

# SALUS POPULI

— THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY —  
— SPRING 2023 —

We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

## Article 1

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be a Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and until such Enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York nine, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When Vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies. The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers, and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years, and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided into three equal Clauses, in each of which one shall be chosen in the first Year, one in the second Year, and one in the third Year; and the Clauses shall be chosen in the same Manner, and at the same Time, as the Representatives, so that one third may be chosen every second Year, and until the next Enumeration, the Clauses of the Senate of any State shall be chosen in the same Manner as the Representatives of that State, and until the next Enumeration, the Clauses of the Senate of any State shall be chosen in the same Manner as the Representatives of that State.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who, when elected, shall not be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, and shall have no Vote, unless he be also a Senator; and in such Case, shall exercise the Office of the President of the Senate.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments, when called on to do so by the House of Representatives; and no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

When the Senate is trying an Impeachment, the Chief Justice of the United States shall preside, unless he be one of the accused, in which Case the Vice President shall preside.

## A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

## Career Services Office Prepares Students for What's Next



## Dear Friends,

We set our expectations high at our Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University and we exceed them. As we went to print for this magazine, we learned of our 2023–2024 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of #89 out of 196 law schools. This placement moves Duquesne Kline up 40 spots to a top-100 law school and recognizes us for our excellent bar passage and employment rates.

We are in the midst of undeniable progress by every measure, building on our distinct Spiritan Mission, the unparalleled commitment of our faculty and staff, and the hard work of our outstanding students and alumni.

*The Princeton Review* 2023 law school ratings once again named our Career Services Office one of the best. Based on an analysis of the published data, our Duquesne Kline Career Services Office placed #27 out of 168 law schools. On page 10, you will read about that truly exceptional resource, led by Assistant Dean Maria Comas, who is always finding creative ways to coach our students and connect them to alumni and employers. The Career Services Office team works to match our students' aspirations with excellent legal opportunities, many provided by our alumni community.

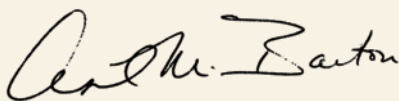
We also continue to develop our shared vision and connect our students to cross-disciplinary learning experiences. We are teaching our students about emerging intersections of coding, big data, and legal analysis through a Coding for Lawyers course developed by Professor Wes Oliver, along with adjunct Morgan Gray (page 14). The course is one of only three taught nationally at law schools, and inspired rising 3L student, Natasha Patel, to compete at the Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE) Innovators Invitational at Brooklyn Law School and come home with first place!

Our students continue to impress us. They admirably pursue academic endeavors with success, such as our evening students, Samantha Thompson (page 32), recipient of the prestigious Brown Award for Excellence in Legal Writing, and Victoria (Tori) Maatta (page 29), who used her archaeological background and knowledge to publish her first legal piece.

Thomas R. Kline, L'78, continues his profound generosity and has agreed to make an additional significant gift to fund a dramatic new façade and front entrance (page 38) to our building. We are thrilled to have a new look to our law school for an exciting new era.

You, our alumni, are champions of our School. I am forever grateful to you for your support throughout this year. Thank you for being our perpetual guiding force as we continue our upward rise. ■

*With appreciation and gratitude,*



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



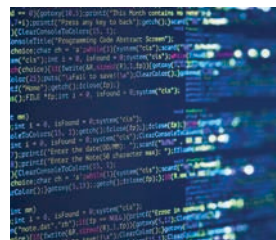
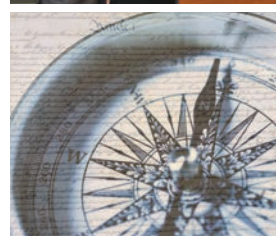
**“We are in the midst of undeniable progress by every measure, building on our distinct Spiritan Mission, the unparalleled commitment of our faculty and staff, and the hard work of our outstanding students and alumni.”**



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OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

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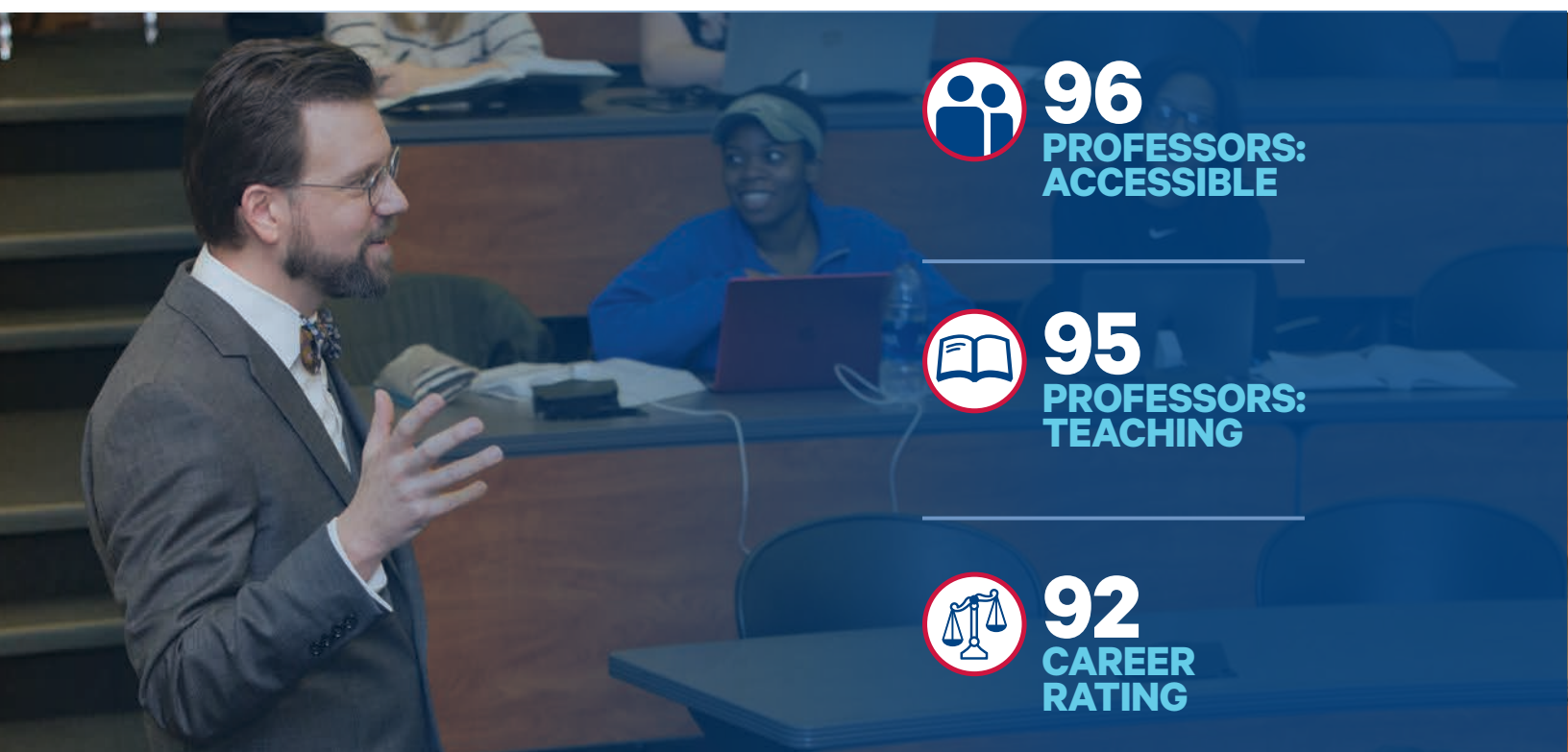
# Law School Receives High Marks in ‘Career’ and ‘Professors’ in 2023 Princeton Review Ratings

The Princeton Review released its 2023 Law School ratings, with the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University once again performing exceptionally well.

The ratings are based on a scale from 60 to 99, with 99 being the highest possible score. The faculty at Duquesne Kline School of Law were recognized and highly regarded for both their accessibility and their teaching. A score of 96 was achieved for the “Professors Accessible” category and a score of 95 was achieved for the “Professors Teaching” category. A score

of 92 was achieved for “Career,” which is a measure of “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.”

In an analysis of the rankings by *TaxProf Blog*, out of 168 participating law schools, Duquesne Kline School of Law was rated No. 27 for Career, No. 36 for Professors (Teaching and Accessibility) and No. 63 overall. ■



 **96**  
**PROFESSORS:  
ACCESSIBLE**

 **95**  
**PROFESSORS:  
TEACHING**

 **92**  
**CAREER  
RATING**

## Welcome Dr. Allison Saras

Allison Saras, Ph.D., was named the new Assistant Dean for Advancement of Duquesne University and the Duquesne Kline School of Law.

Dr. Saras joins with vast experience; most recently she served as the Chief Philanthropy Officer at Shady Side Academy and previously held development roles at Pitt Law and Villanova Widger Law.





## Pa. Justice Administers Bar Oath to Duquesne Kline School of Law Grads

“There are Duquesne Kline Law alumni who populate Pennsylvania, this region and other jurisdictions, and they are there to assist you as you go forward. It’s a tradition for Duquesne Kline lawyers to help other Duquesne Kline lawyers.”

—PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT  
JUSTICE CHRISTINE DONOHUE

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University hosted a swearing-in ceremony Nov. 15 for alumni who recently passed the Uniform Bar Exam.

Dean April Barton, Assistant Professor of Law and Bar Studies Director Ashley London and University President Ken Gormley each gave remarks, acknowledging the graduates’ commitment and hard work and congratulating them on their success.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Christine Donohue, L’80, administered the oath of admission to the Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in front of the new attorneys’ friends, families and guests.

In her remarks, Donohue advised the new attorneys to take the time to ask for assistance and advice from other attorneys.

“That, too, is the tradition of the legal profession—we reach out to others, and we help others along,” said Donohue. “We don’t let each other struggle.

“There are Duquesne Kline Law alumni who populate Pennsylvania, this region and other jurisdictions, and they are there to assist you as you go forward,” Donohue said. “It’s a tradition for Duquesne Kline lawyers to help other Duquesne Kline lawyers.”

Graduates of the Duquesne Kline School of Law achieved a notable 82.3% first-time taker pass rate on the July 2022 Pennsylvania bar exam, which marked the first administration of the Uniform Bar Exam by the commonwealth. For the seventh consecutive year, Duquesne’s first-time bar passage rate exceeded the state’s average first-time passage rate of 75.16% and the state’s overall passage rate of 67.65%. ■

# Appellate Moot Court Board Named Regional Champions

The Appellate Moot Court Board sent two teams to compete in the prestigious ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition—Philadelphia regional Feb. 16–18. Thirty-one teams from across the country competed at the competition, with the two Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University teams performing exceptionally well.

