

SALUS POPULI

— THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY —
— FALL 2024 —



Technical Transformation

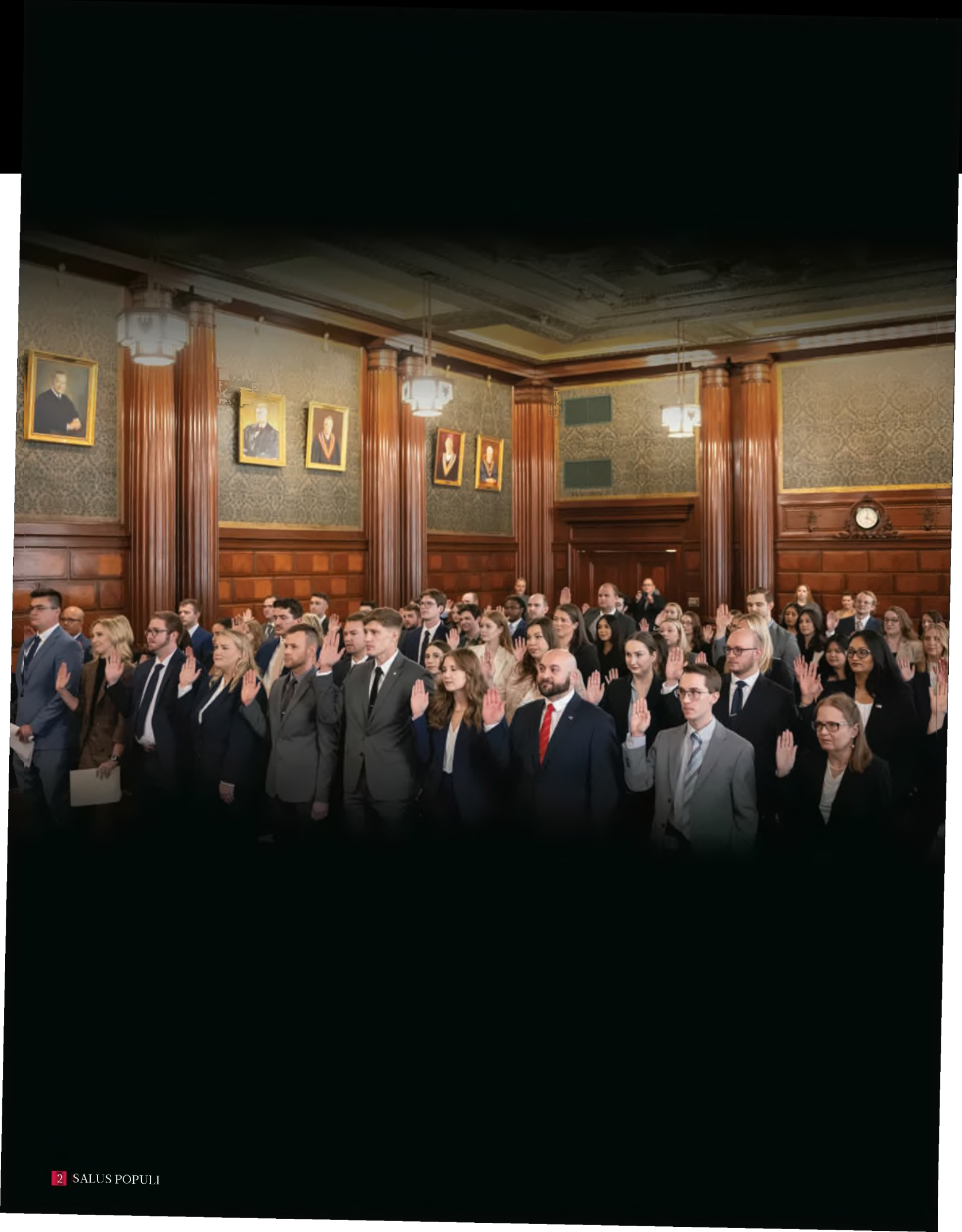
Ethically and Practically Integrating
AI & Technology into Law

THIS
ISSUE

ALL RISE Program

Intimate and Inviting

“Professor Accessibility” Top 10 Rank



Dear Friends,

We have had a tremendously successful start to the academic year! Our Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University is blessed to have faculty and administration who reimagine and develop cross disciplinary curriculum for the skills our students need in this increasingly technological world. Our faculty's dedication is evident in the classroom, through work with our students outside of the classroom, by the recent accolades our school has received and in always making sure students are at the center of all we do.

We have been at the forefront of the technological revolution we are witnessing. We have an impressive number of faculty teaching a variety of significant courses related to technology and artificial intelligence. In 2022, we introduced one of the nation's first Coding for Lawyers courses at our law school. Our students are immersed in the understanding of how technology impacts the practice of law and the ethical and appropriate use of artificial intelligence. We continue to evolve in response to the rapidly changing landscape and have recently added a Law and Computing Concentration. (p.14)

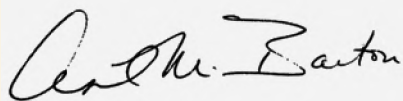
Academic excellence, bar prep, and legal writing collaborate now under Strategic Academic Programs, working together to efficiently enhance our students' experience. Our All RISE Summer Program for admitted students provides synchronous programming throughout the summer before coming to law school. Incoming students meet professors online, preparing them for an exciting start to the beginning of the academic year as they build critical skills necessary to succeed in law school. Additionally, incoming students meet each other and create a sense of community prior to the start of the academic year. (p.20)

Our exceptional first-year class went through the most rigorous admissions process in the history of Duquesne Kline School of Law. We remain true to our legacy of making legal education accessible, while strategically strengthening our class profile in order to stay competitive. (p.7)

We continue to shine in our rankings. We were recently ranked in the top 10 (out of 168 participating law schools) for "Professor Accessibility" according to *Princeton Review* ratings. We are the only Pennsylvania law school ranked in the top 10 in the Professor Accessibility category, which is a testament to our student-centered focus and our Spiritan mission in action. (p.6)

It is my absolute honor and profound joy to be part of this incredible time of innovation and achievement at Duquesne Kline School of Law. We are climbing toward a future of unparalleled possibilities, and I thank our faculty, staff, students and alumni for your unwavering dedication and support as we forge ahead.

With gratitude and blessings for all,



April Mara Barton
Dean and Professor of Law



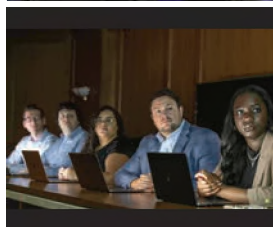
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Princeton Review Rankings and Ratings Continue to Rise

By Amanda S. Drumm

Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University continues to rise, earning high ratings in recent reviews. Duquesne Kline School of Law now ranks in the top 10 for “Professor Accessibility,” and additionally ranks in the top 50 for “Career” outcomes. These high ranks are based on the recently released 2024 *Princeton Review* Law School ratings. The ratings are out of 168 participating law schools in the United States.

The “Professor Accessibility” category is based on law students’ rating the accessibility of law faculty members at their school. Duquesne Kline School of Law’s tied No. 10 position places it alongside other prestigious law schools, including Boston College, University of Chicago and UCLA. Duquesne Kline School of Law is the only Pennsylvania law school ranked in the top 10 for “Professor Accessibility.”

The “Career” category rating measures “the confidence students have in their school’s ability to lead them to fruitful employment opportunities, as well as the school’s own record of having done so.” Duquesne Kline School of Law’s No. 44 rank makes it one of only three out of nine Pennsylvania law schools to be ranked in the top 50 in the “Career” category.

The “Career” rating is based on student responses and school-supported statistical data. The most recent data shows

that 96.4% of the class of 2023 of Duquesne Kline School of Law is employed full time or pursuing a graduate degree. Duquesne Kline School of Law bar passage outcomes are used and are equally impressive, including the School of Law’s high 90.63% Ultimate Bar Passage* rate and excellent 93.8% career placement rate**.

These ratings accompany Duquesne Kline School of Law’s solid top 100 rank of law schools in the nation, placed No. 94 out of 196 ranked law schools in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2024-2025 Best Law School overall ranking.

The student-centric focus and career preparedness of students have fundamentally contributed to these continued high marks for Duquesne Kline School of Law.

“Our students are the focus of everything we do. These ratings and rankings are directly related to the value we place in preparing our students for success. We empower them in the classroom and prepare them for their careers,” said Duquesne Kline School of Law Dean April Barton. ■

*Class of 2020 Ultimate Bar Passage rate.

**Class of 2022 statistics as reported to the ABA 10 months after graduation. This includes three graduates whose start date was deferred beyond March 15, 2023, and one graduate who is enrolled in full-time graduate studies.

“*Our students are the focus of everything we do. These ratings and rankings are directly related to the value we place in preparing our students for success.*”

—DEAN APRIL BARTON

RANKED #10
for Professor Accessibility*

RANKED #44
for Career*

90.63%
Ultimate Bar Passage* rate



INCOMING CLASS OF 2024:

Strongest Class in Duquesne Kline School of Law's History

By Amanda S. Drumm

During the week of Aug. 19, the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University welcomed incoming first-year law students to its Pittsburgh campus. This group of Duquesne Kline School of Law students is an impressive class, both in academic achievements and experience.

The thresholds for entrance into Duquesne Kline School of Law continue to rise, as evidenced by this exceptional class that went through the most rigorous admissions process in the history of Duquesne Kline School of Law. The median LSAT score for full-time students rose from last year's 156 to the current 157. The median GPA for full-time students increased from last year as well, from 3.52 to 3.66.

The first-year class is composed of 170 students. 130 of these students are enrolled in the day division and 40 of them are enrolled in the evening division. The evening program is growing and thriving, having nearly doubled in class size from previous years.

Of the 40 evening students, 31% moved from out-of-state to attend

Duquesne Kline School of Law. These students are broadly represented across many fields and include a company president, a certified public accountant, a portfolio analyst, a television news producer, an electrical engineer, a civil engineer, a published poet and a law librarian, among others.

Collectively, this exceptional 1L class joins Duquesne Kline School of Law from 24 states across the nation. They range in age from 20 to 60 years old, with 54% of this class composed of women. 47% of the full-time students are from out-of-state, with 96 different undergraduate institutions represented. Four veterans are enrolled, and 85% of this class is first-generation law students.

1L students represented 38 different undergraduate majors, ranging from accounting to engineering to computer systems. This class includes individuals who are student athletes and those who speak two or more languages.

Duquesne Kline School of Law proudly welcomes this class and looks forward to sharing these students' accomplishments as they pursue justice.

Dean April Barton said, "This outstanding class is poised to add to our rich history of preparing practice ready attorneys who embody the legal and ethical skills that are part of the excellent reputation of Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni." ■

Duquesne Kline School of Law Professors Present Technology Initiatives at CaliCon

Thomas R. Kline School of Law Professor Wesley Oliver and Professor Kate Norton recently attended CaliCon at the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle, Wash. Oliver and Norton presented at the conference, sharing the technological innovations offered at Duquesne Kline School of Law, including the Law and Computing Concentration. Duquesne Kline School of Law is part of an elite group of only a handful of American law schools to teach courses on computer programming for lawyers and appears to be the only one to offer a Law and Computing Concentration.

In their joint presentation, Oliver and Norton described how they taught programming in doctrinal and clinical courses at Duquesne Kline School of Law. That included the “unique approach to teach the students how to code and then apply it within practical settings,” said Norton.

The programming and coding courses taught at Duquesne Kline School of Law are led by lawyers who learned to code after they were admitted to the bar—people who are therefore sympathetic to the joys and frustration of acquiring a new skill. The introductory Coding for Lawyers course is expressly designed for students with no background in computer science, with advanced classes preparing students for traditional law jobs in a tech-driven world as well as for careers in the rapidly emerging field of legal tech design.

CaliCon, a national conference that celebrated its 34th year, was about integrating technology into law teaching. “We talked about what Duquesne Kline School of Law is doing, including

the three computer programming classes that we offer as part of the regular law school curriculum,” said Oliver.

Oliver and Norton also spoke about the ways Duquesne Kline School of Law is integrating computer programming into its Tribone Center for Clinical Education, which Norton directs.

“This includes the creation of a legal tech externship, through which we will design a scheduling app for litigants in family court. At present, everyone who has a case on the docket must be there at 9 a.m. and will be there until his or her case is heard; that takes up the entire day of litigants and lawyers and makes the day of probation officers scattered. The app will enable litigants and lawyers to have a time window during which you must be there, and it won’t consume the entire day,” Oliver said.

Duquesne Kline School of Law professors have earned University-wide honors for their innovations in law coding and programming. Oliver and Morgan Gray, instructors of the Coding for Lawyers class, were recognized with one of two Creative Teaching Awards given across the entire University in 2023. That same year, integration of coding into the work of legal clinics led to Norton receiving the University’s inaugural Creator-Innovator Award and funding from the American Bar Foundation. ■



For more information about the program at Duquesne Kline School of Law, visit: duq.edu/lawcomputing



The 23rd Annual Katie Westbrook 5K & Dog Walk

The 23rd Annual Katie Westbrook 5K & Dog Walk was held Oct. 19 on Duquesne University’s campus. There were nearly 100 participants, including two dozen dogs. The participating animal rescue at the race will be determined by the Duquesne Kline Animal Law Society.

Professor John Rago, L’87, provided commentary on Katie’s character and antics from when she attended some of his classes while receiving her cancer treatments.

The Animal Law Society held a dog food and supply drive for an animal rescue. Father John Osei-Yaw of Duquesne University’s Spiritan priests once again provided a blessing of the dogs before the race.

The law community gathered on this beautiful morning to remember a beautiful soul, enjoy the campus, play some yard games, relax with coffee and snacks, visit with the dogs, and cheer on the racers.

All money raised was donated to the Public Interest Law Fellowship fund, which benefits Duquesne Kline School of Law students who receive summer internships within the public interest law field. ■

Sorbonne Faculty Exchange

By Amanda S. Drumm

Spring semester's break is anticipated as a chance to rejuvenate and relax before the last half of the semester, finals and, for burgeoning graduates, bar preparation and the bar exam. Professor and Director of Bar Studies Ashley London, however, spent the hiatus in Paris, teaching at the Sorbonne as part of a spring semester exchange. Likewise, Professor Sophie Robin-Oliver, of the Sorbonne, visited the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's Pittsburgh campus in April to teach.

Duquesne Kline School of Law and the Sorbonne have a long-standing relationship, largely established by Professor Kirk Junker through Duquesne Kline School of Law's summer programming. This spring exchange, though, was the first one offered to students and faculty.

"Professor Junker has taught at the Sorbonne each year for quite some time now. Last spring, when Dean April Barton came to the Sorbonne, she suggested that another professor from Duquesne (Kline) teach an intensive course at the Sorbonne, and a professor from the Sorbonne at Duquesne (Kline). The aim was to strengthen our relationship, to give our respective students the opportunity to meet a professor from the other school and learn from different perspectives. This year was the year when we experimented with this new development of our relationship," said Robin-Oliver.

Barton, alongside Professor and Associate Dean for Strategic Academic Programs Tara Willke, laid the groundwork for this beneficial partnership, helping this faculty and student opportunity come to fruition.

"It was their idea to make this one-week course focused on the practical application of U.S. contract law, and not just on the theory of the law," said London. She developed a week-long course, U.S. Contract Drafting, to

teach to students who attend the storied, stone Sorbonne.

"We began with an introduction to the basics of U.S. contract law principles, continued with the basics of contract drafting and ended with the principles of negotiation. Students in this class loved the experience of getting hands-on lawyering practice," London said.

Willke helped London select open-source textbooks for the class and was an important part of the design of the classes on both sides of the ocean.

"She has inspired the design of the courses and contributed to the development of the syllabus; she made sure students were involved and well informed. Professor London, too, was a great member of the team. She taught the class at the Sorbonne: students loved it," said Robin-Oliver.

