

Recently joining the NALSC Board of Directors and hailing from Red Bank, New Jersey (Bruce Springsteen territory) is Mary Clare Garber of Princeton Legal Search Group (“Princeton Legal”). A Principal with Princeton Legal, Mary Clare focuses her practice on dynamic General Counsel and legal leadership searches in life sciences, banking, and higher education markets. In her leadership capacity, she spearheads strategic and marketing initiatives on behalf of the company. (FUN FACTS: Princeton served as the nation’s capital for five months in 1783 when an army mutiny over back pay forced Congress out of Philadelphia; it is also home to the band “Blues Traveler.”)

Early Years

Born in Greenwich Village, New York City and raised in Ridgewood, New Jersey, Mary Clare’s interests as a youth included swimming, art, and friendships formed through her active community involvement. She taught swimming both at the local pool and privately in neighbors’ backyards, with her clients including acclaimed Broadway producer Daryl Roth and her two children, Amanda and Jordan (the latter an esteemed Broadway producer in his own right).

From College to Prison

Following her high school graduation, Mary Clare matriculated at Lesley University; there, she studied human services with a focus on psychology and also enrolled in economics courses at nearby Harvard University. By the time she graduated from Lesley, Mary Clare had served in four different internships with the most challenging being running an art therapy program at a state prison. (NOTE: Mary Clare also interned during college with Alan Der-showitz, ultimately choosing to pass on attending law school.)

Despite the inherent challenges of working in the prison environment, some of the most interesting people Mary Clare met were the inmates. Her time working with them was the best preparation for her career in the business world as it fostered confidence and resilience. While she was offered a full-time position at the prison upon graduation, Mary Clare opted instead for her first foray into the recruiting world.

To Recruiting

Following her introduction to recruiting with General Employment Enterprises, Mary Clare deepened and expanded her expertise when leading the talent acquisition and succession planning function for a company that grew from thirty million to a billion in five years. She leveraged this experience to Wall Street where she garnered training and development competencies with an investment firm. Nearly a decade into her professional life, Mary Clare pivoted her career trajectory for the following decade – this time as Master Facilitator for a national company delivering career management programs, a role that allowed her to travel extensively.

To Legal Recruiting

As Mary Clare and her husband (former NALSC Board Member David Garber, a law firm litigation partner at the time) grew their family alongside their respective careers, they began reassessing their professional lives beyond their current roles. After exploring

**Member Profile:
Mary Clare Garber**

**Principal at
Princeton Legal Search Group**

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several career options and completing a Master’s degree in counseling, Mary Clare came back to recruiting and joined David in the formation and growth of Princeton Legal, now closing in on its 23rd year.

Working in and on Princeton Legal brought together the pieces of Mary Clare’s career that most energized her: creating and planning a vision for finding the very best legal talent, being sought out as a trusted advisor, and creating platforms for professionals to build thriving careers. Making the right match happen delights her to no end, both by virtue of the energy it conjures up within her as well as by seeing the same spark ignited in those she serves.

“She is also a fan of the saying ‘Luck is when skill and opportunity meet.’ As Mary Clare succinctly puts it, ‘We want to be in the middle of that quote all day, every day!’ ”

As she and Princeton Legal move through 2022 and beyond, Mary Clare harkens back to the best lessons learned during the course of her career – namely, assertively taking risks and failing faster so that she can move into success more quickly and with greater ease. She is also a fan of the saying “Luck is when skill and opportunity meet.” As Mary Clare succinctly puts it, “We want to be in the middle of that quote all day, every day!”

Extra-Curriculars

In addition to the NALSC Board, Mary Clare has been a board member of Executive Women of New Jersey holding a range of positions on the Board since 2012. The role most mean-

ingful for her was chairing the Scholarship Committee, which awards scholarships to non-traditional graduate students.

In her free time, Mary Clare enjoys spending outdoor time with her

family and her second retired seeing eye dog; she is a passionate supporter of The Seeing Eye, the oldest guide dog school in the country. She has expanded her love of the outdoors to the West and particularly loves visiting Glacier National Park in Montana, where she hopes to return next summer with her son.

Mary Clare is an enthusiastic fan of New York theater and remembers the first standing ovation for Richard Kiley in “Man of La Mancha.” She is also an avid reader, with Malcolm Gladwell topping her list of favorite business authors. Feel free to ask Mary Clare what she is reading ; she loves to talk about fiction and non-fiction business books.

To this day, Mary Clare remains an avid swimmer and has completed open water swims in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Pacific. This past year, Mary Clare and David had the unique opportunity of living for a week in the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus, where David’s cousin Judith Garber currently serves as the U.S. Ambassador. The Embassy staff enjoyed the challenge of locating the best open water locale on the island for Mary Clare to swim. No doubt an eye-opening and refreshing experience!

Congrats on joining the NALSC Board, Mary Clare – it’s great having you in the fold!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Raphael Franze, Esq. is the founder of LegalSummit Search Consultants, and a NALSC Board Member as well as a NALSC Newsletter Committee member.

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