

center news

Issue 57 :: Fall Edition (October- December 2013) :: www.brownrudnickcenter.com



Winners of 9th Annual Holiday Card Contest for Boston Public School Students Announced

Contest to support arts education was co-created by Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts and Brown Rudnick, and is supported by Boston Public Schools

In December, the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest hosted the 9th annual award ceremony for Boston public school student winners of the "holiday card contest" in Brown Rudnick's Boston office. A long-standing collaboration between the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts ("VLA-MA"), and the Boston Public Schools, this contest invites students to submit original artwork, with winning entry chosen to be the picture on one of Brown Rudnick's holiday card offerings.



...*Story continued on page 2*

An Important Victory for Immigrant Clients Detained in the "New Bedford Raid"

Brown Rudnick achieved a significant pro bono victory after six years of legal advocacy within the convoluted immigration system. The Firm's immigrant clients were at great risk for removability from the United States if they lost their cases. As a result of Brown Rudnick's incredible team work, pro bono legal representation efforts and newly adopted favorable legislation, the clients now can remain in the United States, as long as their cases stay administratively closed. (Such cases are very rarely reopened.)

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Winners of 9th Annual Holiday Card Contest for Boston Public School Students Announced (continued from page 1)

Contestants, along with their teachers and families, and Brown Rudnick attorneys and staff gathered to celebrate the winning artwork, with each winning student receiving an award certificate and art supplies. The 2013 honorees were:

First Place:

Title: "Deer"

Student Artist: Akram Kumkarran
School: Harbor Pilot Middle School



Elementary School Winner:

Title: Peace/Joy

Student Artist: Christina M. Fuentes
School: Donald McKay K-8



Middle School Winner:

Title: Seasons Greetings

Student Artist: Stanley Luc
School: Harbor Pilot Middle School



Created to support arts education in Boston Public Schools, the contest provides an opportunity for educators to engage students in an art enrichment program. The contest was initiated with a grant from The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation and with assistance from the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, as well as through the support of the Boston Public Schools. The Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts is a 2013-14 Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship Grant Recipient.

An Important Victory for Immigrant Clients Detained in the "New Bedford Raid" (continued from page 1)

The situation that gave rise to this litigation was national news some six years ago. Agents from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") raided the Michael Bianco, Inc. factory in New Bedford, MA (the "New Bedford Raid") without warning and arrested over 350 workers as illegal immigrants. The New Bedford Raid became a humanitarian calamity. For example, after being detained, "Maritza" and "Morena" ("Morena"), were handcuffed to other women for hours, bused to a detention center where they were held until finally questioned, and suffered additional indignities during their detention. Many of the detainees did not speak English and could not understand what was happening to them. They were not permitted to contact family or friends or even children waiting to be picked up at school or those providing day care for infants. Some were moved out of state for continued detention. Legal Services programs and law firms immediately mobilized to help the defenseless women. Brown Rudnick undertook representation of both Maritza and Morena, filing motions to suppress so as to terminate their cases and to prevent their removal from the United States.

Maritza's Story

In Maritza's case, the Immigration Court denied the motion to suppress, but did not issue a written decision. Maritza appealed the denial to the Board of Immigration Appeals ("BIA") which remanded the case to the Immigration Court instructing it to provide a written decision. The Immigration Court did so, again denying the motion to suppress. Maritza then appealed the denial. She also moved for prosecutorial discretion to the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") based on recent guidance from DHS concerning increased use of prosecutorial discretion in cases where the respondent is not a criminal, not a threat to public safety, not a recent entrant into the US, and not a repeat offender of US immigration laws. In April 2013, the DHS exercised its prosecutorial discretion and moved to administratively close Maritza's case. In June 2013, the BIA found in favor of Maritza's appeal and remanded the case, finding that the Immigration Court's factual findings in support of its denial of Maritza's motion to suppress were insufficient. Following the remand, the Immigration Court judge administratively closed the case.

Morena's Story

In Morena's case, at the hearing on the motion to suppress, the Court suggested that Morena similarly move for prosecutorial discretion. She did so. At a status conference on Morena's case in April 2012, while the motion for prosecutorial discretion was still pending, the judge administratively closed the case. Brown Rudnick recently received the formal notice that these matters are administratively closed.

These cases represent a multi-year team effort both within and outside the firm. The Brown Rudnick team in this Pro Bono Impact Case was first led by former Brown Rudnick Partner, **Margaret Pinkham**, and was subsequently supervised by Brown Rudnick Partner, **Liz Ritvo**. Several of the Firm's litigation and restructuring associates also contributed to this matter: former colleagues, **Erin McLaughlin**, **Monica Cafaro**, and **Nathan Forster**; and current colleagues, **Ryan Moore**, **Shemane Amin**, and **Priya Selvam**. The associate team was assisted by **Gail Carpinello**. In addition to the Brown Rudnick team, Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project regularly advised Brown Rudnick on immigration issues. Then Senator John Kerry also wrote letters on behalf of Maritza and Morena (at Brown Rudnick's request), urging prosecutorial discretion.