In Pittsburgh, Robin-Oliver taught Duquesne Kline School of Law students a Free Trade, Social Justice and Climate Change: EU Perspectives course.

"I loved the atmosphere at Duquesne (Kline). I think this has a lot to do with the open-mindedness, intelligence and kindness of Dean Barton. The history of the school, too. Colleagues were incredibly nice. I had the impression of meeting with old friends. There is an outstanding group of women in the faculty," Robin-Oliver said.

London had an equally positive experience at her host university.

"The students at the Sorbonne are incredibly impressive, and they were by far the best part of my Paris experience. Most speak three languages and have multiple masters-level degrees. They were all thoughtful, engaged and a

delight to teach. I could not have felt more welcome into their world. We had amazing discussions about the differences between French and American law, and they never hesitated to participate," she said.

Both professors were rejuvenated by their counterpart students and their colleagues.

"I am not going to say that meeting a therapeutic little horse for the first time in my life was my biggest takeaway, but that is just one example of the diversity of the things I could do during my week at Duquesne (Kline), in addition to watching the eclipse with



the school community, participating to the rededication event, attending the wonderful conference of AI, enjoying great dinners with colleagues and tasting the best veggie hamburgers in the exquisite company of Professor Willke. The most enjoyable working week of the whole year," Robin-Oliver said.

London agreed. "Sophie welcomed me warmly, and we bonded over our shared love of teaching. She could not have made me more welcome. I'm so glad we have this partnership because it gives as much to us as professors as it gives to the students. I left Paris reinvigorated and excited about teaching the law, and what could be better than that?" ■



John and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship Lecture presented “Preconditions for Constitutional Democracy”

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, in collaboration with the Kline Center for Judicial Education, presented “Preconditions for Constitutional Democracy: Social Trust, Respecting Differences, and Avoiding Entrenchment” on Thursday, Oct. 31. Martha Minow, former dean and 300th Anniversary University Professor of law at Harvard Law School, presented the lecture. Minow is an expert on constitutional law, human rights, and legal advocacy for marginalized individuals and groups.

The lecture focused on constitutional law and its effects on democracy in the United States. The lecture was part of the Duquesne Kline School of Law’s John and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship Lecture Series.

“During the election season, reflection on constitutional law and democracy makes this event particularly relevant,” said Kate Norton, associate dean for faculty scholarship, director of clinical and international programs and associate professor of law.

Richard Heppner, associate dean for faculty scholarship and associate professor of law, agreed. He said, “The subject is timely and worthwhile. It highlights the complex considerations when discussing the fragile intersection of constitutional law and our democracy.”

Before the lecture, Duquesne University President Ken Gormley and Dean April Barton presented Minow with the John and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship Award. ■

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's Class of 2024 celebrated their Commencement on May 18. The Hon. Judge D. Brooks Smith served as the Commencement speaker.

Adger Drummond, L'24, and Natasha Bharatkumar Patel, L'24, were class speakers, addressing the 159 graduates who received the degree of juris doctor. They are now part of the nearly 10,000 Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni. Congratulations! ■



Faculty Receive Awards at 2024 Commencement

On May 18, the 110th Commencement faculty were presented with special awards, honoring them for their teaching and service. Congratulations to all of our recipients on their well-deserved honors!



John Goetz



Martin McKown



Ryan Williams



Tara Willke



Bruce Ledewitz



Ashley London

ADJUNCT FACULTY AWARDS—**John Goetz** (fall semester) and **Martin McKown** (spring semester) were this year's award recipients. They were selected based on enthusiasm for teaching and learning, interest in the students, sensitivity to the learning environment, and innovation of instruction.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD—Professor **Ryan Williams** was selected for his outstanding contributions in teaching. He demonstrated the ability to engage students actively in the learning process through teaching that is intellectually rigorous and innovative.

THOMAS R. KLINE INNOVATION IN TEACHING AWARD—This honor is awarded to the full-time faculty member who best demonstrates innovative and creative teaching methods that serve the pedagogical needs of our students and advance legal pedagogy generally. The award was given to Professor **Tara Willke**, associate dean for strategic academic programs and director of the legal research & writing (LRW) program, for her innovation in building collaboration between the legal writing, academic excellence and bar studies programs.

THOMAS R. KLINE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD—This award is given to the full-time faculty member whose contributions to the law school and its mission exceeded expectations and had a significant positive impact on the University and our community partners. Professor **Bruce Ledewitz** received this award as a faculty leader on the appointments, rank and tenure, and disciplinary committees.

MURRAY SCHOLARSHIP FACULTY AWARD—In 2011, Chancellor John Murray honored the school's 100th anniversary by making a substantial gift. The gift was to establish the Murray endowed fund for faculty scholarship. The fund has allowed us to invite nationally acclaimed legal scholars to the law school. The fund also enables us to recognize our own outstanding faculty scholars each year. The Murray Award for Faculty Scholarship was bestowed upon Professor **Ashley London** for her scholarship in the area of personal responsibility. ■

Graduating Students Receive Prestigious Awards at 2024 Commencement



Alysa Ambrose



Olivia Giles



Kearsten Garbenis



Jennifer Murray

Four graduating students from the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's class of 2024 received prestigious awards at the school's Commencement ceremony on May 18. The students honored with the top awards were announced during the exercises, where 159 law students graduated.

Alysa Ambrose, L'24, a Navy veteran captain who was commanding officer of the warship USS Gravelly and the Navy's first female commander of the warship as well as a mother of three, received the John J. Sciallo Peer Excellency Award, named in honor of the late John Sciallo, who served as the eighth dean of Duquesne Kline School of Law, from 1982 to 1993. This award is voted on by the class, and is given to a graduating student who is worthy of the admiration and respect of their fellow classmates.

"It was such an honor to receive a student-nominated, student-voted-on award. It means my classmates recognized how hard I worked to get to and continue with law school, and the contributions I made to the classroom while I was there. I'd like to think my unique perspective as a non-traditional student brought something to the day program that they might not have otherwise been exposed to," said Ambrose.

Ambrose was accepted to clerk for Judge Joy Conti Flowers in Federal District Court for two years and began her appointment in September.

Olivia Giles, L'24, received the Dr. John and Liz Murray Award for Excellence in Student Scholarship. This award is named in honor of Duquesne's 11th president, Dr. John Murray, and his wife, Liz. Giles received the award for authoring the most outstanding published *Duquesne Law Review* article of anyone in the graduating class.

At Duquesne Kline School of Law, Giles was the executive editor of the *Duquesne Law Review*, president of the Sports and

Entertainment Law Society and vice president of the Women's Law Association. She graduated cum laude and won Best Brief and Outstanding Oral Argument in her first year. She also won several CALI awards for having the highest grade in some of her classes.

"Receiving the Dr. John and Liz Murray Award for Excellence in Student Scholarship is a great honor. The opportunity to explore issues surrounding copyright law in the sports industry was a highlight of my time at Duquesne Kline and has strengthened my passion for learning as I begin my career. I am grateful to all my professors who guided me throughout the research and writing process and to all the Duquesne Kline faculty and staff for their continued support and dedication to the students," Giles said.

After taking the bar exam, Giles joined Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote as an associate.

Kearsten Garbenis, L'24, and **Jennifer Murray, L'24**, received the President Ken & Laura Gormley Distinguished Student Award given on behalf of the entire law school faculty. This special award is given to two graduating students who, in the judgment of the faculty, have displayed general scholastic excellence and who have performed meritorious service to the law school. The award is named by the University's board of directors in recognition of Ken Gormley—long-serving faculty member, constitutional scholar, dean of the law school, and president of the University.

"Receiving the President Ken and Laura Gormley Distinguished Student Award for the evening division of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University Class of 2024 is a tremendous honor. My four years as an evening student at the Duquesne Kline School of Law will be a time that I will forever cherish. I attribute my overwhelmingly positive experience to the phenomenal faculty who prepare each student to make an immediate impact in the field of law. Being selected for

this honor by the esteemed Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty is an accolade that I sincerely appreciate," said Garbenis.

While at Duquesne Kline School of Law, Garbenis was an evening division SBA senator all four years and worked at CohnReznick as a senior consultant in the Government Advisory Group during the day. In addition to receiving CALI awards, she also earned the Best Brief and Outstanding Oral Argument designations for Legal Research & Writing II.

In October, Garbenis joined Jones Day in the Pittsburgh office as an associate in the 2024 New Lawyers Group.

Murray, who received the award for the day division, said, "I hold the professors and faculty at Duquesne Kline in the highest regard. Over the past three years, every professor has instilled in me the utmost appreciation for the legal field, challenged my thinking, motivated me to excel and ultimately will shape the type of lawyer I become in my career. Receiving the President Ken & Laura Gormley Distinguished Student Award from the faculty was especially memorable for me precisely because of how much I respect and admire the law school's faculty. It was the perfect conclusion to all the hard work I put into the past three years at Duquesne Kline."

While at Duquesne Kline School of Law, Murray competed for the Appellate Moot Court Board, had an article published for the *Duquesne Law Review*, was one of three inaugural Kline Fellows, and worked as a teaching assistant for Professor April Millburn-Knizner for her Legal Research and Writing courses. "Another fun activity during my time at Duquesne Kline is that I became a mom," said Murray.

She was honored also with the CALI award for the highest grade in Property I, 1L Best Brief and 1L Outstanding Oral Argument.

Murray works with McGuireWoods LLP in its corporate department. ■

Congratulations to these alumni who are empowered for what is next in their careers!

Technical Transformation

Ethically and Practically Integrating
AI & Technology into Law

By Amanda S. Drumm



A man and a woman are sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop screen. The man is on the left, wearing a blue plaid blazer over a light blue shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a beige blazer over a black top. They are both looking intently at the laptop. The background is dark with a faint grid of binary code (0s and 1s) overlaid.

More than 2,500 years ago, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus devised the now famous line, “The only constant in life is change.” His quote originated in a comparatively simpler, quieter, less connected time. While the quote has been applicable since its beginning—and to most aspects of life—its power is robustly evident in technology, artificial intelligence (AI) and the ways humans in every field are scrambling to keep abreast of its facets, uses and implications.

“WE MUST DO
EVERYTHING WE CAN
TO ENSURE THAT AI
IS DEVELOPED WITH
HUMAN VALUES AND
DEMOCRATIC VALUES AT
THE FOREFRONT.”

—DEAN BARTON

The law is not exempt from the changes technology and AI are manufacturing, and the legal profession is evolving alongside it. The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University is on the cutting edge, determining how to ethically and appropriately use the technology and develop materials to lead students confidently into the next era of law.

“It is a necessity for our students. We cannot shy away from something that is having such a major impact on us societally. We embrace and understand what is happening, and we are doing all we can to adopt it while managing the concerns of this rapidly developing landscape,” said Dean April Barton.

Barton is educating students and legal professionals about these changing times, co-presenting during last spring’s CLE/CJE titled “AI & The Future of Democracy: Ethics, Law and Policy.” She lectured alongside other Duquesne Kline School of Law professors and the counselor to the secretary of Homeland Security, succinctly overviewing AI, generative AI, their repercussions, introduction of AI bills, and an executive order regarding AI to an audience full of lawyers and judges.

Barton also teaches Duquesne Kline School of Law students about this field. Her AI Law and Policy course explores generative AI and the efforts of government agencies to regulate this unprecedented field.

“As we know, AI holds extraordinary promise while bearing the potential for catastrophic peril. Students are learning about AI while also studying the rulemaking process as nearly every government agency is promulgating regulations pertaining to AI due to President Biden’s executive order. We must do everything we can to ensure that AI is developed with human values and democratic values at the forefront,” Barton said.

Ethics at the forefront

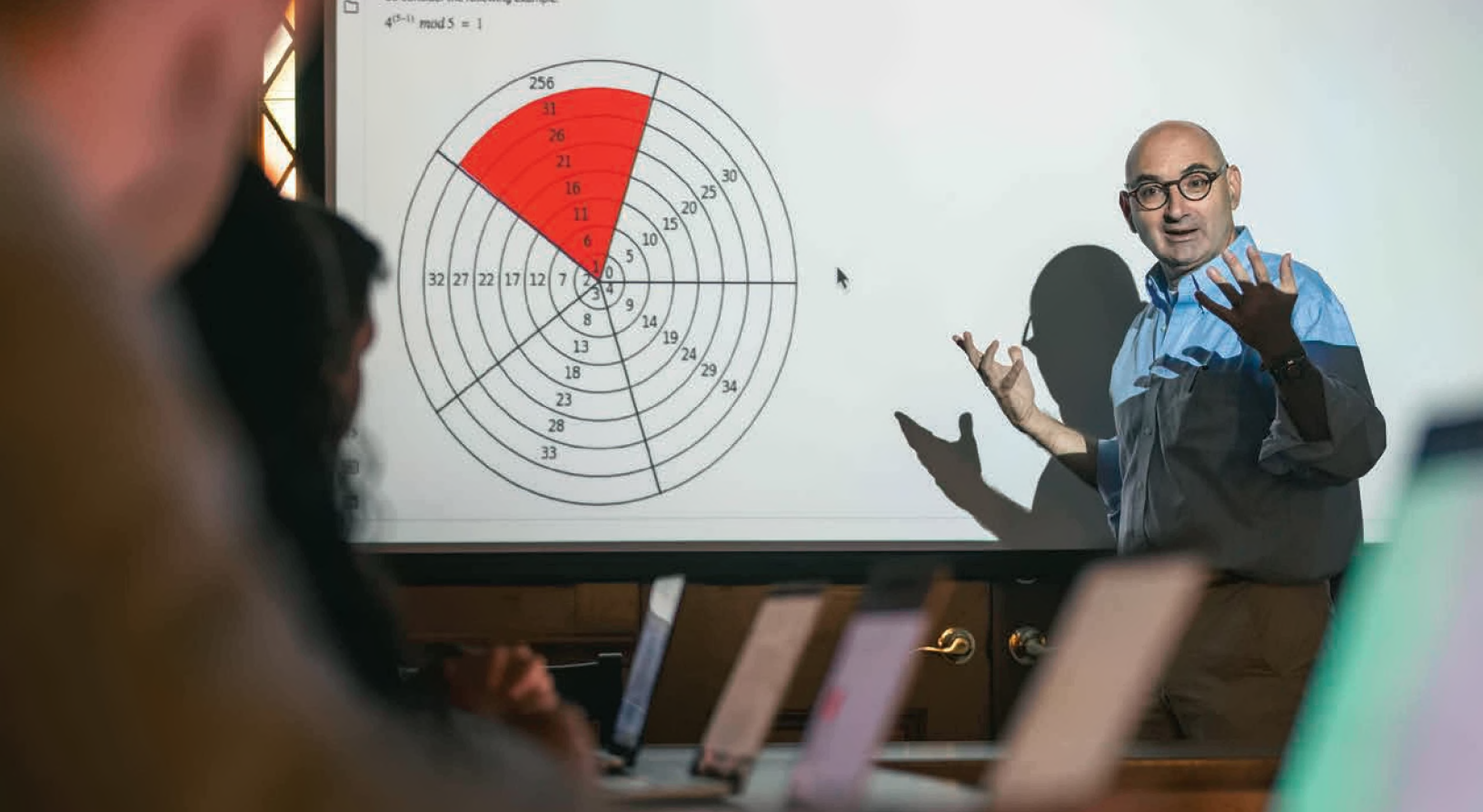
Barton’s is one of several courses Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty are teaching conquering the technological frontier. The curriculum committee has been strategic about courses aimed at advancement of technology and AI legal knowledge.

“Our curriculum committee is surveying the curriculum—where it is being taught and how it is being taught. We are examining if there is something not being taught, and how we should be teaching it,” said Tara Willke, associate dean for strategic academic programs and associate professor of law.

This is an ongoing process, with classes continually being evaluated, reimagined and developed, with ethics as the main directive. Willke is also leading efforts to properly integrate AI into legal research and writing.

