



THE BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CORP.

Profiles in Pro Bono

ARTIST'S FEE COLLECTION INITIATIVE IS A PRO BONO MASTERPIECE

Brown Rudnick has been honored for its work with the VLA. In 2006, the VLA selected both Brown Rudnick and Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis as individual recipients of the Robert B. Fraser Award for Pro Bono Excellence. In 2007, the Boston Business Journal presented Brown Rudnick with its Corporate Partner of the Year Award for the Arts for its multi-year support of and work with the VLA.

The VLA has also been a recipient of a Relationship Grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for almost a decade. Through that grant, Brown Rudnick and VLP collaborate annually on a holiday card contest to encourage the arts in Boston's public schools and on the Teen Art Law Program which visits Boston Public School classrooms to teach students about intellectual property concepts.

Artist's Fee Collection Initiative Is a Pro Bono Masterpiece

Through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, Brown Rudnick's Boston attorneys, paralegals, and staff have been longtime supporters of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston, Inc./Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts ("VLA") by participating in the VLA pro bono referral panel. In 2005, Brown Rudnick created and launched a signature pro bono project, the *VLA/BR Artists' Fee Collection Initiative*, which focuses on representing low-income artists in pursuit of fees they are owed for their artistic endeavors. The overall initiative is managed by Partner Andrew Strehle, with participation from Brown Rudnick attorneys and paralegals across multiple practice groups. Andy is also the Firm's Administrative Partner and its Pro Bono Committee Chair. We asked Andy to update us on recent developments with the Fee Collection Initiative.

How has this initiative evolved since it was launched?

Since we launched the initiative in 2005, the Firm has represented 31 individual artists. The first group of artists were experiencing difficulty getting paid for their artistic work. Our representation has expanded to include assisting artists to protect their legal rights, such as intellectual property matters. Our work spans everything from helping a professional dancer who was denied admission to a dance

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facility, to helping an artist's descendant with a copyright for a 19th century manuscript which was displayed at a Nebraska museum.

What have been the most notable cases?

During the last seven years, there have been a number of notable cases, but one of the more challenging matters involved an artist with car trouble. This client needed help negotiating with her auto mechanics, who had failed to repair her car (it wouldn't go in reverse). I represented this client along with Erin Apstein, who was a Junior Associate at the time. When we started the engagement, the client initially insisted on working only with a veteran attorney. However, Erin, who had been involved in multi-million dollar negotiations as a member of the Firm's Finance Group, was able to convince the client that she was more than capable of handling the suit. Erin won in court, and the client was delighted.

Perhaps the most memorable case involved an artist who had been hired, but had not been paid, for painting a 2-story mural on the side of a Boston restaurant. She was so heartbroken and embarrassed that she changed her daily commute so that she wouldn't have to pass by the mural each day. We worked with the artist over several weeks to achieve full payment -- and best of all she was able to return to her normal commuting routine while also enjoying her wonderful mural.



What has been the most rewarding aspect of this pro bono work for you personally?

I enjoy the challenging, often diverse, nature of the work. In my practice, I regularly represent corporate borrowers and lenders in complex financing matters, including those that involve troubled situations. This work allows me to use those same skills to help a different group of clients recover what is owed to them. Also, I like that our clients bring an artist's perspective to their situations. Artists and lawyers can both be creative, but in remarkably different ways. Most importantly, as a lawyer, I think it is important to help the less-enfranchised with their legal needs. The VLA and Brown Rudnick are taking a leadership position in helping artists to achieve justice, and that is truly rewarding.

How do you think pro bono work aligns with the Firm's culture and mission?

Pro bono work, such as the Artists' Fee Collection Initiative, helps us to see how our legal talents can meaningfully change our clients' daily lives. Our new associates learn this first-hand by taking on challenging pro bono assignments. As our attorneys develop their skills, they contribute to addressing ever-larger matters for our clients, shaping our Firm's culture in the process.

Center News

NEW FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

During the Foundation's Annual Meeting on January 10, 2012, the Board of Directors elected Jeffrey L. Jonas as Foundation President. A member of Brown Rudnick's Management Committee, Jeff is a Co-Leader of the Firm's Restructuring Group. Jeff succeeds Catherine Gardner, who has served as Interim President since 2011.

