[00:00:03]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You are listening to tell me your story where we connect to HLS staff on a personal level. Hello, everyone. This is Edgar Kley Filho from HLS Equal Opportunity Office. My pronouns are He, Him, His, and today, we are talking to Michael DeLuca, from the Custodial Services, who will tell us about his life, how long he's in this position at HLS and the work he does. Thank you for joining us, Mike, and please tell me your story. We should start from the beginning. You and your family are from the New England area, Massachusetts or originally where are you from?

[00:00:52]

**Mike DeLuca:** My family's from Arlington, Massachusetts. My grandmother grew up there and met my grandfather and he became a firefighter in Arlington, Massachusetts, and then I have two uncles and an aunt that are their kids, and they grew up in Arlington, and they're all married with people from Arlington. So a lot of my family is all from Arlington.

[00:01:29]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Do you know if before that they came somewhere else? Because for me when I heard your name, DeLuca, sounds very Italian.

[00:01:37]

**Mike DeLuca:** Yes. That was the thing. My grandmother met my grandfather, and my grandfather came and lived in Arlington, except he wasn't originally from Arlington. He was from Watertown in Cambridge area, so when they met, he moved with them and then they stayed in Arlington for the longest time. Recently, everyone ended up moving out and everyone ended up in North Shore. My mother's from Arlington. My father's from Arlington.

[00:02:12]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Where are you living now?

[00:02:15]

**Mike DeLuca:** My grandparents now live in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. I got an uncle and aunt that live in North Chelmsford, and then I got two uncles and two aunts and then cousins that live in Billerica. And then my mother and my father live in Wilmington. And then I'm in Andover.

[00:02:34]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You're in Andover.

[00:02:35]

**Mike DeLuca:** Yes.

[00:02:35]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** So most of people are in West Massachusetts, in a way, a little bit?

[00:02:40]

**Mike DeLuca:** What was it?

[00:02:40]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Halfway, right?

[00:02:42]

**Mike DeLuca:** It's north of Boston. They're all clustered in the same area.

[00:02:45]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Wilmington I know, I used to bike from where I live in Medford all the way to Wilmington that area. But not that far, like Billerica or Chelmsford. So your folks are all from New England, all from around here.

[00:03:02]

**Mike DeLuca:** Exactly.

[00:03:05]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Tell me a little bit about your story, growing up. So you grew up in Arlington, your memory of going through school is all Arlington?

[00:03:14]

**Mike DeLuca:** No, so not all of it completely. I lived in Arlington, and I went to school. It was called the Thompson school, actually. It was the elementary school that I went to, and then we ended up moving out of there and I lived in Medford for two years. I was South Medford, and I went to the Kennedy School, and that was for fourth and fifth grade. And when I went there, I drove by actually yesterday, and I knew it already, except it's all condos now where the school used to be. Medford In Medford, yeah.

[00:03:52]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** In Medford?

[00:03:52]

**Mike DeLuca:** In Medford yes.

[00:03:54]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Is that Kennedy School used to be It's close. I don't know, more or less. It's not near where the coast?

[00:04:03]

**Mike DeLuca:** No, so it's near Oasis. The restaurant. It was right behind there. Exactly.

[00:04:10]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Behind the tree.

[00:04:11]

**Mike DeLuca:** Right there.

[00:04:13]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** So that used to be your school. I know that's a condo there now.

[00:04:17]

**Mike DeLuca:** They're all condos. I guess they knocked it down. I don't know what they did.

[00:04:20]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Well, there are two others now in Medford, there is one that close to MiddleGlenn Mall.

[00:04:27]

**Mike DeLuca:** That's the high school or middle school?

[00:04:29]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Was a smaller one. The high school used to be near Medford Square. That's a big one, they have Chevalier theater there.

[00:04:40]

**Mike DeLuca:** I've been there before for a Kevin Hart comedy show. That's a nice theatre.

[00:04:44]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** That was the theatre and the gym or somehow or the presentation for the high school.

[00:04:48]

**Mike DeLuca:** Oh I didn't even know that.

[00:04:51]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Now, it became part of the big Boston Theater system. And then a lot of famous people go there, and Chevalier being in Medford and being from high school, they have a lot of space to move around and it's really easy access for whoever comes. I like to go to concerts.

[00:05:10]

**Mike DeLuca:** I've seen another comedian there, too, Jim Burr, I think was his name. He was there, and then I seen the Kevin Hart one that was there. I didn't even know that place existed, though until recently. Did that open up recently?