“Basically, ethics is the guiding star. The ethical use of AI; that is at the forefront of any discussion of AI,” Willke said.

Jacqueline Lipton, associate professor and incoming Carol Los



Mansmann chair in faculty scholarship, teaches privacy law and cyber law courses and a general overview of how technology improves lives. She agrees ethics is paramount in pedagogy.

“Ethics is now and will continue to be something very significant with the bar associations as they rethink codes of conduct. One of those areas—how technology is used or is not used—is not clear. We watch this space and think about ethics at the same time,” Lipton said.

Ashley M. London, director of Bar Studies and assistant professor of law, additionally teaches critical ethics courses on this subject.

“I am really energized and excited about the depth and breadth of faculty expertise collected in this area. It is a real opportunity and a strength we bring to enhancing our curriculum,” said Barton.

Practical curriculum

Beyond ethics, there is the applied use of AI that is of interest to lawyers.

“As teachers we are looking at technology through two lenses. We need to substantively teach laws of interest, like AI copyright, privacy, how it works. There is also an important skill piece, using AI to do lawyerly tasks. And what is expected in the profession of lawyers, what AI proficiencies to have, and when it is not appropriate to use AI because of plagiarism and codes of ethics. It is important that a lawyer know what information people need to learn about AI and how the individual lawyer might use AI in the world of the future,” Lipton said.

The curriculum in this area continues to expand, and faculty have been busy developing hands-on innovation and technology courses to confront these questions. In 2022, Professor Wes Oliver introduced a Coding for Lawyers course, which continues to attract law students each semester.

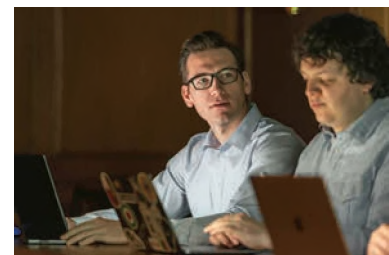
“Coding for Lawyers is revamped each year to remain current and effective. We are teaching students how to build blockchains and create smart contracts. To practice law in a modern world, students need to know what these things are,” said Oliver.

His course is purposely for law students who have little or no technological background, and they receive hands-on experience.

“A fair number of law schools have classes on the policy behind blockchain, but we are in a very small group of schools that teaches them to build a blockchain from scratch in Python. They are not development commercial grade products, and in learning how to work with cryptography they come to understand the technology that is being regulated,” said Oliver.

In addition to classwork, Oliver regularly works with students outside of the classroom ensuring they understand the work and to help troubleshoot and answer their questions.

“Most of the learning occurs in my office. The class has a required Oxford-style tutorial that meets





for 45 minutes each week. In these meetings, I explain the concepts to two students at a time,” he said.

Oliver has been working with Professor Katherine Norton, associate dean for faculty scholarship and director of clinical and international programs, to provide students with additional practical experience. This fall semester, they offered a year-long externship. Their current project is to develop a computer program that will aid courts in improving the overall organization of scheduling, making the process efficient, streamlined and simpler for all involved.

“Professor Oliver’s introductory course has students working on small, practical applications, and we are now aiming to create a project with larger reach and scope focused on court calendar systems. The concept behind it is we want to show the students why it is so important to understand the technology and why it is a necessity lawyers are part of the process of creating the code,” Norton said.

Four students—Tiffeny Ayoola, 3L, Alexander Giorgetti, 3L, Isabel Dobbs, 3L, and William Harriger, 3L—are working on this project and are relishing the experience.

“I do enjoy the practical application of what I’ve learned. It’s exciting to contribute to something meaningful while combining both my legal knowledge and coding skills,” Ayoola said.

Additionally, they are following ethical tenets in this charge.

“We are teaching how to do it in a way that is compatible

with our ethics code as lawyers. During our meetings we are often speaking about the special role that lawyers can play in this field. There is not specific code of conduct for computer programing, but there is for lawyers. So, students are tasked to design these programs within the scope of our professional ethics as lawyers and an eye to understanding the type of sensitive information utilized in our work and the need for confidentiality and protection of this information,” Norton said.

This project is past the inception stage and is moving along. Students already have completed projects focused on access to legal services that have stemmed from Oliver’s coding class.

“In one of the first offerings of the coding class, a group of students created a final project focused on the case intakes for the Tribone Center, developing a program to streamline the income qualifications stage of our intake process. Doing these projects usually grows to something larger,” Norton said.

Giorgetti is working on the externship with the court calendar system and has previous experience on coding projects in Oliver’s class. He completed a method of mapping crime in Pittsburgh. His solution was published in the online journal Medium.

Getting an example from Vancouver police who tracked burglaries and bicycle thefts using GPS coordinates, Giorgetti could see where arrests were made. He created something similar about Pittsburgh.

“I found a data frame that had crimes by gender, arrests, offenders, offenses charged with. I broke it down by neighborhood, district and went year by year and looked at where those data points popped up in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022. It looks like a typography map; you see where crimes are more concentrated from day to day to week to week to month to month,” he said.

In addition to classwork, ideas are imagined, and grants have been written to offer solutions to real-world problems.

“Professor Joe Mistick and I wrote a grant proposal with the Allegheny County Bar Association to create blockchain technology for Allegheny County records. A lot of Joe’s work deals with tangled titles, but if you identify all the owners, then you can identify who has a stake in this land and better resolve disputes,” Oliver said.

Commencement of a concentration

Duquesne Kline School of Law is part of an elite group of American law schools that teach courses on computer programming for lawyers.

The expansion of courses and the incredible real-world projects by students led to the addition of a Law and Computing Concentration. Duquesne Kline School of Law is one of the only American law school to offer a Law and Computing Concentration. Giorgetti is pursuing this concentration.

“These classes have really been the highlight of my time here. I am excited to take one or two more classes to satisfy the concentration and finish the externship,” he said.

Limitless possibilities

“These are fascinating times. Everyone (at Duquesne Kline School of Law) is open to new ideas to curricula. There are lots of interesting perspectives from students,” Lipton said.

Students are grateful for the technological takeaways they will bring to their careers.

“Knowing how to code will be a valuable asset in my career, enabling me to streamline tasks and enhance overall efficiency,” said Ayoola.

While other students marvel at what has been achieved. Giorgetti said, “This has been a great opportunity. When I started, I thought, ‘When will I have another chance to learn this,’ so I gave it a shot. You must be willing to put in a little extra work to familiarize yourself with it. Coding is like learning a new language. You need to learn the structure before you can make it work. It is very doable.”

Change is inevitable, and only imagination limits what faculty and students can do in this new era.

“We provide students a background to intersect with those whose work involves technology—the clients, expert witnesses, investigators and government regulators that intersect with their practice,” Oliver said. “My hope is that some of our graduates will also be builders of technology.” ■

“I DO ENJOY THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF WHAT I’VE LEARNED. IT’S EXCITING TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL WHILE COMBINING BOTH MY LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AND CODING SKILLS.”

-Tiffeny Ayoola, 3L

RECOGNITION

Professors **Wes Oliver** and **Katherine Norton** have won University-wide recognition and awards for their work and instruction. They recently presented at CaliCon at the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle, sharing the technological innovations offered at Duquesne Kline School of Law.

Dean April Barton and Oliver will speak at the National Judicial College program in December for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) for All Judges and Lawyers course. The event is hosted by the Kline Center for Judicial Education.

Synergized for Success

The **All RISE** Summer Program Prepares Students for Law School

By Amanda S. Drumm



The summer before beginning law school is full of many emotions—nervousness, excitement, anxiousness and a deep anticipation about starting to learn the rule of law. In recent years, Duquesne Kline School of Law has presented its incoming students with a voluntary asynchronous program, aptly named JD Jump Start, to prepare them for the rigors of law school.

“With the previous asynchronous format, there was no opportunity for students to get to know one another. They wanted to get to know each other early on—even before the first week of classes—and have some friends going into this venture. Many incoming students share the same questions, fears and anxieties, and it’s helpful for them to know that other students feel the same way they do,” said Megan E.K. Montcalm, director of academic excellence and assistant professor of legal skills.

Due to the advancement of technology and the purposeful restructuring of the legal writing, academic excellence and bar preparation programs, JD Jump Start was also revamped this past summer to amplify the preparatory experience for incoming law students. The program was renamed the All RISE Summer Program to signify that participants would be “reflecting,” “improving” and “striving for excellence” together. The 2024-2025 class of 1Ls and 1Es enjoyed a first-time, unique experience that gave them practice and an edge before they officially started law school.

“This was a collaboration of academic excellence, bar prep and legal writing to create enhancements to the existing program. Students were exposed to the rules of professional responsibility, read cases and statutes, and had basic prep for law school,” said Tara Willke, associate dean for strategic academic programs and associate professor of law.

The program began for students in mid-June, but faculty joined together earlier to strategize. Montcalm, Ashley M. London, director of Bar Studies and assistant professor of law; April Milburn-Knizner, associate director of Bar Studies and assistant professor of legal skills; and Willke worked together closely on designing the new approach. They received administrative support for their work from Jennifer McIntyre.

“We have been synergizing our legal writing, academic excellence and bar programs to ensure they are constantly collaborating and complementing one another in instructing and supporting students. We have them work together on assignments and this new program to be efficient and productive,” said Dean April Barton.

Faculty prioritized delivering the skills that would aptly prepare incoming students to commence law school and worked with the Admissions and Registrar offices. Faculty closely reviewed



feedback from last year's Orientation, with students resoundingly wanting the opportunity to meet other law students prior to the start of the semester.

Step one was moving the format from an asynchronous to a synchronous set-up that any incoming law student would be able to attend from anywhere. A seven-week format was established, with Zoom classes scheduled for each Tuesday evening. If students missed a session, a recording of it and corresponding homework were available to earn credit for attendance, which Montcalm tracked.

"Students were really engaged, enthusiastic, eager. It was a fun time for me as a faculty member to interact with them. Their energy and interactions with one another during the Zoom classes reinforced that we made the right decision in moving this program from asynchronous to synchronous delivery," Montcalm said. "I thought it was a good opportunity to catch them at an early point and give them the opportunity to start building their skillsets before the start of classes. That was the thinking behind it. I think we were successful in that."

A lot of the program's substance focused on the same skills and knowledge as JD Jump Start, with Willke, Montcalm, London and Milburn-Knizner working together to develop and deliver the lessons to students. Students were grateful for the ease of which the faculty presented the material.

"The All RISE program exceeded my expectations with its wonderful instructors who took the time to ensure that each and every one of us

understood the information presented. They explained it in a way that was easily digestible for upcoming law students. I think it would have been overwhelming to start the semester without the program because it provided us with essential tools for success. This included information on how to read a case, brief it using the IRAC method and how to think like a lawyer. As most students didn't come from a legal background, I believe it was a vital addition to our summer," said Abigail Bosco, 1L.

Many incoming students were trepidatious to begin the program, but dove in, deciding it would be beneficial and a good primer for law school. They found their instincts were correct, learning valuable legal knowledge.

"I was not sure what to expect from the All RISE program. I made the decision to attend law school and was looking to do anything, despite my busy schedule, to get a jump start on things. The All RISE program was a perfect boost to get me started, and I learned so much information that I never even would have considered without it, that adequately prepared me for law school. Things like IRAC and rule-based reasoning being introduced to me before law school served as a fantastic foundation for when I immediately encountered them in my substantive law classes like property and torts," said Robbie Zurawsky, 1L.

The program was also a confidence booster.

"This program has helped tremendously with not only helping me learn more about the topics and demands that come with law school, but it also helped me improve my total confidence about going down the path of law school," said Jack Forsythe, 1L.

Students were given the valuable ability to know each other and feel connected prior to the start of the fall semester. In several sessions, students would be broken into groups of three to four people in random breakout rooms and connected more intimately.

"They talked to other people starting law school and learned where they are from, where they would be living in the

coming year, what they are most excited about with the start of this new chapter. It was a good way to give them a chance to learn names and faces, to troubleshoot a bit and to share housing tips," said Montcalm.

Alex Davin, 1L, realized the benefits of meeting classmates and completing the program from day one of arriving on campus.

"From as early as Orientation, I have been seeing the benefits of the program. Discussing the All RISE program with other 1Ls was a natural icebreaker. Those of us who actively shared in the All RISE program seemed to enjoy meeting each other in person for the first time," he said.

An impressive 63% of the incoming class satisfactorily completed the voluntary, free program, including attendance at the weekly sessions and the associated classwork.

"There are so many demands on students' time, so we didn't know what participation would be like from week to week. Professor Willke had the idea to incentivize participation by offering students special swag, a certificate and a credential for their resumes upon satisfactory completion of the program," Montcalm said. "I do think there also was an element of 'I don't want to miss something important.' Students do want to feel ready to come into law school and start their careers off on the right foot. These conditions play in students' minds."

The reimagining of the program garnered knowledge, familiarity and positive reactions for those who participated—all instrumental to establishing a firm, flourishing start to the fall semester at Duquesne Kline School of Law.

"The All RISE program was invaluable," Davin said. "It afforded us 1Ls the opportunity to interact with each other and meet some wonderful Duquesne professors and introduced basic legal concepts in a low-pressure environment." ■



Intimate and Inviting

By Amanda S. Drumm

With the distinguished new façade and entryway into Hanley Hall that was dedicated this past spring, the next few steps into the building—the student lounge—looked markedly out of place. The University decided it was time to transform that space to better equip students’ needs and to reflect the rising status of the school.

Through an extensive redesign and renovations completed this past summer, the student lounge has been converted to an inviting, functional space for day and evening students to study and gather.

The process began with a vision for a warm, student-centric space.

“Students are often in there studying, socializing and eating; they can spend all day in this one building,” Dean April Barton said.

She was instrumental in the new look and feel of the space. From the beginning, she sought opinions of law students to ensure the renovations would match their needs.

“The dean put together a student committee advising on the lounge renovation, basically asking for very student-centered feedback. That feedback consisted of more access to outlets and making the workspace practical. She definitely took into account all of our suggestions and it is cool to see them come to life and on time,” said Shannen Cloherty, 3L, Student Bar Association president.

Subcommittees were formed to elicit additional suggestions.

“It was great feedback and input from students. They saw renderings and talked about their needs and preferences. I think it was all integrated into the final design,” said Barton.

When someone familiar with the old lounge first enters the new space, an immediate reaction is how much larger it appears.

“It feels so much bigger. The whole upper lounge area is so much nicer so much more spacious,” said Cloherty.

No additions to the building were made, but the half wall was eliminated and in its place are windows to see through to the lower level of the lounge. Sitting midpoint of the windows is a stone wall, with the focus of the space a beautiful fireplace and mantle with a gothic “D” perfectly situated above the fireplace’s center.

“It was an update, and we maintained the character of the cherry wood and warmth. The magnificent stone fireplace is an anchoring centerpiece. I cannot wait to decorate the mantle for Christmas,” said Barton.

New flooring was installed throughout the hallways and lounge, and the ceiling was replaced. Improved lighting adds to the lounge’s warmth and pleasant aesthetic. The ramp that led to the lounge’s lower level was removed, with a chairlift added in its place. New, comfortable furniture, including tables, chairs and booths, were added to encourage congregation and comfortability while studying.

“There are new seating options and there are a lot more people gathering, studying and collaborating. It is good for fostering a greater sense of community. There is a dedicated space for group discussion and informal formal meetings,” said Cloherty.

Also important to the students was the addition of an increased number of outlets to enable them to charge their devices.

“There is a ton more chargers and outlets. They are really useful, as many don’t rely on textbooks and notebooks anymore,” said Alexander Giorgetti, 3L.

The coffee shop was eliminated to make room for the new Res Sipsa Café. Law students can spend all day in this one building, and there was a push to provide a place for them to obtain fresh and healthy drinks and meals throughout the day and evening.

“Students can pop over to the Student Union between classes, but evening students needed a place for these types of offerings after a long day of work. We have premium coffees and teas available and access to food items and lots of different healthy options, cold sandwiches, nice wraps, hot food,” said Barton.

