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Academic Appointments

Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Assistant Professor of Law

August 2024-Present

Director of the Joint JD/MBA Program

June 2024-Present

At Duquesne Kline, I teach Business Associations, Securities Regulation, and Advising Startups and Small Businesses. My research focuses on the legal environment affecting early-stage entrepreneurial ventures. Additionally, I lead the business law programs at Duquesne Kline. This service includes, but is not limited to, the development and administration of a new concentration in transactional legal practice, the revision of the JD/MBA curriculum, the development of new business law courses, coordinating with the Associate Deans of Academic Affairs and Strategic Academic Programs on program strategy and course staffing, and advising students working through a relevant business law program.

Central Michigan University – College of Business Administration, Mount Pleasant, MI

Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship

August 2020 – August 2024

Chairperson of Entrepreneurship and MEV Director

January 2022 – August 2023

Interim Chairperson of Entrepreneurship and Interim MEV Director

August 2021 – December 2021

Clinical Lecturer I in Entrepreneurship

January 2019-August 2020

Part-Time Faculty

June 2018-December 2018

I taught nearly a dozen courses in the undergraduate and graduate business programs on topics in law and entrepreneurship. My research focused on the financing transactions that fuel early-stage entrepreneurial ventures.

Additionally, I led the entrepreneurship department at CMU for two years, including its major, minor, and certificate programs at the undergraduate level and its Master in Entrepreneurial Ventures (MEV) program at the graduate level. My duties in these roles include representing our department to other segments of the university, leading our AACSB assessment efforts, and managing our department's personnel.

Publications

1. *Taking Out the Traitors*, 68 WILLIAM & MARY LAW REVIEW (Forthcoming) (2026).
2. *Acquiring for Growth: Goals and Motivations in Entrepreneurship-Through-Acquisition* (with Lauren Zettel), 64 JOURNAL OF SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (Forthcoming) (2026) (peer-reviewed management journal with a 5% acceptance rate).
3. *Accessible Financial Data for Equity Crowdfunding Investors*, 96 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW REVIEW 1119 (2025).
4. *Getting it Just Right: The Goldilocks Level of Securities Regulation*, 26 NEVADA LAW JOURNAL 111 (2025).

5. *The Growing Role of Venture Studios in Startup Finance* (with Lawrence Trautman), 76 CASE WESTERN RESERVE LAW REVIEW 525 (2025).
6. *Making Immigration Entrepreneurial*, 77 RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1377 (2025).
7. *Funding Futurist Ideas*, 102 NEBRASKA LAW REVIEW 849 (2024).
8. *Equity Crowdfunding and the Lead Investor*, 24 NORTH CAROLINA JOURNAL OF LAW & TECHNOLOGY 33 (2023).
9. *Corporate Innovation: One Path to More Sustainable Big Business*, 91 UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI LAW REVIEW 437 (2022).
10. *Adding More Sharks to the Shark Tank: Strategies for Allowing More Attorneys to Access Academia in Business Schools*, 66 HOWARD LAW JOURNAL 39 (2022).
11. *The Local Nature of Equity Crowdfunding*, 24 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF BUSINESS LAW 475 (2022).
12. *Modernizing Charitable Fundraising Regulation*, 14 DREXEL LAW REVIEW 69 (2022).
13. *Acquisition Entrepreneurship: One Solution to the Looming Business Succession Crisis*, 97 INDIANA LAW JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT 1 (2021).
14. *Supporting Rural Entrepreneurship with Legal Technology*, 17 N.Y.U. JOURNAL OF LAW & BUSINESS 391 (2021).
15. *Delaware's Public Benefit Corporation: The Traditional VC-Backed Company's Mission-Driven Twin* (with Jeff Thomas), 88 UMKC LAW REVIEW 873 (2020).

Works in Progress (Academic Articles)

1. *Acquisition Lending* (research stage, anticipated submission in February 2027)
2. *Traitors and Loyalty* (research stage, anticipated submission in February 2028)
3. *Entrepreneurship as Leisure* (ideation stage)

Education

University of Pennsylvania

Juris Doctor, May 2016

Wharton Certificate in Management, May 2015

Honors: Associate Editor, *Journal of Business Law*

Activities: Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic Student Counselor, ACLU-PA Volunteer, Street Law Student Teacher, Urban Ventures Project Student Teacher, Morris Fellow

University of Michigan

Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies and Political Science, May 2013

Honors: Recipient of James B. Angell Scholar Honors and University Honors

Other Professional Experience

Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.

