
THE

Duquesne Lawyer

Fall 2020 • The Duquesne University School of Law Magazine for Alumni and Friends



Cf. Morrison with Edmond v US (1998)
(not in book) on Inferior Officer

Two civilians sat on the Coast Guard Court of Criminal Appeals. The General Counsel of the Department of Transportation originally assigned them to the court. Afterwards the Secretary of Transportation adopted the assignments as appointments of his own. In an opinion by Justice Scalia, the Court held that they were inferior officers, by reason of the supervision of the judges' work by the General Counsel and by the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Morrison distinguished as involving a "single task."

Flourishing in uncertain times

THIS
ISSUE

Law School News

Legacy of Diversity

Law and COVID-19

EDWARD J. HANLEY HALL
SCHOOL OF LAW

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are in the ninth month of a global pandemic that has changed almost every aspect of our daily lives, including the way we work and learn. As a nation, we are also struggling with longstanding issues of institutional racism in our justice system, and we recently faced one of the most polarizing Presidential elections in history. These national and global challenges have profoundly affected our school, our students, and our community. But at this critical juncture, Duquesne Law is not just surviving, we are thriving. I hope you will see, across the pages of this magazine, that Duquesne has responded to each new challenge and turned it into an opportunity for growth and improvement. During these extraordinary times, I sincerely appreciate your continued interest and support of Duquesne Law, and I am pleased we can keep you informed of our efforts and progress.

Last spring, as the concern over the spread of COVID-19 increased, Duquesne University transitioned to fully online classes. Prior to the University announcement, our faculty and staff had already begun tentative plans for remote learning, and were able to smoothly and successfully finish the year online, with students taking all of their final exams from home. Commencement was held virtually for our Class of 2020 (you can see their photos on pp. 36-37). We are so proud of their strength, character, and resilience.

Throughout this summer, the Law School COVID-19 Planning Task Force and Law Student COVID-19 Advisory Council worked closely with University officials and state and local health experts to guide and implement the School of Law's reopening process. The Law School looks and feels differently this fall, but we remain committed to ensuring the highest quality legal education for our students. Despite all the challenges and adjustments

required by the pandemic response, we have been able to successfully return to in-person learning for a great majority of our students, while accommodating faculty and students who need to teach and learn remotely for health and safety reasons. I am happy to report that we still have in-person learning as of this writing with only one more week to go in the semester! You can read more about what teaching in the pandemic looks like beginning on p. 12.

COVID-19 has not been the only difficult challenge we are facing this year. Our country and community are also in the midst of a crisis of racial justice. Duquesne Law has answered the call to be an instrument of justice by creating a community of inclusion grounded in our Spiritan mission. In honor of Juneteenth, the oldest national commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States, I shared with our community our School of Law's Promise Statement on Race and Justice (see p. 25). This statement was voted on and unanimously adopted by our School of Law Faculty as of June 19, 2020. We also developed a yearlong *Speaker Series on Race and Democracy* (see p. 31) that has provided an opportunity for the wider legal community to engage in these important discussions.

Part of what sets Duquesne Law apart from other law schools is our amazing and supportive law alumni. I am sincerely grateful for all that you do for our Law School, our students and our Duquesne Law community. Together, we will weather these challenging times and continue our course of excellence.

Be Well and God Bless!



April Mara Barton
Dean and Professor of Law



THE LAW SCHOOL LOOKS
AND FEELS DIFFERENTLY
THIS FALL, BUT WE REMAIN
COMMITTED TO ENSURING
THE HIGHEST QUALITY
LEGAL EDUCATION FOR
OUR STUDENTS.

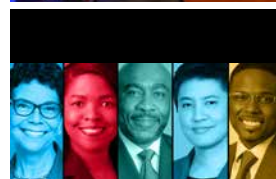


COVER PHOTO: Professor Bruce Ledewitz teaching constitutional law.
 ABOVE PHOTO: Professor Ashley London teaching professional responsibility using the Hyflex model.

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Jason Luckasevic: The Head Case

On Oct. 23, Jason Luckasevic, L'00 returned to the Law School to give a virtual presentation to students, faculty and staff on his new book, *The Head Case*. The book chronicles Luckasevic's journey from a young lawyer representing clients in personal injury cases to becoming one of the country's leading attorneys representing former athletes suffering from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a brain condition associated with repeated head trauma.

Luckasevic discussed how his faith, his working class upbringing in the Mon Valley and his Duquesne education helped prepare him for the challenges of taking on one of the most popular organizations in the United States: the National Football League. He described the years of preparation and the underlying legal theories underpinning his filing of the first-ever concussion lawsuit against the NFL, its teams and the helmet manufacturer Riddell. He also explained how that initial complaint led to a class action federal lawsuit, which resulted in a landmark settlement for former players—a settlement that has faced significant criticism as to how it has been administered. Finally, Luckasevic outlined recent lawsuits that he has brought on behalf of former players against the NCAA, and how he is working to avoid some of the pitfalls that befell the class action settlement with the NFL. Luckasevic's recent lawsuits against the NCAA are the subject of an October 2020 *Sports Illustrated* cover story.

Law students thoroughly enjoyed learning about Luckasevic's story and his efforts to compensate victims of CTE and improve the safety of contact sports. As Dean April Barton remarked during the presentation, "Luckasevic is a shining example of a Duquesne Lawyer—someone who uses their degree for a higher good, who advocates for something bigger than himself—and uses his voice to advocate for those who need a voice in our legal system." ■



New Tuesday Talks with Alumni

This new lunchtime series on the second Tuesday of each month allows our alumni to share their knowledge and experiences with each other and remain connected in these virtual times. Jeffrey Fromknecht, L'12 kicked off the series in September with *Nonprofits and Politics: A Beginner's Guide*. Fromknecht is co-founder, CEO and managing attorney of Side Project, Inc., a nonprofit that helps grassroots nonprofit organizations establish a strong foundation by helping them with legal and operational challenges. In this webinar, he discussed how nonprofits can engage in public policy debates about social issues without risking their tax-exempt status.

In October, Geoffrey Melada, L'06 taught us how to tell stories to boost our brand. Melada is the communications

director for the Treatment Advocacy Center, a national mental illness policy nonprofit. Previously, he was the associate vice president of communications at Hillel International and the editor-in-chief of *Washington Jewish Week*.

Virginia Berlando, L'04 headlined in November with a talk on how to tidy your workspace with tips and methods from Marie Kondo and Scott Sonenshein's *Joy at Work* book. Berlando is a solo practitioner with a strong background in organizational skills.

Upcoming speakers include Vincent (L'74), Michael (L'07) and Adam (L'14) Quatrini in December and Carl Zacharia, L'93 in January 2021. If you have an idea for a talk, please contact the Law Alumni office at lawalumni@duq.edu. ■

Pennsylvania Innocence Project

Duquesne Law Students' Work Leads to Exoneration

Daniel Carnevale, who lost 4,967 days for a crime he did not commit, was released on March 18 from Allegheny County Jail. Fifteen Duquesne University law students played a key role in helping the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, which is housed at the University, exonerate Carnevale.

In 2007, Carnevale was convicted and sentenced to three consecutive life sentences after being arrested for a Bloomfield apartment building fire that killed three people. He has always maintained his innocence since he was first questioned about the 1993 fire.



Daniel Carnevale, right, with his brother Larry.

Carnevale's release marks the 18th exoneration of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. "Thanks to the generosity of so many individuals and the sheer force of will of Carnevale himself, he will be home with his family and begin the process of rebuilding," said attorney Elizabeth DeLosa, L'10 who manages the Pittsburgh office of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project and represented Carnevale. "This case is somewhat unique, I think, in that it was actually worked on by two of Duquesne Law School's clinical programs: the Federal Litigation Clinic and the Pennsylvania Innocence Project."

Lawyers and paralegals from Duane Morris, PNC and Potomac Law Group partnered with the Project, giving countless pro bono hours to draft a post-conviction relief act petition and eventually litigate on behalf of Carnevale.

"Our partnership with Duquesne School of Law is the lifeblood of our organization," DeLosa said. "We simply could not do this work without Duquesne's help." ■

“Our partnership with Duquesne School of Law is the lifeblood of our organization. We simply could not do this work without Duquesne’s help.”

- Elizabeth DeLosa, L'10



DARIOUS SINGLETON RECOGNIZED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK

Third year law student Darius Singleton was recognized for his work in the community on May 27 at the 18th Annual Washington Health System Teen Outreach Awards. The event, held virtually, honored Singleton with the Social Justice Award for promoting diversity, altruism, courage, respect and faith in humanity. "During my undergrad at Washington & Jefferson College, I was a member of multiple organizations centered around race, gender and sexual orientation, and advocacy for issues that affected those communities," said Singleton. He noted that his long-running commitment to equality and social justice for marginalized people was the reason he wanted to study law. ■

▶ 3/3 Early Admissions Program Announced with Xavier University

Duquesne University School of Law announced the creation of a pipeline program with Xavier University of Louisiana. Founded by St. Katherine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Xavier University of Louisiana is the only historically Black, Catholic institution of higher education in the United States.

Like Duquesne, Xavier's mission is to promote a more just and humane society by preparing its students to assume roles of leadership and service in a global society. Through this partnership, Duquesne University School of Law affirms its commitment to academic excellence and diversity, equity and inclusion in education.

Dean April Barton said, "Diversity makes us better. Our institutions are stronger when we are diverse, we make better decisions when disparate viewpoints are considered, and we solve problems more creatively when community members come from a variety of perspectives, cultures and backgrounds."

Two key faculty were critical to bringing the partnership to life. Professor Wesley Oliver, a history buff, asked Associate Professor Jalila Jefferson-Bullock if she knew there is one Catholic, historically Black university in the country. "I did know that, as it's in my hometown of New Orleans," she said. Jefferson-Bullock received tremendous support from Duquesne Law leadership to cultivate a relationship.

Her New Orleans roots certainly helped. "Dr. Norman Francis, the president of Xavier for many years, is a family friend, so through him we made all of the connections and that's where the partnership began. The scholarly cross-collaboration that will come from the partnership is especially exciting," said Jefferson-Bullock.

A virtual ceremony commemorating this historic partnership took place on April 24 with leaders from both Duquesne University and Xavier University of Louisiana. ■

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Reflections on Her Life and Legacy

By Margaret Potter, 3D

"No one can compete with her," President Ken Gormley told the virtual crowd that gathered on Sept. 24 to reflect on the passing of United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. After Gormley reminisced of his personal connection with Ginsburg (he attended Harvard Law with her daughter), constitutional law professors Bruce Ledewitz, Jalila Jefferson-Bullock, Wilson Huhn and Ann Schiavone discussed her life and legacy.

The professors spoke of Ginsburg's role as a fervent advocate, fighting tirelessly for gender equality. "Her most import role was a litigator in the 1970s," Ledewitz explained. Added Schiavone, "She fought for true gender equality, seeing people as people and not for their gender."

Additionally, they discussed her role as a jurist. "She demanded the facts, she demanded the truth," Huhn expounded. He continued to speak of how she was able to use dignity and grace when speaking with those who disagreed, attributes we should all strive to embody.

In affirming her commitment to the law and equality, Jefferson-Bullock reminded us that Ginsburg was not perfect, having hired only one Black law clerk during her tenure on the Supreme Court. "There is always more work to be done," she said.

Throughout the event, the professors all agreed that Ginsburg exemplified a passionate, brilliant and compassionate legal mind that is rare. "It will be her written word and commitment to equality that will outlive not only her, but all of us," Schiavone concluded. ■

“ She fought for true gender equality, seeing people as people and not for their gender. ”

-Ann Schiavone



The Duquesne Law Community Remembers

RBG

“We, the people, were the focus of her entire professional career, which is remarkable to me, this woman who had the foresight early in her career to understand the importance of gender equity and to devote herself to making sure that that would be achieved for people like me. It means everything.”

— **Hon. Donetta W. Ambrose, L'70**
 (“What RBG Means to Me,” PostIndustrial.com)

“The ways in which I have been inspired by Ruth Bader Ginsburg is not just because she is a woman and not just because she’s a lawyer but because she’s also a Jewish woman inspired by her Jewish values as am I. I don’t know that I could be more inspired by her.”

— **Associate Professor Rona Kaufman**
 (“Pittsburgh legal luminaries remember Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg,” triblive.com)

“Throughout her legal career, as a lawyer and even as a judge and justice on the court, she was deeply concerned about equality for all. As a Black woman, I feel sort of a kinship to Justice Ginsburg, and feel that people like me might not be where I am without the Ruth Bader Ginsburgs in the world.”

