HCLN Welcome

I hope everyone was able to get away and recharge their batteries at some point this summer. Even with the stress of switching employers, I did relax for a few short moments this summer, largely because my Haverford alumni colleagues (and their significant others—and even their mothers!) offered support, encouragement, and guidance. I am proof that the proverbial “build your network before you need it” rule applies today as much as ever.

As we move forward with our fifth year of the HCLN, I’m reminded of Keith Ferrazzi’s 2005 bestseller Never Eat Alone: And Other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time, which I highly recommend. The tome, which helped inspire my co-editor and me to found this organization, uses real-world examples to illustrate how our networks can transform our careers and lives. (One memorable example is how Bill Clinton, as a graduate student at Oxford, would learn the names of everyone he met by writing each name on an index card, and he would tell them he’d need their support one day when he ran for governor of Arkansas.)

I hope you enjoy this issue, which showcases how strong the HCLN continues to be. We profile Barzi Axelrod ’04, my friend and fellow history major, who has dedicated his life to public service in Wilmington. The tiny “First State” is known for its corporate prowess, and Barzi continues a rich tradition of prosecutorial service there. (His former boss, Judge Richard Andrews ’77, was formerly a Delaware state prosecutor). Barzi demonstrates how he has applied the lessons he learned at Haverford to serve the greater Wilmington community—while also finding time to enjoy wonderfully exotic vacations, like the one he took to Turkey this summer.

Our programming schedule remains robust for the 2015–2016 academic year, with events in Philadelphia, Wilmington, Delaware, New York City, Washington, D.C., and the West Coast. We look forward to highlighting the vast accomplishments that our alumni members continue to achieve.

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Barzi is a criminal prosecutor at the Delaware Department of Justice headquartered in Wilmington. He attended Penn State University’s Dickinson School of Law, and earned an MBA simultaneously.

What does your job as a criminal prosecutor require?

As a senior trial attorney I am assigned to our largest Felony Trial Unit and have a full caseload that encompasses serious and complex felony cases. I am responsible for everything that occurs on the cases assigned to me, from deciding which (if any) charges are to be indicted to pursuing appropriate case resolutions, whether by extending plea offers or by conducting jury trials and making sentencing recommendations.

In my seven years as a prosecutor, my caseload has evolved from simple traffic offenses and misdemeanors, to simple felonies, and now to career criminals and violent felonies. I am the sole arson prosecutor for New Castle County, and the balance of my caseload often includes burglaries, robberies, drug dealing, and firearms. In addition to my regular caseload, I am tasked with at least one murder case, as all felony prosecutors in my office are paired with a prosecutor from the Homicide Unit to prosecute the case as a team. Sadly, because the city of Wilmington—which I call home—necessitates too many of these teams, each of us usually has a few of these cases on our roster as well.

How did you end up becoming a prosecutor in Delaware?

I grew up in Puerto Rico, and my first real home away from home was Haverford. My first encounter with Delaware—other than passing through on Route 95 during road trips in college—was during the summer of my junior year. I was a member of the crew team (for all four years), and my coach, who taught crew in Wilmington over the summers, offered to continue to coach me there. I took her up on her offer that summer, and I got to spend a fair amount of time in Wilmington after work.

While at law school (and business school) at Penn State, I learned about the importance of business/commercial law in neighboring Delaware and realized that the “First State” was one of the best places in the country to practice this type of law. I decided to take the Delaware bar and headed there to pursue what I thought I wanted to do.

My first position out of law school was as a law clerk for two judges in the Delaware Court of Common Pleas. I had interned for judges in Pennsylvania, taken trial advocacy courses in school, and even done moot court, but not until my clerkship did I realize just how much I enjoyed watching our country’s jury trial system. What’s more, the ability to look behind the curtain into the judge’s chambers inspired me in unexpected ways.

As a fledgling lawyer with aspirations to litigate, I realized that if I became a prosecutor my opportunities to learn and refine those skills would far surpass those available to me in the private sector.
Somehow, despite the economic downturn that had created a hiring freeze in state positions, I was able to get a job when I left my clerkship. Once I started, I loved it and have not looked back since.

**How does Haverford inspire you in your current position?**

In addition to meeting amazing friends and professors—many of whom I stay in touch with to this day—Haverford solidified in me a certain set of values. Those values take different forms for different people, and for me, at their core, they give me the desire to always strive to do the right thing, both personally and for my community. It is something I try to accomplish on a daily basis.

