



## COVER STORY

(In photo: Sitting left to right: Jeffrey Matrullo and Jeremy Talley; standing left to right: Michael Camilleri and Al Wallis)

# Profiles in Pro Bono

## BROWN RUDNICK TEAM RESCUES A WOUNDED IRAQ WAR VETERAN

### OVERVIEW:

Brown Rudnick's Washington D.C. and Hartford offices have been providing pro bono legal representation to veterans who have been denied veterans benefits. In one recent matter, Hartford Partner Michael Camilleri and Associate Jeffrey Matrullo led a team that included Associates Steve Klaffky and Jennifer Mullen St. Hilaire, in representing Jeremy Talley, a severely wounded veteran of the Iraq War, who was being denied military disability benefits. As a result of their advocacy before the Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") and the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, the VA significantly increased Jeremy's disability benefits. However, while this victory changed the direction of Jeremy's life, Mike and Jeff are quick to say that this pro bono case was rewarding for them, as well.

### JEREMY'S STORY:

In Iraq, in December 2006, Serviceman Jeremy Talley was riding in a Humvee with his four comrades when their vehicle was blown up by an Improvised Explosion Device (IED). Although gravely injured, Jeremy was the only survivor. After undergoing extensive facial surgery in a German hospital, Jeremy soon realized that enduring his physical injuries would prove to be only the beginning of his survival story. The emotional and mental stresses of that day began to manifest as severe nightmares, debilitating anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. Before long, he found himself back home in Colorado, divorced, with no family or hope of employment. Jeremy was simply unable to function normally and desperately needed help. Obtaining critical military disability benefits was the first priority. But the military bureaucracy denied him those benefits. He had been trained to fight for his country overseas, but he was now in danger of losing a fight at home that could literally cost him his life.

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## ENTER BROWN RUDNICK:

The Firm had been working with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), a nonprofit veterans service organization that founded The Lawyers Serving Warriors™ initiative. This program offers pro-bono legal help to veterans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan facing administrative separation, going through a medical evaluation board or physical evaluation board, or pursuing a claim with the VA for disability compensation. Through The Lawyers Serving Warriors program, Brown Rudnick – and Mike and Jeff in particular – were introduced to Jeremy and his story.



(Jeremy Talley)

**Jeff:** Jeremy's life had been literally shattered in every conceivable way by that IED. He had sacrificed so much for this country that I knew I had to help him. It was the least we could do to repay this war veteran for his service. Our goal was to help Jeremy regain some semblance of normalcy and stability in his life.

**Mike:** We had not even met Jeremy, since he lived in Colorado and was not healthy enough to travel, but we were committed to the case from the very first phone conversation. Jeff and I were immediately drawn into Jeremy's story, and we knew that there must be many veterans like Jeremy out there. We wanted to help.

The case was challenging from the start. In addition to having a "long distance" client, the Brown Rudnick team had to navigate the complexities of military bureaucracy to contest the denial of necessary military benefits.

Mike and Jeff pulled together a host of medical records and reports to make Jeremy's case. Another team member, Brown Rudnick Associate Steve Klaffky, assisted with crucial litigation matters, conducting numerous interviews that helped surface key facts that supported Jeremy's case. Hartford Associate Jennifer Mullen St. Hilaire handled aspects of the case relating to employment law. Together, this team prevailed before the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. As a result, Jeremy received a tax free lump sum payment from the VA in excess of \$60,000 representing retroactively-awarded benefits, and going forward, his benefits have nearly doubled.

**Jeff:** As attorneys, we often engage in pro bono work, but I personally have never been involved in a case that so directly impacted someone's life. In many ways, this case was a matter of life or death, and I think our level of representation reflected that sense of urgency.

**Mike:** Our team came together with the single objective of helping Jeremy recover from his tragic ordeal. By helping him get the benefits he needed and rightly deserved, there is hope that he can begin to rebuild his life. I'm proud to have been a part of that success.

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## MUTUAL BENEFITS:

Both Mike and Jeff believe this case presented numerous benefits to them as well.

**Jeff:** Working on this matter helped me become a better lawyer. In addition to understanding valuable client relations skills, I had the opportunity to learn new areas of law, crafting legal arguments and writing briefs that sharpened my skills.

