



Lunch Date with Boston and New York Relationship Grantees



Two Brown Rudnick Offices welcomed the 2017-2018 Relationship Grantees recently in Boston (below), the **Art's and Business Council of Greater Boston, College Bound Dorchester, East Boston High School and Thompson Island Outward Bound**. In New York (above) **Generation Citizen, Horizons for Homeless Children and New York City Urban Debate League** visited. Representatives from each organization shared impactful stories of the progress of their organization and the program success thanks in part to the support of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship Grants.

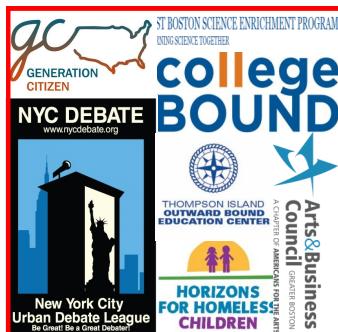


In this issue

Cover Story	1
Foundation News	2
Grantee News.....	5
Community Involvement	8
Pro Bono Legal Representation.....	10
Just Us	13

Meeting 2017-18 Relationship Grantees

Relationship Grants by the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation provide support for inner-city education in the locations where Brown Rudnick has an office.



foundation news

Helping the VLA-MA to Expand Boston Art Programs

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis presented a 2017-2018 Relationship Grant check to the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts in Boston, MA. This long-time grant recipient will use the grant to continue the Brown Rudnick Holiday Art Contest & Teen Art Law program in Boston public schools and to continue the Corporate Art Lending Program where public school student art is loaned to businesses.



Pictured from left, Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston Executive Director Jim Grace, Center Coordinator Elizabeth McGeoy, David Holland, Associate Director, Quincy Kayton, Interim Director of Legal Services Center Executive Director Al Wallis and Florence Aribiana, Legal Intern.

U.S. Capitol Historical Society Presents 2017 Freedom Award



Washington, D.C. Foundation Relationship Grantee, U.S. Capital Historical Society, invited Foundation Board member (and Brown Rudnick DC office paralegal) Candace Simpson to attend the Lin-Manuel Miranda Freedom Award and Showcase on September 12th. Mr. Miranda is the creator of the smash Broadway hit "Hamilton." Among the highlights of the event for Mr. Miranda was his opportunity to have a photo taken with Candace.

foundation news

Continuing Support for the Successful NYC Debate Program



In July, the New York City Urban Debate League hosted Brown Rudnick partners, associates and staff at its Hunter College Summer Debate Camp. The Debate League is a long-time Relationship Grantee, as well as a firm pro bono client.

The group spent the morning observing the elementary students debate the question, “Are books better than television?” in a public forum style debate. The day concluded with Brown Rudnick volunteers participating as judges for middle and high school debaters who presented pro and con points on the question, “Should South Korea continue with the THAAD system?”

Grant Supports Literacy Program for Horizons for Homeless Children



On August 2, Center Executive Director Al Wallis presented a 2017-2018 Relationship Grant check to Horizons for Homeless Children in Roxbury, MA. The grant will support a partnership between Horizons for Homeless and Raising a Reader MA who offers an evidence-based early literacy program that helps families of young children (ages 0-6) develop, practice, and maintain habits of reading together at home.



IT'S OUR FOUNDATION

foundation news

Grant Helps Promote Civics Education by Generation Citizen

Center Executive Director Al Wallis presented a 2017-2018 Relationship Grant to Generation Citizen in New York City to support their goal of ensuring that every student in the U.S. receives an effective action civics education, which provides them with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in our democracy as active citizens.



THE BROWN RUDNICK
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CORP.
MANAGED BY THE BROWN RUDNICK CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST



For more information
please view Channel
One video capturing
the grantee's work in
action.

[https://
www.youtube.com/
watch?
v=sISbWcVBKHE&feat
ure=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sISbWcVBKHE&feature=youtu.be)

grantee news

Visit with Community Grantee BUILD

Center Executive Director Al Wallis and Coordinator Elizabeth McGeoy met with recent Community Grantee BUILD NYC representative, Pamela Minetti, to discuss BUILD's Business Plan Competition. The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation provided support for the prizes awarded to the top five student business teams at the competition involving 80 students from the Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Foundation Grant Helps Implement New Chemistry Program at Brooklyn College Academy to Improve STEM Education

BROOKLYN COLLEGE ACADEMY

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Brooklyn College Academy in Brooklyn, NY. The grant will help purchase lab equipment needed to implement the ChemEarth Connect program for 120 ninth and tenth-graders to participate in 10 lab experiences.

