

# Alumni Express Commitment to Alma Mater by Serving on Board of Directors

Tracy Carbasho, Contributing Writer

Earning a law degree from Duquesne University was much more than a career catalyst for five alumni who now serve on the Board of Directors. While the degree was an invaluable foundation upon which they built successful professional lives, it also instilled in them a sense of service and a steadfast loyalty to Duquesne.

Now, Frank Coyne, Rodney Fink, Charlotte Jefferies, John McGinley Jr. and Thomas Tribone are paying it forward by lending their expertise and input to the board. They each have unique stories about how their Duquesne education enriched their lives and why they want to serve on the board.

## John R. “Jack” McGinley Jr., L’68



“It’s important to help those institutions that have changed our lives,” said McGinley, who chairs the board. “The best part of serving on the board is attending graduation ceremonies, seeing our students receive their degrees, knowing that our faculty and university community prepared them well to enter the world, and seeing how proud their parents and

family members are.”

With the support of his parents, Jack and Marie; his aunt Rita; and the Rita M. McGinley Foundation, and with the encouragement of Duquesne President Ken Gormley, who was then dean of the Law School, McGinley established the McGinley Public Service Law Fellowships. The fellowships enable law students to experience public service through summer positions in government and fosters the Law School’s ongoing commitment to public service.

Two of McGinley’s children earned their law degrees from Duquesne, while a third received an undergraduate degree from the University, and his grandson, Aidan Cain (#86), is a wide receiver on the Dukes football team.

McGinley, who chairs the executive committee and serves as a board member at the Pittsburgh firm of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, said he received a sound legal education infused with the Spiritan values espoused by the University. As chairman, he hopes to lead Duquesne into the future, navigating the many challenges to higher education, and working with the administration and faculty to assure a top-notch education for all Duquesne students.

McGinley also had the distinction of chairing the board at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he was born; and St. Bonaventure University, where he received his undergraduate degree. He cites his proudest accomplishments as overseeing the merger of Mercy and UPMC, ensuring the viability of a valued,

historic Catholic hospital, as well as chairing the boards of Duquesne and St. Bonaventure. He is a member of Duquesne’s Century Club of Distinguished Alumni and received an honorary doctorate from St. Bonaventure.

## Frank J. Coyne, L’73



Supporting Duquesne by serving on the board is important to Coyne, who credits the University with providing the necessary financial support to enable him to obtain his law degree.

“Board service is rewarding because I am witnessing the passionate dedication of the school’s leadership to the success of each student, to the institution

as a whole, and the commitment to Spiritan values,” he said. “If not for Duquesne and the Spiritan values it embraces, there are many young men and women who may miss an opportunity for a life-changing educational experience.”

That very same Law School education served as a launching pad to help Coyne become a successful businessman. He served as president, chief executive officer and chairman of Verisk Analytics, a New Jersey-based data analytics provider, before retiring in 2013. In 2009, he was at the helm when Verisk completed the initial public offering of its stock on the NASDAQ exchange, marking the largest domestic IPO of the year.

Coyne, a global expert in the insurance industry, continues to serve as lead director of the company’s board and divides his time between Florida and New Jersey.

“The disciplined thought process I developed through the rigor of the Duquesne University law journey, especially in the basic first-year courses of contracts and torts, set me on a career built on analytic thinking,” he said. “I hope my diverse experience adds valuable input to board deliberations in pursuit of the Duquesne University mission.”

## Rodney W. Fink, L'73

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Fink, who says serving on the Duquesne University Board of Directors since 2017 has been an honor, brings 50 years of experience in business and law to the position. His commitment to the University began in February 1969 when he received his acceptance letter to the Law School and has continued uninterrupted since that day.

“I can never repay Duquesne for providing me with a rewarding business and legal education and the lifelong friendships to help me along the way (including Law School Dean Maureen Lally-Green, Patsy McKinney, Louis Gold and Barry Bier),” he said. “Our loyal alumni, friends, foundations and corporations recognize Duquesne as a valuable community asset that has provided opportunities for thousands of students to have a great life. Law School alumni share a debt of gratitude, loyalty and commitment to our alma mater and to each other.”

Fink earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Duquesne in 1969. Today, he is the managing director of Perlow Investment Corp. in Pittsburgh and maintains a law practice limited to estate planning and corporate law.

“One of my priorities as a board member is to ensure that our graduates have a relevant degree that signifies career-applicable skills,” he said. “Our graduates must be prepared to excel in their chosen field of employment with the ability to repay student debt. Our students graduate with creativity, adaptability and ingenuity to enable them to face the difficult obstacles ahead. Duquesne lawyers treat each other as true colleagues and represent our clients in accordance with the highest standards of the profession.”

## Charlotte S. Jefferies, L'80

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Jefferies recently retired after practicing health care and hospital law at the Pittsburgh law firm of Horty, Springer & Mattern for 38 years. She is pleased to serve on the board for an institution that played a pivotal role in her life.

“I learned of my acceptance to Duquesne while traveling to North Carolina, where I had made a decision to enter a health law program,”

she remembered. “But in a follow-up call, Dean (Ronald) Davenport told me that although Duquesne's Law School did not yet have a health law curriculum, he was sure I would find the law school offerings challenging and the professors engaging and supportive of my interests. I headed to Pittsburgh and attended the Law School orientation three days later, a decision I've never regretted.”

After graduating from Duquesne, Jefferies worked as a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Donald Ziegler. In this role, she was introduced to the founders of Horty, Springer & Mattern, where she would enjoy a successful career for almost four decades.

One of her proudest professional achievements was serving for six years as a member of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee and six years as a member of the Disciplinary Board for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. She is equally proud of the relationships she has built with clients, students, professional organizations and colleagues, including President Ken Gormley and Dean Maureen Lally-Green.

Jefferies has mentored more than 50 high school and college students, work that she considers to be a privilege.

“As a first-generation college graduate in my family, I believe it's my responsibility to encourage and pour into the lives of our young people,” she said.

## Thomas Tribone, L'85

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“I wanted to serve on the board because I thought it would benefit both me and the University,” said Tribone. “I could get better insight into the operation of the University and Duquesne could get my perspective.”

Tribone, who also received his MBA from Duquesne, brings a broad business and international viewpoint to the board as the founder of two successful global companies: AES Corp. and Guggenheim Global Infrastructure Co, which provides energy and infrastructure services to more than 35 countries. Today, he is the founder and chief executive officer of Franklin Park Infrastructure, which has offices in Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles and London.

Serving his alma mater as a board member seems natural since his economics and law professors prompted him to do research that led to the business ideas for these companies. An economics professor said electricity production is not a natural monopoly that must be regulated by the government. Later, a law professor asked the class to study the Code of Federal Regulations, which eventually inspired Tribone to start an unregulated electricity business at Atlantic Richfield, which was the basis for AES Corp. and today's \$200-billion independent power industry.

Tribone said it makes sense for attorneys and business leaders to repay their alma maters by serving as board members because they can offer valuable insight regarding real-life experiences.

“Legal training gives you one of the broadest perspectives on the issues facing the University,” he said.

Tribone also honored Duquesne by providing funding for the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education. Located in a three-story building at 912-914 Fifth Ave., the Tribone Center is the home of Duquesne's award-winning Clinical Legal Education program, and is easily accessible to clients and provides much-needed services to residents of Pittsburgh and the region.