

# SALUS POPULI

— THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY —  
— FALL 2022 —

A portrait of Thomas R. Kline, an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit and tie, smiling. The background is a brick wall.

## MEET THOMAS R. KLINE

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University  
honors its history-making alumnus





**THOMAS R. KLINE**  
SCHOOL OF LAW



## Dear Friends,

This historic magazine issue is brought to you with joy and profound gratitude. Themes of leadership, service and excellence resonate through these pages. Nowhere does that subject manifest more than in our tribute to Thomas R. Kline, L'78, where we share the monumental news of his altruism and deep generosity, which will allow us to continue to empower our students and prepare them for what is next in their careers.

On Sept. 7, Mr. Kline announced a \$50 million commitment that transformed us into the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. His commitment broadly supports student scholarships, faculty grants for excellence in teaching and scholarship, our Bar Preparation program, new clinical offerings to benefit the community, and other strategic priorities. I urge you to read President Ken Gormley's story about Mr. Kline and his life-changing gift on page 16 and some of our students' reactions on page 14. We included a gallery of photos from the day on page 28.

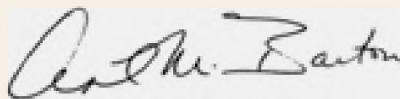
Mr. Kline's monumental commitment is a means to continue our tradition of excellence, one that is apparent in the July 2022 Pennsylvania Bar Exam passage rate. Our graduates achieved an impressive 82.3% first-time taker pass rate on that exam, higher than the statewide first-time average pass rate of 75.16%. Our ABA-reported 2021 employment numbers were also stellar, noted on page 7.

Our students continue to embody our Spiritan mission by undertaking impactful fellowships (page 12) and participating in clerkships (page 45) to prepare them for service. These opportunities allow our students to learn more about the law and about the importance of public service. As you will see in the McGinley and PILA story, the recipients were grateful for those fellowships that gave them the monetary means to pursue those worthwhile endeavors.

Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association President Kate L. Stoy, L'12, shares an important message for all of us on page 38. She recounts the bigger goals we met and accomplishments from the past year. She also shares her vision to confidently lead us into the future.

There is much to anticipate as we move forward and much to appreciate. I am more thankful than ever to be part of our amazing community. Duquesne Kline School of Law is a special place where we uplift and support one another. Through your continued support you allow us to continue to give our students the best foundation for them to excel in their careers. Thank you. ■

*With deep appreciation,*



**April Mara Barton**  
*Dean and Professor of Law*



Themes of leadership, service and excellence resonate through these pages. Nowhere does that subject manifest more than in our tribute to Thomas R. Kline, L'78, where we share the monumental news of his altruism and deep generosity, which will allow us to continue to empower our students and prepare them for what is next in their careers.





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# SALUS POPULI

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE  
THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW  
OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

## DEAN

April M. Barton

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Amanda Drumm

## CONTRIBUTORS

Emma Betz  
Maria Comas  
Amanda Dabbs  
Amanda Drumm  
Nick Fischer  
Ken Gormley  
Derrick Maultsby, Jr.  
Peyton Myers  
Kate Norton  
Jordan Pollard  
Sarah Sperry

## DESIGN

Duquesne University Division of Marketing  
and Communications

## CONTACT US

[duq.edu/law](http://duq.edu/law) | [lawalumni@duq.edu](mailto:lawalumni@duq.edu)  
412.396.5215



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# Zittrain Presents ‘Between Abdication and Suffocation: Three Eras of Governing Digital Platforms’

## Receives Dr. John and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship Award



Jonathan L. Zittrain, second from left, was the recipient of the Dr. John and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship Award. Pictured with him are: Dean April Barton, left, President Ken Gormley and Associate Dean Jane Moriarty.

Who is guarding digital technology and the internet? The conventional wisdom around digital governance has shifted from one of hands-off privatization to one of anxiety bordering on horror about what the 25-year experiment of a hyper-networked world is doing to all of us, and whether there's anything to be done about it.

Jonathan L. Zittrain, Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, addressed the history of the past three decades of technology and its shift toward greater mitigation and governance during his presentation, “Between Abdication and Suffocation: Three Eras of Governing Digital Platforms,” Sept. 28 at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

Zittrain spoke as part of the Dr. John and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship series and was the recipient of the Dr. John and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship Award at the event.

Jane Moriarty, Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship at the Duquesne Kline School of Law, appreciated the talk

and knew it would be exceptionally popular because of the subject and its importance and relevance.

“Professor Zittrain is an internationally regarded scholar and a dynamic speaker. He addressed internet regulation topics that are incredibly important to democracy and our daily lives. These concerns relate to facial recognition, algorithmic control of content on social media and questions about regulating such content,” she said. “We are delighted and honored that Professor Zittrain joined us for a public lecture at the University.”

### About the speaker

Zittrain is the George Bemis Professor of International Law at Harvard Law School and a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a professor of computer science at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He is the director of the Harvard Law School Library and co-founder and director of Harvard's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society. ■



# ABA Reports 94.2% of Duquesne Kline School of Law's 2021 graduates are employed

The American Bar Association (ABA) released 10-month employment statistics from law schools nationwide regarding the class of 2021. As reported, the 2021 graduates of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University are doing exceptionally well. As of March 15, 2022, 94.2% (148/157 graduates) of the 2021 class from Duquesne Kline School of Law are employed. Delving further into the data, 89.2% (140/157 graduates) are working in industries where they are licensed to practice law or where the J.D. is an advantage to their work.

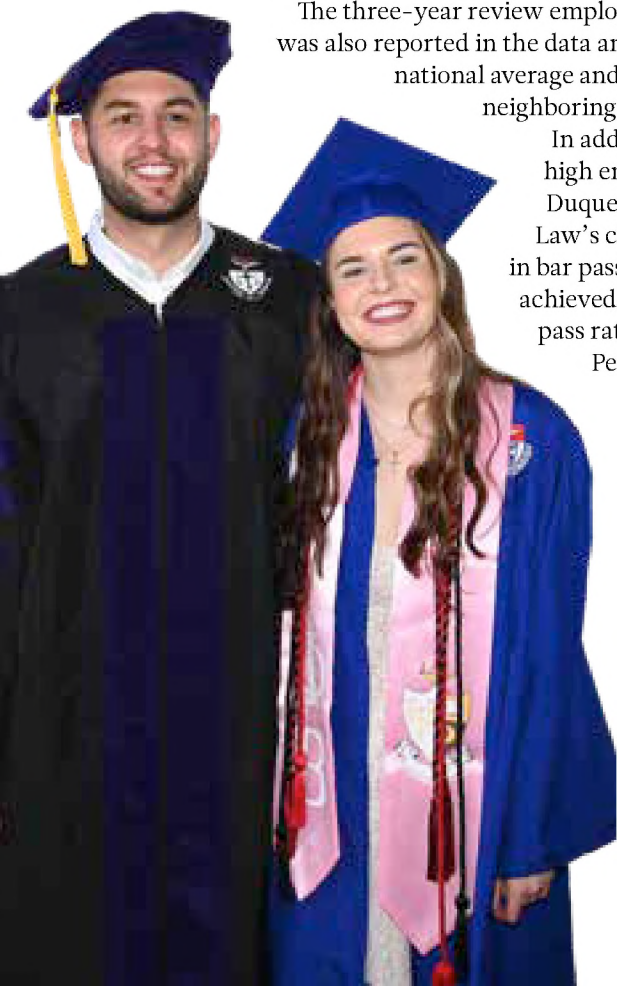
These graduates work throughout the United States in various sectors. Most of the class is employed at law firms. Other areas where the class members are starting their careers include business and industry, government, public interest, judicial clerkships and education.

"I'm very proud of our graduates' accomplishments. They persevered through pandemic-related challenges that everyone faced in some way during the past couple of years. And their hard work and determination showed by how successful so many of them have been in obtaining employment since graduating last year," said Maria Comas, Director of Career Services.

The three-year review employment number was also reported in the data and is well above the national average and above the average for neighboring law schools.

In addition to marking high employment numbers, Duquesne Kline School of Law's class of 2021 excelled in bar passage. Those graduates achieved an 84.25% first-time pass rate on the July 2021

Pennsylvania bar exam, significantly outpacing the statewide average of 77.22% for all first-time takers. ■



## STRONG EMPLOYMENT RATE

The 2021 graduates are employed in 19 states and Washington, D.C., and their work spans various practice areas in law firms, business and industry, government, public interest, judicial clerkships, and academia.

A few of these talented and dedicated graduates provided some insight about what their Duquesne Kline School of Law education means to them as they pursue their career goals:

*"The experienced professors and staff at Duquesne Kline Law, especially those in the evening division, taught me many of the helpful practice pointers I use as a first-year associate. I still remember some of the tips I learned in my contract drafting simulation, and I am carrying on the work I started in the Civil Rights Clinic, doing pro bono criminal records clearing work with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation."*

**Samantha Cook, L'21**  
Associate, Dentons Cohen & Grigsby

*"My legal education presented many obstacles I've already encountered in my first year of practice. I learned that endurance and critical thinking are key, and that even in the face of short-term challenges, it's always important to focus on the end result."*

**Jacob Guerra, A'18, L'21**  
Associate, Margolis Edelstein

*"I was blessed to attend law school at Duquesne. My time there provided me with a solid foundation in the law that I now get to apply in striving to see justice done, as well as relationships with professors and fellow students whom I now call friends."*

**Noah Keys, L'21**  
Law Clerk to Honorable Kim R. Gibson,  
U.S. District Court for the Western District  
of Pennsylvania

*"My law school education inspired me to become a public defender. Through the public defender externship at Duquesne, I found a passion for public service and fighting for marginalized groups."*

**Ariel White**  
Trial Attorney, New Mexico Law Offices  
of the Public Defender



# A Tribute to Maureen Lally-Green

Friends and family gathered Sept. 7 to honor Honorable Maureen Lally-Green, E'71, L'74, retired Superior Court judge and first female dean of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

"Maureen was one of the faculty members on the hiring committee that brought me to Duquesne back in 1994," said President Ken Gormley. "Since that time, she has always been a mentor and role model for me, just as she has been for hundreds of individuals who have been guided by her wisdom, good judgment, kindness, commitment to the region, and dedication to the rule of law and devotion to the legal profession."

Lally-Green was a full professor at Duquesne Kline School of Law from 1983-1998. She was appointed by Gov. Tom Ridge to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate in 1998; thereafter, she was elected to a 10-year term beginning in January 2000, and served until her retirement a decade later. From 2009 through 2015, Lally-Green served the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh as Associate General Secretary and/or Director of the Office of Church Relations. In 2016, she was tapped by Duquesne University President Charles Dougherty to serve as interim dean of Duquesne Kline School of Law; she was appointed dean thereafter and served in that role until 2019.

"In true Catholic and Spiritan fashion, Maureen has been of service to the



President Ken Gormley, Dean April Barton and Hon. Maureen Lally-Green at the tribute and portrait unveiling.

communities that surround her, in a variety of capacities serving on boards, several as director and chair. This is part of who she is; an astute leader who is always there to offer her good judgement to benefit those around her. Beyond her vast achievements and her distinctive career, Maureen is a trusted colleague, friend and mentor who has been an absolute inspiration to me as I have carried on the bright torch she lit as a leader of our school," said Duquesne Kline School of Law Dean April Barton.

Lally-Green's classmates Vince Quatrini, L'74, and Rodney Fink, B'69, L'73, who were instrumental in establishing a scholarship in her name,

are equally enthusiastic about her accomplishments.

"Three descriptors capture the essence of Judge Maureen Lally-Green," said Quatrini. "A trailblazer, a role model for women and a woman of faith. Establishing an endowed fund in the name of Judge Lally-Green at the Law School has been a labor of love for her classmates of 1973, 1974 and 1975."

"Maureen came to realize in law school how a lawyer (as an advocate, professor, dean, judge, mentor or confidant) can impact people's lives in many meaningful ways," said Fink. "Mission accomplished!" ■

**"In true Catholic and Spiritan fashion, Maureen has been of service to the communities that surround her, in a variety of capacities serving on boards, several as director and chair. This is part of who she is; an astute leader who is always there to offer her good judgement to benefit those around her."**

**—Duquesne Kline School of Law Dean April Barton**



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# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2022

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2022 was held May 15 in the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. A total of 129 students were conferred the degree of Juris Doctor, while one student received the LL.M. for Foreign Lawyers degree. Faculty awards included Professor Jane Moriarty receiving the Murray Scholarship Faculty Award; among the student awards given that day, Gabby Kolencik L'22 and Erin McCluan L'22 were the recipients of the 2022 Distinguished Student Awards. Brigadier General Marilyn Chiafullo (retired), L'93, was the commencement speaker. To view photos from this wonderful day, visit our album on Flickr linked at [duq.edu/law](http://duq.edu/law). ■





# Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education Updates

## Announcing New Clinic Program Fall 2022: The Elder Law Project

The Elder Law Project clinic is new this year, and its three Duquesne Kline School of Law students are working on client cases under the supervision of an NLS attorney. So far, they're working on a guardianship, a partition case coming up for trial and Tangled Title cases. The group also is going to create a prose manual to help low-income people plan for the transfer of assets after their death, and to provide forms and checklists to allow them to transfer assets after a family member dies. The students met with Judge Michael McCarthy, A'76, L'74 to discuss the manual and get some practical tips from the judge and Paul Stefano. ■



The Elder Law Project students, from left, Abby Hudock, Maggie Ellis and Lynne Jaworski, with Judge Michael McCarthy in his Orphans' Court courtroom Sept. 8. Judge McCarthy and Paul Stefano were guest lecturers for The Elder Law Project seminar/class. *Note: Judge McCarthy is wearing a hat with the School's new name!*

## Pennsylvania Innocence Project

2022 has been a busy year. So far, in cases spread across the commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Innocence Project:

- **filed seven petitions**, including petitions for post-conviction relief, reargument en banc and allowance of appeal. They have also amended two federal habeas corpus petitions and filed two amendments to post-conviction relief petitions.
- **filed three pardon petitions** for clients who made the difficult decision to take no-contest pleas and now seek to fully clear their names
- **filed seven briefs** in state and federal courts, including one amicus curiae, or friend of the court, brief with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- **seen progress on 15 cases** in partnership with Conviction Integrity Units (CIUs), including three case presentations and eight open-file discovery document reviews facilitated by prosecutor

- **had three hearings**, including a very favorable result in a resentencing hearing on a case of an innocent juvenile sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole
- **welcomed one client home on parole and obtained parole for another client** who will be released soon. Both maintained their innocence in the parole process even though the Parole Board usually requires applicants to admit guilt. Now both men will be able to continue to fight for their exoneration while reuniting with family and friends.
- **reached one successful resolution** in the case of Greg Brown. Brown is finally putting his 25-year nightmare of wrongful conviction behind him. If you haven't yet, read his story here:

 <https://painnocence.org/GregBrown>



Melissa Ruggerio



Catherine Martin

Welcome adjunct professors **Melissa Ruggerio** and **Catherine Martin** of Neighborhood Legal Services as adjunct professors and supervising attorneys of The Elder Law Project.