[00:05:23]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Well, since they became members, I think has been at least three years or more.

[00:05:27]

**Mike DeLuca:** Okay.

[00:05:30]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Has been more than that. But since they were, I believe, bought or rented somehow by the Boston Theater system. So then now, whatever (space) they don't have in downtown Boston, they open and send to Chevalier in Medford. So for my house, I walk there. It's really close.

[00:05:52]

**Mike DeLuca:** That's actually good for me, too, because it's easier to get to Medford than it is to get to Boston because Boston could be tough to get in there sometimes.

[00:05:59]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** I think for a lot of people, it's much easier to park around there, and get out of there than going to downtown Boston. You either have to park somewhere and take the train with sometimes a nightmare to get there, and you still have to walk. Or you drive all the way and pay I don't know. What else do you have to pay to park in downtown Boston.

[00:06:20]

**Mike DeLuca:** It can get expensive. I think it's $50 a day for the garage and stuff like that.

[00:06:24]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** There we go with Medford and the schools that became condos or whatever they did. Then you went to you said that elementary school in Arlington and then second to fourth grade in Medford?

[00:06:43]

**Mike DeLuca:** Medford was fourth and fifth grade, and before that was the Arlington school. I think it was the Thompson that I went to. Then after that, I moved to Wilmington and I started off there in middle school. This was a little a little difficult for me at first, because, so it started in sixth grade. I was talking about this the other night, actually, too. Before middle school, what is it? Elementary school?

[00:07:15]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Yeah.

[00:07:16]

**Mike DeLuca:** So Wilmington has two elementary schools. They call it, the west and they have the North. So when you start middle school, you start in sixth grade, which is when I moved in there right before, during the summertime, and so I started my sixth grade year in Wilmington middle school. And when I got there, the first day, everyone was saying, that was from the North because everybody knew each other and hung out with each other from the North, and then everybody that hung out with each other from the West, they never knew anybody from the North. So it was like everybody was meeting each other, except everyone thought that I was from, the other school that they didn't go to because I was a new kid in the school system and they'd ask me, for example, Oh, what are you from the West? And I'd be, Oh, no, I actually just moved. And then they were just like, Oh, okay. And it was, I had to interact with, them and say, I moved here. I was living in Medford, originally from Arlington, and I had to explain myself. Except the big confusion was, I think if that one person, say they went to, the West intermediate, they thought, I was from the North intermediate because they'd never seen my face before. Except that wasn't the case. The case was that I've never lived in Wilmington, so I never went to the school system at all. So it was a little confusing.

[00:08:37]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** It's interesting. Did that create any animosity or people would get into fights because of each side or not?

[00:08:49]

**Mike DeLuca:** No. I think it was just the part of town that you lived in. They divided up the schools. So, if you lived in, one section of the town, you'd go to the North or if you lived in the other section of the town, you'd go to the West. The thing was a lot of people had friends from the west that were at the West and a lot of people had friends from the North that were at the North, and then all merges together. So I didn't know nobody. It was a little difficult for me at first to try to interact with people because I didn't know who was into what. At the time, I was like, I like to skateboard a little bit, so I used to do a little bit of skateboarding and stuff. So I looked for the kid that might have had a pair of skateboard sneakers on or something like that, to be able to say, like, Oh, you know, you skate, just start a conversation.

[00:09:37]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** To have something to get along. How was the difference, for example, you going to school, of course, you were much younger in Arlington Elementary. You were taken to the school by your parents, or you could walk all the way?

[00:09:54]

**Mike DeLuca:** How did I used to get to school? It's a good question. I actually used to walk with the girl. We lived in a two family, and there was a girl that was my age that lived above us.

[00:10:09]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** So you would go together?

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**Mike DeLuca:** And me and her would actually walk to school together. I don't think we were in the same class though. She might have been a year above me or something like that.

[00:10:16]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** How far it was?

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**Mike DeLuca:** It wasn't a far walk. It was probably a five minute walk.

[00:10:20]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** That's nice.

[00:10:20]

**Mike DeLuca:** If you're familiar with Broadway Street in Arlington, it's literally like Boyle's Market. Boyle's Market I think it's close to there.

[00:10:32]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Is it near the church?

[00:10:33]

**Mike DeLuca:** No, not really close to any church, I don't think.

[00:10:36]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Because that is the only thing that I can picture in my mind is where that big intersection of Arlington is. And then you have a big Catholic Church in one side, and then you have the Minutemen that starts the [OVERLAPPING].