After arguing on and off brief five times, Duquesne Kline School of Law’s team of Falco Muscante II, 3L, Daniel Smolsky, 3L, and Aubri Swank, 3L, advanced to the final round where they beat a strong team from Marquette Law in a unanimous decision and emerged as regional champions. This Duquesne Kline School of Law team is one of four teams from the Philadelphia regional who will advance to the national championship, which will be held in Washington, D.C.,



The first-place team (left to right): Falco Muscante II, 3L, Aubri Swank, 3L, and Daniel Smolsky, 3L. They are alongside Jennifer Murray, 2L, Andrew Lawrence, 2L, Erin Karnsman, and Morgan Null, 2L.

April 14–15. In addition, out of more than 90 advocates at the competition, Daniel Smolsky was named the No. 1 Best Advocate in the competition.

The other Duquesne Kline School of Law team, consisting of Andrew Lawrence, 2L, Jennifer Murray, 2L, and Morgan Null, 2L, had three impressive rounds of competition (which included beating a well-prepared team from

Drexel Kline) but narrowly failed to advance to the round of 16.

Both teams were coached by Professor Erin Karnsman, who directs the Appellate Moot Court Board and is also the director of the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education. Congratulations to all our participants and good luck to our advancing team! ■

## Trial Advocacy Teams Prove to be Competitive

By Pete Giglione, L'02

Our Trial Advocacy Program was hard at work this spring. Our team of Abbey Carey, River Icenhour, Tori Smith and Evan Hannan swept all preliminary rounds at the American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition, defeating Ohio Northern, Cleveland and Case Western. In the semi-finals, they narrowly lost to Michigan. Our team of Jesse Marra, Emily Buchman, Amanda McCaulley and Corrine Chaplin also competed well, but did not advance. Our teams were coached by Taylor Corn, Anthony Hassey and Autumn Pividori-Kitson.

Garrett Trettel, Dominic Hite and Alex Stephenson competed at the Academy of Trial Lawyers Mock Trial Competition in Pittsburgh, Pa. Unlike most mock trial competitions, the academy competition involves a real civil lawsuit, and is tried before a federal judge. Our team had the pleasure of appearing before the Hon. Patricia Dodge. Our team was coached by Ryan Naumann and Annette Dohanics.

We also sent two teams to the Texas Young Lawyers’ National Trial Competition regional round in Philadelphia, Pa. Abigail Hudock, Emma Betz and Elizabeth Vogt, and Nicole Lopez,



The South Texas team.

Stefan Hoffmann and Chantal Naum tried the case multiple times in mid-February against other law schools from the northeastern United States. Claire Neigberg, Rita Murphy, Trent Troxell and Josef Raszewski served as witnesses. Our teams were coached by Bob Daley, Kirstin Kennedy and David Martin.

Ben Fisher, Liz Wortman, Kyle Rogers, Regan Murphy and Melissa Zentz competed at the South Texas Challenge, a prestigious national mock trial invitational in Houston, Texas. Our team was coached by Shreya Desai, Matthew Newman and Emily Sanchez-Parodi. As of the deadline for this publication, ballot results were not yet available. ■





## Local High School Students Attend Future Voices of the People Event

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Nearly 80 local high school students gathered on the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University campus March 24 for the second annual Future Voices of the People event. High school students participated in sessions and activities to experience a day in the life of law students.

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Future Voices of the People grew since 2022's inaugural event, which hosted about 60 students. Districts and schools attending this year's event included Aliquippa, Oakland Catholic High School, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Propel Braddock Hills, Urban Pathways and Woodland Hills.

Duquesne Kline School of Law students assisted the high school students, and notable Duquesne Kline alumni talked about their careers, including retired Justice Cynthia Baldwin, L'80, and Judge Dwayne Woodruff, L'88, who answered students' questions.

The schedule for the daylong event was packed. Students visited our courtrooms, attended mock classes and participated in a panel that included professors and staff and alumni attorneys from FoxChase Advisors LLC and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Pittsburgh Branch.

Duquesne Kline School of Law Dean April Barton told the students, "Lawyers can change history; lawyers literally have the ability to improve the human condition. Our hope is that we inspired a future generation of change agents today and that all of you consider a career in law, because we want you to be our future voices." ■

# A Foundation for the Future

## Career Services Office Prepares Students for What's Next

By Amanda S. Drumm

*We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

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*No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.*

*Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a certain Term, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and until such Enumeration shall be made, the States originally entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, New York five, New Jersey four, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina three, and Georgia three.*

*When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Electors in that State shall chuse in lieu of the Person so vacated another Person of the same Order as that in which the Vacancy happened.*

*Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature of the State for which they represent, and each Senator shall have one Vote.*

*Immediately after they shall be assembled in Congress, one of the first Officers shall be chosen equally with the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated in the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year, and if Vacancies happen by Death, Resignation or Inability of any State, the Electors in that State shall chuse in lieu of the Person so vacated another Person of the same Order as that in which the Vacancy happened.*

*No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been seven Years a Citizen, and not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.*

*The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless he be originally chuse a Senator.*

*The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall be disabled, and when the Office of Vice President shall become vacant, they shall chuse a President pro tempore, who shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. The Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.*

When studying in law school, it can be easy only to focus on the present because there are plenty of pressing matters that need attention. From reading to studying to writing papers to taking exams, the days can feel long and daunting. And thinking about what will transpire after law school can seem far away, and even dismissible to another day. But building a foundation for the future and preparing for what is next after graduation is the mission of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's Career Services Office (CSO). Students who engage with CSO find themselves recipients of advice and connections, building firm foundations for their careers.

From the moment students step onto the bluff, they have the dynamic, diverse CSO at their disposal. Headed by Maria Comas, L'00, assistant dean of career services, who has been leading it for 13 years, the attention and advice are tailored to each unique person from day one.

"We really work individually with students from the first semester on to help them achieve their career goals. We strive to provide each student with a solid job search strategy, but the details of each may be a bit different depending on a student's practice area interest or where they ultimately want to work. We take a lot of pride in knowing our students, knowing their interests and helping them in every way we can," she said.

Career counseling, although not mandatory, begins in the fall semester of the 1L or 1E year and continues with students as their studies progress. "We talk about overall career goals and the conversation continues throughout law school as it needs to," Comas said.

Career goals are only one aspect of the vast services the CSO offers. Comas, along with administrative assistant Marlene Dimoff and the recently added assistant director, Becca Edmiston, L'18, plan



Maria Comas reviews a resume with Keenan Carlin, 2L.

**“ PART OF WHO WE ARE IS HOW WE HELP EACH OTHER.**

professional development and skill-building programs throughout the year, including mock interviews and resume assistance. They connect students with the more than 8,500 Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni and members of the legal community. They do all this while being an open-minded sounding board to law students, offering advice, guidance and professional acumen.

"The sign on my door says, 'Come as you are.' That's intentional; it is there to remind students we are here to help, no matter grades, background or interests—it doesn't make a difference in our willingness to help them. There's no judgment here," Comas said.

#### **CREATING CONNECTIONS**

David McPeak, a fourth-year evening student, decided to attend law school after being in a different career halfway across the country for more than a decade. He has found solace in the advice of the CSO and the levity Comas brings.



Maria Comas speaks to students as part of a PLDIC panel about the importance of mentoring and networking.

“Having someone in that position that you can be very candid with is very important. You don’t have to worry about sounding dumb or being self-conscious about information you don’t know or don’t have yet,” he said.

McPeak utilized the help of the CSO from his first year at Duquesne Kline School of Law. “It started with my resume. I was coming from a different background and was never in the legal field before. I was helped with what kind of resume people would respond to and what was important to mention. It has also been good to have that sounding board and knowledge—what you need to show legal employers and in a way that will really stand out to them. It’s been such a good resource to have; you can’t pay for that kind of level of attention and detail,” he said.

Being from outside of the area, McPeak found the CSO crucial to making connections. “I came to Pittsburgh for my American dream. I couldn’t be happier with my experience at Duquesne Kline. Not being from the area, it was really important to be connected to someone in the Pittsburgh legal community, to know what is going on, and good paths to take,” he said.



**“It started with my resume. I was coming from a different background and was never in the legal field before. I was helped with what kind of resume people would respond to and what was important to mention.”**

**—David McPeak**

Prior to his 2023 graduation, McPeak accepted an associate position at Flaherty and O’Hara in Pittsburgh, Pa.

#### **CONFIDENCE IN CAREER PREPARATION**

Besides the preliminary work to prepare students for their legal careers, the CSO has impressive post-graduation statistics to demonstrate the effectiveness of this groundwork. A graduate’s employment status is measured as of March 15, 2023 (about 10 months after graduation) and reported to the American Bar Association (ABA) in early April. As of the time of this

publication, the Class of 2022 was the latest class measured. Of that class, 93.8% (121/129) of the graduates were employed or enrolled in graduate studies. This includes three graduates whose employment start date was deferred beyond March 15, and one graduate who is enrolled in graduate studies. In addition, 87.6% (113/129) of the graduates had full-time and long-term jobs that were classified as either Bar Passage Required or JD Advantage.

The *Princeton Review* released its 2023 law school rankings during the winter of 2023. The ratings are based on a scale from 60 to 99, with 99 being

the highest possible score. Duquesne Kline School of Law achieved a score of 92 for “Career,” which is a measure of “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.” This rating equates to No. 27 out of 168 schools, tying Duquesne Kline School of Law with the University of Florida, Temple and Texas A&M, according to *TaxProf Blog*.

### **BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF CAREERS**

Kristen Petrina, L’22, an associate at Dentons Cohen & Grigsby P.C., sought advice from the CSO during her studies at Duquesne Kline School of Law and has been an advocate for others to do the same because of her positive outcomes from the office’s guidance and resources.

“I was involved in Admitted Students’ Day before I graduated, and I remember Maria did a presentation about Career Services. I immediately told the students not to hesitate to go there and said, I promise you that you will get something from it, and to develop that relationship, it is crucial to what can happen for your career,” she said.

Petrina was an evening student who found Comas and her team accessible and always willing to assist. “I emailed her during the summer, and thought she is probably not working. She responded and told me to come in, I will be here till this time. Honestly, she said she has an open-door policy, and she does. If her door is open and no one is in there, you can talk to her regularly,” she said.

### **ALUMNI ARE ASSETS**

Chloe Clifford, a second-year law student, has utilized CSO often in her first two years. “CSO is very helpful. Maria’s helped with my resume and in applying for jobs. This year I had two job offers and she helped me to properly accept one and turn down the other one. Sometimes a lot of students feel bad because we contact her so many times, but she is amazing and responds to us—sometimes at night or over the weekend. The CSO truly cares,” she said.

This personal attention to students is sometimes an overlooked feature, but one that students recognize and are grateful to have. “One of the things people don’t realize is you compare our CSO to other law schools who have massive career services offices. And our CSO accomplishes so much with just the three of them, literally servicing the entire school,” Petrina said.

That service extends beyond career preparation to other ways the team shows care and concern to Duquesne Kline School of Law students.

“It is always nice stuff, not necessarily career related, like the full spread of snacks, coffee and tea for finals. Many of us are so busy studying, I don’t think we’d take the time to eat if not for that. It was the same during the week of Valentine’s Day; for student appreciation, there were cookies, donuts and different snacks each day. There are usually two or three gluten-free

options, I really appreciated the time to get those options and allergy-friendly ones. It shows how much she cares about students, getting something that everyone can enjoy,” Clifford said.

