

CORDEL FAULK: Hi, I'm Cordel Faulk, Assistant Dean and Chief Admissions Officer at the University of Virginia School of Law. In this episode of Law School, we talked to Ethan Silverman and Trevor Quick, both 2Ls at UVA Law. They give us advice on what to think about as you're choosing a law school and then what to look forward to during your first couple of years. Ethan also talks about how he got into the JD MBA program up next.

Well, guys thank you for joining us on the podcast. I will let you introduce yourselves. No, I'll do it. Ethan Silverman, thank you for joining us, and, Trevor Quick, thank you for joining us. It is now my goal-- I love the name Quick so much. I'm looking for somebody in each class because I think it's like a superhero name. I want a Quick in each class from now on.

TREVOR QUICK: I appreciate that. The problem is in the legal profession, it basically forecloses the option of being a named partner because no law firm's goal is to bill as quickly as possible. It's actually I think the opposite. So construction--

CORDEL FAULK: But think about that. You're selling it to clients. Like no, no. And Quick.

TREVOR QUICK: But then the bill comes.

[LAUGHTER]

And that's a little bit harder to square that circle, as it were.

CORDEL FAULK: Ethan, talk to us about Ethan before he showed up at UVA Law.

ETHAN SILVERMAN: Yeah, absolutely. First, thank you for having us on, myself and Trevor included. Even though the first time--

CORDEL FAULK: People need to understand Ethan. You're the most polite person at the law school. People need to understand that. [LAUGHS]

ETHAN SILVERMAN: I was about to tell a disparaging story, but maybe in light of that I'll withhold.

CORDEL FAULK: Just one?

ETHAN: Just one.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: I see it as part of my duty to protect Trevor.

TREVOR QUICK: Thank you.

ETHAN So I'm born and raised in the Bay Area about 45 minutes inland from San Francisco. Really

SILVERMAN: didn't hop too far from home until I came out here to law school.

CORDEL FAULK: So undergrad?

ETHAN Undergrad at UC Berkeley. Studied legal studies because it was humanities and I didn't really

SILVERMAN: have to go to class too often.

CORDEL FAULK: That's a major?

ETHAN Yes, it's a major. It's the study about the law rather than of the law itself. That was my pitch in

SILVERMAN: OGI.

CORDEL FAULK: Wait, wait, wait. You're going to have to tell us the difference between the study about the law and the study of the law.

ETHAN Well, it was very--

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: We need you to parse that for us.

ETHAN It was historical. It was sociolegal. We studied the structure of the judiciary, different courts--

SILVERMAN: oh, God, I don't remember.

CORDEL FAULK: That's actually helpful to know.

TREVOR QUICK: So you had a huge leg up when it came to common law and things like that because you were just ready to go.

ETHAN Oh, yeah. When you sit there and contrast understanding the different court hierarchies-- no, it

SILVERMAN: wasn't that helpful.

I mean, I loved my time there. It was a good place to be.

CORDEL FAULK: Yeah, of course.

ETHAN I did my laundry at home.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: Not anymore?

ETHAN Not anymore, no. And then I worked for two years after.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Where?

ETHAN At my dad's law practice. He does trusts and estates work and I just did office management

SILVERMAN: stuff.

CORDEL FAULK: So still, you were learning about the law?

ETHAN About the law.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: No plug for the name of the firm to maybe kind of generate some business here for any California listeners?

ETHAN Actually, I'm going to withhold on that. But it was actually great learning from my dad. And

SILVERMAN: actually for a long time, I thought I was going to join him in work. He ended up working with his dad-- my grandfather-- and they kind of built their practice together. And I always thought it'd be fun to join him too. But sitting down and working with him, I learned pretty quickly that so much of his practice had to do with just one-on-one conversations with people. It was so personal.

CORDEL FAULK: This profession is about relationships period. At the bottom of it, it's about relationships.

ETHAN And when Hughes sat down with people and me being a fly on the wall, I learned that very

SILVERMAN: quickly, you can engender trust in another. People sat with my dad, who I will give a shout out to my dad Rob is the man

CORDEL FAULK: Rob Silverman.

ETHAN Rob Silverman.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Right. Attorney at law.

ETHAN Attorney at law. He was able to be kind and honest with them. And they knew they could trust
SILVERMAN: him to build out their financial future for their kids and beyond.

CORDEL FAULK: That's wonderful. I mean, it's how it should be. Like that's how the profession is at its best.

ETHAN Absolutely. I will say though, as I've come to law school and even after-- so my second job
SILVERMAN: after, I stopped working for my dad. I transitioned to a little health care startup that's no longer
in existence, but Stroll Health. We did health care IT and trying to disrupt the way primary care
physicians referred patients to diagnostic imaging--

CORDEL FAULK: Oh, interesting.