**Mike:** Our representation of Jeremy proved uplifting to many at the Firm. We were personally invested in Jeremy's welfare, and the team banded together during the two years that we worked on this case. The strong sense of collaboration is one of Brown Rudnick's defining characteristics and this case brought out the best in all of us.

Jeremy, who only recently has been healthy enough to travel, was so elated by Jeff and Mike's victory on his behalf that he insisted on buying a plane ticket and making a one day visit to Boston to finally meet his attorneys face to face, shake their hands and say "thank you".

**Jeff:** During the last two years, Jeremy has become more than my client; he has become my friend. My friends and colleagues remark how our pro bono victory changed Jeremy's life. I say that Jeremy and this case changed my life as well. As an attorney, this has been one of the most rewarding experiences, personally and professionally.

## Foundation News

### LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Catherine ("Katy") Gardner, a Partner in Brown Rudnick's New York office, has been elected by the Foundation Board of Directors to serve as Acting President of the Foundation. Katy has been a Vice President of the organization, has served on the Foundation's Development Committee, and has been a Director since 2008. The Board thanked outgoing President Cheryl Pinarchick for her many years of outstanding service and leadership as she stepped down from the Board to pursue an opportunity to join another law firm.



(Foundation Acting President, Katy Gardner)

## Foundation News (cont.)

### FOUNDATION RETREAT ON THOMPSON ISLAND

The Foundation Directors held their annual retreat in May on Boston's Thompson Island where they reflected on the success of the Foundation as it reaches its tenth anniversary and made plans for the year ahead. Thompson Island/Outward Bound has been a Foundation Relationship Grantee for several years and the Directors had the opportunity as part of the retreat to tour the island, observe student learning in progress and talk with staff about the programs offered to Boston youth.



### STAY TUNED - 2011-12 RELATIONSHIP GRANTS

The Foundation has completed its review of applications for 2011-12 Relationship Grants and expects to announce its selections later this summer.



### FOUNDATION DIRECTOR CHRIS CAROLAN HONORED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK



In June, which President Obama proclaimed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender ("LGBT") Pride Month, Chris Carolan, Brown Rudnick partner in New York, and a Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, was honored by the newly formed Bronx LGBT Community Center at

their first annual gala fundraiser. Chris, a Bronx native, was applauded for his work with the Human Rights Campaign.

## Recent Community Grant Recipients

### SUMMER READING PROGRAM IN HARTFORD PROMOTES FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

The Charter Oak Cultural Center in Hartford, CT has received a Community Grant to allow the Center to offer its **Read It and Sleep** program for children and parents this summer. This is the second consecutive year that the Foundation has supported this program with a Community Grant.



### A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOU CAN LEARN TO EAT (AND COOK) YOUR VEGGIES

A Community Grant has been awarded to the Haley House in Boston, a multi-service organization that, among other things, operates a bakery café in Dudley Square. The café provides work development skills for teens, healthy food in one of the few restaurants in the area and a safe gathering place in one of the City's tougher neighborhoods. The grant will allow Haley House to realize a dream they have had for six years – having audio visual equipment in the café that will allow them to use the venue to better teach nutrition and cooking to hundreds of at-risk children and their families. The program uses food and food preparation to help bridge cultural and social divides within the community.

### BRINGING THE CLASSROOM OUTDOORS

A Community Grant was awarded to the Community Preparatory School in Providence, Rhode Island, to support an after-school gardening program, serving 150+ students, grades 3-8. The school will purchase gardening tools and supplies such as soil, seeds, seeding kits, and worms. The gardening project will include a vermicompost program wherein students will compost their healthy snack food scraps each afternoon using Red Wiggler worms. Students will be responsible for caretaking the worms, keeping journal entries on progress, and caring for indoor seedlings. Once transplanted to the outdoor garden, students and their families will continue to care for the garden during the spring and summer months. The project will culminate with a large harvest festival in the fall.

