



Charitable Giving is at Our Center

THE BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CORP.

THE BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL RELATIONSHIP GRANT SELECTION PROCESS COMMENCES

Last month, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. requested letters of interest for its 2011-12 Relationship Grants. These year-long grants support a program or initiative to improve education in Boston, Providence, Hartford, New York City and Washington, D.C. More than 120 eligible letters of interest were submitted by the April 4th deadline. After reviewing these letters, the Foundation will invite a small number of the most promising candidates to submit a more detailed proposal. Grants will be awarded effective September 1, 2011 to correspond with the academic school year. More information about the Relationship Grant program and the selection process can be found at www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/relationship.htm.

FOUNDATION 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

In February, at the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation's Annual Meeting, two new Directors were elected: Brown Rudnick Boston associates Angelo Thalassinis and Benjamin M. Welch. The Foundation Board also re-elected four current Directors -- Brown Rudnick attorneys Michael J. Camilleri, Henry (Buddy) W. Menn III, Edward D. Pare, Jr., and Nancy R. Wilsker -- to a new three-year term. Together, these attorneys will participate in the Foundation's grant programs designed to improve inner-city education.

The following officers were also re-elected:

Chairman:	Joseph F. Ryan
President:	Cheryl B. Pinarchick
Vice-President:	Henry W. Menn, III
Vice-President:	Catherine Gardner
Treasurer:	Michael J. Camilleri
Clerk:	Douglas A. Cohen

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The recipients of the fourth annual Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest M. Robert Dushman Pro Bono and Community Service Awards were announced by CEO Joseph Ryan at the annual State of the Firm Address in March. These two awards honor both a successful Brown Rudnick attorney and a 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 Pro Bono Award was presented to Cheryl B. Pinarchick, a partner in Brown Rudnick's Litigation Department and the President of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation. The Community Service Award was presented to Diana Nelson, the Firm's Hartford Office Manager.

BROWN RUDNICK ANNOUNCES 2011 RECIPIENTS OF THE M. ROBERT DUSHMAN PRO BONO AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS



(From left: Cheryl Pinarchick and Diana Nelson)



(Photo courtesy of MBA)

The Massachusetts Bar Association's 26th Annual Statewide High School Mock Trial Finals were held on April 1st in Boston's historic Faneuil Hall. Hundreds of students from every corner of the state participate in this intensive after-school program, with Pioneer Valley Regional High School taking the top honors. Since 1998, Brown Rudnick has been the exclusive financial sponsor of this prestigious program.

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE/TSUNAMI RELIEF



BROWN RUDNICK CONTRIBUTES TO JAPAN RELIEF EFFORTS

Brown Rudnick donated \$25,000 to the International Red Cross in support of emergency international disaster relief efforts after the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Brown Rudnick's Center for the Public Interest coordinated the donation through the Firm's client, Toyota Corporation. Toyota doubled the Firm's contribution as part of the company's matching gift program.

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation's New Community Grants

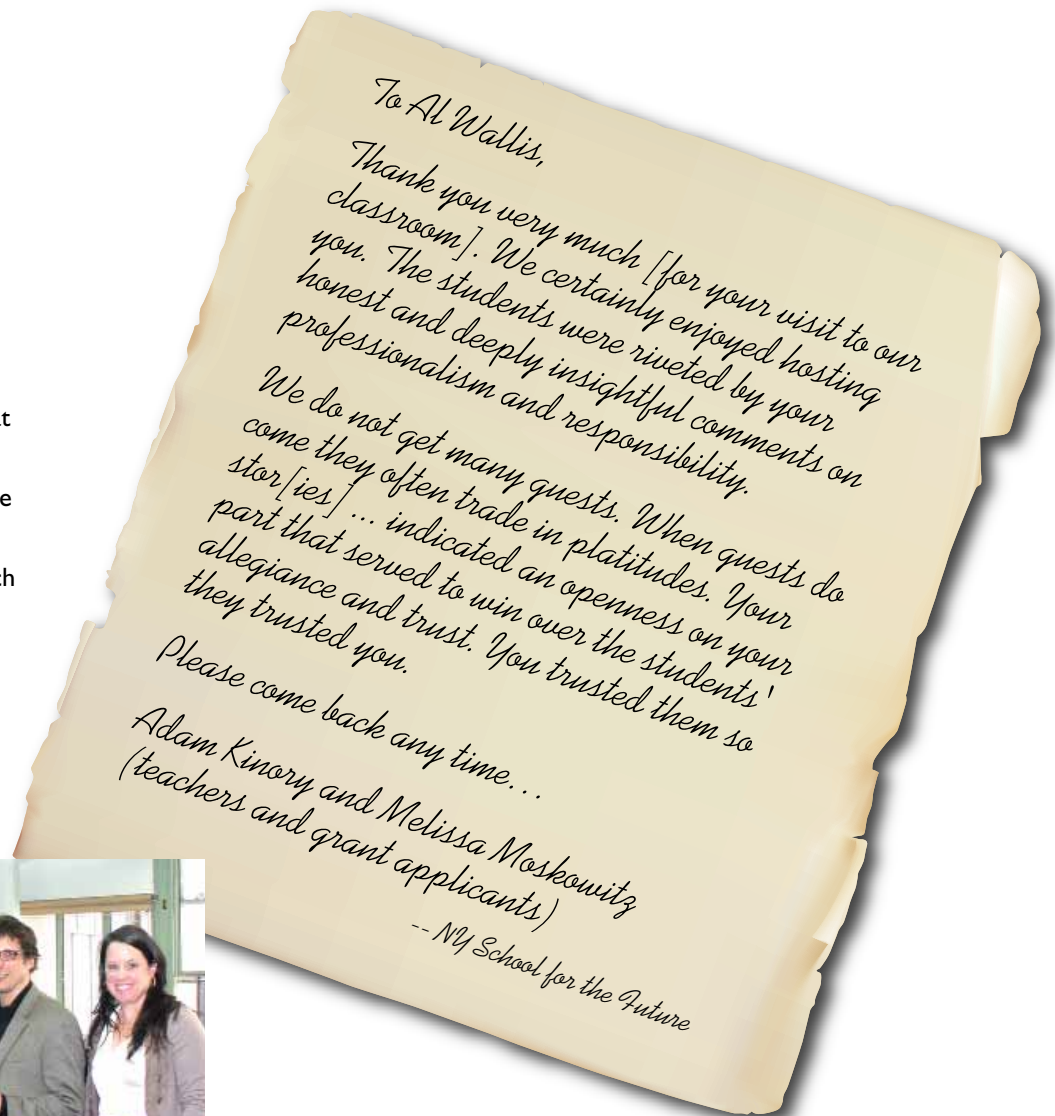
BROOKLYN CLASS IS BOUND FOR WASHINGTON DC

