

SALUS POPULI

— THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY —
— FALL 2025 —



FORGING A FORWARD FOCUS

THIS
ISSUE

Serving Second Chances

Retirement of Two Regal Legal Icons

Faculty Highlights



Dear Friends,

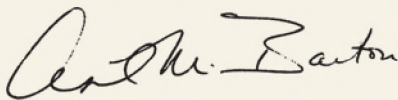
As I enter my seventh year as Dean, I find myself reflecting on what makes Duquesne Kline Law such a remarkable place. I am constantly reminded that it is the people here that make our law school special. Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni each play an essential role in our collective success, and every contribution matters deeply. The stories contained in the following pages of this magazine exemplify our special community, our mission in action, and our unstoppable momentum.

In these pages, you will read about our exceptional entering class, our unprecedented bar pass rate and extraordinary employment outcomes, and our faculty, who continue to receive the highest marks for their mentoring and dedication to our students.

You will learn about our AI & Law Collaboration, where our faculty are leading the way in preparing graduates to use artificial intelligence ethically and responsibly, while also listening and learning from the practicing legal community. This issue additionally highlights the extraordinary work of our Veterans Clinic and the retirement of two devoted professors who have shaped countless legal minds with their teaching and scholarship. You will also celebrate three outstanding alumni who were honored at our recent reunion. Their achievements exemplify the impact our graduates make in the profession and their communities.

These stories remind all of us that we are capable of so much when we come together, focusing on the values we share and all that unites us. As we look ahead to a promising future, we remain rooted in the Catholic and Spiritan tradition that has been at the heart of our community for more than 114 years. This work continues because of you, and I am grateful to be a part of this remarkable community. ■

With gratitude,



*April Mara Barton
Dean and Professor of Law*



I am constantly reminded that it is the people here that make our law school special. Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni each play an essential role in our collective success, and every contribution matters deeply.



16 | FORGING A
FORWARD FOCUS

22 | SERVING SECOND
CHANCES

26 | RETIREMENT OF TWO
REGAL LEGAL ICONS





SALUS POPULI

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

DEAN

April M. Barton

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Amanda Drumm

CONTRIBUTORS

Beth Bauer
Maria Comas
Amanda Dabbs
Amanda Drumm
Richard Heppner
Beth Licciardello
Liz McCadden
Kate Norton
Bianca Ortalano
Dayen Wilson

DESIGN

Douglas Miller
Duquesne University Division of Marketing
and Communications

CONTACT US

duq.edu/law | lawalumni@duq.edu
412.396.5215



© 2025 by the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University

Reproduction in whole or in part, without permission of the publisher, is prohibited.

31 | Young Alumni Profile

32 | Alumni Profile

34 | Class Actions

36 | In Memoriam

38 | Alumni Events

40 | Faculty Highlights

42 | Student Briefs

46 | Juris



Strongest Incoming 2025 First-Year Class Welcomed

“

“This class is exceptional, and I’m proud to say that our students show character, grit, maturity, and professionalism.”

—Dean April Barton

Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University has been on the rise, and news of its ascent has grown. The strongest incoming class was welcomed to Duquesne Kline School of Law during the week of Aug. 18, after having received a 33% increase in applications, significantly outpacing national and regional levels. The number of students in this 2025 first-year class grew to 184, including day and evening divisions, from last year’s 170 students. More than these numbers, this class brings unique perspectives, experiences, and ambitions to the Duquesne Kline School of Law community.

The day division includes a Fulbright Scholar, a software engineer, an investor relations analyst for NASDAQ, a construction crew leader for Habitat for Humanity, and a chief of staff for a prison education program.

Equally impressive is the evening division that includes a patent agent, a deputy sheriff, a magistrate judge, a CPA, financial advisors, a high school principal, a legislative aid and district manager for the Pa. House of Representatives, a federal agent for the Department of Commerce, a French and Italian translator, and Miss Iron City 2023 who used her platform to advocate for mental health services.

This class achieved a median LSAT score of 157 and median GPA of 3.62. It is represented by 50 different undergraduate majors from 100 academic institutions. 53 % of this class is from out-of-state, with ages ranging from 20 to 56 years old, and 50% of the class is women. Six veterans enrolled, and 79% of this class are first-generation law students.

“This class is exceptional, and I’m proud to say that our students show character, grit, maturity, and professionalism. This is an extremely impressive class who will soon become the next generation of Duquesne Kline lawyers who uphold the highest standards of our profession,” said April Barton, dean of Duquesne Kline School of Law. ■

Duquesne Kline School of Law in Top Tier of Pennsylvania Bar Results

Recent graduates of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University achieved top tier success on the Pennsylvania Bar Examination. For the July 2025 administration, 92.13% of takers passed the lawyer licensing exam on their first attempt. The results were released Oct. 10, 2025, by the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners (PABOLE).

Duquesne Kline School of Law ranks together with three other top-performing Pennsylvania law schools—the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law—whose first-time passage rates were all clustered within tenths of a percentage point.

Duquesne Kline School of Law routinely surpasses the Pennsylvania state average bar results, but this year's strong first-time passage rate significantly outpaced and exceeded the law school's historically robust success rate. The Duquesne Kline School of Law's 2025 bar results were nearly 10 percentage points higher than the Pennsylvania state overall first-time passage rate average of 82.47%.

"I couldn't be more thrilled for our law graduates' outstanding performance on the bar exam," said Duquesne President Ken Gormley, who is a professor and former dean of Duquesne Kline School of Law at the University. "This result—combined with the Law School's recent Top 50 Ultimate Bar Passage rate ranking by the American Bar Association—highlights the continued success of the school's stellar bar preparation initiative and the overall rise of the Law School's national stature."

Duquesne Kline School of Law ranks sixth in the nation for preparing its students to pass the bar exam, according to *preLaw Magazine*. Duquesne Kline School of Law achieved this rank in 2024, assessed among 187 law schools over a five-year period.

"This is a team effort, with the credit going first and foremost to our recent graduates. They worked diligently and are an extremely impressive group. I am tremendously honored to share in this achievement with them and am eager to watch their additional successes unfold," said Dean April Barton.

In her role as director of bar studies, Ashley M. London, associate professor of law, prepares and coaches graduates to excel in the bar exam. Joined by a team committed to successful student outcomes, London leads strategic efforts providing the skills, resources, and mentoring to help graduates pass the bar exam on the first attempt.

"A law school's true measure of success is not only in the legal and ethical knowledge it imparts, but in the confidence with which its graduates cross the threshold of the bar exam," says London. "Our faculty and staff display deep commitment to our students from the beginning of their law school journeys until the culmination of these efforts on this examination across all jurisdictions."

This year is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's sixth administration of the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). Passing the UBE allows individuals to transfer successful scores to become licensed in other jurisdictions. ■

“A LAW SCHOOL'S TRUE MEASURE OF SUCCESS IS NOT ONLY IN THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL KNOWLEDGE IT IMPARTS, BUT IN THE CONFIDENCE WITH WHICH ITS GRADUATES CROSS THE THRESHOLD OF THE BAR EXAM.”

—ASHLEY M. LONDON

Employment Outcomes Again Surpass National Average

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University has once again surpassed national employment outcomes with the Class of 2024 results released by the American Bar Association (ABA) on April 23, 2025. Of the 157 graduates of the Duquesne Kline School of Law class of 2024, 94.9% (149/157) were either employed or pursuing a graduate degree (such as an LLM) as of March 17, 2025.

The ABA further categorizes jobs that are full-time and long-term that require bar passage or where the JD is an advantage. Those most recently compiled employment results place Duquesne Kline School of Law 4.6% higher than the national average employment results of all ABA-approved law schools. For jobs that are bar passage required or JD advantage, Duquesne Kline School of Law achieved a rate of 91.7% (144/157), compared to the national average of 87.1%.

Duquesne Kline School of Law has consistently outperformed the national average in these employment outcomes year after year. 2024 graduates are

employed in private practice at law firms of all sizes, government, public interest, judicial clerkship, business, and education positions.

Assistant Dean of Career Services & Alumni Relations Maria Comas attributes the continuous high employment rate to an engaged Duquesne Kline School of Law community and network.

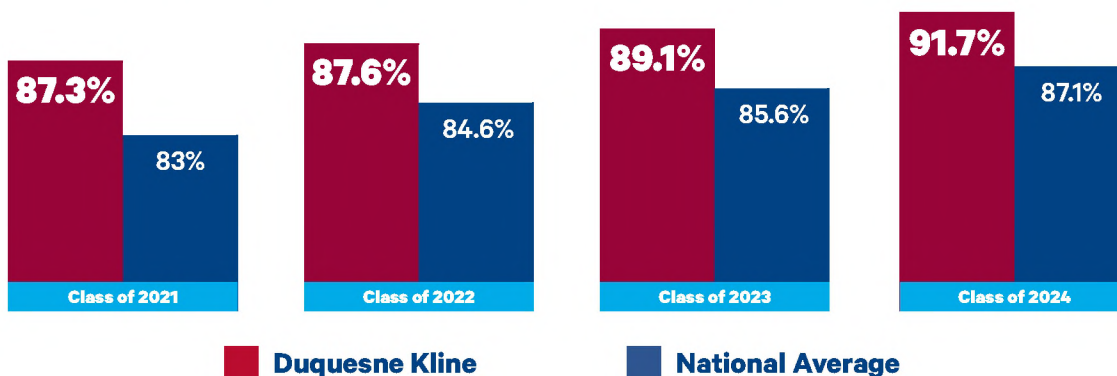
“The students benefit from the strong support of alumni who take part in recruiting initiatives, attend networking events, and serve as mentors. The law school’s close proximity to downtown Pittsburgh’s legal community provides students with opportunities to gain practical experience throughout the school year and during the summer months, while also building professional connections with many lawyers and judges,” she said.

Comas added that Duquesne Kline School of Law students invest early in their career aspirations and continue to take a leading role in forging future careers.

“Many of them take an active role in achieving their career success. I’d say 90-95% of our first-year students meet with me in their first year, and those conversations often continue through the years that follow. We do our best to provide a framework and give our students the tools to succeed independently as their careers progress,” she said.

Duquesne Kline School of Law’s high employment and bar passage rates have been instrumental in maintaining its prestigious top 100 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking for three consecutive years. In the most recent *U.S. News & World Report*’s 2025-2026 Best Law Schools rankings, Duquesne Kline School of Law rose two places, securing the No. 92 position among 196 ranked law schools nationwide. ■

95% Overall Employment Rate and Exceeds the National Average for Full-time, Long-term Bar Passage Required and JD Advantage Positions



Duquesne Kline School of Law Ranked in the Top 50 for Ultimate Bar Passage

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University ranked among the top 50 law schools nationwide for its 2022 Ultimate Bar Passage rate, according to the American Bar Association's (ABA) comprehensive annual report on bar admission data.

The ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar released this data on March 12, 2025, and it is made public under ABA Standard 509. Admission to the bar is one measure that the national accreditation agency recognizes as a measure of how well law schools prepare their students for the legal profession.

This year's law school ultimate bar passage rate includes all 2022 graduates who sat for a bar examination and passed within two years of graduation, and includes graduates admitted to a bar via alternative pathways to graduation.

"This is especially impressive for our law school because a majority of our graduates sit for the bar exam in Pennsylvania," said Director of Bar Studies and Associate Professor Ashley London. "We had zero students admitted through alternative pathways, so this result represents graduates who sat for and passed a rigorous bar examination."

Duquesne Kline School of Law is also one of only three Pennsylvania-based law schools ranked in the top 50. There are eight Pennsylvania-based law schools in this calculation.

"These rankings represent more than just numbers; they reflect the quality of our academic programming, the effectiveness of our bar preparation initiatives, and most importantly, the success of our graduates. Being consistently ranked in the upper tiers nationally demonstrates that our strategic focus on bar readiness continues to yield impressive results," said London.

Duquesne Kline School of Law boasts a 2022 Ultimate Bar pass rate of 95.12%. This rate is five percentage points higher than the 90.41% aggregate ultimate bar passage rate for 2022 graduates across the country.



"Our faculty, alumni, and administration remain committed to assisting our graduates with fully funded and staffed programming through several administrations of the bar. We thank them for their ongoing support and dedication to Duquesne Kline School of Law. Together, we are elevating the profile and impact of our institution," said Associate Director of Bar Studies and Assistant Professor April Milburn-Knizner.

Duquesne Kline School of Law has consecutively outperformed national averages in bar and employment results. Recently the Duquesne Kline School of Law class of 2024 employment numbers were reported by the ABA, with 94.9% employed or pursuing a graduate degree, placing Duquesne Kline School of Law 4.6% higher than the national average employment results of all ABA-approved law schools.

These high employment and bar passage rates have been instrumental in Duquesne Kline School of Law maintaining its prestigious top 100 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking for three consecutive years. In the most recent *U.S. News & World Report's* 2025-2026 Best Law Schools rankings, Duquesne Kline School of Law rose two places, securing the No. 92 position among 196 ranked law schools nationwide. ■

Duquesne Kline Again Ranked in Top 10 for “Professor Accessibility”

By Amanda S. Drumm

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University consistently remains highly ranked and nationally acclaimed in “Professor Accessibility” and “Career,” two areas that directly benefit its law students. For the second year in a row, Duquesne Kline School of Law ranks in the top 10 for “Professor Accessibility,” and rose to a No. 39 rank for “Career” outcomes. These exceptional ranks from the *TaxProf Blog* are based on the recently released 2025 *Princeton Review* Law School ratings. The ratings are out of 168 law schools in the United States.

The “Professor Accessibility” category is based on how law students rate 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, Chicago, and Stanford. As with last year’s rank, 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 students appreciate the availability, advice, and experiences of their professors.