## Federal Litigation Clinic



**Peyton Myers,**  
Recent graduate,  
Federal Litigation Clinic

I had the privilege of being involved in the Federal Litigation Clinic during my third year of law school. Through my participation in this clinic, I had the opportunity to research substantive and procedural issues pertaining to constitutional and criminal law, draft an Opening and Reply Brief that was filed with the Third Circuit, and practice and enhance oral advocacy skills. I had the absolute honor of arguing the case in front of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. My professors, Sam Simon and Adrian Roe, and classmates ensured I was adequately prepared to present my best argument. My participation in the clinic was truly an invaluable and unforgettable experience. ■

### STAND DOWN PITTSBURGH

Students from the Veterans Clinic, Family Law Clinic, and Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic participated in the annual Stand Down Pittsburgh event Oct. 8. Stand Down Pittsburgh is a daylong services fair for local veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. ■

## Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education in the Community

By Jordan Pollard, 4L

Lawrenceville United Inc. was kind enough to invite the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic to participate in its weekly farmers market on Sept. 13. The market runs from 3-7 p.m. every Tuesday from May 17 through Nov. 22 at Bay41, 115 41st St.

The market's mission is to increase food access in the community, grow local agricultural businesses for long-term sustainability and provide vibrant resources for the Lawrenceville community. From 3-4 p.m., vendors



Jordan Pollard at the Lawrenceville Farmers Market Sept. 13

and community members are asked to wear masks while in the market to show care and consideration for specific population groups that want to attend.

Throughout the evening, the Tribone Center was able to engage with many members of the community. Some wanted to discuss the recent generous gift from Thomas R. Kline, and others wanted to discuss the services the Tribone Center offers. Many people who need legal aid are often unaware of the various accessible services in the Pittsburgh area. Therefore, the farmers market was an excellent opportunity to have the School connect with the community and let it know that the center is there to help where it can. ■

## Trying Together

In April 2022, the Family Law Clinic presented to Pittsburgh nonprofit Trying Together. Its mission is to help promote the importance of fatherhood in children's lives and provide fathers with the resources and information they need to be active/present fathers. ■

## Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic Workshops

Students in the Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic, under the supervision of Professor Grace W. Orsatti, assist low-income qualifying community members through workshops each semester. Workshops have been held at the Turtle Creek Senior Center, St. Stephen Catholic Church in Hazelwood, Allegheny County Law Library, St. Anne Center at UPMC Mercy hospital, and the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education. Through a special one-day event, students worked with attorney Allison Smith of PNC Bank this past summer. The workshops will continue to meet the needs of the elderly. ■





# Serving the Spiritan Mission

## Fellowships Provide Opportunities for Service and Leadership

By Amanda Drumm

A cornerstone of our profession is public service. This calling is one of a greater purpose, an opportunity to improve society and make a difference in the lives of others. These jobs are deeply fulfilling and rewarding, but often the compensation does not parallel the importance of the work or its difficulty, especially at the internship level. The McGinley Public Service Law Fellowships and the Public Interest Law Association (PILA) Fellowships are unique ways the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University bridges that gap to give law students experience in these areas and leadership skills, all the while providing them with the means to focus on their internships.

“The fellowships give the students practical skills and are especially helpful to them because the placement sites do not have big budgets, so the students have the opportunity to make meaningful

contributions to the places they are volunteering,” said Ella Kwisnek, Associate Dean of Students and Assistant Professor of Legal Research and Writing.

This past summer, 10 Duquesne Kline School of Law students were recipients of PILA Fellowships, and 14 students were named McGinley Fellows. Many of these students worked in public defender’s or district attorney’s offices, while others worked with the Innocence Project, Bankruptcy Court, the War Crimes Chamber of the Court of Bosnia & Herzegovina, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Labor Relations Board, among others. Though their internship places differed, the students’ knowledge about the legal system grew, as well as their collective confidence and leadership abilities.

“I think three of the most important leadership qualities I enhanced over the summer were authenticity, motivation

and communication. Through training and discussions with attorneys at the office, I learned how important it is when representing clients to be authentic,” said PILA Fellow Felicia Dusha, a 2L who interned at the Allegheny County Public Defender’s Office.

While she was there, she went to court, and observed and wrote motions and memos. She was appreciative of the helpfulness of her mentors, the passion they have for their jobs and their impact on society.

“Everyone at the office does this work because they truly care about their clients and want to help them. I was already very motivated when I came to the office, but being around other very motivated people just intensified my motivation,” Dusha said.

Samantha Tipton’s PILA Fellowship took her to the Somerset County Public Defender’s Office. As a 2L, she





**“My internship has helped prepare me for a future in public service by making me feel like a valued member of the organization. Working in this kind of environment has made me more confident in taking on leadership roles both at my externship and in school.**

**—EVA CAMPION, 3L**

wrote briefs, watched body camera footage, took notes and observed the justice process in action. She, too, was impressed by the mentors whom she followed and the tireless work they accomplished.

“The attorneys are amazing. They are exemplary figures who have a lot of work, but also a lot of drive,” she said.

Tipton learned a lot about leadership, too, through the examples they set.

“I watched the grueling and daunting process of being a public defender. However, both Attorney Tiffany Stanley and Attorney Sara Huston, L’10, exhibited tenacity and constant devotion in every case and towards every client. I think both attributes are essential in leadership in the field of criminal defense and public interest law. To continuously dig deep when things get tough is essential in this career in defending someone’s rights and being the best advocate for your client. Being a great leader in this field is to be the best advocate you can be to your client,” she said.

Leadership is also about being altruistic and involved, something Dominic Hite, a 2L, witnessed during his McGinley Fellowship at the Allegheny Court of Common Pleas Family Division with Judge Kim Eaton.

“I was able to observe firsthand truly excellent, selfless and hands-on leadership. As the administrative judge, Judge Eaton leads very much by example; respect for which is reflected amongst the other family court judges whenever spoken of. Seeing how that type of passion for the work, combined with

her selfless approach to working with other court staff was a great learning experience,” he said.

Hite observed court proceedings and custody and contempt hearings.

“I saw all parts of the process—custody, foster care, parenting rights, juvenile and criminal court—and did research on different legal issues,” he said.

His observations opened his perspective on public interest.

“I have more interest in it now. I can see in a practical sense how it all fits together; how it works makes it more appealing for me in that regard. I not only see that, but it really allows me to see other areas as well,” Hite said.

Not only is he grateful for the eye-opening experience, but also for the financial assistance the fellowship provided.

“I’m really thankful to the school for the opportunity. It was great to pursue this. I wouldn’t have been able to pay the bills without it, and it gave me perspective,” said Hite.

Eva Campion, a 3L, worked at Laurel Legal Services during her PILA internship, and through her dedication is continuing her work there this fall.

“My internship has helped prepare me for a future in public service by making me feel like a valued member of the organization. My input in discussions is taken seriously and my colleagues encourage me to be involved with cases as much as I am comfortable with,” she said. “Working in this kind of environment has made me more confident in taking on leadership roles

both at my externship and in school.”

Campion has spent her time diligently working with service types of civil legal aid cases, including bankruptcy and Social Security as well as cases focusing on family law. She is certified to do intake and can conduct interviews, gather facts and handle negotiation with attorneys. Her involvement and skills have grown as her internship has progressed.

“I came into law school to work in some sort of public interest. Access to justice was my biggest concern. My undergraduate degree is in criminal justice, and I thought I would work more on the criminal end of things, then I ended up at Laurel Legal. I fell in love with the work that they did. I did not picture myself as a family law attorney, I always thought of myself going into the criminal justice realm, but now I am no longer married to the idea of being in criminal law,” Campion said.

These fellowships are doing exactly what they were designed to do: deliver knowledge and impart a deeper appreciation for public interest while giving students means to partake in these encounters.

“Duquesne Kline Law encourages students to pursue these types of opportunities and always seems to have a broader focus on using its position and privilege and knowledge to use the access to education to work for the betterment of other people and the world. I appreciate Duquesne’s forward thinking and providing the chances to allow students to pursue these types of opportunities,” Campion said.

Kwisnek, who has been coordinating these fellowships since their inception, is enthusiastic to be able to provide students with these examples of service as they are consistent with the Spiritan mission of Duquesne Kline School of Law.

“The fellowships are entirely consistent with our mission,” she said. “They allow us to serve our students so our students may serve others.” ■





# The Embodiment of Our Motto: Students React to Kline's Historic Gift

By Amanda Drumm

There was an exciting energy around campus when students, faculty, staff and dignitaries were invited to fill the seats in the Power Center for a surprise announcement. No one knew the reason why they were filing into the ballroom, but there was a collective thought something monumental must be on the horizon, especially since there was a break from classes for that part of the day.

"I was really excited because I love surprises (and boxed lunches). When I heard classes were canceled and the library was going to be closed, I knew it was going to be a grand announcement one way or another," said Claire Neiberg, 2L.

There was a quietness that blanketed the full room as a group gathered onstage. Campus leaders, along with Thomas R. Kline, L'78, announced his commitment of \$50 million to the law school—a gift that is the largest in the history of Duquesne University.

While Neiberg was correct that something unprecedented was coming, she was still shocked at the depth of Kline's generosity. "I was astounded, but I know Mr. Kline is a generous and philanthropic alumnus, so I was overall just very grateful to him and proud of how much he wants to give back to our school and community," she said.



Laura Keller, 2L, was equally ecstatic and shocked by the announcement. “I was initially so surprised and honored that Mr. Kline would be so generous in his donation,” she said.

The large amount of money committed was something Falco Muscante III, 3L, immediately began to quantify and assess its potential to benefit students.

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**“The students are optimistic that this generous donation will allow the School to develop even higher-caliber future lawyers equipped with the research, writing and oral advocacy skills necessary for entering the workforce ready to pursue justice, prevent wrong and build bridges.”**

**—FALCO MUSCANTE III, 3L**

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After the announcement by President Ken Gormley, profound remarks were given by Kline’s law partner, Shanin Specter, Dean of Duquesne Kline School of Law April Barton, Duquesne University Board Chair Jack McGinley, and Spiritan Provincial Fr. Don McEachin also spoke. Then the audience was ushered outside to the front of Hanley Hall where the street was blocked off and tables lined the sidewalks. Those tables were piled with swag bearing the school’s new name. Students happily took and adorned Duquesne Kline School of Law shirts and hats, posing for photos and sharing in the revelry. Music from a disc jockey played then was quieted as the crowd turned to look at the black banner blanketing the brick of Hanley Hall. When the covering dropped from the front of the building,

the School’s new signage was revealed, bearing gold lettering saying, “Thomas R. Kline School of Law.” A collective “aaah” was heard on the street.

The name changed, but the motto of the Duquesne Kline School of Law, “Salus populi suprema lex,” meaning “The welfare of the people is the highest law” is the same. The motto is more than words; it is embodied through the noble philanthropy of Kline. His gift palpably impacts people in the Law School—students, faculty and the future—and sincerely resonates with the law students.

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**“When I first started at Duquesne Kline School of Law, I often heard that the alumni were all so passionate about the current students’ success and truly cared about the Law School’s mission and its future. Mr. Kline’s gift is a phenomenal example of that, showing that he truly believes in the School, its future and the future success of its students.”**

**—LAURA KELLER, 2L**

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Neiberg agreed that Kline’s commitment is a tangible example of the positive influence the School leaves on alumni, and the impact they can carry forward.

While in awe of the gift, Muscante believes this generosity is inherently part of the fiber of the University. He said, “Philanthropy is an indispensable part of the greater Duquesne University community, and by extension, the School. It’s who we are.”

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**“I am extremely proud to be a student at Duquesne University, and I hold our School in the highest regard. It fills my heart with joy to know that our School left this impact on Mr. Kline because I know our School is a very special place.”**

**—CLAIRE NEIBERG, 2L**

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Keller agreed. “I think this philanthropy embodies the mission of the Law School while giving the faculty and students more resources to help further the school’s vision of furthering justice and good of our society,” she said.

The Duquesne Kline School of Law community gathered for a group photo then enjoyed the outdoor lunch food stations, all the while upbeat music played in the background. As classes began to resume and the crowd dwindled, Kline, who said he felt like he was home, stayed with a group of captivated students, eagerly talking with them and answering their questions. This discussion continued as he was invited into a Contracts class where he and Associate Professor of Legal Skills Richard Gaffney held an impromptu debate of *Leonard v. Pepsico, Inc.* This was an exciting moment where the students saw firsthand Kline’s gifted legal mind in action.

Kline relished those interactions with the students and said he sees himself in them. Neiberg, who had the opportunity to thank Kline earlier that day, said, “I am grateful that one of our alumni wants to share their success with us. Mr. Kline is an inspiration not only to me but to my classmates as well.” ■



# MEET THOMAS R. KLINE

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University  
Honors its History-Making Alumnus

by **Ken Gormley,**  
**President of Duquesne University**

One of the most memorable days of my presidency came on Sept. 7, when I was privileged to announce—in front of a packed ballroom filled with law students, faculty, staff, alumni and VIPs—that our prominent alumnus Tom Kline, L'78, had made a transformational gift of \$50 million to the Law School—the largest gift in Duquesne University's 144-year history. The School has been renamed the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

It's a true honor for any university president to name one of the institution's flagship schools after a generous philanthropist who wishes to advance the mission and upward trajectory of that school. In this case, however, the privilege is even more profound and personal. In naming the School of Law after Tom Kline, we are honoring (at once) the past, present and future of this special institution.