[00:10:49]

**Mike DeLuca:** Oh, you're talking the bike path?

[00:10:51]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Yes the bike path.

[00:10:52]

**Mike DeLuca:** So we did something. You just brought back a memory, actually. So they brought us to that area, on a field trip when we were kids in elementary school, and I'll never forget, they taught us the Minutemen and was that the Revolution stuff, the Paul Revere. Exactly. And we walked through, the area over there and that type of stuff. That was a long historic.

[00:11:24]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Have you ever done the Minutemen biking all the way through?

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**Mike DeLuca:** I have not. No.

[00:11:28]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** So then from there, you get, because I think it's 8 miles.

[00:11:32]

**Mike DeLuca:** I think I went into Lexington though, after Arlington. I used to go that way.

[00:11:36]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You go all the way to go Bedford.

[00:11:42]

**Mike DeLuca:** Oh, it goes up all the way to Bedford?

[00:11:44]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** All the way to Bedford.

[00:11:45]

**Mike DeLuca:** Wow, does it?

[00:11:45]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** So the biking to that area is really cool. That's where it was. The area where you went to school when you were in not kindergarten, the elementary school, probably was a little bit farther than more neighborhood protected, right? Because if you could walk.

[00:12:03]

**Mike DeLuca:** Oh, yeah. And it was so close to the school. Honestly, it took me maybe 5 minutes. I think it was two blocks up the road, and there was a Dunkin' donuts right after you go out on the corner, and I stop in there every once in a while and get munchkins or something like that.

[00:12:20]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** That's always good.

[00:12:21]

**Mike DeLuca:** It's a good snack.

[00:12:23]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** So, for you, moving from Arlington to Medford and then Wilmington was okay as a child?

[00:12:29]

**Mike DeLuca:** Yeah.

[00:12:31]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Changing schools was okay or?

[00:12:33]

**Mike DeLuca:** Yeah, it was completely fine with me. It was a transition so you can consider it. I feel like most of the people that, I still stay in touch with today are my friends that I met when I moved to Wilmington. In middle school. I'll still stay in touch with them a little bit here and there.

[00:12:57]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** So how long you stayed there in Wilmington?

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**Mike DeLuca:** That was sixth grade, so I must have been 13 I think right before sixth grade because it was during the summertime that I moved there. And so I was 13. I'm 34 now, so what is that? That's 21 years, isn't it? So it's been quite some time.

[00:13:17]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** And that you finished? You went six to nine there, sixth to ninth grade?

[00:13:22]

**Mike DeLuca:** No, I did. There was the middle school was sixth, seventh and eighth, which was three years, and then I went to the high school after.

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**Edgar Kley Filho:** Also there?

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**Mike DeLuca:** In Wilmington, and I graduated from there at Wilmington High School.

[00:13:39]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** How was all the way to high school? For example, from middle school when you met your friends, skating and all that kind thing, going to high school was also easy transition. Once by then, you knew everybody and, school system, you were fine.

[00:13:54]

**Mike DeLuca:** Of course, because the majority of the people that I went to school with, were the people that I went to school with in middle school. So when I went to the high school, it was pretty much the same people. Unless they branched off where, there's a school in Billerica. It's the Minuteman that they have and I don't know if it's Lexington or Arlington, wherever that school is, except it's a trade school that they have. It's called the Technical school, so say if I live in Wilmington or if I live in Billerica or if I live in Tewksbury, those surrounding Bedford, I think, actually might be another town. The surrounding towns, right before you graduated middle school, you could apply to go to the technical school and I didn't apply. I had my mind set, to go to the high school, so that's what I ended up doing.

[00:14:48]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** I assume that the technical school would be, you would have a profession that you could choose and trying to learn something that would be more towards [OVERLAPPING].

[00:14:55]

**Mike DeLuca:** Yeah.

[00:14:56]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** College already in the direction.

[00:14:57]

**Mike DeLuca:** They have electrical, you could take there. A couple of my cousins took that. They have plumbing, carpentry.

[00:15:08]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** But then high school level. You do the high school as a technical skill, and when you finish that you probably already can go and work anywhere you want because you already have some training.

[00:15:18]

**Mike DeLuca:** Exactly.

[00:15:19]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** That's what it is.

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**Mike DeLuca:** That's what it comes down to I think.

[00:15:21]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** That's really interesting. You stayed there until you finished high school in Wilmington.