Lauren Perkins, Brooklyn College Academy tenth-grade chemistry teacher and grant applicant, said “Programs like ChemEarth Connect provide students with hands-on, real-world learning that connects students to the actual work they could do in the STEM world. Thanks to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, our students have the opportunity to explore STEM-related concepts, which in turn could spark a passion for a future career in a STEM field.”



**The Foundation's
Community Grants
support
immediate,
one-time needs
identified by
someone close to
the front lines of
education.
Maximum grant
amount awarded is
\$2,000.**

grantee news

Community Preparatory School



A new community grant to Community Preparatory School will help fund a three-day program for 32 students to attend The Farm School in Athol, Massachusetts next spring. Students will work alongside farmers and naturalists and become fully integrated into the farm's operations.

Anita Bench, Community Preparatory School principal and grant applicant, said, "For most of our students, attending The Farm School will be their first adventure outside the city. We've found that students who have attended the program in the past bring a new understanding of and appreciation for nature. Thanks to the Foundation, our students will have the opportunity to experience first-hand what it means to be a steward of the earth."

Foundation Grant for Staten Island School Students Purchases School Uniforms



The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to P.S./I.S. 48 School in Staten Island, New York to purchase required school uniforms for low-income students.

Besim Mehmedovic, P.S./I.S. 48 teacher and grant applicant, said, "At P.S./I.S. 48, we have a required school uniform, which we believe eliminates the stress related to school clothing for our parents and encourages school spirit among our students. Unfortunately, there are families who cannot afford to purchase the school attire. Thanks to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, these students will be able to obtain the required uniforms."

To learn more about the Foundation's Community Grants, watch the Center's latest video [HERE](#).

SEND US YOUR PHOTO

Send your digital photo (with proper photo credit and a brief caption) to Elizabeth McGeoy

By submitting your photo you agree that you are responsible for ensuring that you have the right to submit the photos, including authorization for the photos use by the Center and Foundation from anyone appearing in the photo.

grantee news

Foundation Grant Supports Garden for Special Needs Students in Brooklyn, NY

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to P396K, a District 75 Special Needs School in Brooklyn, New York. The grant will be used to help the school's Community Outreach Committee purchase supplies to create a garden for the school's special needs, low-income students.

Nicole Jackson, P396K paraprofessional and grant applicant, said, "We believe that the addition of a school garden will promote socialization among the students, and teach them about giving back to the community. More importantly, it will show the students that their disability does not prevent them from being successful community caregivers."

Foundation Grant Brings Coding to the Classroom



The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to P.S. 48 School in Staten Island, New York. The grant will be used for an after-school coding curriculum designed for kindergarten through second-grade students. Specifically, the grant will be used to purchase educational robots that will be used to teach young students how to code.

Jayne Pearlmutter, P.S. 48 STEM teacher and grant applicant, said, "Our school community believes in teaching our students the necessary skills they need to succeed in the future, and developing a coding curriculum is one way we can help them prepare. Thanks to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, we can teach our youngest students the fundamentals of coding, improving their critical thinking and problem-solving skills."

**Apply
for a Community
Grant!**

All year the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation seeks 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; Washington, DC, or Orange County, California within the coming year. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found [HERE](#).

community involvement

We Will Never Forget our First Responders



September 11th is a profound day in our nation's history, one that touched all of us in a very personal way. Brown Rudnick made a commitment to remember and thank public safety officials for what they did that day, and every day, to serve and protect the public. As a remembrance and a

small gesture of appreciation, every year since that tragedy Brown Rudnick has been providing lunch to local firefighters down the street and walking over in a group to say, "we remember" and "thank you."



Thank you to the firefighters at New York Fire Station #65 and Boston Engine 10, Rescue 1, Tower Ladder 3 and Division 1 Chief, as well as to the Brown Rudnick volunteers in both offices.

American Cancer Society Lee Denim Day



Each year Brown Rudnick participates in the American Cancer Society Lee Denim Day to raise awareness about and funds to combat cancer. On Friday, October 6, 2017 a \$5 donation for pizza lunch was offered firm-wide and raised over \$1,100 for donation to the cause. A special thank you to all office coordinators, Jacqui Copp, Claudia Teitelbaum, Val Jones, Denise Kaer, Jessica Pels, Amy Bull, Judy Downey, Vicki Barham and Barbara McCoy.

community involvement

Brown Rudnick Donates Over \$50,000 to Hurricane Recovery Efforts to Support Victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria

Brown Rudnick donated over \$50,000 to assist communities impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Donations were organized through the Firm's Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, the umbrella entity that encompasses Brown Rudnick's pro bono, charitable giving and community involvement efforts.

