

center news

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Brown Rudnick Announces Recipients of 8th Annual *M. Robert Dushman Pro Bono* and *Community Service Awards*

Annual awards created in memory of law firm partner and public interest advocate

On March 25, 2015, Brown Rudnick announced the recipients of the 8th 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. (Story continued on page 2).

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Annual Walk to the Hill in Support of Civil Legal Aid

On January 9, 2015, Brown Rudnick, led by Boston Partner Edward Naughton and Center Executive Director Al Wallis, took part in the annual Massachusetts Equal Justice Coalition's *Walk to the Hill* in support of funding for Civil Legal Aid.

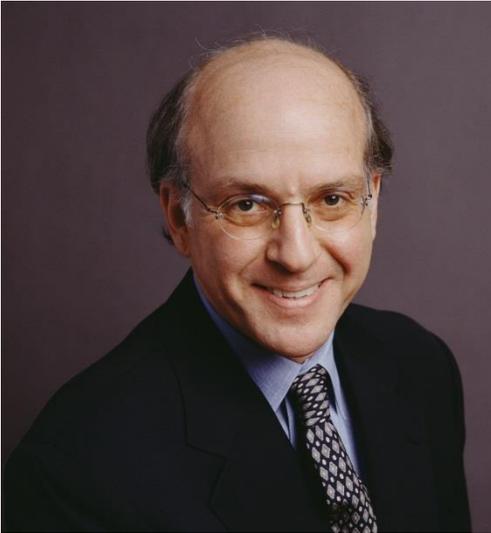
Each year, hundreds of attorneys participate in one of the largest lobby days at the Massachusetts State House. Their goal is to urge lawmakers to protect state funding for programs that provide civil legal aid to low-income Massachusetts residents.



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 THE
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“Pro bono legal representation, charitable giving and volunteerism are an essential aspect of our Firm's character. Andy and Dianne serve as exceptional role models for others, and their example illuminates a core aspect of our Firm's character. We applaud them for their commitment to giving back to the community.” - Brown Rudnick CEO Joseph F. Ryan

ANDY DASH - A Pro Bono Role Model



Andy Dash
Brown Rudnick Partner
2015 Dushman Award Winner

The *Pro Bono* Award was presented to Andrew Dash, a partner in the Brown Rudnick's Litigation Group in the New York. During his 23-year legal career, Andy has been one of the pro bono leaders in the Firm, recording hundreds of pro bono hours. He has been a mentor and supervising partner in a number of initiatives, including Kids in Need of Defense ("KIND") representation of immigrants facing deportation, German WWII Ghetto Workers reparations and supervision of the Anti-Defamation League Summer Associate Research Project. Andy has also recently been elected to the Board of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation. Although he has announced plans to retire soon, Andy intends to continue providing pro bono representation in the future through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest.

Commenting on his recognition, Andy said, "I am deeply moved to receive the 2015 Dushman Award. Bob was a role model for the Firm and the bar. To be linked to him is a great honor."

DIANNE BYRNE - Serving Her Community



Dianne Byrne
Brown Rudnick Records Manager
2015 Dushman Award Winner

The *Community Service* Award was presented to Dianne Byrne, Records Manager in the firm's Boston office for over seven years. Dianne devotes much of her personal life to assisting the poor and hungry. For 20 years, she has been an active member of the St. Vincent DePaul Society's local chapter at St. Brendan's parish in Dorchester, MA, and she is currently in her third year as chapter president. Dianne oversees the church's food pantry which provides food for those in need. The Society sponsors blood drives annually through the American Red Cross and two annual clothing drives, collecting clothing and small household goods that are then offered to the poor at no cost or very minimal cost through local St. Vincent de Paul clothing stores. Recently, Diane and the Society initiated a new partnership with Saint Mary's Center in Dorchester, MA to support women and children who have experienced trauma and who are living in poverty. The partnership provides them with financial support as well as things like clothes. During the Christmas season, Dianne also coordinates their Giving Tree program with organizations like the Boys & Girls Club and The Boston Home. This program provides gifts to needy children and adults.

