DIVERSITY MATTERS AT DUQUESNE KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW
Empowered to Lead. Prepared for What’s Next.
We are delighted to welcome you to a community reimagined with a growth mindset while maintaining an ecumenical atmosphere embracing diversity and inclusion. If you are a beginning or continuing law student, we look forward to intentionally building relationships based upon support and openness, inspired learning, special events, and a very involved alumni network.

During this time of global challenges and an ever-evolving academic landscape, we recognize everyone’s intersections in life must be respected and met with compassion and empathy. We look forward to embracing this challenge.

We are thrilled to have you on campus and in the classroom. Our main goal is to witness your growth and celebrate YOU as a graduate from our esteemed school. We encourage every one of you to leave your imprint upon the school. Paramount to academic achievement and excellence at Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University is our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Dr. Valerie J. Harper
Director of Inclusive Excellence
duq.edu/lawdiversity
As part of a Catholic and Spiritan University founded in 1878, Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University’s mission since our inception in 1911 has been built upon a pursuit of justice that advances human dignity and mutual respect. Regardless of race, creed, or any form of individual identity, the Law School embraces these values.

We are uniquely positioned to foster inclusive excellence and obligated to be agents of change. As a legal profession, we commit to justice and know that being treated differently strikes at the heart of our core values.

We must hold on to the common humanity that bonds all of us and work to foster a community that respects human dignity. Duquesne Kline School of Law is committed to crafting cognizable initiatives in the form of open forums and increased learning opportunities for students, faculty, and staff.

We are constantly evolving and examining how we can best engage our community to ensure that everyone feels welcome, valued, and heard.

April M. Barton  
*Dean and Professor of Law*

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At Duquesne University, we have a strong and historical commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through our mission statement, we serve God by serving students and our commitment is proven every day in our community of nearly 9,500 students who represent every state and 80+ countries with a broad range of diverse backgrounds and experiences.

We realize that a diverse student body is important in advancing our mission and that our students are individuals with their own unique stories and dreams. This diversity of experiences enriches our campus culture and provides countless opportunities for students to find their paths and connect with students, faculty and staff who share their passions.

Today and always, diversity remains at the forefront of our core values. Welcome to Duquesne University, where diversity, equity, and inclusion are in our DNA.

Crystal McCormick Ware  
*Inaugural Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*
Duquesne’s Spiritan founders believed in welcoming all and excluding none. Drawing on our heritage, we’ll walk alongside you, connecting you with life-changing people and opportunities so you can build a professional path with purpose.

Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University is dedicated to creating a diverse community of scholars and a more diverse legal profession. Our students have more opportunities than ever to study with future colleagues from a multitude of backgrounds and life experiences.

They learn from professors who bring diverse experiences into the classroom—expertise in areas like civil rights, constitutional law, youth advocacy and animal law. And they experience all of this firsthand as the U.S. legal industry transforms into a more diverse profession.
Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education opened to provide student attorneys hands-on client experiences for under-served and diverse communities.

20% of Fall 1L class identified as ethnically and racially diverse.

The Dean’s Diversity Action Counsel is formed.

Pipeline partnership established with Xavier University of Louisiana, the nation’s only Catholic school among the Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Duquesne Kline Law launched the “Race and Democracy Speaker Series.”


Duquesne Kline students, faculty, and staff participated in the University’s MLK Unity Walk.

In Spring 2022, Duquesne Kline School of Law hosted its first Future Voice of the People event, allowing approximately 60 local high school students to experience a day in the life of a law student.
“Duquesne Kline School of Law helped me to develop and continuously strengthen my analytical skills. I manage a heavy caseload that involves me defending the City of Philadelphia and/or City employees at arbitration hearings and trials. My analytical skills have helped me to evaluate the facts of the case to advise my supervisors if the City of Philadelphia should pursue settlement or litigation.”

Nilenia Cordero, L’10
Assistant City Solicitor, City of Philadelphia Law Department

“Duquesne Kline School of Law was pivotal to allowing me the many opportunities I’ve had in my career. Not only was Duquesne best in Pennsylvania at preparing us for the bar exam, without Duquesne I wouldn’t have been able to clerk in the Supreme Court after my first year. That internship opened up every door that led to a very fulfilling career.”

Jeffrey R. Hantz, L’08
Shareholder, Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

“At Duquesne Kline School of Law, I helped change the student organization name to LAMBDA and establish a presence in the Law School as a day student. Also, Duquesne Kline School of Law helped me to form a more logical yet empathetic paradigm in the legal field.”

Rosemari (Rosie) Walker, L’21
Assistant District Attorney, Pittsburgh

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS WHILE SERVING OTHERS.
Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University is embedded in local communities and works side-by-side with neighbors to address systemic challenges. We’ve worked hard to become a trusted partner—investing the time and energy that authentic collaboration and quality legal representation demand.

CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS
Clinical education is one of the instructional cornerstones of Duquesne Kline School of Law. You’ll have the opportunity to participate in law clinics, externships, pro bono programs, and fellowships that offer live client experiences and often include opportunities to appear in court to assist youth, veterans, families, and others who benefit from our students’ passion.
Duquesne Kline School of Law graduates are leaders and advocates for change and improvement within our communities. Diversity at Duquesne means a greater depth and breadth of experience to better serve our neighbors.

Grace Orsatti, L’04
Director of the Externship Program, Pro Bono Program, and Assistant Professor of Clinical Legal Education

Teaching students about how the law impacts individuals differently depending on their intersectional identities is a core part of our curriculum. In Gender and the Law, Family Law, Employment Discrimination, and Constitutional Law, we explore many ways in which law can be used as a tool to either reinforce oppressive systems or dismantle them. I am proud to help educate our students so they can be important agents of change.

Rona Kaufman, J.D., L.L.M.
Associate Professor of Law
FIND YOUR NICHE AND GET INVOLVED.
We’ll make sure you gain the professional confidence, experience and powerful networks you need to get a running start on a meaningful career.

Below are just a few examples where you can find your niche.

- **ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION (ACBA) AFFINITY GROUPS**
The ACBA’s Affinity Groups include the Asian Attorneys Committee, the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, the Hispanic Attorneys Committee, the Homer S. Brown Division, the LGBTQ+ Rights Committee, and the Women in the Law Division.

- **BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (BLSA)**
BLSA strives to increase the number of culturally responsible Black attorneys and other attorneys-of-color, who excel academically and professionally.

- **HISPANIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (HABA)**
HABA strives to establish strong relationships between students and Hispanics in the local community and to understand and address legal issues that pertain to Hispanics in the community.

- **LAMBDA LAW SOCIETY (LLS)**
LLS strives to educate students about current and evolving legal issues surrounding diverse sexual orientation and gender identity.

- **JEWISH LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (JLSA)**
JLSA hosts programming addressing legal issues of concerns to the Jewish community.

- **OLDER AND WISER LAW STUDENTS ORGANIZATION (OWLS)**
OWLS advocates for the unique academic, professional, and personal/social needs of non-traditional law students.

- **PITTSBURGH LEGAL DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COALITION (PLDIC)**
PLDIC strives to increase the hiring, retention, and inclusion of legal professionals from a variety of diverse backgrounds. It hosts exceptional programming that Duquesne Kline students, faculty, and staff regularly attend.

- **WOMEN’S LAW ASSOCIATION (WLA)**
The WLA hosts programs on issues of social and legal concern to women.

For more information on our student affinity groups, visit [duq.edu/lawdiversity](http://duq.edu/lawdiversity).
“I received a world-class legal education at Duquesne Kline, where I grew intellectually and practically, both inside and outside of the classroom. Duquesne Kline remains the anchor for my legal career. The support I received from administration and alumni helped to develop me both personally and professionally and remains an integral part of my life. When I interact with Duquesne Kline students, I’m so impressed by their leadership and preparedness to enter the profession and become the next generation of lawyers and leaders.”

Shanicka Kennedy, L’01
Lead Counsel – Litigation at FedEx Ground
“Both as an attorney and a jurist, Duquesne Kline School of Law helped to shape how and why I make decisions. In addition to being taught by outstanding professors, I was presented with a superior quality education across the board at Duquesne. It is a place where spirituality matters.”

The Honorable Wrenna L. Watson, L’91
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Pittsburgh

“Duquesne Kline School of Law taught me to efficiently identify issues and how to think analytically to find resolutions, which has helped me throughout my practice over the years, in both the law firm setting and the in-house legal department setting.”

Alexander J. Reyes, L’01
Executive Vice President and General Counsel, CNX Resources Corporation

“While law school prepares most law students in a very similar process, the advantage of my education at Duquesne was my sense of purpose and my ethical obligations. In my 22+ years of practice I encountered many different types of cases from commercial litigation to gaming law, and served in positions from Chief Counsel to a Governor to General Counsel of a publicly traded corporation. While the cases have differed along the way, my ethical obligations to my clients and the Court have never strayed. I thank Duquesne for giving me the education and intestinal fortitude to do the right thing.”

Narciso Rodriguez-Cayro, L’00
Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel at MTR Gaming Group, Inc.
I have made my career in a field that was only just emerging when I was a student: food law. With my seventh textbook coming out, writing and editing were the key skills I gained from the Duquesne Kline School of Law.

Dr. iur. Gabriela Steier, J.D., L.L.M., ESQ., L’12
Lecturer and Adjunct/Visiting Professor,
Northeastern University, Saveetha School of Law (Chennai, India), Duquesne Kline School of Law and University of Perugia
Founder, Food Law International
About Duquesne

Founded in 1878, Duquesne University is consistently ranked among the nation’s top Catholic universities for its award-winning faculty and tradition of academic excellence. Duquesne, a campus of about 9,500 graduate and undergraduate students, has been nationally recognized for its academic programs, community service and commitment to sustainability.

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