The café especially resonates with evening students who used to have to go to the Student Union for coffee or ready-made food because the old law school coffee bar was already closed by the time they arrived, and there were not vending machines.

Mari Miller, 4E, said, “This was difficult for a lot of students who rush from work to class. But now, we have access to fresh coffee and healthy food options when we arrive at the law school. As evening students, there are always going to be things we miss out on because we have unique circumstances and schedules—with the new Res Sipsa Café, access to quick and healthy food options does not have to be a something we miss out on anymore.”

Miller is especially excited about the wholesome food and beverage options the café provides. “The healthier options are great. It can be hard to balance staying healthy with the stress of law school, so having ready-made, healthy meals and snacks that are conveniently located at the law school has been



wonderful. It makes me feel like Duquesne Kline cares about our personal health in addition to our academic success,” she said.

The modernized area serves the necessities of students while beautifully showcasing that Duquesne Kline School of Law is on the rise.

“I think it is an exciting time to go to school here. Coupled with the renovations and becoming increasingly academically rigorous, it is great for our school. Our alumni are so supportive, too. It is nice to have that shared sense of community with students and alumni. It sets us apart from Pittsburgh law schools in general,” Cloherty said.

Barton is also pleased with the renovations and is already looking forward to the next initiative to continue to serve law students well.

“The next order of business is upgrading our classroom technology. We are building our evening program to allow high flex technology. With our flexible evening program now, we are piloting it this year with first-year students; if they are unable to make class, they can attend virtually. If they are hung up at work at home, it is much better than missing class. The technology is amazing. Professors are calling on them, and they feel much more included in the class.” ■



THE NAMING OF A CAFE

With the advent of an updated café, Dean April Barton solicited name suggestions from law students. Jared Swansboro, 2L, entered the competition, and his moniker, Res Sipsa Café, was chosen.

“Professor (Ryan) Williams was my torts professor, and one of our topics was the *res ipsa loquitur* tool in tort law. I saw the bracket and thought that would be a great name. I was an English major in college, and I put the degree to work,” Swansboro said.

Res ipsa loquitur is used by attorneys to shift the burden of proof onto defendants in a case of negligence. Swansboro cleverly played with the letters to create the café’s name, Res Sipsa.

Swansboro was surprised to be chosen and did not expect the fanfare surrounding the new name.

“My expectation was it would be cool if my name of the café was chosen. But I didn’t expect there to be a sign. It may be there a few decades, and it really makes my mark,” he said.

As for the most important question, does Swansboro drink coffee, and if so, how does he take it? He responded, “Oh, absolutely. And I take my coffee black.”

Connecting Students with Alumni

By Maria Comas, L'00

As the Career Services Office strives to help students achieve their career goals, connecting them with alumni is a crucial part of that equation. We are fortunate that many alumni make themselves available to assist by attending CSO programs and events; meeting students for coffee or lunch; answering questions posed to them via email or LinkedIn; and recruiting them for internship, law clerk and entry-level attorney positions. We are sincerely grateful for all of the support shown to our students.

We will highlight a few ways in which alumni might want to engage with students during the academic year. Anyone who would like more information about any of the following should contact Maria Comas, L'00, assistant dean of career services, at comas@duq.edu or 412.396.6279.

■ Table Talk Tuesdays

The CSO offers this informal networking and recruiting initiative that is intended to provide law students with a chance to learn more about a variety of employers and organizations. One organization is featured at a time as they highlight recruitment initiatives and membership opportunities available to students. Participants, which have included a variety of employers, bar associations and professional organizations, spend an hour at lunchtime or before night classes in our Student Lounge where they share information with students. Table Talk Tuesdays provide a relaxed way to spotlight your organization, and we encourage you to take part in this series!

■ Lawyers on Location

The CSO developed the Lawyers on Location Series so our students can visit various workplaces as a way to see law in practice and build their professional networks. Hosts invite 10-15 students to visit and have a discussion over lunch. Many students want to learn more about the ways in which they might use their degrees with different types of employers. The Lawyers on Location Series is open to all students, but first-year students find it especially beneficial as they contemplate their career paths and discover their interests.

This year, we started Lawyers on Location, with a Twist, so that our evening students can more easily take part in the series. The “twist” is that the event is held at the law school before classes begin at 6 o'clock, allowing evening students to attend the program before going to their classes on Monday-Thursday evenings.

■ Bar Association Involvement

We encourage students to engage with bar associations and professional organizations so they can begin to build their professional networks and contribute to the profession. Recognizing that students are the future of their organizations, many offer student memberships or otherwise welcome their involvement. We would be delighted to know if you participate in any bar association activities and would be willing to extend a warm welcome to students who want to become similarly involved. Knowing that Duquesne Kline alumni are available to help students navigate these opportunities and foster connections can positively impact their willingness to take advantage of them.

Kline Center Distinguished Speaker Series Examines Justice Robert H. Jackson and the U.S. Supreme Court's Path to *Brown v. Board of Education*

By Amanda Dabbs

The Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education hosted its third annual Distinguished Speaker Series with a discussion of “Justice Robert H. Jackson and the U.S. Supreme Court’s Path to *Brown v. Board of Education*,” presented by John Q. Barrett, Benjamin N. Cardozo Professor of Law at St. John’s University and Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow at the Robert H. Jackson Center.

“Professor John Q. Barrett is the nation’s leading expert on the life and legacy of United States Supreme Court justice Robert H. Jackson, and it was an honor to feature him as this year’s distinguished speaker,” explained Professor Erin Karsman, the Kline Center’s director.

This year’s speaker series was held on Constitution Day—Sept. 17—exactly 237 years from the last day of the Constitutional Convention in which the framers signed the United States Constitution in Philadelphia.

Nearly 200 people attended the 2024 Distinguished Speaker Series, including students, faculty and staff from the Duquesne Kline School of



Law, Duquesne pre-law students, Chief Justice Debra Todd, Justice Christine Donohue, L’80, and Justice David Wecht from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, as well as former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Cynthia Baldwin, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania Mark Hornak and other jurists.

“We are proud that the Kline Center’s annual Distinguished Speaker Series program not only brings together judges, lawyers and students to

an educational event that features nationally renowned legal scholars but also fosters community and camaraderie at the reception that follows,” said Karsman.

Duquesne University President Ken Gormley opened the event by welcoming Chief Justice Emeritus Thomas G. Saylor, the Kline Center’s Jurist-in-Residence, and telling the audience: “Since its creation in 2017, the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education has truly become a model for the entire United States of a creative partnership between the law schools in a state and the state’s judiciary to provide high-quality judicial education for our dedicated judges.”

Saylor then introduced Barrett, a graduate of both Georgetown University and Harvard Law School, a former U.S. government lawyer and investigator, and a regular media commentator on law, government and history topics. Barrett is writing a biography of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Nuremberg prosecutor Robert H. Jackson (1892-1954). This work will

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“I was very honored to give this significant lecture at Duquesne Kline. Constitution Day commemorates our 1787 Philadelphia founding fathers. It also is an opportunity to think of how we U.S. people have amended and improved upon that original Constitution.”

—JOHN Q. BARRETT

include the first inside account of Jackson’s service—by appointment of President Truman—as the chief prosecutor at Nuremberg, Germany, of the principal surviving Nazi leaders following World War II.

“I was very honored to give this significant lecture at Duquesne Kline. Constitution Day commemorates our 1787 Philadelphia founding fathers. It also is an opportunity to think of how we U.S. people have amended and improved upon that original Constitution,” said Barrett.

In his keynote presentation, Barrett delved deep into the life of Jackson, including describing his family upbringing, public education experiences, legal and political career and 13 years of U.S. Supreme Court service. Barrett also discussed in great detail Jackson’s involvement in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education* and how it set the precedent for many related cases that followed it.

Barrett concluded his presentation by focusing on the importance of Constitution Day being constitutive. “It is self-definition. Constitution is us. It was Philadelphia, it was 1868, it was *Brown v. Board of Education*, it was Robert H. Jackson, and in our era, it is each of us doing our job, working hard as successors, thinking honestly, not asking for congratulations, believing we are infallible, but then maybe parking that a little bit, to join the progress of the country moving forward. That constitutes us,” he said.

Also at the lecture, Gormley recognized this year’s four Kline Center Fellows: Hannah Dean, 3L, Jurry Bajwah, 3L, John Fazio, 3L, and Josh Kirkpatrick, 4E.

“The Kline Center Fellows Program is a unique initiative designed to provide a select group of law students with opportunities that enrich—and educate—them about the work of judges and law clerks, fostering respect for both the judiciary and judicial education,” Gormley explained.

“The Kline Center provides an excellent forum to pursue my interest in studying topics related to judicial decision-making and jurisprudence, and I am grateful to be a student fellow,” Fazio said.

“I enjoyed getting a chance to meet with the judges of the PA Supreme Court. I had a fun conversation with Chief Justice Debra Todd about her time in law school and being a 3L. Opportunities like these are rare to find, where you get to socialize and mingle with judges and get to see their personal side,” Bajwah said.

Fazio added: “What I enjoyed most was the opportunity to hear from a scholar with such a deep familiarity with Justice Jackson’s life and jurisprudence. I have long admired Justice Jackson for his unique background as a Supreme Court justice who did not actually graduate from law school! So it was great to hear more about his life, pathway to the bench, and critical role in American and world history.”

This year’s Distinguished Speaker Series was approved for one credit of Pennsylvania Continuing Judicial Education for judges and one credit of Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education for attorneys.

Plans are already in place for next year’s series. Learn more about the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education at duq.edu/KlineCenter. ■

Tribone Center for Clinical Education Updates

Healthcare Decisions and Directives Event by The Elder Justice Consortium of Pennsylvania Law Schools

The Elder Justice Consortium of Pennsylvania Law Schools (EJC) hosted a lunch and learn April 9 for law students in honor of National Healthcare Decision Day. The event was hosted by the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. This was the first EJC event of its type, bringing together law students from across Pennsylvania to discuss the important topics of healthcare decisions and directives, elder law and the EJC.

The event preceded National Healthcare Directive Day, held annually on April 16. The initiative served to educate individuals on the importance of advance planning of healthcare. Duquesne Kline School of Law students attended the event in person, and a Zoom option was provided for speakers, attendees and students from all nine Pennsylvania law schools, with a number of schools hosting “watch parties” with members of the EJC present to facilitate

questions and provide opportunities for further conversations.

The event included a brief introduction to the EJC and how students can get involved, the importance of elder law as a practice and the issues that older Pennsylvanians face. The seminar concluded with an overview of advance care planning as a tool to assist individuals in assuring that their wishes are honored.

EJC member Katherine Norton, co-associate dean for faculty scholarship, director of clinical and international programs, and assistant professor of law at Duquesne Kline School of Law, moderated the event. Other speakers included Duquesne Kline Professor Grace Orsatti, also of the EJC; Mary Catherine Scott of Widener Commonwealth and the EJC; Katherine Pearson of Penn State Dickinson University and the EJC; Brendan Corbalis of the Senior Law Center and Villanova University representative; Spencer Rand from Temple University’s Legal Aid Office; Monica Harmon from Drexel

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“We hope that students gained a real understanding and appreciation of the importance of supporting elder justice both in law school and in their future careers. By pairing this event with National Healthcare Decision Day, we hoped that students understood that these issues impact all individuals, including those in their lives.”

—KATHERINE NORTON



Pennsylvania Innocence Project

Join us in welcoming James “Jim” Kelly home. Kelly walked free from Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Somerset after Judge Glenn Bronson granted the Commonwealth’s motion to dismiss all charges, resulting in his release and exoneration. He is headed back to Philadelphia after spending nearly three decades incarcerated for a 1993 crime that he did not commit. Kelly, a proud father and veteran, is excited to return home and bask in a new normal surrounded by his grandchildren.

Kelly’s innocence claim was backed by many over the years, including his former cellmate, George Bussinger, who raised money to help him obtain legal assistance. Bussinger’s efforts led to former Chester County Court of Common Pleas President Judge Lawrence Wood joining Kelly’s quest for freedom.

Kelly is welcomed home by his family and legal team at the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, including managing attorney Liz DeLosa, who led the team, supported by Nilam Sanghvi. Many thanks to other Project staff members who worked on this case over the years, including Charlotte Whitmore, Shaina Tyler, Zach Stern, Ryan Becker, Haley Filippine, and Anjali Nahata. Welcome home, Jim! ■

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University's Dornsife Center; and Duquesne Kline law students Eliza Hens-Greco and Nick Piccirillo.

The event was an effective way to bring students together to discuss elder law and justice and learn from each other.

"We hope that students gained a real understanding and appreciation of the importance of supporting elder justice both in law school and in their future careers. By pairing this event with National Healthcare Decision Day, we hoped that students understood that these issues impact all individuals, including those in their lives," Norton said.

She noted the EJC is planning to host similar events for law students in the future.

Elder Justice Fair

On April 15, the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University hosted an Elder Justice Fair at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County Law Library. The Duquesne Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic was sponsored by the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Foundation (ACTEC) and the McElhattan Foundation for this elder justice initiative. Low-income seniors of the community attended this walk-in event to learn about free legal services available to them.

Family Law Matters

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's Family Law Clinic spent the summer working with the University of Pittsburgh School of Law Family Empowerment and Legal Access Clinic to develop a new service model for low-income litigants to receive limited assistance with their family law related matter. This new model allows for easier access for litigants to the services that students provide.

Lawrenceville "Housing For All" Resource Fair

On Sept. 7, the Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic had a table at the Housing for All Resource Fair in Lawrenceville, sponsored by Lawrenceville United and state Rep. Lindsay Powell. Members of the community, including seniors, received assistance regarding rental housing to homeownership; community land trusts; tenant rights; access to rent assistance; knowing the worth of their home and avoiding predatory practices against homeowners; home repair programs and accessibility modifications; financing programs for homeowners; and protections from property reassessments. The fair included more than 15 organizations that provide assistance for housing and other issues facing the elderly. ■



Jaime Latronica

Welcome New Faculty

We welcome Professor **Jaime Latronica** back to Duquesne Kline as an adjunct professor of law for the Elder Law Project. She is currently the manager for special projects at Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS). Latronica was a staff attorney in the NLS Butler County office and joined Pittsburgh in 2021. A 2008 Duquesne Kline graduate, she worked as an associate attorney in the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg Domestic Violence Legal Center and served as a judicial law clerk in Clarion, Elk and Cameron counties. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in English literature and a certificate in Western European studies from the University of Pittsburgh, where she graduated summa cum laude in 2005.

We also welcome back Professor **Adrian N. Roe** to the Federal Litigation Clinic. Roe was an immigration judge for the Boston Immigration Court (2023-2024) and has 40 years of experience as a litigation attorney, having law offices in Downtown Pittsburgh. His practice includes civil litigation, criminal defense (mostly in federal court) and immigration litigation. He was also a member of the Roe & Simon, LLC firm. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a bachelor's degree in history in 1981 and from the Boston University School of Law with a J.D. in 1984, having served on the *Boston University Law Review*. ■



Adrian N. Roe

Young Alumni

PROFILE

Falco Muscante, L'23

Hometown:

Elizabeth, Pa.

Education:

South Allegheny High School
Grove City College, B.S. in Management; Minor in Pre-Law;
Concentration in H.R.
Duquesne Kline School of Law, J.D.

What are you currently reading?

The Wisdom Pyramid by Brett McCracken

Words you live by:

Be where your feet are.

What might people be surprised to know about you?

I enjoy woodworking.

Employment:

K&L Gates LLP

What sparked your interest in litigation, specifically commercial disputes?

Before law school, I thought litigation meant oral argument in court. Once I learned that litigation really means learning, researching, strategizing and lots of writing, I knew that was the path for me.

How has your role developed over your career?

I'm early in my career, but I've found that taking ownership and saying "yes" as often as possible has led to new and exciting opportunities that I otherwise would not have gotten if I just sought to meet minimum expectations.

