary Bucci.

Brown Rudnick Talks Shop during Thompson Island/Outward Bound Summer Green Corps Program

As part of the grant relationship with Thompson Island, Foundation President Cheryl Pinarchick, along with the Center's Al Wallis and Kym Patrico and two Brown Rudnick summer interns, visited the island this summer to talk with Boston students taking part in the *Summer Green Corps* summer jobs program about career paths in the law.



"Thank you for coming out to speak with the students. One student in particular spoke about your group today during their graduation and said her goal in life is to become a lawyer." -- Sarah Swanson, Director of Corporate Relations & Events, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center

Providence Plan/Ready2Learn

Ready2Learn, a program of the Providence Plan, works to insure that every child in Providence arrives at school age healthy and ready to learn. The Foundation has provided a Relationship Grant for several years to support AmeriCorps volunteers who work with children, parents and library staff to teach literacy skills. Students make an annual visit to the Providence office to display their skills and Brown Rudnick also provides general counsel services, pro bono, to the Providence Plan. In September, "general counsel" Ed Pare, Foundation Director Brian Gallogly and Foundation Executive Director Al Wallis visited Ready2Learn to meet with staff and AmeriCorps volunteers about the work they will do this year with our grant.



Photo courtesy of K. Borchers, Providence Journal

Helping Students to Discover Science

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Boston's Excel Academy Charter School in support of a science curriculum for the school's 200 students. Specifically, the grant will be used to purchase a one-year subscription to Discovery Education, which will provide digital learning resources, such as interactive videos and reading material, for the Academy's physics, chemistry, biology, and technology/engineering classrooms.

"I have found that providing students with compelling, age-appropriate topics supported by modern video clips and interesting articles helps to create a classroom culture where science is accessible and stimulating. We are grateful that the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation has enabled us to purchase a program that will encourage and foster our students' interest in the sciences." -- *Stephanie Morgan, Excel Academy Charter School science teacher and grant applicant*

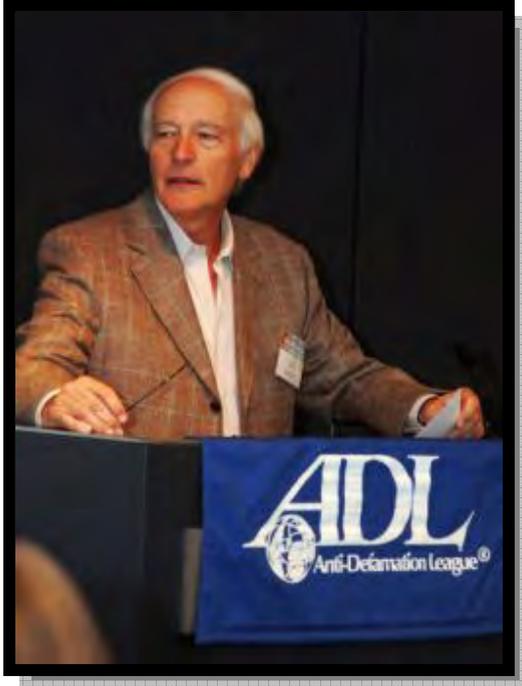
Supporting a Hip Literacy Program in DC

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Washington DC's Perry School Community Services Center, Inc. The grant will support the Perry Center, Inc.'s Home Instruction of Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program, a literacy program which combats poverty through education by teaching the parents of three- to five-year-old preschoolers to read to their children.



"The HIPPY program is a fundamental part of the Center's mission to address chronic poverty and prepare young people so that they will not live in poverty as adults. Over 400 children have graduated from HIPPY with 97% testing at age-appropriate reading levels. This successful program addresses the educational needs of some of Washington's poorest African-American children, and thanks to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, we will be able to expand the program to more *parents*." --*Paul McElligott, Perry Center, Inc. Executive Director and grant applicant*

Anti-Defamation League: Through our Center for the Public Interest, during the summer of 2009, Brown Rudnick hosted the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) closing breakfast in Boston for the ADL Summer Associate Research Project. About a dozen Brown Rudnick summer associates (supervised by Carl Axelrod, Andy Dash, Jeff Friedman, Ed Hershfield & Al Wallis) participated in providing pro bono legal research and advice to the ADL on topics such as:



- May a state deny a law license to an applicant or attorney who participates in activities of or is a member of a known hate group?
- Is the Constitution violated if the state does not provide for an autopsy within time limits for a religious burial?
- Does the National High School Mock Trial Championship violate constitutional rights of students from a religious school if they refuse to adjust the completion schedule to avoid conflict with religious observances?
- Will it violate the constitution if a will requires that beneficiaries to marry a person of a certain religion?
- May a public elementary school teacher keep a Bible displayed on her desk while teaching?

New Engagements: a sample of recent matters.

