

center news

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Welcome West Coast Colleagues!



In April, Brown Rudnick expanded its geographic footprint to Southern California combining with Orange County litigation boutique Rus Miliband & Smith. The Firm's Center for the Public Interest looks forward to collaborating with our west coast colleagues on pro bono and philanthropic initiatives.

MEET THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 DUSHMAN AWARDS



In March, Brown Rudnick announced the recipients of the sixth 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. Awardees also receive \$2,500 each to be donated to the charity of their choice. In this issue of the Center Newsletter, we asked the 2013 honorees, Paul Enzinna and Caroline Benoit, about how philanthropy and the pursuit of social justice has impacted their lives.

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dushman awards

Paul Enzinna, recipient of 2013 M. Robert Dushman Pro Bono Award

(Continued from page 1)

Paul Enzinna is a partner in Brown Rudnick's White Collar Defense & Government Group in the Firm's D.C. office. Paul joined the Firm in September of 2010 with, among other things, a reputation for excellence in pro bono legal representation. He has continued that mission as a Brown Rudnick partner, devoting almost 750 hours to pro bono representation since joining the Firm.

Tell us about the scope of your pro bono work.

I have represented a number of death row prisoners, including James Roane, an inmate on the Federal death row, whom I have represented since his direct appeal in 1994. I serve on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, and have represented a number of inmates seeking to prove that they were wrongly convicted. I am also a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and frequently work with firm associates in authoring *amicus curiae* briefs in criminal cases.

Brown Rudnick's commitment to pro bono work was a significant factor in my decision to come here, and I have been very pleased to work with many other firm lawyers in pursuing pro bono efforts. For example, in 2012, several firm associates proposed that the firm provide pro bono legal representation to the Center for American Progress' Enough Project, a nonprofit organization that fights to end genocide and crimes against humanity, in its campaign to stop the highly publicized atrocities taking place in Sudan. On April 19, 2012, on behalf of the Enough Project, we filed a complaint against the Republic of Sudan, alleging violations of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights with respect to Sudanese Civilians in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. The situation is not yet resolved and our representation is ongoing.

I also serve as a Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, and have supported the Firm's partnership with the Posse Foundation, which helps make college a reality for students whose economic circumstances might otherwise have made it impossible.

Why is pro bono work such an important aspect of your legal career?

I started doing pro bono work for selfish reasons – I wanted to try cases, and doing pro bono cases was the quickest way into court. Since then, my pro bono work has been among the most interesting and rewarding work I have done. I have met and worked with and for some amazing people, and I have learned a lot. I would encourage every young lawyer to find something they care about and to get involved. It will make you a better and happier lawyer.



Caroline Benoit delivers her Dushman Award contribution to Bulkeley High School.

Caroline Benoit, recipient of 2013 M. Robert Dushman Pro Community Service Award

Caroline Benoit has been a Research Information Specialist in the Hartford office since June 2010. Among her many philanthropic activities, Caroline serves on the Board of Directors for the Aurora Foundation for Girls, an organization which invests in and inspires women and girls in the Greater Hartford community and she was instrumental in organizing a very successful fundraiser for the Foundation last fall. She is also the Chair of Aurora's Governance Committee and a Member of the Grants Committee.

Tell us about the scope of your community involvement.

I have volunteered with the Aurora Foundation for Girls since 2001, and have continued to deepen and expand my involvement with them over the last ten years. For example, through Aurora, I became involved with Grace Academy, a middle school for girls in Hartford and an Aurora grant recipient. I donated typing software to their library and worked with the 8th grade girls who are applying to high schools by assisting them with the application process and financial aid forms as well as taking them on tours of the prospective high schools.

I also advocate and volunteer for the Hartford Boys and Girls Club for the annual SMART girls conference, which helps girls develop a healthy attitude and lifestyle, positive self-concepts, sound decision making skills, and mentor relationships.

