

A Brooklyn Yankee in King George's Court

Randy Levine, BA '77, is talking about how one becomes president of the New York Yankees when a buzzer interrupts. "Do you mind stepping outside for a moment?" he asks politely. "It's 'The Boss' on the phone."

The boss, in this case, is George Steinbrenner, whose reputation as a bully and intimidator was, for several seasons, routinely satirized on the hit sitcom "Seinfeld." "I don't find him [Steinbrenner] that way," says Levine, 47. "Yes, he's demanding and intense and believes in accountability. But he always tells you to your face what is expected and goes to the mat for his people. And he's never asked me to do anything he wouldn't do himself."

Levine, a lifelong Yankees fan while growing up in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn, N.Y., first got to know Steinbrenner in 1990 while serving as the team's outside counsel. Levine, who soon after had earned a reputation as an effective negotiator as commissioner of labor relations in the Giuliani administration, was asked by baseball's movers and shakers in 1995 to serve as Major League Baseball's chief negotiator and director of the Players Relations Committee. It was Levine who helped negotiate baseball's five-year collective bargaining agreement that expired this summer.

Levine left that position in 1997 to become the city's Deputy Mayor for Economic

Development, Planning and Administration. In 2000, he was named president of the Yankees and became senior counsel at Akin, Gump, one of nation's largest law firms. Last year he was named executive vice president of Yankees/Nets, a holding company that also owns the New Jersey Nets and 30 percent of the New Jersey Devils. He also sits on the boards of both teams. His incredibly demanding schedule includes attending every home Yankee game and representing the Yankees at owners meetings.

Levine's role with the Yankees has included negotiating deals of such high-profile stars as Jason Giambi, Derek Jeter, and Mike Mussina. Another function is to provide counsel in the never-ending quest for a new stadium. "We were recently given \$25 million by the city for planning a new stadium that would mirror the dimensions and look of the original stadium," says Levine. "It would be located in the Macombs Dam Park area, which is adjacent to Yankee Stadium."

Levine, who majored in political science and communications, has been on a career fast track ever since graduating from Hofstra

University's School of Law in 1980. "I liked labor law because you're dealing with people, it's intellectually challenging, and you're solving problems," he says.

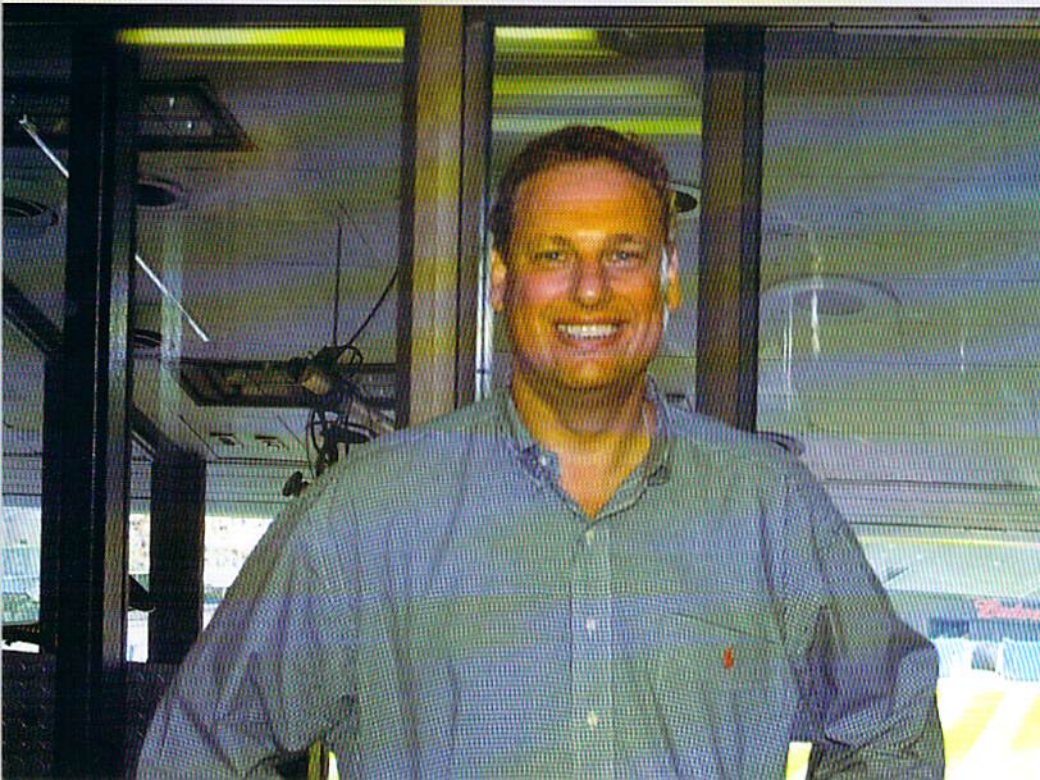
He worked for five years as a labor lawyer before becoming deputy associate attorney general in the Department of Justice, where he met his wife, Mindy. It was there that he met and began to work closely with Rudy Giuliani, the then U.S. attorney in New York who was carving out a national reputation in high-profile, white-collar crime and organized crime cases.