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**Mike DeLuca:** I graduated in 2008.

[00:15:30]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Two thousand and eight, high school was easy sailing. No issues or?

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**Mike DeLuca:** I did pretty good.

[00:15:37]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Did you enjoy studying? Did you enjoy going to school?

[00:15:40]

**Mike DeLuca:** I enjoyed going to school. There was times where I did better than other days. Obviously, that's just the way it usually goes. But I played football in high school, my freshman the first year and then my junior year I played. Then that was fun like after school we'd play that. I played Pop Warner in Arlington and Medford though too. Which Pop Warner is a program that they offer for like if you want to play tackle football. I played tackle football growing up so I wanted to still pursue it when I got older in high school. I played for a couple of years. Then the good achievement that I got when I was in high school was, one month, they gave me student of the month.

[00:16:35]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Nice.

[00:16:36]

**Mike DeLuca:** My grades were doing awesome. I think I was in geometry class and I was taking the test and I'd get my test graded and it was above 100 because there'd be a bonus question, and I'd get 107 on the tests and stuff. The kid looked at me, and he's like, how is that even possible? I thought it only goes up to 100, and I'm like, you didn't get the bonus question on the board?

[00:17:04]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Well, that explains. There's a bonus. That's why I go above 100 otherwise it wouldn't. I understand his surprise. How can you be if you just getting through 100, you get more points than you were supposed to? That's fun. You graduate from high school, and then what happens?

[00:17:21]

**Mike DeLuca:** After high school, I pretty much started working.

[00:17:29]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** College was not in the picture. It's something that you felt would be too much investment or?

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**Mike DeLuca:** Honestly, it never even came up in conversation. Not that it wasn't for me, except I never put any thought into actually going to college, I guess you could say, I don't know.

[00:17:54]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** A lot of people were more focused on work and be independent instead of pursuing college because it was something for that group was not very much or something.

[00:18:04]

**Mike DeLuca:** I guess you could consider it like that. That's pretty much how it was, but except those two buddies of mine that did go to school. Well, I'm still close with today. One of them lives in New Jersey, now he's married. He's got two kids. The other buddy of mine, he ended up living with me for a little bit as a roommate because I had an extra room. I had a two bedroom at the time that I bought a condo at, but I sold in Lowell. He was living with me for a little bit. I'm just trying to think here. I think college, like, he had told me, actually, I approached him and I said, was college always in your mind about going to, and he said right away. He's like, there was no doubt in my mind that I wasn't going to, not go to college.

[00:18:58]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Interesting.

[00:18:59]

**Mike DeLuca:** The thing with that was, he's my friend, actually, from middle school, and I didn't get to see him. I hung out with him after school sometimes throughout high school, except he went to, I think it was St. John's Prep. It was called something in some other town. I don't know exactly know where it was. Some of them went to college. Some of them didn't go to college.

[00:19:25]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** But you try to get in touch with them regardless.

[00:19:28]

**Mike DeLuca:** Regardless of what they did. I don't have no reason not to.

[00:19:32]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** After you left high school, what work did you do? Where were you working?

[00:19:38]

**Mike DeLuca:** I started basic like, I don't want to say basic job. I say I even worked like a Burger King for a little bit. I worked at a Dunkin Donuts. I worked at a FedEx in Wilmington and then I worked at Jiffy Lube, changing oil. Then after that, I decided I was going to go to this school to try to learn a trade. I was like, let me try to pick up this trade, and I'll go to this school. It was called Job Corps out in Grafton Mass. I went there and you actually lived there. I lived on campus there and they taught you the trade. I stayed there for a year, and I did the plumbing class. I did awesome in the plumbing class. I actually got student of the month there. They actually offered that there too, and they gave me that achievement, which I thought was cool. I did that, and then I got my certificate and stuff like that. After that I needed to find a job doing something along the lines of plumbing and working with wrenches and stuff like that. I had a family friend that his kid owned a company in South Boston, and they were a pipe fitting union outfit. They had a position available where I could drive this big truck. It was like, all the rack body truck, they call them, I had to get a medical card in order to drive it and stuff like that. I got all prepared for that. What he explained to me, I'd be doing is dropping off a lot of the tools to the job sites, to these pipe fitters in Boston, then the shoppers out of South Boston. A lot of the jobs are around the area. But they were scattered everywhere throughout Arlington of Rockland. I was driving that truck everywhere pretty much. That went on for about two years.

[00:21:52]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** That relate to the course that he took on plumbing?