Associate Attorney, September 2016-January 2019

Academic and Professional Presentations, Panels, and Workshops

1. *Developing Critical Thinking and Communication Skills in Course-Based Assignments*, Duquesne University Center for Teaching Excellence Seminar on Developing Career Ready Students, Pittsburgh, PA, March 17, 2026.
2. *Taking Out the Traitors*, 2025 Southeastern Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Asheville, NC, November 15, 2025.
3. *Business Law Workshop: Teaching the Basic Business Law Courses*, 2025 Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference (with 17 other professors across law and business schools), Amelia Island, FL, August 1, 2025.
4. *Bot Negotiations*, 2025 University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law Developing Ideas Conference, Lexington, KY, May 13, 2025.
5. *Making Immigration Entrepreneurial*, 2025 Rutgers University Law Review symposium titled: The Dual Role of Immigration and Citizenship Laws: Exploring Inclusion, Exclusion, and Reform for 2025 and Beyond, Newark, NJ, April 4, 2025.
6. *Accessible Financial Data for Equity Crowdfunding Investors*, 2024 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Washington, DC, August 11, 2024.
7. *Getting it Just Right: The Goldilocks Level of Securities Regulation*, 2024 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Washington, DC, August 10, 2024.
8. *Accessible Financial Data for Equity Crowdfunding Investors*, 2024 National Business Law Scholars Conference, Davis, CA, June 24, 2024.
9. *Accessible Financial Data for Equity Crowdfunding Investors*, 2024 Midwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 11, 2024.
10. *Accessible Financial Data for Equity Crowdfunding Investors*, 2024 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Technology Section Scholarship Colloquium, Virtual, January 26, 2024.
 - My article was selected as one of two articles featured in this national colloquium.
11. *Accessible Financial Data for Equity Crowdfunding Investors*, 2024 Huber Hurst Research Seminar at the University of Florida Warrington College of Business, Gainesville, FL, January 19, 2024.
 - My article was selected as one of eight articles featured in this national seminar.

12. *Entrepreneurship Fundamentals: Take Your Idea to the Next Level*, Central Michigan University Innovation & Outreach Hub Lunch & Learn Event, Saginaw, MI, August 29, 2023.
13. *Seeding Startups* (Presented by the Northern Michigan Angels), 2023 Northern Michigan Startup Week (panel with Alex Prasad, Skip Simms, and Denise Kay), Traverse City, MI, May 9, 2023.
14. *Funding Futurist Ideas*, 2023 *Nebraska Law Review* and Nebraska Governance and Technology Center Symposium on Recent Developments in Technology Law and Regulation, Virtual, April 28, 2023.
15. *Access to Capital Panel* (Moderator), 20 Fathoms Educational Workshop, Traverse City, MI, April 12, 2023.
16. *The SEC's Regulation of Equity Crowdfunding*, 2023 Central Michigan University College of Business Administration Research Colloquium, Mount Pleasant, MI, March 15, 2023.
17. *Equity Crowdfunding and the Lead Investor*, 2023 *North Carolina Journal of Law & Technology* Symposium on Emerging Technologies and the Administrative State, Virtual, January 27, 2023.
18. *Corporate Innovation: One Path to More Sustainable Big Business*, 2023 United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Annual Conference, Tallahassee, FL, January 20, 2023.
19. *Technology Tools in Legal Practice*, 2023 Grand Rapids Bar Association Bench/Bar Conference (panel with Judge Nicholas Ayoub and Dan Helmer), Grand Rapids, MI, January 18, 2023.
20. *Funding Futurist Ideas*, 2022 Southeastern Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 11, 2022.
21. *Entrepreneurship Fundamentals: Take Your Idea to the Next Level*, Workshop co-hosted by Central Michigan University and Cowork Brighton, Brighton, MI, August 16, 2022.
22. *Navigating AACSB Changes: Legal Studies Questions and Opportunities*, 2022 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference (panel with Janine Hiller, Robert Bird, and Jamie Prenkert), Louisville, KY, July 31, 2022.
23. *Corporate Innovation: One Path to More Sustainable Big Business*, 2022 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Louisville, KY, July 30, 2022.
24. *Corporate Innovation: One Path to More Sustainable Big Business*, 2022 *American Business Law Journal* Invited Scholars Colloquium, Louisville, KY, July 29, 2022.
 - My article was selected as one of three articles to be featured in this national colloquium.
25. *Adding More Sharks to the Shark Tank: Strategies for Allowing More Attorneys to Access Academia in Business Schools*, 2022 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Louisville, KY, July 28, 2022.