“Professors at Duquesne Kline School of Law combine their first-hand experiences in the legal field with their class materials to help students gain an understanding of how the information being taught can be directly applied in our legal careers,” said Jack Forsythe, 2L.

Daniel DeMott, 2L, has likewise experienced Duquesne Kline School of Law professors as approachable and ready to offer guidance. “Regular conversations with professors and mentors have given me a clearer picture of what to expect in my legal career and how to best prepare for it,” he said.

Duquesne Kline School of Law’s rise to a No. 39 “Career” rank this year makes it one of only two Pennsylvania law schools to be ranked in the top 40 in the “Career” category.

The “Career” rating is based on student responses and school-supported statistical data. Recently the Duquesne Kline School of Law class of 2024 employment numbers were reported by the American Bar Association, with 94.9% employed or pursuing a graduate degree, placing Duquesne Kline School of Law 4.6% higher than the national average employment results of all ABA-approved law schools.

“

“Professors at Duquesne Kline School of Law combine their first-hand experiences in the legal field with their class materials to help students gain an understanding of how the information being taught can be directly applied in our legal careers.”

—JACK FORSYTHE, 2L

The Career Services Offices at Duquesne Kline School of Law works closely with students to prepare them for successful careers. Students acknowledge how this guidance, connections, and programming empower them for their careers.

“I felt comfortable networking inside and outside of the office because I attended many of the networking events the Career Services Office hosted,” said Anna Zabriskie, 2L.

Para Bradshaw, 2L, credits Duquesne Kline School of Law for readying her for her recent summer associate role at Dick’s Sporting Goods. She said, “The law school prepared me for this experience by providing ample opportunities to speak with attorneys, the ACBA, and other professionals about securing internships as a 1L. The support I received has helped me continue to grow as a student and a professional.”

In addition to these consistent high marks, Duquesne Kline School of Law has maintained its prestigious top 100 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking for three consecutive years. In the most recent *U.S. News & World Report*’s 2025–2026 Best Law Schools rankings, Duquesne Kline School of Law rose two places, securing the No. 92 position among 196 ranked law schools nationwide. ■

Alumni Welcomed as Assistant Professors

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University is pleased to welcome Lauren Gailey, L'14, Martin McKown, L'15, and Allison Ware, L'20, as assistant professors whose appointments began in the fall 2025 semester.



Lauren Gailey, L'14

Gailey recently completed two years at Duquesne Kline School of Law serving as a visiting assistant professor. Prior to teaching, she was a member of Winston & Strawn's Appellate & Critical Motions practice in Washington, D.C. Gailey's experience includes high-profile, high-stakes matters spanning a wide variety of industries and subject-matter areas.

Her career highlights include briefing and second-chairing oral argument (resulting in a 9-0 victory) in a case before the United States Supreme Court.

Gailey served as a law clerk to several federal judges including Judge Thomas Hardiman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and now-Chief Judge Jeffrey Sutton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

She earned her juris doctor summa cum laude from Duquesne Kline School of Law, where she was executive articles editor of the *Duquesne Law Review* and won several awards as a member of the Appellate Moot Court Board.

Gailey, a native of the Pittsburgh area, is appreciative of this opportunity to return to Pittsburgh to empower and guide Duquesne Kline School of Law students.

"In a very literal way, I feel like I've come home. This school was where I had my first contact with the legal profession. It opened my eyes to the many possibilities a career in law offers, as well as how rich an intellectual pursuit the study of law can be. I'm still exploring questions in my scholarship that I encountered for the first time as a student at Duquesne Kline. I'm thrilled to have been given the opportunity to study those questions in greater depth.

And I hope to inspire our students to investigate areas of the law that intrigue them in a similar way," she said.



Martin McKown, L'15

McKown amassed a decade of experience in compliance and advisory roles. He built an impressive legal career in high impact positions across Fortune 500 companies and other major organizations. McKown has led compliance transformations in highly regulated industries including energy and banking. His experience includes advising executive leadership and

boards of directors, as well as working with regulators across state, federal, and international jurisdictions. His expertise spans strategic planning, risk management, and corporate governance.

While pursuing his career, McKown continued to give back to his alma mater, serving as a highly successful adjunct professor and a moot court coach. He has led teams to success in national and international competitions, with teams earning top brief awards and advancing to final and semifinal rounds. McKown also played a key role in the law school's bar exam success by mentoring students as they prepare for the bar exam.

McKown earned his juris doctor from Duquesne Kline School of Law, where he contributed to the *Duquesne Law Review* and the Appellate Moot Court Board. He also holds a master of business administration degree from Auburn University's Harbert School of Business. Prior to law school, he worked as a congressional staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he developed an early interest in law and public service.

Preparing Duquesne Kline School of Law students for success is what McKown is anticipating most. "I'm excited to serve our law school community, especially the students. My career began in public service, which led me to law school, and my education at Duquesne Kline opened so many doors for me in the private sector over the last 10 years. But I'm looking forward to returning to that call to serve others by helping our students develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed in their own careers," he said.



Allison Ware, L'20

Ware recently joined the Duquesne Kline School of Law as an associate director of clinical programs and assistant professor, teaching the Landlord Tenant Clinic as well as overseeing a variety of clinical initiatives alongside the director.

Prior to joining Duquesne Kline, Ware served as an accomplished Public Defender with Allegheny County, where she launched and oversaw the Summary Representation Project. In this role, she successfully defended more than 750 children in delinquency proceedings, adult criminal court, and summary trials, while also guiding families through education-related matters. Her work emphasized holistic advocacy—providing legal representation alongside resources for counseling, community involvement, and restorative support and is considered a national model for this type of representation.

Ware's passion for working with this population began during her time in law school. As a research assistant to Dean Emeritus Maureen Lally-Green, she focused on improving collaboration among schools, parents, and students in the realm of special education. She also gained hands-on experience as a student attorney in the school's clinical programs, advocating for IEP and 504 Plan enforcement, and as an intern with Disability Rights Pennsylvania, where she supported federal litigation

continued on p. 12

continued from p. 11

involving children with disabilities.

Through her legal practice, teaching, and advocacy, Ware has built a career focused on dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, championing the rights of individuals with disabilities, and ensuring that people are given opportunities for growth rather than barriers to success.

Ware's knowledge and experience combined with her passion for the law school's mission and clinical education will benefit both students and the community at large.

"My clinic serves the mission of the law school by working with students to develop their professional identity that

will hopefully include serving vulnerable populations in some capacity. My goal is to serve God and the students through the work that we do and ignite in them the desire and passion to serve others in their communities," Ware said.

Ware values her education and is ready and eager to impart her knowledge on current law students while simultaneously assisting the community. "I am thrilled to be joining the Duquesne Kline community as a professor. I credit my time here as a student for helping to grow and shape me into the lawyer that I became, and I hope to share in giving that to the next set of students," she said. ■

Familiar Faces Fill Key Roles at Duquesne Kline School of Law

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University welcomed two familiar faces to the law school's team. Liz McCadden joined as the associate director of Career Services and Alumni Relations, while Mary Olson was welcomed as the director of the paralegal institute. Both are happy to return to their alma mater in their respective roles.

Liz McCadden

McCadden is a 2021 graduate of the Evening Division. Following graduation, she always felt a pull back to the law school to help students, just as the Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni community helped her and her classmates throughout their legal education. Following a few years in practice, McCadden was thrilled for the opportunity to join Duquesne Kline School of Law.

McCadden enjoys connecting with alumni with students, helping to shape students' career paths. All the members of the alumni community carry unique stories, and learning about how their time at Duquesne Kline School of Law helped define their personal and professional journeys is rewarding and inspiring. She is overjoyed to see alumni support current students and contribute to the legacy of the law school community.

Through her work with the Continuing Legal Education program, McCadden hopes to provide additional opportunities to engage with alumni in ways that are meaningful to them. She hopes to foster an environment in which each graduate feels a strong ongoing sense of belonging to the alumni community.

Mary Olson

Olson earned her bachelor's degree in English with a minor in French from Allegheny College. In 2015, she graduated from



Liz McCadden



Mary Olson

the Paralegal Institute, an experience that shaped her skills and career path. She began working at a small immigration firm in downtown Pittsburgh, where she applied her legal training in a real-world setting, gaining hands-on experience that shaped her understanding of the profession.

Soon after, Olson joined Duquesne Kline School of Law's Alumni Office where she worked closely with many accomplished Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni and gained a broader perspective on the impact of legal education. It was during that time she became increasingly interested in the world of higher education, particularly how professional programs can help individuals build purposeful, long-term careers. While in that role, Olson earned her MBA from Duquesne University, further strengthening her connection to the University and its mission.

In her current role, Olson supports a learning environment that blends academic rigor with real-world practicality. The paralegal program emphasizes strong legal foundations while also helping students develop the analytical thinking and communication skills they will need to thrive in a variety of legal settings. The program also ensures that students are exposed to the ethical standards and professional expectations that define this field, along with the latest legal technology and research tools they'll use on the job.

"My hope is that the Paralegal Institute continues to grow as a place where students gain more than just legal knowledge—they build confidence, discover their professional strengths, and leave prepared to make a meaningful impact in the legal field," said Olson. ■

Janice Devine Welcomed to Advancement

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University is proud to announce the appointment of Janice Devine as the assistant dean for advancement. With a distinguished career in higher education fundraising and alumni engagement, Devine brings a dynamic blend of strategic vision, relationship-building expertise, and deep commitment to institutional mission.

Devine joins Duquesne Kline School of Law from Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation, where she served as the vice president of development. In that role, she led transformative initiatives in major and planned giving, corporate and foundation relations, fundraising events, donor stewardship, and campaign development. Devine understands higher education and the power it possesses for the betterment of students and society. In the past she was in the role of director of



Janice Devine

alumni relations and development at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Law and School of Nursing. Her leadership was marked by a strong emphasis on cultivating meaningful connections between alumni and their alma mater—an approach she is eager to bring to our law school community.

"I'm thrilled to be joining a law school with such a rich legacy and passionate alumni base. Advancement is about more

than fundraising—it's about building bridges, honoring tradition, and empowering the next generation of legal minds," said Devine.

Dean April Barton expressed enthusiasm for Devine's appointment. She said, "Janice brings not only a wealth of experience, but also a genuine warmth and collaborative spirit. Her leadership will be instrumental in deepening our alumni connections and advancing Duquesne Kline School of Law's mission. She is eager to meet our alumni community, share ideas, and help us continue our upward ascent. I ask you to join me in welcoming Janice."

To learn more about how you can make a meaningful impact at Duquesne Kline School of Law, please reach out to devinej6@duq.edu or 412.396.4703, and Devine will be happy to discuss options with you. ■



Tom Kline Meets First-Year Students

First-year Duquesne Kline School of Law students had the opportunity to meet with Thomas R. Kline, L'78, when he visited campus Sept. 25 for his annual lunch. They dined at the Power Center, where Kline discussed his career path as a nationally renowned trial attorney who has practiced law for over four decades, during which time he secured a record of incomparable courtroom victories that extend beyond individual clients, creating safer conditions and profound change for society. Kline shared meaningful insights and lessons he learned along the way. Students asked him questions and they shared robust conversation. ■

2025 Commencement Round Up



Congratulations to the Class of 2025

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University celebrated the Commencement of the Class of 2025 on May 17. Chief Justice Debra Todd served as the speaker for the law school's 111th Commencement ceremony.

Class speaker Liv Swan, L'25, addressed the 150 graduates who received the degree of juris doctor. They are now part of our nearly 9,000 Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni. Congratulations to everyone! ■



Graduates from the Class of 2025 Receive Prestigious Awards

Three graduating students from the class of 2025 received prestigious awards at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's 2025 Commencement Ceremony May 17, during which 150 law students graduated.



Gianna Dixon, L'25, was the recipient of 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.

Dixon served as a teaching assistant for the Duquesne Kline School of Law's Legal Research & Writing program for two years. She was also the president of the Environmental Law Society and was an active member of the Duquesne Italian American Legal Society (DIALS). She graduated cum laude and, among her other honors, she received an outstanding oral argument distinction during 1L and three CALI awards for Contracts, LRW, and Trial Advocacy.

"Every single classmate I had the privilege of getting to know at Duquesne Kline helped me in some way, whether it was by giving me a new perspective on an issue or just by making me laugh during the stress of finals week. I know this is going to be an excellent group of attorneys and advocates in the very near future, so I'm really proud and humbled to receive an award that was bestowed by the class in particular," Dixon said.

She will be working as an associate attorney at Smith Butz LLC in the fall, where her focus will be primarily on municipal

law and energy litigation in Washington County.



Rachel Barr, L'25, 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. Barr received the award for authoring the most outstanding published law review article of anyone in the graduating class. Barr

additionally received nine CALI awards.

Barr, who graduated summa cum laude, was executive editor of the *Duquesne Law Review* Vol. 63 and was an Appellate Moot Court board member.

"I am extremely honored to receive this award because it serves as a reminder of my time spent at the Duquesne Kline School of Law. This award, along with the education that led to it, will propel me forward into an exciting and purposeful legal career," Barr said.

She will start work with Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani's Pittsburgh office after the July bar exam.

Barr also received the President Ken and Laura Gormley Distinguished Student Award along with Hannah Dean, L'25. This special award is given on behalf of the entire law school faculty 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, and his wife, Laura.