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**Mike DeLuca:** It was a pipe fitting company. Plumbing, it's pretty much very similar. You work with all the same type of tools, stuff like that. It's more of heating than it is for water flow and that type of stuff. Except that salt pipe ran through buildings and stuff.

[00:22:19]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** But you were able to get some experience in there?

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**Mike DeLuca:** Yeah, I was able to get some experience with the guys, they teach me some things and stuff like that, which I thought was a good thing. Then I applied for the union that they were all in the first year, and I didn't get in and I was a little let down. The next year, I think I applied again, and I got let down again. I didn't get accepted, so with all the driving that I was doing, I thought it was just a little bit too much, I couldn't distance manage long distance.

[00:22:54]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** What do you mean by applying for their union? Trying to get permanently hired or some different courses or how does that work?

[00:23:05]

**Mike DeLuca:** What it was that, they wanted a lot of information, too, actually. They wanted my high school diploma. They wanted my past certificate. They wanted all this stuff. What I did was, I gave them that stuff, and then I had to take some type of test.

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**Edgar Kley Filho:** I see.

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**Mike DeLuca:** It was like aptitude test. Does that sound right?

[00:23:25]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** I don't know.

[00:23:26]

**Mike DeLuca:** I don't know. I think that's what they called it at the time. I did that and then you get hired. It's like, they put you through another schooling where it's like, you do an apprenticeship, so it's pretty much for five years, I think the pipe fitters was. They teach you in class how to do things, and then they put you out on the job around the Boston area.

[00:23:45]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You take the test to get to the school. After you learn with them, and then they put you in places to work?

[00:23:53]

**Mike DeLuca:** No, so your work is like they do it as a first year apprentice. A first year apprentice would be on a job and he'd have to still go to school maybe a couple of days a week, but he'd still be getting paid to work on a job too. Then you get to 2nd year, 3rd year, 4rth year, 5th year, and I think it's a journeyman, which is, you don't have to do school no more. Then you work in the field, just like there's like that.

[00:24:18]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Really range on doing what you need to do to learn, it's not theory anymore. You are practicing whatever you want.

[00:24:25]

**Mike DeLuca:** Exactly. They teach you hands on, you know what I mean, type of thing.

[00:24:29]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** But then you thought that the tests were hard?

[00:24:33]

**Mike DeLuca:** No, nothing to do with the tests. I took the test. I think I might have passed the test. I don't know if I did completely good.

[00:24:41]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** They would not have placement, is that what it was alot of people applying for?

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**Mike DeLuca:** So many apply for it. That's the issue that was happening there.

[00:24:48]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Then after that, you apply for a different job?

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**Mike DeLuca:** After that, I ended up working at a warehouse in Wilmington. It was funny, they were a union too actually, and I always see the signs here around Harvard after I left there, it was UAW, United Automobile Workers, I think it stood for. That was pretty much, it was a huge, I was actually NAPA. I don't know if you're familiar with the car store NAPA or not where you can buy a bunch of pots at, except it was their warehouse and it was actually in Wilmington, which was really convenient because I didn't even go home for lunch and stuff. I worked there for two years, and then I applied for a job at Harvard, part-time for custodial. It was night shift 5-9. I was working at NAPA full-time from 12-8. I ended up getting the job here at Harvard. I asked NAPA if they could switch my job from-

[00:26:03]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Early.

[00:26:04]

**Mike DeLuca:** If I could still work there and do it early, like part-time. Actually, it was union, so they had to put a bid up, and then I'm the only one that signed the bid, so I got it. Then I was doing both jobs at the time.

[00:26:17]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You would work up here part-time at NAPA, and then come to Harvard to work right?

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**Mike DeLuca:** Exactly.

[00:26:24]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Here would be until what time, 10 o'clock?

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**Mike DeLuca:** I worked 5-9.

[00:26:28]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Five to nine.

[00:26:29]

**Mike DeLuca:** That was over at the Smith Center.

[00:26:31]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** The Smith Center. When more or less you started there at Smith Center?

[00:26:35]

**Mike DeLuca:** That was like 7.5 years ago, probably 2017.

[00:26:39]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Seven and a half years ago? Then you stayed there also part-time in Smith Center?

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**Mike DeLuca:** I was there for about nine months, and then I had an opportunity to come up to go to the Athletic Center.

[00:26:52]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** That was HBS down to Business School?

[00:26:55]

**Mike DeLuca:** It's across from the Business School where there's Harvard Stadium. That at the track, the stage, and the swimming.

