



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BROWN RUDNICK ATTORNEYS HONORED
FOR PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

*Firm Lauded as Leader Across Several Areas and All US Offices;
Attorneys Recognized as Top Lawyers and Commended for Civic Work*

Boston, MA, June 23, 2004 – Brown Rudnick, a premier international law firm, today announced that eight of the Firm’s attorneys have earned widespread recognition for the professional talent and commitment they bring to the legal practice and their communities. These individual attorneys include: **Andrew Strehle, Cheryl Cronin, Joel Reck, Mark Asmar, Stephen Leonard, Edward Weisfelner, William Baldiga and Sam Williams**. Additionally, Brown Rudnick was identified as one of the country’s “Leading Firms” in the areas of Real Estate, Environment and Bankruptcy in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York by *Chambers & Partners’ Guide to America’s Leading Business Lawyers*. The firm’s Rhode Island office has been recognized by the readers of *Corporate Board Member* magazine as one of the five law firm leaders in the Providence metro area.

“Brown Rudnick is extremely proud of our talented attorneys’ collective and individual accomplishments,” said Joseph Ryan, Brown Rudnick CEO. “We’re pleased to see that the Firm has been recognized and, moreover, that our attorneys have received such well-deserved notice as some of the industry’s best and most dedicated practitioners.”

Andrew Strehle: Receives BU Law School Young Lawyer’s Chair Award and Selected as Member of Boston Future Leaders. The Boston University School of Law awarded **Andrew Strehle**, the Firm’s administrative partner, with the *2004 Young Lawyer’s Chair Award*, which is given annually to the alumnus who, within 10 years of graduation, has demonstrated outstanding performance in the profession. Further recognizing his leadership in the legal practice and his commitment to the community, Strehle has been selected by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Tom Menino’s Office to be a *member of Boston’s Future Leaders*. This program is designed to enrich the professional experience of emerging leaders, age 28 to 40, throughout their careers by engaging them in Boston’s business and civic life. Strehle is a partner in the Firm’s Restructuring & Finance



Press Release

Group and, as Administrative Partner, works closely with all groups under the administrative umbrella to provide guidance and further professional development across the firm.

Cheryl Cronin: Honored with Abigail Adams Award. In recognition of her work, community activism and commitment to the political, economic and social advancement of women, **Cheryl Cronin** has been honored by The Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus during the Caucus Education Fund's 17th Annual Tribute to Abigail Adams. Awards are presented annually to six Massachusetts women who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the realization of equal political, economic and social rights for women. Cronin is a Partner in the Firm's Government Law & Strategies Group and focuses her 20 years of experience in regulatory and administrative law and other matters related to the work of government agencies.

Brown Rudnick and Individual Attorneys Named in Chambers & Partners. The 2004-2005 edition of *Chambers & Partners' Guide to America's Leading Business Lawyers* identified Brown Rudnick as a Leading Firm in the areas of Real Estate, Environment and Bankruptcy, as noted in state rankings in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York.

- Specifically noted in the **real estate** area and ranked among the leading firms in both Connecticut and Massachusetts is the Firm's "continued involvement in big commercial projects...land use and representation of developers" and financing matters that support these activities. Also noted is "niche expertise in telecom buildings and systems" and "the team's strength in the affordable housing area." Two new partners have, as Chambers mentions, increased "the firm's capability in the retail sector and in tax-structured real estate transactions." Noted activities include a \$43 million financing deal for a Hartford Hotel, work with clients such as Target and Staples, and representation of LNR Partners in the redevelopment of the 1,400-acre naval air station in South Weymouth, Mass.
- Listed among the top four **environmental** firms in Massachusetts, Brown Rudnick's environmental team is noted for its "increasing focus on the energy sector, and environmental advice tailored to the needs of energy clients." Credits continue with "also maintains a healthy practice handling due diligence and permitting work in connection with real estate acquisition and development."
- In **bankruptcy**, where the Firm ranks among the top five leading firms in New York, Chambers cites Brown Rudnick's bankruptcy group as being "famed for its aggressive representation of clients" and its "creative and take no prisoners approach to obtain the best possible deal for its clients." Work of note that is included in these credits includes acting for the official committee of unsecured creditors in Global Crossing's chapter 11



Press Release

case and representing an ad hoc MCI trade claims committee in the MCI WorldCom case. Contributing to the Firm's success in this area is its "involvement in multi-state and multi-forum litigation in connection with highly specialized matters in communication, healthcare and other regulated industries."

In individual honors:

- **Joel Reck**, chairman of the Firm's Real Estate practice, was recognized for his "expertise in complex transactions" and that "clients particularly appreciate his depth of experience and the respect he commands from the government agencies."
- Partner **Mark Asmar**'s peers in the real estate industry singled out Mark as "top of the league for financing in the retail sector."
- Partner **Stephen Leonard** was cited as among the best practitioners in the environmental area, offering "clear knowledge of the law and government and how it works."
- **Edward Weisfelner**, chairman of the Firm's Restructuring & Finance department, has been cited in this year's Chambers Guide as a leading bankruptcy lawyer who has earned "the sobriquet 'flame thrower,' and is considered to be willing to 'go through walls for his clients.'" His peers, as further mentioned, "observe that he is a creative and energetic lawyer who ultimately can cut deals."
- **William Baldiga**, managing director of the Firm's Restructuring & Finance practice, earned his ranking as a leading bankruptcy lawyer through his reputation as a " 'top-shelf' attorney with 'great business acumen.'" "
- **Samuel Williams**, Brown Rudnick's corporate team managing director, has been recognized in Chambers as a leading Corporate / M&A attorney for "his tactical skills and practicality, and 'works 24/7' to put deals together."

Providence Office Ranked Among Top Firms in the City. In further honors, in a survey conducted by *Corporate Board Member Magazine*, 2,000 company directors ranked law firms around the United States as the firms they most admire. For the second consecutive year, **Brown Rudnick's office in Providence, R.I.** has been voted among the top firms in that city.



Press Release

About Brown Rudnick

Brown Rudnick is a full-service, international corporate law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The Firm's 200 attorneys provide representation across key areas of the law: Restructuring & Finance, Corporate & Securities, Real Estate, Complex Litigation, Government Law & Strategies, Intellectual Property, Energy and Health Care. Combining a dedication to excellence with the implementation of sophisticated technologies, Brown Rudnick provides clients, ranging in size from entrepreneurial start-ups to Fortune 500 companies, with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs.

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is a testament to the firm's strong commitment to the community and to the legal profession. It serves as an umbrella entity to encompass all of the firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts.

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