Tom Kline truly embodies the Duquesne story, the mission of our School and the Spiritan ideal of service to others that first built the Law School in 1911. In more than a metaphorical sense, Tom's journey, from working-class roots in Hazleton, Pa., to high school teacher in his hometown, to stand-out at Duquesne Law School (where he earned the Distinguished Student Award), to nationally acclaimed trial lawyer in Philadelphia, recognized for working tirelessly to achieve justice for ordinary citizens and his unyielding commitment to the highest standards of ethics, is the story of our Law School itself.

In the 15 years in which I've gotten to know and deeply admire Tom, he and I have discussed at length his

desire to give back meaningfully to the Law School that made his extraordinary career possible. His vision of a worthwhile legacy is simple: to give present and future generations of law students and graduates the same opportunities that he has enjoyed in order to enrich the legal profession that he cares so deeply about.

There is no question that the transformational gift Tom has made to his alma mater will do just that. Some of the funds will be used to create new scholarships that will help talented students—including those who otherwise would have insufficient financial means—to reap the benefits of an education from this distinctive Law School. Other funds aid in the recruitment and retention of talented Law School faculty; the expansion of our prized Bar Preparation program; the re-imagining of clinics that aid the underserved; the continued emphasis on public service as a critical aspect of myriad legal careers; and to make possible a continued rise in the rankings and reputation of the Law School, which makes the degrees of all graduates more valuable.

Make no mistake about it: This gift is a game-changer. It is among the largest gifts by any individual to any law school in the United States. It speaks volumes that Tom Kline has chosen to direct the fruits of his life's work to the Law School where he got his start. It models the remarkable spirit and sense of integrity that has made our Law School—and our storied list of graduates—so great. Tom Kline and his exemplary career are products of our mission; and now, he honors that mission by advancing the Law School for a new era. No matter what area of law practice or civic engagement future classes of







our students embark on, they will bear the imprimatur of the gold standard of skill, ethical practice, high ideals and commitment to justice, as graduates of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. The Spiritan founders of the University, and the early legal pioneers who built the Law School in modest quarters near the courthouse in downtown Pittsburgh 111 years ago, would be justly proud that their vision of integrity and professional excellence has taken root so beautifully to produce this moment when their dreams will be realized on a grander scale.

Even among those who have heard of Tom Kline's stellar reputation as one of the top trial lawyers in the nation, many do not know the personal story that led him from humble roots in the hardscrabble coal country of northeastern Pennsylvania, to Duquesne Law School, to the City of Pittsburgh where he shaped his goals as a young lawyer, to the courtrooms across Pennsylvania where he brought his Duquesne training and honed his skills in the service of others. As we celebrate this historic moment in the evolution of Duquesne University and its Law School, Tom Kline's story is one worth sharing.

## Early History and Duquesne Law Training

Born in December 1947, Tom Kline grew up in the Pennsylvania anthracite coal region, the son of a dress factory manager whose grandparents emigrated to America from Lithuania. As a boy, "Tommy" worked summers slinging bundles of fabric from machine to machine at Rival Dress Co. He learned to play the accordion, playing chords in Rosebud's All Accordion Band, which performed in choice venues including Moose Clubs, Polish wedding halls and local parades. (Tom realized he was not destined to be a musician, yet he became a lifelong fan.) Having developed an interest in bowling from his mother,

Jeanne, he joined a league at the Hazleton Jewish Community Center. In school, he enjoyed a wide array of studies and was elected class vice president at Hazleton High School.

When working with his hands, his skills were more limited. Tom returned from shop class and presented his dad with a funnel he had made, and his father, Isadore, turned to him and said with a wry smile, "It's clear you're going to have to make your career with your head, rather than your hands."

Tom enrolled at nearby Albright College, in Reading, Pa., where he studied liberal arts. He also listened to albums on his portable phonograph, favoring Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkel, the Beatles, and his favorite, Leonard Cohen. Regularly, his parents would send him letters and postcards filled with words of encouragement. As the Vietnam War raged overseas, Tom became interested in political science and pre-law. He earned a solid score on the Law School Admission Test and graduated from Albright with honors (he would later receive the school's Distinguished Alumni award).

Although his father, "Izzy," urged him to attend law school, Tom opted to accept a job from Freeland School District—next to Hazleton—teaching sixth grade social studies and putting law school on hold for six years. His salary as a teacher in 1969 was a modest \$6,300. Still, Tom relished the opportunity to stride into his classroom wearing a wide paisley tie, thick leather belt and aviator glasses, especially on days he taught Pennsylvania History and Geography, a class that covered the founding by William Penn and the evolution of all 67 Pennsylvania counties. Still intent on advancing his own education, Tom enrolled in a graduate program at Lehigh University, traveling over the mountains to take classes on evenings and weekends, studying American history with an emphasis on 19th- and early 20th-century social and urban history. For his master's thesis in 1971, Tom wrote a biographical study of Justice Robert C. Grier, the only state court judge in Pennsylvania (specifically, from

Allegheny County) who went on to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. He thereafter completed all of the Ph.D. course work leading up to his final dissertation. Before entering the final stage of graduate studies, however, he decided that his true calling was to attend law school.

Tom already had begun dating his future wife, Paula Wolf, who grew up in Mount Carmel, close to Hazleton. She was full of energy and equally adventurous. Paula had just graduated from Boston University and was beginning her own teaching career in the Hazleton School District when the couple married in late 1972. They both loved their work in their respective classrooms. Yet, Paula urged Tom to pursue his dream of attending law school; she was prepared to work full time as an elementary school teacher to support both of them. Paula's stepfather, Leonard, advised Tom that he should consider his ("Lenny's") own alma mater—an excellent school in Pittsburgh, he insisted, called Duquesne University.

Soon thereafter, Tom and Paula made the trek across state to check out this

Tom relished the opportunity to stride into his classroom wearing a wide paisley tie, thick leather belt and aviator glasses, especially on days he taught Pennsylvania History and Geography.

place that had received such a trusted endorsement. Tom walked into the Law School in Rockwell Hall and met with then-Associate Dean John Sciallo, a friendly figure who worked alongside Dean Ron Davenport. Sciallo quizzed the applicant; the two immediately



- Working in the basement of the Zappala law building, located steps away from the City County Building, down a black iron staircase, Tom would sit within earshot of legal luminaries of the day including attorney Zappala, County Commissioner Tom Forrester, County Coroner Cyril Wecht and others, sopping up their legal discussions and strategy sessions.

clicked. Both came from working-class backgrounds. Sciullo was impressed by Kline's intellectual acumen, his easygoing nature and his laser-like focus on earning a degree—not just from any place, but embossed with the name of this particular Law School. Three days later, Kline received a letter in his mailbox back in Hazleton, accepting him into the program at Duquesne Law School. Paula and Tom taught their final classes of the year, then climbed into their 1975 red Oldsmobile and drove across the Pennsylvania Turnpike, over the mountains and through tunnels, to their new home in Pittsburgh, where Paula had landed a job as a reading specialist at Hampton School District. They found a one-bedroom apartment in the newly built Cricklewood apartments on the edge of Duquesne's campus, a stone's throw from the Law School, and settled into their new life.

Fall of 1975 was an auspicious time to be starting law school. The movie *Paper Chase* had recently made a splash in theaters and had struck fear into the hearts of entering law students across the country. As if to mimic the role of the film's terrifying protagonist, Professor Kingsfield, Tom's Legal Process instructor, Professor Cornelius Murphy, admonished students that if they received an average C grade in his class, they should consider themselves lucky. Tom's favorite class turned out to be Torts, taught by a young professor named Frank McClellan (who would go on to marry noted Duquesne Law alumna Phoebe Northcross Haddon, later Chancellor of Rutgers Camden University). Influenced by Yale Law School Dean and later federal appeals Judge Guido Calabresi, McClellan emphasized in Torts class the notion that the legal system had to achieve fairness and justice in seeking redress for plaintiffs who had suffered injury and other forms of harm through no fault of their own. The notion would stick with Tom.

One of Tom's unlikely classmates who joined his group of study partners was Donn Clendenon, age 40, who had played baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates and the New York Mets



Phoebe Northcross Haddon L'77 and Ronald Davenport.

and was now pursuing a law degree. Clendenon would often visit Tom and Paula's Cricklewood apartment to lay on the couch with books spread across the floor, peppering Tom with questions about cases. (Clendenon admitted that even though he could stand in front of a crowd in an enormous baseball stadium and swat home runs without feeling nervous, he found law school thoroughly intimidating.) Tom, on the other hand, thrived on the work. By the end of First Year, he had excelled in every course. His final grades put him just two hundredths of a point shy of the cutoff necessary to be eligible for the Duquesne Law Review. Disappointed but not one to dwell on near misses, Kline inquired about writing for the Law School magazine, *Juris*. Even though the position of editor was usually reserved for a 3L, the *Juris* advisor was none other than Associate Dean John Sciullo, with whom Tom had bonded. Recognizing this student's natural writing talents, Sciullo swiftly appointed Tom editor, and Tom poured himself into that publication for the



next two years. He even published an article, “Robert C. Grier: The Forgotten Judge,” dusting off his old Lehigh master’s thesis and working hard to make *Juris* one of the best law school magazines in the country.

## Mentors, Practical Experiences and Career Choices

Kline’s upper-level courses included Constitutional Law, taught by Dean Ron Davenport; Estates and Trusts, taught by Associate Dean Sciuillo; U.C.C., taught by Professor Ray Sekula; and Appellate Practice, which required appellate moot court arguments (which he enjoyed). Eager to apply law to real issues and cases, Tom landed a summer job with Stephen Zappala Sr. (later Chief Justice of Pennsylvania) who had a large practice as a solicitor for many municipalities, including Allegheny County, and was a Democratic political powerhouse.

Working in the basement of the Zappala law building, located steps away from the City County Building, down a black iron staircase, Tom would sit within earshot of legal luminaries of the day including attorney Zappala, County Commissioner Tom Forrester, County Coroner Cyril Wecht, and others, sopping up their legal discussions and strategy sessions. He loved how the practical side of the legal education complemented his classes. He started to see how it all connected to making things happen in the real world.

As an outgrowth of his experience with Zappala, Tom enrolled during his 3L year in Municipal Corporations, taught by former City Solicitor and later Allegheny County Judge Francis Barry. Drawing upon on his summer work and his experience as a public school teacher, in that course Tom wrote his final paper on the Public Employee Relations Act of 1970, otherwise known as Act 195, as it applied to the bargaining rights of public school teachers



When Tom graduated in June 1978, he was chosen by the faculty to receive the Distinguished Student Award, in recognition of academic excellence and meritorious service to the Law School. It was the greatest honor imaginable for a young man from Hazleton with no background in law before he had arrived.

Thanks to a good friend from his graduating class, Ann Strickland, Tom learned of a clerkship opening with Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Thomas J. Pomeroy Jr. During law school, Tom had a goal of clerking for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. In his mind, it represented a blending of high-level analytical work, legal writing and practical applications at the highest level.

Pomeroy was himself a towering figure in the legal community. A founder of the Kirkpatrick, Pomeroy, Lockhart and Johnson firm (now K&L Gates), he had been initially appointed by Gov. Raymond P. Shafer and was Republican by registration. Yet Justice Pomeroy was scrupulously nonpartisan and dedicated to the highest standards of the profession. As luck would have it, the Justice was working on a major opinion involving Act 195. Tom’s earlier paper on the topic now made him the perfect choice to join the Justice’s chambers.

Located in the William Penn Hotel downtown, it was a magical opportunity. Tom shared a converted hotel room with Ann Strickland as their joint office, and joined senior clerks Fred Thieman and Robert Hoelscher, who had graduated from Pitt and Harvard Law, respectively. That year, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided over 400 cases. Justice Pomeroy authored nearly 50 of them, with the full engagement of his clerks. Tom found the work as an appellate law clerk to be exhausting, exciting, energizing and inspirational. It opened his eyes to the prospect of making his own mark on the legal profession in a big way.

Legal jobs were scarce in the late 1970s. For that reason, even before his clerkship, Kline had accepted a position at a small law firm in Pottsville, Pa., a half-hour away from Hazleton. Tom and Paula packed up and moved there, remaining true to Tom’s promise to the firm, even though his starting salary barely reflected a pay raise from his law clerk wages or his teaching salary. Tom endeavored to fit into this small practice. He was encouraged to join the Rotary Club and other organizations so that he could attract clients. He and Paula had their first child—a baby, girl, Hilary, in March 1979.

But it all didn’t seem right for Tom or Paula. Soon thereafter, Paula posed the question: “What, exactly, are we doing here?” In many ways, she said, they were back where they had started, living a life similar to the one they had left in Hazleton. Paula encouraged her husband to “think big.” She reminded him that he had spoken effusively about the powerhouse plaintiffs’ firm in Philadelphia led by the legendary trial lawyer James E. Beasley, whom he had known from Beasley’s Supreme Court appearances. Why not aim high and give it a shot? Tom agreed; he mailed a letter to Beasley with a copy of his resume. A week later, he sat in the office interviewing with Jim Beasley, himself, who offered the young lawyer a job on the spot. Returning home, Tom



announced to Paula: “We’re moving to Philadelphia at nearly double my salary and we’re leaving Pottsville!” Paula poured champagne at dinner that evening to celebrate.

## The ‘Babe Ruth’ of Trial Lawyers

Tom’s legal career swiftly blossomed as he gained invaluable courtroom experience and learned firsthand from the master trial lawyer, Jim Beasley. Yet there were setbacks in store for him. The year after the couple’s move to Philadelphia, Tom’s father, Izzy, died of a rare form of leukemia. It was a major blow. His mother felt lost and alone. Tom and Paula made trips to Hazleton as often as possible.

In the meantime, in October 1984, the couple had their second child, Zachary Wolf Kline, his middle name Paula’s maiden name. Raising a family and building a career was all-consuming. The work pace was breakneck, but Tom’s successes in the courtroom began mounting. In early 1995, having established his bona fides as one of the top litigators in the state, he took a chance and decided to join forces with Shanin Specter, with whom a friendship had blossomed at the Beasley firm.

On Jan. 9, 1995, Tom sent his first letter on his new law firm stationery to his mother, who was enthusiastically following her son’s career moves. He wrote: “Dear Mom—My first letter on my new firm stationery is for you. ... Our new venture is exciting, and I’m getting used to the change. Our new space is on the top floor of the building and will be dramatic when completed. ... Hope you visit the new office as soon as possible.”

To his eternal sadness, Tom’s mom died four months later of metastatic breast cancer. She was buried on Mother’s Day 1995, in a simple graveside ceremony in the plot beside her beloved husband, Izzy, on a hillside overlooking Hazleton.