"Receiving the President Ken & Laura Gormley Distinguished Student Award is such an honor. The faculty at Duquesne Kline have provided me with so much support and guidance over the past three years and have pushed me to become a more effective writer, leader, and advocate, so it is truly a privilege to receive this award from them. It has been a joy to serve the law school in various positions, especially those that have allowed me to support other students seeking out a career in the public interest sphere, and I look forward to continuing this kind of work through mentorship and advocacy throughout my legal career. This award was a very special way to end my time at Duquesne Kline, and I am so grateful to the many people who helped me get here," Dean said.

During her time at Duquesne Kline, Dean served as an associate editor for the *Duquesne Law Review*, president of the Public Interest Law Association and the First-Generation Society, a senior editor for *Juris*, and a Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education Fellow. She spent the past academic year as an intern for the Hon. Jill Beck of the Pennsylvania Superior Court. Dean graduated with summa cum laude academic honors along with CALI awards for the highest grade in the Contracts, Property, and Criminal Law doctrinal courses. She was also selected as a Summer 2024 Peggy Browning Fellow.

Dean started as a Workers' Rights Fellow with Justice at Work in August.

Congratulations to these graduates who are prepared for what is next in their careers! ■

Faculty Receive Awards at 2025 Commencement

At the 111th Commencement ceremony of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, faculty were presented with special awards, honoring them for their teaching and service. Congratulations to all our faculty recipients on their well-deserved honors!

Thomas R. Kline Excellence in Teaching Award—This honor is awarded to full-time faculty members who best demonstrate impactful and creative teaching methods that serve the pedagogical needs of Duquesne Kline School of Law students and advance legal pedagogy generally. The awards were given to **Professor April Milburn-Knizner** for her excellence in teaching bar studies, legal writing, and environmental law and to **Professor David Jamison** for excellence in teaching torts and sports and entertainment law.

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 Joseph Sabino Mistick** received this award for his many years of working to promote election integrity and community service.

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 Wesley Oliver** for his cutting-edge scholarship in the areas of coding, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.

Excellence in Teaching Award—This award is given by the Student Bar Association (SBA), with graduating students selecting the recipient. **Professor Maryann Herman** received the award for her outstanding contributions in teaching. She demonstrated the ability to engage students actively in the learning process through teaching that is intellectually rigorous and innovative.

Adjunct Faculty Awards—These awards are given by the Student Bar Association (SBA), with graduating students selecting the recipients. **Matthew Debbis** (fall semester) and the **Hon. Thomas Hardiman** (spring semester) were selected based on enthusiasm for teaching and learning, interest in students, sensitivity to the learning environment, and innovation of instruction. ■



April Milburn-Knizner



David Jamison



Joseph Sabino Mistick



Wesley Oliver



Maryann Herman



FORGING A FORWARD FOCUS

By Amanda S. Drumm

AI and Law Collaboration
mutually benefits students
and the legal community

In a world where artificial intelligence gains traction across occupations, the legal profession is transforming and rapidly adapting to the use of artificial intelligence (AI). The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University recognizes the evolving role AI inhabits in the legal field and has thoughtfully and pragmatically integrated the use of these technological tools into its curriculum. Today, through its innovative AI

and Law Collaboration, Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty are collaborating with the practice community in order to ensure graduates have a sophisticated understanding of the use of AI in practice, and more importantly, know how to use it ethically and responsibly.

Duquesne Kline School of Law has been a leader among law schools in expanding curricular opportunities in the area of AI and machine learning. Faculty include numerous experts who are actively researching, publishing, and presenting in this rapidly evolving field. To complement this work, Duquesne Kline School of Law launched the AI and Law Collaboration to showcase the many courses and faculty who are teaching in the field, while also listening and learning from practitioners. This dialogue creates mutually beneficial exchanges of knowledge that is curriculum strengthening and ensures law graduates are highly prepared for modern practice.

“We recognize the need to be talking and sharing generative AI information between academia and practice. It is beneficial for firms to know what we are doing to prepare students. It is about collaborating, talking, and seeing what the needs are,” said Tara Willke, associate dean for strategic academic programs and director of the legal writing program.

By proactively addressing the issues involved with the application of AI systems in the law, while also taking stock of the benefits this technology can bring to law firms, Duquesne Kline School of Law can continue to shape advanced, practical legal curriculum that includes AI instruction where it is appropriate. Answering important questions about AI use and misuse is critical to ensuring it is used properly to advance efficiency and access to justice while at the same time decreasing exposure to liabilities.

“Law firms may wonder if we are allowed to use this, what can we still bill for? What are we not allowed to use it for? It is your ethical responsibility not to overcharge clients. If you are not using AI and using old fashioned methods it might be very inefficient to write a document; you might overcharge a client by not using it,” said Wesley Oliver, law and computing director and professor of law.

Sharing Strategies

Based on a recent article in Law.com, Duquesne Kline School of Law was featured as one of six law schools that are leading efforts to incorporate AI into legal curriculum (alongside schools such as the University of Notre Dame and the University of Chicago). Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty have been keenly proactive and meeting regularly to share knowledge about AI platforms and tools, to ensure curriculum is adapting to the current needs of practice. Always looking to the future of law and the careers of its graduates, faculty likewise have been evaluating the needs of law firms and using that information to prepare practice-ready attorneys who are versed in AI and can contribute meaningfully to their jobs.

“I think the future of law school teaching will be changing based on AI. Law firms will need law students and young law professionals who know how to use AI. Why just guess what they need, but instead let us ask how they are using it and then teach law students in that vein. The future is here and will change whether some people are welcoming to it or not,” said Ryan Williams, associate professor of law.

The AI and Law Collaboration allows faculty to impart their knowledge about the evolution of technology and AI systems to the legal community. It is a starting point for communicating and sharing

“We recognize the need to be talking and sharing generative AI information between academia and practice. It is beneficial for firms to know what we are doing to prepare students. It is about collaborating, talking, and seeing what the needs are.”

-TARA WILLKE



knowledge and data among invested legal constituents.

“These collaborative opportunities help us to see what firms hope students know when they are graduating; what do or should lawyers know about AI in practice and how can it be ethically incorporated in practice,” said Katherine Norton, associate dean for faculty scholarship, director of clinical & international programs, associate professor of law, and director of the Family Law Clinic.

As the scope and role of AI in law shifts, this partnership allows Duquesne Kline School of Law to adjust curriculum in real-time, while staying mindful of ABA requirements. Additionally, AI is not a substitute for students learning essentials of legal doctrine, legal research, and legal writing.

“The research to date suggests that if you want to do something correctly, you learn how to do it without the technology first, then add AI to get quite an effective result. Whereas if you start with AI and then try to train the

human brain later based on the AI results, you do not learn as well. Students need to understand the tasks lawyers do with the human brain before they can meaningfully incorporate AI,” said Jacqueline Lipton, associate professor of law.

Firm Foundation

Visits to firms began this fall, with thoughtful discussions hosted at regional law firms. Perry Calder Law hosted Barton and Willke along with attorneys from Jones Passodelis to explore areas where AI excels. The group agreed that even with the increasing role of AI, the core of legal practice remains fundamentally human.

“Lawyers who learn to leverage AI tools effectively while continuing to develop their distinctly human capabilities will be best positioned for success. While AI excels in areas such as document review, legal research, and routine contract drafting, it cannot replace critical legal

skills such as legal analysis, relationship building, communication, judgment, negotiation, and advocacy. These are skills that define excellence in the practice of law,” said Barton.

The collaboration of knowledge and idea sharing is of interest to firms that can provide ideas about what students should learn and conversely use the information to evaluate their AI strategies because graduates are finishing law school already knowing how to use these tools. It is critical that firms have policies developed to ensure their employees are using AI appropriately.

“AI is such a new and emerging form of technology it is important that we learn both the academic and professional side so that AI can be used as a proper tool within our law firm,” said Robert Peirce, L’95, managing partner at Robert Peirce & Associates.

At the visits, Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty explain how they prepare students for practice while upholding their responsibility to educate ethical lawyers.

“We teach our students to harness AI tools responsibly, understand the technology thoroughly, and practice with integrity. Our faculty have an ‘all-in’ mentality—we know that each of us must wrap our heads around machine learning and its implications in each of our fields,” Barton said.

These conversations are reciprocally rewarding, and a reminder that even though keeping pace with

“We teach our students to harness AI tools responsibly, understand the technology thoroughly, and practice with integrity. Our faculty have an ‘all-in’ mentality.”

-Dean April Barton

the changes introduced by AI can be overwhelming, the foundation of human connection is what successful legal practice is built upon.

“We’re grateful to the law school for inviting us to be part of this forward-looking collaboration. It’s an exciting opportunity to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and help shape the future of legal education and practice. We look forward to working together to prepare students for meaningful, successful careers in a profession that is rapidly

AI & Law Faculty



April M. Barton

Dean and Professor of Law
AI Law and Policy



Hon. Connor Lamb

Distinguished Lecturer of Law
Big Tech, Law, and Democracy



Jacqueline Lipton

Associate Professor of Law, Carol Los
Mansmann Chair in Faculty Scholarship
Cyber Law and Policy, Privacy Law, and
Copyright Law



Ashley London

Director of Bar Studies, Associate
Professor of Law
Professional Responsibility (Legal Ethics)



Katherine Norton

Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship,
Director of Clinical and International
Programs and Associate Professor of Law
Family Law Clinic



Wesley Oliver

Director of the Law and Computing
Program and Professor of Law
Coding for Lawyers and Statistics and
Machine Learning for Lawyers



Ryan Williams

Associate Professor of Law
National Security Law



Tara Willke

Associate Dean for Strategic Academic
Programs and Associate Professor of Law
Legal Research & Writing I & II



evolving,” said John Goetz, partner at Jones Day.

Goetz likewise considers the AI and Law Collaboration as another technique to continue to develop on Duquesne Kline School of Law’s rich 114-year tradition of graduating lawyers who are ready for practice.

“We see this collaboration as a powerful way to build on Duquesne Kline’s mission of producing practice-ready lawyers. By connecting faculty and ultimately students directly with attorneys who are using AI in their daily work, the program bridges the gap between theory and practice. It will give students a realistic view of the tools, challenges, and ethical questions they’ll face as new lawyers, and will help them develop the adaptability and technical skills that are increasingly essential in today’s legal market. This hands-on exposure will ensure that graduates are not just knowledgeable, but also ready to contribute from day one,” he said.

Empowering Ethical Attorneys

Even as the technological landscape changes rapidly, Duquesne Kline School of Law’s historical commitment to producing ethically responsible practicing attorneys stands firm. This mission is accomplished by meaningfully incorporating principles of responsible and ethical use of AI into law school’s curriculum.

“Our students do not just need to know how to use generative AI systems. They need to know how to ethically use generative AI systems because they are up against an industry investing hundreds of millions of dollars in legal technologies and these companies and developers are not bound by the same ethical code of conduct lawyers are,” said Ashley London, director of bar studies and associate professor of law.

Lipton agrees and adds that students first should recognize the profound significance of producing their own work because humans analyze much better and with greater nuance than AI systems.

“Knowing there is rampant technology that can do much of the work for you lends itself to a greater value being placed on the ethics of a student completing his or her own work. With the doctrinal class, it is understanding the obligations of students consistent with the professional student code where the work is still your product. It is a focus on what your obligations are as a student,” she said.

That includes the value and meaning of writing your own paper when these tools are available and tempting.

“I think that is really the ethical component—you are responsible for your own work, but you should know how these tools work to support it,” Lipton said.

Responsibly and ethically using the available AI tools is what faculty are imparting to Duquesne Kline School of Law students.

“What will differentiate Duquesne Kline lawyers, students, and graduates is that not only will they have competency and proficiency in using these tools, but they will also understand and abide by the significant ethical and legal obligations of our profession,” London said.

Even as the world is changing and technology develops rapidly, the formidable value and importance of the law remain. The legal community and faculty working together can better discern the usefulness of AI in the legal profession.

Lipton said, “I’m hoping they don’t lose sight of why they went to law school in the first place. We are still training lawyers to make a difference; to be ethical, honest, and authentic with or without generative AI. Given the Spiritan mission of the school, that is what I want students coming out of law school to think about, incorporating AI into the mission and vision of what a good lawyer should be. It is about how to be an effective and ethical lawyer for clients and an effective practitioner of the law. We want to help students incorporate this technology in ways that assist them continue to do those things,” said Lipton. ■

“What will differentiate Duquesne Kline lawyers, students, and graduates is that not only will they have competency and proficiency in using these tools, but they will also understand and abide by the significant ethical and legal obligations of our profession.”

—Ashley London

Serving Second Chances

Students in Veterans Clinic Champion the Spiritan Mission

By Amanda S. Drumm

Military personnel are heroic, bravely devoting themselves to serving our country. They do not know the exact circumstances in which they will find themselves, but, regardless, they faithfully and dutifully serve. Many encounter conflict, battles, or other traumas during their deployments. When their service periods are complete, they join the respected ranks of veterans. Sometimes past burdens are carried with them, and those traumas manifest themselves in unexpected ways. The Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education's Veterans Clinic assists veterans in the justice system, taking a holistic approach to serving those who have served our country.



The Veterans Clinic at Duquesne Kline School of Law was founded in 2011 by Professor Joseph Sabino Mistick, L'79, and the Hon. John Zottola.

"I was teaching when the Veterans Court began to have problems involving continuity of representation. I was talking with the judge about the frustration of that disruption; the veterans did not know who their lawyers would be each time, and the lawyers did not know the issues they were dealing with. The judge worried there was an unevenness in terms of representation. I asked if he could give our students a chance. We could create a clinic where students provide continuity of representation on a regular basis," Mistick said.

Under faculty and attorney supervision, Duquesne Kline School of Law students began to work with veterans accepted into the Veterans Court of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. This work has continued, and they earn three experiential learning credits working alongside the court. They concentrate on a philosophy of problem-solving and recidivism-reducing techniques for veterans, helping those who have honorably served regain stability.