ETHAN --to give them information so they could make data-backed decisions. Doing legal work for that
SILVERMAN: company on top of my other technical responsibilities and then coming to law school, it didn't
take long for me to realize that I was interested in doing more actual technical doctrinal legal
thinking, hence my transition away from interest in joining my dad in trusts and estates and
more towards larger corporate deal work and the like.

So about Ethan, yeah, I'm from the Bay Area. I wanted to get away from California for a couple
of years. Applied to UVA and I just loved it when I visited. And I'm happy here.

CORDEL FAULK: OK, wait, so this is a question that we don't really have an answer.

ETHAN OK.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: So UVA is obviously our number one feeder of applications. We get a ton of applications from
UVA. Guess what number two is?

ETHAN Please tell me it's Cal.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: It's Cal Berkeley.

ETHAN No way.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: It's Cal Berkeley. And it's Cal Berkeley by a mile. We don't know why. We don't know why we

are so attractive to students from Cal Berkeley.

ETHAN If you're going to put me on the spot?

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Yes, I'm going to put you on the spot. Like why, why? We have theories about it, but we don't know why.

ETHAN Well, I mean, I imagine like a theory like flagship state schools.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Correct.

ETHAN Large sports programs. It's a large student body so there's a sense that-- like when I went to

SILVERMAN: Cal, I knew I would be able to find a home in the community no matter where it was. Maybe a similar sense here.

TREVOR QUICK: Also I think success begets success on that front, right? So if you are able to-- if people at Berkeley are able to succeed here, then they're going to go and turn around and say like, hey, if you're looking at law schools, you should look here. So I think the best way would be go back to that initial class where like the distinction started making itself shown, and then go, oh, my gosh. Why did these people pick UVA, starting the pipeline?

ETHAN When I visited, I visited probably four or five law schools. This was the only school where I was

SILVERMAN: paired up with other Cal grads--

CORDEL FAULK: Oh, OK.

ETHAN --for lunch. And I went down to Citizen Burger.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: Oh, so good. Citizen Burger is so good.

ETHAN That was a good introduction. I am a California boy through and through, so--

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: Thank you. Appreciate it.

ETHAN --when we sat down and the first thing I had to eat in Charlottesville was a fried pickle, that's

SILVERMAN: when--

CORDEL FAULK: Just one?

ETHAN Three, four. I didn't have enough space for my burger-- a strong selling point. I don't know why

SILVERMAN: you would have so many Cal students. I know a ton now that I think about it. And I'm happy-- shout out, president-- to be paired with one in my 1L section.

CORDEL FAULK: That was random. Nobody believes us that it was absolutely random. But you know another top five school? UCLA.

TREVOR QUICK: So I have another theory that I'd like to advance.

CORDEL FAULK: Yes.

TREVOR QUICK: I think the fact that we are so close to DC and have such a good finger on the pulse of both kind of pro bono justice focused on making the world better--

CORDEL FAULK: And we do care about that. We really do care about that.

TREVOR QUICK: --as well as tech. I think both are going to be huge pipelines. And then someone was telling me, who was deciding between here and UCLA law, that someone involved with UCLA-- I think a graduate of the UVA Law School who is involved with UCLA's program in some capacity-- said you should go to UVA.

CORDEL FAULK: Oh, good.

TREVOR QUICK: So I think that-- I mean, I'm not sure of the specific of that and I definitely don't want to throw some details to it and then get someone in trouble, but I think that there's a big appeal in that, in that those sorts of people feel like Virginia is a kind of different place than what they would be getting out on the west coast or from other institutions or pure schools on the east.

CORDEL FAULK: And we could get you back to the west coast.

ETHAN Without a doubt. That was a very important consideration of mine. My significant other is out

SILVERMAN: there. I mean, actually she's coming out here, so I'm quite excited about that, for the rest of my law school tenure. But getting back out to the west coast where my family is, where I was born and raised, where I can do tech-adjacent work in any capacity as an attorney was essential. And obviously, the university places well out there.

I mean, the last thing I'd say-- and maybe this is me being such a passionate Cal alum-- is I met and know still today a ton of happy people from Cal. And why that matters is because so I interviewed with Jennifer Hulvey at UVA.

CORDEL FAULK: Correct.

ETHAN SILVERMAN: And I told her towards the end of my interview, after thinking a ton about different law schools, I want to come to UVA because law school is not a break in life. It's not time off. It's not time away where we sacrifice happiness to get to the next step, like use this springboard. I wanted to be happy where I was. And I thought with like the green rolling hills reminiscent of the East Bay around Berkeley, people that make eye contact when you walk by and smile, I can be happy here.

