

# center news

Issue 58 :: Winter Edition (January – March 2014) :: [www.brownrudnickcenter.com](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com)



2014 Dushman Award  
 Winner Christian Toms



CEO Joe Ryan presents the  
 2014 Dushman Award to Winner Keith Shultz

## Presentation of the 7th Annual M. Robert Dushman Awards

At the annual State of the Firm address, Brown Rudnick CEO Joseph Ryan announced the recipients of the Firm's 7th annual Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest *M. Robert Dushman Pro Bono* and *Community Service Awards*. 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 **Christian Toms**, a London partner in the Firm's International Litigation and Arbitration team. Chris joined the Firm in March, 2010, and was elevated to partner in 2014. He is a key reason for the successful expansion of the Center for the Public Interest to London. He was elected to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Board in 2012 when the Foundation expanded its jurisdiction to London. Chris has been an active participant in the Foundation's grants committee and has been significantly involved in the selection and relationship building with the Foundation's first two grantees in the UK.

Chris has also been a leader in the Firm's pro bono legal representation work in London. He co-led the effort to establish a successful relationship with LawWorks, the leading pro bono referral entity in London, resulting in many pro bono opportunities for Brown Rudnick's London office. He is presently helping to coordinate an effort to establish a regular London office connection with a pro bono legal clinic. Significantly, Chris also personally handles a number of pro bono engagements.

The *Community Service Award* was presented to **Keith Schultz**, Director of Information Technology in the Boston office and with the Firm since 1999. This award recognizes a non-attorney at Brown Rudnick who has demonstrated a long-standing, exceptional contribution to community service through his/her employment at the Firm, in recognition of the spirit and philosophy of respect and egalitarianism Mr. Dushman had for everyone in the Brown Rudnick workplace (Continued on page 2).

### in this issue...

Cover Story  
 page 1

Foundation News  
 page 3

Grantee News  
 page 4

Community Grant  
 Recipients  
 page 5

Pro Bono  
 Legal Activity  
 page 8

Just Us  
 page 9



&  
 THE  
 BROWN  
 RUDNICK  
 CHARITABLE  
 FOUNDATION  
 CORP.



Images from the 2014 Mock Trial Competition  
Photographs by Jeff Thiebauth

### Massachusetts Bar Association Mock Trial Finals a Success

Foundation 2013-14 grantee, the Mass Bar Association (MBA), held the final round of mock trials in Boston's historic Faneuil Hall at the end of March. Hundreds of students from across the Commonwealth learned about civics and the law while gaining first hand speaking, organization and analytical experience. In the culminating event before judges, teachers and family, the Winsor School team was victorious over the team from Pioneer Valley, with each team providing exceptionally poised and powerful presentations.

Brown Rudnick had been the primary sponsor of the state-wide mock trial program since 1998. In 2013-14, with the Firm donation no longer available, MBA applied for and was awarded a Foundation Relationship grant in to support the Boston school participant portion of this exceptional MBA program. More information is available at [www.massbar.org/publications/e-journal/2014/march/03-27/mock-trial](http://www.massbar.org/publications/e-journal/2014/march/03-27/mock-trial).



Image from the 2014 Mock Trial Competition  
Photograph by Jeff Thiebauth

*"I am very honored to have recently received the M. Robert Dushman Community Service Award. Being nominated for this award was a complete surprise and an honor in and of itself. Finding out that I was actually receiving it left me speechless. I am very appreciative to everyone involved with nominating me and voting for me to receive this prestigious award. I am truly grateful." – 2014 Dushman Community Service Award Winner, Keith Schultz*

Keith is a model for camaraderie, community service and charitable giving both in and outside of the office. At Brown Rudnick, he participates in the Boston office's annual winter holiday "adoption" of children in the care of the Department of Children and Family Services. He is a regular participant in Brown Rudnick charitable fundraising "denim days." On Thursday mornings you can find him before the work day begins striding with the "Brown Rudnick Boston Running Club."

