Greetings from Chicago, Illinois, where the fall is upon us and, at the time of writing, Cubs fever has taken hold. As my good friend and HCLN co-founder Mike Gordon '04 mentioned in our last newsletter, I will be assuming editor-in-chief duties for the HCLN Newsletter moving forward. I am excited to take on this role and continue my involvement with HCLN.

First, a little about me. I graduated from Haverford in 2006 and am currently an associate in the corporate and sports law group at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP in Chicago, where my practice primarily focuses on representing professional sports teams and their owners in various commercial transactions, including financings, sponsorship agreements, and licensing transactions. The last few years I have been the Midwest Regional Coordinator for HCLN, where I have worked closely with Mike and Rahul Munshi '06 to launch HCLN in Chicago.

Under Rahul and Mike's steady leadership, along with the tremendous help of the folks at the Center for Career and Professional Advising and, most important, the enthusiasm and efforts of our members, HCLN has grown to over 1,500 members and now has a physical presence in eight cities across the country since it was founded in 2010. We are proud to have grown this much this fast. We have fostered mentoring relationships between current students, recent graduates and our alumni members, and we have helped old classmates reconnect.

Thus far, we have built and expanded the group primarily through events and happy hours hosted by local law firms, through social media outreach, and through this newsletter. Recently, we have started to branch out with a wider variety of events, including brunch and lunch events at restaurants in Los Angeles and Chicago. In addition, thanks to generous contributions from HCLN sponsors, some of our latest HCLN events in New York City have taken us out of the law firm setting and into local restaurants and bars for more informal gatherings. Based on popular demand, we plan to continue to try out different types of events, including more brunch/lunch/dinner events, baseball games, panel discussions, picnics, and happy hours at local bars and restaurants. Please feel free to reach out to Rahul, Mike, or me with any specific ideas or suggestions for other ways for we can connect with each other and continue to grow our community.

Additionally, we plan to continue to incorporate speakers at events and to include spotlight interviews in our newsletters. We are fortunate to have a membership with diverse experience and expertise—attorneys at large national law firms, midsize and boutique law firms, and
government agencies, as well as in-house attorneys. We are solo practitioners, law students and federal and state judges. Moving forward we plan to continue to emphasize this diverse set of experience.

Last, please look out for an invitation to the Public Policy Forum to be held at the College on March 18, 2017. HCLN will be hosting a panel discussion during this all-day symposium and will host a social gathering afterwards for HCLN members and those interested in HCLN. More information to come in the next few months.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

FOR THE RECORD

Interview with Jessica B. Reddick ’04

Jessica B. Reddick ’04 is a founding partner of Knight, Morris & Reddick Law Group, LLC and KMR Legal Staffing, both based in Chicago. Her firm specializes in corporate, entertainment, and real estate law, while her staffing agency provides temporary and permanent legal support to law firms and corporations worldwide.

Did you always know you wanted to be a lawyer?

Actually, I didn’t. I come from a family of entrepreneurs and really had no interest in law most of my life. I was a sociology major at Haverford and always had more of a mathematical mind, so I assumed that I would be going to business school. After graduating from Haverford I worked at Morgan Stanley, but it wasn’t until after I decided that the financial field wasn’t necessarily for me that I started to think about becoming a lawyer. There are several judges and lawyers in my family who encouraged me to apply to law school, and I was working as a junior paralegal at a D.C. law firm at the time, where I quickly realized that I have a legal mind.

Do you agree that you can choose any major in undergrad and still succeed in law school and as a lawyer?

Definitely. Many different personality traits, personal experiences, strengths, and weaknesses can contribute to making someone a great lawyer. Little things like organizational skills are important, and my sociology background is important in that it allows me to really connect with my clients and better understand them. Understanding how to connect is a really important skill.

How did you originally come up with the idea for Knight, Morris & Reddick Law Group?

I grew up in an entrepreneurial household where I saw my parents really hustling to build and grow their brand. So I always knew that whatever I did, it would be entrepreneurial. I met one of my law partners in a domestic exchange program that I participated in at a historically black college called Spelman College during my junior year at Haverford. I didn't meet our third partner until we had our first meeting in 2011. My college friend was frustrated with her job situation and tweeted that she wanted to start her own law firm. She and Keli, my partner whom I hadn’t yet met, had a Twitter conversation about starting a firm. Very soon thereafter, the three of us sat down and wrote a loose game plan—things like our business name,
the logo design—and we just kind of hit the ground running. It was unexpected for us, but our personalities matched and complemented each other really well.

