DIVERSITY MATTERS
AT DUQUESNE LAW
Empowered to Lead.
Prepared for What’s Next.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
We are blessed to have a Law School Dean, community and alumni board who value diversity and inclusion. We want to share the many ways that the School of Law supports and prepares our students, as well as the rich accomplishments of some of our graduates. Not only are their backgrounds and their work experiences diverse, they also have a unique perspective on what they learned at Duquesne Law. We welcome you to join in on our celebration of the accomplishments highlighted in this publication. We also know that this is not the entirety of our accomplishments and look forward to sharing and celebrating with you in the future.

Hon. Nicola Henry-Taylor, Esq., L’96
Judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

As part of a Catholic and Spiritan University Founded in 1878, Duquesne University School of Law’s mission since our inception in 1911 has been built upon a pursuit of justice that advances human dignity and mutual respect. Regardless of race, creed or any form of individual identity, the Law School embraces these values.

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

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

We are constantly evolving and examining how we can best engage our community to ensure that everyone feels welcome, valued and heard. From the Dean’s Diversity Advisory Committee, Black Law Students Association and our own Director of Diversity, to diversity initiatives and leadership at the University level, we are committed to inclusion at all levels.

April M. Barton
Dean and Professor of Law
A TRADITION OF INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY.
Duquesne’s Spiritan founders believed in welcoming all and excluding none. Drawing on our heritage, we’ll walk alongside you, connecting you with life-changing people and opportunities so you can build a professional path with purpose.

Duquesne University School of Law is dedicated to creating a diverse community of scholars and a more diverse legal profession. Our students have more opportunities than ever to study with future colleagues from a multitude of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.

They learn from professors who bring diverse experiences into the classroom—expertise in areas like intellectual property, civil rights, constitutional law, youth advocacy and animal law. And they experience all of this firsthand as the U.S. legal industry transforms into a more diverse profession.

A LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.

Mrs. M. Murphy is the first woman admitted to Duquesne Law
Percy J. Langster graduates and later becomes the first African American in the United States to be elected to the office of County Prosecutor
Ronald R. Davenport installed as first black dean of a major American law school
Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education opened to provide student attorneys hands-on client experiences that impact diverse communities
20% of Fall 1L class identified as ethnically and racially diverse
Dean’s Diversity Action Council releases school-wide promise statement, “Our Promise Statement on Race and Justice”

1914 Theron B. Hamilton is the first black man to graduate from Duquesne Law
1925 Dr. Lois Mae Golden is the first African American woman to graduate from Duquesne Law
1932
1959
1970
2013
2019
2020
Pipeline partnership established with Xavier University of Louisiana, the nation’s only Catholic school among the Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Over the years: Duquesne hosts distinguished speakers, including U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor
“I was an evening student and our class was made up of entrepreneurs, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, professional pilots, civil servants, activists and traditional students. That diversity led to very interesting and sometimes spirited debates and opinions during class discussions.”

Eric R.I. Cottle, L ’96
Partner/ K&L GATES, LLP

“Besides the captivating lectures, I was afforded the opportunity to participate in two clinics that were invaluable: the Urban Development Clinic and an externship at the Neighborhood Legal Services Association. These experiences gave me a chance to apply theoretical concepts to real “life-affecting” experiences.”

Jonathan Smith, L ’15
Wealth Manager/BNY Mellon Wealth Management

“Duquesne Law School graduates are leaders and advocates for change and improvement within our communities. Diversity at Duquesne means a greater depth and breadth of experience to better serve our neighbors.”

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

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

CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS
Clinical education is one of the instructional cornerstones of Duquesne University School of Law. You’ll have the opportunity to participate in law clinics, externships, pro bono programs and fellowships that offer live client experiences and often include opportunities to appear in court to assist youth, veterans, families and others who benefit from our students’ passion.

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Grace Orsatti L’04
Director of the Externship Program, Pro Bono Program, and Assistant Professor of Clinical Legal Education
FIND YOUR NICHE AND GET INVOLVED.
We’ll make sure you gain the professional confidence, experience and powerful networks you need to get a running start on a meaningful career.

APPELLATE ADVOCACY
The award-winning School of Law Appellate Moot Court Board (AMCB) is a student-run organization devoted to the development of excellence in legal advocacy. The AMCB requires the highest standards of academic excellence and personal integrity. Students leave the program with new legal research, writing and advocacy skills, like case analysis, trial preparation, effective communication, witness preparation and case presentation.

BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
The mission of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Attorneys and other Attorneys-of-Color, who excel academically, succeed professionally and influence the community positively.

HISPANIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
The Hispanic American Bar Association (HABA) encourages members to serve the public interest by establishing strong relationships between students and Hispanics in the local community, understanding and addressing the legal issues that pertain to Hispanics in the community, and providing a forum in which practical and constructive discussion of these issues can take place.

TRIAL ADVOCACY
The School of Law also offers a nationally recognized Trial Advocacy program that prepares students to be courtroom-ready advocates. Through comprehensive coursework and competition experience, the program develops students’ skills in case analysis, trial preparation, effective communication, witness preparation and case presentation.

“Embrace your diversity, as it represents the legal profession that you are poised to enter. The profession is enriched by having a diversity of people and thoughts to address legal issues that impact the world that we live in.”
Shanicka L. Kennedy, L ’01
Senior Attorney, Business Model and Employment Litigation Group, FedEx Ground
MINORITY STUDENTS RESOURCE FUND
Duquesne Law offers students from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to apply for financial assistance to support the purchase of books and other expenses outside of tuition.

PURSUE YOUR INTERESTS AND NETWORK WITH ALUMNI.
THEY’RE EMPLOYED IN ALL AREAS OF LAW.

• Criminal
• Family
• Civil rights
• Business
• Environmental

• Personal injury
• Labor
• Corporate
• Immigration
• Finance

• Tax
• Intellectual property
• Non-profit
• Government
... and more.

“I received a quality education first and foremost. But I also developed positive and lasting relationships, a strong work ethic, a desire to succeed and a sense of confidence.”

Kim Berkeley Clark, L’83
President Judge, Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania

“Duquesne Law trains students to first and foremost consider the ethical implications of any legal issue—no matter how complex or simple the issue may seem. This approach has served me well in my legal career and beyond.”

Asra Hashmi, L’15
Associate Attorney, Jackson Lewis P.C.

“Diversity is important in our Law School because, as attorneys, our students will be charged with representing clients with diverse backgrounds. To do so effectively, it is vital that they gain a breadth of non-legal knowledge about people.”

Marissa Meredith
Assistant Professor of Law
About Duquesne

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

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This publication is presented by the Duquesne Law Alumni Association. For more information on our esteemed alumni and the DLAA, visit duq.edu/dlaa.