The staff, especially Comas, are extremely modest about the work they do, and give credit to the Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty and staff who support the office and especially to alumni for their willingness to support students.

“I tell students all the time—and so does Admissions—that our alumni are the students’ biggest champions. When I am at an event or walking downtown to go to a meeting and see one of our graduates, they always ask if there’s anything they can do to help. They have that giving attitude. I appreciate that very much; it makes it easier to tell students that our alumni are here for them. Many have an open door, and the alumni association board of governors interacts with the CSO regularly, too,” Comas said.

### **SERVICE IN SPIRITAN FASHION**

This gift of service is one special to Duquesne Kline School of Law and one that Comas has seen throughout her time as director. “They pay it forward. My first graduating class while working in the CSO was the Class of 2013. I remember a lot of those graduates, and many have given back in some way, as an unofficial mentor to students or being adjunct faculty. They tell me that our law school helped them so much while they were students, and they are happy to help and give back in some way. Part of who we are is how we help each other,” Comas said.

With the people and resources available at Duquesne Kline School of Law, and an impressive record of placement, it is ultimately up to the students to utilize the gem of the CSO office.

“It is the foundation of your career growth: You build the walls; CSO helps you, provides the foundation and puts the studs in places. They develop the foundation, and the rest is up to you,” said Petrina.

What makes all the workshops, interviews and connections worthwhile for the CSO? Comas said, “Getting to know the students. They all come to law school with different backgrounds and have different reasons for being here. I know the challenges they had, their obstacles, what worried them. When I see them walk across the stage at Commencement, I remember the zigs and zags and how they got there to that moment. It is very special for me to know that. I’m proud to see them grow from semester one to graduation and to see them succeed.” ■



Career Services staff (left to right): Marlene Dimoff, Becca Edmiston and Maria Comas.

# (A CODE {FOR} SUCCESS)

Technology is more than a buzzword; it has evolved during the past few decades, interweaving itself in most aspects of our lives, especially in our workplaces. The use of technology and computers now goes far beyond familiarity. Instead, the direction of the future includes a greater appreciation and understanding of how technology works.

By Amanda S. Drumm



**T**echnology evolution was part of the motivation for Professor Wesley Oliver’s inception and development of the Coding for Lawyers course. It gives Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University students a background in the “how” of technology, which in turn has taught them to think about it and the law differently.

The course, developed for students who have no to very little coding knowledge, teaches the Python programming language. The impetus for the class grew from Oliver and adjunct faculty member Morgan Gray, L’19, discovering a way that technology could meet legal demands, but had not yet.

“We realized the need for a device to assist police officers in assessing whether they had adequate suspicion to search a car. We realized with modern computers and big data, such a device was possible,” Oliver said.

Their discussions evolved over time and their interest in the subject matter was piqued.

Gray said, “We were talking about this project, and we were thinking, ‘Is there a way we can quantify this standard of reasonable suspicion within the law?’”

Their burgeoning idea led Oliver and Gray to explore how to understand programming for their research. That in turn directed them to online courses, where they began learning how to code on their own.

“We saw if we wanted to do it ourselves, we would have to learn math, programming and methods. While in law school I started to teach myself. The first thing I started to learn was programming. I knew I needed to know how to program to complete the work; for me programming was a necessity,” Gray said.

Oliver also took classes to gain familiarity with programming.

“We learned it entirely on our own, online. It was not old school, like Abraham Lincoln learning in a cabin, but learning on your own in the modern world. Online learning is extraordinary; we learned how to code and how to become better at it—all online,” he said.

### **A new problem-solving course emerges**

That experience led the duo to understand Python and programming at a higher level. Oliver and Gray saw the legal value in coding and ultimately decided to use their experiences of learning it from scratch to begin teaching a programming course. The two—who co-teach—tailored their current course’s curriculum to legal students who may not have any experience in this field, and who also may be uncomfortable with mathematics.

“I’m trying to provide an on-ramp to programming for students who don’t think they can get it. I’m a lawyer, not a computer scientist. So, I think I may connect with law students trying to learn in a way they may not in a typical computer science class,” said Oliver.

**The class, first taught in the fall 2022 semester, is cutting-edge. Students at Duquesne Kline School of Law who have taken the course are among an elite group of students in law schools.**

The class, first taught in the fall 2022 semester, is cutting-edge. Students at Duquesne Kline School of Law who have taken the course are among an elite group of students in law schools; there are only two other law schools nationally where a similar course is taught.

Kaitlyn Reed, 2L, who always thought she was decent at using computers, was not sure if she would like the class. She decided to enroll, though, because she thought there would be a lot of knowledge to gain from it.

“I had no computer programming background, but I took it because I know how technology is progressing in ways that can help the legal field. I was just curious about how they can intersect in a way. I wanted to see if I would like it. I ended up hating it at first and then it clicked, and I really enjoyed the class,” she said.

Joseph Pisano, 2L, also understood the impact technology is having on the world. Oliver taught him in a class before and he liked Oliver’s teaching style. So, when he heard about the new coding course, he thought he would try it to learn more about technology and the law working together.

“It is about how technology is impacting professional fields. The point of this sort of class in my opinion is to explain to a lawyer how to do all of this in professional life. If the goal was for us to learn to do these things at expert level, we are in the wrong graduate program. Instead, it is to see how we experience these things in our daily lives and be able to understand it,” he said.

Gray recognizes the significance of this skillset. He said, “We think it is a valuable skill and it helped us. When we wrote the curriculum, we wanted to be able to teach lawyers how to do this in a way that inspired their ability to do it. Solving problems using programming has been powerful in our research. I want to pass that knowledge on.”

The class, going beyond complicated mathematics and delving more into problem solving, keeps the technology novice at the center of the studies. “It was a true starting point. Lawyers have been programmed to think we shouldn’t like math. But lawyers who understand how computers work will



Professor Oliver demonstrates material from class to Grace Weichler.



Students presenting their project in class.



be able to develop ways to understand the law, interface with clients, and perform routine office and information management tasks,” Oliver said.

Kate Norton, director of clinical and international programs and assistant professor of law, agrees. “We all say we are terrible at math. I think students forget they once weren’t. You don’t think of a problem one way. Every issue that comes in, there are components that fit together to give you the best solutions for your clients,” she said.

### Real World Legal Implications

A general disdain for math should not factor into taking the course—as it is more problem solving, a skill lawyers abundantly use. The benefits of the class have already revealed themselves in real-world legal situations. Norton personally has seen the benefits in her law clinics from students who have taken the course.

“I have about a handful of students who took Wes’ coding class who are in my Family Law Clinic. When a legal problem comes in, they synthesize the issue very quickly and get to a solution. It is about how you solve problems and the ways to think more creatively to practice law,” she said.

In addition to enhanced problem-solving skills, students who took the introductory course also have improved their composition skills.

“Their writing has improved. Our style of writing motions is very succinct; there is only a five-minute argument after the judge reads it, and oral advocacy skills need to be tight. It is much more than you are going chronological the issue. You have the building block, now what do you want? They are more confident in that process,” Norton said.

The reality of the world is that it will not move backward in time regarding technology. Those who embrace it and understand it as a helpful tool for their workplaces are above the curve.

“Technology’s becoming something more than a hobby, and it’s not going anywhere. A lot of people do not have a conceptual understanding of machine learning or artificial intelligence (AI). They talk about it, but don’t understand how it works. This beginner’s level or introductory course to the topic gives you a leg up over others,” said Pisano.

Reed agreed. She said, “What I took from it is that technology can help make the legal field more efficient, which sometimes it isn’t always. It can help to make lawyers’ lives easier, with research, going through documents, pulling things out. Without it you must manually sift through papers, but technology adds progress to how lawyers do work to make things more efficient.”

“

“WE THINK IT IS A VALUABLE SKILL AND IT HELPED US. WHEN WE WROTE THE CURRICULUM, WE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO TEACH LAWYERS HOW TO DO THIS IN A WAY THAT INSPIRED THEIR ABILITY TO DO IT. SOLVING PROBLEMS USING PROGRAMMING HAS BEEN POWERFUL IN OUR RESEARCH. I WANT TO PASS THAT KNOWLEDGE ON.”

—Morgan Gray



### Horizon-Expanding Research

The reason Oliver and Gray initially investigated programming—the need for a device to assist police officers in assessing whether they had adequate suspicion to search a car—is now an almost complete paper written by the two.

“It is coming out for consideration on the policing project. We are writing the final part. We wrote the entire thing from start to finish on law review. We translated all the statistics to real people speak,” Oliver said.

The two are hoping to present their findings and work at upcoming conferences. As for the course, it earned the 2022–2023 Duquesne University Creative Teaching Award in April. Gray, who is now pursuing his Ph.D. in intelligence systems programming, is hopeful to open this world to more lawyers someday.

He said, “I think it’s very clear that technology, especially AI, is in our respective careers of medicine, law and finance. Cars now drive themselves; it is everywhere. In teaching programming to lawyers, if they decide they want to implement a method, they will know how to program it. Maybe they will represent someone in a patent infringement case and can see it from the side using the skill of how to do something.”

Oliver is grateful to have opened his world to coding and is eager to pass his knowledge along to others. He said, “I initially thought I was too old and did not have enough background and training in this. Then I realized I can do it; I can teach this stuff. It is the most fun class I ever taught in my entire career. I hope more people see its value.” ■

# Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education Updates

## HOURS OF LEGAL SERVICE BY STUDENTS

(May 2021-May 2022)

**14,409+**

Hours of legal service to the public through the law clinic

**6,692+**

Hours of legal service to the public through student externships

**1,213+**

Hours of legal service to the public through pro bono programs

### Family Law Clinic

Students in the Family Law Clinic had a busy first semester in fall 2022; they assisted more than 60 clients with a wide variety of family law matters. Students had the opportunity to step into the courtroom for the first time, under the supervision of Professor Kate Norton, and zealously advocate on their clients' behalf. This spring our students are reaching even further into the community and assisting qualifying low-income clients in person at the Allegheny County Family Law Courthouse on Wednesdays and Fridays. This is our first semester officially back in person at the courthouse, offering students an entirely new set of client intake and interview skills. Students are expanding the scope of their services to now help with appeals for qualifying clients.

### Federal Litigation Clinic

In the fall 2022 semester, Judge Maureen Kelly, L'87, appointed the Federal Litigation Clinic to represent an inmate in a civil rights action against prison guards and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Guided by knowledgeable and experienced supervising attorneys, Professors Adrian Roe and Sam Simon, the student advocates performed research concerning the constitutionality of the use of pepper spray on unresponsive inmates, became adept at using PACER, and ultimately drafted a complaint on behalf of the inmate. The student advocates look forward to proceeding in federal court where they intend to file a motion for preliminary injunction and argue the merits of the case. ■

### Re-entry Legal Services Clinic

Under the supervisions of Professors Carmen Robinson and Turahn Jenkins, the Re-Entry Legal Services Clinic students prepared approximately 10 pardon applications; assisted two clients with license restoration applications; and filed two pardon cases during the fall 2022 semester. They also worked on moving along two prior clemency applications filed with the State Board of Pardons.