Outside the office, his activities further distinguish him. Keith is an avid participant in road races for charity, and in 2014 he will run the Boston Marathon for which he has pledged to raise \$5,000 to be donated to the a two-time Brown Rudnick Charitable grant recipient, Boston's Curley K-8 public school.

Keith and his family are also deeply involved in community service, with a particular focus on environmental clean ups of beaches and cities. With his wife and son, he participated in 10 beach cleanups last year. His family is also members of the "Helping 2 Unite Brockton Clean-Up Crew," a group of volunteer citizens who are concerned about how their home city looks who work to spruce up neglected areas.

*"I was touched even to be considered for the Dushman award and incredibly proud to receive it. Pro bono is such an important commitment for the firm's lawyers and a core part of the Center's mission. It enables me to use my skills to give a little something back, and I have been fortunate to work on matters that have allowed me to help others who might otherwise not have had their voices heard or interests defended. I have found this to be incredibly rewarding." – 2014 Dushman Pro Bono Award Winner, Christian Toms*



**Orange County Office Connects with the Center for the Public Interest.**

In February, Brown Rudnick's Orange County office held a lunch with Foundation Executive Director Al Wallis to learn about pro bono opportunities and about the mission of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation.



**Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Annual Relationship Grant Selection Process Underway**

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation recently invited brief letters of interest from tax-exempt organizations who would like to apply for its 2014-2015 Relationship Grants. The Foundation will soon invite a small number of these organizations to submit full grant proposals. These Relationship grants, which aim to support inner-city education programs in Boston, Harford, London, Providence, New York and Washington, DC, commence on September 1, 2014 for the upcoming academic year.

For information about current grantees, please visit:

<http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/relationship-grant-recipient>

**Annual Meeting of the Foundation**

At its annual meeting in January, the Foundation re-elected Directors Jeff Jonas, Kiersten Taylor and Patrick Elliot, each to a three year term. Officers were also re-elected to another one year term: Joe Ryan as Chairman, Jeff Jonas as President, Katy Gardner as Vice President, Steve Wasserman as Treasurer and Doug Cohen as Secretary.

The Directors also authorized the continuation of the Community Grants Program for another year. This program provides about 12 small grants, one a month, for immediate, tangible contribution to an improvement in inner-city education. For more information about applying for these grants, please visit:

[www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/community-grant](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/community-grant).

## Thurgood Marshall Academy Debate Team on a Roll

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Thurgood Marshall Academy in Washington, DC for camera equipment that students on the debate team can use to record practice sessions. The school updated us recently on the team's progress.

*"I wanted to write to update you on the various successes of our Debate Team so far this year. Our team members (this year, the Debate team has about 10 regular members) have recorded top-10 finishes in every tournament they've entered so far this year.*

*In December, Thurgood Marshall Academy hosted a debate tournament that attracted schools from all over DC and Maryland. Twenty teams competed; Thurgood Marshall Academy's teams recorded the most overall wins, and placed second in percentage of wins vs. losses. Additionally, junior Anthonya James was selected as the top speaker of the tournament with classmate Cer'cia Wallace recording 6th place overall.*

*In January, Thurgood Marshall Academy sent a team of its top-three individual debaters to the annual Omega Psi Phi tournament at The George Washington University. The team took 2nd place overall out of 12 teams, and students received a \$150 prize for placing second. The Debate Team also recorded many successes in a February tournament at Cesar Chavez, one of the largest debate tournaments this year with over 20 teams participating. Thurgood Marshall Academy entered two teams into this tournament. Three individual students placed in the top-10 of all debaters, and both teams placed in the top-10 for team wins.*

*Our freshman debaters have begun to come into their own as well! Ninth-grader Alicia Hughes has been invited to attend the 2014 Department of Education Oratorical Competition on March 19th.*

*We want to extend our deepest appreciation for the support of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for its support of our Debate team. We've recorded so many successes this year, in part due to better training the students have received since we now have a camera to record practice sessions".*

