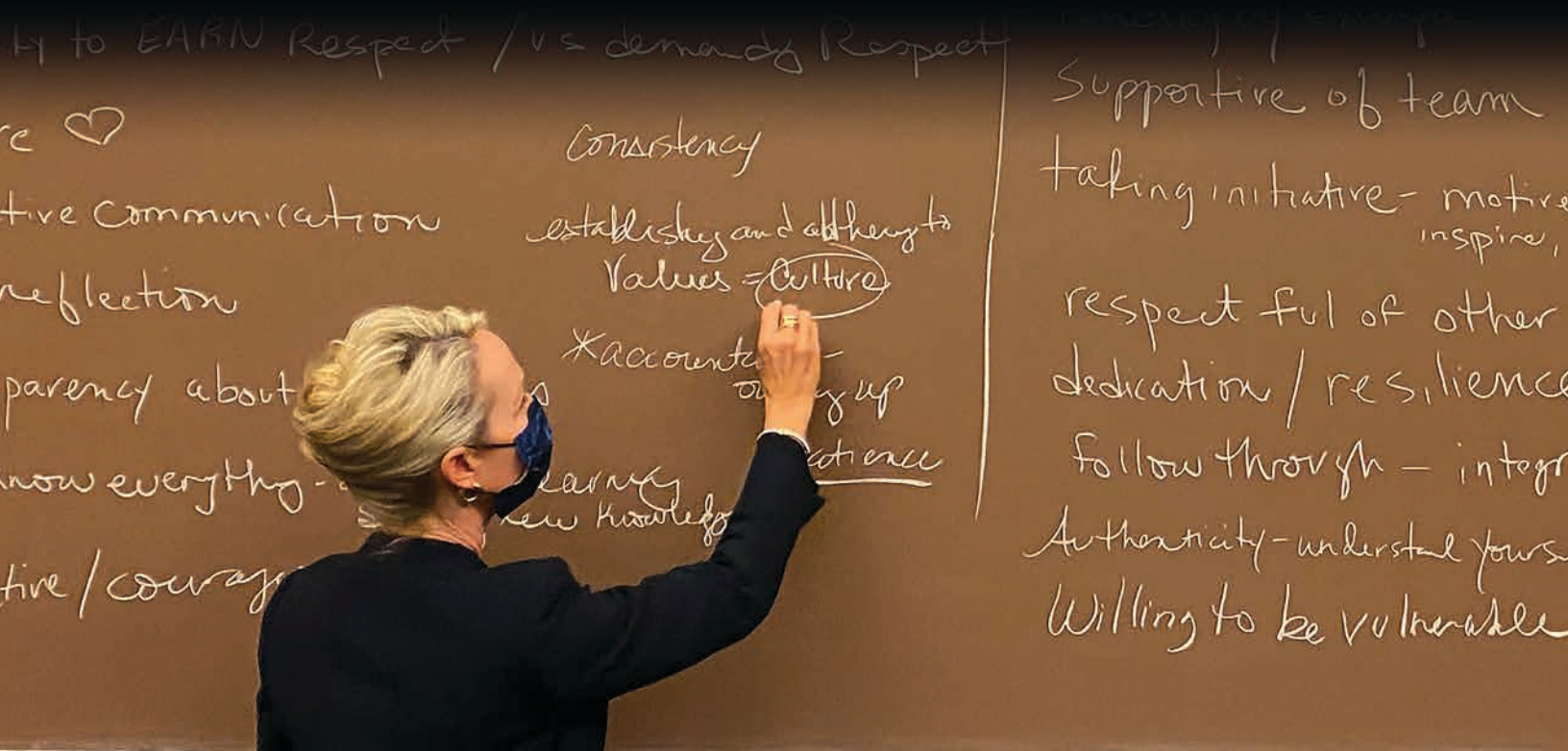


THE

Duquesne Lawyer

Fall 2021 • The Duquesne University School of Law Magazine for Alumni and Friends



LAWYERLY Leadership

THIS
ISSUE

The Evening Division

Law School News

Young Alumni Profile



THE VICTORY GARDEN
OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF VICTIMS
OF THE GREAT WAR
AND THEIR FAMILIES
WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR I
SEPTEMBER 1, 1918

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite times of the year on The Bluff is autumn, with the brilliant color of the trees and cooler temperatures. This fall has been especially beautiful with our students having returned to campus for in-person instruction and events. It has been a delight to see them return along with our faculty and staff.