Although she never got to visit her son’s office, he now dedicated his work to her memory and her abiding belief in his ability to use his skills to help others.

As founding partner of a law firm that swiftly gained a reputation of excellence, Kline established an incomparable record of courtroom victories, sometimes against impossible odds. In one front-page story, the *Philadelphia Daily News* described Kline as “the Babe Ruth of personal injury litigation.” The paper highlighted Kline’s victory in the celebrated Hall v. SEPTA case in 1999, which resulted in a \$51 million verdict for a 4-year-old boy whose foot was torn off in a subway escalator,

but more important than the money, Kline was able to get SEPTA to fix an entire escalator system in the Philadelphia subways. That dramatic victory, among others, led to Kline’s selection by The National Law Journal as among “Ten of America’s Top Litigators.”

Kline went on to represent, in 2012, Victim No. 5 in the Pennsylvania State University child sexual abuse matter, known to the world as the Sandusky case. After the case settled, he became a national spokesman for the victims, appearing in newspapers and television coverage that reached more than 100 million viewers. A few years later, he became a national advocate against fraternity hazing in the Timothy Piazza/Penn State hazing incident.

Kline was equally as committed to his family as his career. Each morning, Tom greeted Paula with a cup of piping hot Swee-Touch-Nee tea with two ample scoops of sugar, before he headed off to work. On weekends, the couple loved taking Hilary and Zac into New York City by train, to catch Broadway productions like *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. Zac was developing a love for writing and theatrical productions that would lead him to study dramatic writing in college. The family would regularly gather after events at Brasserie Restaurant at 53rd and Park, munching on baguettes and hot salty fries, as they talked about the latest shows.

On Tuesdays, Paula enjoyed filling her car with flowers at a local wholesale distributor and creating beautiful arrangements throughout the house, for every occasion, or just to brighten their home. She remained a teacher at heart and generously supported her children and Tom at every turn. He was grateful

each day that he was able to pursue his career with such fervor because Paula was such a devoted mother, wife, caretaker and partner.

Yet life was not always fair or rational. In late 2002, doctors diagnosed Paula with an unusual form of breast cancer. Although it seemed to go into remission, by 2003 the situation had worsened. Refusing to allow her illness to disrupt their lives, Paula insisted on maintaining normalcy.

By the following year, however, normalcy was impossible. Soon, Tom was helping to navigate his wife in a wheelchair and to take her for chemotherapy appointments. It was a sad and difficult time.

Paula died on Veterans Day—Nov. 11, 2004. Tom was at her side, heartbroken. She was only 54. At the funeral that Sunday, at the Society Hill Synagogue, Hilary and Zac spoke

□ — □

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□ — □



first, sharing words about their mother's beautiful spirit and her sweet love of family and countless others.

Tom stood up last for the eulogy. He thanked Paula for 11,640 beautiful days together; for their children; for being his compass in all things. "I wouldn't be the person I am without you," he said, looking over hundreds of friends and family members. Then, choking back tears, he recited the words from their wedding song, *Something*, written by Beatles guitarist George Harrison.

With that, Tom clutched the lectern and tearfully thanked God for taking Paula quietly in her sleep.

For months, after the funeral and burial, time stood still. Tom and his children took comfort in each other during this emotionally difficult new period, sharing meals, spending increasing time together and building a new bond. Fortunately, his work in the courtroom and in representing the most vulnerable clients only gave him strength. He threw himself into an emerging national litigation against Merck & Company involving the drug Vioxx. The Wall Street Journal dubbed Kline as a "key player" and the litigation settled for \$4.8 billion.

In 2017, Kline negotiated a historic settlement for the City of Philadelphia to pay \$4.4 million to a take-out food deliveryman shot by plainclothes

officers who mistook him for a criminal suspect. This settlement was among the largest of its kind in the country and it led to meaningful new regulations and training protocols for plainclothes police to help prevent such tragedies from happening in the future. It was typical of the prototype Kline developed. His mantra: "Sometimes good can come from something bad."

Kline was also instrumental in establishing a \$265 million settlement program for passengers injured and families of those who died in a massive train accident that made national news. As lead attorney for the Plaintiffs Management Committee of the federal Amtrak 188 multidistrict litigation in 2016, Kline oversaw the largest such settlement in railway history. At the conclusion of the litigation, U.S. District Judge Legrome D. Davis, who presided, observed in his written opinion that Kline's leadership in bringing the matter to a just conclusion was "exceptional."

In October 2019, now at age 72, Kline made even bigger national news when he won an \$8 billion punitive damages jury verdict against Johnson & Johnson Corporation. Among the largest judgments in U.S. history, the Philadelphia jury agreed with Kline's powerful closing arguments that Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, should be

held accountable for producing and marketing the drug Risperdal. This anti-psychotic drug, whose off-label use the drug companies promoted for children, was linked to the abnormal growth of female breast tissue in boys, known as gynecomastia, which produced dangerous health complications.

## A Mountain of Accolades

Kline has appeared on more than 1,000 television news programs and every major national TV network, as well as CNN, ESPN and MSNBC, and on shows including *World News Tonight*, *Nightline*, the *Today* show, *Good Morning America*, *Anderson Cooper 360* and *Piers Morgan Tonight*. He has been featured or quoted in hundreds more newspapers and magazines, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek* and *People*.

A frequent lecturer at law schools, medical schools and continuing legal education programs, he taught classes at institutions including Temple University Beasley School of Law, the National Judicial College in Reno, Nev., the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Jefferson Medical College, and countless courses in continuing legal education.



### The late Honorable Max Baer, L'75 Chief Justice, Pennsylvania Supreme Court

*"The breadth of impact Tom Kline has had on the profession is immense. He is truly a leading light in the legal profession, not only in Pennsylvania but nationally. He is also a model of integrity and ethics in all that he undertakes. It is wonderful that law students and future generations of graduates at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University will now carry with them that same commitment to the highest standards of excellence and ethics. It's a banner day in the history of this special institution."*





“I take every opportunity I can to remind myself where I came from.”

For 19 consecutive years, from 2004 until the present, Tom Kline has been honored as the No. 1 attorney in Pennsylvania by the independent rating service Super Lawyers. His accolades are numerous, and he has been chosen by Best Lawyers as one of the nation’s top lawyers every year since 1995. He’s been named to the *National Law Journal*’s “Winning Hall of Fame,” one of fewer than 100 lawyers in that elite group, for achieving “significant bench or jury trial verdicts and who has a record of success over many years.” Lawdragon, an influential legal media publisher, listed Kline as one of the top 500 lawyers in the United States. More impressive than the accolades were the deeds: Kline achieved seven- and eight-figure jury verdicts in each of five decades, going back to the early 1980s and extending into the 2020s.

Kline’s professional affiliations are equally impressive. He is a member and past president of the Inner Circle of Advocates, described by *The Washington Post* as “100 of the nation’s most celebrated lawyers.” He’s a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, which limits its membership to an elite group of attorneys in the United States recommended by their peers and trial judges for outstanding skills and abilities, combined with character and integrity. Kline has also been elected to the prestigious American Law Institute, considered the leading independent organization working to clarify, modernize and improve the law in the United States.

One of the honors that is most meaningful to him, however, was being the recipient of the Michael A. Musmanno Award, the highest honor conferred by the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association. It is bestowed upon the person who best exemplifies “the same high integrity, scholarship, imagination, courage and concern for human rights” as the legendary, late Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice (whose papers are housed at Duquesne University’s Gumberg Library).

A natural teacher, Kline even harnessed the dramatics of his courtroom performances to produce and perform in a one-man seminar, *Trial As Theatre*, which is presented to professional audiences for continuing legal education credits.

“I think some of the most important skills that I learned were in a classroom teaching sixth-graders,” Kline remarked to one interviewer. “A lawyer in a courtroom is a teacher if he or she is doing the job correctly.”



From left to right: Thomas R. Kline, President Ken Gormley, Chief Justice Emeritus Thomas G. Saylor, Honorable Maureen Lally-Green.

A consummate professional, Kline is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and New York. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and other federal courts.

In 2014, Kline donated \$50 million to Drexel University in Philadelphia, the town where he made his home and pursued his storied legal career, to rename its new law school. Several years later, in 2017, wishing to make an impact at his own alma mater, Kline made a \$7.5 million gift to Duquesne Law School to create the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education, then the largest individual gift in our Law School’s history. Pathbreaking in scope and concept, the Kline Center at Duquesne works with the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts—under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court—to help judges across the state receive a first-class judicial education, to make them better jurists and public servants. The Kline Center delivers continuing judicial education courses and seminars to more than 600 trial and appellate judges throughout the commonwealth, in partnership with the eight other law schools in Pennsylvania, creating a national model of collaboration in judicial education.



## A Gifted Life and Legacy

The legal profession has been good to Kline, as he freely admits. His office on the top floor of a 19-story building near Rittenhouse Square offers a spectacular view of the city below. In that office, Kline has kept his well-worn baseball mitt from childhood years, along with a ball signed by Red Sox slugger Ted Williams that his dad caught in Yankee Stadium. On the wall hangs a typed letter his dad sent in 1969 that reads, in part, “I don’t want to get mushie or anything but what more can I say than I know you are good and I know Mother and I will always be proud of you.”

Kline later reflected: “I take every opportunity I can to remind myself where I came from.”

During trials, Kline still immerses himself in the case, preparing day and night. He keeps a notebook next to his bed so he can scribble down notes as his mind grinds through all of the evidence he plans to present to the judge and jury. In these intense times, he allows himself to indulge in two of his favorite snacks: soft pretzels and Necco Wafers.

“Every time I stand up to give an opening speech I know someone’s future is riding on what I do,” he told one reporter. “Those are big stakes.”

However, he remains a down-to-earth person who enjoys relaxing with friends and family. Kline is widely recognized as an avid Philadelphia sports fan who has been seen next to the visitors’ bench at nearly every Philadelphia 76ers game for decades. He has continued to bowl since his teenage years as a league bowler, but more importantly, he has become a relentless 10-miles-per-day walker.

When he visits Pittsburgh, he likes to enjoy a few slices of pizza at Milano’s, down the hill from Duquesne. He also enjoys sneaking off with his son, Zac, for as many Bob Dylan concerts as they can squeeze into impromptu road trips.

His family continues to take center stage. His daughter, Hilary, a preschool teacher for 17 years with a master’s in early childhood education, now raises her own young kids—Parker, Cole and Dylan. Tom’s son, Zac, is a playwright living in New York City. Having earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Tisch School at NYU, and a law degree at Drexel Kline Law School, Zac is pursuing the dream that he first imagined during

those train trips to catch Broadway shows and plays with his mom, dad and sister.

And, Tom still has daily contact with his sister, Lois, who lives in San Francisco. They go back and forth nightly, sharing not only memories but also their joint love of NBA hoops. As Tom likes to say, “I will never forget that she is the one who taught me how to ride a bicycle the day she let the bicycle go without the training wheels on. She is the one who set me on my way.”

Tom cherishes memories of the past; yet he, too, has moved forward. In loving memory of Paula, he dedicated the Paula Kline Learning Center at the Society Hill Synagogue in Philadelphia, where she was a teacher. While Tom still lives in downtown Philadelphia, not far from his office, he’s added an apartment in New York City and a place to relax on Long Beach Island, N.J., so he can be close to his children and three grandchildren.

So, Tom acknowledges, he feels grateful every day for his blessings. And he puts his family and those he loves at the top of that list.

He also keeps a yellowed piece of paper under the glass on his desk, as a reminder of a line that his partner, Shanin Specter,



### Honorable Christine Donohue, L’ 80 Justice, Pennsylvania Supreme Court

*“As the daughter of a coal miner and as someone raised in Carbon County, Pa.—not far from Hazleton where Tom Kline grew up—I have a special appreciation for Tom’s remarkable life story. Not only did he emerge from humble origins to become one of the great trial lawyers in the nation, but he did so while exhibiting compassion and an unyielding commitment to achieving justice for all individuals, regardless of their station in life. For that reason, he stands as a wonderful model for the students and graduates of this storied law school who will now follow in his footsteps.”*



shared with him from a Yom Kippur sermon when they first opened their law firm. The single sentence reads: "It's better to be kind than to be right." Tom reflects on those words each morning as he begins a new day.

Perhaps more than any other mementos of his past work as a lawyer, he treasures the letters of thanks he has received from families seeking to lead a decent life and achieve a measure of justice. One of these clients was Linda McAlister, the mother of a baby who was catastrophically injured due to a hospital medication error in 1991. More than 20 years later she wrote:

Tom, please always remember that, because of you we were able to spend every day with Johnathan. We were able to take him to any doctor anywhere. Had the money to take the very best of care of him. We are forever grateful. When having a bad day, know that and feel proud.

Love, Linda

This letter hangs on the wall in Kline's office and reminds him of the reasons he committed himself to his profession in the first place.

## A Magnificent New Chapter in Our Law School's History

When the School was founded in 1911, it sprung into existence only as a result of bold leadership. Father Martin Hehir—the third president of our institution—wanted to transform what was then Pittsburgh Catholic College into a fully accredited university. He would need to add a law school and other graduate and professional programs to do so. Yet the Pennsylvania Legislature, at the time, would not have permitted the word "Catholic" to appear in the name of an approved institution of higher education. So, the Spiritan priests leading the institution chose to change the name to Duquesne University—after the Marquis Duquesne, a Canadian governor who

brought Catholicism to the Pittsburgh region during the French and Indian War.

Making this change was both brilliant and forward-thinking. It led to a dramatic new future, not just for the newly formed School, but for the entire University of which it became a flagship. Likewise, 111 years later, this once-in-a-lifetime gift by alumnus Tom Kline is changing the trajectory of the School. It will allow more resources to be deployed to enhance the faculty, assist students and provide new curricular and clinical opportunities in the School. It will allow the School's star to continue to rise in the national constellation, both immediately and for generations into the future.

Over the past decade, Tom and I had many dinners at an all-you-can-eat Brazilian steakhouse in Philadelphia—

Tom, please always remember that, because of you we were able to spend every day with Johnathan. We were able to take him to any doctor anywhere. Had the money to take the very best of care of him. We are forever grateful. When having a bad day, know that and feel proud.