As a courtesy for some older clients without a disposition, they also initiated access and reviews and were able to counsel clients on what charges were made (sealed) automatically by law.

Students also watched a first-degree murder trial from beginning to end and worked on the Governor's Expedited Pardon Project related to low-level marijuana possession. ■



Dean April Barton recognizes veterans, active military members and their families on Veterans Day.

## Veterans Clinic

The Veterans Clinic celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. It participated in the annual Veterans Leadership Program's Stand Down event on Oct. 8, where clinics assisted veterans with legal issues. The clinic also participated in the Veterans Employment Fair at Ross Park Mall in Pittsburgh, Pa., where issues were discussed addressing concerns of veterans with respect to justice involvement impediments in their future endeavors.

Students participated at the Allegheny County Veterans Court graduation Nov. 10, where several of the court's veteran participants were successful in completing the program. The following day some of our students and Professor Daniel Kunz, L'02, supervising attorney for the

Veterans Clinic, attended the Veterans Day Breakfast hosted by Duquesne University.

Also on Nov. 10, the Duquesne Kline School of Law recognized our veterans and those currently serving in the armed forces as well as veteran and military families at a special ceremony in the student lounge. Speakers included Dean April Barton, Judge Michael McCarthy, L'84, and our own Professor Kunz.

Our Veterans Clinic students are currently undergoing training in the Mental Health First Aid program specific to veterans, active military and military families. This year's Veterans Clinic will be the first class to be trained in this specialized mental health program. ■

## Unemployment Compensation Clinic

Since 1997, our award-winning Unemployment Compensation Clinic has served the community with an overall average of 70-80 cases a year, primarily assisting workers who have been denied unemployment benefits mostly on the grounds of willful misconduct, voluntarily quitting their job without a compelling or necessary reason, or refusing a job reassignment or suitable employment. The students in this clinic interviewed clients, researched and prepared their cases, and represented the claimants in evidentiary hearings before the unemployment compensation referees, on appeals to the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review and in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania.

The clinic's services were provided free of charge to eligible clients and dramatically changed the outcome in the claims of a segment of our population that could not otherwise afford to hire an attorney. Likewise, the clinic, during its 25-year history, has helped our law students to learn the value of pro bono service and helped to train literally hundreds of future lawyers in litigation skill sets. At the onset of COVID-19, our



Justin Romano (left) and Michael Simon

students took shifts and staffed statewide "hotlines" to file unemployment claims for those unable to do so, and when the Department of Labor discontinued "in person" hearings because of the pandemic, our students learned to transition to handle telephone hearings.

Our students handled huge upticks in cases due to economic downturns and in the years following the great recession in 2008, sometimes tackling nearly 150 hearings during an academic year for multiple years on end.

The Pennsylvania Bar Association in 2010 in a public ceremony in downtown Pittsburgh gave its Pro Bono Award to the clinic for its work. Likewise, the clinic's students have been repeatedly complimented on their work by the referees

and judges on the Commonwealth Court, not to mention more than 1,000 very grateful clients over the years.

We thank professors Michael Simon, L'80 and Justin Romano, L'09, who were instrumental in this clinic. It is noteworthy that Romano first worked in the clinic as a student, earning one of the Distinction in Clinical Work awards in 2009. The Unemployment Compensation Clinic ended after the fall 2022 semester. ■



## Simon Says Farewell and Receives Award

For 40 years, Michael D. Simon, L'80, has devoted his time and expertise to pro bono work. In 1983, he became one of the first volunteer attorneys in the Juvenile Court system, where he represented children in dependency proceedings. After relocating to Los Angeles in 1985, he continued to volunteer his time at the Asian Pacific Legal Center and weekly walk-in unemployment clinics in Central and West Los Angeles, mentoring local law students. Upon his return to Pittsburgh in 1995, he began volunteering for Neighborhood Legal Services' pro bono program, a relationship that continues to this day.

For 25 years, Simon was an adjunct professor in the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. He also formed the Unemployment Compensation Clinic at the Law School, which handled hearings and appeals to the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review and Commonwealth Court. Prior to the closure of the clinic, Simon had assisted more than 1,000 clients and has since taken over its pending cases while continuing to take referrals from the programs that utilized the clinic.

Simon is a member of Roe & Simon LLC. Outside of work, he has a deep appreciation of Italian culture, and enjoys reading, writing and speaking Italian. He also enjoys cooking and travel and was a scuba divemaster and spear fisherman during his time in Los Angeles.

He was the recent recipient of the Best Pro Bono Advocate Award from the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. He received the award at its 50th anniversary Excellence Awards and Golden Gala Celebration. Congratulations! ■

# Family Law Appellate Pro Bono Program

By: Victoria Bedick, 3L, J.D. Candidate at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Duquesne University



**This program is intended to assist in representing low-income individuals with appeals in certain family law matters, and currently the program assists with child custody appeals in Allegheny County.**

Family law appeals are often demanding and costly matters that require zealous attorneys who are willing to commit extensive time and effort toward the matter. However, this raises the concern as to what is happening to those individuals who may not be able to afford an attorney for such matters. Can they be expected to tackle the strenuous task of filing an appeal on their own?

A new program has been launched in Allegheny County to account for this concern and assist low-income clients with the difficult task of filing appeals: the Family Law Appellate Pro Bono Program. This program is intended to assist in representing low-income individuals with appeals in certain family law matters, and currently the program assists with child custody appeals in Allegheny County. The program is open to individuals who meet certain income qualifications. If clients are interested in filing an appeal and cannot afford an attorney, they must contact the Family Law Clinic at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University at the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education upon their receipt of the final custody Order of Court from the judge to initiate the pre-screening process.

Duquesne Kline School of Law Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Legal Education Kate Norton has worked with Duquesne Kline School of Law Adjunct Professor Morgan Gray, L'19 to develop the code utilized in the pre-screening process that will streamline the process of filing appeals in Allegheny County. The code aids in answering the initial question every client may have: "Is this an appealable matter?" The pre-screening process is based on income and subject matter criteria that will allow for that question to be answered. The pre-screening program was developed due to the support of an American Bar Endowment Opportunity Grant received by professors Norton and Wesley Oliver.

Currently, under the supervision of Norton, Duquesne Kline School of Law students in the Family Law Clinic are conducting the pre-screening process. Clients who call the Tribone Center are assigned to a student attorney who will walk them through the code created by Norton and Gray and determine if they are eligible for the program. Clients accepted into the program are represented by a volunteer attorney who works free of charge. Clients who are not accepted into the program receive letters indicating why. There is no guarantee that the program will find an attorney to take clients' cases, so prospective clients should not forgo efforts to seek other counsel for their appeals.

Duquesne Kline School of Law recognizes the importance of combining legal practice with modern technology and expresses this recognition through the new course Coding for Lawyers. In the course, taught by Duquesne Kline School of Law Professor Wesley Oliver, students learn to code using the Python programming language. The course is designed for those with no background in computer science and is intended to ensure students are able to excel in all areas of the law. Oliver explained, "The reality is that almost no one can afford to be computer illiterate in the 21st century. If nothing else, many lawyers will work with clients whose businesses use, or intersect with, tasks performed entirely by computers. Almost all lawyers will deal with evidence that is stored in an electronic form. Being able to intersect with the world that laws impact already requires some comfort with computers and will require some more." Students in the course were able to transfer what they had learned into the Family Law Appellate Pro Bono Program and were able to assist in its debugging phases and properly walk through the program with potential clients.

Clients who may be eligible for the Family Law Appellate Pro Bono Program can be referred to the Family Law Clinic. ■

# Post-pandemic Resumption of Duquesne Kline School of Law's LL.M. for Foreign Lawyers Program

By Dr. Dorothee Landgraf, LL.M.

“Don’t get stuck in Pittsburgh with an American boyfriend.” That was the advice my parents gave when they said farewell to me 18 years ago, as I prepared to leave my hometown of Cologne, Germany, to participate in the new Master of Laws, or LL.M., program for foreign-trained lawyers at what is now the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. I have to admit, already during my first week at the school, I was not necessarily following my parents’ well-intended advice when I took a seat in class next to a handsome American guy.

I had just finished my law degree at the University of Cologne, a partner University with Duquesne, when I was asked to participate in the new LL.M. program, spearheaded by Dr. Kirk Junker, L’84. Dr. Junker was, at the time a law professor at Duquesne, but now holds the chair in U.S.-American law at the University of Cologne’s Faculty of Law.

Being in a new country, away from family and friends, and communicating in a language that was not my native language, was a challenge, but the Duquesne community was very welcoming and made it easy for me to feel at home. My English improved immediately, assisted by the fact that LL.M. students attend the same classes as law students.

Duquesne’s faculty was always exceptionally friendly and helpful. I had the good fortune to participate in Professor John Murray’s Contracts course, and he, with Dr. Junker, also supervised my master’s thesis. Writing



Dr. Dorothee Landgraf, LL.M.

a master’s thesis as part of the LL.M. program is optional, but since I had planned to write a doctoral dissertation in Germany afterwards, my U.S. research in this area was very helpful; the time spent in the LL.M. program actually shortened my time working on my doctorate. Professor Murray’s and Dr. Junker’s counsel and friendship assisted me well beyond the law, as I am sure anyone who met them will tell you. I found their kindness to be emblematic of the entire Law School faculty.

Since the school is conveniently located within walking distance to federal and state courts, it was an easy commute to my clinic with Allegheny County criminal Judge John Zotolla, who integrated me into his daily activities as a judge and took time to discuss his cases with me.

A final highlight of the program was my participation in the Law School’s commencement ceremony with the J.D. students to receive my LL.M. diploma. And, on top of all of this, I still found time to travel and see many parts of the U.S.

After me, Duquesne’s first LL.M. for Foreign Lawyers graduate, students from China, Croatia, Germany, India, Mexico, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and other countries have participated in the one-year program, which begins each fall and is open exclusively to foreign-trained lawyers. The program had to be paused during the COVID-19 pandemic and is relaunching in fall 2023. Duquesne Kline School of Law is offering both a general track curriculum, for students who are interested in getting a general understanding of the U.S. legal system, and a bar track curriculum, for students who plan to take the bar exam in certain U.S. states.

To gain experience in daily legal practice of U.S. lawyers and U.S. court systems, LL.M. students are encouraged to participate in a variety of internships and clinics offered by the Law School. The program is small and personal, and students enjoy tremendous access to Duquesne Kline School of Law’s professors, whose doors are always open, welcoming questions and discussions—often a stark departure from law students’ experiences elsewhere.

As the new LL.M. program coordinator, I am very excited to provide a new generation of international students the opportunity to make their own memories at Duquesne Kline School of Law.