Helping the disabled in Hartford. We are representing a Hartford tax-exempt organization which assists disabled individuals with occupational training and job placement by providing advice regarding a building lease. *Attorneys: Bob Anthony.*

Bringing basketball to inner city Hartford youth. We are helping a generous, popular ex-Hartford high school basketball player pursue non-profit status for his basketball & education related organization. *Attorneys: Tom Ritter, Jennifer Herz, Marc Lombardi.*

Representing an unemployed individual in appealing a denial of unemployment benefits. *Attorneys: Anil Ranganath, Chris Dunham, Elise Busny*

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Relieving a non-profit of legal worries. We represented a Boston-based educational non-profit in favorably removing and resolving a default judgment which had been erroneously entered against them. *Attorneys: Elise Busny and Samantha Gerlovin.*

Assisting WWII German ghetto workers in applying to a German government program providing restitution. *Attorneys: numerous.*

Supporting an indigent writer's effort to obtain compensation owed for royalties from a publication. *Attorneys: Lan Marinelli, Andrew Strehle, Edward Naughton*

"Interfaith Action's Youth Leadership Program has garnered national and international respect and we are pleased to be piloting our training program in New York City this fall prior to a national launch. I know that we are in this position today, in part, because of your support and guidance"

– Janet Penn, Executive Director, Interfaith Action Inc.

Recent Firm Accolades

Adams Pro Bono Award. The prestigious Adams Award is the highest recognition given annually by the highest court in Massachusetts for pro bono work and it is one that illuminates some of the finest ideals of the recipient and our profession. The *Award* recognizes lawyers, law firms, government attorneys, corporate law departments and other institutions in the legal profession that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged. **Margaret M. Pinkham** was been selected to receive the 2009 award. She is the second attorney to receive the Adams Award for their pro bono work while at Brown Rudnick. **Michael Paris**, who was instrumental in the creation of our Center for the Public Interest, was an honoree in 2003.

Boston Business Journal. For the third consecutive year, Brown Rudnick has received recognition from the Boston Business Journal at the BBJ's Corporate Philanthropy Summit. This year, the Firm received recognition as one of the state's most significant businesses when it comes to corporate charitable giving, ranking #56 overall in the Commonwealth.



Banding Together to Fight Breast Cancer

On September 25th, Brown Rudnick held its second annual bake sale in the Boston library to benefit Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Attorneys and staff donated homemade baked goods Diana Pierce, Linda Charron, Julia Forbes led this effort which raised over \$540.00 for the American Cancer Society and breast cancer research.



Serving Homeless Women and Children at Rosie's Place

Recently, employees in Boston devoted their lunch time to community service, visiting Rosie's Place, a long-standing firm pro bono client, where they prepared and served lunch to homeless women and children. Kym Patrico in our Boston office led this effort.



Brown Rudnick Remembers September 11

On September 11, for the eighth consecutive year, the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest organized a visit to Boston firehouse Engine 10, Division One. Lunch was delivered to the firefighters and Brown Rudnick visitors had the opportunity to say "we remember" and "thank you" to the firefighters and, through them, to all those public safety personnel who risk their well-being on our behalf each day.



Brown Rudnick and Lee National Denim Day

On October 2nd, the Center for the Public Interest organized participation by each of Brown Rudnick's domestic offices in the annual Lee National Denim Day, the largest single-day fundraiser for breast cancer in the nation. Participants donated \$5.00 for the "privilege" of wearing jeans to work. The Firm donated pizza which was available at a dollar a slice for lunch, proceeds also going to the fundraiser. As a result of these efforts, Brown Rudnick's Denim Day raised \$2,271 in donations. Chrissy Micchelli, Kym Patrico, Christina Matthews, Kim Walsh, Diana Nelson, Christine Hebert, Denise Kaer, Dale Limongello and Nicole Winters helped collect donations.



Just Us.

“It gets late early out there.”
Yogi Berra

This has been a strange and challenging year for all and this is true for law firms, and for our Center as well. The autumn edition of our e-newsletter (covering activities from July through October) is reaching you a bit later than we had hoped – not because nothing has been going on, but because so much has.

Just two particulars.

One: Given the exceptional needs in our communities, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation determined that despite the wicked economy’s erosion of some of our endowment, we would shoulder on and continue to provide essentially the same level of grant support as in the prior year. Couple that with a dramatically increased number of applications for funds and a change in our grant giving year – which now starts in September – and we have found that the turnaround time for getting grants up and running was a little longer than in past years. All good, but just requiring a little additional attention and time.

Another: Almost every major American law firm was forced by the rambunctious economy to defer the usual September start date for new associates, and our firm was no exception. But we continued to keep these future associates “in the family” while also looking for ways through our Center to lessen the impact of the economic downturn on them and on our society. Stipends have been offered to any of these new lawyers who work or volunteer for a public interest legal

organization during their deferral, and the Center has offered help in locating good fit positions.

Presently, these future Brown Rudnick associates are working at or for legal services programs in New York City and New Hampshire, for City Law Departments in Chicago and Boston, for a District Attorneys’ offices in New York and Massachusetts, for a state Attorney General’s office and for several non-profit organizations providing legal representation on societal issues. All good, but an add on to an already full agenda.

So, our apologies for the delayed arrival of the newsletter this quarter. It got late out there much earlier than we had anticipated.



Al Wallis, Executive Director,
Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DECEMBER

- 2 **Boston:** VLA Holiday Art Contest Awards Ceremony, Event Center (4:30pm)
- 8 **All Offices:** Charitable Foundation Board Meeting (2pm)
- 8 **Boston:** Citizen Schools/WOW! Mock Trials. Moakley Courthouse (6pm)

For more information, please contact Kym Patrico at (617) 856-8175

A public interest focus is alive and well in our Firm. The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is an integral part of the Firm, with a mission to champion, coordinate and celebrate the Firm's involvement in pro bono legal representation, community service activities and charitable giving.



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Please contact **Al Wallis** or **Kym Patrico** to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Kym Patrico, Lisa Murray, Alexis Zukowski and Connie Kelly 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