Many thanks,

Noura Hemady  
Grants and Communications Associate  
Thurgood Marshall Academy  
(Pictures on the right of Thurgood Marshall Debate Team)



## 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>.

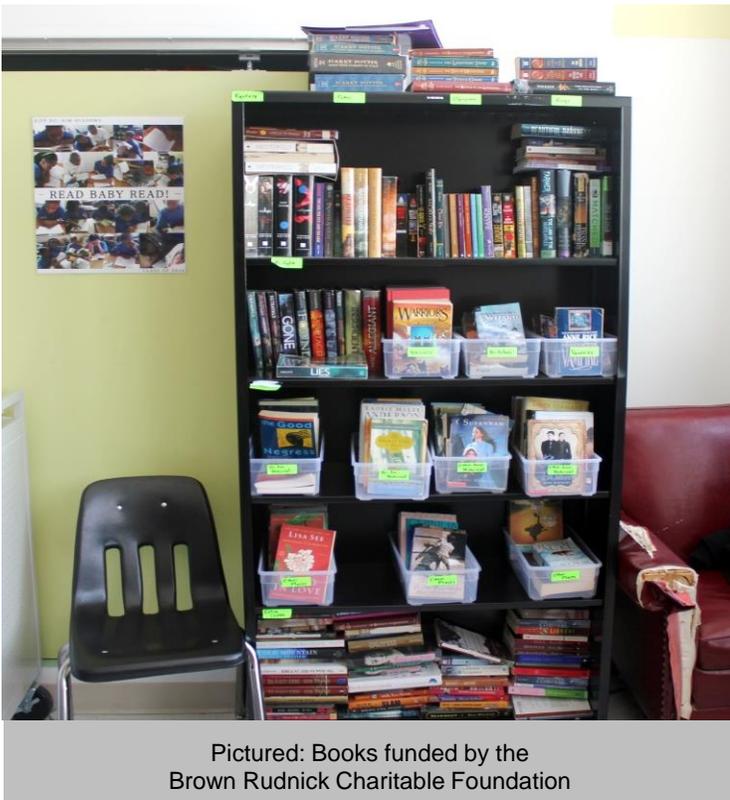
### Additional Support for Home Literacy Program at Thomas A. Edison K-8 School in Boston

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Thomas A. Edison K-8 School for the purchase of a specialized projector that works with iPads.

This grant builds on the success of a program supported by a Foundation Community Grant in 2013. Last year's grant helped Thomas A. Edison K-8 School purchase four iPads and software as part of the school's Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) class curriculum for the lowest level English language learners in kindergarten. These iPads were used successfully in small group stations to help each student develop Math and English language skills at his/her specific language level.

*"Following the success of our 2013 program, we identified a need for an additional grant so that we might fully realize the implementation of our small group iPad curriculum. These iPads will give students more one-on-one access to the instructional applications in the classroom."*

-- Leslye Jones, Thomas A. Edison K-8 School SEI Teacher and grant applicant



Pictured: Books funded by the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation

### Visit to KIPP Academy

In March, Foundation Executive Director Al Wallis and a Brown Rudnick D.C. associate visited Community Grant recipient, KIPP Academy, where they attended a class and interacted with the students. The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation previously gave the KIPP Academy a Community Grant to purchase books for the school.

### Grant Helps Establish a Math Library at Providence School

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Carl G. Lauro Elementary School in Providence, RI to help establish a math resource library for teachers and students at the school.

The math library will include materials to support math teachers such as helpful books, workbooks, and other resources for teachers to borrow and utilize in the classroom. In addition, the library will contain engaging math-themed books and materials for students to borrow and use as a supplement to their class lessons.

*"The goal of this grant is to help improve math proficiency among Lauro students, which is a key priority for the school. By establishing a math resource library our teachers and students will have additional resources focused on accelerating math learning."*

-- Margaret Simms, Carl G. Lauro Elementary School math coach and grant applicant



### Grant Helps Providence Third-Grade Students Learn about Renewable Energy

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Webster Avenue Elementary School in Providence, RI for the purchase of wind turbine kits for a third-grade science class. The kits will be used as a teaching tool so students can understand why wind is a feasible source of energy.