Oh yeah—what about that handsome American guy from my first week of law school? Well, we have lived with our two children in the Pittsburgh area for over 10 years now, and I am happy to report that my parents have no regrets. ■

# Young Alumni

## PROFILE

## Domenic Pietropaolo, L'17

### Hometown:

Pittsburgh, Pa. (Plum Borough)

### Education:

University of Pittsburgh, B.A.  
Duquesne Kline School of Law, J.D.

### What are you currently reading?

Westlaw. All day, every day.

### Words you live by:

“Suprema populi suprema lex”—“The welfare of the people is the highest of the law.”

These words spoke to me not only as a law student, but also throughout my role as a public defender.

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

I speak Italian. I also minored in Italian language at the University of Pittsburgh.

### Employment:

Sole owner and practitioner of Pietropaolo Law Offices. The practice primarily focuses on criminal defense work, but also handles traffic defense cases and license reinstatements. Most of my cases are state-level trial work, but I sometimes handle the occasional appeal and post-conviction relief petitions as well.

### After working as a public defender, what interested you in opening a solo practice?

Opening my own practice is something that I've wanted to do ever since I first went to law school. My grandfather who came to the United States from Italy had his own construction business before passing away. He was always my inspiration to open my own place someday and when I went to law school, I knew I wanted to start my own practice. It has been a really great experience.

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

I am incredibly grateful for the time that I spent at Duquesne Kline School of Law. At Duquesne Kline, you feel very much a part of a community and a part of something that's important. I'm proud of the fact that I can say I went to Duquesne Kline. The name and reputation of our law school carries a lot of weight with it, especially around the city of Pittsburgh, but also throughout the commonwealth. Duquesne Kline also did a really great job of imparting on us the importance of public service work. Although public work may not be glamorous, Duquesne Kline instilled an emphasis on becoming involved with the public service side of the law because of the difference it makes for people and the community. I was prepared well for public service, and the education I received from Duquesne Kline is a significant reason why public service work is really important to me.

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

Invaluable. The way that Duquesne Kline prepares its graduates is tremendous. The fundamentals instilled in me as a law student played a huge role in my success on the bar exam. When you're coming out of law school, one of the most important things on your mind is taking the bar exam and passing. Because of how well prepared I was from my education at Duquesne Kline, I was ready to take the exam and complete my final step in becoming a lawyer. Duquesne's Bar Studies Program ensures that students are not only prepared but prepared to succeed. The professors at Duquesne Kline do a really great job of making sure that their students are well-equipped with the knowledge necessary to become a successful attorney.

The alumni network at Duquesne Kline School of Law is also phenomenal. Duquesne Kline offers students connections in various ways, and the spirit of the alumni network alone really makes you feel a part of the community. Our law school does a really great job of making sure students have plenty of opportunities to find jobs, and practice in an area of the law that they are passionate about. The alumni at our school are helpful and want to see our students succeed.

### Anything else you'd like to add or share about yourself?

I am always more than happy to help law students and new attorneys find their passion. Professor Mistick and Professor Rago are great mentors to me, and I want to be a mentor for anyone who feels that they may be interested in criminal law or the criminal defense world in general. I am always available as someone for students and attorneys to reach out to, and I believe in keeping with the mission behind our law school—suprema populi suprema lex. I am available as a resource and am always willing to offer my guidance. ■



# ClassActions

## 1976

**Cynthia Maleski**, at the 110th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, received the John Jordan Upchurch Award in honor of her lifelong dedication to community, fraternalism and her exemplary work within FCSLA Life, a fraternal benefit society celebrating its 130th anniversary. She is President/CEO of FCSLA Life National.



## 1977

**George Janocsko**, in September 2022, was nominated and confirmed as Solicitor for Allegheny County, Pa.



## 1980

**Diana Stares**, chief counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, received the 2023 Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Environmental and Energy Law Section Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors contributions made to the section and general efforts that enhance the development, improvement and furtherance of the practice of environmental law that benefit the community or represent outstanding personal achievement.



## 1983

**Michael Foley**, of the Foley Law Firm, spoke at the 2022 summer American Association of Justices (AAJ) conference in Seattle, Wash., in July 2022. Foley lectured as part of the AAJ Stalwarts Committee Program on Presenting Expert Trial Testimony in the Covid-19 age.



## 1984

**Bruce Zero**, was reappointed to the Statewide Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in February 2023.



## 1988

**Gregg Zegarelli** recently published a new philosophy booklet, *The Proseuche (The Prayer of Socrates)*. Zegarelli is Managing Shareholder of Technology & Entrepreneurial Ventures Law Group, PC, and is nationally rated as “superb.” He is author of *One: The Unified Gospel of Jesus*, and *The Business of Aesop™* article series, and co-author with his father, Arnold Zegarelli, of *The Essential Aesop: For Business, Managers, Writers and Professional Speakers*. Zegarelli is also a frequent lecturer, speaker and faculty for a variety of educational and other institutions.



## 1989

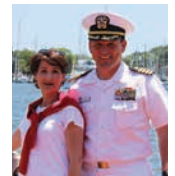
**Terrence Wright** became an Of-Counsel member of the Dornish Law Offices, PC..

**Eric Springer** has been selected as a 2022 C-Suite Awards Winner. The C-Suite Awards from the *Pittsburgh Business Times* honors C-executives who have demonstrated vital leadership and business savvy to guide their companies to success. Springer was nominated by his peers because of his guidance, raw determination, and unshakeable faith in Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. and its people.



## 1993

**Tom Welsh**, after 30 years of service, retired from the Navy in December 2023.



## 1994

**Heidi Stewart** has been named Secretary of Houston Harbaugh, P.C. Stewart concentrates her practice in the area of estate planning and estate and trust administration. Her work in the firm's Estates and Trusts extends to Special Needs planning and Long-Term Care planning, including Elder Law.





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## Stay connected with Duquesne Kline School of Law!

Update your email at [duq.edu/lawalumniupdate](https://duq.edu/lawalumniupdate) or by emailing the Law Alumni office at [lawalumni@duq.edu](mailto:lawalumni@duq.edu).

### John Hartzell, Jr.

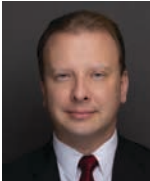
has been named Treasurer of Houston Harbaugh, P.C.. Mr. Hartzell concentrates his practice at Houston Harbaugh in estate planning and estate and trust administration and chairs the firm's Estates and Trusts.



## 2002

### John Egers, Jr.

recently joined Peacock Keller as Of Counsel in the firm's litigation department.



## 2009

### Logan Fisher,

Principal and Co-Chief Financial Officer of Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C., has been included on NJBIZ's list of 2023 Leaders in Finance. This award celebrates New Jersey's financial executives at all levels who contribute to the success of their companies.



## 2014

### Aleksandra

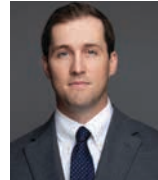
**Kocelko** launched a new firm, BOK Law & Mediation Services, with two partners, including Rachael Clark Bowe, L'16, who is also a Duquesne Kline School of Law graduate.



## 2015

### Brandon Uram

joined Maxim Crane Works, L.P. as Associate General Counsel in August 2022.



## 2019

**Alexander Bell** became a General Litigation Associate at Blank Rome LLP.



## 2020

### Isabella Simon

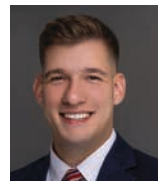
joined Ulmer & Berne LLP as an associate attorney, focusing her practice on the resolution of complex business disputes.



## 2022

### Michael Bethune

recently joined Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspnati, LLP as an associate attorney in the firm's Commercial Litigation department.



### Harrison Zelt

recently joined Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspnati, LLP as an associate attorney in the firm's Litigation and Cybersecurity & Privacy departments.



## In Memoriam

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

|                              |      |                            |      |
|------------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Sylvia A. Bell, Esq.         | 1993 | Carl Marcus, Esq.          | 1974 |
| The Hon. David R. Cashman    | 1971 | The Hon. Bernard Markovitz | 1965 |
| Joseph T. Deyo, Esq.         | 1968 | J. Paul Martha, Esq.       | 1969 |
| Frederick B. Elliott, Esq.   | 1976 | James R. McDonald          | 1969 |
| Charles J. Fonzone, Esq.     | 1972 | John J. Morgan, Esq.       | 1971 |
| John C. Frank, Esq.          | 1983 | J. Kenneth Myers, Esq.     | 1988 |
| Giles J. Gaca, Esq.          | 1963 | Peter Papadakos, Esq.      | 1980 |
| William L. Garvin, Esq.      | 1970 | Howard E. Sandler, Esq.    | 1969 |
| Bruce H. Gelman, Esq.        | 1992 | Leslie H. Squires, Esq.    | 2003 |
| Leonard Anthony Grence, Esq. | 1993 | Richard A. Stoltz, Esq.    | 1973 |
| David L. Gropp, Esq.         | 1966 | Harry F. Swanger, Esq.     | 1967 |
| George L. Hallal, Esq.       | 1965 | William E. Teamann, Esq.   | 1981 |
| William R. Harper, Esq.      | 1975 | David C. Trimmer II, Esq.  | 2006 |
| Robert L. Hurley, Esq.       | 1964 | Ronald C. Weingrad, Esq.   | 1973 |
| Clinton S. Janes, Esq.       | 1960 | Joseph A. Woehrel, Esq.    | 1974 |
| John A. Knorr, Esq.          | 1974 |                            |      |

*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.*

## 1911 Society Fellows Honored

We honored our 1911 Society members and recognized new members at a reception March 13. The 1911 Society Fellows program continues its pledge of excellence by supporting the mission of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University through cumulative financial support of more than \$10,000.

Fellows of the 1911 Society are committed to supporting key initiatives in the Duquesne Kline School of Law. These generous gifts transform our school and the lives of our students.

To learn more about the 1911 Society Fellows program, please contact the Law Alumni Relations Department at [lawalumni@duq.edu](mailto:lawalumni@duq.edu). ■



## Spring Alumni Reception/PILA Live Auction Held

On April 3, the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University hosted its annual Spring Alumni Reception and Public Interest Law Association (PILA) live auction. Proceeds from the auction, along with pledges from our PILA champions, raised approximately \$20,000. Full-time and adjunct faculty also raised enough to fund one fellowship—\$3,000! 100% of all proceeds fund PILA Fellowships, which provide financial assistance to students who volunteer with organizations that provide direct legal services to low-income and underserved clients such as Neighborhood Legal Services, KidsVoice, the Education Law Center, Jewish Family & Children's Services, the Community Justice Project, Regional Housing Legal Services and Laurel Legal Services.

During the evening, the honor of the annual Public Interest Alumni Award was given to Alison Smith, L'95, chief counsel in the Legal Department at PNC Bank. Smith has committed herself to growing pro bono estate planning services across the commonwealth, and has reproduced the program started here at Duquesne Kline School of Law at estate planning clinics across the state. The program pairs volunteer attorneys with law students to offer free legal services to indigent clients. Her work combines mentoring with service, increasing opportunities not only to serve the community but to help instill in students the importance of pro bono service.