"When veterans become justice involved, the criminal justice system is hard for them to navigate. Identifying veterans in the justice system as early as possible is crucial to helping them," said John Rago, L'87, professor of law, who serves as the faculty advisor to the Veterans Clinic.

The Veterans Court falls under the umbrella of problem-solving courts, such as drug, DUI, and mental health.

"These courts are labor intensive. But our Veterans Court tries to find a path for veterans to get back on their feet. Not

everyone is evil. We are not soft on crime and are not looking the other way. We are trying to get the best outcomes we can from society," Rago said.

Eligible Duquesne Kline School of Law students who choose to intern in the clinic are certified by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to appear in court. They intersperse the school's mission of creating equal justice with their important, life-altering work in the Veterans Clinic.

"The mission of the law school serves as our foundation. It is not just why we have these clinics, but why we have these treatment courts across the country. The focus is on the welfare of individuals. It is important to take that well-rounded, comprehensive approach that goes into helping and keeping the individuals from becoming justice involved again by living healthy lifestyles that really have as positive an impact on life as possible," said Mary Wessell, 4E.

Wessell participated in the clinic last year and stayed on this year as a student manager. "This population is very special to me, and I want to continue to interact and help them," she said.

From Combat to Court

Experiencing combat, injury, military sexual trauma, disaster, a traumatic brain injury, or a life-threatening situation can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in service members and veterans. Veterans Affairs' National Center for PTSD estimates the prevalence of PTSD in veterans who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan at 11%-20%. The trauma from service can manifest in nightmares, withdrawal, relationship difficulties, sudden anger, drug and alcohol misuse,



“At graduations, people are crying. Veterans thank our students. I heard them say ‘you saved my life’ and ‘you saved me from a really dark path.’”

—JOHN RAGO, L’87

and reckless and self-destructive behavior. Many of the veterans who are in Veterans Court have justice issues relating to alcohol or substance abuse.

“There are contributors as to why veterans become justice involved. If we find out who you are and what you are battling, we can help you. If you are battling PTSD in a bad way and go into jail, you can go into a freefall. You must identify people with these challenges as early as possible in the criminal justice system,” Rago said.

It is especially important to understand the relationship between PTSD and trauma and the behavior leading to justice involvement. The Veterans Clinic and court recognize this connection. Duquesne Kline School of Law students who work in the Veterans Clinic begin the externship by taking a seminar on problem-solving philosophy to gain insight on the reasons for the behavior.

“If there is a problem, we need to get to the root cause of the behavior, why the veterans became justice involved and got in trouble with the law.

Understanding the root problem and getting a participant on the right path, you will see remarkable transformation in an individual. The veteran population has done some very courageous things in their lives. They know how to take orders; and it is about getting them back on the right path and a rhythm of doing the right things for their circumstances and staying on course,” said Daniel Kunz, adjunct professor at the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education, who supervises the Veterans Clinic.

Empathy and Experience

Focusing on veterans, their experiences, and how to move forward for the well-being of all is central to the operation. “Our first obligation of government is to provide for public safety,” said Rago.

Duquesne Kline School of Law students in the Veterans Clinic become part of the problem-solving team who emphasize safety, elimination of reoffense, and concentration on wellness and healing.

“We do not use the types of words such as criminal for the veteran; we say ‘justice involved’ individual. We teach to reframe the individual, find out what brought them in. Many times, it is substance abuse, alcohol, or drugs, and you reframe it as substance use. It is a coping mechanism, a way of self-medicating. The root of those is mental health issues. If it is mental health, there are resources, services, and we can engage in treatment from a psychiatrist or doctor or whatever the case needs,” said Kunz.

Helping about 30–40 veterans in an academic year, the students are an important part of the Veterans Court team.

“They get to engage with vets who are real people and who have real issues going on and help them get through their participation in Veterans Court as advocates, counselors, and trusted legal advisors under my supervision and Professor John Rago’s supervision,” Kunz said.

Students say the duo of Kunz and Rago is fundamental to how the clinic operates. “They are very compassionate. They really emphasize that students who are interacting with veterans understand their vulnerability and make everyone feel comfortable,” Wessell said.

Duquesne Kline School of Law students assist veterans with legal matters and observe proceedings. Whether it is a driver’s license issue or a family matter related to custody, students assist the veterans with their legal needs.

“Professor Kunz kind of takes on the role of public defender. We work alongside the VA and the Veterans Justice Outreach Program. Each vet has a caseworker. We work together as a team to determine what each individual might need,” Wessell said.

Being able to make legal representation available to veterans is meaningful to the students.

“These are people in need and don’t necessarily have the resources to get their own legal representation. Making a service available to them is instrumental.

If we can help as students and under supervision of [Professor Kunz], that is a good thing to benefit Pittsburgh and the community,” said Dom Zboyovsky, 4E, who is in his first semester with the Veterans Court and is currently serving in the Air Force as a reservist.

Students additionally acknowledge the significance of the encouragement veterans in the clinic receive.

“It is a great support system, from probation officers through social workers. It is an opportunity for justice for people who want to take advantage of the services offered. It is giving the tools they need to succeed if they want to tap into it. It is profound,” said Drew Gudenburr, 3L.

The students aid those who have faithfully and selflessly served our country. They gain practical courtroom experience but are more importantly moved by the ability to be of service.

“It is an unmatched experience. It is one of the top innovative legal clinics in the whole country. It is valuable as a law student that you get that early courtroom experience and at the same time it opens your eyes to a lot of different avenues to use your legal degree for and make good in the world,” Gudenburr said.

Wessell agreed: “Going into the Veterans Clinic I knew I wanted to help people. Going through the actual clinic reaffirmed that ideally when I graduate I am really interested in criminal defense.”

“You Saved My Life”

“Problem-solving courts use a lot of resources and energy in the front end of the cases. That is why in the end you use much less money and save money on public safety. The individual is back and engaging in society as productive member, mother, father, son, daughter. It is very rewarding,” Kunz said.

He noted that the recidivism rate for veterans in this program is under 10%. Nationally the rate of crime recidivism is around 65%.

“It is very beneficial in reducing recidivism for lesser charges, rather than incarcerating for them. The focus

is on taking a holistic approach and seeing what kinds of needs our veterans may have. It is not about what they are charged with criminally, but what do they need in terms of outside of court, such as mental health, employment, navigating the benefit system. It is not focusing on what they did, but everything else they need to prevent it from happening again,” Wessell said.

Importantly, the rehabilitative approach to helping individuals in Veterans Court leads to routine and familiarity for veterans.

“The judge in Veterans Court will remember the dogs that individuals have, if someone is getting a new apartment soon. It is eye opening to the dedication and care some people have in public service in the Pittsburgh legal community,” said Gudenburr.

The graduations from Veterans Court are especially moving to watch, with veterans thanking everyone involved, including Duquesne Kline School of Law students.

“At graduations, people are crying. Veterans thank our students. I heard them say ‘you saved my life’ and ‘you saved me from a really dark path.’ It is a remarkable initiative and really reflects the mission of the law school to provide a service veterans deserve,” said Rago.

Kunz similarly hears praise for the conviction and compassion Duquesne Kline School of Law students espouse.

“We hear a lot of how important it is to have the students working. They really care. They have a passion. They come with a passion to help and to give back,” said Kunz.

The students compassionately enrich the lives of veterans while gaining practical experience in the Spiritan tradition.

“The Veterans Court is an opportunity to give back. Our students can benefit, and vets can benefit; it is a win-win all the way around. I hear from students that they picked Duquesne because we are veteran- and military-friendly and because of the Veterans Clinic. That is really gratifying,” said Mistick. ■

Retirement of Two Regal Legal Icons Bruce Ledewitz and Jane Moriarty Step Into Professor Emeritus Roles

By Amanda S. Drumm



Thousands of students who sat at the desks in Hanley Hall were taught by the distinguished and scholarly minds of Professor Emeritus Bruce Ledewitz and Professor Emerita Jane Moriarty. The duo, who both retired at the end of the 2024–2025 academic year, have collectively been teaching at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University for about 60 years. Devoted to their students, they also were passionate about their respective specialties in law and are both admired in their fields for their scholarly contributions.

Ledewitz, who graduated from Yale, spent two years as a law clerk in Tennessee and time as a public defender in Allegheny County. He had always wanted to teach, and when a part-time position opened at the law school, he applied. Ledewitz gave a talk to the faculty, and the next day was called by Dean Ronald Davenport, who told Ledewitz the school did not want to hire him as an adjunct, but instead in a full-time tenure track position.

“It changed my life. I asked what the pay was. Then I was asked how old I am. I said 28, and then was told that was my pay, \$28,000,” said Ledewitz.

He was hired in 1980 and said he was hired specifically because he was someone from outside the law school, a balance to the local Professor Robert Taylor. “They wanted him, and it is so funny these other people thought he would be too local, because he is the most radical legal thinker. He and I

became close. We studied together. It is an amazing story that changed my life,” Ledewitz said.

Shortly before he retired, in the spring of 2025, Ledewitz and Taylor bequeathed a special collection of books to the Ken Gormley Law Library at Duquesne Kline School of Law. The books include the works the two collected and studied together. There will be more than 1,000 books in the collection when the cataloging of the books is finished.

“A lot of things have changed, but one constant was my work with Robert Taylor. It is the most important relationship apart from my family that I ever had. I owe in an intellectual sense everything to him,” Ledewitz said.

Through the years, Ledewitz became a trusted and influential scholar on Pennsylvania constitutional law. He has spoken at symposiums and national conferences. The articles he writes continue to be published in prominent publications. He writes a weekly column and is often quoted in media outlets. Ledewitz has written four books and is currently busy finishing writing his fifth, scheduled to be published in the fall of 2026.

Ledewitz credits the law school for being a place where he taught, learned, challenged thoughts and made a close community.

“The law school has been my home and has been my family. Forty-five years is a long time, and I have always been very proud of being part of Duquesne Law School, now the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. Some things



“We always kept track of ultimate bar passage, even when the ABA did not require it. We never abandoned our students who did not pass. That is an example of what this law school has always been like. It is one of the things that most impresses me.”

—Bruce Ledewitz

about it just stand out. We always kept track of ultimate bar passage, even when the ABA did not require it. We never abandoned our students who did not pass. That is an example of what this law school has always been like. It is one of the things that most impresses me,” he said.

Moriarty joined the faculty at Duquesne Kline School of Law in 2010, from her post at the University of Akron’s School of Law. She came to Duquesne Kline School of Law to start a faculty scholarship program and to teach evidence and professional responsibility. Under her watch as the Carol Los Mansmann Chair in Faculty Scholarship, the program flourished, increasing the visibility of the law school and bringing national attention to it.

“It was a great opportunity, and we exceeded my wildest hopes with the fabulous faculty. We hired those

who were internationally known as scholars and engaged faculty who have not lost their focus of working with the community,” Moriarty said.

Her work elevating the school was a mutual decision among faculty and by then dean and current Duquesne University President Ken Gormley.

“He recognized the importance of being scholars. He tried to find opportunities for us to speak at conferences and publish in well-known journals,” Moriarty said.

One of her first tasks upon assuming her scholarship role was to arrange a symposium for Ledewitz’s book *Church, State, and the Crisis in American Secularism*, about the Establishment Clause.

Moriarty credits Ledewitz for his support. “The greatest thing is Bruce was totally on board with this. He is beloved by everyone in the faculty. He brought a force of weight with his work and was a driving force of scholarship,” she said.

Additionally, Moriarty organized dozens of prominent lectures that delivered positive attention nationally and from other law schools.

“We have had a cohesive faculty for these last years that works together to improve all aspects of law school to make the experience better for students and a place that our alumni are proud of. Dean (April) Barton’s focus on student outcomes in both job placement and bar passage has been critically important, and Professor Ashley London’s bar preparation program has been incredibly successful,” she said.

Moriarty advanced the profile of the law school and simultaneously continued her research and writing in scientific evidence. Moriarty is well known and respected in that area and her expertise is often requested. She has been the author of one treatise on psychological and scientific evidence, the co-author of a scientific three-volume treatise, editor of a three-volume series on the role of mental illness in criminal trials, co-author of case books on scientific and expert evidence, and editor of *Women in the Law*, and has written chapters of books and more than 20 articles.

The University of North Carolina Law School will publish an article of hers on neuroscience evidence this fall. Additionally, Moriarty has a co-authored a chapter coming out on forensics in the fourth edition of the *Federal Judicial Manual on Scientific Evidence*.

Moriarty and Ledewitz, two published, accomplished, intellectual minds, bonded and debated in a friendly way during their tenure as colleagues.

“Bruce was a constant source of intellectual curiosity and one of the most well-read people I have met with a continuing interest in educating himself every day. He is still reading books with Robert Taylor. His friendship was so important to me; he had good judgment, always listened, was helpful and always willing to do the work. It was so funny, he would come down the hall singing every morning; I could hear him coming. Once I knew Bruce was retiring, I did not think law school would as fun without him. He meant the world to me and is a great friend,” said Moriarty.

Both Moriarty and Ledewitz are thriving in their professor emeritus roles, teaching courses this academic year and continuing their own research and scholarly pursuits. They are immensely grateful to have spent their careers at Duquesne Kline School of Law and are confident of its future success.