— **Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark, L'83**
 (“Allegheny County president judge remembers meeting ‘rockstar’ Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg,” post-gazette.com)

“As chancellor it was often apparent to me that many young people—particularly first-generation college goers and those who aspire to do so—need role models to enable them to imagine themselves as leaders, capable of making decisions and taking the helm. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a role model and mentor for many women and others who worked alongside her as young lawyers while she was a law professor and judge. In honor of RBG we should rededicate ourselves to outreach, especially to women and people of color who are first-generation.”

Chancellor Emerita Phoebe Haddon, L'77,
2019 Recipient of the AALS Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Lifetime Achievement award

Law Scholarship Established in Memory of Robert E. Colville, L'69



L-R: McCarthy, Jan McCarthy and Colville at the 2011 Judges Wall dedication.

Duquesne Law graduates achieve many accomplishments in their lifetimes. Many go on to serve the public interest in the spirit of our Law School's mission, while others may inspire a generation of leaders. Robert E. Colville did both.

"He was a role model for me," says Judge Michael E. McCarthy, L'84. "He has changed hundreds of lives for the better. I am one of those hundreds."

Colville, who died in 2018, served as Pittsburgh police chief from 1971-75 when he was elected district attorney of Allegheny County. He held that office until 1997 when he became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. After he retired from that role in 2005, he was appointed senior judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court in 2006.

To honor his mentor and friend, McCarthy enlisted the help of his peers who have also been mentored by Colville to establish the Honorable Robert E. Colville Endowed

Scholarship. Michael J. Reilly, L70, Robert Del Greco, L'81, Regis Becker, L'83, and the late Robert R. Leight, L'81, all eagerly stepped up to help memorialize the man who profoundly affected their professional careers.

"Colville was a true champion of public service," McCarthy said. "He was a Marine, teacher, coach, police officer, district attorney and judge. He was born into a family of modest means, and defied the odds to strive for professional success.

"He wanted to make the world a better place. He fought with tenacity, integrity and purpose. We are obliged to continue his example and we are committed to help law students who someday will have impact on our legal community."

To contribute to the Honorable Robert E. Colville Endowed Scholarship, please contact Jeanine DeBor, Director of Law Alumni Relations and Development, at deborj@duq.edu. ■

COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund

Early in the pandemic, the School of Law established a *COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund* to help students with unexpected problems thrust in their way by sudden loss of routines, jobs and in some cases housing. To date, this fund has provided aid to nearly 70 law students who have demonstrated severe need. An outside grant initially established this fund, but the bulk of the funding has been provided by our generous alumni and friends.

The impact has been tremendous. Third year day student Theresa Marr was getting ready for her summer internship at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Washington, D.C., a goal of hers since starting law school. The internship was unpaid, so to help with expenses, she took on waitressing jobs to save up for the move to D.C. Then, in March 2020, everything changed. "The FAA fortunately decided to continue the internship program, but I lost my job and had no way to pay for my living expenses in Washington," said Marr. "After a couple of weeks, I was even struggling to pay my living expenses in Pittsburgh. I was very concerned I would have to turn down an opportunity I worked so hard to get simply because I couldn't afford it."

Marr is grateful for the money she received from the fund. "Because of Duquesne's funding and generosity, I was able to stay in Washington, D.C. for the summer, network with congressmen and FAA officials and learn first-hand about

government regulation," she reflected. "The fund Duquesne created helped me through a difficult and uncertain time so I could focus solely on working to better my career without the unnecessary burden of financial hardship."

Third year evening student Krista Koontz also found herself in a precarious situation when she was laid off from her job at the end of March. The furlough was unexpected, as she is the head of her department. "As the primary income for myself and my husband, in which my salary pays the majority of our monthly bills, I had no idea how we were going to make it," said Koontz. "I was fearful that if I was furloughed for too long, or if they ultimately ended up letting me go altogether, I wouldn't be able to afford to attend law school anymore." The money she received was a relief, knowing that she would "at least be able to pay our rent and have a month to make plans for the foreseeable future."

"I am so thankful to be part of such a wonderful university and law school. Many staff and professors from the Law School were there to reassure me. I cannot express how much I appreciate the support from the Law School. I am so lucky to be part of such a wonderful community." ■

To make a gift to the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund, please visit duq.edu/SupportDULaw.

Summer Employment Update

As we are finding in most aspects of life right now, COVID-19 impacted our students' summer experiences in many instances. Some students were able to work in-person in offices or courtroom settings throughout the summer, while others worked remotely. Likewise, the duration of some students' work experiences was shorter than they expected, while a few students saw their offers pulled due to uncertainty involving the pandemic.

In response to those students who either lost or could not find summer employment due to the pandemic, Dean April Barton created a Summer Student Support Committee, which focused on finding legal experiences for all students adversely impacted throughout the summer. This committee was tasked with identifying students in search of legal work during the summer, finding employers (including our law alumni) that had those opportunities, connecting the two parties and in some instances, obtaining funding that would allow students to receive a stipend for work that would have otherwise been unpaid.

A number of alumni stepped forward and hired our students outright. Others were able gain valuable experience by volunteering with organizations such as Neighborhood Legal Services. About 13 students received stipends for living expenses while working full-time jobs without pay. Funding to support those students came from the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund and from additional funding from the McGinley Public Service Fellows program. The Law School is grateful to the generosity of the McGinley family and all of our alumni who contributed to the emergency fund.

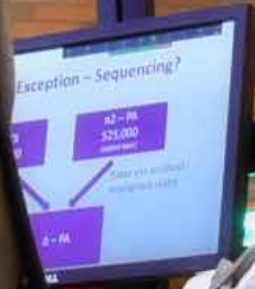
These efforts allowed both day and evening students to volunteer for various pro bono opportunities that involved a limited time commitment and contributed to legal aid work in our community. Kristen Petrina, 3E, was one of many DU Law students who assisted the Allegheny County Bar Association and Neighborhood Legal Services in researching and preparing for protection from abuse hearings in Allegheny County. "We retrieved and analyzed family and criminal court dockets of both plaintiffs and defendants, utilizing the Allegheny County Department of Court Records and Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System Portal," said Petrina.

Michael Bethune was one of four law students hired by Side Project Inc., a nonprofit founded by Jeffrey Fromknecht, L'12. "I was able to gain valuable experience and information pertaining to nonprofit organizations," said Bethune. "I was fortunate to be able to work directly on specific tasks relating to multiple different projects, particularly focusing my research on the types of political activities that 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations may engage in." ■

▶ A Summer of Service

With funding from the *McGinley Public Service Fellows* program and the *Public Interest Law Association*, a cadre of more than 35 Duquesne Law students volunteered in public service positions this summer. Students used their legal training to assist public defenders' and district attorneys' offices throughout the region, as well as serving judges and state and federal agencies including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Aviation Commission, and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. We are so proud of these students who live the Duquesne Law motto, "the welfare of the people is the highest law." ■

THANK YOU TO THE LAW ALUMNI WHO WORKED WITH AND ASSISTED OUR STUDENTS IN ANY CAPACITY THIS SUMMER!



Professor Richard Heppner teaching civil procedure.



Flourishing in Uncertain Times

ADAPTABILITY KEY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Amanda Drumm

The law is composed of rules that form the backbone of our society. It governs our actions and provides order, and its precepts are etched in our everyday life. But how do you predicate its principles when a pandemic upends all sense of order and normalcy for a society? How do you teach its theory and engage students in its nuances during a time of ambiguous norms and changing directives? And how do you help your community cope when everything is anything but normal? These are the questions the School of Law has been asking and answering since the COVID-19 pandemic took over the United States.

Emergency learning

The virus was circulating in other countries and had been on the school's radar before the pandemic officially hit the United States. "I remember news reports about transmission, so we were aware of it. We talked about having contingency plans if this thing would be a problem, but we didn't know the scale of it," said Aman Gebru, assistant professor of law.

The COVID-19 virus caused a nationwide lockdown that began in March. The lockdown was abrupt, and the virus caused disruptions that transcended every industry. Businesses and schools were mandated to close, causing interruptions in service and learning. But the School of Law quickly pivoted to continue to provide students with instruction, albeit in a different format.

"Our faculty are amazing, and I will say they are very adept and comfortable with technology. They were very up to speed with online learning and pedagogy. This big lift was not impossible for them. All worked really hard for our spring emergency remote learning," said April Barton, dean of the School of Law and professor of law.

The transition to online learning during the spring semester was a quick one. Faculty only had two days to return to their offices to retrieve books and other effects they may need to teach for a then unforeseen amount of time.

"You almost had to decide what you will need for rest of life. It was a crazy moment," said Bruce Ledewitz, professor of law.

Within a week every class switched online, with some classes being taught synchronous and others asynchronous. Zoom was a primary tool used for connecting the students to online instruction. Most of the professors were already using the online program Blackboard before the pandemic to communicate with students for assignments and material. That program continued to be utilized.

Students flocked to their respective hometowns, meaning some stayed in Pittsburgh while others traveled throughout the country. This created a challenge for classes to be held at their regular times.

"It was not as simple as saying 'let's meet at our regular time, but let's do it remotely.' It was not feasible because now other time zones were in the equation," said Richard Heppner, assistant professor of law.

Professors worked through the challenges and they and the students adjusted to make learning thrive. "It was definitely traumatic for everyone involved. I was impressed with how well our students adapted. It was definitely more work for everybody to make sure no one fell through the cracks," Heppner said.

To ensure there was ongoing student engagement and education, some professors altered the formats of their classes. Additional video lectures were added online. There was more time given to connect with a partner remotely to discuss a video and then reconvene with the class later.

"The readings didn't change, but the approach did," said Jonathan Churchill Veres, juris doctor candidate, 2021 and president of the Student Bar Association.

Professors developed individual touches in their classes to emulate the feel of community that is a special part of Duquesne.

"I tried to find a way to engage students, not just hold a synchronous class. I wanted consistency and wanted to mirror in-person classes. After trying something I pivoted to something else if they [the students] did not like it. I would cold call students and panels. I also enforced 'camera on' type of rules for classes to foster a sense of community and togetherness even though we were not together. And I gave them grace. I expected high standards with a measure of grace," said Jalila Jefferson-Bullock, associate professor of law.

“It was not as simple as saying ‘let’s meet at our regular time, but let’s do it remotely.’ It was not feasible because now other time zones were in the equation. ”

-Richard Heppner





Bar preparation and exam

After a lot of effort and dedication the spring semester came to a successful close only to find the COVID-19 pandemic still raging across the country. The surges of the virus postponed the bar examination—which usually takes place in July. It has been delayed twice this year because of the pandemic.

There have been rippling effects students have borne because of the postponed test. There is the obvious stress of preparing for the assessment, and that anxiety was coupled with other strains students and administrators underwent. A notable concern is that the delay caused health care to run out for many students who were on their parents' plans.

“It has been a bar prep like no other because it has been a moving target. We have been letting them know we would not leave them. We have been working and advocating on their behalf and continuing to provide bar support and services. We made it very clear that we continue to be there for them,” Barton said.

That included aiding students who encountered unforeseen challenges with help from a COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund. It assisted with basic needs such as groceries and gas.

“And in terms of our academic programs, we let them know that we were still highly committed to academic excellence and preparation for the bar exam,” said Barton.

Ashley London, associate director of bar studies and assistant professor of legal skills, agreed. She said,

“Working through examination setbacks has been ongoing, and working with the bar candidates has remained a priority. We made space to take it here and ran a special summer program. We do practices and have one-on-one mentoring we run online.” The Pennsylvania Bar Examination took place in early October.

The fall semester

The road leading to the fall semester was a rocky one, with the spring semester and ongoing bar preparation leaving their imprints along the way. Trying to determine how to exist and thrive in this ever-changing reality was not for the faint of heart. Professors reflected and asked for input from students. They were trying to determine what went well and what could have been done differently during the emergency spring semester.

“We listened to our students. We had a student COVID task force and collected information from students about exams, about faculty being online, and built it into our plan for the current fall semester,” said Barton.

While talking to students and faculty to gauge and understand how to make the fall semester work amid a changing world, health remained the number one goal in planning to return.

“Health and safety remained our top priority, and flexibility was key. We prepared for situations and numbers and what our elected officials would say, all the while making sure we are allowing our students to continue academic progress toward their degrees,” Barton said.



Professor Aman Gebru teaching property.