**How long did it take you to officially launch KMR?**

After quickly deciding to move forward, we waited a year to hang our shingle. We each had different networks, and during that year we dove into those networks and met with designers, website builders, branding and marketing people, successful attorneys who had started their own firms, tax people, everyone. We met with anyone we could think of who could assist us in building a business. We had each been practicing as attorneys, but we did not know at all how to run a business, or how to start a business logistically. We were also young, female, and African American, so that made us triple minorities in terms of our competitors, so we really wanted to be taken seriously and really wanted to figure out our identity before we opened our doors. We officially launched KMR in September 2012.

**What would you say is the biggest difference between owning your own firm and working under someone else?**

Everything. I am in full control. And it’s really important to us to know that our work and the way we run our business is a reflection of who we are as people. We really care about our clients. We work with a lot of entrepreneurs, so we’re excited about standing behind our clients’ work. Also, we are able to work from home if we need to, and if a client has some special event, we can be there. But it’s also a lot to take on, especially when we were getting started. When you work for a law firm, you have an assistant, you have a paralegal, a full staff to support you and we didn’t have that. We were running to the mailbox to send important documents and running to the bank to make deposits. So, there are definitely pros and cons.

**I understand that KMR specializes in corporate, entertainment, and real estate law. Was that something that you brought with you from your previous law experience, or did that develop while you were at your new firm?**

I had been practicing real estate law working for the City of Chicago since my second summer in law school. Effectively working in-house, I learned the corporate side, what running a business looked like from the legal standpoint in addition to the real estate work I was doing. I really have learned the entertainment side as I’ve gone along. One of my first clients was a musician and he kind of held my hand and taught me the industry. In addition, during our first year of practice at KMR we were approached by a law firm that needed some additional staffing help, which grew from a five-week engagement to a six-month engagement. We ended up forming a legal staffing agency, now called KMR Legal Staffing which is a subsidiary of our law firm.

**I read that you are part of the Black Women Lawyers' Association. What has your experience been like being a part of this group, outside of the firm?**

My law partners and I have been in the Black Law Students Association program and the Black Women Lawyers' Association, and it provides us with additional support. We learned when we first started practicing together that we can’t spend too much time with other
lawyers in trying to generate business, because we are competitors, so we turn to them really just more for support, resources, and knowledge. Mentorship is probably the biggest asset that those types of organizations bring to us.

**What types of plans do you have for your business moving forward?**

We are thrilled with how far we have come to date. We are celebrating our fourth anniversary this month. Most businesses don't make it beyond the first 18 months. In October 2015 we opened an office in L.A., and we hired an associate who does estate planning work and happens to be another black woman. We intend to grow that L.A. office, to grow our Chicago office, and to open an office in D.C. at some point. We want to grow our client base with our law firm and expand where and when it makes sense. We also want to grow our legal staffing agency. While legal services typically are tied to billable hours for the most part, with a legal staffing agency the sky is really the limit. We are also able to act as a minority vendor because we are black females who own our staffing agency; many corporations and law firms are required to have a certain minority quota, which we can provide.

We are still a work in progress. Education is extremely important us, and our ultimate goal is to start a foundation or charitable organization so that we can give back in the way we want to.

**Would you say being in Chicago has affected you starting this career?**

Yes. Chicago is a city where people work hard. I think it was a great place for me to start the business. There are a lot of lawyers here in Chicago. It just happened that there are not a lot of black female attorneys that have come together to start firms. So I think the fact that we are in the minority is definitely why we have gotten highlighted the way that we have. Chicago is just a great city. There is a lot of work to be done here. And within the real estate market, there is plenty of development going on here. I know that everything happens for a reason. For example, I wouldn't have connected with my partners if I hadn't come to Chicago for law school.

**What advice would you give to a current Haverford student or any student considering going to law school, or who wants to start their own business like you did?**

With regard to law school, really think about who you want to be and what you want that legal career to look like. It is a lot of hard work and it is very expensive to go just because someone thinks they need to get a higher degree. I think it is really important to think through what type of lawyer you want to be because it is a lot to take on if you don't end up using your degree.

