HCLN WELCOME

Over the holidays, I was fortunate enough to catch up with a fellow Haverfordian, Stephen Spaulding ’05. We had not spoken in a few months, but were both eager to discuss our mutual transitions from private practice into areas that drove our passions (politics for Stephen and entertainment for myself). Stephen now works at Common Cause, where he uses a combination of legal, political, and advocacy skills on matters such as voting rights, election administration, and campaign finance reform. And this fall I joined the venerable Hollywood talent agency William Morris Endeavor, where I am training to become a talent agent and currently aiding in the representation of today’s leading writers, directors, and actors. While some might consider our moves from the world of relative stability to new ventures risky, it gave us both great satisfaction knowing that likeminded people were just a quick communiqué away. As previously noted, the purpose of the Haverford College Lawyers Network (HCLN) is to ensure that Haverfordian lawyers of all types have that support system in place for the inevitable times in their careers that they either need help or can offer support.

With that in mind, my mentor and former colleague Chuck Durante ’73 once again organized his local chapter in Wilmington (dubbed the Isaac Sharpless Inn of Court) for an event hosted by David Ley Hamilton ’70 and Ken Nachbar ’78, of Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell, with a special lecture by Professor Larry Hamermesh ’73 in early January 2012. While Wilmington, DE, might appear to be a small town, it’s a powerful force in the corporate legal world and the Haverford Lawyers mentioned above have all helped shape this country’s corporate jurisprudence (just look at a Corporations textbook to see what I mean). In short, these are great friends to have and to learn from, both in Delaware and throughout the legal world.

In the interest of expanding the story of the likeminded Haverfordians, we profile in this issue May Mon Post ’95. A consummate “Philadelphia Lawyer,” Ms. Post has advocated for a wide range of clients in a variety of settings. Her thoughts should be insightful to anyone who is either in the legal profession or thinking about joining it and wants to make a significant difference in clients’ lives.

In 2011 HCLN hosted events in Boston, New York, Washington, DC, Wilmington and Philadelphia, published its inaugural newsletter (along with two others), and formalized a LinkedIn group that has grown to 300 members worldwide. Haverfordians in the law are shaping Washington, being elevated to partner in the private sector, joining academia and providing legal services for the indigent, and one HCLN member, Richard G. Andrews ’77, was appointed to the federal bench by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. And many Haverfordians recently graduated from law school, ensuring the continued growth and sustainability of the organization. We hope that you will continue to be a part of our growing organization and will attend one of our events in the spring of 2012, in Chicago (2/21), New York (3/5), Northern New Jersey (date TBA), Baltimore (date TBA) or Washington, DC (3/7).

The HCLN wishes you all a very Happy New Year and hopes that you continue to take advantage of your network of incredible colleagues who have demonstrated a great ability to help and support each other.

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FOR THE RECORD

MAY MON POST ’95:
A PHILADELPHIA LAWYER

By: Ben O’Neill ’13

May Mon Post ’95 currently practices employment and civil rights law at the Philadelphia office of Wong Fleming, PC. Before her current employment, Ms. Post practiced similar aspects of the law during her time in private practice and while working for the city of Philadelphia. She graduated from Haverford with a philosophy degree in 1995 and received her JD from Temple University’s Beasley School of Law, where she was editor of “Notes & Comments” for the Temple International and Comparative Law Journal. Ms. Post also holds an M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Did you consider any other careers before going to law school?

I did. I thought about becoming a professor or a teacher. I was born and raised in Burma, a country with ongoing systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. I left Burma when I was about thirteen and lived in the Congo for almost five years before coming to the States. The Congo’s human rights record is also poor. So doing good for the people was something I always cared about. I wanted to make a difference in this world. I thought being a teacher or a professor would allow me to do that. But after Haverford, I got a job as a paralegal, and I really enjoyed the law aspect. As a lawyer in this country, you are given the opportunity to promote access to justice and influence and make a difference. Also, litigation appealed to me on many levels. So I decided to go to law school.

You practiced human rights law?

Before joining my current firm, I represented plaintiffs who faced discrimination and retaliation in the context of employment. Most employees are “at-will” employees, meaning that their jobs can be terminated for any reason or no reason at all. But it does not mean that an employer can fire, lay off or take disciplinary action against an employee for improper reasons, such as race, gender, color, religion, national original, disability or age.

And how does that compare to the type of law you do now?

I’m on the defense side, but I am also doing commercial litigation now.

What skills did you learn at Haverford?