“ We listened to our students. We had a student COVID task force and collected information from students about exams, about faculty being online, and built it into our plan for the current fall semester. ”

-April Barton

With the University given the green light and deciding to open, there was consideration and understanding conferred for those who have health conditions or those who live with someone with health conditions. Creating an online option for those who may not be able to attend in person was paramount. Both attending in person and virtually became options for students.

“I am glad we have in-person classes. I’m also glad there is the option for remote learning because you never know when someone in your bubble goes to work and may be exposed at their job, and then you might have to quarantine if there is the potential of exposure,” said Ann Cheetham, a first year evening student.

For students like Cheetham who opted to attend classes on campus, things appear differently than they did last year at this time. Masks are now required on campus. Hand sanitizer is located everywhere. Social distancing has been maintained with students spaced apart in classrooms and not seated together in lounges or other social or study settings. Students are taking these changes in

stride, seeing the bigger picture.

“I think all of us are learning from this pandemic that we are all interconnected. Our actions in a society can affect an individual. Implications usually only affect your life, but other parts of our life are strongly interconnected, and we are learning a lesson that we are all in this together, for the safety of our community,” said Gebru.

Part of that spirit of community is taking the necessary precautions seriously to safeguard the health of everyone. That in turn gives students the opportunity to learn.

“Regardless of opinions, I think most people are happy to be back here. I see fewer people walking around, but not a terrible difference. And I see law students trying hard to abide by the precautions,” said Veres.

Newcomers such as first year law student Trevor Perry, are acclimating to attending law school during a pandemic. It has been difficult, though, to connect with other first year law students in a socially distanced society.

He said, “I think everyone is pretty happy. For working on our cases, we have been put into groups and have online

contact. We meet every week and that helped introduce us. All of the students know the situation and are being friendly.”

Ariel Wetzel, a third year law student and vice president of the Black Law Students Association, is encouraged by the way she and her fellow students are coping in these uncharted times.

“My fellow students and I are strong and doing well in law school. We are still pursuing classes, learning, and writing papers. It says a lot about DU Law students and our resiliency because it is business as usual as far as the pandemic goes,” she said.

Students have risen to the challenges of pandemic learning, with the separation from other students being perhaps the most trying hardship. The professors have worked to negate that sense of loss of community, one of the hallmark traits of Duquesne’s School of Law. Assigning groups to meet online and providing online office hours that are available almost any time are ways professors are still trying to connect with students, now that the relaxed style of students walking up to each other or a professor after class is a temporary thing of the past.

Students have adapted to these changes, and professors are heartened to see how well they are making the new

provisions work.

“Our students deserve a lot of credit. It was probably a difficult decision to decide to come to graduate school at this time. They could be out working jobs or with their families, but instead made this sacrifice to do this when things are uncertain,” said Maryann Herman, director of academic excellence and assistant professor of legal skills. “The students deserve a lot of credit for doing that. School is hard to begin with and to be surrounded with uncertainty makes it even more difficult. There are new technology formats in classes, and they are into it. They are always ready to go. That is probably the most surprising part to me; how engaged they are and how happy they are to be here. It definitely makes it easier to teach.”

Students have become accustomed to the innovative law HyFlex classes that were introduced to lessen class sizes. Half of the students meet in class one day while the other half are online. And vice versa. The adjustment to this modern style of teaching has been positive and may even remain after the pandemic.

“In the future, there will be continued demand for HyFlex teaching. The demand is not going away anytime soon. We have had great faculty support and support from the technology department on

campus to make it possible,” Barton said.

School of Law students and faculty have made learning during a pandemic look effortless, with their ability to remain fluid a key aspect to educational success.

“We are all learning that we have to adapt. The world will not get less complicated and we must constantly be ready to adapt and cannot stop learning. It’s a simple message,” said Pablo Echeverri, assistant professor of law.

London echoed that sentiment. She said, “This reaffirms my decision to be an educator and my faith in our students’ ability to be flexible, endure and come out not damaged from it.”

Perhaps that is the greatest takeaway from law students and faculty during these uncertain times—they embrace the capacity to adapt. As Jeremy Bentham, an English philosopher, noted, “The power of the lawyer is in the uncertainty of the law.” This pandemic—like the law—has been simultaneously ambiguous and transforming. School of Law students and faculty have shown they can not only tread but can also navigate uncertain waters. And they have demonstrated great strength lies within, as well as the propensity to change and flourish. ■

“Our students deserve a lot of credit. It was probably a difficult decision to decide to come to graduate school at this time. They could be out working jobs or with their families, but instead made this sacrifice to do this when things are uncertain.”

-Maryann Herman

Law in the Time of Corona

How the Virus Is Impacting “The Practice”

By Bridget Clerkin



THOMAS GIOTTO, L'83

Over the past eight months, the coronavirus has earned its “novel” designation in more ways than one. Everything about the pathogen is new, from its widespread diagnosis to the world we have had to build in its wake. The law is no exception.

From virtual courtrooms to Zooming with clients, the legal arena has seen a number of novel attempts to keep things moving while maintaining a safe distance in 2020. And some lawyers predict this is only the start, with the pandemic instituting changes that could last far longer than the virus itself.

To gain a better sense of this new legal realm, several Duquesne Law alumni were asked to give their thoughts on how the virus has not only impacted their world, but on how it may shape the world of law for years to come.,

A greater embrace of the virtual world has been an overall trend for lawyers in 2020, and **Thomas Giotto, L'83** is no exception.

The co-chair of labor and employment practice at Cozen O'Connor, a global firm with over 750 lawyers in 31 offices, first began working from home in March, as the virus was just beginning to take hold in the Northeast.

As the sickness continued to spread, that repertoire of changes grew to include video conferencing for the entire firm, online training seminars and organizing Zoom meetings for negotiations, mediations and arbitrations—which Giotto noted has at least helped him become a better typist, and more savvy with video conferencing.

Cozen O'Connor has also been working to help disseminate information on the virus internally, holding weekly COVID-19 webinars since the start of the pandemic as well as instituting weekly department meetings to keep a pulse on the virus' impact on social justice concerns and other work/life issues.

That last matter was a bit of a sticking point for Giotto, who said one of the most difficult things about this new online world was losing out on the work- and social-related contact with his fellow attorneys and staff members—as well as being able to actually separate work and life, when both have been happening at home.

Still, Giotto has developed a fitting motto to help him and his fellow lawyers get through these strange times. “Just adjust and move forward,” he said. “Figure out how to best serve the clients and get after it.”

Vincent Quatrini, L'74 may focus on matters of workers' compensation and employment, but for the founding partner of Westmoreland County firm QuatriniRafferty, the pandemic has been all about ensuring his own employees are taken care of.

Quatrini said the firm has always invested in technological changes, and so when COVID-19 struck, they were ready, sending employees to work from home with a nearly seamless transition. And those preparations were further bolstered with more technology, including a modified phone system for many employees and the purchasing of VoIP phones for others, creating an at-home environment that was “just like sitting at your desk—intercom and all,” Quatrini said.



VINCENT QUATRINI, L'74

All the while, he kept a small and rotating number of staff coming into the office to handle mail and process fee payments and bills. And the firm has begun a cautious return to letting a small number of clients into the office as well—all while following safety procedures, including masking, distancing and sanitizing.

Still, the lion's share of work has been—and continues to be—completed virtually, a scenario Quatrini believes is here to stay, for better or for worse.

“As we continue to adjust to the ‘new normal,’ we have embraced working remotely,” he said. “We continue to invest in tools to help our staff maintain high productivity, at home.

“Some colleagues will excel in this new universe,” he continued. “Some colleagues will find the differences too overwhelming and will exit the practice of law. At QuatriniRafferty, we continue to look for ways to keep our staff and attorneys engaged with the firm—video meetings, cheerleading emails, periodic perks, a healthy competition surrounding client testimonials.”

In the real estate market, timing is everything—and so it follows that real estate law would be a time-sensitive field.

Yet while the rest of the world has seemed to slow down or even stop in the wake of the coronavirus, in many ways real estate has been business as usual, said **Andrea Geraghty, L'83**, who specializes in the topic for the Pittsburgh firm Meyer Unkovic Scott LLP.

“Many development projects that were on the drawing board at the beginning of 2020 have continued with only minor slowdowns, and although some have been stayed by developers, very few have been wholly abandoned,” she said. “It seems that entirely new projects are not yet beginning; however, projects are what real estate developers do, so projects are still being considered.”

If anything, it was the shuttering of many government agencies during the early days of the pandemic that slowed things down, Geraghty said, with title searches not necessarily revealing the most recent information, causing lawyers to adjust their schedules accordingly.

Business closures, too, have thrown real estate law for a loop, with many questions now being raised over landlord and tenant rights.

Still, the virus has worked just as well to speed up the acceptance of practices that were already gaining momentum in the area, including electronic signatures and notarizations as well as emailed executed documents, Geraghty said. “The pandemic didn't cause this change,” she said, “but it broadened it to residential transactions as well.”

When it comes to family law, specialist **Joseph Williams, L'09** believes the pandemic has ushered in both downsides and benefits.

Backlogged cases have become a bigger problem, as many courts initially closed in the first weeks of the pandemic. But the need to carry on since they have reopened has helped carve out new routes toward speedier resolutions—and many clients are now opting for mediation, collaborative law or other alternate forms of dispute resolution.

Indeed, the more streamlined process—as well as the newfound ability to have conciliations and brief oral arguments on the telephone or online—are aspects of the new legal world Williams said he hopes stick around after 2020, not only for their benefits to lawyers but for their role in keeping costs down for clients.

These protocols are not the case in every case, with hometown rule still dictating a patchwork of procedures in different courts, leaving attorneys even more at the mercy of diligent detail work than ever.

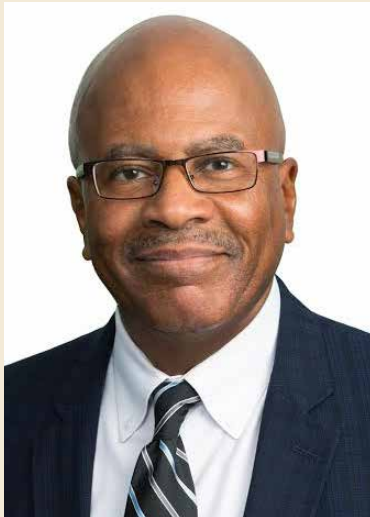
“Always be prepared,” advised Williams, a partner in Pittsburgh-based Pollock Begg. “Research the court's operating procedures and remote procedures. Prepare yourself and your client for what to expect. Give the clients a realistic expectation



ANDREA GERAGHTY, L'83



JOSEPH WILLIAMS, L'09



BUTLER BUCHANAN, L'79

*The Alumni and Career Services offices are grateful to Buchanan for speaking with students and recent graduates Oct. 21 about questions they have about law firm hiring during the pandemic.



DANIEL CONLON, L'14

about the outcome of the matter—in terms of timing, procedure and substantive disposition.”

After nearly two decades serving at Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, **Butler “Buck” Buchanan, L’79** has changed his place of employment—namely, from the office to his house.

The environmental switch-up has been the biggest work-related impact to his daily routine since COVID-19 hit in Mid-March, with Butler, a veteran of weekends at the office, now working efficiently from home—and even musing over keeping the routine for future overtime hours, once the world returns to in-office and in-person meetings.

It is not only Buchanan who has weathered the change well. His 1,200 fellow employees were able to transition to online work in a matter of days, in an operation Buchanan described as “seamless.”

“Zoom has become a staple of our existence,” he said. “We relied heavily upon Zoom to maintain contact while we were out of the office.”

Still, for his role as the managing attorney of the firm’s Philadelphia office (he is also hiring chair and chair of the firm’s diversity committee*), Buchanan said he misses the personal touch of a face-to-face conference. Though some clients and employees are now being allowed back in the office—all while following the appropriate protocol—the widespread acceptance of teleconferencing is something Buchanan sees sticking around long after the pandemic.

His advice to embrace it? “Keep plugging; never give up.”

Working in municipal, hospitality and business law, **Daniel Conlon, L’14** operates at the epicenter of areas most impacted by COVID-19.

For some of his firm’s municipal clients, soldiering on through the pandemic has meant challenging a precedent that has gone unbroken for dozens of years: the physical quorums required to hold public meetings.

Some Pennsylvania boroughs have a law on the books requiring physical bodies be present at meetings—written well before the advent of Zoom and other virtual meeting platforms. Moreover, it has been up to firms like Conlon’s to help bring those statutes up to 21st-century standards, incorporating technologies that enable local government to continue to run, even if from a distance.