Love, Linda

Fogo De Chao—brainstorming about ways he might contribute something of lasting value to his alma mater. Tom insisted that whatever it was, he wanted to make it meaningful for the legal profession, and advance Duquesne's mission of ethics and public service. Initially, Tom carried out that goal by creating the Kline Center for Judicial Education, in 2017. More recently, I returned to the idea of Tom naming the School, a topic that we had discussed at length over 10 years ago, when I served as Dean. This time, he became more serious about the idea. Tom reiterated his deeply felt desire to do something transformational for the School and provide students with tools and inspiration to achieve successes like those he has achieved in the practice of law.





Ronald R. Davenport, past Duquesne Kline Dean and the first Black dean of a major American law school, is pictured with Tom Kline on the day of the announcement of Kline's gift.

When Tom came to speak last year, in 2021, addressing a packed hall in the Power Center ballroom, he told our students: "I cherish that card in my wallet that allows me to practice law. I belong to a profession that is necessary. We are the guardians of democracy, the backbone of our nation, and we are all in this together."

Thereafter, we spoke again, and he soon made up his mind. As Tom conceived of it, his dream in leaving behind a true legacy, on this earth, was to produce succeeding generations of

Pennsylvania lawyers who were trained with the highest level of skill, integrity and ethical grounding. Naming the law school where he got his start was the ultimate way to make that happen. With this transformational gift, he will have accomplished his goal both in the eastern part of the state (with his initial gift at Drexel Kline Law School) and now in the western part of the state (at Duquesne Kline Law School, where he began his professional journey).

Although both of these law schools will maintain their total independence

and carry on with wholly different identities and traditions, there will be opportunities for both to collaborate. Already, Dean April Barton has engaged in extremely fruitful conversation with Dean Daniel Filler at Drexel Kline Law School to plan positive collaborations on initiatives that will further serve our profession and promote ethics, leadership, character, and justice – qualities that Thomas R. Kline exemplifies. Thus, like other inter-university collaborations that we have fostered around the globe, this unique relationship will only broaden the reach of our School's influence and further enhance our prominence.

## Salus Populi Suprema Lex

From the moment I first encountered Tom Kline, I recognized he was an extraordinary person—one of the most impressive lawyers and human beings I'd ever met. From humble roots, he's gone on to become one of the most successful and highly respected lawyers in the United States. More impressively, he has built his career by representing ordinary citizens and a wide range of clients in the most difficult, complex cases that most



### Dean April Barton Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University

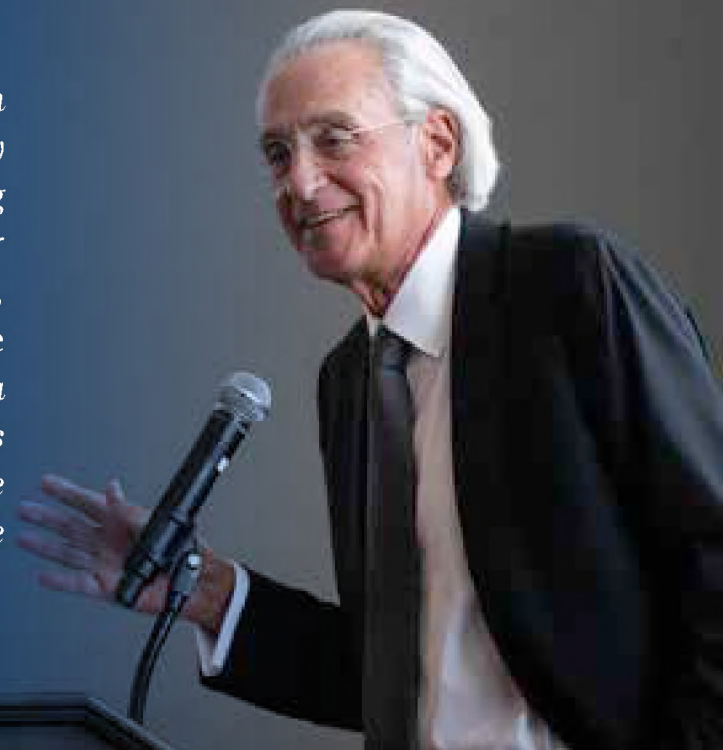
*"Working with Tom Kline has been an inspiration and absolute joy. He is an exemplary embodiment of our distinct mission. He understands the history and value of Duquesne's commitment to educational access and our focus on the law as a tool to ensure the welfare of all people. This is an extraordinary moment for Duquesne, certainly, as well as for the entire legal community. Linking Tom Kline and Duquesne permanently in the name of the Law School will empower future lawyers for generations to come."*



—□—

*...knowing Tom is a huge Bob Dylan fan, I told him that I wanted to play what I believed was Dylan's best song ever. It wasn't Mr. Tambourine Man or Blowin' in the Wind, I insisted. Rather, it was a ditty called ... the Duquesne Whistle. It's a contagious tune about a train bearing that name that blows its whistle, right on time, as it takes the narrator back to his home, the place where he belongs.*

—□—



would shy away from—because he cares so deeply about using his considerable talents to accomplish justice. His groundbreaking cases have helped to shape the law in trial and appellate courts across the country. They have helped to produce corporate, institutional and governmental change for the good of his clients, the legal profession, and our system of laws and justice.

At the dedication of the Kline Center in 2017, knowing Tom is a huge Bob Dylan fan, I told him that I wanted to play what I believed was Dylan's best song ever. It wasn't *Mr. Tambourine Man* or *Blowin' in the Wind*, I insisted. Rather, it was a ditty called ... the *Duquesne Whistle*. It's a contagious tune about a train bearing that name that blows its whistle, right on time, as it takes the narrator back to his home, the place where he belongs. As we made this historic new announcement, I told Tom that the Duquesne whistle was calling his name, now in a bigger way than he could have ever imagined

when he sat in Torts and Municipal Corporations classes in Rockwell Hall as a law student.

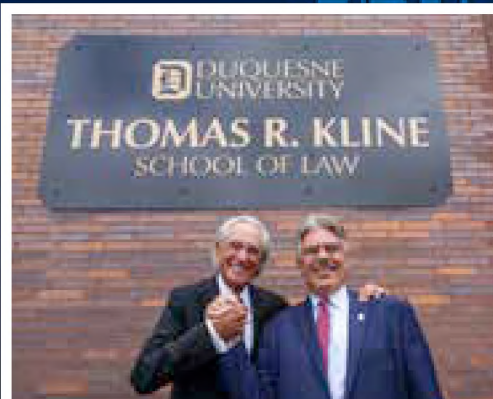
We're incredibly grateful that the Duquesne whistle has summoned him back to his alma mater, where he got his start—this time in the most significant way possible, to create the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. It's hard to imagine a more appropriate name to affix to this storied Law School. Tom Kline has devoted his entire career and all of the talents at his command to the service of others, particularly those needing the most basic guarantees of justice and fairness. That is the essence of what Duquesne University has always stood for. Now, he has given an incomparable gift to future generations of Law School graduates, who will forever carry his shining imprint of integrity and excellence with them.

When Tom Kline was inducted in 2019 into the Century Club of Distinguished

Duquesne Alumni at Duquesne—the highest honor the University bestows on graduates—I told the assembled alums and dignitaries that he is the true embodiment of the Duquesne story. The motto of the Duquesne Kline School of Law, affixed to the wall just inside the building's entranceway, is *Salus Populi Suprema Lex*. Loosely translated from Latin, that means: "The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law." That is what the School has stood for, for the past 111 years. It is also precisely what Tom Kline has stood for, during 44 years of legal practice, using his Duquesne degree to advance the cause of others and society more broadly.

The Spiritan founders would smile down on this transformational development. Now, they would agree, the best is yet to come. ■









S E P T E M B E R 7 T H

2022





# Family Law Has a Family Calling: A Judicial Father–Daughter Relationship

By Emma Betz, 2L



For the Watson family, not only does justice run within their DNA, but Duquesne's legal tradition does as well. Instilled with the feeling of responsibility to help people, Honorable Wrenna L. Watson, L'91 decided to pursue a career that resembled one of her father's, Honorable J. Warren Watson, A'49, L'53.

From a young age, Judge Wrenna Watson learned from her mother, who helped high school students from under-resourced neighborhoods as a counselor in the Carnegie Mellon University Upward Bound Program, and from her father, who had an exemplary career as a judge and would discuss legal cases and share his logical reasoning with his family at the dinner table. Judge Watson's parents took the time to teach each of their children about the many obstacles that they would need to not only overcome but embrace.

Growing up in the Hill District during a time when businesses were being ravaged by riots soon after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Judge Watson remembers driving through the neighborhood with her family and witnessing the events that were taking place. Judge Watson's father turned to both Judge Watson and her brother in the backseat of the car during the drive and said: "You're intelligent; it will be your job to help people ... to uplift our community." From that day forward, Judge Watson knew that she wanted to make a difference and knew that she wanted to pursue an education that would encompass what she learned from each of her parents—psychology and the law.

Following in her mother's, brother's and sister's footsteps as a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Judge Watson attended school with a purpose. Judge Watson went to Howard not only to acquire a bachelor's degree, but also to be immersed in a culture where she would learn her role, learn how she could uplift her community and learn what part she was to play in it all. After developing a *weltanschauung* from Howard that continues to impact her life today, Judge Watson "returned home, degree in hand, ready to jump in and serve." Judge Watson continued: "My experiences at home taught me that I could better serve equipped with more knowledge and working from the inside. Law was the additional knowledge. I just wanted to help people."

Attending law school at Duquesne was a no-brainer for Judge Watson, as her father was a Double Duker, and "Duquesne had the reputation as the best law school for making the best lawyers," said Judge Watson. Additionally, as a single mother who worked full-time during the day, Judge Watson found that Duquesne's evening law program would be a perfect fit as it best suited her dreams of becoming a lawyer, while also allowing her to support her family.

Judge Watson embraced the opportunities presented to her as a law student at Duquesne and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "Law school challenges everything you have ever known or were taught—it pushes you to your extremes, to the edge repeatedly, and causes you to question yourself and everything else," said Judge Watson. She continued by pointing out the fact that "if you like a challenge, if you love overcoming, and love the thrill of victory, then law school is AWESOME!" To Judge Watson, law school was just that. Awesome.



As a steppingstone to truly making a difference in the world, Judge Watson chose to go to law school to learn more about the impact that she could one day have on the world around her. To make a difference, Judge Watson knew that she would have to learn more about the legal process, the legal system and everything in between. To become the lawyer that she wanted to be as a little girl growing up in the City of Pittsburgh, Judge Watson would have to learn how to get things done effectively and efficiently. Judge Watson learned early at Duquesne “that the legal analysis is not black and white, there is no one right way to analyze a circumstance.” To make a difference from a legal standpoint, she continued: “We must analyze the relationships from which one can infer causal connectivity; the law is ever changing and is not static.” From her education at Duquesne, Judge Watson understood that learning from circumstances can have a significant impact on the way an individual interprets the law.

Walking across the stage at her law school graduation is a moment that Judge Watson will never forget as she watched her daughter and her family make a victorious fist bump for her. Judge Watson knew that the education she received at Duquesne was one that would continuously guide her as she quickly began to pave a legal career for herself.

Following her graduation, Judge Watson used the knowledge that she had gained from her education and “learned to tell the story of [her] client, to paint a picture weaving the facts and apply the law so that the trier would come to the same conclusion.” As a jurist and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, a trier of fact and a judge in the minor judiciary, Judge Watson “applies the very skills, knowledge and techniques, that [she] learned on the Bluff.”

In 26 of her 29 years as an attorney, Judge Watson served in a judicial capacity adjudicating well over 50,000 cases. As a Judge of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court, she presided over more than 22,000 cases, sat as the hearing examiner for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, and served as chair of the Pittsburgh Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustments. Judge Watson also sat as a Civil Commitment Hearing Officer

of the court. One day, amid the hustle, bustle and chaos of defendants, victims, police officers, district attorneys, public defenders, private attorneys, witnesses and families, Judge Watson had an epiphany and realized that she loved her job and the impact that she was beginning to make. It was because of this epiphany that Judge Watson decided to pursue a judicial career in the City of Pittsburgh.

Judge Watson’s roots run deep in Allegheny County, where her 99-year-old father, Honorable J. Warren Watson, was elected judge in 1965. Judge J. Warren Watson, a graduate of both Duquesne University and the Law School, chose to study at Duquesne because of his Catholic identity. His decision to continue his education by pursuing a legal career blossomed from the teachings he had as a young child to strive for excellence.



Judge Warren Watson, seated with his mother Mrs. Watson on left, his first wife on right, daughters Wrenna and Meredith standing behind wife, oldest son Pete, and younger son, in office, 1965. © Carnegie Museum of Art, Charles “Teenie” Harris Archive

Judge J. Warren Watson’s aunt was one of the first Black women to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Pharmacy, and his grandfather was a Black postal worker. Being raised among successful and determined individuals, Duquesne challenged Judge J. Warren Watson’s academic ethic to be the best. Duquesne also provided him the opportunity to work and support his family during the day, while receiving an education in the evening.

Judge J. Warren Watson wanted to set an example for his children by becoming a lawyer in times where his country needed him to serve. He always encouraged his children, at a young age, “whether it was to further their education, purchase a car

or even travel—to understand that they are one person in a group of many, but have the right to say whatever they want and do what they want.” Judge J. Warren Watson wanted his children to have the same experiences and opportunities as he did, so he decided to send them to schools where they would meet people who were intelligent and interested in solving problems. He taught his children to get to the source of problems and resolve them as opposed to being part of the problem. He encouraged them “to go beyond the basic education and to go to a school where they would experience different views with an understanding of the world.” Pleased that both his son and daughter decided to attend law school, Judge J. Warren Watson could not be more proud of the successful, bright individuals that both Judge Watson and her brother are today and will continue to be.

As a judge, Judge J. Warren Watson wanted fairness, and he believes that the best way to approach fairness in the judicial system is to treat everyone equally. When Judge J. Warren Watson learned that his daughter wished to pursue a judicial career in Allegheny County, he knew that his daughter’s strengths would come from her seeing the effects of the City of Pittsburgh because of the riots that took place within their neighborhood. From an early age, Judge Watson “knew that she was going to have to support her race, particularly major efforts for equality and fairness,” said Judge J. Warren Watson. It was because of this knowledge that Judge J. Warren Watson believed his daughter would be well-suited for a judicial career. He knew that Judge Watson would take advantage of the opportunity presented to her as judge and utilize her intelligence in a positive way for Allegheny County as well as its citizens. “I was very pleased with my daughter getting on the bench because I knew with the background that she had and the length of time she spent practicing law, she knew what path to take. She is knowledgeable enough to rule a fair decision,” said Judge J. Warren Watson.