Haverford was great. I wanted a small, intimate school where I could “find” myself and get personalized attention. I found the professors to be wonderful and caring. And I loved my classes and the liberal arts program; it really helped me write well and analyze things. I also loved the Honor Code, which is what makes Haverford unique.

You said you were a paralegal before going to law school. Do you think it’s important to do some sort of work before going?

Some of my friends went to law school straight out of college, and that’s fine, but I think if you’ve been working before going to law school, you might find yourself more organized, disciplined and efficient. Law school is very challenging, and you have to put in the time to study. Because I had gone to work first, putting in a good eight-hour day was not a problem for me. I think I was able to study more efficiently and with better discipline because I didn’t go straight to law school after college.

Could you elaborate a bit on your thoughts about law school?

I loved law school. A lot of people don’t like law school, I know, but I loved it. You meet very smart, interesting people and make good, lasting relationships. You realize that you really know nothing at all until you go to law school. So much of what we do in this country is governed by laws, and it is good to know your rights and obligations. I also had very good professors, which helped. I didn't always do great in all of my classes, but I still had a great experience because I loved the challenge.

How does the amount of work compare to college?

You can’t compare the two! In college, if you wake up very late and you skip your class, you can catch up. You can’t do that in law school! If you miss one class, you really miss a lot and fall behind. Also, you will be randomly called on in class, and you can’t just say, “Pass.” Whether or not you have finished your reading assignments, professors will keep on asking questions until you get to the answer or seem like a fool. And the
reading takes so much time; sometimes, you may need to re-read your assignments just to have a better understanding of the material.

Did law school feel more cutthroat than Haverford to you?

Definitely. People are competing for class rank or jobs, where at Haverford, you are competing against yourself. That’s just my opinion. People are very collegial and professors are approachable at both Haverford and law school, but law school is still more competitive because people are competing for the same jobs.

Is that a problem?

It depends. It’s not enough to get good grades in law school. You should also aim to be on the Law Review, or a law journal or Moot Court. And you should get involved in extracurricular activities. I think this is particularly true in this economy, where there are more out-of-work lawyers than there are available jobs. I know of people in law school with a great GPA who do not have a job lined up after graduation. It’s scary.

Before you were at this firm you were in solo practice. Could you tell me about the differences?

When you’re in solo practice, you have to wear a lot of different hats. You have to do your own work as a lawyer, but you also have to be your own secretary, accountant, receptionist, publicist and so on. Also, let’s say that you’re on vacation; there’s not going to be somebody out there to cover for you. So there is an enormous amount of responsibility placed on you and you alone.

Also as a solo, it’s important to have a mentor or mentors with whom you can talk and ask questions. Sometimes, there may be situations where you can’t do everything by yourself. For example, when I had my first federal trial as a solo, I reached out to a more experienced attorney to second-chair the trial. In a larger law firm, you have more of a support system. I learned a lot as a solo practitioner, though.

I’ve heard a lot about how being a lawyer is not what it used to be and finding jobs in law is getting more difficult. Have you seen this trend in the ten years that you’ve been an attorney?

Yes. When I was leaving law school, there were more jobs. Now there are fewer jobs, and firms are laying off a lot of their associates. It’s a little scarier in some ways, but I also think it has opened up a lot of doors for attorneys who want to hang their own shingle. It’s easier to do that now, too, because of the technology.

In your opinion, how is the legal profession changing in the day-to-day work?

My understanding is that clients are more hesitant about paying a lot of money. So lawyers are expected to do more in less time than they used to. Perhaps more firms now use paralegals because they can be billed at a lower rate than attorneys. Or perhaps fewer firms now use paralegals because attorneys need more billable hours. I think it depends on the firm. But the legal profession is definitely changing in the day-to-day work. As clients become more diverse, they start looking for more diverse firms than they may have before. And as I indicated, clients are looking for more creative, cost-effective solutions; but because clients are also more sophisticated and there is more competition out there, it’s more important than ever for firms to deliver quality work and maintain good relationships with their clients.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please save the date for the event in your region!

Chicago: February 21, 2012
Reed, Smith Sachnoff and Weaver, LLP
hosted by Frank Ballantine ’78 and Jonathan Quinn ’81

New York: March 5, 2012
Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett, LLP
with guest speaker Ashby Jones ’92, reporter for the Wall Street Journal
hosted by Alan Klein ’81

Washington, DC: March 7, 2012
K&L Gates, LLP
with guest speaker John Sassaman ’87, chief counsel and staff director to the U.S. House of Representatives
hosted by John Longstreth ’78

Baltimore: April (date TBA)
Venable, LLP
hosted by John McCauley ’80

Roseland, NJ: Spring (date TBA)
Lowenstein Sandler, PC
hosted and organized by Steven Hecht ’89 and Henry Hadad ’88
LAW BLOTTER

Matt Andelman '97 recently appeared on Jeopardy!, where he finished in second place with $9,400, after entering Final Jeopardy! in first place with $13,400. Matt is an Associate at Delaney McKinney LLP in Chevy Chase, MD.