Post-COVID-19 changes to the state’s liquor laws have also kept Conlon busy, as many regulations have been relaxed regarding the sale and consumption of alcohol at restaurants, an olive branch to a sector that has been particularly hard hit by the inability to freely socialize.

Still, for many in the hospitality industry—and small business owners in general—the virus has created a perilous landscape, which Conlon is now helping owners begin to navigate.

One route to relative safety is the payroll protection loans offered as part of the CARES Act passed this spring. A number of clients have been reaching out for advice on how to apply for the loans, how to use them and how they would be forgiven.

However, Conlon has also looked for other ways to help owners hold on to their businesses at this uncertain hour.

“It’s no secret that hospitality tenants have suffered the most during the pandemic, and many are struggling to pay rent to their landlords,” he said. “During the pandemic, I have assisted several restaurant tenants with creative lease modifications and negotiations to keep the parties out of court.”



DAVID KALEDA, L'96

As an expert in ERISA, **David Kaleda, L'96** has been able to mostly zero in on industry-specific issues during the virus, without feeling much change from the virus itself.

His Washington, D.C.-based firm, Groom Law Group Chartered, is still seeing plenty of work from the Department of Labor, the IRS and the Treasury, thanks to regulation proposals that are pretty par for the course in any presidential election year.

Still, some Washingtonian responses to COVID-19 have trickled down to impact Kaleda's group, including the passage of the CARES Act, which he said had many clients reaching out for advice on utilizing.

And Kaleda has also been hit with the inevitable switch to working from home, with video conferencing standing in for most meetings—and even replacing what in many past cases was settled through a phone call, allowing Kaleda to “see” his clients more often.

When it comes to his colleagues, however, he said he misses the unstructured simplicity that came with dropping in on someone's office to bounce ideas, advice and hypotheticals off each other. Nevertheless, to manage the march deeper into this virtual world, Kaleda said he turns to the real one—and takes a deep breath.

“I think you need to be able to ‘turn work off,’ which can be harder when your home is also your office,” he said. “Get out and exercise or take a walk, get some fresh air. Take advantage of your ability to be mobile to serve your clients and spend time with your family in ways you never would have done were you going into the office or traveling on business.”



AYANNA LEE-DAVIS, L'04

Supply chains are famously fastidious structures, with one small change capable of sending ripples down the entire line.

And the coronavirus is no small change—which is perhaps why **Ayanna Lee-Davis, L'04**, working for FedEx Ground Package Systems, saw some impact of the pandemic earlier than many: The company was advising employees on the importance of maintaining a clean and safe workplace in light of the virus even before making the call to implement work-from-home protocol in mid-March.

Still, a long history in smoothing out kinks helped employees there easily transition to a predominately online model, even at a time when package deliveries were becoming more popular—and necessary—than ever.

“As e-commerce shows no sign of slowing down, FedEx Ground continues to experience significant package volume growth and is in the midst of a number of initiatives to expand our network capacity,” Lee-Davis said. “As a result, we are seeing significant needs for the expertise of my group to help support these important business objectives.”

The call to rise to that challenge is one Lee-Davis is happy to answer, though she said she does miss the face-to-face comradery of the others in the office working alongside her.

But, true to the logistical nature of her practice, Lee-Davis has developed a short-but-sweet list of helpful strategies to stay sane during these particularly strange times, including keeping it positive; establishing a healthy routine that balances work, communication, hobbies and exercise; setting—and trying to keep—realistic goals; and, of course, getting some fresh air every once in a while.

“Remember, there is someone in the world that may have it worse than you,” she said. “Focus on the positive aspects of your daily life, and count your blessings.” ■

How has your practice been affected by the pandemic?
Tell us! lawalumni@duq.edu

COVID-19

Special Stories of Kindness

WE SAW MANY STORIES OF KINDNESS, COURAGE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE THAT MAKE THE PANDEMIC A LITTLE EASIER TO BEAR. HERE ARE A FEW.



◀ Judge David Spurgeon, L'96 Presides Over Social Distanced Vows

Hon. David Spurgeon presided over the wedding of Duquesne alumna Jenny Joyce and Rick Rump in April 2020. The couple, who had been scheduled to be married in Duquesne's chapel on April 18 but was unable due to COVID-19, wanted to be married on that date because it was the wedding anniversary of the bride's grandparents. "I'm not one of the front-line workers in the medical field, a first responder or someone working in a grocery store that interacts with the public each day," said Spurgeon. "These people are making sacrifices every day, so it was no-brainer to officiate the wedding. My entire career has been in public service, and this was just a natural extension of my judicial duties I took an oath to uphold."



◀ Amy Dolan Strano, L'92 and the Achieva Family Trust

"The nonprofit that I lead, Achieva, continued to operate to serve the beneficiaries of the special needs trusts that we administer," says Amy Dolan Strano, Senior Vice President of Achieva and President of Achieva Family Trust. "Because of the social service support that we provide to people with disabilities, we are considered to be a life-sustaining business. A core group of us continued to come into the office on a daily basis to make sure that the services that our beneficiaries rely on continue to be available."



◀ Adversaries Bond in Service

Paul Isaac, L'86 and Mike Laffey, L'85 are congenial "adversaries" in their subrogation/lien collections practices. While discussing settling a case in April, Isaac realized Laffey was on the road during the call.

"Where are you headed?" asked Isaac. Laffey explained that he was taking his 40-foot motor home to New Jersey to allow a health care worker infected with COVID-19 to reside in it in her driveway, with her family, so that her family would not become infected. "Heck of a nice guy," said Isaac.



◀ Professors Make a Difference in Life of Local Family

When Professor Wesley Oliver his wife, Kathleen Oliver, and Associate Professor Joseph Sabino Mistick, L'79 put their minds and connections together, the Ossos, a local Syrian refugee family, found relief. The professors worked with Hello Neighbor, whose mission is to support recently resettled refugees in Pittsburgh.



◀ Law Student Gives Back

Many Americans go above and beyond to make a difference during this time of uncertainty. Robert Fitzgerald, 3D is one of them. During the early days of the pandemic, Fitzgerald suspended his schoolwork to serve our country, right here in the greater Pittsburgh area. Serving in the Army National Guard, he was tasked with numerous duties helping the community during this pandemic, including staffing the Greater Pittsburgh Area Food Bank to provide essential nutrients to individuals and families in need.



◀ Student Receives President's Award for Recognizing Civil and Caring Conduct

2L Brianna Schmid was one of 20 students named by President Ken Gormley for the President's Awards for Recognizing Civil and Caring Conduct. The pop-up contest was designed for students and held in conjunction with Gormley's annual series that focuses on civil discourse. Students received \$200 prizes for creative video submissions that reflected the amazing things Duquesne University students saw or did during the current COVID-19 health crisis. Schmid's video featured a community car parade she helped organize for her grandmother's birthday.

Clinical Legal Education and Remote Client Representation

In addition to making the transition to remote learning for students, the Clinical Legal Education Program moved to a remote client representation model. Over the summer, clinical faculty spent hours developing these representation models working with students, clients, and the courts or other service partners. The result is a successful deployment of remote services starting in the fall semester. Students are meeting with clients remotely, appearing in courts via video conferencing and working with community partners to continue their experiential learning while serving the community.

For example, by working with the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Family Division, the Family Law Clinic is receiving direct referrals from the court. The Family Law Clinic and the court have developed a process to assure that client pleadings and cases are seamlessly forwarded through the process. This helps pro se litigants navigate the new reality of remote court proceedings in family court while receiving assistance from a student attorney to navigate the difficulties of family law. ■



School of Law's Promise Statement on Race and Justice


The Duquesne University School of Law faculty stands united against the affliction of racial injustice. Racial oppression, which is fueled by an enormous assist from poverty, constitutes a threat to human dignity and justice. It must be met head on, with the full force of all of our voices, talents and skills. The time is now. Our resolve must be unshakable.

As part of a Catholic and Spiritan University, our Law School's mission since 1911 has been built upon a pursuit of justice that advances the values of human dignity and mutual respect. As faculty, we vow to vastly intensify our commitment to engage with and support the efforts of families, community groups, the legal system, interdisciplinary researchers, law enforcement, clinicians, students, teachers, faith-based groups and policymakers to eradicate racism wherever it lurks. We will work to combat racist stereotyping and counteract explicit and implicit bias within the criminal justice system.

With words and actions, we will teach our students that kindness and respect for human dignity is an undeniable precondition for a peaceful and just world. We commit to articulating specific initiatives in the form of open and honest forums and increased learning opportunities for our entire community.

Together, we shall energize our minds, hearts and spirits to overcome the affliction of discrimination and racial inequality. The road to racial justice is a complex and difficult journey and requires strength, compassion, equanimity and grace. This is a journey that begins individually with each and every one of us. As we undertake this effort toward peace and justice, we are guided by the universal gifts of faith and hope. Along this path of action and reconciliation, we are reminded that the greatest lesson of all is love.

Our Dean's Diversity Action Council is committed to continued action and we are working on additional action steps we intend to communicate in the weeks and months to come. ■



With words and actions, we will teach our students that kindness and respect for human dignity is an undeniable precondition for a peaceful and just world.



PART I
A Rich Legacy of
Diversity

Alumni profiles compiled by Madison L. Miranda, 3D



► Phoebe A. Haddon, L'77

As a fourth-generation lawyer, Phoebe A. Haddon always wanted to be a lawyer but knew she never wanted to practice. As most of her family was made up of lawyers and a social worker, she was always in tune with constitutional issues happening throughout the country. This experience enabled her to address the issues she felt so passionate about. This passion allowed her to accomplish her long-term goal of becoming a leader of a university. She became chancellor of Rutgers University-Camden.

While at Duquesne Law, she had several professors that left an imprint on her future legal career. However, she truly loved constitutional law. Her professor at that time spoke to her about teaching law, which guided her on her path toward academia. She also was the editor in chief of the *Duquesne Law Review*, where she wrote her published note on the subject of constitutional law. During this time, women were not often given this type of leadership position, so it was truly quite an accomplishment. However, this experience allowed her to build friendships with people she may never have been friends with.

Haddon says the rigor of the classroom experiences at Duquesne Law and the opportunities the faculty offered enabled her to have great work opportunities. Because of these opportunities, she was able to obtain positions as a law clerk and

summer associate at an international law firm during her time at Duquesne Law. She cannot emphasize enough the importance of networking. It is critically important to interact with others in a way that they can imagine themselves in that position.

Haddon became a law professor and did not necessarily want to be a dean of a law school, but her goal was to become the president of a university. While trying to accomplish this goal, she acknowledges many people did not imagine a woman as president of a university. She would often make it to the second or third round of interviews before being rejected for the job. She took the advice of interviewers and used it in continuing her goal to become president.

Because of her experiences, she reiterates the importance of giving others opportunities and allowing them to see themselves in positions in which they may not feel “worthy” enough to obtain. While she was the dean of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, she obtained the largest grant the school has ever received. She did this through networking and gaining invaluable connections. She cannot stress enough the importance of helping others. Without the help of others, she would not have accomplished this highlight in her career.

For many years people did not see women in leadership positions, thus Haddon has tried to make opportunities for women, people of color, and first-generation lawyers. She does this through having events to show them it is possible to obtain leadership positions. She often quotes Martin Luther King, Jr. in her discussions, saying, “Justice bends wide, but it always leads to justice. You cannot define the width of the arc until you are looking back. Therefore, if you work hard you will achieve your goals.”

► Because of her experiences, she reiterates the importance of giving others opportunities and allowing them to see themselves in positions in which they may not feel “worthy” enough to obtain.



► **Tynishia Powell, L'16**

After discovering the collegial and studious environment Duquesne's campus had to offer, Tynishia Powell knew Duquesne Law would be a comfortable fit for her. So much so she became president of the Black Law Students Association here at Duquesne Law, as well as a member of Arbitration Moot Court and the Indigenous Law Society. She credits her professors in helping her hone her legal writing and other practical skills so that she felt very prepared to hit the ground running upon graduation.