*Grant applicant and Community Preparatory School teacher, Gina Rodriguez-Drix, said, "In addition to rebuilding the school's garden plot, this project aims to enhance students' understanding of life sciences while developing and sustaining community collaboration and mentorship. Students and their families will also have access to healthy, locally grown produce. We thank the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for their support."*

# Recent Community Grant Recipients (cont.)

## IPADS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

With recent studies indicating that the use of iPads may have a positive benefit in teaching some special needs students, the Foundation awarded a Community Grant to PS 399 The Stanley Eugene Clark School, a Brooklyn, New York public school serving grades K-5. The grant will be used for the purchase of four iPads and accessories that will be used in special education classes to target specific student learning needs



*Sharon Holliday, a PS 399 The Stanley Eugene Clark School teacher and grant applicant, said, "Students in special education have individualized education plans that require teachers to customize their learning. Thanks to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grant, we can bring iPads into the classroom to address those specific needs. Students with cognitive disabilities will use specific iPad applications to target reading, math, writing, and social skills. Also, alternative test formats will be created on the device for those students who have been 'mainstreamed' into regular classrooms."*



## NEW YORK STUDENTS VISIT WASHINGTON DC

PS 335 Granville T. Woods, a Brooklyn, New York public school serving grades PK-5, was the recipient of a Foundation Community Grant. The grant will help fund a unique educational school trip to Washington D.C. to take advantage of an offer to visit the White House, while also allowing exploration of other historic sites.



*According to Meghan Dunn, a PS 335 Granville T. Woods 4th grade teacher and grant applicant, "Since Barack Obama's presidential inauguration, my students have wanted to visit our Capital City, but we don't have the means to embark on this field trip. Recently, PS 335 was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for making extraordinary progress in student achievement, and our state senators promised to provide White House tours, so we are determined to go to Washington. We are grateful to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for its Community Grant, which will enable us to fulfill a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for my students."*

## Recent Foundation & Philanthropic Activity



### REACH OUT & READ RECEIVES SUPPORT DURING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

In recognition of National Library Week, Brown Rudnick's Boston library held a book drive collecting children's books for donation to Reach Out & Read (ROR). An evidence-based nonprofit organization, ROR promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms nationwide by giving books to children and offers advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud. ROR is a longtime Relationship Grant recipient and pro bono client.

## A DAY IN COURT FOR MOCK TRIAL TEAMS



### MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

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



### CITIZENS SCHOOLS/DISCOVERING JUSTICE MOCK TRIALS

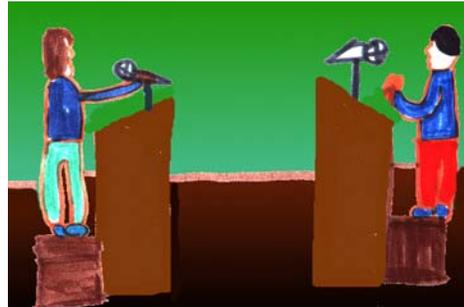
For the past thirteen years, Brown Rudnick attorneys in Boston have coached one or more middle school mock trial teams in Boston as part of a Citizens Schools/Discovering Justice program. This year, over the course of several months, we coached a student team from the Edwards School. On the evening of May 10, our team litigated their case in a Federal Courthouse before Massachusetts Juvenile Court Judge Jay Blitzman and an audience of family members, civic leaders, and a volunteer jury. The team was coached by Associates Erica Mirabella, Jessica Conte, Allison Condon, Jonathan Marshall, and Kaylan Sliney.



## Recent Foundation & Philanthropic Activity (cont.)

### A SHOUT OUT FROM GRANT RECIPIENT BRONX GREAT DEBATERS

The Bronx School for Law, Government & Justice is a current recipient of a relationship grant supporting its highly successful Bronx Great Debaters team. The student team worked tirelessly this year, competing and prevailing at very high levels in tournament after tournament. In June, teacher and team coach, Erik Fogel, visited Brown Rudnick's New York office to receive congratulations on his success.