When Giuliani decided to run for mayor of New York City in 1989, Levine took a leave of absence from his New York law firm to help run the losing campaign. In 1993, he took another leave of absence to help run a second campaign, but this time Giuliani won. Levine was soon named labor commissioner in a city where 50 percent of the budget is tied to about 180 unions and 300,000 municipal employees. "The city was in terrible shape at the time, and we helped turn it around by hammering out the kind of groundbreaking agreements that saved the city billions of dollars while not laying off anyone," he says.

Levine explains his three rules for negotiating contracts: 1. Listen more than you talk. 2. Don't promise what you can't deliver. 3. Never go back on your word. "In the labor business, it's vital that you look at the situation from the other side," he advises. Levine's no-nonsense demeanor seems a lifetime away from his more carefree days described by his former Colonials basketball teammate and Thurston Hall roommate Scott Pakula: "*Hogan's Heroes* was Randy's favorite show. He used to crack up big time."

On an occasional trip to Washington, Levine sometimes finds himself wandering onto the Foggy Bottom campus. A stroll through his old haunts, he says, reminds him of all the fun he had in college and helps him reflect on how much life has changed. "This has been a particularly tough year," he explains. "Working for the city, I sat across the bargaining table and became close with some of the people who died on September 11 in those towers. It's made me more fully appreciate all the good things that have happened to me."

—Bill Glovin, BA '77



to Becker & Polakoff, a Florida-based law firm.



Johns Hopkins University appointed **Daniel Weiss, BA '79**, dean of the university's Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

'80s

After a 10-year career in marketing management, **Blaine Branchick, BA '80, MBA '89**, says he is pursuing his dream. He recently completed his first year in a doctoral program in business administration at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

In December 2001 the Engineers and Surveyors Institute recognized **William C. Putman, MEA '80**, for quality designated plans examination. The award cites Putman for his service as designated plans examiner in Fairfax and Loudoun counties in Virginia. He also participated in Habitat for Humanity, where he helped construct 18 townhouses for low-income families.



Ken Walter, MBA '80, was recently named managing director at Insignia/ESG, a commercial real estate service provider in Dallas. Previously, he served as director at Kennedy-Wilson/ONCOR. He has received the Kennedy-Wilson "Pinnacle" production award three times in the past four years and, in 2001, ranked sixth internationally among ONCOR's 4,000 brokers.

Crispen Grey-Johnson, MA '81, was named permanent representative of the Gambia to the United Nations. He is former high commissioner to Sierra Leone and ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

Founder and CEO of Claims Compensation Bureau, Inc., **Brad Heffler, BA '81**, was recognized when his company achieved the status of the fastest growing privately held company in the 2001 Philadelphia 100 listing. CCB was also noted as the fastest growing company in the history of this 13-year-old award.

Lisa M. Davis, BA '82, recently co-founded Rosebud Consulting, a firm providing legal and business services to high technology clients.

Forward Movement Publications, New Jersey publisher of *Episcopal Life*, elected Washingtonian **Margaret Graham Beers, BA '83, MA '89**, to a five-year term as chair of its executive committee.

Danny A. Defenbaugh, MFS '83, recently announced his retirement after serving as an FBI agent since 1976. He has traveled to more than 20 countries to investigate terrorism and led the investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Michael La Place, BA '85, MURP '89, is director of community development in Plainsboro, N.J.

Gary Foster, MBA '86, is vice president of Stanley Consultants, an engineering consulting firm. He works in Hanoi, Vietnam, and manages the company's marketing efforts in Southeast Asia.

Christi D. Griffin, MHSA '86, is vice president and assistant general counsel at Renal Care Group Inc., a provider of nephrology services.

Brian Sapadin, BBA '86, is director of new business development at Weber Shandwick's Investor Relations' office in New York.

Richard Bates, BBA '87, MS '00, is director of operations at ServerVault, a Virginia-based high-security data hosting facility.

Onvoy, a regional telecommunications provider, named **Charles Berkowitz, MA '87**, its chief marketing officer.

Evan Katzman, BBA '87, MBA '90, recently launched OptiSave, a consulting firm specializing in optimization of telecommunications services. He resides in Chantilly, Va., with his wife and two children.