The past nearly two years have been unlike any we have been through before. Our students and recent graduates weathered not only COVID, but completed their legal education via online and HyFlex learning and then sat for remotely administered bar examinations. In spite of all the challenges, I have been inspired and heartened at the consistent display of resolve, flexibility and dedication of our graduates, students, faculty and administration.

We were thrilled to host an in-person commencement for the Class of 2021 (page 39). We were honored to have Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, our alumna and President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, deliver the keynote address. It was a wonderful day to celebrate with our grads and their families, and we plan on doing the same for the Class of 2020 this December.

I am incredibly proud of recent bar results from our newly minted alumni. In the Pennsylvania area, our graduates outperformed the statewide average by almost 11%! Our “first-time” taker pass rate exceeded the statewide average by more than 7%. We placed a solid third among 11 Pennsylvania-area schools. Our graduates also achieved a 100% first-time bar passage rate in the following UBE jurisdictions: West Virginia, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Arizona, Colorado, New York, North Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey and Georgia. Additionally,

our most recent Ultimate Pass Rate, which tracks the bar pass success of our graduates for two years after graduation, was 93.33% (page 6).

Despite the challenges of the last months, Duquesne Law has continued to expand our Vision with a number of new initiatives. Our **Leadership Fellows Program** (page 14) is in its third year of training our students to think about great leadership and what that means in our system of justice. We are partnering with Duquesne’s Palumbo-Donahue School of Business to offer our law students a business perspective with the **Business Essentials for Lawyers Micro-Credential program** (page 9), directed by Professor Seth Oranburg. We also welcome Dr. Dana Neacsu from Columbia University as the new director of the Duquesne Center for Legal Information as well as two assistant visiting professors, Dr. Linh Dai and John Rice Towers (page 35).

In this issue, you will read also about our 110 years as a Law School (page 24) along with wonderful profiles of our distinguished evening division alumni (page 20).

None of this is possible without the support of you, our generous and supportive alumni. I am blessed to be your dean, and take pride in all that Duquesne Law has accomplished.

Be Well and God Bless!



*April Mara Barton
Dean and Professor of Law*



The past nearly two years have been unlike any we have been through before. Our students and recent graduates weathered not only COVID, but completed their legal education via online and HyFlex learning and then sat for remotely administered bar examinations.



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On the Cover:

Dean April Barton instructs
the 2021-2022 Student
Leadership Fellows cohort.

Duquesne's Exemplary First-Time Pass Rate Places Law School Among Top Three in the State

The Duquesne University School of Law achieved an 84.25% first-time pass rate on the July 2021 Pennsylvania bar exam administered remotely for the second time in the commonwealth's history due to continuing COVID-19 challenges.

This result places Duquesne Law third among 11 Pennsylvania area schools. The Law School devoted significant time, resources and physical space for its bar takers this administration because of the continued stresses of administering a timed and secure attorney-licensing examination during an ongoing global pandemic.

"These test results serve to highlight our Law School's incredible ability to prepare our graduates for what comes next in their lives and careers," Duquesne School of Law Dean April Barton said. "We all pulled together in an extraordinary way—our alumni, faculty, staff, and graduates—to make this administration of the bar examination as stress-free as it could possibly be given that more than 70 of our graduates took the exam right here in our Law School. We could not be more pleased that our graduates met with this degree of success."

Despite technology issues experienced across the country this year, Duquesne graduates' scores reflected their extensive preparation and were competitive with other top law programs in the state, said Duquesne Director of Bar Studies Ashley London.

"Imagine your computer screen going blank during the highest-stakes examination of your entire life," London said. "Our graduates pulled through with a degree of fortitude that really illustrates the kind of cool-headed leadership they will demonstrate as licensed attorneys. I am so proud their hard work and preparation paid off."

Some highlights from the Pennsylvania results include:


- Duquesne's first-time pass rate of 84.25% outpaced the statewide average of 77.22% for all first-time takers.
- This marks the sixth consecutive year the law school has outperformed the state average.
- Duquesne's overall pass rate of 80% significantly exceeded the statewide overall passage rate of 69.43%.