Moriarty said, “It’s bittersweet; there is never a right time to retire, but you do not want to overstay your welcome. There are new people with new ideas and new directions to influence the law school, and I could not be happier about the Carol Los Mansmann Chair going to Jacqui Lipton. I am thrilled that she is the new chair, and she will be wonderful in that position. I am really excited about the new junior faculty we hired and to see where the law school goes under the leadership of Dean Barton. She is a wonderful dean for the law school.” ■

Kline Center Welcomes Renowned Constitutional Scholar, Has Record-Breaking Attendance at Fourth Annual Distinguished Speaker Series

By Amanda Dabbs



More than 300 people filled the Power Center Ballroom on Sept. 25 for the 2025 Distinguished Speaker Series—the annual event’s largest attendance to date—hosted by the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education.

This year’s keynote speaker was Akhil Reed Amar, a renowned constitutional scholar and Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale Law School. A summa cum laude graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, Amar joined the Yale faculty at age 26 and is the only living professor to have earned the university’s “triple crown” for scholarship, teaching, and alumni service. His work has been cited in over 50 Supreme Court cases and honored by both the American Bar Association and the Federalist Society. Amar also served as an informal consultant for *The West Wing*, and his scholarship has been featured on major broadcasts including *The Colbert Report*, *Morning Joe*, and Fox News.

“Professor Amar is one the nation’s most respected constitutional scholars,” said Professor Erin Karsman, the Kline Center’s director. “His deep expertise and ability to connect constitutional history and doctrine to contemporary challenges made him the perfect choice for our fourth year of the series.”

Duquesne University President Ken Gormley opened the event welcoming the Kline Center’s Jurist-in-Residence, Chief Justice Emeritus Thomas G. Saylor, as well as Justice Sally Updike Mundy; Judge D. Michael Fisher; Judge Peter J. Phipps; Judge Mark Hornak; retired Pennsylvania



Supreme Court Justice Cynthia Baldwin; former Law Dean and Superior Court Judge Maureen Lally-Green; and other jurists.

Also at the event, Gormley recognized in attendance the namesake of the Center for Judicial Education and the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University—Tom Kline—and his son, Zac Kline. Earlier that day, Tom Kline met with Duquesne Kline 1L law students and answered their questions.

“Tom’s vision in shaping this groundbreaking Center for Judicial Education at Duquesne Kline truly reflects his own lifelong reverence for the judicial system that makes our broader system of constitutional justice work properly. It also reflects his belief in the importance of teaching and education as vehicles to enhance our professional development, including for the most seasoned jurists. These judges, in turn, can then make the difference in the lives, collectively, of millions of citizens who rely on their impartiality, wisdom, and rich reservoir of expertise,” Gormley said.

Justice David N. Wecht of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania then introduced Amar, saying: “I’m delighted there are so many students here. Professor Amar’s presentation will be one all of you will remember.”

During his presentation on “America’s Constitutional Conversation Over the Centuries: Making and Remaking the Law of the Land,” Amar gave an engaging look into the arguments and assumptions that informed the Constitution and its evolution over nearly two and a half



centuries. He also explained how many Americans lack a true understanding of the national narrative.

“It’s especially important for this nation, more than most nations, to actually have a proper national narrative, an understanding of who we are, what we have in common. And what we have in common most of all is our Constitution and its predecessor document, the Articles of Confederation, both of which were drafted in this state,” he said.

Amar is the author of more than 100 law review articles and several award-winning books. His most recently released book, *Born Equal: Remaking America’s Constitution, 1840–1920*, is the second volume in a trilogy on American constitutional history from the founding to the present.

“The Kline Center’s Distinguished Speaker Series fosters the kind of civic camaraderie that strengthens our legal community. This year’s record turnout of more than 300 attendees underscores the impact of this annual event that convenes judges, lawyers, and students together to hear thought-provoking presentations from nationally recognized legal experts like Professor Amar,” Karsman added.

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 event. Learn more about the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education at duq.edu/KlineCenter. ■

Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education Updates



Quinntarra Morant

Quinntarra Morant joined as an adjunct professor for the Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic, where she leads students in providing estate planning services to underserved communities. She has more than 12 years of experience in estate planning, tax planning, quiet title work, and landlord-tenant law, with a strong focus on access to justice.

She has been recognized as one of Pittsburgh's 40 Under 40 and 50 Finest and is a two-time recipient of the Pennsylvania NBL for 40 under 40 Award. She has also served in leadership roles, including chair of the Allegheny County Bar Association's Homer S. Brown Division and as a council member for the Women in Law Division, and was named a Young Lawyers Fellow for her commitment to pro bono service.

Through the Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic, she combines her professional expertise with a passion for mentorship, guiding the next generation of lawyers while expanding critical estate planning access to seniors and families in Pittsburgh. ■

Wills & Healthcare Decisions Clinic

The Wills & Healthcare Decisions Clinic hosted four wills clinics in October: Oct. 4 at UPMC Neighborhood Center in East Liberty, Oct. 18 at the Living Better with Dementia Seminar at the Thelma Lovette YMCA in the Hill District, Oct. 23 in connection with the Neighborhood Legal Services clinic, and Oct. 24 at the ACH Clear Pathways.

Externships

Under the supervision of Professor Rebecca Edmiston, L'18, 16 students completed externships during the summer of 2025 in the following areas: five judicial, three private-sector, three nonprofit, one government, and four with the Study Abroad Program in Germany. This fall semester, there are 29 externship students with the following placements: 14 judicial, three private-sector, four nonprofit, and eight government. ■

The Shifting Recruitment Landscape ... and How We are Adapting to It

By Maria Comas, L'00

The most visible recruiting program at most law schools is the On-Campus Interview Program, commonly known as OCI. Career services offices historically would invite large law firms to campus in the fall to interview their students for summer associate positions. Through recent years, the timing of some OCIs shifted from taking place in the fall semester to mid-August, to early-August, and most recently, to June or July in some cases. As this article is being written, some law schools and employers are contemplating scheduling OCIs even earlier, before the 1L spring semester ends.

The Career Services Office (CSO) has always valued the partnerships we have with all of the employers that recruit with us, and this includes the law firms that have participated in our OCI Recruitment Program throughout the years. During this past recruiting cycle for 2026 summer associate positions, the CSO altered our OCI Recruitment Program as a result of some law firms accelerating their recruiting timelines. In an effort to ensure that Duquesne Kline School of Law students had as many opportunities as possible, the CSO created three distinct options for employers in our 2026 summer OCI Recruitment Program:

Students apply directly. This option was useful to larger law firms that wanted to receive applications from 1L and 2E students before the spring semester ended. In most instances, firms that collected applications directly from students scheduled interviews in May and June, and they reported that hiring decisions for 2026 summer associate positions were made by mid-June 2025.

Resume collect. This option was useful to firms that wanted some flexibility in scheduling interviews but did not have a specific timeline in mind. In this instance, the CSO collected application materials and forwarded them to the employers for further consideration.

Traditional OCI.

This option proved to be valuable for local and regional law firms and other employers that preferred to interview students toward the end of the summer and during the fall semester. In this case, the CSO collected applications and coordinated interviews for the employers as we have done in the past.

The CSO is pleased to report that Duquesne Kline School of Law students fared very well in their interviews for 2026 summer associate positions. The CSO provided opportunities for students to engage with employers throughout the school year in anticipation of these changing recruitment timelines, and students shared that they proved beneficial when applying and interviewing this year. 2027 summer associate hiring is already on the horizon, and the CSO will continue to prepare students for success and communicate with all employers so that every opportunity is made available to Duquesne Kline School of Law students.

The CSO's efforts do not end there. The CSO offers additional recruitment options for solo, small, and mid-sized law firms; judicial chambers; government offices; nonprofit organizations; and corporations and businesses:

Spring Recruitment Program: This option is helpful for employers that make hiring decisions later in the school year and elect to interview students and soon-to-be graduates for summer and post-graduate positions. The CSO acts as the intermediary by collecting applications and scheduling interviews that take place at the law school, at the employer's office, or virtually.

Small Firm Interview Week: Targeted towards small and solo firms, this



recruitment initiative is intended to make recruiting easier because the CSO assists in posting jobs, collecting applications, and scheduling interviews at the law school, at the firm, or virtually. Most of the law school's recent graduates who work in law firms work in small law firms. The CSO celebrates this with a special week (or two in some years) dedicated to small firm recruitment. Small firms that participated in the program recently hired students for summer law clerk and post-graduate entry-level attorney positions.

Traditional job postings: The CSO posts internships and jobs nearly every day for students and alumni looking to work in a wide array of traditional and non-traditional legal positions.

Please contact the CSO if we can assist with any of your recruitment needs for students, recent graduates, or alumni. We would be happy to help connect you with Duquesne Kline School of Law students and alumni. In addition to these recruitment options, the CSO provides various ways to engage with students throughout the school year. That engagement often leads to productive recruitment efforts, and we can share those ideas with you as well.

Maria Comas, L'00, Assistant Dean of Career Services & Alumni Relations: comas@duq.edu or 412.396.6279.

Liz McCadden, L'21, Associate Director of Career Services & Alumni Relations: mccaddene@duq.edu or 412.396.6277. ■

Young Alumni

PROFILE

Ryan Sayers, L'12

Hometown:

Born and raised in Frenchville, Pa.
Currently lives in Clearfield, Pa.

Education:

Washington & Jefferson College; BA 2009
Majors in History & Political Science
Duquesne Kline School of Law; JD 2012

What are you currently reading?

Invitation and Encounter: Evangelizing Through the Sacraments
by Timothy O'Malley. This book is for the last class I need to earn my certificate in liturgy from the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame.

Words you live by:

"Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."

—Sir Winston Churchill

What might people be surprised to know about you?

That I have a musical/theatrical side. I am a tenor in the Clearfield Choral Society, cantor at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Clearfield, and enjoy acting in productions at our local community theatre, CAST.

Employment history and current employment:

Naddeo & Lewis, LLC (2012-2016)
Law Office of Ryan P. Sayers (2016-2019)
District Attorney of Clearfield County (2020-present)

What sparked your interest in public service?

The greater Clearfield community has given so much to me over the years, and thanks to my parents, the Church and Scouting (Eagle Scout, 2003), I have been instilled with a strong desire to give back to this area. Once I earned my JD from Duquesne Kline School of Law, I moved back to Clearfield and started to give back to the community by serving on a number of nonprofit and charitable organization boards and volunteering with Scouting. From there, I decided that I could do even more to help the community by running for public office, and it has brought me to where I am today.

How have your previous experiences prepared you for your role today?

I would say that there are three main life experiences that have prepared me for where I am today. First and foremost, it would be my faith and the moral foundation provided by the Church. This has given me a strong sense of right and wrong and to seek the truth and justice in each case. Second, I have served on a number of nonprofit executive boards and have been president of a few of them. Managing these organizations has provided me the managerial and interpersonal skills need to be the chief law enforcement officer of Clearfield County because I have to manage my office but also work with and coordinate the efforts of all of the law enforcement agencies in the county. Finally, my experience as a defense attorney prior to becoming the district attorney has given me the insight to understand both sides of a case. This is incredibly important because I have to weigh the facts and the law in each case, make a determination as

to the strength of the case, decide what issues might arise, and/or request a further investigation to clear up any foreseeable concerns.

Looking back, how did your time at Thomas R. Kline School of Law shape your career and approach to the legal profession?

The motto of the law school ("Salus populi suprema lex") is instilled in the students at Duquesne Kline through the professors. During the lectures and interactions with them, the students come to understand the role each attorney plays in our legal system, and, more importantly, how each of us can help our fellow man and communities. While I already had a desire to help others at a foundational level from my parents, the Church and Scouting, Duquesne Kline Law nurtured that desire and helped shape the type of lawyer I am today.

The legal landscape is constantly evolving. What do you see as the biggest challenge or opportunity facing lawyers today?

I would say that the biggest challenge facing lawyers today is the debt associated with higher education and how that might force undesirable career choices. Due to the debt, it can force some attorneys to take a job or leave one solely due to pay. As district attorneys, we are seeing some of the best, brightest, and tenured prosecutors go to the private sector for the sole purpose of pay, even though they love what they are doing in serving the community.

I would add that one of the biggest opportunities available to lawyers is to practice in a rural county. Right now, in some of these rural areas of the state, there are dwindling numbers of practicing attorneys even though there are plenty of businesses and people to permit an attorney to have a healthy general practice. If a young attorney wants to be a general practitioner and likes a more rural lifestyle, then they should consider applying to a small firm, start their own practice or look into government positions.

What advice would you give to young lawyers and law students who want to follow in your footsteps?

The best thing for any student or attorney, especially those that want to get into public service, to do is to get active in your community. There are many nonprofit and charitable organizations that are looking for younger professionals as board members, especially with a legal background. Being active in these types of organizations gets your name out there and also helps you network with other professionals in the community—it is truly a win-win for everyone, especially the people you serve. ■



Alumni Profile

The Hon. Tamara Bernstein, L'92

Hometown:

Tucson, Arizona

Education:

University of Arizona; BA 1989
Duquesne Kline School of Law; JD 1992

What are you currently reading:

Fairy Tales by Stephen King; and *Outlive- The Science and Art of Longevity* by Dr. Peter Attia

Words you live by:

"The journey is nothing- It is the first step that is most difficult" (and "Stop trying to make everyone happy, you aren't tequila")

What might people be surprised to know about you:

I completed an Ironman, I should never be given caffeine, and I am a certified yoga instructor.

Employment history and current employment:

I was an Assistant District Attorney in Westmoreland County from 1992-1996, a full-time mom from 1996-2004, an Assistant District Attorney in Cambria County from 2004-2015. As a prosecutor in two smaller counties, I was afforded the opportunity to handle all types of cases, from retail theft to homicides. And in both counties, I handled a large portion of the child sexual and physical assault cases. I was elected as a Cambria County Court of Common Pleas Judge in 2015, and took the bench January of 2016. I was retained November 4, 2025, to serve a second 10-year term.

