
FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF SALLY.CHARIN@WILMERHALE.COM

From the Boston Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2023/03/03/partners-with-a-purpose-wilmer-hale-hyde-square-ta.html>

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT:

Partners with a Purpose: WilmerHale, Hyde Square Task Force partner to help teens and young adults

Mar 3, 2023, 6:00am EST



Hyde Square Task Force

WilmerHale also hosts an annual fundraiser breakfast for Hyde Square Task Force, where students perform. Hyde Square Task Force, located in Jamaica Plain, is a creative youth development organization that uses Afro-Latin-inspired arts and culture to educate and empower youth in the city.

Partners with a Purpose is a monthly editorial feature that highlights companies and nonprofits working together in unique and interesting ways. To suggest a partnership to feature, go online to [Bizjournals.com/boston/nomination](https://bizjournals.com/boston/nomination)

Partnership: WilmerHale and Hyde Square Task Force

Duration of the partnership: 12 years

Hyde Square Task Force: 562 children, youth and young adults were impacted by the nonprofit in 2021

WilmerHale: The international law firm has over 1,000 lawyers in 13 offices in the United States, Europe and Asia

Through charitable donations, pro bono legal representation, volunteering and providing mentorship to young people, the partnership between WilmerHale and Hyde Street Task Force is unstoppable.

Since 2011, the organizations have worked together to bring positive change to the young community and have watched students blossom as they enter college and their early careers.

“There are a lot of great organizations in the city, but there is something really special about this one,” said Stephanie Lin, a WilmerHale lawyer on the board of Hyde Square Task Force.

Hyde Square Task Force, located in Jamaica Plain, gives the youth power to find the confidence to become community leaders themselves, Lin said. She said that overwhelmingly, people are “shocked” and “surprised” when they realize how deep the impact is on the community.

The nonprofit is a creative youth development organization that utilizes Afro-Latin-inspired arts and culture to educate and empower youth in the city. Hyde Square Task Force also provides educational support to complete high school and plan for the future through college and beyond. The program also fosters civic engagement to allow young people to have the agency to change their communities.

The partnership with WilmerHale allows a small number of students each year to participate in a seven-week summer internship and

mentorship program at the law offices in downtown Boston. The program exposes them to social justice advocacy and academic classes such as public speaking and civil rights. It builds confidence to deliver a presentation to the firm at the end of the summer.

“For them, it is life-changing,” said Celina Miranda, the executive director of Hyde Square Task Force. The program allows students, many of which are first-generation college students, to experience a professional workplace for the first time, she said. “It shows them a completely different opportunity of what their future may look like.”

Miranda said some students who go through the program are inspired to become lawyers. For example, one recent participant in the program finished his undergrad degree, was studying for his Law School Admission Test, or LSAT, and has returned to the firm asking for advice on which law school to attend and what it's like to become a lawyer, she said.

The program also enables students to expand their network beyond their local community into the professional world at a young age, said Miranda.

“You see the kids grow up, come back and become community leaders,” Lin said.

WilmerHale also hosts an annual fundraiser breakfast for Hyde Square Task Force, where students perform and put on presentations for members of the law firm. At Lin's first breakfast back in 2014, she became inspired to volunteer.

“It's amazing what the alums are doing just a few years out of college,” Lin said. The work is rewarding and quite different from her day job as an intellectual property attorney.

“For me, it is one of the most rewarding things I've done since I started working here.”

Partners with a Purpose is sponsored by Eastern Bank. At Eastern Bank, every day we strive to be good business leaders and equally good community members. We offer fairly priced financial products and services, but more importantly, through the spirit of social justice we support the pursuit of opportunity for all.

Subscribe to the BBJ's [Morning Edition](#) or [Afternoon Edition](#) email for the business news you need to know.

[Back to Top](#) ▲

BOSTON **BUSINESS JOURNAL**

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Ad Choices](#) |  [Your Privacy Choices](#)

© 2023 American City Business Journals. All rights reserved. Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) (updated January 24, 2023) and [Privacy Policy](#) (updated January 24, 2023). The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of American City Business Journals.