Thank you to everyone who attended and special thanks to our auctioneer, Jon Perry, L'91, and to the following PILA Champions, without whom the fellowships would not be possible: Babst Calland; Burns White; Dickie McCamey & Chilcote; Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association; Eckert Seamans; Goodrich & Associates; Goodrich & Geist; Ken and Joan Horoho; JonesPassodelis; K&L Gates; Massa, Butler, Giglione; Meyer Unkovic & Scott; Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti; Rosen & Perry; Quatrini Law Group; QuinnLogue; and Reed Smith. ■



# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

By Jane Moriarty, Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship, Carol Los Mansmann Chair in Faculty Scholarship and Professor of Law

## The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University faculty scholarly program has had a fabulous academic year, hosting fascinating conferences and distinguished speakers.

Faculty were very productive in producing well-placed scholarship, speaking at prestigious conferences in the U.S. and abroad, and producing articles for local and national media.

We kicked off the academic year with interesting presentations by several of our faculty in “The New Supreme Court Cases: Duquesne Kline Law Faculty Explains.” Faculty addressed the 2022 watershed decisions in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, and *Carson v. Maine*, among others. In addition, the speakers provided a preview of major cases to be decided and addressed legal and judicial ethics in a one-hour presentation titled “Promoting Public Confidence in the Court,” discussing the implications of the Court’s recent decisions. The presentation produced several articles to be published in the *Duquesne Law Review’s* winter symposium issue. The popularity and success of the program has encouraged the Law School to make this an annual event.

A scholarly highlight of the fall semester was the John E. and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship event at the Power Center, with hundreds attending a lecture by Harvard Professor Jonathan Zittrain titled “Between Abdication and Suffocation: Three Eras

of Governing Digital Platforms.” This dynamic presentation focused on the complications of regulating digital platforms, highlighting critical issues about free speech, disinformation, conspiracy theories and concerns about violence.

Zittrain is the George Bemis Professor of International Law at Harvard Law School, a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, a professor of computer science at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the co-founder and director of Harvard’s Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society. President Ken Gormley gave introductory remarks to a full house at the Power Center, and presented Zittrain, who hails from Pittsburgh, with the John E. and Liz Murray Excellence in Scholarship Award.

In October, Adrian Van Kaam Endowed Chair in Scholarly Excellence and Professor of Law Bruce Ledewitz co-hosted a conference at the University of Wisconsin Law School with Ashe Family Chair Professor of Law Eric Seagall from the Georgia State University College of Law. This two-day event, titled “On Controlling the Supreme Court Now and ‘Far into the Future’” featured presentations by renowned constitutional law faculty from law schools around the country. Papers from

the conference were published in the highly ranked *Wisconsin Law Review* this year.

In January, several faculty members presented at the Association of American Law Schools in San Diego, the annual conference for law professors from around the country. Duquesne Kline School of Law presenters included Dean April Barton and Professors Wes Oliver, Rona Kauffman, Ashley London, Dana Neacsu, Maryann Herman, Lihn Dai, John Rice and Julie Gilgoff.

In the spring, the Law School hosted a three-hour book event with speaker Daniel Medwed, University Distinguished Professor of Law and Criminal Justice at Northeastern University and author of *Barred: Why the Innocent Cannot Get Out of Prison* (2022). Several Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty also presented at this event, which explored wrongful convictions, exoneration of the innocent and ethical concerns. The event was open to the public, and CLE credits were available for live or online participation.

Finally, in April 2023, the Mon River Law Faculty Colloquium restarted again, with faculty from West Virginia University School of Law joining with the Duquesne Kline School of Law faculty to present their scholarship. ■

## STUDENT BRIEFS

# Excavating Excellence

## An Archaeological, Artful Approach

By Amanda S. Drumm

Anyone who has been on an archaeological dig knows the amount of patience it requires. It is painstakingly slow, careful excavation on crouched knees searching for minute objects. Law school necessitates similar perseverance, as does becoming published in a law journal. Victoria (Tori) Maatta, a fourth-year evening student, has a background in these complexities. She has used that fortitude to author her first published piece, *ISIL as Salesmen? The Roles of Due Diligence and the Good Faith Purchaser in Their Illicit Artifact Trafficking in the Georgetown Law School Journal of National Security Law and Policy*.

Richard Gaffney, an associate professor at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, has taught Maatta, and through her diligent work, she has become a teaching assistant in his Sales Law class. She was inspired to write her paper when she was a student in that class and she learned about a case that involved the famous painting *Red Elvis* by Andy Warhol. Gaffney explained the case concerned the Uniform Commercial Code's entrustment doctrine, where the entrusting party grants a person who deals in goods of the kind the power to convey good title to a Buyer in the Ordinary Course (BIOC).

The case piqued Maatta's interest. She always wanted her work to be published and entered this journey the way she started law school: open-minded and unflappable. "I told Professor Gaffney my goal is to be published, whether something like this or a children's story. I just wanted to do something to contribute, and he supported that," she said.

The case fascinated her, and with her background in archaeology, her mind wrapped around documentary evidence. She brought her idea for a paper to him. "He was my supervisor for my directive research, and I took him for Sales and Federal Income Tax (classes). I liked his classes and directive research, sales and art law go hand in hand. With a focus on terrorist studies, it further incorporated my interest in the whole thing. I wouldn't have been able to do this without his help," she said.

Maatta wrote her paper and Gaffney gladly assisted in her quest to have it published. "I knew she could accomplish anything she decided to pursue. She discusses complex legal issues in detail, presents arguments confidently and

persuasively, and has demonstrated a high degree of tenacity and professionalism in my classes, working through every problem in detail until she had mastered the issues and answers," he said.

Gaffney enlisted Dana Neacsu, director of the Duquesne Center for Legal Information and the Allegheny County Law Library and associate professor of legal research, who aided with the publication process.

They searched a national database and uploaded the manuscript Maatta had written. Then came the waiting, much like the monotony coupled with anticipation archaeologists feel during a dig.

Maatta, who received her undergraduate degree in archaeology/art history and minored in religious studies and global studies, knows about patience. She went abroad during college to participate in several digs, visiting Egypt in 2015, and later Scotland and Jordan.

"That work was a lot of waiting. You had to have a good eye and document as you are scraping along," Maatta said.

As with her archaeological work, Maatta was meticulous in writing her material and conscientious in her approach to submitting her work for possible publishing. Much like an excavation, there is personal deliberation—if you will find something or if someone will find your work noteworthy enough for inclusion in a journal.

"I was excited about the article. I think it's a cool topic and I hoped others would think it is a cool topic. I hoped they would think it is an important one, too," she said.

After a small wait, the respected *Georgetown Law School Journal of National Security Law and Policy* published her



Victoria (Tori) Maatta

article in December 2022.

In addition to meeting her bigger goals with her publication and being enrolled in the evening program, Maatta has been working a variety of full-time jobs since she started law school, from medical insurance to law clerking and as a paralegal. When she first heard her paper was accepted for publication, she was thrilled.

“I was so excited. I cannot tell you how long I have been wanting to put something out there,” Maatta said.

Gaffney additionally was ecstatic for her. “The publication is a significant accomplishment for a current law student. As well, it makes a major contribution to the area of art law,” he said.

She credits the opportunity for publication to the Duquesne Kline School of Law for having an evening program that empowers working adults because it gives them the chance to pursue law without a huge disruption to their lives.

“I like that there is an evening program. It has afforded my peers and me the opportunity to go to law school. If not for the evening programs, we would have had to quit our jobs. I’m glad I didn’t have to quit. We are one of a handful of schools in

the nation that offer an evening program. It enables us to take our experience to employers and say, ‘Look what I did.’ The fact that we have an evening program is great,” Maatta said.

She is likewise a strong proponent of the alumni at Duquesne Kline School of Law, too. She is an evening program legacy, as her father, Timothy Maatta, graduated from the program in 1980. She appreciates the robust alumni system she has encountered—not only from him but from the many alumni she has met along her legal education journey.

“It (the school) offers a strong network of support. The alumni are amazing; evening student alumni are the coolest people. They will literally drop anything for you and will do anything they can do to help. I truly believe that. Lawyers are special in that way; they are willing to help and are big on paying it forward,” Maatta said.

As for her future, she is weighing her post-graduation options and has not ruled out delving further into the art world and meshing it with her law degree. If not, Maatta explains there is a large world out there for her to explore where she can continue to add to her knowledge. ■

## Letter Demonstrates Equity and Opportunity Begin At Home

Three Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University students were featured in the recent edition of *Pennsylvania Bar News*. The article about the trio’s work appeared on the top front page of the publication. It described the brave, important letter these students coauthored in favor of adopting 8.4(g) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Claudia Ripepi, 3L, Gregory Thomas, 3L, and Grace Weichler, 2L, collaborated on this initiative. They sent their letter to the Disciplinary Board and the Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The letter was in support to adopting the Proposed Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(g) and amendments to Rule 105 of the Pennsylvania Rules for Continuing Legal Education and Section 3 of the Regulations for Continuing Legal Education.

Ripepi, Thomas and Weichler were motivated by their Duquesne Kline

School of Law Professional Responsibility (PR) course taught by Ashley M. London, director of bar studies and assistant professor of law. In that class, they learned about Rule 8.4(g), defined as misconduct for a lawyer to “engage in harassment or discrimination based on race, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status or socio-economic status in conduct related to the practice of law.” Additionally, they talked about the law at the national and state levels. Their discovery of the difficulty in adopting it in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was the impetus for their work.

“Professor London brought up the topic in class, and Greg, Grace and I jumped on the opportunity to use our voices to try to effectuate change. We all



worked together the entire time on every aspect of the letter,” said Ripepi.

The three were taken aback that in the respected profession of law, this rule is not on the books in Pennsylvania.

“To me, the idea behind the letter was to drum up discussion and get people to think critically about where we as a profession may be falling short,” Thomas said.

A belief of Duquesne University is equity and opportunity begin at home.

This letter was a clear integration of that notion. “Implementing a rule of professional conduct like 8.4(g) would certainly aid in creating opportunities and environments in the legal profession that would be more conducive to the inclusion of individuals from all walks of life,” Weichler said.

For the group, part of the importance of the letter is it directly relates to their chosen profession. “Writing this letter was important to me because before I am a (soon-to-be) lawyer, I am an advocate. The practice of law is all about advocacy and advocating for change, so it only seemed right to advocate for a legal field that is not riddled with discrimination and hatred. 8.4(g) is not an extreme

rule that would bar *all* discrimination; simply, it would ban lawyers from using discriminatory language and actions in the practice of law,” Ripepi said.

Thomas originally thought the rule was unnecessary, but upon more thought changed his mind. “I thought the profession could police itself and weed out ‘bad actors.’ But upon further class discussion, I realized two important things: There are no real remedies for individuals who suffer from discrimination within our profession, and perhaps most importantly, allowing discrimination to continue without consequences drives certain people away from our profession and undermines its credibility and the rule of law as a

whole,” he said.

The three authors of this letter aspire to continue being advocates and pursuing justice as their careers progress.