Dianne said, "I don't feel like my volunteerism is anything extraordinary, but to be recognized for my community service in this way is both humbling and thrilling. My passion is to help people in need. That's what I love to do."

As part of the Dushman awards, Brown Rudnick will make a \$2,500 contribution to a non-profit charitable organization chosen by Andy and Dianne. Dianne has directed her donation to two organizations: the local chapter of the St. Vincent DePaul Society and Boston Children's Hospital. Andy selected the New York office of KIND (Kids in Need of Defense).

Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Elects Three New Board Directors at Foundation's Annual Meeting

At the Foundation's Annual Meeting on February 18, 2015, three new Board Directors were elected, all of whom are Brown Rudnick attorneys:



Andreas Andromalos
Director (Boston Office)



Andrew Dash
Director (NYC Office)



Omega Poole
Director (London Office)

The Board also voted to re-elect the following Brown Rudnick attorneys as Board Officers and Directors:

Joseph Ryan, Chairman (Boston office)
Jeffrey Jonas, President (Boston office)
Catherine Gardner, Vice-President (NYC office)
Steven Wasserman, Treasurer (NYC office)
Douglas Cohen, Secretary (Hartford office)
Wayne Dennison, Director (Boston office)
Paul Enzinna, Director (Washington D.C. office)

These Board Members join current Foundation Directors Catherine Castaldi (Orange County, CA), Linda Marcus (NYC), Edward Pare, Jr. (Providence), Christian Toms (London), and Kiersten Taylor (Boston), in advancing the Foundation's grant programs, which are designed to improve inner-city education.



Mary Bucci

Foundation President Jeff Jonas, speaking for the Board, also thanked departing Director Mary Bucci for her six years of service and praised her for the wonderful work she had done chairing the Foundation's Grants Committee.



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, Washington, DC, or Orange County, California within the coming year. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/community-grant>.

New York City Great Debate Team Continues Victories



Pictured left to right: Jeffery Chui, Aubrey Semple, Al Wallis, Erik Fogel.

The New York City Urban Debate League, a nonprofit organization that the Foundation and the Firm helped to create and continues to support, consistently performs at very high levels in each tournament it enters. At the national debate contest held at Harvard University in February, the team (including NYC Mayor DeBlasio's son) prevailed in their debate. Prior to the debate, the nonprofit's executive team dropped by Brown Rudnick to have lunch with Center Executive Director Al Wallis and report on the grant's progress. Before the debates, the executive team stopped by the Boston office to once again thank Brown Rudnick for the ongoing support (pictured left).

Thanks from PS 414 Brooklyn Arbor

The Foundation recently awarded a Community Grant to create an afterschool program for Spanish language students. The teacher tells us that the program has been a big success:

"Thank you again for your assistance and for the amazing support of Brown Rudnick. With your support of PS 414 Brooklyn Arbor, I was able to create a unique, much-loved and much needed support for our students through the Spanish language afterschool music and movement program. It has become a highlight for our students, in particular those who have recently arrived in the country."

- Sara Yerry, PS 414 Brooklyn Arbor



Community Grant Supports English Language Learning Program at NYC Elementary School



The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awarded a Community Grant to PS71 Forest Elementary School in Ridgewood, NYC to support the purchase of mini iPads for use in English as a Second Language (ESL) classrooms. The iPads will be used to facilitate learning the English language through phonemic awareness, letter sounds, vocabulary, fluency, intonation, common interest, comprehension, and linguistics.

"I teach content area subjects to 365 students through technology in a computer lab setting. My students range from Kindergarten through 5th grade, many of whom are first year English language learners. I fully believe in supporting the English language learners through multiple entry points and using advanced technology to break through the barrier of learning the English language. Hands-on, interactive activities using universally recognizable technology devices facilitate this goal. We are grateful for the support of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation."