As for starting a business, I think that you should go for it. Anything is possible when you are willing to work hard and build relationships. It's not about age or experience, because being an entrepreneur is about learning the lesson as it comes, staying on your toes, and being able to remain flexible as the market changes or as your client needs can potentially change. You have to be flexible and not get discouraged when things don't go your way. If you can be flexible, not get discouraged, and work hard, you really can create anything.
Would you say being a Haverford undergrad has affected your career or your life in anyway?

Yes, I think that with its Quaker tradition, Haverford didn't force me to remain in any box, but rather encouraged me to think about who I wanted to be and to use my skill set and my intelligence to figure that out for myself. For example, Haverford allowed students to create their own major when I was there and I think that spirit that Haverford embodies really encouraged me to think more about who I wanted to be rather than forcing me to accept what was presented to me as an option.

*The Atlantic* recently published an article featuring Knight, Morris & Reddick as an example of a thriving minority-led firm in Chicago.

Taylor Cross '18 is a junior from Simi Valley, California. She is a member of the women's soccer team and the Pre-Law Society, and is majoring in economics.

**LAW BLOTTER**

**Irv Ackelsberg**

'72, of Langer Grogan & Diver P.C. in Philadelphia, was mentioned in a Law360 article regarding his representation of a proposed putative class of Rite Aid Corp. job applicants suing the company over pre-employment background checks that allegedly violate the Fair Credit Reporting Act. The matter is currently pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

**Henrik Born ’13** is entering his second year at NYU School of Law.

**Mark J. Burgmann ’09** was named by Billy Penn, presented by the Knight Foundation, as one of "18 Young People Changing the Legal Community in Philly." Mark has served as an assistant district attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office since 2015. A 2012 graduate of Temple University Beasley School of Law and Northeast Philly native, Mark previously worked as a special education and English teacher at South Philadelphia High School.

**Steven A. Drizin ’83** is a Clinical Professor of Law at Northwestern Law School and serves as the Assistant Dean of the Bluhm Legal Clinic's Center on Wrongful Convictions. Steven has won widespread acclaim for his representation of Brendan Dassey, whose conviction was highlighted in Netflix's "Making a Murderer." New episodes of "Making a Murderer" will focus on the post-conviction process and will feature Steve. Dassey's conviction was overturned by a federal judge in August. Read more about the case in The Philadelphia Inquirer and at nbcchicago.com.

**Amanda Figland ’88**, Associate at Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP in Cherry Hill, NJ, recently published an article entitled, "Can I Sue My Former Spouse For Destroying My Relationship With My Children?" Amanda concentrates her practice in family law, where she handles divorce, dissolution of civil unions, partition, and child support and custody issues.

**Meredith Fox ’07** has joined Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP in Chicago. Meredith was formerly an associate at Cassiday Schade LLP and focuses her practice on Medical Negligence and Healthcare. She received her J.D. in 2012 from The John Marshall Law School.
Mark Geragos ’79 is in the news in connection with his representation of certain Uber drivers and a proposed $100 million labor deal that has been rejected by a California federal judge. Mark has led a coalition of Uber drivers who oppose the deal that had been struck with Uber following claims that they were shorted tips and work expenses.

Peter Goldberger ’71, proprietor of Law Office of Peter Goldberger in Ardmore, PA, was awarded the Clifford Scott Green Bill of Rights Award by the Federal Bar Association, Criminal Law Committee, Philadelphia Chapter. In 2015, Peter was also awarded the Robert C. Heeney Memorial Award at the Foundation for Criminal Justice Gala. You can watch Peter’s acceptance speech here.

Alan Klein ’81, partner at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in NYC, was highlighted in a recent Law360 article titled, "Attorney Credits Close Ties For $120 Billion Worth of M&A Work." Alan, co-chair of the firm’s M&A practice, helped advise ChemChina on its $43 billion acquisition of Swiss pesticides company Syngenta, Ireland-based Tyco in its $36 billion combination with Johnson Controls in an inversion action, ADT Corp. in its $15 billion acquisition by Apollo, and Microsoft in its $26.2 billion acquisition of LinkedIn. The acquisition of LinkedIn marked Microsoft’s largest-ever transaction, as well as the largest tech bid so far this year and the fifth largest ever on record, according to Dealogic.