“My advocacy will continue to be the driving force behind pursuing a career in the legal field. We must, as lawyers, advocate for what is just and fair, even if it makes us uncomfortable or is unpopular,” said Ripepi.

Weichler agreed. “Moving forward, I plan on focusing my studies and activities towards legal issues that are attempting to create a more equitable society, legal or otherwise,” she said. ■

## Dickie McCamey and Duquesne Kline School of Law Reveal Scholarship Recipient

Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote and the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University have named Roshni Master as this year’s recipient of the Trial Skills Diversity Scholarship, the firm announced. Master, a second year Juris Doctor candidate, was chosen by a committee of members from the University and the law firm.

“I am excited for the unique opportunities the award presents, and I am grateful to Duquesne Law and to Dickie McCamey for their commitment to diversity and inclusion,” Master said.

The Dickie McCamey Trial Skills Diversity Scholarship benefits diverse Law School students who demonstrate an interest in the trial moot court program. Recipients are awarded a one-time grant of \$10,000, a paid summer clerkship and access to a designated mentor from Dickie McCamey for the student’s career at Duquesne University.

“We are pleased to provide an opportunity to Roshni to help facilitate her already promising legal career,” said Christopher T. Lee, managing attorney of Dickie McCamey. “We are honored to recognize Roshni’s pursuit of academic excellence and for her to join our team.”

“I am proud of Roshni for receiving the Dickie McCamey



Roshni Master

scholarship. Roshni embodies the spirit of a Duquesne Kline student—always seeking justice—and is a shining example of hard work and determination. I am grateful to Dickie McCamey for this generous scholarship and their ongoing pledge to mentor our students, preparing them for their future legal careers. This is a wonderful opportunity for Roshni and for our community as we continue to diversify our legal profession,” said April Barton, Dean of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

Master, a native of Rochester, N.Y., earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and psychology from the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York.

Dickie McCamey, a national, full-service law firm, currently employs 57 attorneys who have earned their Juris Doctor degrees from Duquesne Law, including Nakib A. Kabir, the 2020 recipient of the Trial Skills Diversity Scholarship.

*Article reprinted with permission of Dickie McCamey.* ■

# Evening Student Wins Prestigious Legal Writing Award

By Amanda S. Drumm

Samantha Thompson, a fourth-year evening student, recently won the 2022 Brown Award for Excellence in Legal Writing. This prestigious legal writing award was part of a national competition, with her first-place win garnering her a \$10,000 prize. Thompson wrote the law review article as part of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's horizon-expanding education, with the subject matter and work her own.

"As I was searching for a topic for my law review article, I knew I wanted to write about patent law, the field I planned on working in upon graduation, but I also wanted to write about a topic that would be interesting to those who do not have a background in intellectual property," she said. "I had heard about Amazon's UPNE during an interview, but did not think much of it after that moment until it was time to start narrowing down on my law review topic."

Thompson centered her article around Amazon's Utility Patent Neutral Evaluation Process (UPNE).

"Specifically, the rapid growth of Amazon into the global conglomerate we all know of today created an opportunity for the ill-intentioned to abuse the wide audience the Amazon marketplace provides, resulting in a significant number of counterfeit goods on the e-commerce platform," she said.

Amazon, being aware of the problem, was unhappy with its impact. The company established initiatives designed to protect intellectual property rights from those who may be using the corners of its marketplace to hide such infringement.

"However, up until recently, Amazon's anti-counterfeiting measures have primarily focused on trademark



Samantha Thompson

infringement, as the visual nature of this type of intellectual property lends itself to automated machine learning techniques that can quickly and accurately detect inauthentic products and remove counterfeits from the marketplace," Thompson said.

She found utility patent infringement necessitates the evaluation of the inner workings of a product, which makes it more difficult to police through the same quality control measures as trademark infringement. The UPNE was piloted by Amazon to try to control the hole in its intellectual property inventory.

"Akin to non-binding arbitration, Amazon's UPNE attempts to resolve patent infringement disputes just as quickly and cost effectively as the company delivers goods," Thompson said. "The streamlined process has been generally well received but does not come without criticisms. My article suggests that, with some changes, the program could provide a fair opportunity for parties to resolve their patent disputes without the downsides of traditional litigation."

Martin McKown, L'15, adjunct professor of law, who taught Thompson in legal research and writing, was impressed by her work, and submitted her nomination for the award.

"Samantha's commitment to academic excellence, scholarly integrity and legal innovation—all demonstrated by her groundbreaking article—compelled me to nominate her for this prestigious honor," he said.

The Legal Research and Writing Program at Duquesne Kline is nationally ranked and McKown is pleased to see Thompson's merit in the program recognized.

"Duquesne Kline Law has a sustained standard of excellence when it comes to legal writing. As both a professor and an alumnus of the Law School, I am proud to see students like Samantha continue to advance that tradition," he said.

Being a member of the Intellectual Property Law Association of Duquesne Kline School of Law, the Appellate Moot Court Board, the *Duquesne Law Review*, and the Older and Wiser Law Students, Thompson was ecstatic to be the recipient of this award.

She said, "I am incredibly humbled to have received this award. Law school can really challenge your confidence at times, and I have often had to work through my own imposter syndrome. It has been extremely rewarding to see my hard work over the past three years pay off and has reignited my motivation to keep writing and working hard to finish up strong."

Thompson additionally submitted this article for publication. She accepted an offer from the *Boston University Journal of Science & Technology Law*. The article should appear in Volume 29, Issue 2, which will publish this summer. ■



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# Student Leaders Receive Mental Health First Aid Training

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At the annual alumni dinner in October 2022, Kate Stoy, president of the Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association, announced that her presidential initiative would be to raise awareness around law student mental health and well-being. She chose this niche because research demonstrates that intervention at the law school level offers the strongest chance to mitigate the mental health challenges that have become endemic to the legal profession.

To promote this initiative, the DKLAA partnered with the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University to sponsor Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to student leaders. MHFA is designed to “take the fear and hesitation out of starting conversations about mental health and substance use problems by improving understanding and providing an action plan that teaches people to safely and responsibly identify and address a potential mental illness or substance use disorder ([www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org](http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org)).”

Dan Kunz, L’02, Duquesne Kline School of Law alumnus and director of the Veterans Clinic, is a trained MHFA instructor. In spring 2022, Kunz provided MHFA training to Duquesne Kline School of Law staff and administrators.

This spring, thanks to the support of the DKLAA, the first cohort of student leaders received MHFA training from Kunz. Student participants spanned both day and evening division programs and all academic years. Below are some of their responses.

Alexandra Brooks, a first-year day division student: “I’m extremely grateful for the opportunity the Alumni Association has given me to further advance my knowledge on mental health and the stigmas that surround it. Hopefully with this training I will be able to help my peers, colleagues and superiors navigate some of life’s most difficult terrains and find ways to cope and/or manage whatever they may be struggling with.”

Chloe Clifford, a second-year day division student: “It is important to be able to recognize when someone needs help. The training helped to teach what some of the warning signs are, how you might be able to help, what you should definitely not do (which I think is something a lot of people are not always aware of) and who to contact/what to do if you cannot help. Without getting the training, it is hard to know what to do in those situations, and you never want to make a situation worse. I feel that the hands-on activities were invaluable as they really helped to take the abstract topics that we were talking about and make them something that we could more easily understand. I am glad that I had the opportunity to take this training so that I have the resources I need to look out for classmates, friends, family, clients and others in the community.”

Duquesne Kline School of Law is committed to reducing the stigma around mental health, offering avenues to necessary help and improving quality of life. Consequently, based on the positive response from participating students, the Law School plans to sponsor the training for another cohort of student leaders in the fall semester. ■

# JURIS Magazine

Spring 2023 Preview [jurismagazine.com](http://jurismagazine.com)

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📘 Juris Magazine

■ **School Book Bans are on the Rise** | *By Hannah Schaffer, Editor-in-Chief*



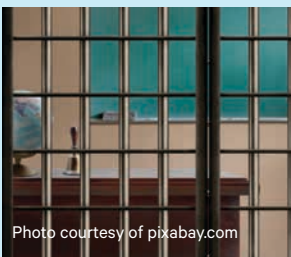
During the 2021–2022 academic year, PEN America’s Index of School Book Bans reported 2,532 instances of books being banned, affecting 1,648 book titles, 1,261 different authors, 290 illustrators and 18 translators. Of these banned books, 41% contained LGBTQ+ themes and 40% contained protagonists or prominent secondary characters of color. An estimated 40% of bans listed in the index are connected to proposed or enacted legislation, such as Florida’s Parental Rights in Education Bill, which is also known as the “Don’t Say Gay” Bill, and House Bill 1467, which requires that books be approved by a school district employee who holds a valid educational media specialist certificate, which has been especially burdensome to teachers who now have to go through all the books in their classrooms and could face felony charges if they knowingly distribute egregious materials.

■ **Florida’s Proposed ‘Teachers’ Bill of Rights’** | *By Alexa Glista, Features Editor*



Senate Bill 244, which is part of Gov. Ron DeSantis’ “Teachers’ Bill of Rights” package filed by Sen. Alexis Calatayud, was advanced by the Florida Senate Education PreK–12 Committee on March 6. The proposed legislation seeks to establish additional bonuses and certification programs for educators and to strengthen rules dictating how teachers can manage discipline and academics in their classrooms. The bill seeks to establish the Dual Enrollment Educator Scholarship Program, the Heroes in the Classroom Bonus Program and a teacher apprenticeship program, with the overall goal of promoting the recruitment and retention of educators in the state as vacancies in teaching positions are at an all-time high with over 5,000 open positions. Senate Bill 256 is also a part of the “Teachers’ Bill of Rights” package and aims to change the role of teacher unions in Florida.

■ **Lifting the Ban on Pell Grants Makes Education Accessible in Prison** | *By Felicia Dusha, Features Editor*



In December 2020, Congress voted to restore Pell Grants for incarcerated students after a 26-year ban. Beginning July 1, 2023, over 700,000 incarcerated adults will become Pell Grant eligible. This will enable students who are enrolled in eligible prison educational programs to pursue federally funded college education for the first time since 1994. Proponents believe that the restoration of access to Pell Grants will promote postsecondary education and new career opportunities, which will open doors for incarcerated people and their families while also improving communities. However, questions remain on how to ensure incarcerated students receive access to postsecondary education, as prison-imposed restrictions, such as limited educational materials and no computer access, may prevent this expansion of Pell from reaching its full potential.

■ **State and Federal Bodies Address the Teacher Shortage** | *By Jacob Schramm, Features Editor*

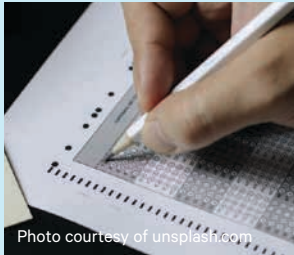


Every state in the country requires that children attend school, and parents and guardians face fines and penalties if their children fail to do so. Pennsylvania’s Constitution guarantees a “thorough and efficient system of public education,” and the state Supreme Court has referred to education as a fundamental right. However, many teachers are leaving the profession, and some agencies have reported a decrease in undergraduate enrollees in teacher accreditation programs. This purported teacher shortage threatens the quality of education on a national and local scale. School systems, federal and state agencies, and lawmakers have been vocal about this crisis and have introduced several initiatives to bolster school staffing among currently licensed educators and to incentivize qualified candidates to pursue a career in teaching.