TREVOR QUICK: So did everything turn out good?

ETHAN SILVERMAN: Thank you. I don't know. I wanted to be happy here. I thought I could find a community I'd really enjoy. I thought I'd find activities here I would really enjoy. And that's a similar approach I took to my time at Cal as well.

TREVOR QUICK: And unfortunately, the rent prices of San Francisco didn't follow you out here to Charlottesville, otherwise you could have had that going for you as well.

ETHAN SILVERMAN: Actually the two Cal grads that I went to lunch with at Citizen Burger, they picked me up at the school and one had to go drop something off at home in Ivy gardens, which is where I now live. And he lived in a three-bedroom apartment. And I remember going there and I was just like, out of curiosity, I need to look for housing if I'm going to come here. What's the setup here like? Well, I live in a three-bedroom apartment. It's about \$800. And I said, oh, that's super reasonable. And he's like, I just want to clarify. That's for all three bedrooms. And my just shock and awe. So yes, that was actually part of the admissions pitch. Did that deliberately.

CORDEL FAULK: If only we were that good. If only we were that good. All right, Trevor Quick.

TREVOR QUICK: Yeah, so I'm from Atlanta.

CORDEL FAULK: Tell us about your superhero powers first.

TREVOR QUICK: Oh, no, no, I am far too slow. I don't play enough softball to even be remotely considered fast.

CORDEL FAULK: Who is Trevor Quick?

TREVOR QUICK: So I'm from Atlanta. I went to Middlebury College for undergrad where I was a political science major with a minor in economics

CORDEL FAULK: Go, Panthers.

TREVOR QUICK: Uh-huh. And the contingent continues to grow as well, so we're very happy about that. I think for me, I kind of got turned on to law school conceptually senior year. I'd already taken the a com law class at Middlebury taught by the pre-law advisor Murray Dry.

And Professor Dry runs a class that I now realize is exactly like, or maybe harder than a law school class. And I liked it, which says a lot more about me. Maybe that's my superhero power is I can handle pain like that. But it was really interesting, so I was like, OK, I don't know what I'm going to do.

CORDEL FAULK: Your superhero power is able to deal with a ton of professional pain? Like, you are very good.

TREVOR QUICK: Oh, we'll see. But so I think after that, I really wanted to make sure before I went to law school, that I was actually interested in being a lawyer because it is obviously a large investment of time and money to do that. And I didn't want to do that on a whim. So I went back to Atlanta and was working at King & Spalding as a project assistant, which is basically a paralegal for them on their corporate team.

So I did that for a year, and then started applying to law schools. And you know, I got into UVA amongst a couple other schools. And for me, I think there were 30 attorneys on my team and eight of them are graduates of UVA School of Law.

CORDEL FAULK: Yeah, we have a lot of people at King & Spalding in Atlanta. We do have enough. Hey, should we ask the question now to him?

TREVOR QUICK: What?

CORDEL FAULK: The core question of the podcast. Why did you choose UVA Law?

ETHAN Oh, I thought you were going to ask, why do UVA law graduates go to King & Spalding?

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: No, no, no.

TREVOR QUICK: No, but I mean, I think for me it was, so I was looking at these other schools and I had, you know, eight different attorneys all with such different personalities, work styles, et cetera and all of them spoke so highly of UVA. And that, I mean, I don't know about you Ethan, when you're researching law schools, like most schools you hear little negative trends about. And obviously, you know, law school is a tough place, so people are going to have different opinions.

But for me, that was the only school where other people from other law schools who had gone to other law schools and were working in the legal profession now they all said, yeah, I've heard great things about UVA. And none of them bad mouthed UVA.

CORDEL FAULK: That's nice to know.

TREVOR QUICK: That or there were too many people at King & Spalding in the power structure.

CORDEL FAULK: I'll take either one.

TREVOR QUICK: But that for me, I was like, wow, that means that I really need to, you know-- that might be a better fit than if it means that any type of person can be successful there and have had a positive experience. That speaks really highly to me.

CORDEL FAULK: Well, and I'm impressed with the way you handled it. You didn't just take their word for it. You came to visit.

TREVOR QUICK: Mm-hmm great decision.

CORDEL FAULK: Yeah, so you thought, OK, they have good things to say, and then you came to check it out for yourself. The one thing that we hate is when somebody substitutes other people's research for their own and you didn't do that.

TREVOR QUICK: Well, I didn't go visit any other law school. Once I came here, that was it.