I am also actively involved with Brown Rudnick's philanthropic initiatives through the Hartford office, which is organized through the Firm's Center for the Public Interest and Charitable Foundation. For example, I coordinated the office book drive to support Foundation Relationship Grant recipient, Reach Out and Read. I created a research project for the high school girls from Village of Family and Children, another Foundation grant recipient, and created lists of useful websites to help them with their homework and college planning.

I am a weekly library volunteer at my daughter's elementary school, Bugbee Elementary School. I work as an alumni ambassador interviewing prospective students who have applied for admission to Union College. Last year, I volunteered for the Loaves and Fishes Ministry at Asylum Hill Congregational Church.

You seem to be involved in a number of initiatives that help women and children. Why is this cause important to you?

I believe in providing opportunities to educate and engage those less fortunate, especially women and girls, about the power of philanthropy to affect social change. My grandmother and mother were passionate about philanthropy, and they were strong role models for me. They instilled in me the belief that we can affect positive change in our world through advocacy and involvement. I have two young daughters, and I want to serve as a good role model for them as well and carry on the tradition of giving back that is so strong in my family.

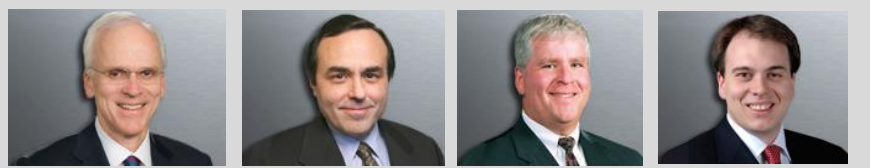
How has Brown Rudnick played a part in helping you to advance your community service work?

Brown Rudnick has let me work a part time schedule, which has allowed me to continue my career as a law librarian, while leaving me time to help out in the Greater Hartford community and enjoy my family. I feel very fortunate to have the time to pursue my professional goals, my work in philanthropy, and also participate in my daughter's school and extracurricular activities. At Brown Rudnick, and particularly in the Hartford office, community service is encouraged. I find this to be somewhat unique among law firms, and I am grateful to have these opportunities.

Annual Foundation Board Elections

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation held Board elections during the Foundation's Annual Meeting on January 14, 2013. The Board voted to re-elect the following Brown Rudnick attorneys as Board Officers and Directors, each to a three-year term:

Joseph Ryan, Chairman (Boston office)
Steven Wasserman, Director (New York office)
Edward Pare, Director (Providence office)
Christian Toms, Director (London office)



(L to R: Joseph Ryan, Steven Wasserman, Edward Pare, Christian Toms)

Together, these Board Officers and Directors will participate in the Foundation's grant programs, which are designed to improve inner-city education. Since its inception in 2001, the Foundation has awarded some two and a half million dollars in educational grants, and through the law firm of Brown Rudnick, provided hundreds of hours in pro bono legal representation and volunteer support.

Letters of Interest Issued for Annual Relationship Grants

In March, the Foundation issued its annual request for brief letters of interest from tax-exempt organizations who were interested in applying for its 2013-2014 Relationship Grants. These grants, which aim to support inner-city education programs, commence on September 1, 2013 for the upcoming academic year. Non-profit organizations in Boston, Hartford, London, Providence, New York and Washington DC are eligible. Responses were due in March, and the Foundation's Grants Committee will announce grant awards in late summer.



On February 1st, all Brown Rudnick offices participated in *National Wear Red Day* in which donations were accepted in exchange for a denim day. Initiated at the request of the Firm's Hartford office several years ago to honor the memory of our late Partner, Mark Asmar, and coordinated by the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, this fundraising campaign raised \$1,120 for the American and British Heart Associations this year. A special thanks to Karen Brisbois, Denise Kaer, Diana Nelson, Val Jones, Judy Downey, Rikki Redfern and Kellie Cahill for helping coordinate.

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>.

recent community grant recipients

Grant Supports Technology-Based Literacy Program

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Thomas A. Edison K-8 School for the purchase of iPads and literacy software for the lowest level English language learners in kindergarten. As part of the school's Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) class curriculum, the iPads will be used in small group stations to help each student develop Math and English language skills at his/her specific language level.