Duquesne Law graduates performed extraordinarily well in other jurisdictions in the July 2021 administration of the bar examination as well. Twenty-six graduates from May 2021 sat for the bar examination in 16 different jurisdictions, including West Virginia, North Carolina, Missouri, New Mexico and New Hampshire. In each of those jurisdictions, Duquesne Law graduates posted a 100% bar pass rate.

"Our graduates pass the bar examination in whatever jurisdiction they choose to sit," said London. "Our programming is designed to help all of our graduates meet their long-term personal and professional goals."

In the Winter 2021 edition of *prelaw Magazine*, Duquesne was recognized as one of the top law schools in the country whose graduates outperformed other law schools in terms of its bar passage metrics. Bar passage rates are "the single best outcome measure... in assessing whether a law school is maintaining a 'rigorous program of legal education'," according to the American Bar Association (ABA).

Since February 2018, the ABA requires law schools to report their "ultimate bar passage rates," which track law school graduates for a period of two years or four bar exam cycles (July and February). In 2018, the School of Law reported an ultimate bar passage rate



84.25%
First-Time Pass Rate

"OUR GRADUATES PASS THE BAR EXAMINATION IN WHATEVER JURISDICTION THEY CHOOSE TO SIT. OUR PROGRAMMING IS DESIGNED TO HELP ALL OF OUR GRADUATES MEET THEIR LONG-TERM PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GOALS."

of 93.3% for its class of 2016, placing Duquesne ahead of other Pennsylvania law graduates in terms of bar passage rates. More information on the ABA and its ultimate bar passage rate can be found here: <https://www.duq.edu/academics/schools/law/academics/bar-studies/pa-bar-exam-results>. ■

Bar Prep Focus on the Evening Division:

Revitalizing a Historic Component of Duquesne University



A PROGRAM OF OPPORTUNITY CONTINUES TO INVEST IN GRADUATE SUCCESS.

Leaving a full-time job to attend law school is not an option for everyone, and it never has been, according to Ashley London, Duquesne University School of Law’s Director of Bar Studies.

“Evening law students face unique challenges in terms of the time and resources needed to meet their goals of becoming licensed attorneys,” says London. “They are often supporting not only themselves but also their families with their full-time jobs. We don’t believe non-traditional students should be precluded from studying the law.”

That’s why this year Duquesne Law committed to revitalizing the programming for evening students and focused on providing them even more innovative and

personalized approaches to bar study, according to London.

“After all, the Law School as it stands today would not exist if not for the evening program,” says London.

Duquesne University School of Law has pioneered an evening program of legal studies since its beginnings. Three years after opening its doors, the Law School announced it would begin offering classes between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. in the heart of the city’s financial district to better serve the working population of Pittsburgh.

That spirit of service, sacrifice and opportunity continues today on the Bluff. Even though Duquesne Law is no longer the only Pennsylvania law school to offer an evening program, its

focus and commitment to this unique population remains a source of pride.

“Our Evening Division is a critical component of our program of legal studies,” says April Barton, Dean of Duquesne University School of Law. “Our Spiritan mission urges us to be a school of opportunity for everyone, and offering an evening program allows us to provide students from diverse backgrounds an alternative path to a career in the law.”

The Law School offers its Bar Excellence Strategic Training (BEST) program to all graduating law students in both the day and evening divisions. For the July 2021 bar exam, held during the COVID-19 pandemic, the BEST team did even more than usual. Because the bar exam



**THE LAW SCHOOL
OFFERS ITS BAR
EXCELLENCE
STRATEGIC TRAINING
(BEST) PROGRAM TO
ALL GRADUATING
LAW STUDENTS IN
BOTH THE DAY AND
EVENING DIVISIONS.**



“ I AM CONFIDENT WE PROVIDED OUR EVENING DIVISION GRADUATES WITH A FOCUSED, INDIVIDUALIZED AND INTENSE BAR STUDY EXPERIENCE,” SAYS LONDON. “OUR EVENING STUDENTS AND GRADUATES MEAN A LOT TO US AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO THEIR FIRST-TIME BAR PASSAGE SUCCESS.”

was administered remotely, the Law School hosted 73 bar takers on campus over the course of the two- and three day exams, many in law faculty members’ personal offices.