Simply put, the clients are very happy with a result that seemed very unlikely at the beginning of the cases. They had been so helpless and Justice seemed so elusive before Brown Rudnick became their advocates.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Homeless Legal Clinic (Boston)	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Walk to the Hill (Boston)	31	

January 2014

2014 Center Calendar Now Available!

The 2014 Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest calendar is now available. The calendar, which was delivered in early December to all Brown Rudnick attorneys and staff, celebrates the community partnerships and successes from the past year. We thank the many people at the Firm who contributed their time, talent and energy to advancing the Center's mission of philanthropy and access to justice. If you would like a calendar, please contact Kellie Cahill at kecahill@brownrudnick.com.



NYC Urban Debater League, Charles Athanasopolous & Geordano Liriano Are Ranked As the #1 Team in the Entire Nation!

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation has supported the growth of the NYC Urban Debate League for several years. Recently, student debate teams from across the country participated in one of their tournaments at Harvard University. Debated topics included: Latin American Foreign Policy, the right to unilateral military intervention to prevent nuclear proliferation, and the strategy of nonviolence as a means for social justice. At the conclusion of the tournament, two students from "our" NYC Urban Debate League, Charles Athanasopolous and Geordano Liriano, had risen to #1 ranked national debate team.



★ THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ★

Capitol Historical Society Continues to Receive Praise for "We the People" Public School Tours

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation has provided a grant to the Capitol Historical Society for many years. The grant supports the "We the People" project in the D.C. public school students with the study of the U.S. Constitution through tours of historic sites, classroom lessons and an annual "We the People" competition.

The student tours got off to a great start in November. As an example, a teacher at McKinley Middle School whose class participated in the tour wrote this note:

"I wanted to let you know how great the "We the People" Tour went today. My kids had an awesome, awesome time!!!!!!!!!!!!.....They were so into it even through the cold. I can't wait to see how they incorporate this into their projects and read their reflections. Thank you so much for putting this out there for the social studies teachers. Now, for as long as they live my students will be able to say "I've been there." and as lovers of history we know how important this is. Thanks again!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
 - Middle School Teacher



“Go Casual for Justice!”

As part of the 2013 National Pro Bono Week, Brown Rudnick’s Washington, DC office participated in the DC Bar’s “Go Casual for Justice!” fundraiser. This has been an annual event in the DC office for several years. The funds collected go toward benefiting the legal aid providers in DC.

RECENT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENTS

Foundation Community Grants provide a small amount of one time funding for an immediate, specific (and often overlooked) educational need.

Thurgood Marshall Academy in Washington, DC

A grant of \$500 was awarded to purchase camera equipment that students on the debate team can use to record practice sessions.

Latin American Montessori Bilingual School in Washington, DC

A grant of \$2000 was awarded to support the purchase of musical instruments for educational use in the classroom to support learning in music, critical thinking, and general development including self-esteem and motivation for 320 children.

Highlander Charter School in Providence, RI

A grant was awarded to support the purchase of supplies enabling the establishment of a student created school newspaper.

Brown Rudnick Donates \$60,000 to UNICEF to Support Communities Affected by Typhoon Haiyan



Through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, the law firm of Brown Rudnick LLP made a \$60,000 contribution to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in support of emergency disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan.

The donation came together as a result of a Firm-wide effort in which \$25,000 was donated directly by the law firm. The remainder was raised through individual contributions from Firm partners and staff. Additionally, Brown Rudnick held a “Philippine Typhoon Relief Jeans Day,” whereby for a minimum \$5.00 donation, attorneys and staff could wear jeans during the work day. Participants from all the Firm’s offices – Boston, Hartford, London, New York, Orange County, Providence and Washington, DC – took part in this initiative.

According to Brown Rudnick’s CEO, Joseph F. Ryan, “The devastating typhoon in the Philippines has caused massive damage. UNICEF estimates that more than 40 percent of the 12.9 million people affected by the storm are children and over 5 million more may be at risk. UNICEF has been mobilizing all of its available resources to reach these children immediately, and we wanted to support this relief effort. We are proud to be part of reaching out to the people of the Philippines and assisting with their recovery.”

In the past, through the Center, Brown Rudnick has made contributions to relief efforts in the wake of major humanitarian tragedies and disasters. Most recently, the Firm contributed \$25,000 to One Boston Fund to assist those affected by the Boston Marathon bombing.

Accepting Applications for Community Grants

Each month the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation accepts 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, or Washington, DC within the coming year. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/community-grant>.

community involvement and pro bono

DCF Holiday Gift Drive Helps Needy Children

In what has become an annual tradition, the Center coordinated collaboration in the Boston office between the Massachusetts Department of Children and Family Services ("DCF") and Brown Rudnick volunteers. DCF provides a holiday gift "wish list" from children in their custody and individuals at Brown Rudnick "adopt" a specific child by purchasing gifts for their child, to be delivered by DCF for the holiday season. During a lunch hour, Brown Rudnick donors gathered in a Boston conference room to collectively wrap their gifts. Kellie Cahill, the Center Coordinator, organizes this drive annually.