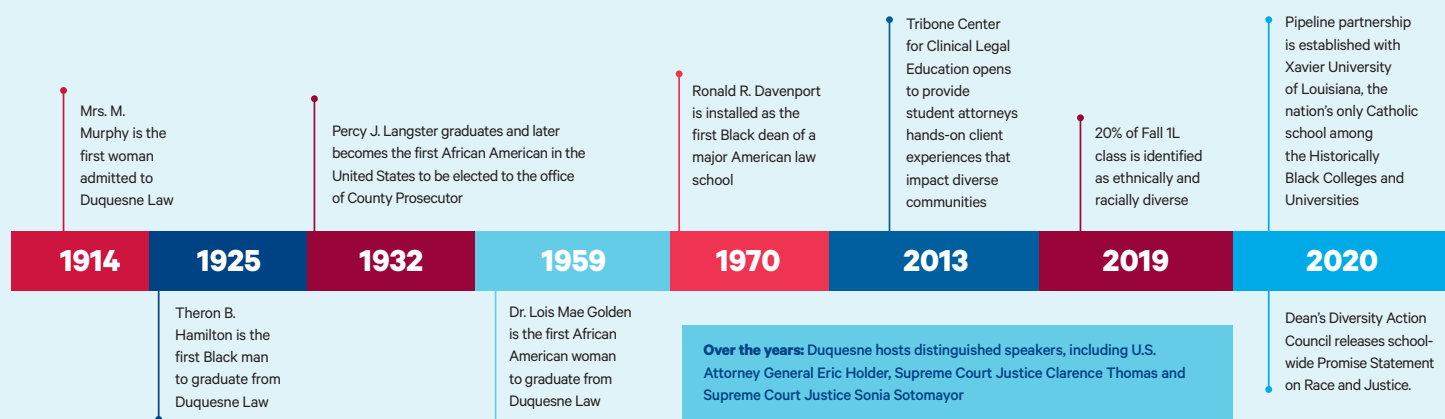
Since graduation from Duquesne Law, Powell has worked at numerous

places, but she just began a new position at Arconic as associate counsel. This change came after a long tenure as a senior associate counsel and compliance manager with the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh. Powell is the recipient of the 2019 Allegheny County Bar Association's Homer S. Brown Young Leaders Award and just finished working on the Lower Hill Development for the URA, a very historic development for the city.

Being a woman of color in the legal community has presented many obstacles for Powell. She says there is an "inherent anxiety" in being a diverse member of a mostly homogenous legal community. Her advice is to continue working on networking skills and building genuine relationships with diverse and non-diverse attorneys. She also notes studying the law from a diverse perspective can be very disheartening at times, but there's hope for the future when diverse attorneys join the field. Duquesne Law's diverse alumni are a valuable resource and support system during law school and after graduation.

► Being a woman of color in the legal community has presented many obstacles for Powell. She says there is an "inherent anxiety" in being a diverse member of a mostly homogenous legal community.

A longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.



► Cottle has dealt with many obstacles. These obstacles range from general perceived stereotypes to having his talents and skills likely overlooked. While he was always conscious of those stereotypes, he was never self-conscious about them.



► **Eric R.I. Cottle, L'96**

Duquesne Law was the perfect choice for Eric Cottle when he relocated from Los Angeles to Pittsburgh. He needed to find an evening legal education program that would allow him to continue to work so he could provide for his wife and two young daughters. Luckily, Duquesne Law's evening program provided Cottle with the ability to continue working full time, as well as providing a quality legal education. While at Duquesne Law, Cottle was also involved in the Black Law Students Association and the Appellate Moot Court Board and Team.

Cottle has stated Duquesne Law was integral in beginning his career in law. The Law School offered networking opportunities, which helped develop meaningful relationships with Duquesne alumni who were in private practice and members of the judiciary, as well as other practitioners who provided valuable insight into the legal practice. Even to this day, former Dean Maureen Lally-Green, one of his favorite professors, remains a close friend and mentor. Relationships made at Duquesne Law are not only invaluable but can last a lifetime.

After Duquesne Law, Cottle went on to work at Meyer Darragh and made partner in five short years. Following his tenure at

Meyer Darragh, he continued his practice as a trial attorney at K&L Gates, LLP. He has furthered his career at K&L Gates, becoming a litigation partner in the firm's Pittsburgh and New York offices. He represents clients across the country in multiple jurisdictions and in high volume and high-stakes litigation. One of the highlights of his career was when he was first chair and lead trial attorney in a high-profile and high-stakes trial, on a team that obtained a major defense verdict for global industrial manufacturer of commercial equipment after a three-week consolidated trial in a wrongful death suit.

Despite these accomplishments, as a diverse attorney, Cottle has dealt with many obstacles. These obstacles range from general perceived stereotypes to having his talents and skills likely overlooked. While he was always conscious of those stereotypes, he was never self-conscious about them. He makes it a point to always stay prepared and competent, treat people with respect and learn to be measured in responses to adverse situations. He believes it is always important to maintain a positive and strong professional reputation and provide excellent service to clients and partners.

Cottle believes that a law degree is one of the most versatile and rewarding degrees obtainable. He emphasizes that the legal community needs diverse lawyers. To promote the advancement of diverse lawyers, Cottle became a board member and secretary of Pittsburgh Legal Diversity & Inclusion Coalition, board member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association in New York City, and executive committee member of the National Black Lawyers Top 100.



► **Nicole D. Prieto, L'18**

As a recent graduate, Nicole Prieto stays involved with Duquesne University School of Law's community. During her time at Duquesne Law she participated in the Unemployment Compensation Clinic, which so happened to be her favorite practical and classroom experience. She felt working with clients firsthand and collaborating on how to better address their issues really gave them good insight on real world practice. She also edited for the *Duquesne Law Review* and served on the executive boards of BLSA and DIPLA. Moreover, Prieto points to Duquesne's strong emphasis on legal research and writing for preparing her to succeed in her legal career. Research and writing are foundational to what so many attorneys do, thus being given the tools to do it well is extremely important.

► Advice Prieto gives to individuals interested in a legal career is to always ask questions about something you do not understand or are curious about, because you may be surprised by what appeals to you.

While at Duquesne Law, Prieto built herself a large network. This was something she deemed important coming from a different state and having no personal connections prior to law school in Pennsylvania. Due to the relationships she had built, she applied to Reed Smith through the 1L Leadership Council of Legal Diversity (LCLD) Scholars Program. This allowed Prieto to work full time at a firm committed to supporting its diverse attorneys and staff. Her time as a summer associate at Reed Smith inevitably led to her being offered an associate position at the firm, where she still works. She gives back to Duquesne Law by volunteering her time as a mentor for the LCLD mentoring program. Thus far she has had the opportunity to mentor two remarkable Duquesne students during their 1L years. She hopes to continue participating as a mentor to law students within the area in the future. She believes the best way to give back is to always "pay it forward."

Advice she gives to individuals interested in a legal career is to always ask questions about something you do not understand or are curious about, because you may be surprised by what appeals to you. As for individuals considering Duquesne Law, she advises them to go somewhere that feels like home. That is how she made her choice on Duquesne Law: It felt like home.



► **Bryan C. Brantley, L'04**

From being a Duquesne Law graduate to a McGuireWoods' "lifer," Bryan Brantley has continued advocating for having more diverse attorneys in the legal arena. During his time at Duquesne Law, Brantley formed lifelong bonds, involved himself in Trial Moot Court, and was an active member in the Black Law Students Association. His time at Duquesne Law prepared him for his legal career by providing a practical approach to engaging in the actual practice of law. Since Duquesne Law, he has become a major partner at international law firm McGuireWoods, LLP.

As a diverse attorney, Brantley faced the specific obstacle of inclusion. He places an emphasis on people focusing so much on defining diverse characteristics that the focus of inclusion is lost. For diverse attorneys it can often be hard to find one's place, particularly in a big law firm. Brantley notes "performing at a high level in isolation is not sustainable." Thus, in order to counter that, Brantley had to broaden his network both inside and outside of his firm and city. He did this by reaching out and locating others who were experiencing similar feelings of isolation due to lack of inclusion. It is always important in one's journey as a diverse attorney to find community in others, and that is why Brantley

► It is always important in one's journey as a diverse attorney to find community in others, and that is why Brantley has formed a large network of lawyers around the country who check in on him regularly.

has formed a large network of lawyers around the country who check in on him regularly.

In his attempt to help diversify the legal community, Brantley serves on McGuireWoods' Diversity and Inclusion committee and commits time to speaking to lawyers of color around the country. In a recent panel he was on, a co-panelist said something as simple as three very calming words: "You are enough." Brantley reflected on those three words and believes "sometimes we find ourselves wondering if we are doing a good job, or if we are cut out to practice law." He reminds us: You are enough. ■

Law School Presents New Series on Race, Poverty and Democracy

As part of a Catholic and Spiritan University founded in 1878, our Law School's mission since our very inception in 1911 has been (and steadfastly remains) built upon a pursuit of justice that advances the values of human dignity and mutual respect. As a law school, we are uniquely positioned to foster inclusive excellence and we are obligated to be powerful agents of change in our community.

To that end, Duquesne Law presented a series of events and CLEs devoted to the subjects of race, poverty and democracy this fall. We worked with our faculty, alumni and community to present programming that highlighted the deleterious effects of racism and discrimination, and examined how democratic institutions have historically perpetuated, and can be used to combat, racial injustice. Our goal is to educate, lead positive change and serve as active participants against racial injustice.

FALL 2020 CLE EVENTS INCLUDED:

► **Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020**

Historical Overview of Race and Voting in the United States
Presented by Professor Wilson Huhn

► **Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020**

Discrimination and Voting Rights in America
Presented by Associate Professor of Law Jalila Jefferson-Bullock

► **Friday, Nov. 6, 2020**

Hate in America: Anti-Semitism, Misogyny and Racism
Presented by Associate Professor Rona Kaufman

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

▶ A Lifetime of Mission and Service

Professor Emeritus Frank Liu retires after 40 years of teaching and excellence

The past 40 years of Frank Yining Liu’s professional career have been at Duquesne Law, a blessing to the School of Law and a blessing to him.

“It is providential that God led me to Duquesne University, whose mission—Serving God by Serving Students—is in full union with mine,” said Liu. “These have been the most blessed 40 years of my life. I pray each day that God’s spirit will guide me to try my best to be His servant, to follow His will, to do what He wants me to do and to be like Jesus, and to treat everyone else as Jesus.”

Liu, who served as associate dean for legal programs and director of the Duquesne Center for Legal Information (DCLI) and the Allegheny County Law Library (ACLL), retired on July 31. He has agreed to continue as a managing consultant until the end of the calendar year to oversee the leadership transition for both. On Aug. 1, President Ken Gormley named Liu professor emeritus.

In addition to teaching and leading the DCLI and ACLL, Liu oversaw the School of Law’s Paralegal Institute. He developed the faculty exchange program between Duquesne University School of Law and the China University of Political Science and Law, and he co-founded the first ABA-approved Duquesne-CUPL summer Chinese Law program in Beijing. Liu also helped to establish Duquesne’s LL.M. for Foreign Lawyers program. He is an honorary professor of China University of Political Science and Law and the Beijing Jiaotong University, two leading universities in China.

“By establishing the Duquesne Law Summer Study of Chinese Law Program in 1995, Duquesne Law students and faculty have been given the opportunity to see the world and the world has been invited to come to Duquesne Law,” noted Liu. “The program, the first such program in China approved by the ABA, was a catalyst to help transform Duquesne Law from a regional American law school into a global legal educational institution. The Law School was then able to establish similarly structured summer study abroad programs in Ireland and Germany.”

Liu’s service to Duquesne University and national and international organizations is exemplary, as evidenced by his numerous honors. Noteworthy are the 2016 American Association of Law Libraries’ Hall of Fame Award and the



Frank Liu and his daughter, Sabrina

Roy M. Mersky Spirit of Law Librarianship award. He also is a recipient of the Duquesne University President’s Award for Excellence in Community Service. The Pittsburgh City Council proclaimed April 23, 2002 as Professor Frank Yining Liu Day to recognize his contributions in promoting mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the People’s Republic of China.

On Sept. 17, Liu received the President’s Award for Excellence in Service to the Mission at the annual Duquesne University Faculty Awards ceremony.

Liu, an immigrant from China, came to the United States on June 20, 1966 as a foreign graduate law student on a fellowship from an American law school. Two events deeply moved him about the true nature of American democracy and citizenship: While he was the national president of the Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc. (OCA), a civil rights organization for Chinese/Asian Americans, he met President George H.W. Bush in the White House on July 26, 1989, to discuss Asian-American issues. In fall 1989, he testified to Congress in support of the 1990 Hate Crime Statistics Act. He credits Duquesne with providing him with these experiences.