What sparked your interest in public service?

In college, I did an internship with the Pima County Attorney's Office in Tucson. I worked with the attorneys on sexual assault and homicide cases. I found the work fascinating and loved the idea of helping victims. Additionally, sitting in on trials drew my interest toward litigation.

How have your previous experiences prepared you for your role today?

Being a prosecutor allowed me to see the criminal system from the inception of charges (and sometimes even earlier, with interviewing victims and assisting with search warrants), through to resolution. That role also allowed me to learn how to prepare, to litigate, to communicate, and to work well both with opposing counsel and the court. All of my experience as a prosecutor prepared me not only to oversee criminal cases as a judge, but also in handling civil cases and dependency proceedings. And as any parent knows, the wisdom, trial and errors, and creative problem solving of raising children carries over to interactions and problem solving in other areas. Raising three sons certainly positively impacts the way I handle myself as a judge.

How did your Duquesne Kline School of Law education prepare you for your current role?

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University provided me with a broad-based legal education. The breadth and quality of classes I took not only served me as a prosecutor, but continue to serve me as a judge who handles criminal, civil, and dependency cases.

Looking back, how did your time at Duquesne Kline School of Law shape your career and approach to the legal profession?

I decided to go to law school because I wanted to be a prosecutor. Duquesne Kline Law School provided me opportunities through Trial Advocacy and Trial Moot Court to dip my toes into what trial work really entailed. The classes and competitions strengthened my interest and my resolve to pursue my career.

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

Duquesne Kline Law School has an incredible reputation in the legal community. The School produces well-rounded graduates, instills a sense of value in the legal profession as well as an attitude of giving and service. The ongoing commitment of the Administration and the exceptional quality of the professors serve to produce graduates ready to hit the ground running, and to make a positive impact in their communities.

Is there anything additional you would like to share about yourself?

I was honored to be appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing in 2017 and served on the Commission for six years, to include time as vice-Chair and chair. The experience was enriching and educational. As a result, I have expanded contacts within legal, legislative, and educational fields. I also fostered new friendships. I encourage graduates to get involved in something in addition to their job that allows them to forge connections and lend their talents to improve the legal/justice system.

The legal landscape is constantly evolving. What do you see as the biggest challenge or opportunity facing lawyers today?

I think AI is both a challenge and an opportunity for attorneys.

What advice would you give to young lawyers and law students who want to follow in your footsteps?

Find an area of law that speaks to you. Whatever area of practice you choose, or that chooses you, put forth the effort you would want someone to put forth for you. Clients, victims, individuals charged with crimes...these are all people. People with feelings, with fears, with little to no understanding of the legal system. Every morning when I see my stack of files for the day, I remind myself that there are real people involved, and although I may have many cases that day, they only have one- and it matters. ■



Nearly 100 Duquesne Kline School of Law 2025 Graduates Sworn into Legal Profession

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University held a Bar Swearing-In Ceremony on October 17 at Pittsburgh's City-County Building. The ornate, wood-paneled Supreme Court Courtroom served as the backdrop for the professional ceremony. Justice Christine Donohue, L'80, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, administered the oath to nearly 100 Duquesne Kline School of Law 2025 graduates.

"It is incredible to work with our students and then graduates on bar preparation. They were diligent in their studies and driven to succeed. We collaborate often during that process and become very close, so it meant a lot to share in this ceremony with them," said Director of Bar Studies and

Associate Professor of Law Ashley M. London.

She gave remarks at the ceremony along with Duquesne Kline School of Law Dean April Barton, Duquesne University President Ken Gormley, and Assistant Professor of Law and Associate Director of Bar Studies April Milburn-Knizner.

"This was a special ceremony to celebrate the fantastic achievements of this Class of 2025. It was such a meaningful day, and it was wonderful to watch their excitement. As they prepare to start their professional careers, we want them to know our whole Duquesne Kline School of Law community is very proud of them and we cannot wait to see their future accomplishments," said Dean Barton. ■

ClassActions

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

1973

Edward Linky has retired from the USEPA after 36 years of service as a National Expert on energy and climate issues. He remains an active member of the Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Bar Associations.

1974

Ernest Orsatti was honored on the 2025 Lawdragon 500 Leading Civil Rights and Plaintiff Employment Lawyers list for Unions & Employee Rights.

Vincent Quatrini was honored on the 2025 Lawdragon 500 Leading Civil Rights and Plaintiff Employment Lawyers list for Workers' Compensation.

Richard Serbin was named to the 2025-2026 edition of Best Lawyers in America and was recognized among Pennsylvania Super Lawyers.

1975

Roger Peters was inducted as a Fellow into the American College of Construction Lawyers (ACCL). The elite organization has approximately 245 construction lawyers; for induction one must have contributed significantly to the construction legal profession as well as to the community of residence. He was also selected by the American Arbitration Association 10 years ago to be a member of its Mega Panel of Construction Neutrals for large and complex construction arbitration cases. For both organizations, Peters is one of only two people from Pittsburgh to be invited to join and the only Duquesne Kline School of Law alumnus in both.



1976

Cynthia Maleski, the National President and CEO of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA Life), announced her retirement.

1977

Richard Freyvogel was awarded the Rising Star Award for Neighborhood Legal Services' Champions of Justice.

1978

John Conti has been appointed Chair of the Judiciary Committee of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

1979

James Antoniono has been elected President-Elect of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

1980

Kenneth Horoho, Jr. has been appointed President-Elect of the Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) Board of Directors.

1982

James Saxton, founding CEO of Saxton & Stump, is stepping down as CEO at the end of the year and will assume a role as Chairman during 2026.



1984

Bruce Zero has been recertified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.



1992

Hon. Robert J. Colville was awarded the Judge James R. McGregor Award for Exceptional Contributions to the Community.

1993

Tina Miller was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

1995

Alison Smith has been named Member-Elect at McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC.

1996

Kurt F. Fernsler started a new role as Shareholder at Saxton & Stump.

1998

Kathryn M. Kenyon has been awarded the Carol S. Mills McCarthy, Esq. Visionary Leadership Award from Neighborhood Legal Services.

Stephie-Anna (Kapourales) Ramaley was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

2001

Janet Meub received the Partner in Justice Award from Neighborhood Legal Services.



Richard W. Saxe Jr. started a new role as Shareholder at Saxton & Stump.

2003

Matthew Gailey was promoted to Partner at Cozza Law Group.

Patrick Murray was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

Marla Presley joined Cozen O'Connor as a Member.

2006

Jacques Moye graduated as part of The Advanced Leadership Institute's 2025 Executive Leadership Academy Cohort.

2007

Brian Catanzarite, chair of the Allegheny County Bar Association's (ACBA) Judiciary Committee, participated in two community events organized by Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts to educate Allegheny County voters about the judicial election process.



Casey D. White was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

2008

Jeffrey Hantz was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

Kathrine Harrison was promoted to Member at Campbell & Levine, LLC.

2009

Kelly Iverson has been named Managing Partner of Operations at Lynch Carpenter.

Elizabeth Lamm received the 2025 Maryland Office of the Public Defender In re Gault Award.

Sarah Weissman started a new position as Associate General Counsel at Hospital for Special Surgery.

2010

Lauren Berret has been promoted to Managing Director of the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Services Group at EisnerAmper.

2011

Katlin Connelly Zarisky started a new position as Assistant General Counsel at WVU Medicine.

Lauren Hadburg started a new position at Dentons as Counsel in the Trusts Estates and Wealth Preservation group.

2012

Dorothy Dohanics was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

Brandon Keller was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

Michael Megrey was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

Elizabeth Parker started a new role as a Managing Attorney for Pro Bono at Neighborhood Legal Services.

Ashley Rodgers started a new role as a Partner at The Cook Group.

Dominique Sciuolo was promoted to Senior Associate at Brinkley Morgan.

2013

Gabrielle M. Carbonara received the Pro Bono Champion Award from Neighborhood Legal Services and started a new position as a Partner at Lewis Brisbois.

Samantha Cavalier started a new position as a Partner at Lewis Brisbois.

Laureen McCloskey started a new role as an Attorney with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

Bridget Sasson started a new position as a Partner at Lewis Brisbois.

2014

Daniel Conlon has been elected President of the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation.

Judy Hale started a new position as Deputy Director of Pro Bono Services at the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Sarah Kleinman joined Chubb's Legal and Compliance team as Counsel, Financial Lines.

Ali Parker has assumed a new role as Senior Assistant General Counsel, Employment & Labor, at NPR.

Paul Roman started a new position as a Partner at Lewis Brisbois.

2015

Zack Bombatch became a named partner at Stranahan Cline & Bombatch.

Krystal T. Edwards has been elected to the Pennsylvania Bar Association Board of Governors.

David Frantz started a new position as Senior Assistant District Attorney in Franklin County, Pa.

Brian McCann has been promoted to Business Unit Sales Specialist III at ACA Group.

Jonathan McCloskey started a law firm, McCloskey Law Group LLC.

Maura Winters rejoined Cozen O'Connor as Counsel.

2016

Curtis Corson started a new position as an attorney at Ruppert Law Firm LLC.

Danielle Parks started a new position as an Associate at Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP.

Eric VanKirk started a new position as an Associate at Burns White.

2017

Anthony Sarafino "Fino" Caliguire started a new position as an Associate at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP.



Emily Harlovic started a new position as Partner at Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP.

Alexander Hill started a new position as Associate Contracts Counsel at Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Jamie Infrerra has been appointed a Hearing Committee Member, serving the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in District IV.

2018

Margaret Cooney started a new position as an Associate at Tucker Arensberg.

Nicholas Frost started a new position as a Personal Injury Lawyer at Ethen Ostroff Law.

Michael Zagari was inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

2019

Taylor Baublitz was recognized in the 2025 Women of Influence Class as a Woman to Watch.

Amelia Goodrich started a new position as an Assistant City Solicitor, Federal Litigation at the City of Pittsburgh Department of Law.

Michele Johnson (née Mellick) started a new position as Senior Counsel North America at GE Vernova.

Aaron McDonough started a new position as an Associate at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti.

Brazitte Poole started a new position as a Judicial Law Clerk for Chief Justice Debra Todd at the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Brandon M. Schall started a new position as Senior Counsel to the General Counsel at NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

2020

McCall Chafin started a new position as an Associate at Jackson Lewis P.C.

Jacob Deane has been promoted to Partner at Hardin Thompson.

2021

James Benedek started a new position as a Visiting Assistant Clinic Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Diana Bruce Bonino started a new position as Commercial Counsel at Duquesne Light Company.

Garrett Dudt received the Rising Star Award from Neighborhood Legal Services.

Hannah French started a new position as a Staff Attorney at Seton Hill University.

Madison Miranda started a new position as an Associate at Bernstein-Burkley in the litigation group.

Alyssa Mursch started a new position as an Associate at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

Abby Panek was selected as a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's 2025-26 Bar Leadership Institute class.

Christina Pici was promoted to Partner at Markovitz Law Group.

Corey Stanford started a new position as an Associate at Hardin Thompson P.C.

2022

Krista Koontz has been named the 2025 recipient of the Patti Rose Scheimer Bednarik Memorial Scholarship by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Erin McCluan started a new position as a Federal Court Attorney at Olinsky Law Group.

Marina Sansom started a new position as an Associate at Davis Wright Tremaine.

Nick Scholle started a new position as an Associate at The Lynch Law Group.

Brynne Zubey started a new position as an Associate at Marshall Dennehey, P.C.

2023

Dana Aboud started a new position as a Corporate & Financial Services Associate at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP.

Katie Butler started a new position as an Associate at Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky.

Maura Clark started a new position as an Associate at Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien, Doherty & Kelly, P.C.

Victoria Maatta started a new position as an Associate at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

Kara Magoolaghan has been named one of Westchester's "Rising Stars—Forty Under Forty" by the Business Council of Westchester.

Dan Matesic started a new position at Block & Associates, where he will run the firm's construction law practice and support its estate planning group.

Falco Muscante started a new position as a Judicial Law Clerk at the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Johnathan Sullivan started a new position as an Associate at Estate Planning & Elder Law Services.

Jacob Schramm started a new position as an Associate at Burns White.

Erin Volz started a new position as an Assistant District Attorney at the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office.

2024

Corinne Chaplin started a new position as an Assistant Prosecutor at the Morris County Prosecutor's Office (New Jersey).

David Cimino started a new position as an Associate at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

Cian Malcolm started a new position as an Associate at Jackson Lewis P.C.

Kate Sullivan started a new position as an Attorney at Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA in the Consumer Collections Group.

Jamilah Wesley joined BWW Law Group, LLC as an Attorney.

In Memoriam

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

James F. Andrews, Jr.	1979	Stanley Gorski	1974
Arlene B. Angel-Shaffer	1981	Edward L. Graf	1967
Elmer S. Beatty	1971	Stefanie H. Jones	1992
Arvids Bisers	1975	Robert C. Klingensmith	2000
Raymond W. Bitar	1974	Charles A. Knoll	1987
Elizabeth A. Burkett	2000	Lawrence W. Kustra	1982
Gladys F. Burkhart	1966	Dustin R. Matthews	2012
Harry J. Cancelmi	1974	Cheryl C. McCray	1984
Rosezella Canty-Letsome	1973	James L. McHugh	1962
F.E. Ciccone	1973	Ronald J. McKay	1959
Lee E. Crum	1975	James E. Miscavage	1984
Daniel M. Darragh	1975	Lawrence Moncrief	1962
Michael J. Drag	1973	Joseph A. Murphy	1968
Harry W. Fenton	1989	Michael P. Pitterich	1981
William R. Friedman	1983	Anthony J. Seneca	1975
Stephanie L. Garbe	2010	Edith L. Sutton	1996
Jerry J. Garguilo	1977	Kurt Weiler	1991

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 John W. Lyttle, Jr.