How did your Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University education prepare you not only for the practice of law, but for your work in your specific practice area?

I research and write a lot. The courses I took that helped me to develop those skills were invaluable for the work I do day in and day out.

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

Well-recognized. Cutting-edge. Valuable.

Is there any additional information you would like to share about yourself?

My father is also a Duquesne alumnus and is one of the reasons why I chose to attend law school at Duquesne University. One of my most memorable moments is when my father moved my admission into the Pennsylvania bar. ■



Alumni Profile
The Hon. Jill Beck, L'06



Hometown:

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Education:

The George Washington University, B.A.
Duquesne Kline School of Law, J.D.

What are you currently reading?

I just finished *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles; I am about to pick up *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin

Words you live by:

At home: “Pick your battles” (I have a pre-teen and teen at home)

At work: “If it’s wrong, it’s wrong”

What might people be surprised to know about you?

I once coached a basketball team of high school-aged boys, all of whom were adjudicated delinquent and on probation.

Employment:

2006-2010–Attorney, KidsVoice
2010-2019–Law Clerk, the Chambers of the Hon. Christine Donohue (six years on the Superior Court, four years on the Supreme Court)
2019-2022–Attorney, Blank Rome
2024-present–Judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court

What sparked your interest in becoming a judge?

I did not always want to be a judge. In fact, I did not always want to be a lawyer. That career path took shape while I was an AmeriCorps fellow working with kids on probation in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. Tired of having judges ignore my (and my colleagues’) testimony about the clients we saw two to five times each day, and instead deferring to the recommendations made

by the attorneys (many of whom only met their clients in the courthouse hallway before the hearing), I went to law school with the goal of putting in the time, effort and energy required to try to ensure the best possible outcomes for my clients. As my litigation practice took me into our Superior Court, and then as a clerk on the Superior and Supreme Courts, I realized the best way to fulfill this goal was as a judge of the Superior Court, as the Superior Court decides all manner of individual rights cases and, 98% of the time, is the court of last resort for such matters.

How has your previous experience in child welfare prepared you for your role today?

My prior work in child welfare has given me an understanding of the issues facing families that come before the court—criminal and civil—allowing me to thoroughly review and comprehend the legal issues I must ultimately decide. It also prepared me for the long, often non-traditional, hours the job requires.

How did your Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University education prepare you not only for the practice of law, but for your role as a judge?

Duquesne gave me a fantastic legal education, complete with classroom and real-world experience. The clinic offerings and moot court classes and competitions were integral in my decision to pursue a career in litigation, and the legal research and writing program and *Law Review* provided the necessary foundation for the work I do every day.

Duquesne Kline also gave me a strong network of attorneys who helped and supported me as I navigated my path to the bench. ■

ClassActions

Stay connected with Duquesne Kline School of Law!
Send us your accomplishments, news you would like to share and updates to your contact information at lawalumni@duq.edu.

1979

James R. Antoniono of DeBernardo, Antoniono, McCabe and Davis PC, Greensburg, will begin his term as vice president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA). Antoniono previously served a three-year term as PBA treasurer. He is a member of the PBA LGBTQ+ Rights, Minority Bar and Quality of Life/Balance committees and Civil Litigation; Real Property, Probate and Trust Law; and Solo and Small Firm sections.

1981



Lisette M. McCormick received the annual Anne X. Alpern Award. The Alpern Award is presented annually to a female lawyer or judge who

demonstrates excellence in the legal profession and who makes a significant professional impact on women in the law.

1996

The Hon. Nicola Henry-Taylor was named a member of the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission. She was also recognized by the Pennsylvania Women's Hall of Achievement for unwavering commitment to the values enshrined in the 19th Amendment and assumed the role of President of the Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association. She is a Judge in the Allegheny Court of Common Pleas Family Division.

2000

Gavin Eastgate has a new role at Blank Rome LLP as Of Counsel in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group. Eastgate is a seasoned antitrust and competition lawyer skilled in litigation, transactional, strategic and regulatory counseling matters. He also regularly counsels clients regarding antitrust, trade regulation and premerger compliance, and advises clients being investigated by the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, Federal

Trade Commission, state Attorneys General, and other state and federal agencies.



Michael Dutkovich has a new role at Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. as Senior Associate of the firm and a member of the Corporate, Estates and Trusts, and Tax

practice areas. He advises tax-exempt public charities, private foundations, religious organizations and for-profit businesses on corporate formation, governance and compliance. He also provides counsel on estate planning and administration and has experience in guardianship proceedings and other Orphans' Court matters.

2001

Harold Balk started a new role at Michigan State University as senior advisor to the president on strategy and operational excellence. Balk previously served as the Chief Revenue Officer at Dentons Cohen & Grigsby. Prior to that he worked at two other Pittsburgh law firms.

Shanicka Kennedy was elected as an Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee Diverse Representative. She has been selected as a 2024 Pittsburgh Technology Council ATHENA Award Finalist. The ATHENA Award recognizes exceptional women who demonstrate excellence in their profession, contribute to their community, and help other women and girls to succeed through mentorship.

2002

Tresa O. Sirianni was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers. She is a Shareholder at Marshall Dennehey and an experienced litigator in both state and federal court representing school districts, school leaders, municipalities, police departments, and various non-profit and corporate entities.

2002

Rocco Cozza Law opened its third office in Nashville. Rocco Cozza is the Managing Partner and founder of Cozza Law. He is a sought-after business

sports and entertainment lawyer and has been practicing since 2003.

Mathew Gailey started a new role at Cozza Law Group, serving as Of Counsel with a focus on commercial and employment litigation. He has over two decades of legal experience composed of a wide range of commercial litigation issues, from contract disputes to corporate governance, and employment law, including wrongful termination, discrimination, and wage and hour disputes.

2004

Gary Matz started a new role at Eckert Seamans as Special Counsel focusing on Intellectual Property matters. He works with inventors to identify the unique technical aspects of their inventions and how best to protect them. He also advises business leaders on how best to optimize the value of their technologies.

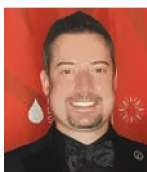
Steve Toprani has a new position as Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs at W.G. Tomko, Inc. Toprani is an experienced General Counsel with a demonstrated history of working in the construction industry.

2002

Dave Garraux has a new role at Cozen O'Connor as a member in the Labor and Employment Group. Garraux represents employers across the country addressing all manners of workplace disputes.

2007

Michael Calder achieved a record-breaking verdict in Fayette County, Pa. Calder is a reputable trial lawyer at Rosen & Perry devoting his time to medical malpractice, wrongful death, catastrophic injury, motor vehicle collision and serious personal injury cases.



Jason Schiffman received the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Visionary of the Year award after raising \$162,408 for the society in its 2024 program.

Schiffman is a Partner at Schiffman Firm who has dedicated his career to advocating for those who are injured

and sick. Schiffman's campaign honors Officer Mark Smilek, who tragically lost his battle with blood cancer in January 2024. With the support of Smilek's family and friends, Schiffman and his team shared his story with the region, bringing much-deserved attention to his national and community service, celebrating his life and honoring his fight.

Lauren Melfa Catanzarite was promoted to Principal at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote. She concentrates her practice in the areas of civil litigation and commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis in the food and beverage industry.

2008

Michael Moyer began a new role as Senior Vice President, Wealth Strategies advisor at Bank of America Private Bank in Raleigh, N.C. Prior to that he worked as a Senior Wealth Strategist and a Tax Attorney.

2009

Timothy Wojton was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is a Partner at Scanlon & Wojton focusing his practice on medical negligence, automobile collisions and other injuries.

2010

Vivian Brand Taylor began a new role as Chief People Officer at Goodwill SWPA. She has vast experience in human resources, having held multiple leadership positions at organizations in Pittsburgh and California.

Jason J. Kelly was promoted to Senior Counsel at Maiello Brungo and Maiello, LLP. He serves as legal counsel that integrates his business operations background with practical business realities. He counsels on business formation and conflict resolution, in addition to contracts and corporate governance issues.

2012

Amber L. Archer joined the Neighborhood Legal Services Board of Directors. She is an Associate at Shenderovich Shenderovich & Fishman, P.C., where she focuses her practice on personal injury cases.

2013

Julianne Cutruzzula Beil joined Block and Associates focusing on Litigation. She is an experienced litigator, having litigated complex and challenging cases in both state and federal courts.

Aaron Mazza has a new role as Senior Legal Counsel at C  r  lia North America. He has vast experience as in-house counsel, having worked in house at other organizations.

Mike Rush joined the Board of Trustees of the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation. He is Director at EQT Corporation and has had a wide variety of experience in the energy sector.

Matt Urso has joined Metz Lewis Brodman Must O'Keefe LLC as a Member in the Corporate Group. He previously served as Senior Corporate Counsel for ERIKS North America, where he provided legal support in the areas of commercial contracts, corporate governance, employment matters, acquisitions and divestitures, and other related activity.

Elsbeth Koefer was named a partner at Margolis Edelstein in the casualty litigation department. She has years of experience defending insured and self-insured entities in premises liability, products liability, dram shop, motor vehicle liability and medical professional liability matters.

2014

Charles Sapienza was promoted to Captain in the United States Marine Corps. He was previously a Deputy Staff Judge Advocate in the Marine Corps.

2015



Aaron and Emily Weiss welcomed their daughter, Lydia Betsy Weiss, into the world. Emily is an associate at K&L Gates focusing her practice on clients

in the energy sector and Aaron is a Director at Zimmer Kunz advising clients on litigation, alternative dispute resolution and business matters.

Joshua Affagato started a new role as a leasing agent at JOANN Stores. He has held a variety of positions in leasing and compliance prior to his new position.

Lindsay Sherwood Fouse-Hopkins

joined the Board of Directors at The Lindsay Theater and Cultural Center and has been recognized as one of the ABA's on the rise top 40 young lawyers. She is a Senior Attorney at Clark Hill representing local and multinational companies in complex commercial litigation, and counsels corporate clients in the areas of contracts, commercial real estate and corporate compliance.

Emilia Rinaldi started a new role at Leech Tishman as an associate in their Labor & Employment and Litigation Practice Groups. She applies her business economics background to address a variety of labor and employment issues, including wage and hour disputes, workplace harassment and discrimination, wrongful termination, and workplace safety/OSHA regulations.

2017

George Pappas, Jr. started a new position at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote. He concentrates his practice in the areas of construction law, medical malpractice, personal injury litigation, product liability law, and professional and occupational licensure defense, with a particular emphasis in commercial litigation.

Francesca (Cella) Iovino started a new position as an associate at Jackson Lewis. Her practice focuses on representing employers in workplace law matters, including preventive advice and counseling.

Maggie DiVito started a new position as Director, Corporate Counsel, at Dick's Sporting Goods. She focuses her practice on commercial contracts. She previously worked in house at a different company doing a variety of in-house duties including contract management.

2018

Mark Mazza started a new role at Eckert Seamans as an associate focusing his practice in the area of intellectual property portfolio procurement, management and development. He has worked at other firms in the Pittsburgh area focusing on intellectual property.

2019

Ashley Waldinger received the Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C. David B. Fawcett Pro Bono award for 2023. The award is presented annually to the firm's associate who has given their time to help those in need.

Marissa Stewart started a new role as an associate at Pollock Morris Belletti and Simms LLC. Stewart was previously a Deputy Public Defender with Greene County.

Danielle Guarascio started a new role as an Assistant Corporate Counsel at Dick's Sporting Goods.

2020

Derrick L. Maultsby, Jr. was honored as a BTJ Consulting Group Client Service All-Star. This honor is only given through anonymous, unprompted, confidential feedback derived from interviews with chief legal officers and general counsel from Fortune 1000 companies across the country.

Sarah Linder Marx graduated from Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College with distinction with a Master of Public Management degree. She is a Managing Attorney in the Juvenile Division of the Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender.

Jordan Kelly started a new role as a Commercial Litigation Associate at Raines Feldman Littrell LLP. Her practice spans a range of industries and includes litigating claims of breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation and trade secrets, shareholder disputes, and litigating adversary proceedings in bankruptcy court

2021



Sarah Jane (S.J.) Milliron started a new position at Maiello, Brungo & Maiello, LLP. As an associate, her unwavering commitment

to accuracy ensures the seamless execution of real estate transactions and mergers and acquisitions, instilling confidence in MBM clients through her dedication to excellence. She represents clients in entity selection and formation, general corporate governance, commercial contracts, and mergers and acquisitions.

Ellen "Ell" Connally started a new position as Assistant Public Defender in Washington County, Pa. She previously worked at a law firm focusing on special education and disability rights.

Jessica Nelson started a new role at

Burns White LLC as an Associate in the firm's Healthcare Group. She focuses her practice on representing hospitals, physicians, and other healthcare professionals and entities with medical malpractice claims.

Corey Stanford has joined Tucker Arensberg PC. He is a member of the firm's Commercial Litigation and Labor & Employment Practice Groups.

Darius Singleton received the Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C. David B. Fawcett Pro Bono award for 2023. The award is presented annually to the firm's associate who has given their time to help those in need.

Abby Panek-Fetterman is serving as the Cambria County Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division Representative. She is an associate at Silverman, Tokarsky & Forman, LLC practicing Family Law, Criminal Defense and Non-Profits law.

2022

Melanie Oleynik Paulick started a new role at Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper, LLP

Kathryn Valentine is starting a new role as Patent Counsel at Vishay Intertechnology, Inc. She previously worked at a firm as a Patent Attorney.

Stephon Burton started a new role at Motion Law Immigration. He has gained extensive experience in removal defense as well as affirmative filings such as family petitions, adjustments of status and naturalization.

Melanie A. Lewis started a new role at Tucker Arensberg as an associate in the Estates and Trusts Group. She has established herself as a dedicated attorney, drafting estate planning and real estate documents for various law firms and a university estate clinic. In her most recent position, she managed estate administration, from client onboarding to asset distribution; drafted probate documents; communicated effectively with clients; and navigated the intricacies of county-specific Orphans Court rules.

Daniel Ouansafi started a new position at WIN Big Law.

Ashton Harper started a new position as a Staff Attorney at UPMC Health Plan. Harper's previous position was as an Associate Counsel and Policy Research Advisor.

Nakib Kabir started a new position as an associate at Kessler Topaz Meltzer & Check. He will be focusing his practice on Corporate Governance and M&A Litigation.

Mallory Friday started a position as Associate at BOK Law & Mediation Services, PLLC. She previously worked as a Law Clerk in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas and at a firm.

2023

Anna Cree started a new position at Franklin & Prokopik, P.C as an associate. Her litigation practice focuses primarily in the areas of transportation, products and premises liability defense.

Maegan Stump started a new position at Eckert Seamans focusing her practice on environmental law. Before joining Eckert Seamans, she served as a judicial law clerk for the Hon. Michael T. Clark of the Indiana County Court of Common Pleas.

Madison Krause started a new role as a Judicial Law Clerk at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. She previously worked at as an associate at a firm.

Gregory Thomas started a new role as an associate at Dentons Cohen & Grigsby. He is an associate in the firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice group.

2024



Daniel Pollack has joined Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP as an associate in the Product Liability Practice Group. Prior to joining the firm,

he was a law clerk at a regional law firm with a focus on business law and estate planning. He also spent time as a judicial law clerk for the Hon. Judge Daniel Regan of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

Ryan Bald was recognized as the Allegheny County Bar Association Judges Memorial Scholarship winner.

Ed Walsh started a new position as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Venango County Court of Common Pleas.

Jamilah Wesley started a new role as a Senior Risk Analyst, Freddie Mac.

John Brophy started a new position as an Assistant Public Defender III at the Monroe County Office of the Public Defender.

Michaela Smith started a new role as a Law Clerk at ELM Capital Management/Jones Law Group.

Keenan Carlin started a new role as an Assistant District Attorney at the Bucks County District Attorney's Office.

Kaitlyn Reed started a new position as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Lancaster County Courthouse.