“I am a tenured professor of law and an associate dean of the finest Catholic law school in the country; in the AALL Hall of Fame; and have met with the president of the United States—all proving that the American dream is true,” he said. “Duquesne University has made it possible.” ■

Steven Baicker-McKee, Joseph A. Katarincic Chair of Legal Process and Civil Procedure and Associate Professor of Law, publications:

- *A Student's Guide to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* (with William Janssen). 2020-21 edition, West Academic Press (2020)
- *The Federal Litigator* (with David Herr). Thompson Reuters (monthly, 2020)



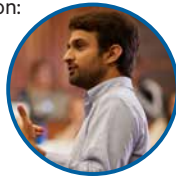
April Mara Barton, Dean and Professor of Law, presentations:

- *2020 Vision for Leadership Conference*, Baylor Law (September 2020)
- SEALS Annual Conference, *Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy and Standard Development in Post-COVID World* (July 2020)
- *Reducing Stress and Avoiding Mistakes in the Post-COVID Era*, Continuing Legal Education, American Bar Association (June 2020)
- *Leadership for Lawyers: Defining Leadership & Core Values, Navigating Conflict and Crisis*, Continuing Legal Education, Duquesne University School of Law (February 2020)
- AALS Annual Conference, *Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy; Best Practices and Standards Development* (January 2020)



Pablo Echeverri, Assistant Professor of Law, publication:

- *The Last Grand Inquisitor*, 88 UMKC L. Rev. 575 (2020)



Jalila Jefferson-Bullock, Associate Professor of Law, was appointed Visiting Associate Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh this academic year.

Publication, presentations and media:

- *Let My People Go: A Call for the Swift Release of Elderly Prisoners in the Wake of COVID-19*, 32 FEDERAL SENTENCING REPORTER 286 (June 2020) (guest editor)
- *Addressing Race and Social Justice*, AALS Section on Aging and the Law, virtual, September 2020
- *Defending and Promoting Civil Rights in a Time of Coronavirus*, University of Miami School of Law, virtual, September 2020
- *Constitution Day*, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, virtual, September 2020 (Invited Speaker)
- *Implicit Bias*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute Annual Criminal Law Symposium, virtual, September 2020 (Invited Speaker)
- *Black Lives, Systemic Racism, and the Academy*, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, virtual, August 2020
- WPXI NBC News (Pittsburgh, PA), *Commemorating the 55th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act*, Aug. 6, 2020
- CNN Politics, Kelly Mena and Janie Boschma, *55 Years after the Voting Rights Act was Signed into Law, Advocates Continue to Fight to Close Registration Gap*, Aug. 6, 2020
- PITTSBURGH CURRENT, Jody DiPerna, *Nothing New: Attempts at Much-Needed Police Reform in Pa. Pre-date George Floyd's Death*, June 16, 2020



Emile Loza de Siles, Assistant Professor of Law, received a Presidential Scholarship Award grant for the summer of 2020. She was also selected as the Inaugural Faculty awardee for the Racial Equity Grant of Duquesne University's Center for Community-Engaged Teaching & Research for her project, *Algorithmically Unjust Housing in Allegheny County: Systematized Racism in Housing Artificial Intelligence Systems & Empowering Future Lawyers to Dismantle It*. Publication and presentations:

- *AI, on the Law of the Elephant: Toward Understanding Artificial Intelligence*. 69 Buff. L. Rev. — (2021)
- *Feminism and Corporate Law: Reforming Corporate Governance Roundtable*. Invited Commentator on Professor Darren Rosenblum's "The Political Economy of Corporate Governance: Neutral Rules, Male Capture." Association of American Law Schools, Section on Socioeconomics and JOURNAL OF LAW AND INEQUALITY, University of Minnesota Law School (July 24, 2020)
- *Effective Use of Research Assistants*. Invited Panel: Faculty Focus Series, Association of American Law Schools (July 14, 2020)



Bruce Ledewitz, Professor of Law, was installed in the Adrian Van Kaam Endowed Chair in Scholarly Excellence. Publications and presentation:



- *Saving Judicial Independence from the Nihilism of Court-Packing*, 12 *Elon L. Rev.* 317 (2020)
- Bi-weekly Contributor, *Pennsylvania Capital-Star* commentary page
- *Recent Developments in Pennsylvania Constitutional Law*. Continuing Legal Education, Duquesne University School of Law (Oct. 24, 2020)

- *Neuroimaging Evidence in the United States, in Law and Mind: At the Intersection of Law and the Cognitive Sciences* (eds. Bartosz Brozek, Francis Shen, Nicole Vincent and Jaap Hage, Cambridge University Press, 2020)
- *The Inaugural Carl G. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology, and Law Symposium: “Disinformation, Misinformation and Technology: New Ethical Challenges and Solutions”* October 2020
- The Unavailability Workshop (for Evidence Professors): “*Neuroscience Evidence: From Here to Reliability,*” August 2020

Jan M. Levine, Director of Legal Research and Writing, and Professor of Law, publication:



- *Guest Blog: Legal Citation and Pop Culture* (available at <https://teachlawbetter.com/2020/06/30/legal-citation-and-pop-culture/>).

Katherine Norton, Director of Clinical and International Programs and Assistant Professor of Law, publication:



- *Mind the Gap: Technology as a Lifeline for Pro Se Child Custody Appeals*, 58 *Duq. L. Rev.* 82 (2020)

Jane Campbell Moriarty, Carol Los Mansmann Chair in Faculty Scholarship and Professor of Law, publications and presentations:



- John M. Conley and Jane Campbell Moriarty, *Scientific and Expert Evidence* (3rd ed. 2020) (Aspen/WoltersKluwer)

John T. Rago, Associate Professor of Law, has been appointed chair of the Center for Victims new board of directors.



Seth C. Oranburg, Assistant Professor of Law, received a Presidential Scholarship Award grant for the summer of 2020 to work on his monograph book project titled *Social Media Investing: The Third Era of Corporate Finance*. He was also appointed to the University Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee and the Institutional Review Board. Publications, presentations and media:



- *Distance Education in the Time of Coronavirus: Quick and Easy Strategies for Professors* (March 13, 2020). Duquesne University School of Law Research Paper No. 2020-02, translated into Hebrew as חינוך מרחוק בזמן קורונה: אסטרטגיות קלות ומהירות למרצים and reprinted by The Mofet Institute (2020)
- *How to Integrate New Corporate Directors Online* (with B. Kahn), *The Columbia Law School Blue Sky Blog*, Aug. 12, 2020
- Webinar: Цифровые инструменты для организации дистанционного обучения (Digital tools for organizing distance learning), via [FactCheck.kz/MediaNet.kz](https://factcheck.kz/medianet.kz), Almaty, Kazakhstan, September 2020
- *Experiential Learning and Doctrinal Classes*, SEALS Annual Meeting, August 2020
- *Social Media and Securities Regulation*, National Business Law Scholars Conference, June 2020

- *Presenting your Best Self Online*, Chicago Law, June 2020; *Shiff Hardin LLP*, May 2020
- *Sports Contracts versus the Coronavirus: Force Majeure Provisions in NBA, MLB, & NFL Sports Contracts*, Duquesne University School of Law, April 2020
- Meghan McCarty Carino, *From Vacant Building to a Community of Black Women Homeowners*, Marketplace Podcast, Aug. 11, 2020

A portrait of Marissa Meredith, a Black woman with long, wavy dark hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a blue top and a dark blazer. A gold anchor necklace is visible. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage. A red triangle graphic is positioned at the top center of the page, overlapping the top of the portrait and the top of the blue text area.

DUQUESNE LAW WELCOMES NEW LRW PROFESSOR

Assistant Professor **Marissa Meredith** has always valued education as a means to success.

“As an individual whose mother was a teacher, education is something I have always been passionate about,” says Meredith. Her passion for educating is one of the reasons she came to Duquesne University. “I chose Duquesne Law because the mission of the school—‘Serving God by Serving Students’—resonates with me.”

Meredith, who teaches legal research and writing, is originally from Richmond, Va. She received her Bachelor of Arts in government from the College of William and Mary and her J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law. After earning her law degree, she remained in North Carolina and began practicing criminal defense, business law, and estate planning and administration.

Prior to joining Duquesne Law this academic year, Meredith served as a Legal Method & Communications Fellow at Elon University School of Law. While at Elon, she also taught Street Law, a program that allows law students to teach area high school students relevant aspects of the law in order to foster an interest in the legal system and promote positive interactions with law enforcement.

How is she coping with teaching in a pandemic? While COVID-19 has given her an opportunity to be more creative in her teaching methods, she has “found different ways to focus my energy, such as participating in outdoor activities like hiking and kayaking, experimenting with cooking, and maintaining connections with friends and family” she explains. “Although the limitations that the pandemic has placed on us can be daunting, I will remain positive and hopeful throughout the situation.”

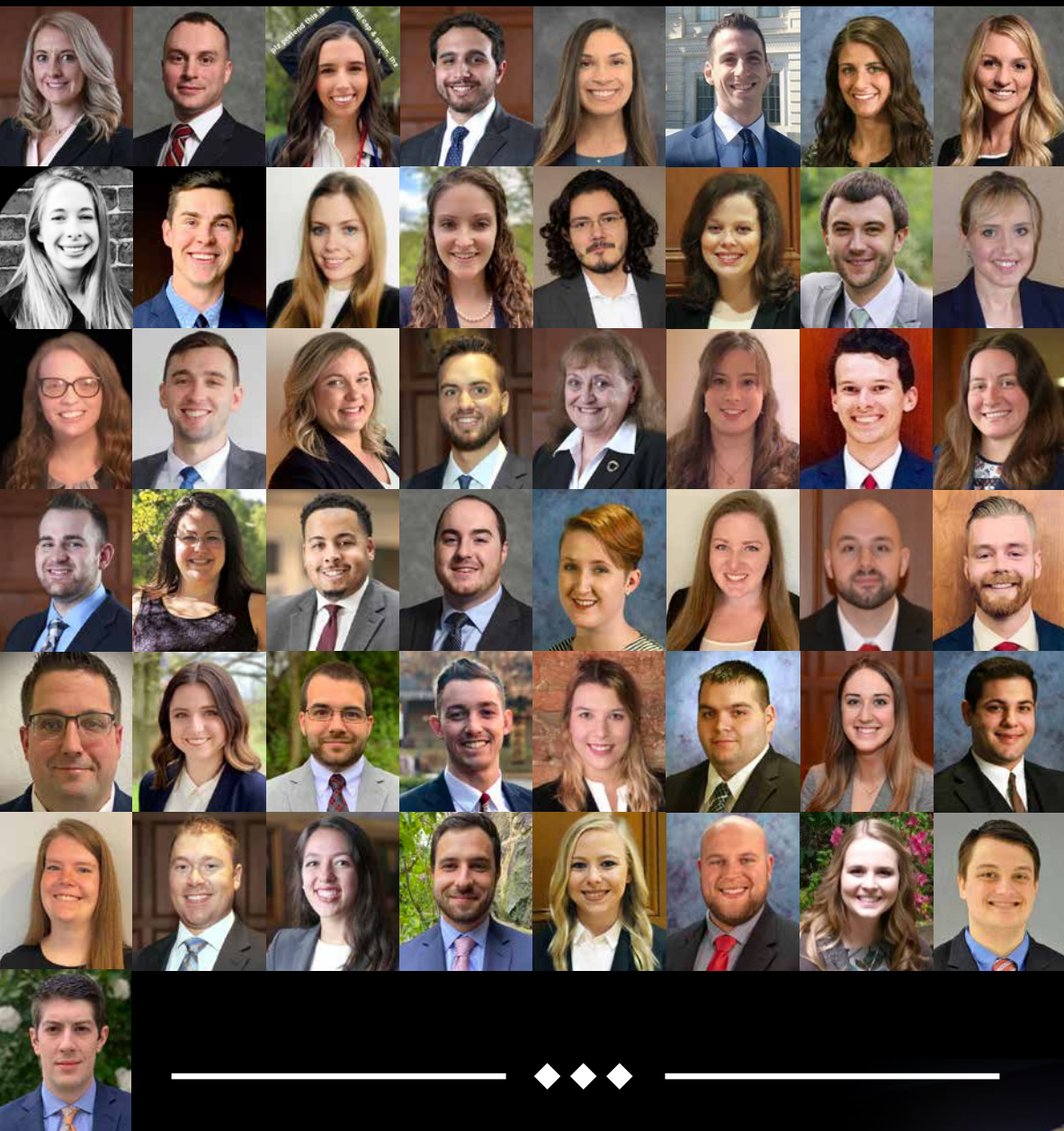
Meredith is also optimistic about the upcoming academic year and beyond. “Duquesne Law has given me an opportunity to not only grow as an educator, but to also continue to impart wisdom to future attorneys.” ■

Day Division



Part-Time/Evening





◆◆◆

Congratulations
Class of
2020

◆◆◆





Catrina A. (Rogers) Melograna, L'11

Young Alumni

PROFILE

Catrina A. (Rogers) Melograna, L'11

Home:

Currently Leiden, Netherlands

Undergrad:

Louisiana State University

Favorite book:

Brief Answers to the Big Questions by Stephen Hawking

What you are currently reading?