Former law school faculty member Professor John W. Lyttle, Jr. of Damascus, Pa., passed away on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, in Ellen Memorial in Honesdale, Pa. He was 84 years old. Lyttle served as a professor of law from 1980-1986, during which time he left an indelible mark on our law school and all who knew him. Lyttle's professional integrity and dedication were deeply admired by students and faculty colleagues alike.

He was an extraordinary tax law professor whose teaching inspired many students to follow in his footsteps. Retired professor Ronald J. Ricci, L'76, said this about his late former colleague: "During my years at the law school, John Lyttle was one of the finest professors I had the pleasure to work with. His personality was electric. As a New York lawyer, he brought his experiences to the classroom. He made clear to his students the value of a high level of professionalism in the very competitive world they were about to enter."

DKLAA President's Message

Dear Duquesne Kline Law alumni,

It is with immense pride that I address you as the president of the Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association for the 2025-2026 academic year. Together with our dedicated board, I am committed to advancing our mission to foster social and professional connections among our alumni and support the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

Our mission remains steadfast: to serve alumni through meaningful engagement opportunities and to represent our community by supporting law students and the law school. We are dedicated to expanding our outreach to connect with all members and create inclusive opportunities that bring our diverse alumni community closer together. In order to continue our mission, we are currently evaluating whether to reinstate membership dues, paused since the pandemic.

This year, building on the legacy of my predecessor, Judge Nicola Henry-Taylor, I am excited to champion an initiative to support first-generation law students. This focus will ensure these first-generation law students receive mentorship, career guidance, and resources to thrive in their legal journeys. Our committees—Alumni Outreach, Career Development, and Communication & Technology—will integrate this initiative while upholding our goals of fostering alumni connections, promoting school involvement, and facilitating communication. We invite you to join our monthly board meetings or join a committee that aligns with your expertise and passion. Your participation will strengthen our alumni community, support our current students, and enrich your professional network. Contact the Alumni Relations Office at lawalumni@duq.edu to get involved.

We look forward to continuing our cherished traditions like the Annual Alumni Reunion Awards Dinner and Pass the Bar Reception while expanding programs to enhance alumni engagement. I look forward to collaborating with you to make this a transformative year!

Warm regards,
Jonathan Ehret, L'13
President, DKLAA



Our mission remains steadfast: to serve alumni through meaningful engagement opportunities and to represent our community by supporting law students and the law school.

73rd Annual LAW ALUMNI REUNION DINNER CELEBRATED

Three hundred guests were welcomed to the Thomas R. Kline School of Duquesne University's 73rd annual Law Alumni reunion dinner in the beautiful Power Center on Sept. 26. Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner, reconnected with dear friends and colleagues, and heard uplifting and beautiful speeches from awardees. Those speeches filled attendees' faces with smiles and a sense of pride.

Before the main event, student ambassadors gave guests tours of the renovations the law school has undergone in the last few years. There was additionally a coffeehouse in the renovated student lounge featuring music. Graduates whose anniversary years end in 0 and 5 attended, and the Class of 1975 received 50-year pins, while the Class of 1965 also received special recognition. ■





L-R: Dean April Barton, the Hon. Michael E. McCarthy, L'84, Kate L. Stoy, L'12, the Hon. Dwayne D. Woodruff, L'88, and Duquesne University President Ken Gormley.

Alumni Honored with Awards

Three outstanding alumni were recognized for their achievements at the 73rd annual Law Alumni Reunion dinner Sept. 26: the Hon. Michael E. McCarthy, L'84, Kate L. Stoy, L'12, and the Hon. Dwayne D. Woodruff, L'88.

McCarthy 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 service to Duquesne Kline School of Law. Stoy was honored with the Outstanding Achievement Award, as an alumna who has practiced law 19 years or less and who has distinguished herself through achievements in the legal profession and community and service to Duquesne Kline School of Law. Woodruff was

recognized for his service and commitment to Duquesne Kline School of Law with the Dr. John E. Murray, Jr. Meritorious Service Award.

"It is our deepest privilege to honor these remarkable alumni. Each have dedicated themselves to upholding the highest ideals of our profession and have achieved remarkable success in their respective legal careers. While doing so, they have lived the call for service to others. They have been extremely impactful to Duquesne Kline School of Law, and we are very appreciative of their ongoing and lasting contributions to our school," Dean April Barton said.

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



"It is our deepest privilege to honor these remarkable alumni. Each have dedicated themselves to upholding the highest ideals of our profession and have achieved remarkable success in their respective legal careers."

-DEAN APRIL BARTON

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Scholarly Update

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

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University faculty pursue legal research and share the fruits of their scholarship in a variety of forms and fora. In law review articles, white papers, and newspaper articles, at conferences, CLEs, and radio shows, from Pittsburgh to Utah to Brazil, they explore and explain everything from current events and constitutional law to legal pedagogy and artificial intelligence.

Dean **April Barton** is a regular commentator about the ethical use of AI in the practice of law. Along with Professors Tara Willke and Ashley London, she has visited a variety of firms throughout the Pittsburgh region, leading the Law School's *AI and Law Collaboration* efforts with the practice community. She was a panelist at the Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology, and Law's "Staying Human in the Age of AI: A Law and Policy Conversation." She was featured in Law.com as one of six deans leading innovative efforts in AI and Legal Education. She wrote an op-ed for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* about the importance of judicial retention elections.

Associate Professor **Steven Baicker-McKee** continues to be sought out for his expertise in civil procedure and environmental law. Over this past year he has presented at the Environmental Law Forum in Harrisburg and on interrogatories at national CLE events. Recently he was asked to serve as a subject matter expert for the team working to develop the Nevada Bar Exam.

Assistant Professor **Kara Dempsey** presented "Ensuring Fairness & Equity for Children with Autism in Delinquency Court" at the 2025 National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' annual National Conference on Juvenile Justice in Boston.

Assistant Professor **Lauren Galley** presented "Salvaging Sullivan: Protecting the Press After Actual Malice" at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) workshop on constitutional law; at the Aspiring Free Speech Scholars Conference at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University; and at the First Amendment Litigation panel at the *Elon Law Review* "Breaking News: First Amendment on Trial" symposium. She spoke at the Southwestern Law School "Of the Press: Revisiting the Rights and Responsibilities of Journalists on the World Stage" symposium about her paper, *What Is the Press? A New Definition for a New Media Era*. And she took part in a roundtable called "Biden and the Federal Judiciary" on April 10, as part of the "Joe Biden Presidency: Legacy and Record" conference hosted by Mount Union University and the University of Akron.

Associate Professor **Richard Heppner**, with the help of Duquesne Kline School of Law research assistants, designed a board game called "Tag! The Jurisdiction Game" to help students learn civil procedure. He presented

the game at SEALS and at the International Serious Play educational game conference, where it won a silver medal. He also presented his paper *Metaphorical Jurisdiction* at the Law, Culture, and Humanities Conference at Georgetown Law Center, and at SEALS.

Associate Professor **Rona Kaufman** published "Never Again: Zionism and the Jewess" in the *Florida International Law Review*. The Academic Advisory Board for the Brandeis Center for Human Rights appointed Kaufman to serve on its board. The Brandeis Center is an independent, nonpartisan institution for public advocacy, research, and education. The center's mission is to promote the civil and human rights of the Jewish people and justice for all. She was also appointed to a working group focusing on developing a curriculum on antisemitism, the Holocaust, and law courses for the Holocaust Claims Commission.

Associate Professor **Jacqueline Lipton** presented at various conferences for authors, including the Bluegrass Writers Conference in Frankfort, Ky., and the Michigan Writing Day Workshop in Detroit, Mich. She spoke about issues relating to copyright law for writers, intellectual property, business issues and AI. Additionally, she is working with the Mary Pappert School of Music on a research team exploring an AI music project, which was recently awarded the Duquesne University Eugene P. Beard Presidential Prizes for Innovation and Distinction.

Associate Professor **Ashley London** continues her research on legal ethics and bar licensure. She has recently published a white paper and given a number of presentations regarding the upcoming NextGen bar exam, including *The Keystone State Should Forge a New Path to Lawyer Licensure: A White Paper with Nachman Gutowski, Steven Foster and Sarah Garrison* and *Beyond NextGen: A Blueprint for Michigan's Independent Bar Licensing Model*, and appeared on a panel on licensure reform at SEALS. London presented "Advocate—Don't Hallucinate! The Singular Role of Appellate Court Staff Attorneys in Promoting Ethical AI Usage" at the National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys (NAACA) 2025 annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, and at a CLE program hosted by the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County. London was also one of the recipients recognized at the inaugural Duquesne University Faculty Showcase, where she highlighted her work on ethics and AI.

Professor **Jan Levine** was invited by the Association of Legal Writing Directors to serve on its ABA Task Force, and by the Legal Writing Institute to serve on its Institutional Memory Project.

At the 2025 Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference, Associate Deans **Tara Willke** and **Ella Kwisnek** and Assistant Professors **April Milburn-Knizner** and **Marissa Meredith** presented “Reshaping the LRW Curriculum for the Gen Z Student.”

Associate Professor **Eugene Mazo’s** article “The Battle for the Ballot in New Jersey” was published in the *Seton Hall Law Review*. He presented internationally at the University of Milan, where he taught classes for two weeks and presented a paper at the “Constitutional Law Schmooze,” as well as presenting four papers in Brazil at the University of Sao Paulo and the ICON-S conference in Brazilia.

Assistant Professor **Marissa Meredith** was invited to present at Denver Law’s “The Fourteenth Amendment: Modern Interpretations and Implications” symposium where she spoke about the future implications of the *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard* case.

Assistant Professors **April Milburn-Knizner** and **Megan Montcalm** presented “Catching Waves of Change: New Models for Teaching Our Gen Z Students” at the Association of Academic Support Educators conference in Boston, Mass. They also presented on this topic to the law faculty of Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School. Milburn-Knizner also served as a panelist discussing “Energy and Sustainability” at the University of Pittsburgh.

Assistant Professor **Brian Miller** presented a paper titled *Exclusive Property Harms* at Northeastern School of Law and at SEALS. He also contributed articles and op-eds to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* about national and Pittsburgh-area housing policy.

Associate Professor **Joseph Sabino Mistick** regularly appears on radio shows and podcasts and contributes weekly to local newspapers, including a weekly column for the *Tribune-Review*. His work includes appearances on *Around the Table with Stacy Smith*, interviews on the Rob Pratte and Michael Bartley shows on KDKA Radio, discussing such topics as election law, local government, zoning issues, and how Pittsburgh steel families built a nation. He also presented a speech to NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Developers Association on the role of public/private partnerships in Pittsburgh’s Renaissance and Renaissance II urban redevelopment strategies.

Associate Professor **Katherine Norton** presented at the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Pennsylvania Chapter, retreat, discussing AI and family law.

Professors **Katherine Norton** and **Wesley Oliver** presented to judges, legislators, and attorneys at a CLE program in Culpeper, Va., about digital signatures and access to justice, based on a research project they are undertaking with Assistant Dean **Mark Dunn**.

Assistant Professor **David Nows** presented at a symposium titled “The Dual Role of Immigration & Citizenship Law” hosted by *Rutgers University Law Review*, where he discussed issues of immigration, citizenship laws, and pathways for entrepreneurs. He also presented his work “Bot Negotiations” at the 2025 University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law Developing Ideas Conference. He served as a panelist at SEALS at the Business Law Workshop “Teaching the Basic Business Law Courses.”

Professor **Wesley Oliver**, with **Morgan Gray**, **Kevin Ashley**, and **Jaromir Savelka**, presented their paper *Generating Legal Arguments with Automatically Identified Factor Magnitudes* at the 2025 International Conference of Artificial Intelligence and Law in Chicago, Ill. He also traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to teach a program to the Utah Supreme Court justices and Court of Appeals judges on how to use Python and link into ChatGPT to create timelines of facts and procedural history.

Associate Professor **John Rago** presented a CJE program at the spring meeting of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Appellate and Legislative Section, titled “Conviction Integrity: Truth is a difficult conquest in any setting.”

Associate Dean **Tara Willke** reviewed and edited a chapter for the Third Edition of *Legal Research Demystified* from Carolina Academic Press and served as an assistant editor for Volume 29 of *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*.

Professor Emeritus **Bruce Ledewitz** published an article (adapted from his January AALS presentation) entitled “Two Ways Law Professors Can Defend American Democracy” in the *University of Illinois Chicago Law Review*. And his article “Planting Law and Democracy in Sustainable Soil” was reprinted in the *Nebraska Law Review*. He also authored multiple columns about timely legal and political topics for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and contributed three pieces about issues of faith and atheism to the online publication OnlySky. Finally, he was offered a contract by the Yale University Press for his book, *The Last Master of the Tradition: Charles Black and the Future of Constitutional Democracy*.

Professor Emeritus **Jane Moriarty** wrote a white paper entitled “Expert Testimony: Admissibility Rules, Standards, and the Social Determinants of Health,” which will be published by the Northeastern University School of Law Center for Health Policy and Law in *Salus Populi: Educating the Judiciary about the Social Determinants of Health*. And she presented on “Off-Label Neuroscience Evidence” at the *University of North Carolina Law Review* Symposium on Neuroscience and Law, with the resulting article forthcoming in the *North Carolina Law Review*. ■

STUDENT BRIEFS

184 Students Welcomed During Orientation

Orientation for the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's Class of 2025 was held Aug. 20-22. The class is 184 students strong, including full-time day program and the flexible evening division, each bringing unique perspectives, experiences, and ambitions to our community.