The evening students faced even more hurdles given their busy schedules and commitments. London and the faculty, adjunct and alumni members of the Bar Studies Team addressed these issues by providing every evening graduate with a BEST mentor who had been an evening student and had been through the same process they were now going through. Generous funding provided by the Duquesne Law Alumni Association was directed specifically toward meeting the additional needs of our evening graduates. It all paid off: Our 2021 evening graduates had a 94% pass rate for Pennsylvania for July 2021.

“The BEST Program helps evening students mitigate the bar exam risks associated with full-time employment and concurrent schooling through its highly supportive and engaging model,” says Lydia Wardi, a senior regulatory analyst with Gateway Health in Legal Operations and Government affairs in Pittsburgh. “BEST mentees are provided with individualized passage diagnostics, bar support information for their testing jurisdiction, and an array of discretionary supplemental practice assignments and bar simulation exercises.”

Wardi, a May 2020 graduate from the evening

program, knows first-hand the challenges and triumphs of being a non-traditional student who was employed full time while attending Duquesne Law. She passed the Pennsylvania bar examination on her first attempt in October 2020 during the height of the pandemic and was determined to give back.

“I was adamant that I wanted to participate in the BEST program as a mentor so I could help evening students like myself gain licensure and finally reap the benefits of a challenging and protracted law school journey,” says Wardi. “Each BEST mentor caters to the learning style, specific bar study needs and engagement preferences of that student, which makes the experience truly individualized.”

To make the July 2021 BEST programming accessible to both evening and full-time day students, practice sessions were scheduled on the weekends, and wellness events were held after working hours. Full-time faculty and adjuncts played critical roles as mentors and as subject matter expert resources for our bar takers.

“I am confident we provided our evening division graduates with a focused, individualized and intense bar study experience,” says London. “Our evening students and graduates mean a lot to us and we are committed to their first-time bar passage success.” ■

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS



**Build business acumen
and earn a micro-credential**

Expanding Law Horizons: Business Essentials for Lawyers Micro-Credential Program

Law is part of life as a society; our law students receive the training to become stewards of justice and advocates of the good for all. Business is likewise fundamentally important and is observed in all facets of life.

The School of Law is pleased to partner with Duquesne's Palumbo-Donahue School of Business to offer our law students a business perspective with the Business Essentials for Lawyers Micro-Credential program which began in the fall 2021 semester. Seth Oranburg will direct the program.

"Business acumen and financial tools are critical components of modern law practice. Our collaboration with the School of Business ensures our law students receive this unique skillset expanding their possibilities in law," said Dean April Barton.

The program, developed to expand horizons of law students, is open to students who are enrolled in Duquesne's School of Law Juris Doctorate (JD) program. This is an additional way to diversify career opportunities.

"Whether the law student intends to pursue private

practice, join a law firm or practice in-house, coupling fundamental business acumen with the Duquesne lawyer's toolkit is a significant differentiator. Moreover, the Business Essentials for Lawyers Micro-Credential can be stacked with the JD-MBA for those who wish to further develop their business expertise and ability to provide guidance to clients in a variety of areas," said Dr. Karen Russo Donovan, Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Executive Education for the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business.

Those who are enrolled in the micro-credential program and who wish to work toward an MBA degree will receive six credits toward that professional degree.

Students must have completed the first third of their JD coursework and be in good standing. Law students who enroll in the Business Essentials for Lawyers Micro-Credential program are required to take nine credits. Those credits include four graduate courses from the School of Business and one from the School of Law. ■

News from the Tribone Center for Clinical Education

Civil Rights Clinic Renamed Re-Entry Legal Services Clinic

Duquesne University School of Law's Civil Rights Clinic recently changed its name to the Re-Entry Legal Services Clinic. The clinic's new name is more reflective of the services it provides to its clients and the community. The yearlong, income-based clinic services the Pittsburgh region and assists those who may have legal barriers because of criminal records.

"The clinic's work goes hand in hand with our Law School's mission of justice for all," said Kate Norton, Director of Clinical and International Programs and Assistant Professor of Law. "Our students work on behalf of the community to provide important legal services and gain valuable experience in the process."

Clinic staff oversee students from the School of Law who gain valuable experience working with clients. Law students often interview clients and witnesses, provide oral and written advocacy, and conduct legal research. Hands-on training includes case intake and interviews, client counseling, fact investigation, case analysis, mediation, negotiation, research, and drafting of complaints and documents. Law students also assist clients who need to complete complex Pennsylvania Board of Pardons' applications and with gubernatorial pardons.