Honorable J. Warren Watson and Honorable Wrenna Watson exemplify what it means to be a Duquesne lawyer. The impact that each of them has made throughout their judicial careers in Allegheny County is remarkable, and their stories will continue to give hope to those who wish to make their mark on the world. ■





President Ken Gormley, Dean April Barton and 1911 Society Fellows.

## 1911 Society

On May 3, Dean April Barton welcomed our prestigious 1911 Society back to campus for a reception to honor our newest Fellows.

“The last time we gathered for this event was in December 2019. The world has changed immensely since then,” Barton said. “Know that your support and your generosity have been felt and were truly influential these past two years.”

The 1911 Society was established by alumni who pledged funds to ensure the continued excellence of the legal education offered by the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University during the 85th anniversary of the school's founding in 1996. Today, the 1911 Society Fellows program continues its pledge of excellence by supporting the Duquesne Kline School of Law's mission through cumulative financial support in excess of \$10,000. ■

### NEWLY INDUCTED 2021-2022 FELLOWS

Steven and Carol Baicker-McKee  
Honorable Cynthia A. and Arthur L. Baldwin  
Robert F. Daley  
Robert G. DelGreco  
Joseph DiPaolo  
Ralph H. and Troyann Dougherty  
Donald C. and Dolores M. Fetzko  
Lauren Gailey  
Judith A. and Robert J. Hardiman  
John J. Hovan  
Martha W. Jordan  
Andrew M. King  
John V. and Karen Pezdek

## Who Was Duquesne's First Female Law Alumna?

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University is proud of its heritage of inclusion from its beginnings in 1911. Mrs. M. Murphy was admitted to the historical School of Law in 1914, although she didn't graduate for reasons lost to posterity. In 1925, Theron B. Hamilton was the first Black male to graduate. And for many years, it was believed that Anna Louise Schultz, Class of 1924, was the first female to graduate.

However, a recent review of class records shows that the first law alumna of Duquesne was Maymie H. Hamrick, who received her L.L.B. in June 1923. Records kept by the Duquesne Kline School of Law Registrar show she entered law school on Sept. 27, 1920, with a note that she had completed her first year of law school at “Wash. Law School” and “does not intend to practice in Pa.” According to these records, it appears she sat for the West Virginia and District of Columbia bar exams.

Maymie (also known as “Mayme” and “Mamie”) Herbert Hamrick was born in Webster Springs, W.Va., on Feb. 27, 1893. Further online research shows that she made an “application for admission to practice by the U.S. Supreme Court” on April 27, 1928. She died Nov. 14, 1962 in Webster, W.Va. ■



Maymie Herbert Hamrick  
Photo credit: FamilySearch.com



# Young Alumni

## PROFILE

### Derrick L. Maultsby Jr., L'20 | PLDIC Leadership Emerging Leader Program Scholarship Recipient

**Hometown:**

Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Education:**

Eastern Arizona College, A.A.; Indiana University of Pennsylvania, B.S.; Duquesne Kline School of Law, J.D.

**Favorite restaurant:**

The Bloom Café in Valencia, Pa.

**What you are currently reading?**

*Inclusion on Purpose: An Intersectional Approach to Creating a Culture of Belonging at Work*

**Words you live by:**

"Run your own race"

**What people might be surprised to know about you:**

I wanted to go to film school instead of law school, and worked as a writer for a Hollywood publication covering diverse voices and creators.

**Employment:**

Associate Attorney, Frost Brown Todd LLC

**You are heavily involved in local start-ups, especially in the tech sector. Why is this important to you?**

As a Pittsburgh native, my investment in our community is important to me. Start-ups and small businesses are a vital aspect of the growth of the Pittsburgh ecosystem. These companies are helping drive the culture and the innovation that our community is becoming nationally known for. That being said, these companies need legal support at early stages to have sustained growth and success. However, the typical law firm model doesn't necessarily fit the needs of these companies. I find it rewarding to innovate the legal approach to emphasize flexibility and place the founders first, providing the resources and support these companies need. As I continue to grow my book of business, I will always ensure that my practice includes these companies, which have truly been the foundation for my practice as a whole.

**How did your Duquesne Kline School of Law education prepare you not only for the practice of law, but for your civic engagement?**

During my time at Duquesne Kline School of Law, I was presented with a lot of opportunities to begin building my career. As a 2L, I was a clerk with a local law firm focusing on data privacy and technology transactions. Duquesne's proximity to the downtown business district made it seamless for me to commute back and forth from the classroom to the office. The School was also actively in support of my burgeoning career and hosted a technology conference that I planned and presented my 3L year. In addition to the career-focused value, the School provided me with the education and support that allowed me to pass the Pennsylvania bar exam on my first attempt. Professor Ashley London and

the Bar Studies program were pivotal to ensuring my ability to overcome the adversity that my class was confronted with during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, my Duquesne Kline School of Law education provided me with an opportunity to learn how to balance multiple endeavors and to succeed in the face of adversity, which are skills I will utilize for the rest of my career.

**How would you describe the value of a Duquesne Kline School of Law education in the 21st century?**

The first word that comes to mind when I think about a Duquesne Kline School of Law education is "practical." I feel that we are trained to be practice ready, which allows Duquesne Kline School of Law lawyers to enter the profession ready to add value to our clients and business. I also believe the increasing emphasis on the intersection of the law and technology affords us the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of where the law is going.

**Anything else you'd like to add?**

I want to be a resource for everyone. Whether it's coffee, lunch or a Zoom call, I am open to meeting up with anyone and providing any assistance or guidance I can. ■





# ClassActions

Stay connected with Duquesne Kline Law!  
Update your email at [duq.edu/lawalumniupdate](http://duq.edu/lawalumniupdate) or by emailing  
the Law Alumni office at [lawalumni@duq.edu](mailto:lawalumni@duq.edu).

## 1971

**Irwin Lichter** and **Edward Rumin** were honored by the Florida Bar at the annual 50-Year Member and Senior Counselor Recognition Luncheon June 24.

## 1974

**David Pollock** was appointed Chair of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee effective June 1.

## 1975

**Sr. Melanie DiPietro, SC**, was the commencement speaker and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the May 6 commencement of St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa.

## 1981

**Lisette "Mimi" McCormick**, the executive director of the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness in Pittsburgh, received the fourth annual Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Civil and Equal Rights Champion Award at an awards ceremony during the PBA Annual Meeting in May 2022.

## 1982

**James Saxton** was named to the *Central Penn Business Journal's* "Power 30" list for law and lobbyists for a second time. He is CEO and Founding Member of Saxton & Stump in Lancaster, Pa.



## 1984



**Colonel Bernard Bercik, USAR, Ret.**, was invited by the United Nations to participate as a delegate in the sixth International Partnership for Technology in Peacekeeping in Pretoria, South Africa. Since 2015, Bercik and a fellow retired combat USAR trauma surgeon have collaborated to develop and "operationalize the telemedicine workstream" that harnesses technology to save Peacekeepers' lives in the field, using their personal resources to do so.

**Ray Middleman** joined Whiteford Taylor & Preston, LLP as a Partner, with a practice focus in Business Litigation and Energy & Natural Resources.



## 1985

**Honorable David Torrey** published the fourth edition of his treatise, *Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation: Law & Practice*, which is volumes 6-9 of West's Pennsylvania Practice.

## 1988

**Joseph Bucci** joined Jackson Kelly PLLC in Pittsburgh as counsel to the business law practice group, focusing primarily on construction law and commercial litigation.



## 1989

**Eugene Giotto** was elected to the Board of Directors of Cozen O'Connor.



## 1991

**Sandy Garfinkel** joined McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC as Co-Chair of McNees' Privacy & Data Security Practice Group.



## 1996

**Michael McAuliffe Miller** has been named Member In Charge of Eckert Seamans' Harrisburg office. He will also serve ex officio on the firm's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Miller concentrates his practice exclusively on management-side employment and labor law, including employment and labor-related litigation before a variety of state and federal courts.



## 1999

**Daniel Fayock** was named Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary of Arconic Corporation.

## 2000

**Jane Dearwester** is managing attorney with The Litigation Practice Group, PC (LPG), a consumer rights law firm. She is opening offices for the firm in North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky.

**Jeremy Hartzell** was selected as the next COO of top 50 public accounting firm Hill Barth & King LLC.

## 2001

**Janet Meub** joined Babst Calland as senior counsel in the Litigation and Employment and Labor groups.



## 2002

**Ryan Krescanko** was elevated to Shareholder at Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin in the firm's casualty department.

## Mark Mustian

joined Nixon Peabody as Counsel of the Environmental practice group.



## 2003

**Marla Presley** is President-Elect of the Allegheny County Bar Association. She will assume the position of President in July 2023.



## Rachel Smydo

joined S&T Bankcorp as Executive Vice President and General Counsel.



## 2005

**Mariah Passarelli** was promoted to Shareholder of Cozen O'Connor.



## 2006

**Donald McKay** joined McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC as a Patent Attorney and member of McNees' Intellectual Property Law Group.



**Geoffrey Melada** was named Vice President of National Policy and Strategy for the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.



## 2007

### Mary Jensen

was appointed by Attorney General Merrick B. Garland to serve as the Acting U.S. Trustee for the Judicial Districts in the states of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota. Mary will also continue to serve as the Assistant U.S. Trustee for the Western District of Wisconsin and Northern District of Illinois, Western Division.



## 2008

**Anthony Marmo** was promoted to PNC Bank's Managing Chief Counsel for Technology, Security and Privacy.

## 2009

### Jennifer Galloway,

senior counsel for Saxton & Stump, Lancaster, Pa., became the chair-elect of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division at the conclusion of the association's May 13 House of Delegates meeting in Hershey, Pa. She was also selected as a 40 under 40 recipient of the *Central Penn Business Journal*.



**Darren Newberry** was elevated to Shareholder at Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin in the firm's casualty department.

**Stefan Dann** joined Dentons Cohen & Grigsby as a Shareholder in the Corporate group. In September, Dann will receive the Pro Bro Attorney of the Year Award from TLDEF in recognition of the pro bono work he has put into the Name Change Project with Judge Christine Ward. Dann was also recently honored as a finalist for the 2022 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year award by Chambers and Partners and is a past recipient of the Professional Excellence Award: Diversity Initiative by the *Legal Intelligencer*, and the Ally Award by the Allegheny County Bar Association's Committee for Diversity and Inclusion.



## 2010

### Vivian Brand Taylor

was promoted to Chief of Department of People Operations and registered in-house counsel for Turning Point Community Programs, a non-profit that provides mental health services in 10 northern California counties. She also helps grassroot groups organize for 501(c)(3) status in Pennsylvania, Oregon and California.



### Gosia Kosturek

joined Whiteford Taylor & Preston, LLP as Chair of the Hospitality Group. Kosturek is a leading adviser on corporate transactions in the hospitality sector.



### Amanda Zambrano Daquelente

was inducted into the Fox Chapel Area Schools Sports Hall of Fame for excelling as a soccer player at both Fox Chapel High School and Franklin & Marshall College.

## 2011

**William Grant** started a new position as Athletics Contracts Counsel with the University of Texas at Austin.

**Caitlin Gifford** was promoted to Senior Vice President and General Counsel of TMS International.



## 2012

**Kate Stoy**, along with husband, Frank, and big sister, Addie, welcomed their second child, Frank "Frankie" Stoy V, on St. Patrick's Day 2022.



**Amber Archer** is Chair-Elect of the Allegheny County Bar Association's Women in the Law Division. She will assume the role of Chair in July 2023.

## 2013

**Nicholas Borsuk** is a member at Eckert Seamans and practices in commercial litigation.

### Christy Gamble

**Hines** joined Forbes Tate Partners (FTP) as Senior Vice President to lead the firm's Research and Policy Analysis department.



**Matthew Rudzki** was inducted into the Fox Chapel Area Schools Sports Hall of Fame for excelling as a long distance runner at both Fox Chapel High School and Washington & Jefferson College.

**Maggie McHugh**, along with husband, Rob McHugh, Duquesne Law Class of 2012, welcomed their daughter, Iris Elizabeth McHugh, in June of 2022.



## 2014

**Judy Hale** was promoted to Pro Bono Manager in the Pittsburgh office of Neighborhood Legal Services.

**Anya Lernetovych** was named to the 40 Under 40 Class of 2022 (Pittsburgh Magazine and PUMP recognize 40 outstanding individuals under the age of 40 whose creativity, vision and passion enrich the Pittsburgh region).

## 2015

**Brandon Uram** was promoted to Member of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC.

## 2016

**Noah Walstrom** is now serving as General Counsel for international software solutions company Ideagen PLC, based primarily out of Blacksburg, Va., and Nottingham, England.

**Adam Tragone** is now an attorney with the legal team of the Institute for Free Speech.

### Katelin

**Montgomery** and husband, Joshua Revels, welcomed daughter Aurora June Montgomery-Revels on July 4.



## 2018

### Jamie Drennen

associate attorney at Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky, was named one of Duquesne University's 2022 Dukes From the Last Decade.



**Andrew Carpenter** is an associate with Maiello, Brungo & Maiello, LLP and is a member of its litigation, corporate law and employment law practice groups.

### Zachary Morano

is an associate at Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin in Landsdale, Pa., in the firm's real estate and land use department.



## 2019

### Brandon Schall

is now employed by the National Society of Professional Engineers in Alexandria, Va.



## 2020

**Emily Sanchez-Parodi** was appointed assistant county solicitor for Lawrence County, Pa., as well as to the post of county right-to-know officer.



# In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we list the following law alumni who passed away:

## Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Max Baer 1975

Max Baer, born David Max Baer, was raised in Dormont, Pa. He was the son of Henry "Budd" Baer, a self-made automobile dealer, and his wife, Helen Scheimer Baer, the matriarch of the Baer/Scheimer family. Max Baer graduated high school from the Linsly Military Institute in Wheeling, W.Va. He continued his education at the University of Pittsburgh where his lifelong love of Pitt football began. In 1975, he graduated from Duquesne University School of Law, now the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

Max Baer began his celebrated career when he was elected to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas in 1989, where he was affectionately known as the "Fighting Judge." While assigned to the Family Division, he revolutionized the processes to better serve families. His reforms directly impacted the lives of children who found their future in the Court's hands. The reforms that Judge Baer instituted in Allegheny County were nationally recognized and replicated in Family Courts across the nation. For his effort, he earned special recognition by the President of the United States and First Lady in a White House ceremony.