Brent Anderson '09 is currently a law student at Rutgers School of Law-Camden and is also working towards an MBA from the Rutgers School of Business-Camden.

Bruce Andrews '90 has been named Chief of Staff for John Bryson, who was recently confirmed as the 37th Commerce Secretary. Bruce was formerly General Counsel of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. He previously ran Ford Motor Company’s Washington, DC, office.

Zach Arbitman '09 will graduate from the George Washington School of Law in 2012 and plans to join Fox Rothschild LLP as an Associate in fall 2012.

Stephen W. Barry '71 is a member of Barry, Corrado, Grassi & Gibson PC in Wildwood, NJ.

Bennett Berson '81, Partner at Quarles & Brady LLP in Madison, WI, was named in The Best Lawyers in America for 2012. Bennett has also been listed in Chambers USA for 2011: Intellectual Property and was selected for the 2010–2011 Wisconsin Super Lawyers list.

Carrie Boyd '03 has joined Shapiro Sher Guinot & Sandler, which was founded in 1972 by Ronald M. Shapiro '64, a prominent attorney, sports agent and New York Times best-selling author.

Ron Christie '91, a Republican political strategist and former member of the George W. Bush administration, was a featured guest on Real Time with Bill Maher in October 2011.

Jeffrey Dunoff '82, Professor of Law at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law, has been appointed the Director of LLM in Transactional Law Program. He is also the Founding Director of the Institute for International Law and Public Policy at Temple University.

Chuck Durante '73, Partner at Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP in Wilmington, DE, penned “Special Needs Trusts: What Trust Departments Need to Know,” which was recently published in The Delaware Banker.

Kelsey Gaynier '07 graduated from Temple University’s Beasley School of Law in 2011 and has joined Chaiken & Associates in Philadelphia.

Mark Geragos '79, owner of Geragos & Geragos in Los Angeles, recently represented basketball legend Elgin Baylor in a wrongful termination suit against the Los Angeles Clippers. Mark was also quoted in several articles on the Penn State sexual abuse scandal.

Michael Gordon '04 recently joined the venerable Hollywood talent agency William Morris Endeavor in their Beverly Hills office, where he is training to become a talent agent.

Lawrence A. Hamermesh '73, the Ruby R. Vale Professor of Corporate and Business Law at Widener’s Institute of Delaware Corporate Law, was the keynote speaker at the January 5, 2012, HCLN meeting in Wilmington, DE, hosted by David Ley Hamilton '70 and Kenneth Nachbar '78, both Partners at Morris, Nichols, Arshe & Tunnell LLP.

Joseph Harris '04, founder of The Law Office of Joseph H. Harris, PLLC, will be joining forces with another solo practitioner to form White Harris, PLLC, in New York City. Joe practices management-side labor and employment law. In November 2011, Joe spoke at New York University’s Stern School of Business on Employment Law Tips for Entrepreneurs.

Morris Hershman '73 is General Counsel for First Sterling Financial, Inc., a low-income housing tax credit syndicator, in Manhasset, NY.

Lucy Hirsch '03 recently joined Lebau and Newworth LLC, a plaintiff-side employment litigation firm, in Baltimore, MD.

Daniel Kent ’11, a member of Haverford’s Pre-Law Society, was named one of the ten winners of the Google Zeitgeist Young Minds Competition, a contest for 18- to 24-year-olds who are working “to make a positive difference in the world.”

David Kwass '87, Partner at Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky PC in Philadelphia, recently secured a $13.9 million settlement for an industrial software technician who suffered serious burns in a plasma explosion when a high-voltage circuit breaker shorted at an asphalt plant.
Cristin Lambros '83 owns a trust and estates boutique firm in Towson, MD. Previously, Cristin spent nine years at DLA Piper in Maryland. Cristin was elected in 2010 as a Fellow with the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), and was elected to the ACTEC Nominating Committee in 2011.

Bruce Leto ’83, Partner at Stradley Ronon and gracious host of the HCLN-Philadelphia event in November 2011, was elected to the Central Board of Trustees of Settlement Music School, a community-based school of the arts, with branches in South, West and Northeast Philadelphia; Germantown; Willow Grove; and Camden, NJ.