26. *Corporate Innovation: One Path to More Sustainable Big Business*, 2022 National Business Law Scholars Conference, Norman, OK, June 17, 2022.
27. *Entrepreneurship Fundamentals: Take Your Idea to the Next Level*, Workshop co-hosted by Central Michigan University and 20 Fathoms, Traverse City, MI, June 13, 2022.
28. *Adding More Sharks to the Shark Tank: Strategies for Allowing More Attorneys to Access Academia in Business Schools*, 2022 Pacific Northwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Virtual, April 8, 2022.
29. *Adding More Sharks to the Shark Tank: Strategies for Allowing More Attorneys to Access Academia in Business Schools*, 2022 Midwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 25, 2022.
30. *The Local Nature of Equity Crowdfunding*, 2022 United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Annual Conference, Virtual, January 8, 2022.
31. *The Local Nature of Equity Crowdfunding*, 2021 Great Lakes Academy of Legal Studies in Business Conference, Virtual, October 22, 2021.
32. *The Local Nature of Equity Crowdfunding*, 2021 Central States Law Schools Association Conference, Virtual, September 26, 2021.
33. *Acquisition Entrepreneurship: One Solution to the Looming Business Succession Crisis*, 2021 National Business Law Scholars Conference, Virtual, June 17, 2021.
34. *Legal Structures for Social Enterprises*, United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Social Interest Group Workshop (with Maria Ballesteros-Sola and Juan Diego Mujica Filippi), Virtual, June 3, 2021.
35. *Modernizing Charitable Fundraising Regulation*, 2021 Pacific Northwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business Conference, Virtual, April 16, 2021.
36. *Modernizing Charitable Fundraising Regulation*, 2021 Ethical Leadership and Legal Strategies for Post-2020 Organizations Symposium hosted by Indiana University, Oklahoma State University, and the *American Business Law Journal*, Virtual, March 26-27, 2021.
 - My article was selected as one of sixteen articles to be featured in this national symposium.
37. *Modernizing Charitable Fundraising Regulation*, 2021 Mid-Atlantic Academy of Legal Studies in Business Conference, Virtual, March 19, 2021.
38. *Tools That Can Level the Playing Field for Rural Entrepreneurs*, 2021 United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Annual Conference (with Jeff Thomas, Dennis Barber, Whitney Peake, and Michael Harris), Virtual, January 6, 2021.

39. *Social Interest Group Panel*, 2021 United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Annual Conference, Virtual, January 5, 2021.
40. *Granting Stock Options to New Employees*, 2020 United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Annual Conference (with Jeff Thomas and Lynne Zagami), New Orleans, LA, January 6, 2020.
41. *Building an Accelerator Program with an Innovative and Ideal Legal Services Function*, 2020 United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Annual Conference (with Jeff Thomas and Lynne Zagami), New Orleans, LA, January 5, 2020.
42. *Delivering Quality Legal Services to New Ventures Participating in a University Accelerator Program*, 2019 Transactional Clinical Conference (with Lynne Zagami, Bruce Marble, and Jeff Thomas), Berkeley, CA, May 3, 2019.
43. *Adding More Sharks to the AACSB's Shark Tank: A Post-Doctoral Bridge to Business Program that Turns Startup Attorneys (and possibly others) into Scholarly Academics in Entrepreneurship*, 2019 United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Annual Conference (with Jeff Thomas and Joe Affholter), St. Pete Beach, FL, January 23-27, 2019.
44. *The Past and Future of Equity Crowdfunding*, 2018 Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers Annual Conference (with Jeff Thomas, Joe Green, and Bruce Marble), Chicago, IL, October 19-20, 2018.
45. *Legal Basics for Startup Ventures*, 2018 Greater Lansing Entrepreneurial Bootcamp at Michigan State University Innovation Center, East Lansing, MI, August 24, 2018.
46. *The Role of Law in Entrepreneurship Education*, 2018 Transactional Clinical Conference (with Praveen Kosuri, Bernice Grant, Jeff Thomas, and Bruce Marble), Chicago, IL, April 27, 2018.

