

## BigLaw Partner Assembles Epic Drum Video To Fight Hunger

By **Aebra Coe**

*Law360 (October 28, 2021, 3:05 PM EDT)* -- Last year, while many of us sat at home and wondered what was coming next, Davis Polk partner and accomplished drummer Brian Resnick began an ambitious project in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic that would lead him to drum alongside Ringo Starr and raise more than half a million dollars to fight hunger.

For many, running a successful bankruptcy practice and representing clients like Dean Foods and Patriot Coal would be more than enough to fill their calendar to overflowing. But Resnick was restless last year as the pandemic kept most of us cooped up at home.

The Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP partner found himself watching drumming videos online and, inspired by a charity concert he attended with his father as a 14-year-old, decided to put together a compilation video featuring the best drummers in the world.

It was an ambitious vision, but Resnick, who is a Juilliard-trained drummer and percussionist, had connections in the world of drumming. Years ago, before becoming a lawyer, he performed in Broadway shows and on "Saturday Night Live," and backed stars from Art Garfunkel to Luciano Pavarotti.

He also won a Best Musical Tony Award in 2019 as a co-producer of "Hadestown."

"I felt like this would be a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with all of the drummers home and not on the road for them to record their parts and see if we could, for the first time ever, get 161 musicians and over 100 top drummers to play together on the same video on the same song," Resnick said. "It was a big, grand experiment and it ended up being a huge success."

The video was released earlier this month and includes the likes of Starr, Brian Frasier-Moore, Cindy Blackman Santana, Jim Keltner, Jonathan Moffett and many others all drumming along to a rendition of the Beatles song "Come Together."



On Oct. 19, Davis Polk partner Brian Resnick was presented with the Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award for his work raising about half a million dollars for hunger-related charity WhyHunger through Drum Together. (Diane Bondareff for WhyHunger)

The project is titled Drum Together and it benefits WhyHunger, a nonprofit organization co-founded by the musician Harry Chapin that aims to end hunger and barriers to access to nutritious food.

Back in 2020 when the idea first came up, Resnick decided to call Dom Famularo, the producer of the charity show he attended when he was 14, and pitch the idea of doing something similar nearly 30 years later and with today's technology.

He made the call on the 39th anniversary of Chapin's death and knew from the start he wanted the project to benefit WhyHunger. Resnick had been a fan of Chapin's since childhood.

Famularo "loved the idea," Resnick said, and the two of them became co-creators on the project. Through Famularo's deep connections in the industry, they were able to attract two very big names in drumming, Keltner and Steve Gadd. And it was through those connections that others were invited, including Starr.

"He jumped at the opportunity to participate," Resnick said of Starr. "Once he came on board, it was not hard to get many others to participate."

In the weeks since Drum Together launched, it has raised nearly \$600,000 for WhyHunger.

"I'm thrilled we get to support this wonderful charity," Resnick said. "They do amazing work. Six hundred thousand dollars could feed over 400,000 people. It really will have an impact."

On Oct. 19 WhyHunger honored Resnick with the Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award for his work putting the project together.

According to Resnick, the project has allowed him to come close to realizing a lifelong dream. He remembers an essay he wrote in high school, in which he was tasked with writing his own autobiography looking back at his life from the end of it.

He says he wrote about becoming a rock star, following in Chapin's footsteps and playing concerts to end hunger.

"Even though I came up with the idea [of Drum Together] 15 months go, the seeds were sown over 30 years ago in high school," he said.

--Editing by Robert Rudinger.