Additionally, the Thomas A. Edison K-8 School plans to establish training sessions for its SEI instructors (specifically the kindergarten teachers) and provide peer support to instructors who want to try using iPads with their students. The school also plans to track and analyze the technology implementation in the hopes of sharing best practices, challenges and successes, and specific case studies.



Grant check presentation at the Thomas A. Edison K-8 School.

"At our school, 37% of the population is categorized as English language learners, so our students' individualized language needs are great. Having access to effective, often free software and online programs for English language learners will exponentially increase the resources available to us. We are grateful to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for awarding us this grant, so we will have the resources we need to help these children build critical literacy skills."

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



Grant Supports Autism Program

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Adams School in East Boston. The grant will be used specifically for the purchase of four iPads and accessories for the Autism Strand at the school.

"Currently, we have three highly specialized classrooms for students with Autism at our school. At this time, each classroom has one iPad, which is used for instruction. The additional iPads will enable our students to spend more time engaged in lessons specific to their learning needs. We thank the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for their support."

-- Autism Strand Specialist and grant applicant, Michelle Lamacchia

Grant Helps Urban College of Boston Purchase Textbooks for Learning Center

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Urban College of Boston (UCB) for the purchase of new and used textbooks for the school's learning resource center. The textbooks would be available to those students who may not be able to afford to purchase their own course books.

"In a typical semester we offer 52 courses. The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grant will enable us to set up a reserve section of our learning resource center and have copies of textbooks available for students who cannot afford to buy their own books. We believe this will give all our students an opportunity to excel in their classwork."

-- Nancy Daniel, UCB Interim Academic Dean and grant applicant

A Donation in Loving Memory

Thank you to Foundation President Jeff Jonas who made a contribution to the Foundation in memory of his mother Claire Jonas.



Following their success at Harvard, the Great Debaters went on to sweep the New York State Champions ([see http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs126/1103318109276/archive/1112713762590.html](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs126/1103318109276/archive/1112713762590.html))

**THE NEW YORK CITY
GREAT DEBATERS
WEEKLY**
"Be Great! Be a Great Debater!"
**New York City's Most Rigorous and
Award Winning Academic Program!**

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS!
SPECIAL EDITION!
NYC GREAT DEBATERS SWEEP
NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS!**

New York Urban Debate League Visits Boston

Foundation Relationship Grantee came to Harvard for a debate tournament during President's Day weekend and their bus first came directly to Brown Rudnick's Boston office. A pizza lunch, courtesy of Foundation President Jeff Jonas, was provided to 40+ students and coaches while Foundation Board members and others in the Firm had a group conversation with the students about debate, education and the legal profession. The students went on to success in the weekend competition.

Winsor School Wins MBA's Mock Trial Program for Second Consecutive Year

On March 20, 2013, the Winsor School's mock trial team won the state championship in the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) Mock Trial Program for the second time in four years. At its 2010 championship win, Winsor faced off against the same opponent, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter High School, a past champion in 2011 and 2021. As a result of their stellar performance, Winsor's mock trial team members will advance in the competition to the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Indianapolis, Indiana, to be held in May. At the state level this past year, more than 130 teams competed in the MBA Mock Trial Program, which began its 28th year in January. High schools from 16 regions across the state compete in simulated courtroom situations where they play the roles of lawyers, defendants and witnesses in hypothetical cases. Brown Rudnick through its Center for the Public Interest has been the program's underwriter since 1998, contributing \$25,000 each year to the program.





Curley Elementary School (Boston) Autistic Class Excited About New iPads

Community Grant recipient, Boston's Curley Elementary School, has begun putting the iPads purchased with a Foundation Community Grant to use in the autism classroom. Autistic students, many of whom have difficulty speaking or holding a pencil, immediately took to the iPads with a demonstrable improvement in their communication abilities.