*“Thanks to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation we have been able to do incredible things in the South Bronx with this year's Relationship Grant. ... I thank you so much for the incredible support for not just our program but so many other programs helping to close the achievement gap in inner city education. There would be no need for Waiting for Superman if organizations devoted just half of the support of what Brown Rudnick does! ...”*  
– Sincerely, Erik

### HOMEWORK HELP IN HARTFORD

The Hartford Public Library received a Community Grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation to provide supplies in support of its after-school homework help program. Foundation Directors Doug Cohen and Mike Camilleri, together with Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis, recently visited a program site and met with library officials.



### HELPING SINGLE MOTHERS GET BACK TO EDUCATION

Brown Rudnick's Hartford office recently hosted a lunch for young women from the Village for Families/Shelter for Women who, with help from a relationship grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, have returned to their education through a GED program. The Hartford office provided insights into careers with law firms and the importance of education in achieving those careers. Providing these insights were Brown Rudnick's Nolan Ball, Diana Nelson and, shown in photo, Kathryn Hinton, Michael Camilleri and Franca DeRosa.



## *Recent Foundation & Philanthropic Activity (cont.)*



### ENCOURAGING EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY AND WELL-BEING

Foundation Director Ed Pare (above left in photo), and Center Executive Director Al Wallis recently visited one of the classrooms supported by Foundation Relationship Grant recipient Ready2Learn, a program of the Providence Plan. The program helps inner-city preschoolers get prepared to arrive at school age healthy, familiar with reading and ready to learn. In addition to reading with the students, the children gave lessons to Ed and Al on how to safely hold the classroom's pet hermit crab.

### THE CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY: MEETING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE

The second annual "We the People Challenge" Award Ceremony was held in June at the Parkside Middle School in Washington, D.C. The Challenge, created and supported by the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation and relationship grant recipient Capitol Historical Society, enhances student visits to historic sites in the Capitol with a contest in which a classroom of students demonstrate what they have learned. This year's Challenge award winners were the 8th grade students of Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy at the Parkside Middle School. Foundation Director and Vice-President Henry ("Buddy") Menn (center, in photo on right), was at the event to congratulate the winners.



## Recent Foundation & Philanthropic Activity (cont.)

### BUILDING EDUCATED LEADERS FOR LIFE (“BELL”): NURTURING STUDENT GROWTH

Brown Rudnick summer associates in New York City, together with Blair Baigent, Brown Rudnick Recruiting Coordinator (center, bottom left photo), and Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, travelled to P.S. 152 in Washington Heights, Manhattan in June. The team spent the better part of a day brightening the urban school by planting a row of flowers, perennial Stella D’Oros, around the perimeter of the front lawn. Afterwards, the team visited a first grade classroom, where the students described what they were learning that day.



*“Dear Al and Blair: Thank you once again for a great project yesterday. It was wonderful to get to know you both, and I don’t think we could have asked for a better day. Please also pass my thanks along to the group. We couldn’t have done it without their enthusiasm and willingness to work hard! The gardens outside P.S.152 look absolutely beautiful.”*

*–Chelsea Freemon, Development Officer, BELL*

## Pro Bono Legal Representation - Updates

### PROVIDING PRO BONO LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO THE HOMELESS

Twice a year in Boston, Brown Rudnick attorneys provide pro bono legal assistance at a legal clinic at a homeless shelter through a program organized by the Boston Bar Association's Lawyers Clearinghouse. Recently, Brown Rudnick counseled individuals at HopeFound shelter in Jamaica Plain. Similar assistance has been provided to the homeless in Connecticut by Brown Rudnick attorneys in the Hartford office.



(In photo, from left, are participants Christian Rivera, Kierstan Schultz, Jeff Vigliotti, Al Wallis, Jonathan Marshall and (in front) James Bair.)

From a homeless clinic client's note to Brown Rudnick regarding his attorneys, Jeffrey Vigliotti and Jonathan Marshall:

*"Jeff and Jonathan took exhaustive care in addressing my difficult 'Gordian Knot' of civil law legal difficulties as my pro bono advocates and I can't thank them enough for their combined skills and attention to my troubling issues. Their character, patience, and tact brought to me a new appreciation of their chosen profession as well as a great respect for them as people who represent your firm."*

*– Sincerely, [homeless legal clinic client]*



### PRO BONO RANKINGS

The national magazine, American Lawyer, annually ranks top U.S. law firms in a variety of categories. In the recently issued 2011 AmLaw Pro Bono Survey, Brown Rudnick is ranked #75 in the U.S. out of the 200 firms surveyed based on the time and breadth devoted to pro bono representation.