I try to do the right thing for my entire community, which includes the citizens of Delaware, the victims of crimes, and the defendants as well. For me, the trials are not about winning and losing, but about ensuring that I uphold the standards and integrity of the criminal justice system and pursue justice to the fullest. It is an amazing honor to be entrusted by the people of Delaware, and I do my best to honor that trust by ensuring that I am mindful when I prosecute and request sentences on defendants. I have dismissed cases when I believed it to be appropriate and have also asked for sentences of years upon years, as well as for life in prison. When I lay my head on my pillow at night, I can feel proud of the job I’ve done because I did what I believe was right and necessary.

**Has the HCLN been valuable to you?**

I have actively attended the informally dubbed “Isaac Sharpless Inn of Court” held yearly in Wilmington, which usually brings Haverford alumni together to meet with a current professor for a lunchtime lecture. I’ll admit that last year, when I learned that a professor from the astronomy department presented on black holes and invisible galaxies, I was a little apprehensive (about the lecture, that is—not the black holes!). But Beth Willman was so engaging and brilliant that I felt proud that Haverford had her to mentor future astronomers.

I enjoy the company of our Inn and seize the opportunity to catch up with judges, my fellow colleagues of the bar, and friends of Haverford that attend. Once upon a time, before he moved away, a certain Mike Gordon ’04—interviewer extraordinaire!—also attended our Inn.

**What do you like most about what you do?**

Every day is different. Every case is a different story. Every witness and jury trial is an opportunity to learn something new. And every jury is a blank canvas. In Delaware, tradition dictates that the first brushstroke always starts with, “May it please the Court. Counsel. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury…” From there, you paint all the way to whatever in your case looks to be beyond a reasonable doubt. There is no feeling like being at trial. I am fortunate to work with a group of talented, funny, and exceptional people. Yes, they are my colleagues, but when the workday ends, they are my friends as well.

**What are the challenges of your job?**

To succeed as a prosecutor you must be able to confront, draw strength from, and then compartmentalize our criminal justice system, which exists to address an inherently darker side to humanity. On a daily basis, we as prosecutors are...
exposed to the pictures, sounds, and stories of some of the worst actions that humanity is capable of. We willingly sign up to process it all in the name of protecting our community and the pursuit of justice. However, at the end of the day, we need to be able to set it all aside mentally and not take it home with us. While most lawyers share the combination of overworking and financial concerns—due to student loans or otherwise—I suspect that this particular challenge is more heightened in my field of law.

**What do you when you are not practicing law?**

Though I don’t get to do it often, I love travelling. I just got back from Turkey with a small group of friends, including one of my dearest Haverford classmates. We had a terrific time in Istanbul, the Turkish countryside, and various coastal regions. It was the trip of a lifetime! Locally, I like to hang out with co-workers, and I also try to incorporate some exercise into my weekly routine, be it running or learning a martial art. Sometimes my couch and TV win me over, too. I’m looking forward to seeing my nephew again in Massachusetts in the next few weeks—future Haverford Class of 2036 (son of Ysaaca Axelrod ’99 and Peter Colon ’99)!

**Where would you like to go in your career from here?**

I love what I do. Being a prosecutor turned out to be an unexpected, yet amazing career choice for me. I have no immediate alternate career aspirations, but perhaps someday many years from now, my fellow members of the Delaware bar would entrust me with becoming a judge. But for now, I am content pursuing justice from my side of the courtroom as a trial attorney and diving into whatever next case comes my way.

**Connecting the HCLN with Students**

by Jennifer Barr, Haverford Pre-Law Advisor

Over the past six years as pre-law advisor with the College’s Center for Career and Professional Advising (CCPA), I have had the pleasure of witnessing the HCLN grow from an enthusiastic idea to the strong community it is today. It is a great benefit to the College’s current students and young alumni who are considering law school that you have generously opened up to them the group’s membership and networking activities.

I am proud to say that we have continued this connection, and together we provide valuable information to students about our active law alumni and HCLN-related programming, through pre-law orientation, our website, and our pre-law brochures. We continually work to connect the HCLN and the Haverford College Pre-Law Society (now six years old), and members of the HCLN were integral in helping students start our already successful Mock-Trial team last year. There are conversations again in place to connect these two strong student groups directly to the
HCLN membership for the 2015–2016 academic year.