Courses Taught

Law: (1) Business Associations; (2) Securities Regulation; and (3) Advising Startups and Small Businesses.

Graduate in Business: (1) New Venture Formation and Governance; (2) New Venture Hires, Filings, and Reports; (3) Seed Financings and Securities Regulation; (4) Crowdfunding; and (5) Entrepreneurial Transactions Capstone.

Undergraduate in Business: (1) Introduction to Entrepreneurship; (2) Digital Entrepreneurship; (3) Legal Aspects of New Ventures; (4) Venture Development; (5) New Venture Concepts, Planning, and Resources; and (6) Launching Social and Traditional Ventures.

Teaching Awards

1. Hazelton Graduate Teaching Award (2022-23) for my teaching in Central Michigan University's Master of Entrepreneurial Ventures program

Service Awards

1. Sam Walton Fellow (2020-21), Enactus

Honors and Service Distinctions (National and Regional)

1. Public Arbitrator (February 2026-Current), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)
2. Board Member (October 2025-Current), University of Michigan Alumni Club of Pittsburgh
3. Committee Member (2022 and 2023), Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, Midland Business Alliance
4. Mentee (2022), Justin G. Longenecker Mentorship Program, United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE)
5. House of Delegates Representative for Great Lakes region (2022), Academy of Legal Studies in Business.
6. Chairperson (January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) - Law and Entrepreneurship Social Interest Group (SIG) - United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE)
7. Teaching and Learning Scholars Cohort Member (2020) - United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE)
8. Member (2020) - Conference Planning Task Force - United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE)
9. Presentation Submission Reviewer (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22) - United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) Conference
10. Board Member (August 2017 – January 2019) - Highfields, Inc. Board of Directors

Service Distinctions (University Level)

1. Committee Member (2025-26) – Duquesne University Creative Teaching Awards Committee
2. Faculty Advisor (2024-25, 2025-26) – Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, Corporate Law Society
3. Committee Member (2024-25, 2025-26) – Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, Academic Status Committee
4. Advisor (2024-25, 2025-26) - Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, for all students interested in corporate law
5. Committee Member (2021-22, 2023-24) – Central Michigan University College of Business Administration, MBA Committee
6. Committee Member (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24) - Central Michigan University Entrepreneurship Department, Curriculum and Assessment Committee
7. Committee Member (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24) - Central Michigan University Entrepreneurship Department, Personnel Committee

8. Committee Member (2023-24) – Central Michigan University, University-Level Libraries Committee
9. Committee Member (2021-22, 2022-23) – Central Michigan University College of Business Administration, Personnel Committee
10. Committee Member (2021-22, 2022-23) – Central Michigan University College of Business Administration, Dean’s Advisory Committee
11. Senator (2020-21, 2021-22) – Central Michigan University, Academic Senate
12. Committee Member (2021-22) – Central Michigan University, New Venture Challenge (NVC) Planning Committee
13. Founding Faculty Advisor (2020-21) - Central Michigan University, Enactus Team
14. Secretary and Committee Member (2020-21) – Central Michigan University College of Business Administration, Faculty Development Committee
15. Committee Member (2020-21) – Central Michigan University College of Business Administration, B.S.B.A. Assurance of Learning Committee
16. Faculty Fellow (2018-19, 2019-20) - Central Michigan University, New Venture Competition
17. Committee Member (2020) - Central Michigan University College of Business Administration, Core Curriculum Revision Sub-Committee on Student Discovery and Transformational Experiences
18. Co-Director and Mentor (2019) – Central Michigan University, New Venture Competition Summer Accelerator Program