In addition to the clinic's name change, two new clinical adjunct professors have joined the staff. Turahn Jenkins L'04 and Carmen Robinson L'05 will supervise students who provide these important legal services. ■

The Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education held its *annual boot camp* Aug. 21 with 90 students and professors in attendance. Students participated in hands-on exercises on the characteristics of attorneys and mental health, and were also given asynchronous assignments on trauma-informed community development, active forgiveness, cultural competency, mini-mental health first aid, ethics presentations and SOGIE activities.

Students in the *Veterans Clinic*, along with students in Family Law, Re-Entry Legal Services, Unemployment Compensation, Wills and Healthcare Decisions, and the Youth Advocacy Clinics, participated in the daylong Stand Down Pittsburgh event, sponsored by the Veterans Leadership Program, Oct. 9. Students worked with Professor Daniel Kunz to assist veterans and veterans' families with intake sheets to start the process for free legal services (for low-income qualifying clients) from each of the clinics mentioned above.

On Oct. 29, students in the *Family Law Clinic* provided a presentation on the legal services available through the clinic to the Immigrant Services and Connections (ISAC) and Jewish Family & Children Services Refugee & Immigrant Services (JFCS). ISAC a multi-agency partnership that provides assistance to Allegheny County families with a barrier to services because of language and/or culture. The JFCS supports refugees and immigrants as they thrive in our community. ■



Students attending boot camp.



Kunz and students at the Stand Down Pittsburgh event.

Numbers that Matter

HOURS OF LEGAL SERVICE BY STUDENTS (MAY 2020 - MAY 2021):

- 18,019+** Hours of legal service to the public through the law clinics
- 6,235+** Hours of legal service to the public through student externships
- 2,279+** Hours of legal service to the public through pro bono programs



From left, President Ken Gormley, Dean April Barton, Tom Kline and former Dean Maureen Lally-Green on Oct. 6.

Tom Kline L'78: A Leader and Advocate

By Erin Volz, 2L

Some people may know Thomas R. Kline as a prominent personal injury attorney from Philadelphia, Pa. Others, may know Tom Kline as their classmate from Duquesne University School of Law's graduating class of 1978.

On Oct. 6, Kline returned to Duquesne Law, where he was welcomed by friends, faculty and current law students excited to relish in his wisdom. Although Kline visited Duquesne two years prior, for him each visit has been “stimulating and invigorating” and “heartwarming to be back on campus.”

As a first-generation attorney, Kline devoted 43 years to perfecting his career. His biggest achievement is giving his victims purpose and hope

as not only their attorney, but as their ally and advocate. Aside from his thriving firm, Kline & Spector, PC, Kline's greatest triumphs include the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education at Duquesne University, and the Thomas R. Kline School of Law and Thomas R. Kline Institute of Trial Advocacy, both at Drexel University.

With his quick wit and humor, Kline instantly lit up the room. Standing on stage, he encouraged students to ask him anything!

Kline reflected on his time at Duquesne Law by sharing how it provided him with “nuts and bolts” of lawyering essentials. He emphasized Duquesne Law's strength in cultivating successful lawyers with its consistently superior bar preparation

and commitment to diversity.

As Kline spoke with the current Leadership Fellows, he shared insight into what makes a great leader. He encouraged the students to bring their best selves to every situation, outlining his core values as honesty, integrity, strong beliefs and remaining grounded.

Kline spoke of the satisfaction he receives from teaching and mentoring law students. He takes pride in being a role model and exploring ways to instill confidence and creativity in students.

Duquesne Law thanks Kline for his great contributions to the education of aspiring lawyers and eagerly awaits his next visit. ■

OCI Update

Despite changes in working environments that are impacting nearly every legal employer to some degree right now, the Career Services Office (CSO) is happy to report a very successful fall 2021 On-Campus Interview (OCI) Recruitment season. Thirty-one law firms and organizations recruited through the formal OCI program this year, resulting in numerous callback interviews and offers for summer associate and summer law clerk positions for current second-year day and third-year evening students.

Recognizing that employers' remote and in-person work situations differ, the Career Services Office gave employers the option of conducting in-person or virtual interviews. We provided—and continue to provide—access to the virtual interview platform Flo Recruit for any employers that decided to use it to interview Duquesne Law students, which was the vast majority of them. Although initial and callback interviews may have been held virtually, law students were encouraged to visit firms when they received offers, and firms happily obliged.