"I am pleased and honored to serve as Foundation President. The Foundation is an integral part of Brown Rudnick's culture, and our mission is rooted in the bold, pioneering spirit of the lawyers and professionals at the Firm. I look forward to working with the Foundation Board to achieve the goal of improving inner-city education."

— Jeff Jonas

During the Foundation's Annual Meeting, the Foundation also elected the following 2012 Board Officers and Directors:

- Joseph Ryan, Chair
- Catherine Gardner, Vice President
- Henry (Buddy) Menn, Vice President
- Michael Camilleri, Treasurer
- Douglas Cohen, Clerk
- Daniel Brown, Director
- Mary Bucci, Director
- Wayne Dennison, Director
- Paul Enzina, Director
- Linda Marcus, Director
- Kerry Quinn, Director
- Angelo Thalassinou, Director



AL WALLIS ELECTED CO-PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PRO BONO COUNSEL ("APBCO")

At APBCO's January 12, 2012 Board meeting, Al Wallis was elected Co-President. Al will serve alongside David Lash, Managing Counsel of Public Interest and Pro Bono Services at O'Melveny & Myers LLP. Formerly, Al served as APBCO's Vice-President, and prior to that served on APBCO's 2010 Leadership Committee.

Established to support the professional development of full-time pro bono counsel at commercial law firms, APBCO has over 100 members from over 75 law firms. The organization works to develop best practices in the field of pro bono practice management and to promote social justice and access to justice in the legal profession.

NOW AVAILABLE: THE CENTER'S 2012 CALENDAR

For the fourth consecutive year, the Center has created an annual wall calendar to celebrate the Firm's pro bono, charitable giving, and volunteer work. Please contact Kellie Cahill at 617.856.8288 or kecahill@brownrudnick.com to request a copy.



Foundation & Charitable Giving News

VISITS TO RELATIONSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS



REACH OUT AND READ

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest continued its long standing support of Reach Out and Read, presenting them with a Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation 2011-12 Relationship Grant check to support early child literacy programs.

(In photo from left: Brown Rudnick Associate, Kristin Gerber; Executive Director of Center, Al Wallis; Reach Out and Read's Director of Development, Rebecca Cohen and CEO, Earl Phalen; and Brown Rudnick's Center Coordinator, Kellie Cahill).



GREAT DEBATERS

Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Acting President Katy Gardner, and Executive Director Al Wallis, visited the Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice in New York City to present a 2011-12 Relationship Grant to support its award-winning debate team, The Bronx Great Debaters.

RECENT COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENTS

HELPING AT-RISK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BUILD MATH AND ENGLISH SKILLS

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to support at-risk high school students enrolled in the Urban Workshop NYC program at Lyons Community School in Bushwick, Brooklyn. The grant will help build a gazebo at Madison Square Community Garden (also in Bushwick).

The Urban Workshop program integrates daily Math and English lessons into construction projects, so that students build their essential academic skills in a way that feels connected to the socially meaningful, hands-on carpentry work. Students develop their own skills, confidence, self-esteem and engagement in learning while making a difference in the neighborhood where they attend school -- and where many of them live. They also receive Math and English credit for their work.



"In Urban Workshop, two experienced teachers work with 19 at-risk high school students, many of whom are receiving special education and/or ESL services. With support from organizations such as the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, we can purchase the construction materials that are integral to our educational program."

– Daniel Morgenroth, Lyons Community School Math teacher and grant applicant



KEEPING THE COMPETITION ALIVE FOR BROOKLYN, NEW YORK DEBATE TEAM

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Debate Team at Benjamin Banneker Academy for Community Development. The grant will support the Debate Team’s participation in the New York Urban Debate League and local travel tournaments.

“The Benjamin Banneker High School for Community Development aims to provide a curriculum that actively engages students in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to adapt to a multicultural society. The debate program advances that goal by providing students with an opportunity to explore the policy decisions that affect their lives and to become politically active in their community. Debaters develop critical thinking, reasoning, research, and communication skills that boost both scholastic achievement and self-esteem.”

— grant applicant and math teacher, James Bathurst

PS 168 SCHOOL

“Thanks to the former Brown Rudnick grant, we were able to purchase an interactive learning and reading program that has helped our students become successful readers and writers. With the recent advancements in technology, our reading and literacy programs would be greatly enhanced by adding new software and a projector. This new grant allows us to buy this new equipment, and I’m confident the students will make even more progress.”