## Community Involvement

### BROWN RUDNICK WALKERS AND RUNNERS HAVE HEART

As it has for several years, Brown Rudnick fielded a team of walkers in Boston and was once again one of the Top 5 in fundraising for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk this year. Julia C. Forbes, Brown Rudnick's Manager of Training and Application Services, was the team captain.

For the third consecutive year in Boston, Brown Rudnick fielded a team of runners in the Annual Lawyers Have Heart 5K race to benefit the American Heart Association. Partner Dan Brown was the team captain.



## Community Involvement (cont.)

### BRUINS VICTORY DAY IN BOSTON

To celebrate the Boston Bruins Stanley Cup victory in June, Brown Rudnick held a Bruins Denim Day Celebration in the Boston office. Participants who donated \$5 could wear jeans to work that day. A grand total of \$425 was raised during this initiative, with the proceeds donated to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation.



### REACH OUT & READ EXPANDS SERVICES TO MILITARY FAMILIES

Our long-time Foundation Relationship Grantee, for whom our Partner, Ed Pease, also provides general counsel services on a pro bono basis, recently announced a dramatic response to First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden's Joining Forces initiative. This national initiative supports and honors

America's service members and their families. Reach Out & Read, a research-proven school readiness initiative, will expand to 100 U.S. bases by 2013, serving more than 200,000 children of military families.

### SUMMER ASSOCIATES IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL SERVICES (SAILS)

For the past decade, Brown Rudnick summer associates have brought their own brown bag to a lunch with Center Executive Director Al Wallis, held outdoors on the grass if weather permits. During the lunch, they discuss the history of and need for legal services organizations to provide access to justice in civil matters for those who cannot afford an attorney. The associates then nominate organizations and select one which will receive a donation from Brown Rudnick. This year, the summer associates in New York selected the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project Center, while those in Boston chose Community Legal Services and Counseling Center.



## Community Involvement (cont.)

### CENTER MARKS ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Since inception, Brown Rudnick has supported and promoted participation in community service and pro bono work for the public interest. In the spring of 2001, Brown Rudnick reaffirmed this commitment with the opening of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest and the creation of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation.

The Center was unique in the legal community at that time, and today it continues to distinguish Brown Rudnick as a leader by striving to combine the power of pro bono legal representation, charitable giving and community service to help those in need.

The work of the Center has broadened and the people in it. As the Firm has kept pace with that growth, expanding the

Many Brown Rudnick attorneys, GL&S present, have played a role in the Center's Foundation presidents, Joel Reck, Carl Strehle, Chair of the Firm's Pro Bono

only Executive Director, Al Wallis, and Executive Assistant, Kym Patrico. Because of their vision, enthusiasm and perseverance -- and the support of many other Brown Rudnick colleagues who actively participate in the Center's numerous public interest programs -- Brown Rudnick's support has spanned a generation of assistance in the communities in which we work and live.



during the last decade, enhancing our Firm grown in this past decade, our Center has geographic reach of its activities.

professionals, paralegals and staff, past and enduring success. Special thanks to former Axelrod and Cheryl Pinarchick; to Andy Committee; and to the Center's first and

Through the Center, our extensive outreach includes, among others, support of innovative educational programs such as a holiday card contest for Boston public school students, essay contests about our nation's capital, and mock trial programs. Our pro bono representation has focused on nonprofits, unemployment benefit appeals, indigent artists, the disabled, veterans, civil rights, inner-city education, and homelessness. And, we continue to provide the combined power of pro bono legal counsel, charitable grants and volunteer time to prominent organizations such as Facing History & Ourselves, Reach Out and Read, and Providence Plan/Ready2Learn.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we should remind ourselves that much work remains and our communities need us more than ever. With this in mind, the Firm remains committed to the work and looks ahead to building on the Center's success to take us to greater heights in bettering our Firm, our profession and our communities.



- Joseph Ryan, CEO, Brown Rudnick

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, 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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