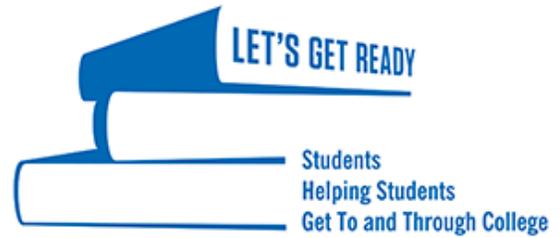
*“As part of my teaching of renewable energy sources, my objective is to demonstrate how wind energy has become, and will continue to be, a powerful and necessary natural energy source. I am grateful for the support of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation.”*

-- Agnes Summerly, Webster Avenue School teacher and grant applicant



### Supporting the Creative Play Center in Hartford's Public Libraries

The most recent Hartford Public School readiness data estimates that less than 50 percent of incoming kindergarten children have even the most basic early literacy skills for academic success. The Foundation grant allows the library to reach these children by purchasing early learning materials for the initial startup of a Creative Play Center in each of Hartford's ten branch libraries.



### Helping Providence Students Prepare for the SATs through the Let's Get Ready Program

Low-income, first generation college-bound students face particular challenges in taking the SAT tests. Foundation has awarded a grant for the purchase of calculators to support the training of 50 well-deserving, motivated Providence students who are in a free 10 week SAT and college prep course.



### Project Chick at the Community Preparatory School in Providence

This grant provides low-income third grade students with hands-on opportunity to truly bring their "life cycle" curriculum to life. The Foundation grant enables participation in Project Chick - a program run by a local farm. Casey Farm is a community farm that provides the classroom with the supplies needed to hatch and care for Rhode Island Red and Dominique eggs/chicks. This program ties into the third grade life cycle curriculum, and also touches on aspects of other subject areas including language arts, math, and technology. Third graders are responsible for charting the incubator and classroom temperatures and monitoring the chicks throughout the 21-day incubation period.

## community involvement



### Firm-wide Support of National Wear Red Day

In February, all Brown Rudnick offices participated in National Wear Red Day in which donations were accepted in exchange for a "denim day" at work. This year, the effort coordinated by the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, raised approximately \$1,330. Proceeds from US offices will support the American Heart Association, London office proceeds will support the British Heart Foundation, and Paris office proceeds will support the French Federation of Cardiology. A special thanks to Jessica Pels, Karen Brisbois, Denise Kaer, Judy Downey, Amy Bull, Val Jones, Diana Nelson, Samantha Walbridge and Kellie Cahill for helping to coordinate.

In addition to participating in the "Go Red Day," a number of the Brown Rudnick's Orange County partners attended the local "Go Red for Women" luncheon by the American Heart Association, purchasing a table, and inviting clients and guests interested in supporting the cause.

### BR London Team Helps the Homeless via the Vertical Rush Challenge



The die-hard members of the Brown Rudnick running club recently took part in this year's Vertical Rush challenge. Supporting donations benefit the charity *Shelter*, which works to alleviate the distress caused by homelessness and bad housing. The organization helps people find and keep a home, while campaigning for decent housing for all. They pledge "Our work won't stop until there's a home for everyone."



### Annual Walk to the Hill in Massachusetts

Brown Rudnick again participated with hundreds of Massachusetts attorneys in the Annual Walk to the Hill in support of state funding for legal services. The Brown Rudnick team walked to the State House at lunch time to hear remarks about the current gaps in access to justice and then fanned out to visit their state senator and representative to ask for his/her support.