— Nicole Procko, P.S. 168 teacher

GRANT AWARDED TO ASSIST THE LEARNING DISABLED AT P.S. 168 SCHOOL, SOUTH BRONX, NEW YORK

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the P.S. 168 School in the South Bronx, New York. In 2009, the Foundation awarded a similar Community Grant to the P.S. 168 School for the purchase of a white board for kindergarten through second-grade students who have emotional disturbance issues and learning disabilities. The white board is helping students to learn how to read and write using a multi-sensory approach in conjunction with the school’s Preventing Academic Failure Program. This latest grant will take those positive results even further by allowing the school to purchase additional technology that builds on the white board as a teaching instrument.



MBA AND BROWN RUDNICK CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP THAT BRINGS MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM TO HIGH SCHOOLS

Through the Center for the Public Interest, Brown Rudnick donated \$25,000 to the Massachusetts Bar Association’s 2012 Statewide High School Mock Trial Program. The Firm has been the lead financial underwriter since 1998 and has contributed more than a quarter million dollars to the program, in its 27th year.

MOCK TRIAL

“We are deeply grateful to Brown Rudnick for its sustained generosity and support of the MBA’s successful Mock Trial Program. The program is crucial, especially during this time of economic uncertainty of the court system, in its ability to educate young people about both the rule of law and role of the courts.”

— MBA President Richard P. Campbell

Recent Community Involvement

RINGING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH THE VLA HOLIDAY AWARD CEREMONY

As part of the Foundation's Grant to the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts, each year the Center sponsors and supports a holiday art card contest in the Boston public schools, selecting student art as one of the Brown Rudnick holiday card options. A celebratory event was held in the Boston office on December 1st for Brown Rudnick attorneys and staff, students, teachers and parents.



VLA 2011 Holiday Card Contest
First Place Winner
Jillian Demaray
Boston Latin Academy



COMPASS SCHOOL VISIT

Center Executive Director, Al Wallis, and Center Coordinator Kellie Cahill visited The Compass School in Dorchester, MA to present a Community Grant. The Compass School is a non-profit special needs school that serves students with emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities. The grant provided the school with up to date technology (a point of sale cash register) to enhance student experience in this hands-on culinary program where students learn valuable real life skills needed to work in the food service industry.

Recent Community Involvement



STUDENTS OF THE MARITIME ACADEMY PROJECT (HULL LIFESAVING MUSEUM) VISIT BROWN RUDNICK

During the November Charitable Foundation Board Meeting, staff and students from the Maritime Academy Project run by the Hull Lifesaving Museum met with the Foundation Directors. The typical profile of a program participant is a youth who has dropped out of school and been in trouble with the law, but who is ready to take charge of improving his future. Through this program, they are learning a trade while pursuing the GED. They spoke with the Foundation directors about their personal connections to the program and explained how the program has impacted their lives. The project is supported by a Brown Rudnick Relationship Grant.



THE SEASON FOR GIVING BACK

Attorneys and professionals from several Brown Rudnick offices engaged in holiday giving to those in need.

The Boston office participated in a Holiday Gift Drive with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. Brown Rudnick employees provided 45 children in DCF care with gifts for the holidays. The drive concluded with a wrapping party in the Boston office where participating staff wrapped their donated gifts.

The Hartford office 'adopted' five students at the Breakthrough II School in Hartford and purchased coats, boots, clothes and toys for them.



A UNITED FRONT IN COMMUNITY CARING

In November, the 2011 Brown Rudnick Community Caring Philanthropy Campaign kicked off in the Firm's Boston office at a lunch with the United Way and six 2011 Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship grantees.

(In photo, front row, from left: Rebecca Cohen of Reach Out & Read; Fran Colletti of Facing History & Ourselves; back row, from left: Kim Votruba-Matook from Discovering Justice; Carlie Assiello from United Way; Jim Grace from the Arts & Business Council/Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of MA.; Al Wallis; Meryl Kessler from Discovering Justice; Linsay Burke from United Way; Paula Sinclair from Summer Ink; Chris Stokes from Facing History; and Angel Santo Burres from Thompson Island/Outward Bound).



CALL TO PROTECT

In November, the Firm once again participated in the Call to Protect campaign, donating approximately 16 wireless phones, Blackberries, and accessories. Partner Dan Brown coordinates this effort.

Recent Community Involvement

SEEKING A CURE FOR CANCER

The 2011 annual Firm-wide Breast Cancer Awareness (a/k/a) Denim Day, coordinated by the Center for the Public Interest, successfully raised \$1944. These funds were contributed towards research to find a cure for breast cancer.