David Kwass ’87, partner at Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky P.C. in Philadelphia, recently settled an action for more than $26.5 million on behalf of the family of a lawn care worker who was paralyzed after he was thrown from a pickup truck in a single-vehicle accident. The settlement is reported to be the largest single personal injury settlement to come out of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

Don Liu ’83 has joined Target Corporation as executive vice president, chief legal officer and general counsel. Don will oversee all legal, corporate governance and government affairs matters for the company. Don joins Target from Xerox Corporation, where he had served as executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary since 2007.

Alejandro Miyar ’03, associate at Fox Rothschild LLP in Miami, was featured in an NBC article regarding Latinos who worked for the Obama administration. From 2009 to 2010, Alejandro served in the Obama administration as national spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). In this capacity, he was an integral part of the media relations and crisis communications team at the DOJ. He worked regularly with U.S. Attorney’s Offices throughout the country, other federal agencies and the White House. His tenure at the DOJ led to a natural transition to commencing his legal studies and eventually being admitted to the Florida Bar. He graduated, cum laude, from University of Miami School of Law in 2013.

Brendan Palfreyman ’05, Associate at Harris Beach PLLC in Syracuse, NY, has been quoted extensively in connection with his trademark and intellectual property practice and specialization in the craft beer industry. A 2010 magna cum laude graduate of Brooklyn Law School, Brendan has weighed in on a trademark case between Moosehead Lager and Moose Wizz Root Beer and a dispute between Chicago’s Haymarket Brewing and Brooklyn Brewery.
Norman Pearlstine ’64 has been named Vice Chairman of Time Inc., where he will focus on international opportunities. A 1967 graduate of University of Pennsylvania Law School, Norman previously served as Editor-in-Chief of Time Inc. (1994-2005) and most recently as Chief Content Officer (2013-2016). Vanity Fair recently wrote about the venerable journalist's career.

Jessica Reddick ’04 and her firm, Knight, Morris & Reddick Law Group, were featured in The Atlantic as a thriving minority-led law firm in Chicago. The article features a lengthy interview with Jessica and her partners, where they discuss the formation of the law firm.

Shanin Specter ’80, co-founder of Kline & Specter in Philadelphia, obtained the second-, seventh-, and tenth-highest trial verdicts in Pennsylvania in 2015. The verdicts were for $46,532,600.00; $12,500,000.00; and $8,000,000.00, respectively. Shanin was named the 2016 Philadelphia Product Liability Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers in America and a Lifetime Achievement Award winner by The Legal Intelligencer. You can read Shanin's March 2016 article, "The Absent Plaintiff Attorney," published in Trial magazine.

Eric Sterling ’73, a Commissioner on the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC), spoke at an event in Towson, MD about medical marijuana in Maryland. Medical marijuana legislation has been approved in Maryland with growers, processors, and dispensaries becoming operational in 2017. MMCC oversees all aspects of implementation of the regulations and oversight of growers, processors, and dispensaries as well as prescribing physicians and patient registrations. Eric was appointed to MMCC in 2013 by Governor Martin O'Malley and has served as chair of the policy committee.

Jeremy Temkin ’84, partner at Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello PC in NYC, was featured in Law360’s "Rainmaker" series. Jeremy represents individuals and corporations in federal white collar criminal investigations. He handles a wide variety of criminal, regulatory, and civil matters in state and federal courts and before arbitration panels.

Marc Zilversmit ’83 recently had an article published in Slate on the potential constitutional crises in federal medical marijuana prosecutions. Marc is a San Francisco attorney who specializes in criminal appeals and trial. He is counsel for Steve McIntosh, who recently received a favorable decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in a medical marijuana case. Read more about the case in the Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle.

Marc Zucker ’81, partner at Weir & Partners LLP in Philadelphia, will speak at the 2016 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference hosted by the Philadelphia Bar Association in Atlantic City, NJ. Marc will speak on the panel titled, "Arbitration 101: Top 10 Differences Between Arbitration and Trial Practice."

** If you have any news or would like to be included in the next edition of Law Blotter, email Rahul Munshi ’06.

Given that we share information with College 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 circulation.