Accessory to War: The Unspoken Alliance Between Astrophysics and the Military by Neil deGrasse Tyson and Avis Lang

Words you live by:

Stay curious and boldly go!

What people might be surprised to know about me:

I paint watercolor portraits of dogs.

What I'm currently working on:

I am a student at Leiden University's Air and Space Law Advanced LL.M. program which is part of the International Institute of Air and Space Law. I am a prospective member of the International Institute of Space Law, and I am currently in the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs' (UNOOSA) Space4Women mentorship program. I am also the course manager for International Space University's (ISU) Executive Space Course for the Americas, a short program that connects people in diverse fields with the space industry. I am also a co-founder of a cis-lunar services company called Moonscape, and I co-own a creative communications firm, Block by Block Creative, with my husband Jordan Melograna.

When did you become interested in the space industry?

I have been interested in space and astronomy since I was a kid, but it was rekindled several years ago while experimenting with night sky photography and learning about astronomy on Mauna Kea in Hawaii. I knew then I was going to make space a part of my life and career. I attended ISU's Executive Space Course in Seattle (where I usually live) and learned that space is for everyone, including lawyers!

Describe your experience in the International Space University's Space Studies Program (SSP).

SSP is an intensive nine-week program set in a different city every summer, and was in Strasbourg, France when I attended last year. I learned all things space—engineering, applications, human performance, humanities, business, law and policy, and space sciences. I studied with over 120 students from over 30 different countries and a multitude of educational and professional backgrounds, so I had an incredibly culturally



Accepting the Morla Milne Award for highest academic achievement in the International Space University Space Studies Program in Strasbourg, France, August 2019, with Juan de Dalmau, ISU president (left), and Dr. Omar Hatamleh, SSP'19 executive director and NASA chief innovation officer (right).

rich experience. I now have space friends around the world. I argued in a space moot court and was on a team project sponsored by NASA and chaired by NASA Ames Research Center's Chief Scientist. We researched and wrote a report on satellite swarms and designed a NASA heliophysics mission. I also earned the Morla Milne Award for highest academic achievement in the program.

Tell us about Moonscape.

Moonscape is a company I am helping develop with several friends from the SSP. It is a lunar services company, providing communication relay and cutting-edge imaging while delivering payloads to the moon's surface and orbit. Our mission statement is: To provide affordable, low-risk and sustainable services for the cis-lunar industry.

How has your legal education at Duquesne affected your career?

Duquesne provided me with a diverse legal education. I specifically enjoyed the Law and Philosophy class where we discussed space and physics. It was the first time I studied the link between law, ethics, science and space.

How would you describe the value of a Duquesne University School of Law education?

For me, the value is in the professors and faculty. The support and guidance that I received, and still receive, is invaluable. You can learn law in many places, but the people and relationships are what shape your career and future. ■

ClassActions

Stay connected with Duquesne Law!
Update your email at duq.edu/lawalumniupdate or by emailing
the Law Alumni office at lawalumni@duq.edu.

1972

Hon. Eugene F. Scanlon, Jr. has been named a member of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

1978

Charles A. Lennox is now Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary at Corning Natural Gas Holding Corporation.

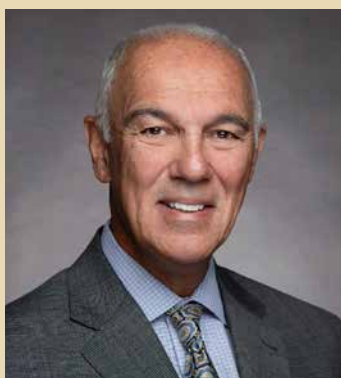
James Norris joined Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky as of counsel.

1979

James R. Antoniono became treasurer of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Howard Schulberg is now a partner at Swartz Campbell.

1980



Jerry Fedele has joined Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC as Of Counsel to its health care section in the firm's Fort Lauderdale, Fla. office. Fedele previously served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Boca Raton Regional Hospital in Florida and President and CEO of West Penn Allegheny Health System.

1983

Manning J. "Jim" O'Connor, II has been appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to serve on the CLE Board.

1986

Hon. Denise Hinds-Roach, previously a family court judge in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, has been appointed as a United States Immigration Judge.

Edward J. Rice has joined Steptoe & Johnson PLLC.

1987

Paul A. Lagnese is the 53rd President of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice.

1991

Timothy M. Hazel is now partner at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP.

1993

Thomas E. Crowley is now Senior Vice President at Aligned Partners Trust Company.

1996

Maj. Michele Forte is now labor & employment counsel with the Office of Counsel, Naval Sea Systems Command.

Nicola Henry-Taylor was appointed to the North Hills School Board anti-racism task force.

Douglas A. Williams

of Abes Baumann, was named to the workers' compensation panel of the Professional Hockey Players Association (PHPA).



1997

James J. Turocy is partner with the newly rebranded Vaughan Baio & Partners in Pittsburgh.



1998

Craig P. Zajac was named Senior Vice-President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary to the Board at Precisely.

2000

Scott Avolio is the new president of the Westmoreland Bar Association.

2002

Jill A. Fleming is now Global Compliance Manager at Elliott Group, Ebara Corp.

2003

Melissa R. Ruggiero was elected co-president of the Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania.

Ronald A. Sugar is employed as Chief Financial Officer at NSABP Foundation Inc.

2004

Joseph R. Falcon is the Chair of the Patent Legislation Committee of the American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law.

2007

Marie Batz Martin joined FlightSafety International as executive vice president and general counsel.

Jimmi Sue Smith, formerly EQT's CFO, is now vice president of finance and treasurer at Koppers Holdings, Inc.

2008

Erin E. McCurdy is now Global Privacy Officer and Associate General Counsel at Ansys.

Stephanie Solomon is now a partner at HKM Employment Attorneys LLP.

2009

Brock McCandless was elected Member at Cozen O'Connor.

James Paulick joined Leech Tishman as counsel.

Tiffany M. Shrenk is now a partner at the Law Offices of MacElree Harvey, Ltd.

Joseph R. Williams was named President-Elect of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

2011

Brittany Fox is the recipient of this year's Presidents Award by the Women's Energy Network of Greater Pittsburgh (WEN).

Yvette Hershey joined R. Reese & Associates as Of Counsel.

Michael J. Joyce is now a partner at Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr.

David E. Renner is now Principal at Post & Schell, P.C. in the Employment & Employee Relations and Wage and Hour Practice Groups.

2012

Clarissa Chenoweth-Shook has been appointed by Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. to the board of directors of the Delaware Bar Foundation.

Brendan J. McKenna is an Assistant United States Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice in Pittsburgh.



Elizabeth A. Parker has joined Frank, Gale, Bails, Murcko & Pocrass, P.C. as associate attorney. Parker is co-author of the *Pennsylvania Family Law Citator* (11th and 12th Editions). She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Legal Services Association.

2013

Jessica (Ebert) Ellis and her husband, Brendan, welcomed son Leland on May 18.



Alissa A. Jordan is now Director of Compliance/Compliance Officer at Salem Regional Medical Center.

Albert Varacallo, III is the new board president of Free Medical Clinic of Dubois.

2015

Amanda (Knorr) Betts and **Brandon Betts** welcomed son Bennett on April 28.



Nicholas Frost has been hired as a staff attorney at Myler Disability.

Annemarie Harr and her husband, Shawn Eagle, welcomed son Miles Bruce on Sept. 8.



Asra Hashmi is Chair-Elect of the Young Lawyers Division of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

2016

Rebecca Canterbury has been promoted to the position of partner at Spivak Law Firm.

Robert Dobkin was appointed the new chairman of The Youth Services System Inc. Board of Directors.



Alexandria M. Popovnak was named to this year's *Pittsburgh Business Times* 30 Under 30 Honor Roll.



2017

Keanna A. Seabrooks was elected secretary of the Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania.

Anthony Vannelli was named to this year's *Pittsburgh Business Times* 30 Under 30 Honor Roll.



2018

Rachel (Blistan) Beckman married Anthony Beckman on Feb. 29, 2020, with a ceremony at Phipps Conservatory and a reception at Duquesne University's Charles J. Dougherty Ballroom.



Anthony Gestrich is now an associate attorney at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston.

2019

Jackie (Robel) Woodward and her husband, Camden, welcomed son Timothy Graham on Aug. 31.



2020

Derrick Maultsby was named to this year's *Pittsburgh Business Times* 30 Under 30 Honor Roll.



In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we list the following School of Law alumni who passed away:

Donald A. Bailey	1976
Russell K. Broman	1985
John Burns	1983
Thomas J. Godlewski	1968
Elaine A. Herald	1975
Jeffrey A. Hulton	1987
Edward D. Klym	1979
C. David Lamberson	1973
Robert R. Leight	1981
Charles R. Lopresti	1988
Joseph Ludwig	1966
Warren Maratta	1985
Paul R. Marks	1974
Donald L. McKee	1990
Jon F. Nivus	1967
Samuel S. Pangburn	1970
Timothy W. Pawol	1974
Richard A. Pollard	1976
Thomas N. Silverman	1971
John W. Smart	1985
Edmond B. Smith	1966
Theodore Henry Watts	1970

The Hon. Fred C. Adams 1975
Adams, a World War II veteran, served as Judge of Fayette County Court of Common Pleas from 1975-1986. Prior to becoming a lawyer, he taught high school English and drivers education.

Gregory G. Garland, Jr. 1954
Garland served in the Navy during World War II. He founded Unionvale Coal Co., was chairman of the P&LE Railroad, Ranger Investments, and Greenville Metals, and owner of Youngstown Steel Tank.

Bernadine T. Meyer 1972
Meyer was a faculty member at Duquesne University, teaching during the day and attending law school at night. While at Duquesne, she taught accounting, and business law, and became the Associate Dean and Director, Graduate Program School of Business and Administration, before her retirement.

This list is provided through the Duquesne University Advancement Records Office and may not be complete. If you have information about an alumnus who passed away this past year and is not listed, please contact the Law Alumni Office at 412.396.5215 so that we may update our records.

DLAA President's Message

Dear fellow Duquesne Law alumni,

It is once again a privilege to serve as your president of the Duquesne Law Alumni Association (DLAA).

These are certainly extraordinary times. Our "normal" has drastically changed in the wake of COVID-19. Life as we know it is completely different; among other things, we have not been able to meet in person to celebrate our reunion years or DLAA award recipients at our annual reunion dinner. I know that many of you are facing hardships and uncertainty.

Our current students are also facing hardships and uncertainty during this time. They are learning in an atmosphere that none of us could imagine; one that requires them to engage with their professors and classmates virtually (at least part of the time). Many have seen job opportunities evaporate or become non-paying positions.

This year, I am asking you to **DU (Law) More** for our alma mater. I am asking you to support your Law Alumni Association by renewing your dues and/or contributing to the School of Law. As Duquesne Law alumni, we all celebrate in the continued success of our Law School. The School of Law has remained strong over the years with your help and support as a member of the Duquesne Law Alumni Association. A portion of your dues is tax-deductible as a donation to the School of Law.

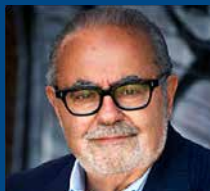
I thank you for your support. Be well!



Hon. Michael E. McCarthy, L'84
Join online at duq.edu/DLAA



Tina O. Miller, L'93



Joseph Mistick, L'79



Marla Presley, L'03

68th Law Alumni Reunion

While the pandemic may have cancelled our annual fall reunion dinner, it did not stop us from holding a virtual reunion on Oct. 22. That night was a time to celebrate and honor this year's Law Alumni Awards recipients: Tina O. Miller, L'93, Partner, Reisinger Comber & Miller, LLC, Distinguished Alumna Award; Joseph Sabino Mistick, L'79, Associate Professor of Law, Dr. John E. Murray, Jr. Meritorious Service Award; and Marla N. Presley, L'03, Office Managing Principal and Office Litigation Manager, Jackson Lewis, Outstanding Achievement Award.