Alumni recognized for being 50-Year Members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association

Samuel Braver, L'74
John W. Giltinan, L'74
Hon. Maureen E. Lally-Green, L'74
Ernest B. Orsatti, L'74
John Bacharach, L'74
Nicholas Brenlove, L'74
Daniel P. Carroll, L'74
Joel M. Dresbold, L'74
Hon. Judith Friedman L'73
Michael D. Hanna, Jr., L'74
George A. Huber, L'74
Thomas G. Michalek, L'74
David S. Pollock, L'74
Vincent J. Quatrini, Jr., L'74
George T. Ryden, L'74
Thomas A. Smock, L'74
Orlando R. Sodini, L'74
Robert P. Vincler, L'74

Alumnus recognized for being a 60-Year Member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association:

Joseph M. Zoffer, L'63

Alumni holding Allegheny County Bar Association Positions 2024

Katherine R. Byrne, L'87
Treasurer of the Women in the Law Division

Julian Neiser, L'01
Elected to the Board of Governors

Aubrey Glover, L'03
Judiciary Committee Elder/Probate and Trust Representative

Ashley Rodgers, L'12
Council Member of the Women in the Law Division

Andrew Rothery, L'14
Elected to the Board of Governors

Sarah Krolkowski, L'14
Council Member of the Women in the Law Division

Katie Pakler, L'14
Council Member of the Women in the Law Division

Fayezeh Haji Hassan, L'17
Chair Elect of the Women in the Law Division

Sara Watkins, L'18
Elected Judiciary Committee Civil Court Representative

Allison Erndl, L'19
Council Member of the Women in the Law Division

Tricia Martino, L'20
Elected Secretary of the Young Lawyers Division

McCall Chafin, L'20
Council Member of the Young Lawyers Division

Erika Dowd, L'21
Elected Treasurer of the Young Lawyers Division

Samantha Dorn, L'21
Council Member of the Women in the Law Division
Council Member of the Young Lawyers Division

Rachel Pressdee, L'21
Council Member of the Women in the Law Division

Diana Bruce, L'21
Council Member of the Young Lawyers Division

Jessica Nelson, L'21
Secretary of the Women in the Law Division

Michael Bethune, L'22
Council Member of the Young Lawyers Division

In Memoriam

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

Christopher H. Gebhardt, Esq.	1987
Jennifer L. Giotto, Esq.	1990
Alex Z. Goldstein	1924
Robert T. Gownley, Jr., Esq.	1972
Andrew C. Hughey, Esq.	1985
J. Alan Johnson, Esq.	1971
Irwin G. Lichter, Esq.	1971
Susan Mahood Barone, Esq.	1987
The Hon. Jeffrey A. Manning	1972
James W. McCarthy, Esq., CPA	1973
Joyce C. McKeever, Esq.	1977
Charles J. Morris, Esq.	1975
Michael Mullaugh, Esq.	1973
The Hon. John W. Peck	1973
William D. Phillips, Esq.	1962
David A. Presser, Esq.	1987
Beth W. Schmidt, Esq.	1990
David L. Schmitt, Esq.	1976
John R. Shaffer, Esq.	1981
Ronald H. Shakely, Esq.	1960

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.

Remembering Judge Jeffrey A. Manning

By John Rago, L'87, Professor



Not long ago, the law school family and the legal community lost one of its most beloved and admired individuals. Judge Jeffrey A. Manning passed away on Monday, Aug. 12, 2024.

Judge Manning's distinguished and storied public service began as a highly skilled state and federal prosecutor, followed by his service from the bench of the Fifth Judicial District. For more than three decades he served with distinction as judge, administrative judge of the criminal division, president judge and then as president judge emeritus. Throughout all of his years in public service, Jeffrey had a strong sense of his civic and professional responsibilities. His pursuit of justice in every context was diligent, fair, balanced, fearless and compassionate. He was unfailingly a strong advocate for victims and victims' families as well as the needs and rights of the accused.

Jeffrey knew that truth and freedom are intimately related and reciprocally necessary values. He showed us through his work you can't have one without the other!

He was a loyal friend...loyal like a junkyard dog. And with Jeffrey, you could find joy and laughter, even in the midst of chaos. To those who had the delight and privilege to know him, Jeffrey was the personification of electricity. Our dear friend was often the brightest light in every room he entered. It is a light that remains with us, warming our hearts and helping us to see our way forward. He was the North Star for many of us.

Jeffrey's love for the law school was an obsession. He was an ardent admirer of many of his law school professors...John Sciallo, Ray Sekula and Nick Fisis, among others. He taught trial advocacy at the law school to many generations of law students, often winning the Excellence in Teaching Award chosen by the student body. Very simply, Jeffrey was eager and ready always and, in all ways, to make real sacrifices and contributions to our law school.

In the hearts of the entire law school family, Jeffrey A. Manning will be ever loved and cherished. He has left a delightfully indelible mark on all of us. Rest assured, his light continues to shine.

For now, we say as Thucydides said several millennia ago... *"We offer his body to our common earth. We offer to his memory praise that will never end."*

DKLAA President's Message

Dear Fellow Duquesne Kline School of Law Alumni:

It is with great honor and privilege that I write to you as the president of the Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association (DKLAA) for the 2024-2025 academic year. I am excited to carry out the mission with board members and all Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University alumni.

The mission of the Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association is two-fold:

1. To serve alumni of Duquesne Kline School of Law by providing opportunities for social and professional interaction; and
2. To be a representative association for Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni, serving alumni, law students and the school by providing opportunities for the involvement of alumni in the needs, activities and affairs of the school.

The board and I encourage you to collaborate with us to meet the goals of the DKLAA, which reflect its commitment to these principles. Each of the programs and activities of the DKLAA are intended to further one of the following goals:

- To provide opportunities for social and professional interaction among alumni;
- To be the national representative of the alumni of Duquesne Kline School of Law;
- To promote the involvement of law alumni in the affairs and activities of Duquesne Kline School of Law;
- To foster communication between the law alumni and Duquesne Kline School of Law; and
- To assist law students and recent graduates in transitioning from Duquesne Kline School of Law to law practice, including such assistance as may be practicable in securing gainful employment in legal or related professions.

To that end, I intend to work collaboratively to accomplish the above-stated mission and goals from a diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) lens. All DKLAA graduates are not just welcomed but included, valued and needed. Our commitment to DEIB ensures that all voices are heard and all perspectives are considered. Specifically, our committees, which are led by board members and include other alumni such as yourself, will be tasked with effectuating the mission in a DEIB-responsive manner.

By participating in a committee, you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with fellow alumni, share your expertise and work towards achieving the goals outlined by the DKLAA.

Additionally, involvement in a committee allows you to stay connected to your alma mater, support current law students and make a meaningful impact within the legal community. It can be an enriching experience that not only benefits the association but also provides significant personal and professional growth opportunities for you.

Our committees, which include Alumni Outreach, Career Development, Communication & Technology, DEIB and Event Planning, are instrumental in achieving our mission. We encourage you to consider joining one that aligns with your interests and expertise. We sincerely hope you become engaged with the DKLAA or take your engagement to another level this year. If you are interested in joining a committee, please get in touch with the Office of Alumni & Development at lawalumni@duq.edu.

We are excited about the upcoming year and the opportunities it holds. We will continue our historic programs, such as the Annual Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Reunion Awards Dinner, the Pass the Bar Reception and career development programs for our students and young lawyers while looking to address the needs raised in the membership survey from the 2022-2023 academic year.

I encourage you to join the DKLAA and look forward to working with all of you to make this an excellent year!

Kind regards,



Nicola Henry-Taylor, L'96



*72nd Thomas R. Kline School of Law
of Duquesne University*

LAW ALUMNI REUNION

The 72nd annual Duquesne Kline School of Law Alumni Reunion was held on Sept. 27. The day was full of activities, including a Beer History and Tasting CLE and building tours where alumni saw firsthand the beautifully renovated student lounge and special new archival collection room. Alumni, including members of the class of 1974, returned to campus to attend the annual dinner hosted in the evening. ■



Alumni Receive Prestigious Awards

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University recognized three outstanding alumni for their achievements at its annual Law Alumni Reunion dinner on Sept. 27. The honorees who received awards were **William F. Goodrich, L'79**, the **Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark, L'83**, and **Joseph Williams, L'09**.

Goodrich was recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award as an alumnus who graduated 20 years or more ago and has distinguished himself through achievements in the legal profession and the community and to Duquesne Kline School of Law. Clark was recognized for her service and commitment to Duquesne Kline School of Law and the Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association with the Dr. John E. Murray, Jr. Meritorious Service Award. Williams was honored with the Outstanding Achievement Award, as an alumnus who has practiced law 19 years or less and who has distinguished himself through achievements in the legal profession and community and service to Duquesne Kline School of Law.

"We are extremely humbled to bestow these awards upon such deserving alumni. They have each demonstrated exemplary legal careers and tremendous service to the profession and their communities. We are grateful for their contributing and lasting ties to Duquesne Kline School of Law," said Dean April Barton.



For more information about the winners, visit: duq.edu/LawAlumniAwards.



Kline Visits Campus and Teaches Contracts Class

Thomas R. Kline, L'78, visited campus on Sept. 9 to meet with Duquesne Kline School of Law students. One of his first stops on campus was to visit the beautifully renovated student lounge and new Res Sipsa Café that offers premium coffees and teas and healthy sandwiches and snack options.

Law students enjoyed meeting with Kline. He spent time talking with and teaching them, including the entire class session in Professor Richard Gaffney's Contracts course. Kline used the now-famous case of *Leonard v. PepsiCo* to teach students not only the basic concepts of contract law concerning offers of awards and prizes, but also provided them with an introduction to trial advocacy.

Gaffney shared the following about the lecture: *Leonard v. PepsiCo*—the “Pepsi Points” case made famous by a Netflix series—involved the 1995 PepsiCo television commercial that appeared to offer viewers an opportunity to purchase a genuine Harrier jet for 7,000,000 Pepsi Points. Plaintiff John Leonard took Pepsi up on its “offer” by accumulating the necessary Pepsi Points, and when Pepsi refused to deliver the jet, Leonard sued for breach of contract. Federal District judge Kimba Wood dismissed Leonard's suit on Pepsi's motion for summary judgment, holding that the commercial was obviously in jest and not a bona fide offer that Leonard could accept.



At the outset of class, nearly every student agreed with the court's holding. Using his advocacy skills as the nation's preeminent trial lawyer, Kline presented the case from Leonard's perspective, arguing that, had the facts been viewed in the proper light—as favorable to the plaintiff—the case should not have been summarily dismissed, but should have been presented to a jury. Within the hour, Kline had convinced nearly every student of Leonard's position.

Student response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic as Kline brought a seasoned trial lawyer's perspective to the classroom. ■

Judicial, Government and Public Interest Law Reception Hosted

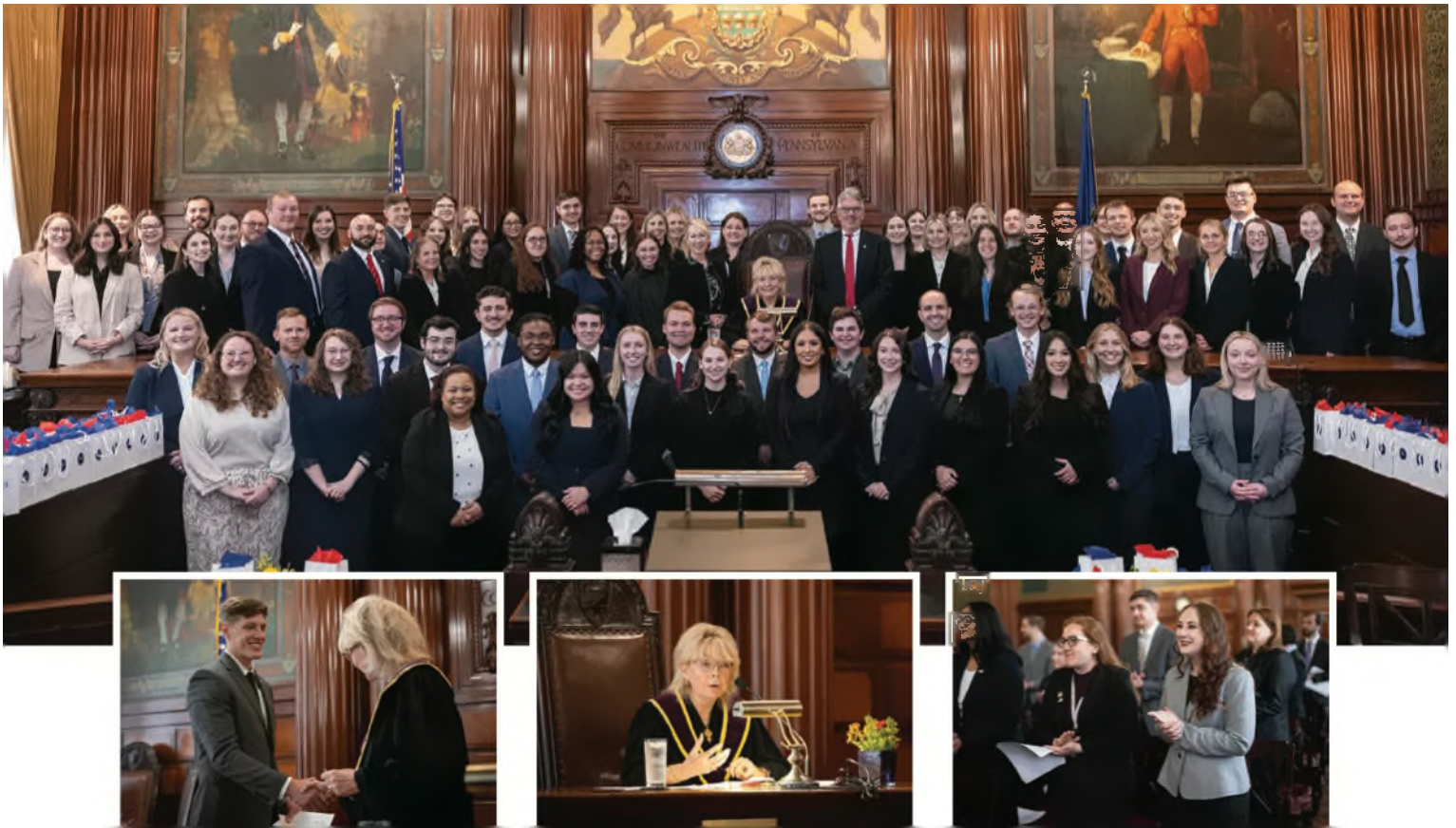
Duquesne Kline School of Law students met judges, attorneys and professionals who work in the courts, government agencies and public interest law organizations at the Oct. 30 Judicial, Government and Public Interest Law Reception.

Thank you to our alumni who participated! Our students enjoyed meeting all of you and appreciated learning about internships, externships, clerkships, pro bono and career opportunities. ■



PA Justice Administers Bar Oath to Nearly 100 Duquesne Kline School of Law Graduates

By Amanda S. Drumm



Nearly 100 new Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University graduates participated in a Bar Swearing-In Ceremony hosted by the School of Law on Oct. 17. The event, held for graduates who passed July's Pennsylvania Uniform Bar Exam, was located at Pittsburgh's City-County Building in the stunning Supreme Court Courtroom.

Justice Christine Donohue, L'80, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, presided over the ceremony. Remarks were given by Duquesne Kline School of Law Dean April Barton, Duquesne University President Ken Gormley, Assistant Professor of Law and Bar Studies Associate Director April Milburn-Knizner and Assistant Professor of Law Marissa Meredith.

The July Pennsylvania Bar results were released on

Oct. 11. Recent graduates of Duquesne Kline School of Law achieved an impressive 88.72% first-time taker pass rate on the July 2024 Pennsylvania bar exam, which is six percentage points higher than the statewide overall passage rate of 82.56%. In addition, Duquesne Kline School of Law's overall passage rate of 84.83%, which includes repeat takers, significantly outpaced the Pennsylvania state overall passage rate of 76.69%.