Boston



DC



Hartford



New York

Awards and Accolades

BROWN RUDNICK'S NEWYORK OFFICE RECOGNIZED FOR PRO BONO WORK

New York Legal Services presented Pro Bono Recognition Awards to Brown Rudnick's Rob Zweibel, Jeb Singer, Jamila Willis, Diane Nardi, Yanfei Shen and Shivani Poddar this past December for their contributions and commitment to Pro Bono work.





BROWN RUDNICK PRO BONO ACCOLADE AWARDED TO LONDON PRO BONO STEERING COMMITTEE

The London office Pro Bono Steering Committee (Neill Shrimpton, Henry Kikoyo, Christian Toms and Ravi Suchak) was presented with a Pro Bono Accolade last week by Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation. The Accolade is in recognition of their work for the past year in initiating and advancing the London office's pro bono engagements through LawWorks <http://lawworks.org.uk/>.

WHO SAID THAT?

"2011 has been an exciting year for BR's London office. We have experienced dramatic growth in the size of our team and have had the opportunity to focus on just how to build a pro bono program in the UK that will capture the values, energy and commitment of our US pro bono work. That's a high priority in 2012."

– Scott Burns, Managing Partner, Brown Rudnick's London office

Pro Bono Legal Representation - Updates

BROWN RUDNICK HELPS DISABLED CLIENT DEPRIVED OF PROMISED EDUCATION DISCHARGE STUDENT LOAN AND PURSUE EDUCATION ELSEWHERE.

A legal team from Brown Rudnick's Boston office recently went to aid of a disabled client in Bankruptcy Court. The team, which included Angelo Thalassinos, Jeremy Coffey, Timothy Durken and Brittney Carroll helped to remove a financial roadblock hindering the client's ability to pursue his education in a program which could provide accommodations for his disabilities.

The results of this matter, which was referred to Brown Rudnick by the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association, was best described by VLP attorney Joanna Allison in an letter to Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest.

"Hi Al,

*Just wanted to let you know about a Brown Rudnick attorney who has done a great job on a bankruptcy case. The client is a legally blind, hearing impaired client who had student loans for an educational program that promised that he could benefit because they would accommodate his disabilities. They did not do so but kept all the student loan money. As a result he had student loan debts that he could not (and never could pay.) Angelo [and the Brown Rudnick team] filed a bankruptcy and accompanying Adversary proceeding to determine the dischargeability of the debt. The student loans are gone and the client can now pursue training in school that will accommodate him. Thanks so much to Angelo, Brown Rudnick and you.
Joanna"*

*Joanna Allison, Attorney
Volunteer Lawyers Project
Boston*

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR STATUS ACHIEVED FOR WEST POINT CADET AFTER YEARS OF LITIGATION.

The Brown Rudnick Washington, D.C. office for several years has been providing pro bono legal representation to Lang Kanai, a former West Point cadet who was seeking conscientious objector status. The *Kanai v. McHugh, Secretary of the Army* pro bono case recently came to a resolution with the US Army's agreement not to demand that Mr. Kanai serve in the military and their acceptance of the former cadet's offer to pay back the cost of his education. This was the relief that Mr. Kanai sought from the start.

To get there, however, was a long challenging legal journey. After a hearing at West Point, the Army's Investigatory Officer recommended granting the conscientious objector application. The Commandant of West Point, however, denied the conscientious objector application and directed Mr. Kanai to report for military service. Mr. Kanai appealed to the Department of the Army's Conscientious Review Board which affirmed the denial by a 3-2 vote. Mr. Kanai then appealed to the US District Court which granted an injunction and ordered the Army to discharge Mr. Kanai. The Army then appealed to the 4th Circuit which reversed the injunction and refused to reconsider its decision. Thereafter, the US Supreme Court denied *certiorari*. Only then did the Army decide that it did not want to demand military service from Mr. Kanai and determine to just recoup the cost of his West Point education.



Brown Rudnick's legal team was led by Daniel Abrahams and included Tammy Hopkins, Howard Wolf-Rodda and Pamela Reynolds. Mr. Kanai has expressed great appreciation for the efforts of Brown Rudnick and the satisfactory final results.

Please contact Al Wallis or Kellie Cahill to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Kellie Cahill, 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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