Foundation Directors have awarded a Community Grant to PS 335 Granville T. Woods in New York City. The grant will allow a fourth grade class, whose students have rarely left Brooklyn, to take an educational school trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the White House and other historic sites.



NEW YORK SCHOOL CREATES INNOVATIVE READING PROGRAM

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to New York's School for the Future to support a unique non-fiction reading program at the school. Specifically, grant funds will be used to assist a very innovative teacher through the purchase of computers, books and materials which will allow deeper, differentiated learning targeted at the individual student's level.



(In photo, BR Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis (third from left) and Foundation Vice-President Katy Gardner (far right), present the grant check to the principal, teachers and a student during a visit to the school.)



HARTFORD LIBRARY OFFERS HOMEWORK HELP

A Foundation Community Grant was awarded to The Hartford Public Library to support the Homework Help Program at the library which provides 310 students with 23 weeks of after-school homework assistance in safe and welcoming environments at five branches of the library.



BOSTON SCHOOL ADDS NEW ESL BOOKS

The Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Boston received a Foundation Community Grant for the purchase of ESL science books for two classes.



WASHINGTON DC SCIENCE CLASS GOES HIGH TECH

Using Foundation Community Grant funds, the E.L. Haynes Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. will purchase eight sets of Simple and Motorized Mechanisms for the science class lessons on “forces and motion”.



Relationship Grant Update

FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES

A 2010-11 Foundation Relationship Grant supports Facing History and Ourselves and its Choosing to Participate exhibition in Washington, D.C. which had its official opening on February 23. It will be on display until June 17. Foundation Vice President Buddy Menn attended the opening on behalf of the Foundation.



BRONX SCHOOL OF JUSTICE

Bronx School of Justice, a 2010-11 Foundation Relationship Grant recipient, was featured in a February 15th article from the New York Daily News for its successful Bronx Debaters' Program, which has expanded with Foundation grant support.

CITIZENS SCHOOLS - EDWARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Citizens Schools, a 2010-11 Foundation Relationship Grant recipient, has been a long-time partner with Brown Rudnick, which coaches at least one Boston Public middle school mock trial team each year. Since February, one of Brown Rudnick's Boston conference rooms has been transformed weekly into a legal classroom for a group of students from the Edwards Middle School. Attorneys Allison Condon (shown in photo at right), Jessica Conte, Jonathan Marshall, Kaylan Sliney and Team Captain, Erica Mirabella, have been working closely with these students to help them prepare a hypothetical case for trial. On May 10, in the U.S. District Courthouse, our student team will litigate their case before a real judge, an audience of family members and civic leaders, and a volunteer jury.



Pro Bono is at Our Center

UNEMPLOYMENT CASE VICTORIES

Brown Rudnick's Pro Bono Impact Project, providing representation in unemployment benefit appeals to individuals referred by legal services organizations, continues to be successful even in the most challenging cases. Two recent victories illustrate this.