--Nancy Wagner, PS71 teacher

community grants and community involvement

Community Grant Supports Mock Trial Team at Century High School in CA

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Century High School in Santa Ana, Orange County, CA, to support the purchase of laptops and a video camera for the school's Mock Trial Team. Debate team members will use the laptops at school and at home to compose their witness statements and speeches, conduct online research on trial procedures and other relevant rules, and to review and annotate their case packets. The video camera will be used to record student performances, keeping the students engaged and providing them the opportunity to improve their speaking skills. The grant opportunity was brought to the schools attention by Brown Rudnick Associates Arjun Sivakumar and Justin Morgan, who also volunteer as coaches to the team.

"The students at Century High School face a variety of challenges in competing in mock trials against better equipped area schools. Many students do not have computer access at school or at home. Additionally, the students are without an effective method of videotaping their speeches in order to learn and improve their speaking skills. Thanks to Brown Rudnick's Community Grant, the team will be able to purchase the necessary technology to help them compete successfully at the highest level of mock trial competition."

- Arjun Sivakumar, Brown Rudnick Associate and Mock Trial Coach.



Justin Morgan



Arjun Sivakumar

Community Grant Helps Bring Tablets to Higginson-Lewis K-8 School in Roxbury, MA



The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Boston Educational Development Foundation in Boston, MA, to support the purchase of computer tablets for use at the Higginson-Lewis K-8 School.

"The school aims to incorporate technology into educational programming as much as possible because students are growing up in a tech-focused world. Thanks to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, students can use tablets for research, school newsletter production and blogging, among other things."

- Felicia Cantu, City Year Corps Member at Higginson-Lewis K-8 School

Teaching Financial Literacy

Steve Pohl, Shari Dwoskin and Jill Wexler recently volunteered with the Boston Bar Association's M. Ellen Carpenter Financial Literacy Program. As part of this program, volunteers travel to high schools throughout the state to teach students about the importance of making sound financial decisions.



community involvement



All Brown Rudnick Offices Participated in Wear Red Day

All Brown Rudnick offices participated in the annual Wear Red Day in which donations were accepted in exchange for a "denim day". This year, the effort coordinated by the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest raised approximately \$1,030. Proceeds from US offices support the American Heart Association, while London office proceeds support the British Heart Foundation, and Paris office proceeds support the French Federation of Cardiology. A special thanks to Diana Nelson, Claudia Teitelbaum, Jude Downey, Denise Kaer, Val Jones, Amy Bull, Jessica Pels and Kellie Cahill for helping to coordinate.

Facing the Vertical Challenge to Support Homeless Fundraising

A Brown Rudnick London office team demonstrated and elevated their commitment to helping to alleviate the distress caused by homelessness and bad housing in March by racing in the "Vertical Rush Challenge". This stair-running competition raises funds to support the UK charity organization SHELTER <https://www.justgiving.com/brown-rudnick/>

This year's Rush was also part of the Vertical World Circuit, which is the world-championship of stair running contests around the Globe and attracted some of the world's best stair-runners. The Brown Rudnick team, made up of Emma Quinn, Imogen Steiert, Joe Speakman, Peter Wozny and Demeter Kovacs trained hard, ran fast (Peter beat last year's time by a full minute) and raised more than their £800 charitable donation goal.



IP Pro Bono Representation Achieves Success



Peter Gluck



Elnaz Zarrini

Brown Rudnick achieved a client-friendly resolution in a pro bono matter involving the use of trademarks to discourage high school drop-outs and promote high school graduation as a positive step toward achieving life goals and actualizing one's full potential as a person in today's ever evolving world. The firm's clients, FOREVER LOVED ENTERTAINMENT, Inc. and the ENTERTAINERS FOR EDUCATION ALLIANCE, will now be able to freely use I WILL GRADUATE® (and design) families of marks, including a government-recognized "I WILL GRADUATE Day," to promote their cause.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting had disputed their right to use the marks. Brown Rudnick was able to establish a license between the for-profit corporation and the charity, and procured a positive settlement agreement resolving an opposition at the USPTO against the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, including getting their agreement as to the validity and non-contestability of the marks. Peter Gluck, a partner in Brown Rudnick's Intellectual Property Group, along with Senior Litigation Associate Elnaz Zarrini, and a supporting team from the New York office conducted all of the client interfaces, support and management. They effectively liaised and tempered the California-based IP and legal strategy to support this highly contested matter, leading to the eventual settlement.