ETHAN That was the process.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: I was emotionally done. Even though I didn't maybe commit in the moment, at that point, I decided no need to travel anywhere else.

CORDEL FAULK: Ethan, why did you choose UVA Law?

ETHAN I mean, I described it earlier-- I wanted to be happy during law school.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: That's a rare goal for law school.

ETHAN But I mean, I say that in contrast to the idea that you go to law school to crank out 1L, walk

SILVERMAN: yourself through a 1L job, sit through OGI 20--

CORDEL FAULK: I didn't want that. Exactly, I didn't want that.

ETHAN And we'll get that. I mean, UVA's a phenomenal law school. I knew any school in this sphere

SILVERMAN: was going to get me to where I wanted to go professionally. I was interested in the other things, like access to nature. I love to go hiking. I want to go backpacking. We're an hour from the AT.

CORDEL FAULK: Correct.

ETHAN I love--

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Wait, back up. So you wanted to do that. Have you gotten to do that while you're here?

ETHAN Absolutely. I go on backpacking trips. I have been planning to go on a couple week

SILVERMAN: backpacking trip with a classmate, Jeremy Gordon.

CORDEL FAULK: Nice, yeah. Jeremy's a great guy.

ETHAN We'll see if the timing works out, but absolutely. We're so close. It's not-- to potential listeners,

SILVERMAN: don't plan on doing that during 1L, but you know.

TREVOR QUICK: Or do.

CORDEL FAULK: Jeremy's also Berkeley, right?

ETHAN Jeremy is also a Berkeley grad.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Look at that. I'm telling you, there are examples everywhere of this.

TREVOR QUICK: Is Duke number three?

CORDEL FAULK: No.

TREVOR QUICK: Oh, it's not.

ETHAN Is UNC number three?

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: So I don't remember what number three is, because it used to be UCLA, and somebody passed them so far this year, and I can't remember who it is.

ETHAN Just remember, Cal's number two.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: I mean, I know it's not Middlebury. We could have the entire graduating class of any year apply, and we still wouldn't be at the top.

ETHAN That's fair.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Everybody, I'm very partial to Middlebury. Everybody to a man that we've admitted from Middlebury who's come over the past five years, I've just been in love with. I love Middlebury. I love it. I love it.

TREVOR QUICK: Yeah, we do a good job.

CORDEL FAULK: You do a good job.

ETHAN The other big thing I noticed was the institutional commitment to providing social opportunities and avenues and competitive outlets outside of the classroom. I love the section structure. I love the peer advisor program, which I learned when I visited, and now I'm glad to be a part of. I loved softball, which Trevor mentioned earlier. The idea that we, as a section of 30 people, could walk out on a Tuesday at 2:00 PM and play against another section. Sure, we're competitive in a friendly way, but there's no implications.

CORDEL FAULK: Not at all.

ETHAN No one's tearing pages out of their playbook to use the typical law school terror horror story.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: I hope that's not true.

ETHAN Gosh, I hope so too.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: I think, I mean-- so I've noticed something you've both said. So you said competitive, but friendly. And every person we have mentioned so far, you, Cordel, have said, great, I love that person. Now, part of that is as the head of admissions, you do get to actually pick the people.

CORDEL FAULK: Correct, right, yeah.

TREVOR QUICK: But I think that that's-- I mean, that, for me, is even coming here for admitted students week, and obviously the people you meet at any admitted students week at any law school, it's not 100% conversion rate.

CORDEL FAULK: Right.

TREVOR QUICK: But just every single person I met, and if you're here, that means you're considering it very seriously. These are really wonderful people. I like these people a lot, and that, to me, is just more valuable. Because I think there is a certain element of it, that law schools within your peer schools, the professional advantages are pretty much the same. There's going to be slight wrinkles here and there, but I think the caliber of people you get to work with here, and know that the start of your professional network is made up of that caliber of person, was just so valuable.

CORDEL FAULK: Correct.

ETHAN
SILVERMAN: Well, and also the students are a reflection on the institution, and the faculty, and the deans, and admissions office, and the career services office. It's a community that feeds off itself. And the same people that you love, that I've enjoyed being classmates with, Trevor included, that social connection and appreciation is also a support network. Not even necessarily for a future power network, but just the idea that we have people here who do invest in the community to rise all boats. Like, everybody here is interested in being part of a community that supports one another, and it's apparent.

When you come into Charlottesville, when you walk into the law school hallways, when you sit in on a classroom, like, there's no act. It's refreshing.

CORDEL FAULK: So the one thing, when I ask people what surprised you most about UVA when you got here,

the answer that I get to that from 1Ls is always, oh, I thought it was marketing. They don't get, until they get here and start to interact with their classmates and the 2Ls and 3Ls, oh wait, that wasn't marketing. It wasn't marketing.