- At the request of New York Legal Services, the Firm represented a maintenance worker for a fast-food restaurant in her appeal of a denial of unemployment insurance benefits. Following an approved three-month leave of absence, the client was terminated and denied unemployment benefits. Associate Yanfei Shen, co-counseling with associate Randol Mora and supervised by partner Diane Nardi, represented the client before the New York State Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board. The team was able to obtain a decision that the client had been involuntarily terminated, overturning the underlying denial of benefits, negating the order to repay benefits and allowing her to be eligible for future unemployment benefits.
- At the request of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association, the Firm represented a company maintenance worker/repair technician in an appeal to the Employment Division of Unemployment Insurance of the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development. The employer contested the award of benefits, arguing that the client had quit without justification and that he, the employer, wanted him to continue working with the company. The legal team, associate James Bair supervised by associate Benjamin Welch and partner Diane Nardi, presented evidence that the employer had required the client to undertake dangerous work, against his wishes and despite his request for training or safety equipment. The hearing officer found that there was substantial and credible evidence that the client had left work voluntarily and with good cause attributable to the employer. As a result, the client was found eligible to receive unemployment benefits.

ACCOLADES FOR NONPROFIT WORKING GROUP

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest awarded its first Pro Bono Accolades for 2011. The Nonprofit Working Group was initiated last year to serve as a "home" for Brown Rudnick attorneys and paralegals interested in working together to share information and expertise while developing current best practices in representing nonprofit clients, where many (but not all) of the engagements are done on a pro bono basis. The Group's Steering Committee has championed and leads this effort and was awarded the Accolades.



(In photo from left: Al Wallis, Exec. Director of the Center; Steering Committee Members Kairyn Rainer, Edwin Pease, Kristin Gerber, and Andrew Strehle, Pro Bono Committee Chair. In second photo: Steering Committee Members Patrick Cox and Nicole Bouchard.)

RECENT REPRESENTATION OF NONPROFIT CLIENTS WITH CORPORATE ISSUES

- The Firm is helping to form and advise a new nonprofit organization in the refinement and distribution to schools of an innovative educational learning tool. To the extent that the tool is offered for sale, the proceeds will benefit a specifically designated non-profit inner-city school. Partners Samuel Williams and Michael Dolan are leading this engagement.
- From our MIT social entrepreneurship competition, the Firm is providing advice to a pair of organizations regarding corporate formation and general business matters. The organizations, working in Africa, seek to distribute sanitation devices (basically, port-a-potties) on a non-profit basis, as well as to establish a company to handle waste removal from the devices and convert the waste into energy and fertilizer. Partners Samuel Williams, David Gammell, and associate Kristin Gerber are leading this engagement.
- The Firm is advising a nonprofit organization on contractual agreements with a filmmaker who seeks to use one of the nonprofit's programs as the basis for a commercial film. Proceeds from the contract would allow the nonprofit to continue the program which serves poor inner-city teenage girls. Partner James Hauser and associate Rebecca Fordon are leading this engagement.

HELPING HOMELESS LEGAL CLIENTS

The Firm continues its work through the Boston Bar Association's Lawyers Clearinghouse, recently providing legal advice and representation at the HopeFound legal clinic for the homeless in Boston.



(From left: Attorneys Christian Rivera, Kierstan Schultz, Jeffrey Vigliotti, Al Wallis, Jonathan Marshall and, bottom, James Bair)

HELPING DEBTORS IN OBTAINING RELIEF

In both Boston and NYC, Brown Rudnick continues to assist debtors seeking relief through the bankruptcy court. Through the Boston Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project Chapter 7 Bankruptcy/Debtor Initiative, we represent a number of indigent individuals in Chapter 7-related bankruptcy matters. This effort is led by partner Steven Pohl and associate Angelo Thalassinos. In New York, the Firm assists indigent individuals to file for personal bankruptcy through the New York Legal Services Bankruptcy Project. Partner Daniel Saval and associate Neal D'Amato lead the New York initiative.

Community Service is at Our Center

NATIONAL GO RED FOR HEART ASSOCIATION EVENT

All Brown Rudnick offices participated in this year's National Wear Red Day on February 4th. The domestic offices raised \$1,265 for the American Heart Association in support of their efforts to raise awareness and prevent cardiovascular disease in women. In London, funds were raised for the British Heart Association.



WALK TO THE HILL

The annual Massachusetts legal community Walk to the Hill in support of funding for legal aid programs took place on February 22. Edward Naughton and Al Wallis led the Brown Rudnick participants.



(From left: Associate Jeffrey Vigliotti, partner Nina Andersson, Center Director Al Wallis, and partner Edward Naughton)



ELLEN CARPENTER FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Partner Steven Pohl is spearheading participation by Brown Rudnick attorneys in this Bar Association program which provides literacy education programs to Boston students.

Congratulations Al Wallis!

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD IN MASSACHUSETTS

In January, the Massachusetts Jewish Alliance of Lawyers for Social Action (JALSA) presented its 2011 Community Leadership Award to Brown Rudnick and Al Wallis for the example they have set and the work they have done in the public interest.



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Please contact Al Wallis or Kym Patricio to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Kym Patricio, Lisa Murray, Connie Kelly and Kristin Cicerone 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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