Dear Brown Rudnick,

I want to thank you so much for your outstanding compassion to help our children and families. Your generosity and kindness is above measure!!! The children have so much to be grateful for as you have given them a holiday to cherish and a New Year filled with hope and promise.

Each of you has worked so hard and given so much love, care and commitment to this project. The children we serve have all experienced such difficult situations in their young lives. Your dedication and concern for their happiness year after year helps them to see the world can be a very caring place, filled with loving and kind people. This goes a long way to help shape their character and views. One day, they may turn around and be able to do the same, remembering back to those who helped them.

Have a wonderful holiday season and please know how grateful we are to you!!!

*In Deep Thanks,
Department of Children and Families*



Opening Doors for Women

Carolyn Nguyen, Priya Selvam, Mary-Laura Greely, Sarah Baldwin and Jessica Lu represented Brown Rudnick at "The National Conversation on Board Diversity" Event in Boston held by 2020 Women on Boards in November. Its mission is to increase the percentage of women on Fortune 1000 US company boards to 20% or greater by the year 2020. Brown Rudnick provides legal assistance to Women on Boards in pursuit of their mission.

VLA Artist Fee Collection Initiative - Securing Victory for another Artist

The Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts referred a matter to Brown Rudnick in connection with the Firm's "Fee Collection Initiative" on behalf of low-income artists who have not been paid for their art work. The Firm represented Ms. C., an artist who had given her artwork on commission to a gallery for them to sell. When she subsequently was unable to obtain either return of the artwork or any commission, she sought legal help.

Brown Rudnick sued the gallery and recently obtained a judgment of over \$35,000, a very significant sum for the client. As the gallery is located in a southern state, the Firm will now be working with a locally-licensed attorney to enforce the judgment.

The team working on this matter included Andy Strehle, Jessica Lu and Kaylan Sliney.

recent pro bono legal activity

Brown Rudnick Tradition

On the morning after their elevation as partners in the Firm, the newly elevated partners continued a long-standing tradition in support of pro bono representation by sending the following e-mail.

From: Toms, Christian P. [On behalf of himself, Mary Bucci, Lena Hodge, May Orenstein, Tuvi Keinan, Carolyn Austin, Adam Schoen, Jean-Francois Le Gal, Roger Kennell and Henry Kikoyo]

To: Firm

Subject: Our commitment to Brown Rudnick's pro bono efforts

Dear all,

On behalf of Mary, Lena, May, Tuvi, Carolyn, Adam, Jean-Francois, Roger, Henry, and myself, I am pleased to continue the tradition of inviting associates and paralegals who are taking on pro bono matters in the new year to seek opportunities to work directly with us on those matters. Each member of the most recent class of elevated partners has committed to working on at least one such pro bono matter in 2014.

As you'll already know, Brown Rudnick has a strong tradition of providing pro bono representation to the disadvantaged and underrepresented, and we would each like to see those efforts continue to thrive. In pro bono matters, associates have unique opportunities to gain experience while helping others. Speaking for myself, I've had some fantastic and hugely rewarding "victories" which most importantly have brought much comfort to clients who might not otherwise have had their voices properly represented, or in some cases even heard. We urge you to take advantage of these opportunities.

Please let any one of us know if you would be interested in involving us in your pro bono matters. We look forward to working with you.

Thanks,

Chris

just us

The War

The "War on Poverty", declared by President Lyndon Johnson in his 1964 State of the Union Address, was envisioned as a full-bore effort to attack one of the nation's most intractable challenges. The 50th anniversary of this initiative has provoked much debate and commentary about the status and success of this effort.

Our history instructs that "winning" a war is an elusive concept and that is no less true for this "war." As the Center on Budget and Policy reports, there is some good news when viewed broadly, from the top: "[P]overty has fallen significantly over the last half-century when measured using a comprehensive poverty measure and other troubling poverty-related conditions have declined." *Chart Book: The War on Poverty at 50.*

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4069> But, "Nevertheless, poverty and hardship remain high, with millions of Americans having trouble putting food on the table and a roof over their heads. Nearly 50 million Americans were poor in 2012, including 13 million children, and 16 million people lived below half of the poverty line." The 30,000 foot level may be encouraging, but for those that are stuck at the ground level, not so much.

Through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, we are working on this at ground level or "in the trenches," to continue the war metaphor.

As this edition of the Center Newsletter attests, in our recent pro bono work to provide access to justice, we have "fought" for immigrants facing deportation when caught up in an ill-conceived government raid; for women seeking to break through gender barriers on corporate boards; for low-income artists who are not being paid for their work. Through our charitable efforts, we have provided encouragement and hope for scores of Boston public school students and their teachers through our Holiday Art Contest; helped to bring the Constitution within reach for scores of D.C. public school students and debate alive for students across New York City; encouraged immediate educational advancement with Community Grants in Providence and Washington D.C.; contributed funds to legal aid organizations; and many of us even reached into our pockets to provide gifts during the holiday season to children in state care.

The gains made against poverty and injustice during the past half century *are* impressive and commendable. But for those who -- today -- are caught in poverty and whose hopes for the future appear limited by societal circumstance, poverty has not declared a cease-fire. We must keep fighting, at least on the ground level for each of them and for their future.