TREVOR QUICK: Yeah, there's even free food out all the time, just like when you--

CORDEL FAULK: No, seriously. We're not joking about it. There's food all the time.

ETHAN There is a free food table.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Yeah, there's food all the time at UVA law. Right.

TREVOR QUICK: No, I mean, I think what you said about it is not an act too-- I remember visiting one law school, and I sat in someone's seat to sit in on a class, and they were like, this is my seat. You need to move. Not, are you an admitted student? Are you looking at the school? Are you just visiting? Like, nothing like that.

CORDEL FAULK: That wasn't the best face.

TREVOR QUICK: Here, I've never been in a class where an admitted or prospective student sat in on a class and people didn't immediately go, hey, where else are you looking? Like, this is my contact information. If you just want to talk to someone, like, I'll give you the-- and we're lucky that the unvarnished truth lines up with what you guys say in admissions. But I think that people really-- it's not just that they will help you. It's that they go out of their way. They want to help you.

CORDEL FAULK: What did surprise you guys the most when you were here for six months? Ethan, what do you think?

ETHAN What did surprise me?

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Right, about law school.

ETHAN Sure.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: About law school, one, and UVA law in particular, two.

ETHAN I would say what surprised me was the academic rigor.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Oh yeah. That is no joke.

ETHAN

SILVERMAN:

But I'll say it surprised me because it was just so demanding. I came in having worked planning on working a long day during the week, studying a little bit on the weekend. I was so dead set on taking a full day off every weekend. Obviously that pretty quickly went out the window. But so did the 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM work day. I mean, there's this holistic commitment. So I was surprised by the academic challenge, but I was more surprised by how fulfilling it was being a part of a supportive community that together dove into this challenge.

And we, at the end of 1L fall, emerged from this journey, and it's like this cathartic release. But it's also every Thursday afternoon or Friday afternoon, when classes are done for the week, I was happy working as hard as I did. And I felt like the community was there alongside me going through this almost like pledging process together. I saw similarities. That was surprising-- the academic rigor, but also how joyful it was going through that challenge.

TREVOR QUICK: So it's two things for me, I guess. First would be the types of people here. And obviously I've only attended one law school. So I can't really compare it. But they do say that we are the kind of social law school. Like, when you're doing interviews or when you just meet students from other law schools, they're like, oh, you guys are the social law school.

CORDEL FAULK: Which is on purpose. We thought about that, and we do that on purpose.

TREVOR QUICK: Yeah. And so, I thought about that, and obviously when you hear that, you assume that everyone here is like Mr. or Miss social butterfly.

CORDEL FAULK: No. That's not the truth.

TREVOR QUICK: That's not the truth.

CORDEL FAULK: It's not the truth, right.

TREVOR QUICK: And I think that that caught me off guard, because after six months, people at first when it was like, why are they so standoffish in the hallways or something? Like, they're not standoffish, they're just not a socially forward person. And I think that--

CORDEL FAULK: They're social, but not socially forward.

TREVOR QUICK: Yes. And that's the thing, as you get to know people after that six months after you've had the kind of horrible experience where no one knows what they're doing, no one knows how it works, and you're all trying really hard, it's super high pressure, is you get to know people. And you pull back that layer and you're like, oh my gosh, you're actually a super nice person. We were just all stressed.

And I think the other thing is I was surprised by the kind of caliber of relationships that happen that quickly. Some of my best friends from my first six months, I'm living with them for all of 3L. Like, I'm going to be a member of the wedding party for a guy that I became friends with last year. He's getting married next October. I think that those relationships-- you think, I'm developing a network. There'll obviously be a professional sort of relationship. But I feel like my friends at the law school are some of the best friends that I will ever have.

CORDEL FAULK: I can tell you that's true. 20 years later, I could tell you that absolutely is true.

TREVOR QUICK: Yeah. It's weird to feel that way, because you're around people I think for the first time in your life really where you all have so many different things in common. If you're at a school like Virginia and other peer institutions, you've picked to be there.

CORDEL FAULK: Correct.

TREVOR QUICK: And by picking to be there, you've self-identified with others the type of place you want to be. And I think that that, after six months, once you get through the kind of morass of 1L fall, you realize, oh my gosh, this is really the right place. I don't know anyone here that says after the first six months, like, I don't know if UVA was the right place for me. And there's nothing wrong with that. It's a tough decision. But I just feel like people here, they would if they felt that way, but they don't.