## pro bono legal activity

### Civil rights: Hotel Franchise Terminates Employee because of Participation in Rehab Program

At the request of the Washington D.C. Lawyers' Committee, Brown Rudnick has been engaged on a pro bono basis to represent a hotel employee who was terminated after taking two weeks of leave to participate in a substance abuse rehabilitation program. Although the employee had never been cited by her employer for any performance deficiencies related to her illness, upon her return from the rehab program, the complainant was terminated with no cause provided by her employer. The Lawyers' Committee believes that this employee's termination was in violation of both the ADA and the FMLA, and raises important issues related to accommodating persons seeking to recover from substance abuse issues. Dan Abrams and Shlomo Katz are the Brown Rudnick attorneys on this matter.



### Contract Negotiations for Foundation Grant Recipient

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation often offers pro bono representation to its Relationship Grant recipients in matters related to the success of their grant program. Longstanding Boston Relationship Grantee, Thompson Island, operates its educational programs for Boston Public School students on site on an island leased from Outward Bound in the Boston harbor. The Firm has been engaged to handle contract negotiations for Thompson Island. Brown Rudnick CEO Joe Ryan is counsel on the matter.

### Continuing a Long-Held Pro Bono Tradition

Continuing an annual tradition initiated by Brown Rudnick Administrative Partner Andy Strehle, upon his elevation to partner in 2004, the Firm's newly elevated partners sent an e-mail on the morning after their elevation to the Firm encouraging pro bono work. Christian Toms, on behalf of himself and Mary Bucci, Tuvi Keinan, Lena Hodge, May Orenstein, Carolyn Austin, Roger Kennell, Henry Kikoyo, Jean-François Le Gal, and Adam Schoen, wrote: *"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."*



### Representing the Homeless

Twice a year, Brown Rudnick provides legal staffing at a Boston legal clinic for the homeless in Boston. In January, Boston first-year associates, plus supervising partner James Hauser, associate Christian Rivera and the Center's Al Wallis and Kellie Cahill interviewed 19 homeless men and women at the Pine Street Inn, counselling them, and in many cases, entering into engagements to provide additional representation.

### Innocence Project

At the request of the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, Brown Rudnick has been engaged to represent a man convicted of rape 35 years ago. While the man confessed, the voluntariness of the confession is in doubt, as is the victim's identification of the perpetrator. The Innocence Project has recently discovered physical evidence not previously available that may permit DNA testing. Paul Enzinna and Jed Dinnerstein are the attorneys on this matter, seeking orders allowing the DNA testing.



### Wallis in LawDragon's Guide to World Class Lawyering

Legal magazine LawDragon has named Brown Rudnick's Al Wallis as one of "the 2013-2014 LawDragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America". <http://www.lawdragon.com/the-2013-lawdragon-500-leading-lawyers/>. Also named were several of Al's colleagues active in the national Association of Pro Bono Counsel. <http://www.apbco.org/>

## pro bono legal activity

### Pro Bono Hour Goal Met for 2014

As a signatory to the national Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, Brown Rudnick has pledged its good faith efforts to annually devote at least 3% of our U.S. billable time to pro bono engagements. In calendar year 2014, the Firm exceeded its 3% goal.

## just us



### The Grant Cycle

The Center News winter edition offers some confirmation that the challenging season has concluded. It also signals that the annual Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation's Relationship Grant application and selection process is again underway. From reading the pages of this and other Center newsletters, you know that our one year grants commence in September and that the grants aim to improve inner-city education in each of the locations where Brown Rudnick LLP has a full office.

You might assume that it is easy for a charity to give away money, but you would be wrong. The process involves a lot of steps: concepts; committee meetings; board votes; committee review of every single applicant's *letter of interest*; choices from among those applicants on who to invite to submit full proposals; careful committee review and debate of each of those proposals and difficult selection of finalists; due diligence regarding the chosen nominees; reports and votes by the Board of Directors.

And then the hardest & easiest parts:

- Having to inform so many worthy causes and great, well-intentioned people that they will not receive a grant this year; and
- Presenting a grant check to those organizations whom we will be able to partner with for the next academic year.

And then the best part: the reward of seeing our grants at work, supporting good programs and improving the lives of real people.

-Al Wallis