Leslie Allan Lugo ’83, Senior Legal Counsel to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), has relocated to Singapore to open and lead the first IATA Legal Services branch in Asia Pacific.

Edward “Ned” Macey ’02 joined Nacht Law in Ann Arbor, MI, in September 2010, following two federal clerkships. Ned first clerked for fellow Haverford alum Judge David F. Hamilton ’79, then District Court judge in the Southern District of Indiana, and then clerked for Judge Eric L. Clay of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ned and his wife, Melanie (see below), live in Royal Oak, MI, with their two daughters.

Melanie Macey ’02 is currently a Staff Attorney at the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy.

Rahul Munshi ’06, Associate at Consolé Law Offices in Philadelphia, has accepted an Adjunct Professor position at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law, where he will coach a Trial Advocacy team.

Scott Ness ’08 graduated from Duke University School of Law in 2011 and is currently clerking on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Oleg Nudelman ’05 joined Archer & Greiner as an Associate in the firm’s commercial litigation group in Philadelphia. Oleg was previously an Associate in the Philadelphia office of Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP. His experience includes complex commercial litigation such as patent matters, pharmaceutical litigation and corporate bankruptcy.

Peter Olson ’73 has served as Legal Adviser to the Secretary General and the international staff of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since February 2010. He is responsible for all legal aspects of NATO’s institutional, internal and external relationships and operations. Peter, who is based in Belgium, recently spoke at the 2010 NATO Legal Conference in Sanremo, Italy.

Hon. Roberto Rivera-Soto ’74, former New Jersey Supreme Court Justice and current Partner at Ballard Spahr LLP in New Jersey, spoke on the topic of leadership and the challenges leaders face at “Overcoming Obstacles to Become a Leader: A Dynamic Discussion Panel,” hosted by the Deloitte Philadelphia Hispanic Network.

Tom Roberts ’93 was recently named Country Counsel for China for the Boeing Company, based in Beijing.

Stephanie Schmelz ’90 is a Partner at Troutman Sanders LLP in Washington, DC. Stephanie’s practice focuses on insurance coverage counseling and litigation on behalf of insurance company clients.

David S. Schuman ’84, an attorney advisor with NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, has graciously offered to take any area alums on a tour of the facility.

Benjamin Shechtman ’08 recently joined Stevens & Lee PC in the firm’s Valley Forge office as an Associate practicing labor and employment law.

Kyle Smiddie ’04, a 2011 graduate of Rutgers School of Law-Newark, has joined the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

Andrew Smith ’08 is a member of the class of 2013 at Boston University School of Law.

David Snyder ’04, Attorney Adviser at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and former Associate at Hogan Lovells, married Megan Zini in 2011.

Stephen Spaulding ’05 joined Common Cause as a Legal Associate in September 2011. Previously, Stephen was a litigation associate with Goodwin Procter LLP. He also served as a law fellow at Common Cause between 2009 and 2010.

Shanin Specter ’83, of Kline & Specter PC in Philadelphia, secured a $17.5 million ruling in a medical malpractice suit against the Veterans Administration brought by a former Marine who suffered a disabling stroke after a dental procedure in which his blood pressure dropped precipitously several times. Shanin was also quoted in several publications regarding the Penn State sexual abuse scandal, including ESPN.com.
Sara Stanley ’02 joined Nigro, Pettepit & Lucas LLP in Newburyport, MA, in 2010 where she practices estate planning law, probate litigation, family law and personal injury.

Robert Swift ’68 wrote the cover story (and is featured on the cover) of the winter 2012 issue of The Philadelphia Lawyer, which reviews Bob’s historic class action litigation on behalf of Filipino victims at the hands of the former Marcos regime.

Arn Tellem ’76, sports agent and namesake for the Tellem Fitness Center, along with his wife, Nancy, is representing Yu Darvish, a highly touted Japanese pitcher who will likely make his debut with the Texas Rangers in 2012. Thad Levine ’94, the Assistant General Manager for the Rangers, played an instrumental role in landing the international superstar.

David Thomas ’71 was awarded The Kannerstein Award by Haverford for his contributions to the alumni community.

Samara Thomas ’06 will be graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2012 and is planning to join Shearman & Sterling LLP in New York.

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

This information will be shared with the Haverford Office of College Communications for inclusion in Class Notes of upcoming issues of the Haverford alumni magazine. Please specify any conditions of distribution when sharing news with us.

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 at William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, the Hollywood talent agency. 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

Doug Stuart is Associate Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at Haverford College. email: dstuart@haverford.edu

Interested in getting more involved with Haverford? You can 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 HCLN resources are available through the Haverford website at hav.to/hcln.

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