Timothy Medina, BA '88, is chief financial officer of ECI Conference Call Services, a New Jersey-based teleconferencing service provider. Previously, Medina was the CFO of Independent Wireless One Holdings, a Sprint PCS affiliate in the northeast.

The U.S. Small Business Administration appointed **Joseph O. Montes, BA '88**, as regional administrator of the five-state Region VI. He oversees district offices in Albuquerque, Oklahoma City, Little Rock, New Orleans, and throughout Texas.

'90s

Christopher Crowley, BA '90, was promoted to captain of the Florida Army National Guard. He is a JAG officer in the 53rd Infantry Brigade in Tampa, Fla.

Andrew Flagel, BA '90, MA '94, is the dean of admissions and enrollment development at George Mason University. He and his wife, Jennifer, welcomed their

first child, Joshua David, on April 2, 2002.

With more than a decade of experience covering international defense, **Vago Muradian, BA '91**, has been appointed editor of the Army Times Publishing Co.'s publication, *Defense News*.

Pennant Information Services Inc., of Placentia, Calif., elected **Karen Rice, ME '91**, to its board of directors; she also was appointed president.

Michael S. Rosenberg, BA '91, and **Sheryl Klein, BBA '92**, announced the birth of their second child, Jack Holden Rosenberg, on Jan. 10, 2002.

Timothy A. Waire Jr., BSEE '91, was promoted to vice president of information technology at Constellation Power Source Inc., a national energy commodities trading company in Baltimore.

Kathleen Whelan, BA '91, and **Aaron Quinn, BA '94**, were married on May 5, 2001, in Ashburn, Va. She is a senior manager in the broadband group at America Online. Quinn is director of international network operations at Qwest Communications.

Ellen A. Bodalski, BA '92, married Michael Kaplan on Jan. 4, 2002, in St.

Lucia. She is the senior director of meetings for the International Society for Performance Improvement in San Diego, Calif., where her husband serves as an assistant U.S. Attorney.

Esther Lippman, BBA '92, is an account supervisor specializing in real estate and consumer branding at The Headline Group, an Atlanta-based public relations agency.

Dykema Gossett PLLC announced that **Kelly O'Brien, BA '92**, has been named director of



the Illinois State Government Policy and Practice Group. O'Brien, who also holds a law degree from Loyola University, is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

Jon A. Schmidt, BA '92, MS '94, was elected to be the first president of the Structural Engineers Association of Kansas and Missouri, which is an affiliate of the National Council of Structural Engineers Association.

Chris Hyland, MA '93, is a project manager for the Walla Walla District of the Corps of Engineers in Washington. He has recently finished negotiations in

launching an environmental restoration feasibility study.

Aaron Chang, BA '93, was named chief operating officer of The Carmen Group, a Washington, D.C.-based lobbying firm.

Meredith Fisher, BA '93, MA '97, and **Jay Bushman, BA '93**, were married on June 29, 2002, in North Salem, New York. They credit GW for bringing them together.

Congratulations go to **Brian Forst, PhD '93**, who received the Bernard H. Ross Award for Teaching Excellence from the Graduate Students Council of the School of Public Affairs at American University, where he is a professor of justice, law, and society.

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners awarded **Mark A. Bleich, MA '94**, the title of "Certified Fraud Examiner." Bleich is an investigator at NASD Regulation, a self-regulatory organization in the securities industry.

Cody A. Tubbs, BA '95, is a regional representative of the League of California Cities. Previously, he was a lobbyist in Sacramento for the Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California and served on the district staff of Rep. Robert T. Matsui (D-Calif.).

Sherman Baldwin, MA '96, was named vice president of strategy at Pratt & Whitney, a leading designer and manufacturer of jet engines. Baldwin previously founded the New York City office of Redleaf Group, which provides services to developing technology companies. His background also includes positions with the Navy Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Laura R. Ellsworth, MFS '96, is assistant professor of forensic sciences at Prince George's Community College in Maryland. She is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Criminal Justice at The Community College of Baltimore County.

Mark Kashar, MBA '96, married Jennifer Falk in Dallas. He is an equity trader for SWS Securities in Dallas.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology accepted **Imran Qayyum, MS '96**, into its one-year Management of Technology Program within the Sloan School of Management.

Congratulations go to **Mark Reynolds, BA '96, JD '99**, and his wife, Jaci, on the birth of Justin Michael, who arrived on Nov. 30, 2001.

Gabriel Braun, BBA '97, was named vice president of sales for the Baan Co. in Mexico and part of Latin America. He is based in Mexico City.