Legal Clinic for the Homeless in Boston

Twice a year, the Center for the Public Interest coordinates a legal clinic for the homeless in Boston. The clinic is organized by the Lawyers Clearinghouse of the Boston Bar Association and staffed by Boston first year associates, with James Hauser and Al Wallis providing supervision. The most recent clinic was held at Pine Street Inn where participating attorneys interviewed and advised 15 homeless individuals, several of whom were provided with follow-up representation with issues such as application for public housing, denial of government benefits, and obtaining or sealing criminal offender record information.



Keeping Hope for Justice Alive: New Evidence Could Exonerate a Man Who has Served 40 Years of a Convicted & Life Sentence



Paul Enzinna

Joe Stevenson was convicted of rape in 1975 and sentenced to life in prison. His conviction rested on three pieces of evidence: hair analysis the Federal Bureau of Investigation now admits is unreliable; a confession extracted under coercive circumstances; and a suggestive identification performed when the victim saw Mr. Stevenson, for the first time, in court, handcuffed, with his attorney, facing the rape charge. He has served forty years for a crime he has long maintained he did not commit.

Brown Rudnick has partnered with the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project ("MAIP") to exonerate Mr. Stevenson. The rape produced significant biological evidence that had remained in storage for the past forty years. However, the DNA testing with which the public has become familiar—and which can establish guilt or innocence in a case like this with absolute certainty—did not exist in 1975.



Lara Burke

In mid-August, Brown Rudnick attorneys Paul Enzinna and Lara Burke appeared in court in Virginia Beach to argue a motion to preserve the evidence. It would have been disastrous for potentially exonerating forty-year-old evidence to be destroyed, so Mr. Stevenson and his attorneys were relieved when the judge ordered the evidence preserved.

Brown Rudnick and MAIP promptly filed a motion for scientific analysis of new or previously untested scientific evidence. The Commonwealth's Attorney did not oppose the motion, and in fact, helped draft a proposed order so that the evidence could be tested as soon as possible. The court has since entered the order, and the evidence has gone to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science ("DFS") for testing.

If this evidence proves exonerating, Mr. Stevenson's legal team will file a petition for a writ of actual innocence.



Al Wallis
Center for the Public Interest
Executive Director



Just Us.

Let's see what develops.

"A photograph is usually looked at- seldom looked into."
— Ansel Adams

An old friend, whom I hadn't seen for quite a while, recently "googled" my name and came upon a recent Center Newsletter. When we later connected by phone he said (I paraphrase): "I guess your Center is doing good things. All I noticed was the pictures and most of them were of you!"

I am betting that most readers of newsletters scan the photos first, and maybe only then, their interest is piqued enough to read an item or two. So a challenge for those producing the newsletter is to convey the information through the photo, which hopefully engages the reader to read the story. Our Foundation does wonderful and meaningful work, but it is often logistically difficult to capture by our staff, particularly as our reach continues to expand into new regions such as London and Orange County

So let's try this. Together, we may be able to reduce the number of Al Wallis photos in the Center newsletter while showcasing the in-the-field work that our charitable giving supports. The Center hereby invites all recipients of Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grants to send us your photographs.* See details below.

* (Even if I am in it!)

Calling All Grant Recipients! Send Us Your Photos!

There's nothing better than seeing how our Relationship Grants and Community Grants are helping educators and nonprofit organizations improve inner-city education and create positive social change.

We want to celebrate and share your successes. Send us your digital photos highlighting how a Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grant has been put into action by your organization. Your photo may appear in our upcoming newsletter, 2016 calendar or other Center report.

To participate, send your digital photo (with proper photo credit and a brief caption) to Kellie Cahill at KeCahill@brownrudnick.com.

(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 from anyone appearing in the photo.)

Please contact Al Wallis or Kellie Cahill to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Lisa Murray, Kellie Cahill, Kate Souza and Emily Krasowski 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