Barton said, "We are so proud of our graduates, and we are pleased to host this ceremony for them. We are excited for these recent graduates as they launch their careers. I have full confidence they are empowered to lead and prepared for practice. They certainly have bright futures ahead of them!" ■

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

By **Katherine Norton**, Co-Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship, Director of Clinical and International Programs and Assistant Professor of Law, and **Richard Heppner**, Co-Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship and Assistant Professor of Law

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University faculty contribute widely to advancing the legal field through scholarship of all kinds. Here are some of their recent scholarly achievements.

STEVEN BAICKER-MCKEE

Professor Steven Baicker-McKee edited the 2024 edition of *West's Federal Civil Rules Handbook*, and he is working on a new project with West Academic to develop multimedia materials on practical skills for new lawyers.

APRIL BARTON

As Chair of the AALS Section on Leadership, Dean April Barton presented at the 2024 AALS Annual Conference on a panel titled "Defending Democracy Through Effective Leadership Education." And she has presented multiple times on the topic of AI and Law, including a presentation for the Kline Center for Judicial Education on "AI and the Future of Democracy" and the Grefenstette Center Tech Ethics Symposium about "Generative AI Law and Policy."

KARA DEMPSEY

Professor Kara Dempsey presented at multiple conferences on important issues relating to children in court and trauma-informed lawyering, including the presentation "Trauma Sensitive Youth Engagement Through the Life of a Case" and the Kids at Court Conference: Trauma-Informed Strategies for Attorneys.

LAUREN GAILEY

Professor Lauren Gailey briefed and second-chaired oral argument in a securities-law appeal heard by the United States Supreme Court in the October 2023 term.

RICHARD HEPPNER

Professor Richard Heppner presented "Personal Jurisdiction and the Metaphysics of Presence" at the Southeast Association of Law Schools (SEALS) annual conference. There, he also premiered Tag! The Jurisdiction Game—a board game about civil procedure and jurisdiction—for an audience of civil procedure professors.

MARYANN HERMAN

Professor Maryann Herman presented "The Short End of the Stick: The Court's Departure from the Bundle-of-Stick Theory" at the Central States Law Schools Association Annual Conference.

RONA KAUFMAN

Professor Rona Kaufman has taken her scholarship in a new direction, following the Oct. 7 attack in Israel. In addition to speaking at Duquesne, around Pittsburgh and around the country, she has created an educational video series focusing on legal issues about Israel, Judaism, anti-Zionism and antisemitism, which has received media attention.

BRUCE LEDEWITZ

Professor Bruce Ledewitz published numerous articles in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, where he now has a regular column, and numerous essays at the website Only Sky, where he is now a regular contributor. He has also been interviewed and quoted by numerous media outlets including the *Pittsburgh Independent* and MassLive.

JAN LEVINE

Professor Jan Levine was interviewed by Word Rake, a legal writing company, sharing his vast knowledge on training future lawyers in the art of legal writing.

JACQUELINE LIPTON

Professor Jacqueline Lipton shared her vast knowledge on both legal writing and the legal ramifications of AI in publishing, including presentations at: the Ohio Writers Association inaugural conference; the San Diego Ink Writer's group on publishing law; and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Conference, Rocky Mountain Region. She was also recently invited by the National University of Singapore law school to work on a skills program focused on legal writing/communication skills for upper-level curriculum.

ASHLEY LONDON

Professor Ashley London presented "The Unintended Costs of Advance Waivers of Future Conflicts" at the International Legal Ethics Conference in Amsterdam, and her article of the same name is forthcoming from *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*. She presented on legal ethics issues—from the Supreme Court Code of Conduct to ethical use of AI to the ethics of legal externships—at the National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys and elsewhere around the country. She co-authored an influential white paper, "Questioning the Inevitability of The NextGen Bar Exam." And she was awarded the Impact Award by the AALS Section on Academic Support.

GENE MAZO

Professor Gene Mazo edited the *Oxford Handbook of American Election Law*, collecting essays from leading election-law scholars around the world. He presented papers at conferences around the world, including “What Can Election Law Scholars Learn from Comparative Constitutional Law Scholars, and Vice-Versa?” and “Constitutional (R)evolution in Russia and Ukraine” at the International Society for Public Law in Madrid, Spain, and a variety of panels at SEALS. He was also interviewed and quoted by, or appeared on, numerous media outlets in the Pittsburgh area and beyond.

MARISSA MEREDITH

Professor Marissa Meredith presented on her article “Tinder, Love, & Care” at the Hofstra IP Colloquium and in interviews by press from around the world, including *Bloomberg News*.

BRIAN MILLER

Professor Brian Miller’s article “Housing Gridlock” was published by the *Southern California Law Review*.

JOSEPH SABINO MISTICK

Professor Joseph Sabino Mistick continues to be a fixture in the Pittsburgh media scene, from his regular column in the *Tribune-Review* to his multiple appearances on KDKA Radio, as well as being interviewed and quoted by the *Pittsburgh-Post Gazette*, the *Tribune-Review*, KDKA-TV and CBSN.

JANE MORIARTY

Professor Jane Moriarty presented “Hysteria Redux: Gaslighting in the Age of Covid,” at a roundtable with the Northeastern Law’s Center for Health Policy and Law in March. Her article, by the same title, was published in Akron’s *ConLaw NOW Journal*.

DANA NEACSU

Professor Dana Neacsu presented at AALS on “The Status of Law Librarians” and “Agendas and Scholarship Portfolios: From Ideation to Publication” and “Hachette Book Grp. v. Internet Archive Means Controlled Digital Lending Is Off the Table for Libraries; Or Does It?” at the American Association of Law Librarians. And she co-authored “The Persistent Treatise” in the *Law Library Journal*.

KATHERINE NORTON

Professor Katherine Norton presented on family law pedagogy at the SEALS annual conference. Throughout 2024, together with Professor Wesley Oliver, she presented on AI, law and access to justice issues at various conferences through the United States including at the AI and the Law: Practice, Ethics and Access Conference at Georgia State College of Law and at CaliCon in Seattle, Wash.

DAVID NOWS

Professor David Nows presented “Getting it Just Right: The Goldilocks Level of Securities Regulation” at the Brooklyn Law School International Business Law Scholars Roundtable and the Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, and “Accessible Financial Data for Equity Crowdfunding Investors” at the Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference and the National Business Law Scholars Conference.

WESLEY OLIVER

Professor Wesley Oliver, in addition to his presentations with Professor Katherine Norton on AI & Law, has presented on the importance of teaching AI in law school at both the PyCON Convention held in Pittsburgh and at the American Bar Association (ABA) Tech Show in Chicago this year. His expertise in this area also led to his being retained as a consultant to help the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, develop an LLM in Law, Technology and Innovation.

GRACE ORSATTI

Professor Grace Orsatti presented at numerous conferences this year on health law and bio-ethics, including: “Current Events in Health Law” at the SEALS annual conference; “A Novel Interprofessional Service-Learning Opportunity in Advance Care Planning” at the American Association of Medical Colleges Northeastern Group on Educational Affairs Annual Conference; “The Healthcare POA: A Scalpel, not a Sledgehammer” at the ABA National Aging and Law Conference; and “De-mystifying the organ donation decision” at the Black and Brown in Bioethics Conference—Engaging Diversity in Bioethics Theory and Practice at the University of Bristol Centre for Ethics in Medicine.

JOHN RAGO

Professor John Rago was appointed by the Joint State Government Commission to be part of a small, statewide team to evaluate the use of police-worn body cameras under Act 22 of 2017, a statute he helped author. He was also on the faculty for the Annual Pennsylvania Bar Institute Criminal Justice Update, where he presented on changes made to the Pennsylvania Suggested Standard Criminal Jury Instructions, which he also helps author.

RYAN WILLIAMS

Professor Ryan Williams presented his article “The Great Regression” at the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) conference in Boston, Mass. He also presented at 2024 AALS annual meeting on a panel titled “Democracy Demands Diversity” and took part in the “New Perspectives in National Security Law Works-in-Progress Program.” ■

STUDENT BRIEFS

Hannah Dean selected for prestigious Peggy Browning Fellowship

By Amanda S. Drumm



Hannah Dean

Hannah Dean, 3L at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, spent this summer interning at Justice at Work in Pittsburgh as part of her prestigious Peggy Brown Fellowship. Dean was selected for this competitive fellowship in labor and employment law out

of an impressive pool of applicants. This year only 117 law students nationwide were accepted into the program from applications totaling more than 3,950.

The Peggy Browning Fund is a nonprofit organization established in memory of Margaret A. Browning, a prominent labor attorney and member of the National Labor Relations Board. The Peggy Browning Fund's mission is to educate and inspire the next generation of advocates for workplace justice. Those chosen for the fellowship excel in law school and have demonstrated a commitment to workers' rights through previous "educational, organizing, work, volunteer and personal experiences."

According to a press release from the Peggy Browning Fund, Dean was selected to be part of the program as a "tribute to Hannah's outstanding qualifications." Dean is a nontraditional law student, having spent several years working in the public interest field before entering law school. She was involved in immigrant rights advocacy in New Orleans, where she focused on improving language access in city services and public schools. Dean worked as a legal assistant and interpreter, and through those experiences witnessed how "corporations and our immigration system put workers in vulnerable positions and the ripple effect that unstable or unsafe work has on their health and housing access." Her experiences led to her decision to attend law school and to her commitment to contribute to the movement for worker and immigrant justice.

"I think of Duquesne Kline's motto 'the welfare of the people is the highest law' as encompassing an essential part of any attorney's work. Our legal education is a privilege, and it creates a responsibility for lawyers to contribute meaningfully to their community through pro bono work, civic engagement and advocacy."

—DEAN APRIL BARTON

Dean also wants to make sure people know their rights as employees before entering the workforce.

"When they get their first job, many people do not know their rights as employees or how they are protected against common workplace issues like wage theft or safety violations. Understanding their rights can help protect employees when those issues arise, either in their own employment experience or someone else's. This knowledge can also help people see when employee exploitation is happening in their community," said Dean.

The mission of Duquesne Kline School of Law, "Salus populi suprema lex (The welfare of the people is the highest law)," resonates with Dean, and she continually strives to embody it in her work.

"I think of Duquesne Kline's motto 'the welfare of the people is the highest law' as encompassing an essential part of any attorney's work. Our legal education is a privilege, and it creates a responsibility for lawyers to contribute meaningfully to their community through pro bono work, civic engagement and advocacy," Dean said. ■



Leadership Fellows Program: Empowering the Next Generation of Lawyers

By Amanda S. Drumm

Character and integrity are cornerstones of the Spiritan mission of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. The 2023-2024 Duquesne Kline School of Law Leadership Fellows graduates built on that foundation, learning the principles of leadership and the importance of empowering others during the yearlong cohort.

These 36 graduates celebrated their accomplishments and preparedness to lead by attending a special recognition ceremony during a recent Duquesne Kline School of Law Advisory Board meeting at the Duquesne Club.

At the event, students dined and socialized with board members. Additionally, Duquesne Kline School of Law Dean April Barton presented them with certificates of completion.

Jurry Bajwah, David Cimino, L'24, Maxine Mulvar and Cassandra Novakis represented this year's Leadership Fellows class by presenting at the event. They each spoke about the Leadership Fellows cohort and their personal leadership journeys.

"These students remarked on the exceptional year they had and the many examples of leadership they

learned from classes and our alumni. We have a wonderful alumni base who join us in meeting our Leadership Fellows throughout the year, providing sound advice and wisdom," Barton said.

The Duquesne Kline School of Law Leadership Fellows launched in 2019. It was developed by Barton alongside dedicated Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty and staff. The Duquesne Kline School of Law Leadership Fellows cohort is distinctive, adding value to the law degrees of students who complete it. It is also a marketplace differentiator for its graduates.

"When we incepted the cohort, our goal was the creation of a component that further empowered our students to excel as ethical leaders in their workplaces and their communities. We wanted it to further develop and grow the skills that are valuable for personal and professional success. The Leadership Fellows program effectively does that and shows employers these students are prepared to lead and serve," said Barton.

The program accompanies a high-quality Duquesne Kline School of Law

education, expanding on its motto of "Salus populi suprema lex" – "The welfare of the people is the highest law."

Duquesne Kline School of Law Leadership Fellows are committed to leadership excellence, and its graduates successfully work in businesses, government, private practice and social agencies.

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Duquesne Kline School of Law Leadership Fellows graduates: Jurry Bajwah, Izayah Bojanac, Chase Boss, Jack Bradley, Iris (Chrissy) Byers, Alexandria Carter, David Cimino, L'24, Andrew (Drew) Crusciel, John Fazio, Alexandra Friend, Kelsie Gorman, Amanda (AJ) Griffith, Drew Gudenburr, John (Zach) Harris, Lindsay Henry, Simon Jaronski, L'24, William Jelley, Dylan Kraus, Kathleen (Kathy) Lambert, Camdyn Landahl, Maxine Malvar, Khloe Manuppelli, Cassandra Novakis, Teagan Ochaya, Nicola Opfer, Bianca Ortalano, William Payne, Edward (Eddie) Renner, Lewis Richardson, Jeremy Sanville, Neel Sharma, Anthony Sofran, Matthew (MK) Swartsfager, Kaelyn Underwood and Thane Zeeth. ■

Preet Patel

Recipient of 2024 Burns White Diversity in the Law Scholarship at Duquesne Kline School of Law

By Amanda S. Drumm

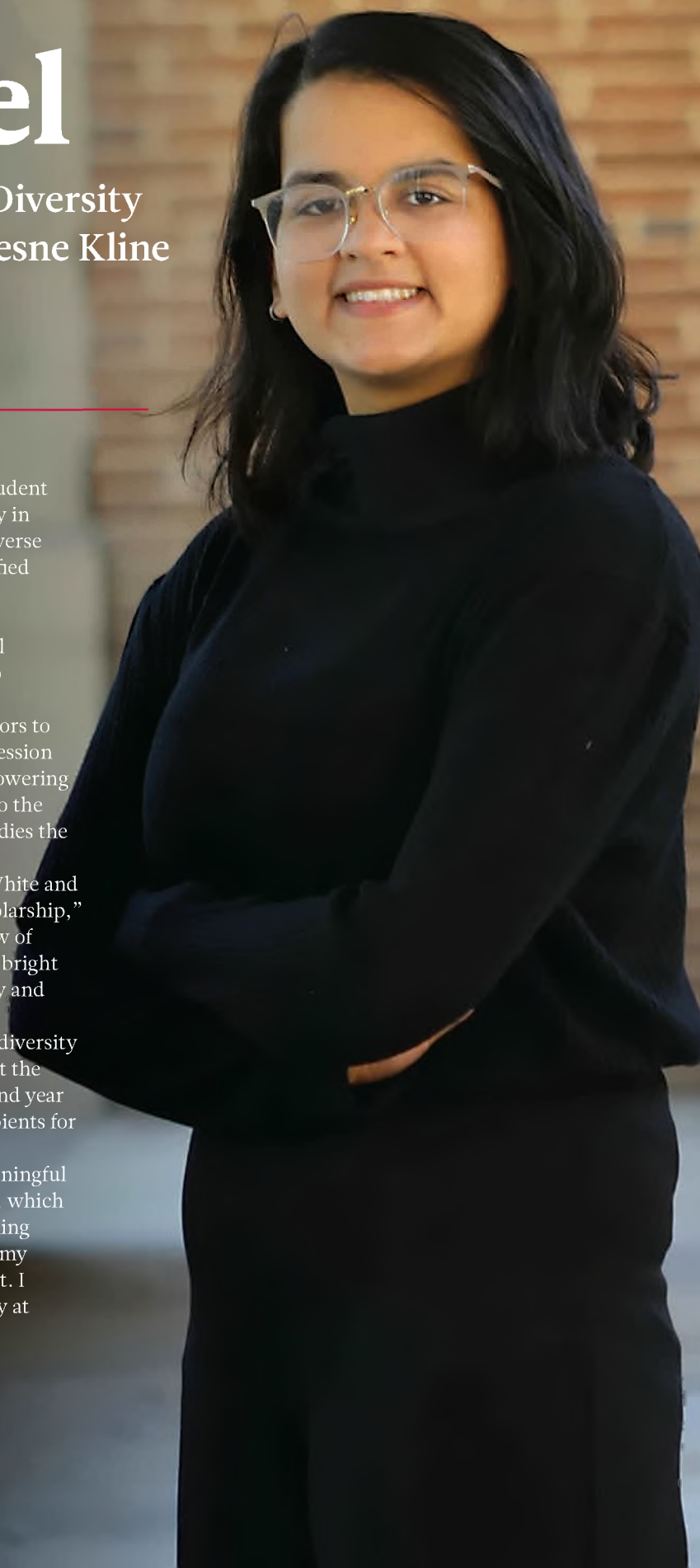
Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University student Preet Patel is the recipient of the 2024 Burns White Diversity in the Law Scholarship, awarded to an incoming first-year, diverse student. Patel was selected from a competitive pool of qualified applicants.