[00:27:04]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** All of them are there.

[00:27:07]

**Mike DeLuca:** I took that position, and then that was actually 8-12. That was another part-time position, except it was 8-12, except there was a lot of hours to be able to pick up. What I had to do was, I actually had to give up my job, even, though, I was only scheduled to work at the Athletic Center from 8-12 because I was getting a lot of extra hours during the day at the Athletic Center, too, because they were so busy over there, they needed extra help and stuff like that.

[00:27:42]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Then you leave NAPA and it becomes a full-time, but two different part times inside of Harvard.

[00:27:48]

**Mike DeLuca:** Pretty much, that's pretty much how it ended up working out.

[00:27:51]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** When HLS happened?

[00:27:54]

**Mike DeLuca:** There was actually one more thing after the Athletic Center which was, they approached me and they asked me if I was interested in a full-time position. I said, yeah, of course, I am. That was my goal to be scheduled for 40 hours a week. I was like, sure why not. It was the Lowell House in Harvard, except the Lowell House was actually under construction at the time. They considered it the Swing House where all the students from the Lowell House were at. I worked at the Swing House for about a year, and I had Tuesdays and Wednesdays off, and then I worked there from two o'clock to 10:30 at the night time.

[00:28:42]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Including weekend?

[00:28:44]

**Mike DeLuca:** I had to work Saturday and Sunday.

[00:28:45]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Interesting.

[00:28:46]

**Mike DeLuca:** I worked there. Then after that year, I think the Lowell House opened up. Nothing to do with that, except I ended up coming over here to the Harvard Law School. That's when I had the opportunity to work here. That started with 3:30-12 o'clock at night, I would work. That was Monday through Friday. It was a huge opportunity for me because I didn't have my weekends off for a year there. Because I was working with the Tuesdays and Wednesdays days off as a schedule.

[00:29:29]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You've been coming here and work mostly in the night shift. At least you have the weekend off?

[00:29:37]

**Mike DeLuca:** That was awesome.

[00:29:39]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** How long you were here in law school?

[00:29:42]

**Mike DeLuca:** I've been here for about 4.5 years.

[00:29:45]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Four and a half?

[00:29:46]

**Mike DeLuca:** I'd say, somewhere around there.

[00:29:48]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** What's the difference, Mike, between the jobs that you did in the athletics? I assume the lower house would be more dorms.

[00:29:58]

**Mike DeLuca:** The lower house was dorms, except they had, like, a little cafeteria. Well, like, when I worked, there was some carpet, I'd have to vacuum. I'd obviously be taking out the trash or sweeping.

[00:30:14]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** The athletics were more administrative.

[00:30:17]

**Mike DeLuca:** Athletics had some events there that took place.

[00:30:20]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Oh, they had events?

[00:30:22]

**Mike DeLuca:** They did, except there was basic cleaning that I had to pretty much do at the Athletic Center, too. There was a gym there, there was a tennis court there, they had a swimming pool. They had everything you could possibly think of for sports wise.

[00:30:43]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Here at law school, you mainly work for the administration area, not for the dorms.

[00:30:50]

**Mike DeLuca:** I don't work. I actually work in Millstein, so that's, like, where the events take place.

[00:30:56]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Concentration over events in general.

[00:30:59]

**Mike DeLuca:** I concentrate on, like, the event setups and stuff throughout like the school year. Then, for the most part, I don't go to the dorms.

[00:31:08]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Because there are groups that work for the dorm, and there are groups that, for example, just there are the cleaning crew that do departments and all over the, for example, Hauser or Griswold and offices, a situation. You are more focused on the events part, and the must and everything else. I know for a fact, for example, when it gets to commencement and orientation, then I think it's mostly all hands on deck, everybody helps into set out because that's the biggest chunk, that's what we all do.

[00:31:47]

**Mike DeLuca:** Except, I mean, it gets busy in Millstein too, like, throughout the school year and stuff like that. Like if you think about it, like, you have Millstein East, and then it goes A, B, C, those rooms can be divided into, like, A and B, or B and C or A, B, C or only A or B.

[00:32:04]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Then we have West too, there'll be two rooms.

[00:32:07]

**Mike DeLuca:** Exactly, so you got West, there could be two rooms, too, if you want a two or one room. Then throughout the day, it gets so busy because we have these turnovers that take place. Like, say, like there could be like, if you think about it, honestly, there could be five events going on at once. Then in an hour, you got to switch, like, two different events over. Like, I don't know. Throwing it out there is something that could happen, you never know.