Judge Baer's vision for judicial reform extended beyond Allegheny County. In 2003 he was elected Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. In 2021, he was sworn in as the 57th Chief Justice of the Commonwealth, where he led a court based on the principles of collegiality, trust and professionalism. Chief Justice Baer was respected by jurists, scholars and lawmakers throughout Pennsylvania and beyond.

Chief Justice Baer was a committed and loving husband to his wife, a loving and supportive father to his sons, and an adoring grandfather to his grandchildren. His vibrant energy was, and shall remain, a positive force for his extended family and network of close friends. He shared his love of music, Pitt football and the Pittsburgh Steelers with all those he loved.

Chief Justice Baer is survived by his wife, Beth Baer, sons Ben (Lauren) Baer, and Andy (Tiffany) Baer, five grandchildren, brother Mark (Jill) Baer, sister Lisa (Curt) Cron, and his tightly knit extended family.

Patrick D. Clark, Esq.	1964	Jennifer L. Leone, Esq.	2003
James D. Elder, Esq.	1968	Charles F. McElwee, Esq.	1981
Robert A. Gerlach, Esq.	1959	J. Kenneth Myers, Esq.	1988
Sanford P. Gross, Esq.	1972	Richard A. Stoltz, Esq.	1973
Cynthia E. Kernick, Esq.	1985	Frank J. Zappala, Jr., Esq.	1956
Joseph Kirk Kling, Esq.	1990		

*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 Duquesne Kline School of Law Alumni Office at 412.396.5215 so that we may update our records.*



*70th Thomas R. Kline School of Law  
of Duquesne University*

# LAW ALUMNI REUNION RECEPTION



Alumni and friends gathered for the 70th Annual Duquesne Kline School of Law Alumni Reunion on Oct. 11. It was the first time since 2019 we gathered together in our Dougherty Ballroom for the event. That evening, we honored our 2022 Law Alumni Association Awards recipients: Bryan C. Brantley, L'04, Outstanding Achievement, and Honorable Maureen Lally-Green, L'74, Meritorious Service. We also paid tribute to Honorable Max Baer L'75, our Distinguished Alumnus. ■



## DKLAA President's Message

Dear fellow Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni,

It is my privilege to write to you as the president of the Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association (DKLAA) for the 2022-2023 academic year, and what promises to be one of our most exciting and historic years yet.

The new year has already begun with unprecedented enthusiasm as our fellow alum, Thomas R. Kline, made a \$50 million commitment to the Law School, the single largest donation in University history. Fittingly, our alma mater will now be called the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. This transformational contribution ensures the highest quality legal education for the next generation of Duquesne lawyers. It also honors the Catholic Spiritan tradition and law school motto, "Salus populi suprema lex" – "The welfare of the people is the highest law" – by providing the underrepresented members of our region access to legal education.

Meanwhile, the faculty and students of the Duquesne Kline School of Law continue to set a high standard for success. By way of example, this past year we were ranked sixth in the nation as a "Top Law School for Bar Passage" by *preLaw Magazine*, and our faculty received several high marks from The Princeton Review 2022 ratings. We also continue to produce award-winning advocacy teams, and serve the Pittsburgh community with more than 15 hands-on clinics, including the first-ever Veterans Clinic. These are just a few of the numerous accolades our students and faculty have garnered in recent years.

As an alumni community, we hosted the 70th Annual Reunion reception Oct. 14, which was in-person for the first time in three years. We had a wonderful night honoring the decorated careers and achievements of Honorable Max Baer, L'75, with the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Bryan C. Brantley, L'04, with the Outstanding Achievement Award and Honorable Maureen Lally-Green, L'74, with the Dr. John E. Murray, Jr. Meritorious Service Award.

I also spoke at the reunion dinner about my presidential initiative to improve support for law student and lawyer mental health and well-being. In this regard, the DKLAA has committed to assisting the Duquesne Kline School of Law with trainings and collaboration opportunities to better promote mental health at the law school level, which is the pivotal time for lawyers to foster these skills before entering legal practice.

These are only a handful of the many highlights from our alumni, school and students. I am proud to serve as the steward for such a diverse, charitable and accomplished network, and hope that you continue to participate in our alumni association. Looking ahead, we have a robust schedule of alumni events scheduled throughout the year to keep you connected with our community. Please visit [duq.edu/law](http://duq.edu/law) for our full list of events, including numerous social events, CLEs and recruitment opportunities.

In an effort to best serve you, please also be sure to complete our alumni survey. Your responses are critical to us creating programming and benefits that suit your needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president, and we look forward to seeing you soon! ■



Kate Stoy



Scan this code  
to take the survey.



# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

## Professor Moriarty to Lead Faculty Scholarship

Jane Moriarty, Carol Los Mansmann Chair in Faculty Scholarship and Professor of Law at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, was recently named the Associate Dean for Faculty Research at the school. In her new role, Moriarty is responsible for leading the School's robust faculty scholarship and engagement.

"I am honored and excited to return to the position of Associate Dean for Faculty Research at Duquesne Kline School of Law this year. We have faculty engaging in important and novel scholarship that is of interest to the academy, the courts and the public at large," she said.

There are many relevant topics faculty will showcase to a broad audience this fall. "Several faculty members are writing and speaking about this year's critical Supreme Court cases that reflect substantial jurisprudential shifts affecting not only the law but day-to-day lives. We began the academic year jointly presenting on these cases in a three-hour CLE in September to explain the cases, their impact and reach, and to provide some insight into the direction of this Court," Moriarty said.

Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty have been busy publishing books, chapters and articles and are active in speaking at conferences nationally and abroad. Acknowledging the decline in in-person speaker events during the pandemic, Moriarty is enthusiastic about resuming these important scholarly gatherings at Duquesne Kline School of Law.

"We have all put so much on hold during the pandemic and we are so happy to have been able to re-engage with faculty regionally, nationally and around the world in the critically important roles as scholars and public intellectuals," she said.

Moriarty noted the fall's return of several popular programs and events that featured national scholars. "Additionally, we restarted our speaker series, our junior faculty exchange program, and hosted our John and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship Speaker this year. We are thrilled that Jonathan Zittrain, the George Bemis Professor of International Law at Harvard Law School, was at Duquesne Kline School of Law this fall as the Murray Excellence Speaker. Professor Zittrain is also a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, a professor of computer science at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, director of the Harvard Law School Library, and co-founder and director of Harvard's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society," she said.

Moriarty is well-versed in scholarship. Her own work focuses on scientific evidence, neuroscience and law, and professional responsibility, which was on display at "The Death of Eyewitness Testimony and The Rise of Machine Evidence" conference she chaired in late spring 2022. She presented "The Inscrutability Problem: From First-Generation Forensic Science to Neuroimaging Evidence" at the well-



Jane Moriarty

attended event. She is a frequent speaker on scientific evidence and neuroscience evidence and served as president of the Evidence Section of the Association of American Law Schools and as a commentator on a recent Netflix series.

Moriarty is excited to grow the audience and recognition for the timely and worthwhile scholarly endeavors of her colleagues. "Faculty are writing about several constitutional law issues arising out of the Supreme Court's recent (and future) cases, submitting amicus briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court, and writing on a wealth of issues that relate to their individual fields of scholarship including corporate law, jurisprudence, law and literature, industry regulation, discrimination, legal and judicial ethics, criminal procedure, and legal access for underserved communities," she said. ■



## Supreme Court Topic of Ledewitz Presentation at Prestigious Wisconsin Law Review 2022 Symposium

Bruce Ledewitz, Adrian Van Kaam Endowed Chair in Scholarly Excellence and Professor of Law at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, co-hosted the *Wisconsin Law Review* 2022 Symposium Oct. 28-29.

Each year the *Wisconsin Law Review* selects its symposium theme based on a major issue in American law from a competitive call for proposals. This year, the *Law Review* selected the topic of “Controlling the Supreme Court Now and far into the future.”

The topic, which addressed the major issues surrounding the Supreme Court today, was proposed by Ledewitz and fellow symposium co-host Eric Segall, Ashe Family Chair Professor of Law at Georgia State University College of Law.

Ledewitz gave the opening address. The author of *The Universe Is on Our Side*, he addressed nihilism and control of the Supreme Court.

According to the symposium’s website, “The symposium represents the first

opportunity for a national panel of constitutional experts to reflect on the extraordinary events of this past Supreme Court term, from overruling *Roe v. Wade* to new interpretive approaches in the areas of religion, gun rights and administrative law.”

“This theme was derived last term as a response to the events we saw coming. This topic was set up before it happened; nobody could get into the water faster. The symposium started right at the beginning of the term. How did the Court do this, how do we respond and what is the legal path now that all of this is happening,” Ledewitz said.

After Ledewitz and Segall spoke, they took comments and served as the moderators for some of the symposium’s panels.

“Some of it was loaded. It was about precedent and how it might be too far, too fast and too quickly changing prior American law. But all sides were



Bruce Ledewitz

represented,” said Ledewitz.

Ledewitz teaches in the areas of state and federal constitutional law and jurisprudence, specializing in law and religion and law and the secular, and is co-director of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University’s Pennsylvania Constitution website. His biography may be found at [duq.edu/law](http://duq.edu/law) and his books and publications may be found on his website, [bruceledewitz.com](http://bruceledewitz.com). ■

## Director of Inclusive Excellence Named



Dr. Valerie Harper

Dr. Valerie Harper has been named Director of Inclusive Excellence for the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. Harper was most recently Registrar of the School, where she managed the administrative, personnel, financial and student records of that office. In that role, she also was a trusted mentor to students of color.

In her new position, Harper will draw from her experiences of more than 20 years advising students at Duquesne and from her own knowledge in striving to create a community of inclusion.

“Dr. Harper is the perfect leader for this role, as she understands firsthand the importance of inclusivity. She also holds vast institutional knowledge, awareness and trust from students and faculty alike. Dr. Harper’s insight and talent, as well as her ability to connect with students, will be an asset to this position,” said Dean April Barton.

Prior to her Registrar position, Harper served Duquesne as an Assistant to the Resident Director of Residence Life, academic counselor, career counselor and adjunct professor for the Spiritan Division. She also served as a summer adjunct at Carnegie Mellon University. Harper received her Doctor of Educational Leadership from Duquesne University. She will bring the caring, giving and insight from that degree and her past positions to law our students as she undertakes her new role. ■



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# Duquesne Kline School of Law Welcomes New Faculty

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University is pleased to welcome a full-time faculty member and two visiting assistant professors for the fall 2022 semester, ready to propel students toward their bigger goals.

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**April Milburn-Knizner**



**Julie Gilgoff**



**Anne Marie Delaney, L'99**

**April Milburn-Knizner** will serve as an Assistant Professor of Legal Skills and has been appointed to Associate Director of Bar Studies. She has been with Duquesne Kline School of Law since 2010 when she joined as an adjunct professor. She taught first-year Legal Research and Writing, and, as part of the Duquesne Kline Law's Bar Studies program, teaches Core and Applied Competencies to third-year students preparing to sit for bar examinations in Pennsylvania and dozens of other jurisdictions. She also serves as a bar exam advisor to Themis Bar Review and as a faculty advisor to students completing their upper-level writing requirement.

Milburn-Knizner is looking forward to expanding her teaching portfolio and continuing to help new Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni with bar preparation. She said, "I'm thrilled to be assuming a more formal role after having been with Duquesne Kline for 13 years. Our Bar Studies team is committed to helping our students become not just strong legal thinkers but ethical and effective practitioners."

**Julie Gilgoff** is a new Visiting Assistant Professor who will instruct in Property. She is a licensed attorney in New York, New Jersey and California. Gilgoff practiced law in several legal service organizations including New York Legal Assistance Group, New Jersey Legal Services, Sustainable Economies Law Center and Lawyers Committee for Civil Right of the San Francisco Bay Area. She was selected as a Borchard Fellow in Law & Aging where she spent over a year helping seniors establish housing cooperatives and cohousing communities. Gilgoff felt pulled to Pittsburgh and was especially attracted to

Duquesne Kline School of Law because of its inclusive mission.

"I am drawn to Duquesne Kline Law because of its justice-related mission, as a school that promotes diversity and accessibility. It's meaningful that Duquesne Kline Law has a thriving evening program that gives those who have responsibilities such as jobs and families equal access to legal education. I'm looking forward to joining this talented and vibrant community, facilitating classroom discussions about issues of equity in the context of property law. True to Pittsburgh's reputation, the people that I have met in and around campus have been among the friendliest and warmest that I have ever met, and I aspire to the generosity of spirit that I have already found among Yinzers," she said.

**Anne Marie Delaney, L'99** will also serve as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, teaching Business Associations and International Organizations. Delaney joined the faculty of Duquesne Kline School of Law in the fall of 2019 as an adjunct professor and has taught Legal Research and Writing and Core Competencies for Legal Practice.

Delaney, a proud alumna, said coming back to Duquesne Kline School of Law to teach is like a homecoming. She said, "As a Duquesne Kline School of Law graduate, I feel like I am returning home. I benefited from the School's commitment to academic excellence as a Duquesne Kline Law student and now, as a faculty member, I am eager to advance that same commitment to our current students to ensure their own academic and professional success." ■



# JURIS Magazine

## Fall 2022 Preview

[jurismagazine.com](http://jurismagazine.com)

■ **New Texas Social Media Law Challenges First Amendment Precedent** | *By Alexa Glista, Features Editor*



The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has agreed to suspend enforcement of Texas's controversial social media law, HB 20. HB 20 was signed into law in September 2021 and prohibits social media firms from punishing or putting restrictive measures on content based on "the viewpoint of the user or another person." It also mandates social media firms to release transparency reports about how they promote and moderate content. HB 20 is challenging the First Amendment precedent that the government may not compel private entities to host speech. Leading up to the suspension order, technology groups have been challenging the social media law, and they plan on asking the Supreme Court to rule on HB 20. However, Texas may not be the only state that plans on introducing a social media law.