“We are delighted to support Preet on her legal journey by providing both financial assistance and valuable practical experience, along with dedicated mentoring,” said Mary-Jo Rebelo, chief executive officer. “The goal of establishing this scholarship at Duquesne’s Kline School of Law is to open doors to new perspectives, increasing diversity within the legal profession by fostering an inclusive academic environment while empowering recipients to pursue their dreams and contribute uniquely to the legal community. Preet is a deserving candidate who embodies the spirit of this award.”

“We are so appreciative of the collaboration with Burns White and that the firm continues to provide the Diversity in Law Scholarship,” said April Barton, Dean of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. “Preet is an incredible student with a bright future. I am so happy she received this fantastic opportunity and know she will do well.”

The annual scholarship is awarded to a student who adds diversity to the incoming class; it includes a paid summer clerkship at the firm following successful completion of the recipient’s second year of law school. A mentor from Burns White works with recipients for the duration of their legal education.

“The Burns White Diversity in the Law Scholarship is meaningful to me because it provides academic and financial assistance, which will allow me the opportunity to follow my dream of becoming an attorney,” Patel said. “This is an opportunity to sharpen my skills and knowledge, helping me make a meaningful impact. I am thankful for Burns White and excited to start my journey at Duquesne University.” ■



Experiencing EUROPE

By Amanda S. Drumm

Traveling is second nature to Kristina Porter, 2L. She has traveled to Europe several times, and when she realized the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University gave her the opportunity to study abroad, she embraced the chance to learn about the law and another culture.

“I love traveling and different cultures and languages. I am fascinated by all that and wanted to work at an international law firm,” Porter said.

This past summer, Porter spent several weeks in Northern Ireland. Accompanied by Duquesne Kline School of Law professors Marissa Meredith and Maryann Herman, she learned about dispute resolution and other international law topics.

“It was a great experience. Professors Herman and Meredith had it organized so well,” Porter said.

While there, the group traveled to Belfast and the United Kingdom. In Belfast, the students learned about international human rights. Students attended weekday lectures for several hours, then explored their transatlantic surroundings.

“You learn a lot during four hours of lecture. I took notes and tried to absorb everything, from the guest lectures to the group activities,” Porter said.

Her study abroad experience with the group lasted two weeks, from May 28 to June 8. Prior to the trip, Porter decided she wanted to gain additional international law experience. With the assistance of Meredith and Professor Kirk Junker, previous director of international programs at Duquesne Kline and now professor of law at

the University of Cologne, they determined her interests and had Porter connected with an internship.

That second part of her journey was spent with Bridgehouse Law in Cologne, Germany. There, Porter, who does not know the German language, thrived.

“Everyone at the office knows English, and I have tried learning phrases. They have all been very helpful,” she said.

Bridgehouse has offices in Berlin and the United States. Everything Porter is writing is in English in American law. Her work overlaps with their German clients on international issues, and she has received extensive experience in law. Porter has diversified her portfolio through doing work with corporate, estate and international custody law.

“It was fascinating. Study abroad was an amazing, life-changing experience. I became closer to my classmates and to my professors. We got to know each other and had great excursions. It was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience,” she said.

Porter is not unfamiliar to traveling far distances domestically, either. She moved from Florida to Pittsburgh to attend the Duquesne Kline School of Law, after researching schools online. She was drawn to the high bar passage rate and is captivated by the people at the school.

“What I love about Duquesne Kline is the people,” she said. “It is a community-like environment where you have professors who truly want you to succeed.” ■



“I LOVE TRAVELING AND DIFFERENT CULTURES AND LANGUAGES. I AM FASCINATED BY ALL THAT AND WANTED TO WORK AT AN INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM.”

—Kristina Porter

Ireland Study Abroad

Legal Insights and Cultural Discoveries

Professor Marissa Meredith reflects on the summer Belfast and Dublin Study Abroad trip

From May 18 to June 8, 23 ambitious law students from the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University embarked on a transformative Study Abroad program in Ireland. They immersed themselves in the complexities of European and international law and the vibrant cultures of Belfast and Dublin.

This enriching experience broadened their legal horizons and deepened their understanding of global legal frameworks.

The students' journey commenced in Belfast, a city renowned for its fortitude and historical significance. Here, they delved into a comprehensive course on international human rights taught by Dr. Bernadette Rainey from Cardiff University. Furthermore, they had the privilege of hearing from Danny Morrison, a prominent figure whose firsthand accounts illuminated the socio-political landscape of Northern Ireland. His perspectives added depth to their studies, connecting theory with real-world experiences and shedding light on the ongoing human rights issues in the region.

Additionally, the students participated in historically significant excursions that enriched their understanding of Northern Ireland's complex heritage. They explored the majestic Belfast Castle, which symbolizes both the city's history and its modern role. The visit to Crumlin Road Gaol provided a sobering glimpse into Belfast's turbulent past, offering insights into its political struggles and the perseverance of its people. Students were fortunate to visit Stormont in Belfast, where they heard from three Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from varying parties and observed the Parliament in session, further deepening their appreciation of Northern Ireland's political landscape.



Continuing their educational experience in Dublin, the students were welcomed by distinguished professors Brian Hutchinson and Gavin Barrett from University College Dublin (UCD), esteemed for their expertise in international arbitration and alternative dispute resolution and European Union law, respectively. Through these interactive seminars, they gained invaluable insights into navigating cross-border disputes and understanding the intricate legal frameworks that govern the European Union. In addition, the students learned about the depiction of Northern Ireland's struggles in the arts through Professor Ashley Taggart of UCD, who is also a filmmaker and author.

Beyond their academic pursuits, the students immersed themselves in Ireland's rich cultural tapestry. They explored Dublin's literary heritage, sampled traditional Irish cuisine and experienced the warm hospitality that defines Irish culture. Excursions to historic sites and interactions with local communities gave them a deeper appreciation of Ireland's history.

Impact and reflections

The Ireland Study Abroad program left a lasting impact on the students, equipping them with specialized legal knowledge, cross-cultural competence and a global perspective essential for

successful legal careers in today's interconnected world. Reflecting on the program's impact, Rainey emphasized its transformative nature, stating, "The Summer Study of Law in Ireland programme allows students to study different legal and political systems and experience (varied) teaching and learning approaches. As the professor for the human rights section based in Belfast, I introduce students to the legal framework for the protection of human rights globally, regionally and in the particular context of a post-conflict society such as Northern Ireland."

She highlighted the cultural immersion aspect, noting, "The students also benefit from experiencing the cultural context of human rights in Northern Ireland, by meeting individuals with diverse political backgrounds and visiting the devolved government."

Hutchinson echoed these sentiments, asserting, "Travel broadens the mind and is good for the soul. Meeting new people, gaining new experiences and knowledge, and making new memories through the Study Abroad program opens up another world of possibilities and opportunities to gain a deeper appreciation of international laws, cultures and ways of life, which are essential to the modern lawyer."

Barrett underscored the program's academic and cultural enrichment,

noting, "While on the program, students are taught a range of important legal subjects including the law of the European Union, human rights law and the law of arbitration, and in a way that combines expert tuition with the understanding on our part that for many students this will be their first experience of these subjects. Time is also given, however, to exploring the cultural life of the host country, with museums, galleries, the attractions of city life, and some beautiful landscapes to be seen."

Professor Maryann Herman, co-director of the program, highlighted its profound impact, stating, "The summer study of law in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland offers students an unparalleled opportunity to understand how culture and social conditions influence law. This experience enhances their abilities as future lawyers and citizens. It's truly life-changing."

These perspectives underscored the program's significant role in enhancing students' legal knowledge, cultural understanding and personal growth, preparing them to navigate the complexities of global law and contribute meaningfully as future legal professionals. ■

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■ Challenges of Dispute Resolution in Smart Contracts

By Jurry Bajwah, Editor in Chief

A smart contract is a self-executing “contract” that is programmed to automatically execute the terms and other provisions of an agreement upon the occurrence of a pre-defined condition. Smart contracts utilize a system that records these transactions, especially those made in a cryptocurrency, and maintains the record across computers that are linked in a peer-to-peer network (“blockchain”). The novelty of a blockchain model is anchored in the fact that it is nearly impossible to hack into a it, making it highly secure. Importantly, in a traditional contract between two parties, enforcement usually happens via a third party, usually a court. Smart contracts, on the other hand, have enforcement built into them because execution occurs upon the predefined condition(s) occurring. These contracts are already being used in the insurance, medical and financial industries in varying forms. However, the more complex question with smart contracts is: what happens when there is a dispute? The courts and parties entering these contracts don’t have a clear answer. This article attempts to dive into some of these challenges, look at precedent and take a deep dive into Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), particularly arbitration as a promising solution to dispute resolution.

■ Exploring the FDA Regulations on Lead in Food and Why Cinnamon is a Major Concern

By Bianca Ortalano, Senior Editor

Lead poisoning is a problem that can occur through various methods such as ingesting lead paint, lead in the water system, and even from bullets being left in the body. However, a silent threat has been sneaking into our food system. Cinnamon has been found to have elevated levels of lead, and with the popularity of several apple sauce pouch brands, kids are at risk. The FDA has been sampling and testing cinnamon, urging brands to voluntarily recall their products. But why is cinnamon the main concern when it comes to unsafe lead levels? Multiple avenues for lead absorption, fraudulent production activity, and more are to blame. Understanding the causes for unsafe lead levels in cinnamon can help governmental agencies such as the FDA make a plan to keep consumers safe, but consumers themselves must also be aware of the risks. Cinnamon is a

popular spice that is practically unavoidable during the fall and winter seasons, yet it holds a big risk. After exploring how lead makes its way into cinnamon production, consumers should use this knowledge to recognize the importance of and ensure that adequate regulations are established. Diving deeper into these regulations and what production practices are allowed transfers the power from producers back to consumers. No amount of lead is safe to be ingested so why do these regulations allow any at all? How do these regulations affect other food products that contain cinnamon and other ingredients that have lead in them? What is being done to educate the public? Through its various press releases and more targeted publications, the FDA is trying to make this information known to the public. And with these press releases, does the public even have enough information to make informed choices at the grocery store? The purpose of this article is to educate consumers on the production processes of certain foods and to investigate whether regulatory bodies are making enough of an impact in attempting to prevent the threat of lead.

■ Surveillance Pricing and its Effect on the Rights and Privacy of Consumers

By Hannah Dean, Senior Editor

Surveillance pricing, which is used to help companies set a highly personalized price for goods and services based on a single consumer’s ability or willingness to pay, has come under increased scrutiny recently as its use has been promoted by tech and consulting companies. Surveillance pricing often utilizes algorithms and artificial intelligence to use data on a consumer’s location, demographics and credit history to determine a price that the consumer would be willing to pay. This differentiates the practice from traditional use of general supply and demand to set prices, and from dynamic pricing, which uses broader data sets to more rapidly change prices for all consumers (perhaps most well-known for its use by Ticketmaster). The FTC launched an investigation over the summer into eight of these companies in an effort to better understand the impact of surveillance pricing on consumer privacy and protection. This article will explore the differences between dynamic pricing, surveillance pricing and price gouging, and assess the potential impact of surveillance pricing specifically on consumer privacy and protection.

■ Considerations of Lowering the BAC Legal Limit to .05

By Mia Hoetzlein-Sirman, Junior Editor

On the heels of the Super Bowl, many people are questioning how a company selling cheap “knock-off” items can afford millions of dollars’ worth of ad time. The answer may be startling. In addition to employing questionable labor practices, Temu has allegedly committed an array of privacy violations that has given the online shopping platform access to “literally everything ... [on a user’s] phone.” A complaint filed in federal court alleges that Whaleco Inc., under the trade name Temu, “has secretly and invasively amassed massive amounts of extremely private information and data about its users by tracking their activity on third-party websites” through its in-app browser. Until lawmakers take charge, Temu will continue to obtain and use consumer data, setting a dangerous precedent for online retailers in the future.

■ Performance Crime and The Increase in Social Media Trends That Encourage Young Adults to Engage in Similar Conduct

By Chase Boss, Junior Editor

COVID-19 caused most Americans to look to the internet and social media for information and entertainment. However, one consequence of this increased dependence is the rise in performance crime. Performance crimes are crimes that are filmed or recorded and later posted online, showing the publisher engaging in criminal activity. The more sinister result occurs when followers of the performance crime decide to copy the original poster’s actions. For example, a TikToker showed how to effectively break in and hotwire popular car brands by using a defect in their software. The effect sent shockwaves throughout the country, and several thousand individuals, inspired by the post and the cars’ vulnerabilities, followed suit by breaking into and stealing cars. Within the past few weeks, a new trend had gained traction. The “Chase Bank” trend first started to gain attention when TikTokers posted a “glitch” in Chase Bank’s mobile banking app. The purported glitch could be used when a Chase Bank customer wrote a check for any money they wanted and deposited it into their account after business hours. Then, the user would withdraw the money before the check is flagged as illegitimate. As suggested by promoters of the trend, this was a good way to get “free money.” However, we all know

there is no such thing as free money. Chase Bank has quickly responded to these occurrences by withdrawing the check amount from the account, effectively reducing balances to the negative and thereafter closing the accounts. Chase Bank has accurately pointed out that this conduct is “fraud, plain and simple,” more specifically, bank and wire fraud that could result in the user receiving significant penalties in federal court. This feature article will discuss the harmful effects of social media performance crimes that encourage others to engage in similar criminal conduct.

■ The Case against *Trump v. United States*

By M.K. Swartsfager, Staff Writer

The Supreme Court’s *Trump v. United States* ruling extends presidential immunity to criminal prosecution of a president’s “official conduct.” The decision has been heavily criticized. Criticism of the ruling comes in two types. Some take issue with the style and legal basis of the ruling, while others disagree with extending presidential immunity itself. Many who take issue with the style and basis for the ruling do not ultimately disagree with the holding that the president should be immune from some criminal prosecutions within the scope of their official conduct. I will first summarize the style and legal basis critique of *Trump*. Then I will shift to a constitutional law and policy argument against both *Trump* and the closely related *Nixon v. Fitzgerald*, which held that presidents have total immunity from civil liability for their official conduct. I conclude with Professor Stephen Holmes’ assessment that complexity and inefficiency are the strength of a liberal democracy, not its weakness (*Passions & Constraints*, 1995). *Legibus Solutus* has long been a tempting premise, on the theory that it increases security by freeing executive leaders from the fear of personal consequences when their official acts depart from the law. But by undermining faith in the rule of law, presidential immunity threatens the security of a liberal democracy via executive overreach. *Trump* does not rely on sound constitutional or precedential basis, and it is neither “deeply rooted in our nation’s history and tradition” nor “intrinsic to the notion of ordered liberty.”



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