Haverford’s Mock Trial Team took part in its first competition in February, at the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) Regional Tournament, and took home the Spirit of AMTA Award for the most professional and sportsmanlike conduct.

I am eager to continue our strong and valued relationship with the HCLN within the greater CCPA programming, and we have several successful and well-established systems in place to connect students with alumni. I encourage HCLN members to participate in one or all of these opportunities:

1) Participate in a Fords on Friday Career Chat:

In this incredibly successful series, an alumni gives an informal talk to a group of 5–15 students, either in person or virtually (through Skype), with a casual conversation that centers around your career path, industry trends, advice for students, and fielding questions. Normally held on Fridays at 12:00 noon, these talks are a highlight of our event calendar during the semester. Past law-related participants include Suzy Grossier ’86, John Saroff ’98, Ben Weber ’92, and Greg Reed ’06. While our extensive fall 2015 lineup is already well filled, we are currently building our calendar for the spring semester; please contact Karina Weiner ’15 if you are interested in participating.

2) Take part in the Fords on Friday Blog Series:

Each Friday the CCPA partners with an alum to share ideas, news, research, and advice related to liberal arts and career development. We share these blogs through several social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter, and often with the wider Haverford community through the College website. Read past examples of law-related Fords on Friday blogs by Rahul Munshi ’06 and Lizzy Pierson ’12. We are always looking for alumni wisdom on our blog, so please email your advice (approximately 1,000 words—with photos!) to Jennifer Barr.

3) Host an extern:

One of our strongest programs brings students to your workplace during winter or spring break. By job-shadowing professionals, students explore career interests, gain exposure, and learn about various opportunities. Your advice and guidance in this shadowing experience helps a student begin to identify potential career options. Better yet, the structure is flexible; you can develop an experience that lasts anywhere from two days to two weeks.

You and your potential extern work out the details together for each externship, taking into account the
student’s interests and your availability. When planning a sponsorship, we suggest that alumni consider the potential benefits for the student of:

- working alongside the sponsor or other professionals
- talking with the sponsor about his/her life
- meeting with other professionals in the field
- touring the office, departments, or other organizations
- working independently on a special project

To learn more about sponsoring an extern, email Amy Feifer and visit our Extern Sponsor website.

4) Fill out your Career Profile:

The homepage of the CCPA constantly scrolls a rotation of alumni Career Profiles. This helps students to glimpse different possibilities for life after Haverford and see the diverse industries and fields that our alumni represent. Adding your profile enables students who are interested in law to read about the wide range of options available to them. We invite you to fill out your own career profile here.

Thank you again for allowing me to bring pre-law into the HCLN conversation! Please feel free to reach out to me by email with any questions, comments, or ideas, or call 610-896-1181.

HCLN Law Blotter

Zachary Arbitman ’09, associate at Fox Rothschild LLP in Blue Bell, was named a 2015 “Rising Star” by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers for General Litigation.

Richard L. Bazelon ’65, co-founder of Bazelon Less & Feldman PC in Philadelphia, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers for Business Litigation. Richard’s daughter is Emily Bazelon, staff writer for the New York Times Magazine and co-host of Slate’s podcast Political Gabfest. In a June 17 article titled “Better Judgment,” Emily discussed the legacy of her grandfather (and Richard’s father), the late Hon. David L. Bazelon of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. (Emily was a law clerk to Hon. Kermit Lipez ’63 of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.)

Mark Chehi ’80, partner at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP in Wilmington, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by Pennsylvania & Delaware Super Lawyers for Business/Corporate practice.

Ron Christie ’91, the keynote speaker for HCLN’s inaugural symposium in April, was quoted in a June 10 New York Times article, “Michelle Obama Talks about Race and Success, and Makes It Personal.”

Caitlin G. Coslett ’05, associate at Berger & Montague PC in Philadelphia, was named a 2015 “Rising Star” by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers for Antitrust Litigation.

Sarah Eppler-Epstein ’15 has joined the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., as a research assistant. A Phi Beta Kappa Society member, she graduated magna cum laude and was awarded the Harold P. Kurzman Price in political science. Her thesis, “Equal Justice for All? An Analysis of Initiatives to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Detention,” explored mass incarceration issues in this county.
Jon Fetterolf ’93, partner at Zuckerman Spaeder LLP in Washington, D.C., was featured in the *New York Times* (“Tiny Haverford College an Unlikely Pipeline to Major League Baseball’s Front Offices”) in connection with his representation of star Haverford pitcher Tommy Bergjans ’15, who was recently drafted by the L.A. Dodgers in the eighth round of the MLB draft. Also mentioned in the article were Tony Petitti ’83, Chief Operating Officer of MLB, and super-agents Arn Tellem ’76 and Ronald Shapiro ’64, among many other Haverford alums and faculty members.