We were also treated to a historic passing of the Duquesne Law Alumni Association president's gavel from immediate Past-President Melissa Ruefle Spencer, L'03 to President Hon. Michael E. McCarthy, L'84. Judge McCarthy accepted the gavel aboard the C-17 Globemaster III Civic Leader Flight, United States Air Force Reserve 911 Airlift Wing. The event was emceed by Shanicka L. Kennedy, L'01, Senior Attorney, Business Model and Employment Litigation Group, FedEx Ground and 2018 Outstanding Achievement Award recipient.

You can watch the video anytime <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yk2qrsGrRKg&t=366s>. We look forward to seeing you all in person next year! ■

JURIS Magazine

Fall 2020 Preview jurismagazine.com

 @jurisduqlaw

 Juris Magazine

Contact us at jurisduquesnelaw@gmail.com

■ **Impending Nationwide Housing Crisis in the Face of COVID-19** | *By Elizabeth Fitch, Feature Editor*



On Sept. 4, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ordered a temporary halt in residential evictions through the end of the year to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The agency order forbids landlords from evicting tenants due to nonpayment of rent, which could prevent millions of Americans from becoming homeless during a time of increasing unemployment rates and a virus that presents historic threats to public health. While this may come as a momentary sigh of relief for renters, an eviction moratorium is not a cure-all resolution to housing insecurity; it is simply postponing more tragedy. Nothing is safeguarding landlords from their own financial strains: mortgages, property taxes, utility bills, maintenance costs and insurance. If Congress does not step up to combat this impending housing crisis, the U.S. economy is going to be at an ever greater, unpredictably dangerous risk than the one we currently know.

■ **California Determined To Ban Gas-Powered Vehicle Sales By 2035** | *By David McPeak, Staff Writer*



California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a recent Executive Order which effectively bans the sale of gas-powered vehicles in that state by the year 2035. The Order bypasses the California Legislature and goes so far as to leverage the adverse economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as a rationale for the sweeping policy change. The plan likely hinges on a favorable outcome for the state in its dispute with the Trump administration in the D.C. Circuit over the revocation of its waiver to regulate vehicle emissions under the Clean Air Act. The administration argues that California's state-level emissions regulations are preempted by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, which gives the U.S. Department of Transportation the right to set national fuel economy standards. Experts say that California is likely expecting the issue to be mooted by a Biden win in the upcoming presidential election.

■ **A Wrongfully Accused Inmate Is Free After 24 Years - And Provides Hope For Many** | *By Matthew Naum, Staff Writer*



On July 16, 1996, in a Mississippi furniture store, four employees were fatally shot. Former employee Curtis Flowers, an African-American man, was arrested and charged for the murders. After twenty-four years and six trials, Curtis Flowers walked out of a Mississippi correctional facility a free man in early September. Across six criminal trials, two ended in mistrials, while Flowers was convicted in four of the trials, with all four convictions being overturned for racial discrimination in jury selection. Additionally, it took two discretionary reviews by the United States Supreme Court and the fourth and final conviction being overturned for the Mississippi Attorney General's Office to dismiss the charges against Flowers. Unfortunately, Flowers is among many wrongfully accused individuals subjected to racial discrimination in criminal procedure, specifically in jury selection. However, his story may act as a catalyst for major change in how the legal system tackles such discrimination.

■ **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Through the Lens of Duquesne University School of Law** | *By Margaret Potter, Feature Editor*



Photo courtesy of Unsplash.com

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, or the Notorious RBG as coined by those whom she inspired, represented so much to so many. She showed little girls that a woman’s place can be wherever she wants, that no dream is too big. She inspired law students to find passion in the law, even if it leads to a sleepless night or two. She showed a nation that discrimination on the basis of sex has no place in our democracy.

On Sept. 18, 2020, Justice Ginsburg passed away, leaving behind an insurmountable legacy. In this article, Justice Ginsburg’s legacy and passing will be discussed from the viewpoint of members of the Duquesne University School of Law community, as we remember her tenacity in the courtroom, as a fierce litigator and tenacious justice, and out of the court, as a person who lived a unique and illustrious life.

■ **The Pursuit of the Vote: Pennsylvania’s Role in the Women’s Suffrage Movement** | *By Rachel Pressdee, Staff Writer*



Photo courtesy of Unsplash.com

One hundred years ago women were granted the right to vote with the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Pennsylvania was an early embracer of women’s suffrage and was the seventh state to ratify the amendment. Many Pennsylvanians played a crucial role in the movement including Katherine Wentworth Ruschenberger, who cast a full-size replica of the Liberty Bell to be driven to campaign events throughout the state. The suffragists chained the clapper to one side, explaining that the “Justice Bell” would remain silent until women’s voices were no longer silenced. The Justice Bell rang for the first time on Sept. 25, 1920, on Independence Square in Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania women voted for the first time later that fall.

■ **Coronavirus Exposes Issues With The Bar Exam – Could Major Change Be On Its Way?** | *By Giulia Schaub, Editor-in-Chief*



Photo courtesy of Pixabay.com

Consistent with virtually all events planned in the year 2020, bar exams across the nation have been rescheduled, reformatted and revamped in order to adhere to COVID-19 pandemic safety restrictions. Only 16 states offered the July 2020 exam as originally planned, while other jurisdictions either offered alternative dates for examinees or completely rescheduled the exam date altogether. While some state bars are granting emergency diploma privilege to 2020 graduates, others have denied such requests, leaving many examinees unable to begin work in the interim.

With a global pandemic acting as a catalyst, many underlying issues with all bar exams have come to light, ranging from the longstanding racial disparity in passing rates to consistent failure in accommodating disable test takers. However, as frustrating this time is for test takers, many in the legal community believe these hardships will lead to major change in the future of the exam.

■ **Defund the Police: The Meaning Behind the Rally Cry** | *By Shreya Desai, Staff Writer*



Photo courtesy of Pixabay.com

“Defund the police.” Since approximately June of 2020, this cry has been heard around the United States of America. The slogan gained popularity following the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man who was killed in Minneapolis, Minn. while being arrested for the alleged use of counterfeit money. The use of the phrase by several Black Lives Matter activists and those from other similar movements has caused controversy throughout the nation. But what does it mean? The answer depends on whom you ask. In light of the recent spike in police-related deaths, some are calling for the complete disbandment of all law enforcement. However, to most, “defund the police” simply means reduce police budgets and divest the funding towards underlying societal issues, such as poverty, homelessness, education and health services. These changes could be life-changing for officers as well as the community.

STUDENT BRIEFS

SBA Updates

By Eil Connally, 3D
Vice-President, Student Bar Association

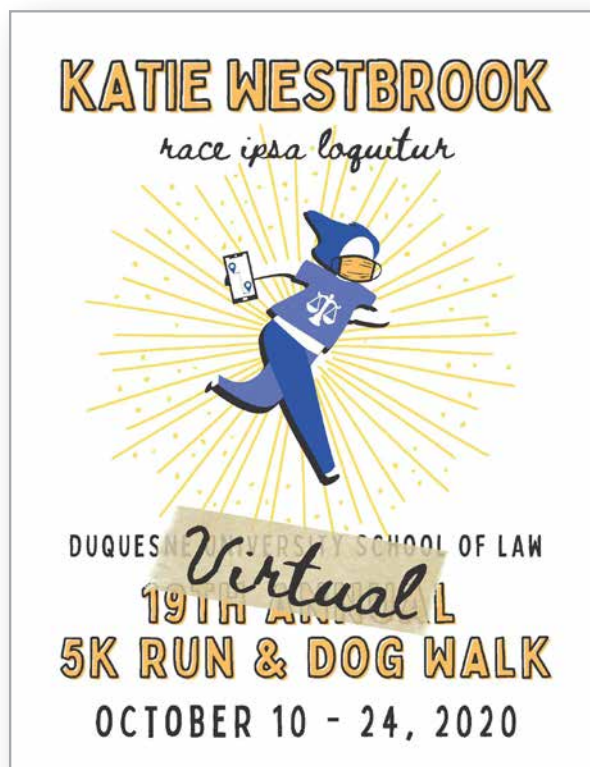
The Student Bar Association (SBA) has voted to create a new standing committee—the **Equity & Justice Committee (EJC)**. As per the committee bylaws, the EJC shall work toward the realization of an equitable community at Duquesne University School of Law.

IT SHALL BE DEDICATED TO OPPOSING INJUSTICES RELATED TO RACE, GENDER, SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RELIGION, COLOR, ETHNICITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, CLASS AND DISABILITY STATUS.

The EJC shall serve as a safe forum for students to voice concerns about injustices within the campus community, Pittsburgh, nationally and globally, and shall maintain an open-door policy for all student organizations and each member of the student body at Duquesne University School of Law.

The 19th annual Katie Westbrook 5K & Dog Walk was a success! Co-sponsored by SBA, Public Interest Law Association (PILA) and the Duquesne Law Alumni Association, this year's virtual race, held Oct. 10-24, along with our online auction, raised \$3,426 for PILA's Public Interest Summer Fellowship. Congratulations to our fastest "virtual" runners, third year day students Schuyler "Shoe" Smith and Abby Blixt.

A big thank-you to all of our 80 registered race participants and online auction bidders! Our students appreciate your support, even amidst the pandemic. ■



Shreya Desai, 3D, President of PILA, left, and Eil Connally announce the winners of the Katie Westbrook 5K.

JLSA Builds a Sukkah

The sukkah is constructed for Sukkot, the Jewish holiday that celebrates the harvest and commemorates the Israelites' wandering in the desert for 40 years after their liberation from slavery. Sukkahs approximate the temporary dwellings they lived in before they reached the Promised Land. The Jewish Law Students Association built the sukkah outside, between the Law School and the Student Union.

In 2019, Duquesne University School of Law sponsored a new sukkah for the Jewish Law Student Association. It was built by Professor Seth Oranburg, JLSA members and Rabbi Shmuel Weinstein for the Sukkot holiday. Oranburg produced a YouTube video last year to inform students, faculty and staff about the sukkah and the holiday.

The hope of the JLSA is that students will be able to appreciate and enjoy this holiday of joy and celebration of unity. ■



Natheena Tyler

BLSA Hosts Bonfire, Virtual 1L Resume Workshop

By Natheena Tyler, 3D
Secretary, Black Law Student Association

The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) hosted a bonfire on Oct. 2 at the Laval House. Members of BLSA and the Law School community came together and enjoyed s'mores, hot chocolate and good

conversation around the fire. Given how different this school year is, this was a great opportunity for first year law students to meet and get to know each other along with upper level law students in a casual, socially distanced setting. The night ended with a raffle for a bag full of Duquesne Law gear.

On Oct. 19, BLSA and the Career Services Office co-sponsored a virtual 1L Resume and Cover Letter Workshop. During the workshop, first year law students learned how to format resumes and cover letters for jobs and internship interviews. They then broke out into small groups led by upper level members of BLSA to learn from their resume writing experiences, which include highlighting extensive work, experience prior to law school, college leadership experiences in lieu of work experience and any volunteer experience. The workshop was yet another opportunity for 1Ls to meet and ask questions. ■



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

School of Law

BY THE NUMBERS

93.16%

Ultimate Bar Pass Rate
(two-year rate - 2017)

87.88%

First-time Pass Rate

Pennsylvania Bar Exam, July 2019

#9

Bar Exam Preparation

National Jurist, 2017

ENTERING CLASS OF 2020

LSAT

157

75th
Percentile

154

Median

152

25th
Percentile

GPA

3.62

75th
Percentile

3.41

Median

3.12

25th
Percentile

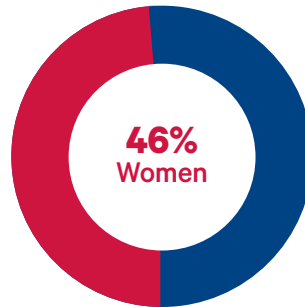
813

Total Applicants



164

Class Size



46%
Women



17%

Diverse Students



20-60
Age Range



45 Different
Majors



52.44% More
than 1 Year
Post-Graduate



23 States and
Countries
Represented



72 Undergraduate
Institutions
Represented

Statistics as of August 24, 2020, the first day of classes. Duquesne University School of Law participates in the American Bar Association's matriculation validation service. LSAT and GPA percentiles will be calculated by the Law School Admission Council on October 5, 2020, based on matriculant lists provided by Duquesne Law.

RANKINGS



A- Family Law
preLaw Magazine 2019



44 Part-Time Programs
U.S. News & World Report
America's Best Graduate Schools 2020



29 Legal Writing Program
U.S. News & World Report
America's Best Graduate Schools 2020



A- Top Small Law
Employment
preLaw Magazine 2019



A- Criminal Law
preLaw Magazine 2019



A Employment Law
preLaw Magazine 2018