In September, the Firm donated over \$27,000 to the Texas Access to Justice Foundation's Hurricane Harvey Legal Aid Fund in support of providing legal representation to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath. The Firm donation was augmented by numerous individual contributions from people throughout the Firm.

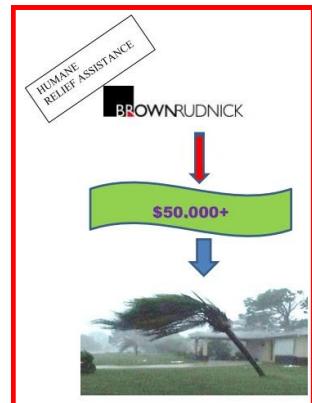
In October, Brown Rudnick donated nearly \$26,000 to hurricane disaster relief for Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Florida. This donation was made to the One America Appeal, created by the five living former U.S. Presidents, who have united together to raise money for relief efforts in areas impacted by these storms. The Fund is administered by the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation.



"The recent hurricanes that hit Texas, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and parts of Florida have caused extensive damage, taken lives and left thousands more without water, food, shelter, power, transportation or other basic services, I am very proud that our Firm came together to help hurricane victims in these affected communities."

-Joe Ryan, Brown Rudnick CEO

Through the Center, Brown Rudnick has made similar contributions to humanitarian relief efforts in the past, such as Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and the 2010 Haiti earthquake, as well as to One Boston Fund to assist those affected by the Boston Marathon bombing.



Visit the [Center Website](#)

pro bono

VLP Honors Brown Rudnick Team with 2017 Denis Maguire Pro Bono Award



Brown Rudnick partner Steven D. Pohl and paralegal Carol Ennis received the 2017 Denis Maguire Pro Bono Award from the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) of the Boston Bar Association. Pohl and Ennis were honored for their work on the “Pro Bono Bankruptcy Project” at the VLP’s 40th Anniversary Celebration, held on September 13, 2017.

VLP had this to say about Steve, Carol and Brown Rudnick, “Since the late 1990s, Pohl and Ennis have provided pro bono legal representation to individuals who are overwhelmed with personal debt and are on the verge of Chapter 7 personal bankruptcy. In 2010, at the request of the judges from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Boston, Brown Rudnick, through its Center for the Public Interest, created Brown Rudnick’s Chapter 7 Debt Relief Pro Bono Project, a dedicated program to assist consumers in such circumstances. Working with the VLP, Pohl and Ennis lead the project and members of the firm’s Bankruptcy Group assist individuals in determining whether bankruptcy is an appropriate approach for them, and if so, in preparing court forms and representing them at the meeting of creditors, if needed. Since the program’s inception in 2010, Pohl and Ennis have represented nearly 50 pro bono bankruptcy clients directly, and have been involved in numerous other related cases. Among all participating Boston firms, Brown Rudnick has assumed a leadership position with VLP in taking on debtor relief pro bono cases.”

-Continued to the right.



Pohl regularly represents debtors, trustees, official and ad hoc creditors and equity committees and other interested parties in a variety of in-court and out-of-court situations, including bankruptcy reorganizations, asset sales, loan restructurings, receiverships and assignments for the benefit of creditors. His practice includes all aspects of the bankruptcy process, including contested (and competing) plan confirmation hearings, contested relief from stay and cash collateral hearings, and fraudulent conveyance and preference litigation.”

(VLP) provides free civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Greater Boston, primarily through the pro bono services of private attorneys. VLP makes access to justice possible for people who cannot afford a lawyer.

<https://www.vlpnet.org/>

pro bono

Brown Rudnick Associate Elliot J. Weingarten Receives Legal Aid Society of D.C. Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service



Brown Rudnick associate Elliot J. Weingarten received the Making Justice Real Pro Bono Award from the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia in recognition of his outstanding pro bono representation and leadership. Beginning in 2013 with his prior firm, and today at Brown Rudnick, through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, Weingarten has handled over a half dozen eviction defenses cases and has proven to be one of Legal Aid's most active pro bono volunteers. Weingarten was honored at a Legal Aid of D.C. breakfast reception on September 27, 2017.