ETHAN SILVERMAN: I think I've started to understand why too. When we're in this somewhat isolated community, we're an hour away from Richmond, we're two hours from D.C. So we can go to major cities any weekend, any afternoon we want to. But we are here in Charlottesville together. Those close relationships develop because when we want to go do something other than reading for class the next day, we are the community we go and do that with. I understand hindsight being 20-20. I'm so glad I'm not in an area where I just fell back on my relationships from earlier in life.

The idea that we have to walk into this community where we're going to have the pressure of

academics, professional recruiting, all of this, a new place, it's tough to go just dive into a community. Well, when we are like collectively stuck here together, you do it. There's no question. There's no thought before going and developing strong relationships with people, because the institution supported us in doing that, and it was the only choice we had.

TREVOR QUICK: And I think the emphasis on the support there.

ETHAN Yeah.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: I mean, so obviously, again, when you come to an admitted students weekend, you all in admissions-- I can't believe I just said you all in a UVA podcast. Y'all in admissions really put an emphasis on meeting people, because you want us all to have the experts of meeting who else is looking here.

CORDEL FAULK: Correct.

TREVOR QUICK: But that doesn't stop at all during any--

CORDEL FAULK: No, correct.

TREVOR QUICK: You get the sense maybe 1L fall, like, oh, they're going to try to push us all together, and then they'll stop because now--

CORDEL FAULK: No.

TREVOR QUICK: No. It is like a three-year commitment and job.

CORDEL FAULK: Profession about relationships. It's a profession about relationships. So you should get to know one another, because the most important part of your network are the people in your class. So we want to make sure there are a lot of opportunities for you guys to continue to get to know one another.

ETHAN Yeah.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: Because lawyers, at its best, lawyers bring the best out one another when they're working together.

TREVOR QUICK: But you feel that in a day to day way that you wouldn't necessarily like-- having worked before,

I was felt like people would come into the office and be like, oh, hey, how was your weekend, pro forma, like I don't care. You just say something, I say something back, we're done. Here, like coming back from break just now, people will stop and talk to you for like 15 minutes about your breaks and stuff. And I think that only happens in a community like Charlottesville because in major cities-- and obviously there are huge advantages to those schools, and they're great schools-- but in a major city, it's really easy to just disappear into your own thing.

CORDEL FAULK: Right.

TREVOR QUICK: And here you cannot do that. Every time I go to a restaurant in Charlottesville, I feel like-- even if I don't, I feel like I'm going to run into a law student. I usually do run into someone. I mean, I'll know them, but I'll see someone and I'm like, oh, you go to the law school as well. And I think that that's a really nice environment to be in, because it gives you a chance-- I mean, you guys have done such a great job in admissions. It gives us a chance to meet people who-- like, one of my best friends is from Utah, and I didn't really get to know him very much 1L year. But now, 2L, I see him a lot more. And we do double dates now.

CORDEL FAULK: Aw.

TREVOR QUICK: So it's a really big shift, and I think that that doesn't happen in other schools, and I'm thankful for it. Thankful that it happens here, not that other schools don't have that. I feel bad for them.

CORDEL FAULK: I have to sell you out. You're like the most sneaky romantic person. You try to hide it, you deny it.

ETHAN You met your significant other on admitted students weekend.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: Also, yeah, I am high on admitted students weekend, because I did meet someone then. But that's not an expectation. That's not an expectation.

CORDEL FAULK: Quietly is the most romantic person.

[LAUGHTER]

TREVOR QUICK: Not quietly anymore.

CORDEL FAULK: That's right. I'm exposing you.

ETHAN As he blushes for the listeners.

SILVERMAN:

[LAUGHTER]

CORDEL FAULK: OK, what are you guys doing next? What happens-- so you're halfway done with this adventure, more or less. What's the next step after you leave?

ETHAN A little bit less for me.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: Oh, I'm actually going to let Ethan go first, because by the time he's done we may be done with the podcast listeners, because he's got big plans ahead.

ETHAN So what is next for Ethan? So we, when you say we're halfway done, we have a toast coming
SILVERMAN: up tomorrow with tomorrow the Dean of the law school to celebrate being halfway done with law school, which is uncanny.

CORDEL FAULK: Right. It goes by very quickly.

ETHAN It flies by.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: You're technically more than halfway done with law school though.

ETHAN To an extent. So what he's hinting at-- so I, as you know, am going to be doing the JD/MBA
SILVERMAN: program.

CORDEL FAULK: Correct.

ETHAN I've known I wanted to go to law school for my entire. Like, when I was younger kid, I wanted
SILVERMAN: to be an astronaut, professional soccer player, or an attorney.

CORDEL FAULK: Rob Silverman?