■ **Pennsylvania Rethinks Juvenile Justice** | *By Hannah Schaffer, Editor-in-Chief*



In December 2019, the Juvenile Justice Task Force was established by Governor Tom Wolf and Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas G. Saylor. In March, the task force delivered a number of "data-driven findings and recommendations" which stated that over-involvement in the system increases the likelihood of reoffending, diversion is underutilized and that utilizing community resources tends to be more effective than out-of-home placements. Subsequently the task force recommended raising the minimum age for when a child can be tried in juvenile court, diverting children with low-level offenses to community-based interventions and eliminating excessive fines and court fees, with the hope that these recommendations will reduce the out-of-home placement projections by 39 percent by 2026. Not even a year later, Pennsylvania has taken steps towards implementing these recommendations.





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Juris Magazine

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■ **The Modern Unionization Movement** | *By Jacob Schramm, Features Editor*

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Photo courtesy of Unsplash.com

In the past year alone, employees at consumer corporations like Amazon, Starbucks, Chipotle, Trader Joe's and even Petco have successfully unionized. Some say America is in the middle of a labor mobilization moment. These unions, championing efforts for better wages, benefits and bargaining power, represent only a small sample of employees at their respective companies and are finding success on a small, regional scale. Other efforts have alleged retaliation, store closures and "union busting" by management and ownership. The recent surge in union efforts demonstrates how far society has come concerning advancing workers' rights. The movement has also reinvigorated the debate between the right to private management and the need for labor representation. It begs an inquiry into the adequacy of our laws and regulations to address the needs of both parties.

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■ **Should Pennsylvania Courts Allow False Confession Expert Testimony?** | *By Felicia Dusha, Features Editor*

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Photo courtesy of Pixabay.com

To date, 375 people convicted of crimes in the United States have been exonerated by DNA testing. Of these 375 people, about 30 percent confessed to crimes they did not commit. Experts on false confessions have studied these cases and compiled data on the causes of false confessions. In 2014, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court addressed the issue of false confession expert testimony. In *Commonwealth v. Alicia*, the Court held that expert testimony regarding false confessions was inadmissible. In the eight years since *Commonwealth v. Alicia*, the Court has not reversed its holding, reasoning that false confession expert testimony impermissibly invades "the jury's role as the exclusive arbiter of credibility." However, expert testimony may allow jurors to better assess the circumstances leading to false confessions.



## STUDENT BRIEFS

# Prepared For What's Next

By Amanda Drumm

Flora Dellishad has lived in more countries than many people have visited in their lifetimes and speaks more languages than most people. She speaks affectionately of the places she has lived internationally after ultimately coming to the United State to reside.

That path led her to Pittsburgh to study at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, where she is working toward her bigger goals. She is simultaneously earning her juris doctor and her M.B.A. as part of the Business Essentials Micro-credential program.

Dellishad grew up in China and Japan because of her parents' jobs. She diligently worked to learn the languages, and became fluent and certified in both Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. Her parents are Kazakh/Tatar, and they nourished in her an interest in learning those languages. And through her own pursuits, she learned to speak Turkish conversationally.

"Kazakh is very similar to Turkish, so I took a Turkish class one summer when I was in college," Dellishad said.

Her world expanded even more during high school when she decided to participate in an exchange program in England. Afterward, Dellishad immigrated to the United States at age 18 to study international relations.

"After college I worked as a legal translator at Big Law in which I translated legal documents from/to English/Mandarin Chinese/Japanese," she said.

It was at that job Dellishad decided she wanted to pursue law.

Her openness to the world around her continued to grow, and she decided to study in Pittsburgh for its many opportunities.

"In addition to many law firms and major corporations, Pittsburgh is becoming one of the country's greatest innovation hubs. I also really liked how welcoming Pittsburgh is. It truly lives up to its reputation of 'a big city with a small-town feel'," she said.

After researching law schools, she discovered Duquesne Kline School of Law.

"I learned about its highly ranked Legal Research and Writing Program, as well as high bar passage rate. After I applied, I was blown away by how warm and supportive the faculty, staff,



Flora Dellishad

students and alumni are," said Dellishad.

While at Duquesne Kline School of Law, she discovered the Business Essentials Micro-credential program and was immediately interested because of the possibilities the program holds and the doors it may open.

"During my first year of law school, I began to realize that the knowledge and skills I will gain from an M.B.A. degree will help me become more skilled and versatile in the legal field. Earning an M.B.A. will increase my exposure to diverse perspectives on global, social and business issues as I collaborate with colleagues whose experiences

and career goals differ from mine. Further, pursuing an M.B.A. degree will allow me to network with people outside of the legal industry to build a more diverse professional network," Dellishad said.

The business acumen and financial tools the micro-credential offers are essential pieces of modern law practice that Dellishad will be able to draw upon while practicing law.

This spring, Dellishad co-authored an article on tax law, "New Taxation Provisions on Digital Assets Hidden in the Infrastructure Bill," with Gregory F. Suher of Leech Tishman. More recently, she took part in the ACBA Summer Clerkship Program.

In Dellishad's spare time, she volunteers with the American Bar Association ProBar, JFCS Refugee and Immigrant Services, and Duquesne's Small Business Development Center to assist attorneys with pro bono work. Those experiences, along with the enterprise skills she is gaining, will set up Dellishad to be able to practice law in her choice of area and empower her to make a difference in the world.

"Working with these organizations helped me develop a deeper understanding of community leaders' responsibilities and how a law degree can meaningfully affect people's lives," she said. ■



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# Summer Clerkships Prepare Duquesne Law Students for Anything the Future Holds

By Amanda Drumm

Summer brings a welcome break from classes, and many Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University students spend that time interning and clerking for private firms, the courts and businesses. Students bring to their places of work the education and skills they gained at the School, and bring back valuable experiences to add to their resumes and knowledge that will assist them with their classes.

## PRIVATE FIRMS AND BUSINESSES

**Falco Muscante III** worked as a summer associate at K&L Gates, a major Pittsburgh-based law firm. He researched the law in the complex commercial litigation practice area, from insurance coverage to civil procedure. It was his second summer working at a law firm.

“Last summer I worked at a public interest pro bono firm. I’ve found that each experience helps paint a fuller picture of what practicing law looks like and connects the material I learn in class to day-to-day legal practice,” he said.

**Natasha Patel** worked as a law clerk/summer associate at Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky. She worked on assigned-research issues for client matters and assisted in drafting pleadings, and settlements.

“I improved my legal research and writing skills immensely throughout this summer. At first, research issues felt daunting, but through the skills I learned in LRW (Legal Research and Writing) my first year, I began to feel confident in my work,” Patel said.

**Tom Schierberl** is another student who credits Legal Research and Writing for aiding in his summer internship in Regulatory Intelligence, Policy and Training with Viatrix, a global pharmaceutical company that empowers people worldwide to live healthier at every stage of life.

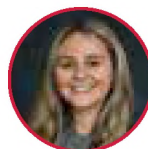
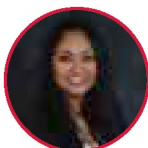
“In Professor (Jan) Levine’s Advanced Legal Writing course, I had the opportunity to research an area of law and draft a proposed regulation. I used these skills every day in my position,” he said.

Schierberl said when he returned to classes this fall, he had “a new appreciation for the various challenges global regulatory agencies face in drafting robust regulatory frameworks that balance government and industry interests to best serve patients. I am grateful for the Duquesne law alumni network and the Career Services Office for helping me secure this position.”

**Laura Keller** interned in the Enterprise, Risk and Governance Division in the Risk Intelligence and Case Management Department at Highmark Health in Pittsburgh.

“It helped me improve my legal researching and time management skills,” which is helping in her classes this fall, she said.

**Adger W. Drummond II** was a summer associate at Ogletree Deakins, Nash, Stewart, Smoak in Pittsburgh, where he reviewed and organized documents, conducted legal research, and attended collective bargaining negotiations,



“I improved my legal research and writing skills immensely throughout this summer. At first, research issues felt daunting, but through the skills I learned in LRW (Legal Research and Writing) my first year, I began to feel confident in my work.”

-Natasha Patel

seminars and client meetings. He gained firsthand experience about how laws affect employees and employers.

“I’ve learned about the intricate aspects of labor and employment law and how it affects our lives daily. Employment law sets forth guidelines and regulations to ensure that each corporation is acting within the law. On the other hand, labor law deals with the rights, structure and treatment of the employees of a corporation. Therefore, labor and employment law provides a unique avenue to help both the employees as well as the employers,” Drummond said.

**Lauren Watkins** worked as a clerk at Jackson Lewis PC in Pittsburgh, where she assisted in mediation preparation, drafted pleadings, participated in document construction and formation, and completed legal research. She also oversaw the office’s participation in the



firm's "paperless" initiative, allowing her to be hands-on and learn how the firm launches initiatives throughout its 63 offices.

"I have learned more than I could have ever imagined. Everyone took the time to teach me while also challenging me. They not only invited me to events that allow me to network, but also put me in charge of office activities and events that support the mission of the firm itself. The opportunities I have been exposed to and been given are endless, and they are truly just getting started. I recognize that what I have learned thus far not only will be used daily but will continue to be used as I navigate the rest of law school," Watkins said.

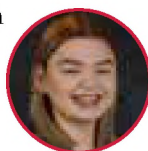
## PUBLIC SERVICE

**Zoe Crawford's** summer fellowship was with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Center. She helped with several projects, including the Divorce Law Project and the Pardons Project, assisted attorneys with PFA hearings, and shadowed attorneys at the Juvenile Court Project, where the focus is child custody. She also helped put together the organization's annual golf tournament fundraiser.

"I have learned so much, but the main thing I share with others is how to research and identify the vast amounts of resources that Allegheny County has to help people in a variety of legal issues," Crawford said.

**Chantal Naum** was an intern in the Crimes Persons Unit in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office in Pittsburgh. She was involved in conducting case summaries, aiding her supervising attorneys during victim and witness interviews, analyzing body-worn camera and surveillance footage, and briefing and researching cases for pending motions and/or briefs.

"I am thankful for this experience,



because I was able to be in the center of it all," she said. "The district attorney's office is in the courthouse, and I was able to get the full experience. I watched hearings every chance I got and was able to understand even more than I ever expected. I met so many amazing attorneys who fight tirelessly for the county to keep it safer. I was able to meet so many courageous witnesses and victims who were able to receive the justice they desperately wanted and deserved."

**Matthew Bauman** also interned in the Allegheny County District Attorney Office. He wrote briefs, researched cases, argued motions and penned responses to motions by defendants for the assistant district attorneys.

"I have learned a great deal of how the day-to-day life of the courthouse operates. It has shaped my perspective on how selfless the work of the DA's office is. They are all doing the work of a public servant and all for the right reasons to make the county a better place," Bauman said. "This experience will help me just to be more familiar with the criminal system. No longer will I just be learning and reading about the concepts covered but will now be able to relate to them as I have seen them performed in action."

**Dylan Magill** was an intern for Justice Debra Todd of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, where his responsibilities included reviewing petitions for allowance of appeal to the state Supreme



"I have learned that there are not always clear right and wrong answers; that you may go back and forth on an issue all within the same brief, and that's OK. I'm learning to embrace the uncertainty."

-Ashlee Krum

Court and drafting allocator reports that recommend whether to grant or deny the petitions. Other projects included drafting a bench memo for oral arguments, conducting a research project and reviewing documents prepared by the justice and her clerks.

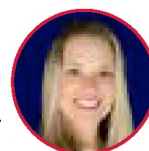
"I have obtained a greater understanding of how the judicial system works in our state. While I worked at the Supreme Court level, the internship program offered numerous 'field trips' to expose us to the multiple levels of our judicial system," Magill said. "For example, we observed Superior Court oral arguments and trial court hearings, and met with attorneys from the public defenders and district attorney's offices. Moreover, through the inspiring law clerks I worked with, I have a greater sense of what I need to work on to become a future successful attorney."

**Ashlee Krum** clerked at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania in Johnstown. She drafted memorandum orders and opinions and attended hearings, including sentencing hearings, change of plea and pretrial conferences.

Her perspective has grown through this clerkship. Krum said.

"I have learned that there are not always clear right and wrong answers; that you may go back and forth on an issue all within the same brief, and that's OK. I'm learning to embrace the uncertainty."

Summer clerkships prepare Duquesne Kline School of Law students for just about anything the future holds and lead many of them to aspire to bigger goals. ■





# Elder Justice Consortium Alumni Magazine Excerpt

By Nick Fischer, 3L J.D. Candidate at Duquesne Kline School of Law

Throughout the summer of 2022, representatives from all nine law schools across the Commonwealth came together under a common goal: expanding elder justice across Pennsylvania. The inspiration came from communications initiated by jurists in the Pennsylvania courts, especially Supreme Court Justice Debra Todd, promoting the need for sound legal advice and representation for older persons. The purpose of Pennsylvania academics' new Elder Justice Consortium ("Consortium," or "EJC") is to identify, examine and seek to alleviate challenges and difficulties facing diverse older populations across the Commonwealth.

Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University has been active in this newly formed consortium. Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical and International Programs Katherine L.W. Norton is serving as the inaugural chair of the consortium. Joining Norton as a member of the EJC is Assistant Clinical Professor Grace Orsatti, who also serves as Director of the Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic and Director of the Externship and Pro Bono Programs at the School. Facilitating communications to all the deans across our nine law schools is April Barton, Dean and Professor of Law at Duquesne Kline

School of Law. And lastly, the EJC included one student member, myself, a current 3L JD candidate at Duquesne Kline School of Law.

In September 2022, members of the EJC and all nine deans of the Commonwealth's law schools met with the justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court at the Kline Institute of Trial Advocacy on the campus of Drexel University Kline School of Law in Center City, Philadelphia. The afternoon of conversation focused on the consortium's first annual report and future work needed to provide stronger, critical support for older Pennsylvanians through advice, advocacy and education. As summarized by Norton, a key goal is to inspire students and to establish a commitment to elder justice.

The discussion was robust, with various questions regarding topics like funding sources and alternative educational modules for teaching elder justice, including direct service clinics and projects, as well as experiential education, modular courses and collaborative programming.

As of today, the EJC is still regularly meeting and is determined to further its goals toward elder justice. ■



Members of the EJC, including Kate Norton (fifth from left).



Deans from Pennsylvania law schools are pictured with Pennsylvania Supreme Court justices.



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## **Pass the Bar Celebration**

The Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association sponsored the Pass the Bar Celebration for our Class of 2022 alumni who passed the bar exam. The group met on Nov. 2 at Olive or Twist to celebrate.