"We could not be more proud of Elliot's commitment to providing pro bono representation to low-income people facing the potential loss of their housing," commented Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. "And, it is quite an honor to be recognized by the D.C. Legal Aid Society for our providing access to justice to those in need."

Weingarten is an Associate in Brown Rudnick's Litigation and White Collar Defense & Government Investigations group in the Washington DC office. He represents corporations and individuals in SEC and DOJ investigations and related litigation. He has experience handling cases involving FCPA violations, antitrust violations, improper disclosures, accounting practices and policies, and insider trading.

The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia is DC's oldest and largest general civil legal services program. In the past year, Legal Aid profiled Weingarten on its Making Justice Real blog and in its 2016 Annual Report.



Brown Rudnick attendees pictured from left to right, Christian Seitz, Guillermo Christiansen, Elliot Weingarten, Brian Oldham and Andrew Crawford.



Pictured from left to right, Legal Aid's Eric Angel (Executive Director), Elliot and Jodi Feldman (Director of Legal Operations).

pro bono

Pro Bono Accolades



Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Board Member Cathrine Castaldi presented Adriana Rodriguez, Orange County IT/Records staff person with a Center Pro Bono Accolade to acknowledge and applaud her crucial support as part of the Brown Rudnick legal team, through her attendance at court

appearances and client meetings to provide translation assistance.



Associates, Brian Alosco, Blair Rinne and (not pictured) Anyel Alvarez Guerra received a Center Accolade for their admirable initiative, teamwork, skill and sensitivity in an urgent immigration matter. As part of the team, they successfully prevented the U.S. Immigration authorities from moving to deport our client by

refuting their mistaken allegations that our clients marriage to a U.S. citizen was a sham. Through our teams efforts, our client obtained a life-altering Green Card.

Pro Bono Honor Roll

Brown Rudnick attorneys from the Boston office were recently recognized for their pro bono bankruptcy representation. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts included these attorneys on the Court's *Pro Bono Honor Roll* for this year. Recipients pictured (photographed on a Friday "denim day" in the office) are Steve Pohl, Andy Strehle, Fouad Kurdi, Tyler Lewis, Emily Koruda, Shari Dwoskin, Tristan Axelrod and Steve Levine.

Not shown in photo: Carol Ennis, Kellie Fisher and Tia Wallach .



just us

The Autumn Newsletter is in some ways the most interesting to me. It provides an opportunity to reflect on what have become treasured rituals in the life and culture of the Center's work. Here are a few of my favorite community activities.

August

The summer is still robust. We organize our annual and wildly popular volunteer day visit to Thompson Island to paint the storage building, or feed branches into the vociferous wood chopper, or to build a permeant patio where Island staff and visitors will bring their lunch and relax. We look across the harbor at our gleaming office building on the horizon, which adds to the enjoyment of having our day outside. And then, at the end of our day, pleasantly sweaty and weary, we board the boat for a refreshing journey back to the mainland.



September

This month still has "back to school" vibes, and they are brought to life by the anticipation and arrival of the Firm's new associates. There are orientations. There are pro bono assignments. Seeing things through their eyes and experience, everything that was becoming old or stale becomes new and fresh again.



But there is a somber note to this month as well. Just months after the 2001 launch of the Center, the 9/11 tragedy occurred. As often happens in response to major public tragedies, we vowed then never to forget -- not just the people lost, but the first responders who, every day in every city, rush forth to protect -- or to try to save -- us. And we haven't forgotten.



just us

Our tradition has been an annual September visit to our local firehouse in Boston (and in other cities more sporadically) to provide a lunch and a personal thank you to the men and women there who are always at the ready to respond to emergencies. We shake each hand and thank them for their service during the prior year and offer our hope for their safety in the year ahead.

October

October begins the stirrings for the annual Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts-Brown Rudnick December Holiday Card contest. Perhaps more than anything in my work life, this program exerts a seasonal gravitational pull, as we begin planning for the next contest and for the joyous celebration with the Boston public school artists, teachers and family, where contest winners are announced is just over the horizon.



The newsletter provides me (and maybe some of you) with another memorable, moving and reaffirming autumn for the Center. And now, onward to a wonderful winter!



Please contact Al Wallis or Elizabeth McGeoy to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Lisa Murray, and Elizabeth McGeoy 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