Amanda W. Figland ’88, associate at Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP in Cherry Hill, N.J., recently created a short video on legal separation in the state. Amanda practices in family law, where she has handled divorce, dissolution of civil unions, partition, and child support and custody issues.

Vernon Francis ’81, partner at Dechert LLP in Philadelphia, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for Employment and Labor.

Mark Geragos ’79 has launched a podcast called *Reasonable Doubt* with comedian Adam Carolla, in which they discuss current events, pop culture, and their personal lives. Upon its launch, *Reasonable Doubt* became one of the most-downloaded podcasts on iTunes.

Peter Goldberger ’71, proprietor of the Law Office of Peter Goldberger in Ardmore, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for Appellate Practice. His wife, Anna Durbin, was also named a “Super Lawyer” for Criminal Defense Practice.

David Hartmann ’08 completed a two-year clerkship with Hon. Thomas R. Allen in the Chancery Division of the Cook County Circuit Court in Chicago. David has joined the City of Chicago’s Department of Law as Assistant Corporation Counsel and will handle civil prosecution matters for the City’s License Enforcement Division.

Sidney (Skip) Herman ’75 is the co-founder of Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP in Chicago. *Law 360* recently named Sydney’s firm as one of “10 Boutiques Giving Biglaw a Run For Its Money.”

David Hofstein ’73, partner at Hofstein Weiner & Meyer PC in Philadelphia, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for Family Practice.

Thomas O. Hiscott ’92, partner at Heckscher Teillon Terrill & Sager PC in West Conshohocken, Pa., was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for Estate Planning and Probate Practice.

Raymond Kresge ’81, partner at Cozen O’Connor PC in Philadelphia, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* magazine for Employment and Labor Practice. Raymond was also selected for inclusion in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

David Kwass ’87, partner at Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky PC in Philadelphia, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for Personal Injury Products: Plaintiff.

Raymond H. Lemisch ’79, partner at Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP in Philadelphia, was named a

**Bruce G. Leto ‘83 P ’14**, partner at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP in Philadelphia, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for Securities and Corporate Finance. Bruce was recently quoted in BoardIQ on enhanced reporting being used by directors for fund boards for the article, “New Practices Emerge for Intermediary Sub-TA Oversight.”

**David Levenstein ’85** founded David Levenstein Law PC in March 2015 in Amherst, Mass. He offers legal counsel for individuals and families living in the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts, as well as for healthcare providers, businesses, and nonprofits. David previously worked for Baycare Health Partners, Inc., for over 10 years. He is a 2001 graduate of Western New England College School of Law.

**Murray S. Levin ’64**, partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP in Philadelphia, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for Personal Injury Products: Defense.

**Hannah Lonky ’10** recently graduated cum laude from Northwestern University School of Law. In September she begins a clerkship with Hon. Jerome B. Simandle of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey in Camden, N.J.

**William J. Marsden, Jr. ’78 P ’08 P ’13**, partner at Fish & Richardson PC in Wilmington, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania & Delaware Super Lawyers* for Intellectual Property Litigation.


**Michael Osborne ’77**, partner at Archer Norris in San Francisco, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *California Super Lawyers*.

**James A. A. Pabarue Jr. ’72** was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* magazine for Employment and Labor. He retired from the firm he co-founded (Christie Pabarue Mortensen & Young PC) on January 1. Jim recently served as a diversity consultant for the 2015 Philadelphia Diversity and Leadership Conference, and he has served as liaison to Haverford’s Office of Multicultural Affairs.

**May Mon Post ’95** was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for Employment Litigation: Defense. May Mon recently joined Fisher & Phillips LLP as Of Counsel.

**Colin Rule ’93**, founder and chief operating officer of Modria.com, was featured in a *Christian Science Monitor* article titled, “Can Computers Replace lawyers? A Silicon Valley Company Says Yes.” Founded in 2011, the company offers online assistance with dispute resolution. Colin has worked in the field for two decades as a mediator, trainer, and consultant.