Several students who participated in these interviews offered some thoughts about their experiences:

“

On-campus interviews can be daunting and overwhelming, but the Career Services Office facilitated a seamless process. The CSO had countless helpful resources: It held numerous preparation and advice sessions and sent emails and materials throughout the process, alerting students to what employers typically look for, deadlines, and facilitated the initial screening interviews. It helped me to navigate the process, and ultimately led to my success during OCIs. I connected with numerous firms and used it as an opportunity to get to know them as much as they got to know me. I ultimately accepted an opportunity with a firm that was a great personal and professional fit, and I'm excited to spend my summer there!

– **Alexa Austin (2L)**

“

Although OCI is an inherently stressful process, I felt as if my experience was as anxiety-free as possible. Thanks to resources available through the Career Services Office, Maria Comas and a gracious alumni network, I felt as if I walked into every interview prepared to present my best self. Beyond the interview stage, I also felt prepared to make a decision that would determine how my career will begin. My confidence largely stemmed from the sources described above.

– **Morgan Camerlo (2L)**

“

While navigating the OCI process was difficult, it was an immense help to be going through the interview process with some of my best friends. Because of the limited scope of our interactions with attorneys at a firm, being able to hear your friends' opinions of their interviewers allows you to better understand a firm's culture, which is a particularly elusive piece of information that you are unlikely to find online. Another benefit was being able to do quick practice mock interviews with my friends, particularly in light of the two most frequently asked OCI questions: 1) Can you tell me about yourself? and 2) Why x firm?

– **Samuel Evans (2L)**

“

During my preparation for these interviews, I reviewed the firm's full website, but also made a concerted effort to stay up to date with legal news and ask questions about how to be the best associate in the field that I would like to practice in. I believe that having these detail-oriented conversations about how each of these high-ranking attorney-interviewers have reached their success truly set me apart from other candidates. I was able to demonstrate my interest in the area and learn a few best practices along the way, but it also helped me determine which firm I felt most comfortable with.

– **Samantha Thompson (3E)**

The Career Services Office sincerely appreciates not only those employers that participated in our fall 2021 On-Campus Interview Recruitment program, but also those that interview and hire our students for jobs and internships throughout the year. If the CSO can assist with any of your hiring needs for students or alumni, please contact Maria D. Comas L'00, Director of Career Services, at comas@duq.edu or 412.396.6279. ■



We congratulate Maria Comas on her appointment as the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) co-chair of the Small and Solo Career Services Office Section for the 2021-2022 NALP year. Her appointment was effective April 30.

Family Honors June Schulberg L'69 with Named Resource Fund

The family of June Schulberg Bowers L'69 has established a resource fund in her name to benefit students attending Duquesne Law similarly situated to her: a single parent raising young children who has a full-time job, but is motivated to go to night law school and could use some financial assistance. The fund was established by her children, Arnie L'77 and Howie L'79, and their wives, Kathy Schulberg and Patricia Dodge L'80.



June and sons.

"We are proudly following in the footsteps of our mother, for whom the fund is named," Arnie said. "Both of us are graduates of Duquesne Law School, and we wished to continue our mother's efforts in providing financial support to the Law School.

"We saw this fund as another opportunity to honor the path that our mother took as a single parent raising young children who had a full-time job, but was motivated to go to night school to finish her college degree and then attend a program offering evening law school to reach her own goals and to provide for her family."

At the time June Schulberg graduated, there were very few female law students, so she was considered a trailblazer. She was the first female president of the Duquesne Law Alumni Association and was an active supporter of and donor to Duquesne Law and other charitable causes, particularly the Jewish refuseniks during the latter days of what was then the Soviet Union.

Howie expanded on his mother's prolific legal career.

"During the 30-plus years of her career, she became well known as one of the premier family law attorneys," he said. "She was also active in the Allegheny County Bar Association and the Academy of Trial Lawyers. Over the years, many attorneys, mostly females, have told us that our mother was an inspiration for them."

The Schulberg family knows the significance of a Duquesne Law education, and that resources are needed to help students attain their goals.

"A legal education opens the world to you," Arnie said. "It provides you with analytical skills that can be used in every endeavor."