ETHAN Rob Silverman, strong influence. Don Silverman, his father, my grandfather, also a good
SILVERMAN: influence.

TREVOR QUICK: I'm just sad you've given up on the professional soccer or astronaut, or some combination thereof.

CORDEL FAULK: Maybe he hasn't. They might still be there.

[LAUGHTER]

I'm not giving up hope on this.

ETHAN Professional sports league in space, that need a general counsel.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: Slash player.

ETHAN Slash player. I've always wanted to go to law school. Also, before law school, I really did

SILVERMAN: strongly consider doing the JD/MBA program.

CORDEL FAULK: Right.

ETHAN Decided just to pursue the JD, but due to a fortunate set of events in my recruiting process for

SILVERMAN: finding an internship this coming summer, I met a firm in San Francisco, Kirkland & Ellis, that has a really cool program.

CORDEL FAULK: A very cool program.

ETHAN Very cool program, and with more research, I think the only program of its kind, including

SILVERMAN: amongst the Kirkland offices, where they will, to a large extent, sponsor a small handful of law students in getting their JD/MBA.

CORDEL FAULK: So they gave you this offer, and then you came back. You called us to tell us. And we were all asking each other, is that real? Is that a thing? Like, what's going on here?

TREVOR QUICK: I'm just blown away that you are really to namedrop your firm and the work you're doing for you, because you already view your dad's firm as a competitor.

[LAUGHTER]

No call-out. He gets no advertising, but you will advertise this. Rob Silverman, if you need someone--

ETHAN He's gonna actually be sad. R Silverman Law--

SILVERMAN:

[LAUGHTER]

If you need your trust and estates taken care of, give him a call. He's a good guy. Anyways, I pursued the program. I applied to the program. It's called a private equity fellowship. And at UVA, we've got a four-year JD/MBA program. And I think only very recently they started allowing second-year law students to apply.

CORDEL FAULK: Correct.

ETHAN So the ship had not sailed for me. I applied in this fall, and after a somewhat drawn out

SILVERMAN: process, found my way into the business school, Darden, and I'm thrilled. So next--

CORDEL FAULK: They're very lucky to have you. They are very lucky.

ETHAN I'm lucky to have them. I'm just glad to be a part of this community. So more or less, I'll be

SILVERMAN: working at a law firm this summer. I'll be working with the law firm in San Francisco. I'll be working with the law firm and with a client, a private equity fund, the summer following. I'll be joining Kirkland & Ellis to do private equity M&A after law school and business school. So I'll graduate with the current 1Ls.

With regard to the JD/MBA process, I say drawn out. The process really gave me an opportunity to see the administration in a new light. I mean, I've got a lot of close friends here who I'm excited to keep by my side the rest of my life. But the idea that I would have the opportunity to sit down one on one with Deans of the law school, heads of career services, and just speak with them as a person about what I want to you professionally, things in my personal life, it's a bit out there. But once I started applying to the business school, I did have open door access to anyone in the law school.

CORDEL FAULK: You don't have to just apply to business school to get that access.

ETHAN Absolutely not. But for me to realize I had it. For me to realize I had it. I actually-- and I don't

SILVERMAN: know if you know this, Cordel. I got waitlisted to the business school after applying. And the moment I got waitlisted, it was challenging, because my significant other's been trying to find a job in Charlottesville to join me for the rest of law school, and now for the dual degree program. And she has her own phenomenal ambitions herself. I was hurt to not be able to tell her with certainty what our plans might be, what opportunities she might have.

I was disappointed. The first thing I did was walk into Grace Cleveland's office before I told a

single person in law school. And Grace Cleveland is a member of the admissions team. Her door was open. I walked in, I sat down, and we talked for just 30 minutes. There was no, what are the next steps. There was no, what can we do for you. It was just as a person. And I truly--

CORDEL FAULK: And then they did all those other things also.

ETHAN SILVERMAN: And then they helped me. Right foot, left foot, this is how you're going to go through the process to really give yourself the best opportunity possible. But as a person, to have the support of the community, I mean, hindsight being 20-20, it's easy to be happy I'm here at UVA, but after that experience, without question.

TREVOR QUICK: I think it's also important to note that that support extended beyond you two. People were willing to make connections that they had in Charlottesville help your girlfriend. Like, obviously, I think she would've found-- I mean, she was going to find employment here regardless, but they didn't know that going into it. And they were willing to sit down and help you and say, these are just companies we've heard of, or things she should look into based on her interest in investment banking and things like that. I mean, she's never going to go to law school. So I don't know it'd be easy for an admissions team to go, eh, nevermind.