First-year students took part in a mock class, learned study skills, met new classmates, attended an organization fair, and took their oath at the Professionalism and Swearing-In Ceremony. That significant event was presided over by the Hon. Nicola Henry-Taylor, L'96.

Orientation wrapped up with an alumni reception where guests played bingo. Students and alumni connected over shared experiences, such as "running my first full marathon" to "being an extra on a Showtime series." ■



Curriculum, Credits, and Cultural Cognizance

By Amanda S. Drumm

Eighteen students from Duquesne Kline School of Law spent the beginning of their summer in an explorative and intensive experience studying law in Europe. With historic and picturesque scenes as their backdrops, they earned five credits, learned about international law, went on excursions, and gained a cultural appreciation and deeper understanding of the world around them.

“My ability to understand how other legal cultures navigate the same or similar political touchpoints is the most valuable awareness that a lawyer can accumulate. To broaden one’s understanding of how a different country navigates legal and sociopolitical topics is to broaden one’s ability to be an effective lawyer,” said Shannon Hubble, 3E.

The group’s first stop in their pedagogical adventure was Cologne, Germany, their home base for the trip. In conjunction with the University of Cologne, Duquesne Kline School of Law students met for classes at the Institute of American Law, where they attended lectures on European Union Public law.

They stayed in Cologne for a week and half, during which they went to the regional court in Bonn. They met with a judge and observed a case as it was happening.

“The victim gets to be present and is represented by council; we found that interesting,” said Ella Kwisnek, associate dean for students and associate professor of legal skills, who accompanied the students on the trip.

Additionally, they visited the City Hall in Cologne, met with a deputy mayor, and journeyed to historical and legal sites.

“We also toured a Nazi detention center in Cologne, which was heartbreaking and eye-opening. We visited a jail in Cologne and observed a criminal trial, which was fascinating for me because I work in criminal defense,” said Emily Hurey, 3E.

Their weekend time included a boat ride on the Rhine and a visit to Schloss Drachenfels. From Cologne, the group traveled to the Sorbonne University in Paris, France, where classes on European Union Law continued.

“We took multiple courses focused on the laws of the European Union, which provided insight into a complex foreign legal system,” said Donovan Lappé, 2L.

While delving into a greater understanding of foreign laws, students were surrounded by exquisite and ancient architecture.

“The law school is near the Panthéon. It was a great location and very close to Notre Dame Cathedral,” said Kwisnek.

Also within proximity to classes was the Eiffel Tower. The group toured that iconic site and enjoyed a champagne toast at the top of the structure.



Extending their adventures and knowledge further, Luxembourg was the next stop. While there, students visited, toured, and observed a hearing at the European Court of Justice. The hearing was especially notable because it was simultaneously translated into multiple languages.

“It is essentially the equivalent of the Supreme Court for the European Union. That was my favorite part of the trip, and the real-time translation was fascinating to watch,” said Hurey.

The group traveled back to Cologne for the end of their trip.

“Before we left, we toured a prison, which was very interesting. It housed both men and women, and they are taught skills so they can integrate back into society,” Kwisnek said.

Warm Welcome

Duquesne Kline School of Law students were welcomed from beginning to end by their German counterparts, who were eager to talk to them and make connections.

“Not only did my perception of law broaden, but I was able to connect with German students in the University of Cologne. Building these relationships is a unique opportunity to understand the culture and stay in touch with peers in similar study. Exchange students that we had classes with at Duquesne Kline were happy to welcome us and spend time speaking to us about their experiences,” said Hubble.

Hurey likewise appreciated the people she met and the connections she made. She also enjoyed the time with her Duquesne Kline School of Law peers.

“Getting to spend time with my classmates in a new culture and experience new ways of thinking, both legal and social, was special. In these changing times, now more than ever it is important to be able to be immersed in a different culture and

continue on p. 44



continued from p. 43

understand the differences, but more importantly similarities, between yourself and others. I intend to pursue a career in international law, and there is no better way to get experience than this kind of immersion,” she said.

Alumni who live and work in the region also lent their time to meet with the students.

“It’s just a wonderful experience for our students. We have a couple of alumni who are there. One of our alumni, Dr. Ryan Kraski, L’14, who works as in-house counsel at Mercedes Benz, came to the closing dinner,” Kwisnek said.

Important International Takeaways

Some students traveled home when the trip ended and others, such as Lappé, stayed on for externships. He stayed in Cologne an additional six weeks for a legal externship. No matter when they returned, though, they all brought an international understanding and a broadened worldview home with them.

“I am forever grateful for the opportunity that Duquesne gave me to explore my interests in international law. Being able to speak with other students who are impacted differently and see things from an outside lens was invaluable to broadening my perception of the U.S. legal culture,”



Hubble said.

Hurey agreed: “I brought back a broader understanding of the legal structure of the European Union and an introductory knowledge of comparative law and how comparing the laws and processes between different nations can help all nations better serve their citizens’ legal rights. Duquesne Kline has a huge emphasis on practical experience, and there is no better way to gain this kind of hands-on experience. I will keep this experience with me for my entire legal career, and long after.” ■

Students Attend Eradicate Hate Summit

Duquesne Kline School of Law students and Dean's Leadership Fellows Ana Youngblut, 1L, Emily Theroux, 1L, and Camille Liparini, 2L, attended the Eradicate Hate Global Summit in Pittsburgh on Sept.15. The summit brings together advocates, community leaders, survivors, and changemakers from around the world, all united in their commitment to delivering actionable ideas to prevent all forms of hate-fueled violence.

Governor Tom Corbett, 46th governor of Pennsylvania and distinguished executive in residence, spoke at the event that was attended by several other Duquesne University and Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty, staff, and students. ■



Paws for a Great Cause

About 100 participants, along with two dozen dogs, ran and walked in the 24th annual Katie Westbrook 5K & Dog Walk Oct. 18 on the Duquesne University campus. That fall morning, the law community gathered 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.

Professor John Rago provided commentary on the race's namesake, Katie, and her character and antics from when she attended his classes while receiving cancer treatments. Her mother, Beth Westbrook-Starnes, was invited to the race as a distinguished guest. Father John Osei-Yaw of Duquesne University's Spiritan priests once again provided a blessing of the dogs before the race.

All money raised from this event 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. In addition, the Animal Law Society held a dog food and supply drive for donation to an animal rescue. ■



JURIS Magazine

Fall 2025 Preview

jurismagazine.com[X @jurisduqlaw](https://twitter.com/jurisduqlaw) [f Juris Magazine](https://www.facebook.com/JurisMagazine)

■ **Seafood's Dirty Secrets, Revisited: Radioactive Shrimp Joins Fish Fraud on the Menu**

By: Bianca Ortalano, Editor-in-Chief

You may have heard of cases where a customer orders a salmon filet at a restaurant and is instead served a piece of fish that looks like salmon but is actually trout. Or maybe you have seen news stories where restaurants claimed to be selling local shrimp only for testing to reveal that the shrimp was actually imported. This type of fish fraud may be more widely known by the average consumer due to recent internet buzz, but you probably are not worried about being duped by seafood that looks normal but is actually radioactive—and maybe you should be.

In August of 2025, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published an advisory statement warning the public to not eat, sell, or serve certain imported frozen shrimp. This advisory was based on various tests that found that the affected shrimp may have been prepared, packed, or stored under unsanitary conditions, leading the shrimp to become exposed and potentially contaminated with Cesium-137, a radioactive isotope. As of Sept. 2, 2025, the contaminated shrimp was found to have been distributed to the following states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

This article consists of a deep dive into the brands affected by the FDA advisory, the legal recourse available, and what it means to be exposed to Cesium-137.

■ **Pennsylvania's Right to Reputation in the Age of Algorithms**

By: Chase Boss, Senior Editor

Article I, Section 1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution guarantees not just life, liberty, and property, but also the individual's right to reputation. Pennsylvania courts have recognized this unique fundamental right, although it is often overlooked, except for the occasional judicial review. Like other constitutional protections, this right cannot be impaired without adequate due process. But what happens when reputational harm stems not from an overt government action, but from an algorithmic classification relied on by the government? While today's AI tools are frequently recognized as being innovative, some evolving tools risk unintentionally assigning individuals to damaging reputational categories.

This article will examine the rise of AI categorization by government agencies and its potential, unexplored conflict with Pennsylvanians' right to reputation. Predictive policing platforms, automated license-plate readers, and facial recognition databases have been in use for several years but are rapidly expanding in terms of dataset size, scope, accuracy, and, perhaps most importantly, cross-platform AI analysis. These systems can classify individuals as "high risk," "gang-affiliated," or "suspicious." Such labels may affect criminal exposure, bail determinations, parole proceedings or employment actions—often without the subject's knowledge of this classification. As a result, individuals may be assigned and retain these reputational labels without any due process. If Pennsylvanians enjoy a constitutional right to reputation, then the spread of AI-driven categorization poses a significant constitutional dilemma, distinct from the more common criminal procedure protections found in all states. Can an algorithm that categorizes an individual without due process harm their reputation? If so, how does Pennsylvania's unique constitutional right shape this answer or safeguard its citizens from this type of reputational harm? How Pennsylvania answers these questions may determine the continued application of its constitutional protection in the face of quickly advancing AI.

■ Home at Last: How Egypt's Repatriation Efforts are Bringing Back Looted Artifacts

By: Delaney Szekely, Senior Editor

Interest in Egypt and its treasures has a long-documented history dating back to the Roman empire. When British archeologists uncovered King Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922, Egypt's rich history and culture once again captivated audiences. Unfortunately, such international interest resulted in looting and theft of Egyptian cultural patrimony in antiquity as well as in the modern era. Throughout time, looters have taken advantage of periods of political unrest in Egypt to steal ancient artifacts.

Although there are legal protections in place to return stolen and looted artifacts, cultural patrimony taken during colonization efforts lacks legal protections ensuring their repatriation. Recently, the Egyptian government has called for the repatriation of its cultural objects. While the government's efforts have succeeded in bringing back many significant artifacts, much of Egypt's rich cultural heritage remains housed in foreign museums. Repatriation raises questions of ownership and how ownership interest changes over time. However, most significantly, Egypt requests the repatriation of objects that were never someone else's to give away. Egypt's efforts to obtain their stolen cultural objects brought awareness to the legal shortcomings faced by colonized countries. As perspectives shift about repatriation, the documented success of the Egyptian government displays that with persistence and collaboration with other nations, cultural patrimony can return home, but the legal framework needs to be strengthened to ensure objects of cultural significance taken during colonial periods can be returned too.

■ When Telemedicine Goes Too Far

By: Zoe Morse, Junior Editor

One of the new weight loss trends being advertised through media is unofficial versions of prescriptions, including weight loss drugs. These medications can be purchased through online platforms, such as Hims & Hers and Roman, with medications being delivered through the mail to customers. The Food and Drug Administration has issued warning to the company to remove of its promotional statements that its products contain the same ingredients as FDA-approved drugs such as Wegovy and Ozempic. Hims and Romans have each stated that their doctors are required to provide the same standard of care as they do when seeing patients in person. This is the first time the FDA is attempting to control these online platforms for purchasing prescribed medications. Customized production of medication is permitted by the FDA when there is a shortage of the official versions of FDA-approved medications. However, the practice is still permitted when a prescription is customized for the patient, creating a loophole for the platforms.

■ A Right to Be Forgotten: The European Union vs. the United States

By: David Quinn, Junior Editor

The widespread gathering of personal information that has come with the digitation of daily life has led to increased privacy concerns and thereby increased calls for government action to protect average people. The European Union (EU) has led the way in providing these protections with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Among the rights outlined in the GDPR includes the right-to-be-forgotten, allowing EU citizens to request that companies delete records of their personal data and remove the ability for it to be accessed online. By leading the way, the EU has been able to influence global internet regulation; however, the right-to-be-forgotten as understood in EU law stands against key American assumptions on freedom of speech. Many Americans take great pride in the First Amendment protections of freedom of speech that allow them to engage in a wide breadth of expression, and American courts have traditionally valued freedom of speech over privacy concerns in ways that conflict with the GDPR. Such factors make the adoption of a right-to-be-forgotten in the United States a difficult prospect.



Duquesne University
Thomas R. Kline School of Law
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 390
Pittsburgh, PA

TOGETHER, WE RISE: DAY OF GIVING – FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Last year, led by our extraordinary Duquesne Kline Advisory Board, the Duquesne Kline School of Law community demonstrated the true strength of our community. Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends united to support our vision, and the results were inspiring. Thanks to your generosity, we deepened our commitment to ethical leadership and brought new excellence to our academic program with additional course offerings and faculty expertise in areas such as the ethical use of AI. Your support allowed us to expand our flexible evening division, reaching more students, and to share our story of bar passage and employment success more widely. Because of you, more prospective students have discovered what makes this community special.

Since our founding by the Spiritan Order in 1911, Duquesne Kline has pursued a clear mission: to educate lawyers in the ethical practice of law and to preserve the highest ideals of our profession. As we approach our 115th year, that mission remains as vital as ever.

This year, we invite you to once again be part of something powerful.

On February 11, 2026, join us for the **Day of Giving** and help shape the future of legal education. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. Your support fuels the dreams of our students and empowers the next generation of advocates, changemakers, and leaders.

Let's build on the momentum. Let's continue the legacy. Let's rise, together.

Give. Inspire. Impact.

Additional information will be shared soon so keep an eye out! If you have any questions about how you can help to make an impact for Day of Giving 2026, please reach out to Janice Devine, assistant dean for advancement, at devinej6@duq.edu or 412.396.4703. ■