Howie added that "in addition, the local legal community is and has been especially dear to both our mother and us. We know our mother's circle of friends expanded greatly by being a part of the local legal community, and we too have made lifelong friends as members of this community. To say nothing of marrying members of that same legal community!" ■

To learn more about establishing a resource fund to assist our law students, contact Jeanine DeBor, Director of Law Alumni Relations and Development (deborj@duq.edu).

PILA Champions Program

Thanks to the efforts of Jon Perry L'91 and Rob Marino L'79, the School of Law has established a PILA Champions program to assist our Public Interest Law Association (PILA) with providing fellowships to assist students working with organizations that provide direct legal services to low-income and underserved clients. Law students apply for consideration in the spring, and those awarded fellowships work in 10-week placements during the summer. Fellows receive a stipend for their work.

In its second year, the program raised \$21,500 this past spring for 2021 stipends. To become a PILA Champion, a law firm or other entity must pledge at least \$1,000 a year.

"COVID has caused financial problems impacting way too many people, and PILA has really been impacted," Perry said. "PILA is the very essence of the Duquesne spirit—providing low-income and underserved individuals with needed legal assistance while allowing our students to gain legal experience in an environment where they can truly feel good about the benefits their efforts have conferred. It was really important for us to raise the funds to continue this worthy program."

We are grateful for our 2021 Champions:

Babst Calland
Burns White
DeForest Koscelnik Yokitis & Berardinelli
Dickie McCamey
Duquesne Law Alumni Association
Goodrich & Associates
Goodrich & Geist
JonesPassodelis
K&L Gates
McGuireWoods
Meyer Unkovic & Scott
Rosen & Perry
Pietragallo
QuatriniRafferty
QuinnLogue
Reed Smith
Strassburger McKenna
Zacharia Brown

Interested in becoming a Champion? Contact Jeanine DeBor (deborj@duq.edu) for more information.

LAWYERLY Leadership

By Amanda Drumm

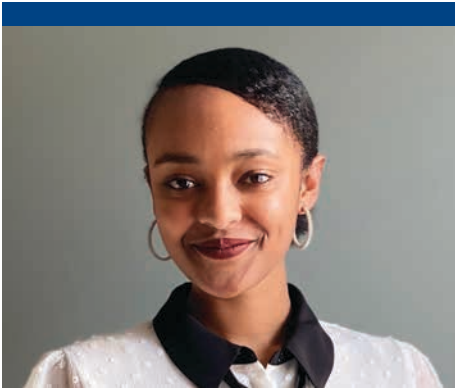
Program Empowers Students to Lead

Leadership Fellows Program

What makes a good leader? Part of it is the ability to read your team, provide encouragement and help everyone become the best versions of themselves. A leader likewise understands others and oneself, knowing how to handle situations with grace and tact—from a congratulatory dinner to a difficult conversation with an employee.







“One thing that stands out to me is how this program gave me the chance to reflect on my attributes. This, in turn, allowed me to hone my strengths and work on my weaknesses as I go through law school and my job as a law clerk.”

– Kebron Yeshitela Assefa, 2L

Some of these traits are intrinsic and others are developed, through time, through a mentor or through training, such as the School of Law’s Leadership Fellows Program.

The program was started in 2019 through a joint effort between Dean April Barton and others on and off campus.

“It’s such a shared experience between our faculty, staff and alumni. We do this as a community, and I know we always leave sessions blown away by what our students say,” said Barton.

The yearlong program reflects on the meaning of leadership in law and how to hone those skills, offering such classes as Value-Centered Leadership and Inclusive Leadership. How to Bring a Leadership Mindset to Your Interviews and Job prepares students to share their leadership mindset early in their careers. Several sessions include panel discussions where Duquesne Law alumni share their knowledge and advice with students.

Law Professor Jane Moriarty, Carol Los Mansmann Chair in Faculty Scholarship, teaches the class How to Speak and Present with Influence. The vital skill of speaking confidently is one that leaders and lawyers share, and one that Moriarty is happy to impart to students.

“It is such a critical piece of leadership, how to present oneself as a professional and to be good at it and enjoy it,” Moriarty said. “I talk about people who are influential when they speak; they have a certain level of nonchalance in speaking, like the Italian word ‘sprezzatura’—without effort, without thought. You want public speaking to look easy when you do it as if it took no thought at all. This takes an enormous amount of practice, but we talk about how to do it and get to that level.”

Faculty member Ashley London, