

Q & A with Peter Levy



A partner with Mandelbaum Barrett P.C. in New Jersey, Peter Levy chairs the firm's Life Science and Emerging Technology Practices. As the former CEO of a pharmaceutical company, Levy brings a wealth of knowledge of FDA regulatory matters, clinical trials, software as a medical device (SAMD), and wholesale drug pricing. He has handled major transactions with Johnson & Johnson, Celgene, and Pfizer.

Levy's transactional and commercial practice has included some of the world's most prominent entrepreneurs, multi-generational family businesses, and Fortune 500 companies. A graduate of Harvard University, Levy also has spearheaded complex transactions involving RR Donnelly, AT&T, Hewlett Packard, as well as serving as both the advisor and attorney on the sale of closely-held businesses with sales approaching \$500 million. In addition, he has served as legal counsel for the first affinity credit card, managing the largest credit card launch in U.S. history.

Q: Before becoming an attorney, what was your first job?

A: In high school I did marketing for a cable TV company; in college, my summers were spent as a camp counselor.

Q: What motivated you to pursue a legal career?

A: I am proud to say my grandfather, and my father, both were attorneys. These are the two men I respected and admired most in my lifetime.

Q: Who was your chief mentor and how did he or she influence your career?

A: I have been fortunate to have a few great mentors in my lifetime. Both of my parents were amazing role models for me; their actions always embraced honesty, hard work, and treating people with kindness.

Q: What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

A: "Pray as though everything depends upon God but act as though everything depends upon you."

Q: What is one thing you would like to learn to do?

A: Play golf; study Japanese; and learn to be patient.

Q: What is your proudest career achievement?

A: As a businessperson, I was very proud to lead a start-up pharmaceutical company from infancy to NASDAQ; as an attorney, I was very proud to become an equity partner at Mandelbaum Barrett.

Q: What other career path might you have chosen?

A: I would like to teach high school English or history.

Q: What is your happiest childhood memory?

A: Playing ball every afternoon with the kids in the neighborhood – we went from basketball to baseball to football with a passion.

Q: What is your favorite movie and book?

A: Movie: "GoodFellas."
Book: "The Last of the Just," by Andre Schwartz-Bart

Q: What is the most awe-inspiring place you have visited?

A: Without question, Camp ASCCA, the flagship facility in rural Alabama for people with disabilities. Miracles occur there daily. I kid you not.

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Q: What are your favorite leisure time pursuits?

A: Family holidays; tailgating at a Giants game; Broadway shows; chili cook-offs; watching Elvis impersonators; flea markets.

Q: What is your favorite famous or inspirational quote?

A: "This too shall pass."

Q: Who is on your guest list for the ideal dinner party?

A: George Carlin; Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley; Babe Ruth; Winston Churchill; Golda Meir; and my wife.



Peter Levy and Melody Lins, an associate at Mandelbaum Barrett, at the Primerus International Summit in Washington, D.C last April.