Sheridan Students Send Thank You Notes

Students from New York's Sheridan Academy for Young Leaders sent thank you notes in appreciation of the Foundation's Community Grant which enabled the school to purchase four iPads used as a technological learning tool for young immigrant students.



East Boston High School Initiates Recycling Education Program

Foundation Community Grant recipient, a high school class at East Boston, has commenced its inter-school program in which high school students work with middle school students in a different school, teaching the younger students about recycling and working with on advocacy skills as they try to convince others in the school and their families to recycle.



recent pro bono legal activity



Walk to the Hill for Legal Services

On Wednesday, January 30th, more than 650 attorneys gathered at the State House in a tremendous show of support for increased funding for civil legal aid. Brown Rudnick's Walk to the Hill Team helped to urge lawmakers to protect state funding for programs that provide civil legal aid to low-income Massachusetts residents. Brown Rudnick's CEO Joe Ryan also joined the CEOs of Boston's major law firms in signing a letter in support of increased funding.

Enough/Sudan Project



Supervised by Paul Enzinna

The Firm is providing pro bono legal representation for the Enough Project before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The matter is presently pending before the Commission, joined with another related complaint. The "complaint" seeks to halt acts of genocide by the Republic of Sudan.

Firm of the Month

Brown Rudnick was named "Firm of the Month" by nonprofit legal group LawWorks and was profiled in that organization's March newsletter. LawWorks is a UK-based charity which aims to provide free legal help to individuals and community groups who cannot afford to pay for it and who are unable to access legal aid. Brown Rudnick's London office partners with LawWorks, accepting pro bono referrals to assist individuals and community groups in Great Britain who are unable to afford or access legal representation.

Chapter 7 Debtor Relief Project – Boston

Supervised by Steve Pohl with support from Ben Chapman

The Firm is continuing this multi-year Impact Project which provides limited assistance to individuals seeking to file for personal bankruptcy. The initiative is screened and supported by Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association.

Unemployment Benefit Appeal Project - Boston & NYC

Supervised by Edward Naughton with support from Rebecca McDowell in Boston; May Orenstein with support from Aaron Lauchheimer in NYC

This Firm is continuing this multi-year Impact Project representing individuals denied unemployment benefits. This project is screened and supported by Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association and Manhattan Legal Services.



Kids In Need Of Defense (KIND)

Supervised by Andy Dash and Amanda Varella

This is a new FY-14 pro bono project in which Brown Rudnick will represent children who have come to the US without a parent or legal guardian, and who are unable to find or afford an attorney to represent them in immigration proceedings. Clients will be screened and Firm attorneys will be trained and supported by KIND staff in Boston and New York.



We are saddened by the recent bombing at the Boston marathon and other related violence in the aftermath. Even as we mourn the loss of life, the horrible injuries, and the damage to our beautiful city, we also take pride in our city. Pride in the courage and compassion of so many who ran forward to help: the heroes in the marathon crowd, the first responders, the police and firefighters and EMTs who put themselves in harm's way, the doctors and nurses who labored to save limbs and lives. Pride in the public officials who soberly lead, without grandstanding, scapegoating or name-calling. Pride in the general public whose extraordinary cooperation by staying indoors for a full day to help the police search efforts. Pride in the judge who trusted and respected the legal system enough to visit the accused perpetrator in the hospital to deliver him his Miranda rights.

A lot of harm has happened. A lot of goodness has been revealed.

Boston strong.

- *Al Wallis*

*Center for the Public Interest
Executive Director*

Brown Rudnick Donates \$25,000 to One Boston Fund to Assist Those Affected by the Boston Marathon Bombing

Through the Center for the Public Interest, Brown Rudnick made a \$25,000 contribution to the One Fund Boston, which was established by Boston's Mayor Thomas Menino, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and the business community to assist the Boston Marathon bombing victims and their families. Brown Rudnick has also volunteered its pro bono legal assistance through the Boston Bar Association's effort to aid businesses with legal issues arising from the bombings.