ETHAN SILVERMAN: Absolutely. I mean, Grace Cleveland, again, sat down and told me every single person she knew who worked as a professional in Charlottesville. I met with people in the Law School Foundation who knew the entire financial sector in Charlottesville, people at the business school, the JD/MBAs, you, Trevor, other students, just without fail asked how they could help. They didn't wait for me to ask. I didn't ask a single person to help Laura find a great job, or to find my way to the business school. People took every opportunity they could possibly find to help raise me up.

CORDEL FAULK: Trevor.

TREVOR QUICK: So this summer I will be in New York City, and I'm going to be at Skadden Arps. I want to be doing M&A work. We'll find out what they want me to do, but I think that that should line up decently well since I was pretty clear about that. And fortunately for me, my girlfriend will also be in New York this summer. So I think-- I mean, I don't know. I think that we're pretty lucky generally as a law school that there is no kind of geographic sacrifice I think that comes with Virginia. I think that that's something when we started, people were like, oh-- like, I don't know. I expected to be one of the few people looking at New York, because I was like--

CORDEL FAULK: The few.

TREVOR QUICK: Yeah, yeah. Well, like, I'm from Atlanta. I thought most people are going to want to go to Atlanta or Charlotte or D.C. And then here, like, nevermind. People want to go everywhere. Everyone here wants to be in all these different places. Yeah, so I'm really excited. I think Skadden Arps, I think I'm one of 10 UVA law students that will be there this summer.

CORDEL FAULK: This is a big year for them.

TREVOR QUICK: So it's kind of on par with Berkeley to UVA as a pipeline so far. So we'll see if we can keep that going, or if they decide that we're too much.

CORDEL FAULK: Nah, we'll just take over.

[LAUGHTER]

TREVOR QUICK: I think we kind of already have, you actually.

CORDEL FAULK: All right, so what is one piece of advice you have? We'll close it out on this. What's one piece of advice you have for someone who's trying to decide between different law schools, among different law schools?

ETHAN Go for it, Trevor.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: I think the most important thing is to do what feels right. And I know that that sounds like easy, and it's definitely cliché, advice, but it's so easy to get wrapped up in whatever the rankings are, whatever these kind of different programs that they have. And every law school, especially these top law schools, have so many programs, even the people who run them don't know all the other programs at the school. But I think that if you go to a place and it just feels like home, that's what you have to do. Because like Ethan said so much more eloquently than I can, I think it's really easy to view law school as just a stepping stone towards the next thing, and that's not how it feels when you're here for three years.

CORDEL FAULK: It's not in fact true. This is the most important part of your network.

ETHAN It's also such a valuable time of our life.

SILVERMAN:

TREVOR QUICK: And I think if you're not 100% at home with that, you'll spend the rest of your professional life, the rest of your personal life, and anything else, maybe your athletic life if you realize you love softball, and wondering, maybe I should have gone somewhere else. So I think having that kind of gut feeling can really serve you well.

CORDEL FAULK: Right.

TREVOR QUICK: Ethan.

CORDEL FAULK: Ethan.

ETHAN SILVERMAN: The idea of trusting your gut, that's important. You're going to go to a different school, hopefully, and meet people, and meet the administration, and see the city. And maybe, just maybe, you find a place that feels right. But with the clarity of hindsight, one thing I'm so appreciative about UVA is that I've had the opportunity to, on a daily basis, interact with people who are very different than me. And not even just racially, sexual orientation, religious, but also political affiliations, what activities they enjoy. I play softball probably more than I should.

[LAUGHTER]

Guess what? Some of my closest friends not only are never going to pick up a softball bat, but when they do, they're going to be praised like MVPs when they hit to first base and run it through. I mean, the opportunity to have conversations with people who disagree with me on a daily basis is something that I will grow from more in law school than probably any of the classroom doctrine that we're learning. So to translate that into advice-- go somewhere where you can be surrounded by people that are different than you, where you can have the opportunity to have conversations with people who disagree with you, where maybe you're going to be uncomfortable at different times, because those are the moments where at least I personally have grown so much.

So obviously trust your gut, and find a place that feels like home. I mean, this place felt like home for me. I know it did for you, Trevor. And I know so many of our classmates felt that. But the opportunity to be a little uncomfortable too, it's valuable. And being around different people is what brings that out in me.

TREVOR QUICK: Challenged.

ETHAN Yes, to be challenged, but in different ways. In different ways. You're going to be challenged

SILVERMAN: academically anywhere.

CORDEL FAULK: That's a good place to end. Guys, thank you for joining us today.

ETHAN Thank you, Cordel.

SILVERMAN:

CORDEL FAULK: All right.

ETHAN Thank you.

SILVERMAN:

[MUSIC PLAYING]