Robert G. Schwartz ’71, co-founder and former executive director of Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia, will be honored at the Juvenile Law Center’s 40th Anniversary Dinner on October 13, 2015. Juan Williams ’76, who serves on the organization’s board of directors with Vernon Francis ’81 and Barry Zubrow ’75, will emcee the event. The event’s dinner committee includes Peter Goldberger ’71, Richard Voith ’77, and 2015 Haverford Commencement speaker Bryan Stevenson (founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative).


John J. Soroko ’73, chairman of Duane Morris LLP, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers for Business Litigation. John was featured in a June 17 Law 360 article profiling Duane Morris and quoted in a June 12 Law 360 article titled, “Pa. Powerhouses Adapt and Thrive Amid Fierce Competition.”

Stephen Spaulding ’05, policy counsel at Common Cause in Washington D.C., penned “Congress Must Hold Hearings on Voting Discrimination” for the Huffington Post and was a guest on the Thom Hartmann Program, where he discussed “The Koch Brothers’ Plot to Kill Our National Parks.”

Shanin Specter ’80, co-founder of Kline & Specter PC in Philadelphia, was again named to the Top 10 of Pennsylvania by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” for Personal Injury Medical Malpractice: Plaintiff. He was recently featured in a Philadelphia Inquirer article titled, “Money Makes a Difference in State Judge Races.”

Robert Stewart ’71 retired May 8 from the asset forfeiture and money laundering section of the Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General, after more than seven years there. A former district attorney and public defender, he was responsible for the turnover to law enforcement of more than $16 million in assets, including 17 parcels of real estate, 461 vehicles, an airplane, and numerous cash assets and bank accounts. Robert also handled the largest dollar volume case in the history of the Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General, and litigated forfeiture and criminal cases throughout the Commonwealth.

Jonathan K. Stubbs ’74 is a professor of law at University of Richmond School of Law, where he teaches constitutional law and race, and religion and the law, among other subjects. He writes at the intersection of race and civil rights, and has authored several commentaries and tributes to the late civil-rights attorney Oliver Hill, including Brown, The Big Bang and Beyond: The Life of Oliver W. Hill, Sr., now in its second edition. Jonathan has penned law review articles on the Roberts Court and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and a demographic history of federal judicial appointments by gender and race, to be published in 2015.

Robert Swift ’68, director of Kohn Swift & Graf PC in Philadelphia, was named a 2015 “Super Lawyer” by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers for Class Action/Mass Torts.
Arn Tellem ’76, formerly vice chairman of the Wasserman Media Group and world-renowned sports agent, has been named vice chairman of Palace Sports & Entertainment to help run the Detroit Pistons. As an agent, he has negotiated more than $3.5 billion in client contracts since 2008. Arn was recently inducted into the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Josh Wymard ’89 is principal associate general counsel for The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. in New York City, where he has worked since 1995. Josh focuses on complex commercial contracts, business acquisitions, and the global licensing of cutting-edge technologies and intellectual property.

Marc Zilversmit ’83, criminal defense attorney in San Francisco, recently obtained a reversal of a wrongful murder conviction and 50-years-to-life sentence. His client was later acquitted.


** If you have any news or would like to be included in the next edition of the Law Blotter, please email Rahul at munshi@consolelaw.com. **

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We share this information with Haverford Communications for inclusion in the Class Notes section of the Haverford alumni magazine. When sharing your news, please specify any preferences you may have regarding its circulation.

ABOUT HCLN

Michael Gordon ’04, a graduate of the George Washington University Law School, practiced corporate and commercial litigation for a large firm for two years and now works for the television department of Creative Artists Agency in Los Angeles, California. Email: michael.evan.gordon@gmail.com

Rahul Munshi ’06 is an associate in the Philadelphia office of Console Law Offices, where he specializes in employment and civil rights litigation. Email: munshi@consolelaw.com

Devon Montgomery is associate director of alumni & parent relations at Haverford College. Email: dmontgom@haverford.edu

Interested in becoming more involved with Haverford?
Find events in your area, search for other alumni, or make a gift to the Annual Fund on the online alumni community (fords.haverford.edu). All of the HCLN resources are available through the Haverford website at hav.to/hcln.

Please note:
We share the HCLN Newsletter with alumni based on the employment information on file with the College. If your information is inaccurate, please update your contact information online.