[00:32:33]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You have to remove everything that depends on the setup that is requested. You take tables from one way, bring new tables or whatever it is or maybe instead of a table, you make our auditorsta bring only chairs.

[00:32:46]

**Mike DeLuca:** We could set up a theater, it's all we get the diagrams, and we base it off of, like a diagram, that type of stuff. We get an idea, like what needs to go where and stuff like that.

[00:32:57]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** How many people work with you for that?

[00:33:00]

**Mike DeLuca:** Right now, it's me, and then there's two other people in that area. There's three of us together, and then we have our supervisor, so that would actually be considered four people. Then that's during the day, and then pretty much the same thing happens at night, where they're grouped up with.

[00:33:15]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** The other crew.

[00:33:16]

**Mike DeLuca:** The other crew.

[00:33:17]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You started here in the night crew, and then you moved to the day.

[00:33:21]

**Mike DeLuca:** Yes, I started working at night. I did do a little cleaning here when I first started. I did, like, some stuff on the second floor, WCC, and then I did some stuff on the third floor, WCC, and then I'd also go down to Harkness and help out over there, too, like, for another four hours at the end of the night. Except then I got working with the crew over in Millstein, and I enjoyed it a lot, actually, and I knew it was right where I wanted to be. I, stuck with that, for the most part and had no interest on trying to go anywhere else.

[00:34:06]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** It is a good space, I know that's a lot of work. But it is a good group to work. [OVERLAPPING] You have a nice group of folks working together.

[00:34:17]

**Mike DeLuca:** Oh, we get along good and we know it needs to be done. When it's time to get the job done, we get the job done.

[00:34:25]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You are more in contact with the events office for setups and everything.

[00:34:30]

**Mike DeLuca:** Right, they're the ones that send out the diagrams. They'll either email the diagrams. Sometimes there's updates, so they'll email out updated diagrams and stuff like that. Then we have, like, I don't know exactly who creates like this other program, except it's called, like, the EMS, like we can read the detailed stuff that.

[00:34:51]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You might be in the events office, [OVERLAPPING] because they take care of the MS in general. I assume that if there are description, the reports, and everything related to EMS, I am assuming here that would be probably the events office. I would think so, sent to you, I guess.

[00:35:08]

**Mike DeLuca:** And so off of those two things, it's like, I feel that, like it's pretty self explanatory within the writing. Like it will say, like what needs to be done. Then, the events office will send us over the diagrams.

[00:35:21]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Then just like everything.

[00:35:23]

**Mike DeLuca:** Then in the morning like, when I come to work, like my supervisor will print out all the stuff. Then, like, we'll look through it, and then we know, like what needs to take place throughout the day, all because of like the EMS and like the diagrams. Those two things, like so, like, I don't know how to, like, word it exactly. I mean, they're very important for, like, the position that I'm in, where, like, if, like I was in another area, say, like, when I was in Harkness, cleaning, like, I didn't have to, look at a diagram in order to, the job. It's another, how would you consider it?

[00:36:05]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** It's a different level. Because it is different when you have a job. For example, if your work is should be cleaning areas, someone is going to say, hey, this area needs to be cleaned this way. You're going to do this and that, you're going to dust, walls or corners or whatever it is. You know that every day you are going to be doing that in that area. When you have events, then you are going to be reading diagrams. You are going to have instructions. It's not just about cleaning, it's about setting up things, and those things need to be set up the way that the client asked because it needs to be there. In a good presentation, for what they need because then they succeed in their presentation as well. Like you said, there are so many different presentations and orgs and journals and even departments that need to do things, whether it's use, we say use because Milstein is the biggest part of events for HLS, Milstein East and West, so it is different. One thing, you started with cleaning most of things. But you moved up. You got a promotion, like a year or so before.

[00:37:18]

**Mike DeLuca:** I became a crew chief.

[00:37:20]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** That's the change.

[00:37:21]

**Mike DeLuca:** That was the change, and the only thing is like, the crew position came available to work during the day in the same area that I was working out of at night, which was, like, the event setups. It gave me, like, so much interest, and I was determined to get my name in and apply for that position, pursue it.