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■ **GRExit Philosophy Gains Momentum** | *By Regan Jarvis, Features Editor*

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Last year, the American Bar Association voted to eliminate the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) as an admission requirement for law schools across the United States. The 15-1 vote came after years of debate and despite the protests of nearly 60 law school deans who warned that eliminating the LSAT could harm efforts to diversify the legal profession. Although this new standard will not go into effect until 2025, it has already sparked debate among law school administrations, legal professionals and test creators. This move away from the LSAT is part of a larger anti-standardized testing movement that has been coined “GRExit.” This move away from standardized testing is leaving students with unanswered questions and uncertainty as to how colleges and universities will review future applications.

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■ **Charter Schools Facing Questions Regarding Constitutionality** | *By Mia Hoetzlein-Sirman, Staff Writer*

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Charter schools are publicly funded schools run by independent corporations that provide tuition-free education to allow for more innovation and flexibility in the classroom. Despite receiving public funding, these charter schools operate separately from public education systems in many states and often have little oversight. Recently, the constitutionality of these schools has been questioned. In Oklahoma, the Catholic Church is attempting to open a charter school that would teach and promote Catholic faith and morals. This creates constitutionality issues because charter schools received state funding and are therefore “state actors” that must comply with the Establishment Clause. Additionally, in North Carolina, a charter school has been sued for its stringent dress codes and is now fighting to change the legal status of charter schools.

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■ **What AI Advancement Means for Legal Education** | *By Amelia Trello, Staff Writer*

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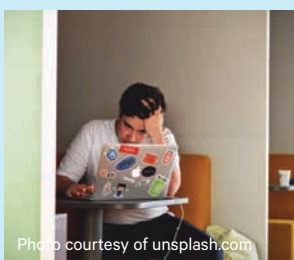


On March 14, OpenAI released its newest advancement in AI technology, GPT-4, with claims that it can beat 90% of human bar test takers, as well as other professional exams. According to the company, “GPT-4 exhibits human-level performance on the majority of these professional and academic exams.” In fact, GPT-4 is said to have higher advanced reasoning and be more accurate, and is 40% more likely to produce factual responses compared to the previous model. AI certainly affects the legal field and legal education since AI technology such as GPT-4 can be used to produce legal work. In fact, GPT-4’s old model ChatGPT was already able to pass legal examinations including the bar exam. Such a major advancement in AI technology creates a new set of issues in legal education.

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■ **The Unique Problem with Student Debt in Law School** | *By John Brophy, Staff Writer*

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Although no one wants to admit it, the employment search in law school is an ends-driven system, in which students must pursue jobs that will pay the bills instead of pursuing their passions. In 2020, the American Bar Association published a survey indicating that the average debt of a law school graduate is \$145,000. Of those graduates, a third self-reported that they chose employment based on the salary. Private versus public sector employment is perhaps the boldest dichotomy in the diverse field of legal employment. Nearly half of graduates working in private practice or the corporate sector reported that they took the job for the salary. In addition, nearly two-thirds of public sector graduates reported that they chose their job in hopes of receiving loan forgiveness.

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# Woman of the Year and Recent Graduate of the Year Honored at 31st Annual Event

Two special alumni were honored during the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's 31st annual Woman of the Year event March 29. The evening recognized the Woman of the Year and the Recent Graduate of the Year. These awards have been given to many distinguished women in the legal field over the last 30 years, including judges, prominent attorneys, professors, deans and authors.

The Woman of the Year award is given to an alumna who promotes gender equality, gives back to the community, demonstrates professionalism and leadership, and raises awareness about issues affecting women. She maintains a meaningful connection with female Duquesne Kline School of Law students and pioneers a new path for women in the legal profession.

**Justice Christine Donohue, L'80**, was recognized as the 2023 Woman of the Year. She frequently volunteers at Duquesne Kline School of Law, recently administering the oath of admission for 2022 graduates who passed the bar exam. Donohue serves on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and her chambers are in Pittsburgh, Pa. Her term of office commenced in January 2016. Prior to her service as a Supreme Court justice, Donohue served on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania for eight years. As a lawyer, Donohue was a civil trial lawyer and litigator for 27 years. She was a shareholder in the law firm Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, P.C. and was the practice manager of the commercial litigation department in its predecessor firm, Klett Rooney Lieber & Schorling, P.C. While earning her Juris Doctor degree, she served on the *Duquesne Law Review*.

While in practice, she held the AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell, she was listed in Best Lawyers in America, Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and the Top 50 Attorneys in Pittsburgh. She is an elected Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County and American Board of Trial Advocates. She is a past president of the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. Donohue is a former judge on the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline, a former chair and member of the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners and the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board, and a former member of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Donohue is a member of the



**Justice Christine Donohue, L'80**

American, Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations. She served on the Board of Governors of the Allegheny County Bar Association and was also the chair of its Young Lawyers Division. She is a member of the American Bar Foundation and a charter member of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation. She served as a member of the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Bar Association for two decades. She was twice recognized in *Pennsylvania Law Weekly* as one of Pennsylvania's "Women Leaders in the Legal Profession."

Donohue received the Distinguished Alumni Award from East Stroudsburg University in 2016. She taught ethics for attorneys at the Duquesne Kline School of Law. She has served on the boards of directors of the Hill House Association, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Western Pennsylvania, Turtle Creek Valley Mental Health/Mental Retardation, Inc., and the National Aviary of Pittsburgh. She serves on the advisory board of the Duquesne Kline School of Law and is a frequent lecturer at seminars on the topics of appellate practice and judicial ethics.

Of being the recipient of this year's award, Donohue said, "Receiving the Woman of the Year award from the Women's Law Association is very meaningful to me. It's given me the opportunity to reflect on the importance of Duquesne Kline Law in my development in the law, first as an attorney and later as a jurist. As a first-generation law student with no lawyers in my life to serve as role models, the law school gave me the training and confidence to take my place in the legal community. For that place to now be recognized is truly an honor."



**Brazitte Poole**

The Recent Graduate of the Year award is given to an alumna who exemplifies the characteristics of the Woman of the Year and who has graduated in the last five years.

**Brazitte Poole** was honored as the 2023 Recent Graduate of the Year. She is a labor and employment attorney at UPMC with experience helping employers maintain issue-free work environments. Specializing in advising employers with unionized workforces, Poole uses that experience to help employers develop strategies that align organizational goals with the most pressing concerns of union-represented employees.

By focusing on enhancing employee-management communication and developing well-rounded and compassionate human resources partners and management teams, Poole has been able to put the legal education she earned at Duquesne Kline School of Law to good use.

Of her honor, Poole said, "I am truly honored to be recognized by the Law School that remains near and dear to me. I am continually amazed by the incredible individuals I have had the privilege of learning from during my time at Duquesne. It is an even greater honor to be placed in such distinguished ranks as those of the past honorees, most of whom are colleagues; all of whom have made important contributions to the legal community."

The event featured Dean April Barton, who gave remarks. She and Duquesne Kline School of Law congratulate these exceptional women and their contributions to the field of law. ■



## Kline Makes New Significant Gift

Thomas R. Kline, L'78, has agreed to make an additional significant gift to fund a dramatic new façade and front entrance for the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, along with other improvements.

Duquesne President Ken Gormley made the request of Kline, who already made a historic gift commitment of \$50 million in September 2022 that resulted in the naming of our storied law school after the nationally renowned alumnus.

Construction will include a new limestone, granite and glass façade at the building's Locust Street entrance; a refreshed two-story open grand entrance hall; and an exhibit and conference room overlooking the entranceway.

Within the year after completion of the new entrance hall, the University plans to re-imagine and renovate the main student lounge area on the building's first floor to enhance that gathering area for law students as part of the broader initiative.

"Tom Kline's continued generosity and enthusiasm for his alma mater and for Duquesne Kline Law is truly inspirational," said Gormley. "This new grand entrance is more than a monument to our continued pursuit of bigger goals. It signals a ramped-up commitment to excellence and a renewed promise to serve our students and the legal profession for the good of others, two commitments that define Duquesne's and Tom's own legacy."

The new conference room will overlook the building's grand entrance and will serve as a beautiful gathering spot for school functions and will include an inspirational exhibit hall.

"We're delighted that we will have a new look to the law school for an exciting new era," said Duquesne Kline School of Law Dean April Barton. "It will change the experience for every student and visitor to the Duquesne Kline School of Law." ■



"Tom Kline's continued generosity and enthusiasm for his alma mater and for Duquesne Kline Law is truly inspirational."

—President Ken Gormley—



## THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW

# Admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States

**Friday, November 17, 2023**

**Join President Ken Gormley, Dean April Barton and  
Thomas R. Kline, Esq., in Washington, D.C.  
for a special admission ceremony.**

50 spaces are available to Duquesne Kline School of Law alumni

Each person being may bring **one guest** into the Supreme Court to witness the swearing-in. *There are no exceptions to this rule.*

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### Schedule of Events

#### Thursday, November 16, 2023

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Cocktail reception with fellow alumni

#### Friday, November 17, 2023

8 - 8:30 a.m.

- Arrive at the U.S. Supreme Court
- Group photo
- Continental breakfast

10:00 a.m.

- The Court convenes

### Cost

\$200 check made payable to "U.S. Supreme Court" to cover the admission fee

### Accommodations

Duquesne Kline School of Law has reserved blocks of rooms

### Apply

Review requirements for admission and complete instructions and submit your paperwork and payment to the Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association Office **no later than Tuesday, August 1, 2023**



For directions and to RSVP, please visit  
[duq.edu/ScotusLawTrip](http://duq.edu/ScotusLawTrip)



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE 2023 DAY OF GIVING



## Thank you for your generous gifts to our eighth annual Day of Giving!

During the Day of Giving, 97 gifts were made to our Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, raising \$70,677. Your generous donations elevate our existing programs, such as our bar preparation and evening division, while creating new opportunities for our students.

A special thank-you to our alumni who issued challenges and matching gifts that day, including the Kickoff Participation Challenge issued by Shanicka Kennedy, L'01. Other Participation Challenges were made by Madelyn Reilly, L'85, and Dr. Robin Girdhar and the Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association. Matching Gifts were made by Alan Braverman, L'75; the Hon. Michael E. McCarthy, L'84; Jon R., L'91, and Joni Perry; Marie Milie Jones, L'87; Brian K. Parker, L'93, and his wife, Kimberly; and Gwen Robosson, L'81.

To view other gifts, please visit [duq.edu/dayofgiving](http://duq.edu/dayofgiving).

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S DAY OF GIVING, FEBRUARY 7, 2024.