[00:37:47]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You got it, so that shows the work that you do. They value the work that you have been doing for a while, and I thought that you deserve to have the chance to get the promotion, to do what you were doing. I have a chance to be working with you this entire time since I was in the DOS, because that's another level. You're talking about Milstein events and everything. But my God, when it comes to commencement or orientation, the custodial group is always there, taking care of everything. Nobody has to worry about anything else. We are forgetting one important part of this because I think it's very important as well. That is what you do during the exams. There is a lot of equipment that needs to be delivered. Accessibility services and accommodations for students. Those equipment, those furnitures or whatever is requested. If they are not there in place for these students to take their exams can add more stress for students who request those equipments, for example. That's why we are in contact, for example, the Accessibility group is in contact with the Custodial and Facilities to have the room setups ready. I know that the events are extremely important because of the level of everything that comes. But in terms of during the exam period, I think it is extremely important work that you do because when you have all the equipment delivered and set up on time, then these students don't have to add stress to their right.

[00:39:26]

**Mike DeLuca:** That's what we're trying to provide.

[00:39:27]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Exactly, so I know that sometimes can be challenging because if students request equipment and the schedule was set up for a certain time during the day, because vary from morning to mid of the day or afternoon, if they had an issue, if they had a change of schedule because of their condition. Everything changes as well, there you go and move stuff.

[00:39:53]

**Mike DeLuca:** We need to adjust.

[00:39:55]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Sometimes it doesn't depend on Accessibility department. You know, it depends on how the students are feeling and when they can take the exam. Sometimes we have to be changing and depends on I think the spring tend to be a little more intense than the fall. I think this past fall was a little bit easier in terms of amount of accommodations. You were always working around. In general, you're happy with the work that you're doing? That's happening right now?

[00:40:27]

**Mike DeLuca:** Of course, I like it, and it's something that like I said, I was interested in doing ever since I started doing it, and I enjoy it, and I wouldn't want it any other way than the way that it is.

[00:40:40]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** You have your weekends now?

[00:40:42]

**Mike DeLuca:** I got my weekends, that's always a good thing.

[00:40:46]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** How is Andover?

[00:40:47]

**Mike DeLuca:** Oh, Andover is awesome. I've been there for about maybe 3.5 years. I'm by myself now, I don't get that roommate with me. Well, I went home for, like, I bought a condo in Lowell, it was a two bedroom. That didn't I was maybe like two years I was there, and then I moved home. Then I bought my place maybe like six months later over in Andover. It's perfect, honestly, like, on the way in to work, like I start early, so I get in right before the traffic comes. It honestly it takes me maybe, like, half an hour to get here if I don't stop for, like, a coffee at Starbucks or something like that.

[00:41:38]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** It is a nice area.

[00:41:40]

**Mike DeLuca:** Oh, it's a nice area, too.

[00:41:42]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Andover is like near Wakefield.

[00:41:47]

**Mike DeLuca:** It goes, I think, Wakefield. Maybe it's Reading North Reading. Then it's right off the highway where I live at. Perfect, so get on and off Route 93 there.

[00:42:02]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** That's nice. Mike, that's it, we got in the end of our conversation. Thank you, very very.

[00:42:09]

**Mike DeLuca:** Thank you again.

[00:42:10]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** I know that requiring these things can be scary a little bit, thinking about this. But I'm glad that you accept to participate. I need to thank you for everything that you do for us.

[00:42:22]

**Mike DeLuca:** Oh, course.

[00:42:22]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Because the entire time that I know you since the Dean of the Students Office when I was there, and I know that Dean of Students was not easy, there is always something coming up that you need help, and I think they should be the same. I'm not there for three years already. But I know that always constant asking for help because they really need. Now, working close to the Accessibility group, the same thing or in need. You were always there, you are a wonderful, wonderful person to work with, you are a fantastic professional. I don't remember a time that we asked you for your help, that you said, Oh, I can't do or there was any issue. You were always available. The least would say, Edgar, I cannot go right now because we are doing something, probably setups so much. But whenever you have the chance, you're always there. I have to thank you, I have to thank your entire crew because the custodia group is a fantastic [OVERLAPPING]. Thank you very much.

[00:43:29]

**Mike DeLuca:** Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be on the Podcast, too, the awesome. Thank you so much, and I appreciate.

[00:43:37]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** I really want more people to come and share their stories and say who they are and what they are doing.

[00:43:43]

**Mike DeLuca:** Awesome.

[00:43:45]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Thank you very much, and for everybody, listen out there, I'll see you soon. Bye bye. Great, nice.

[00:43:56]

**Mike DeLuca:** Do you think it went good?

[00:43:56]

**Edgar Kley Filho:** Yes.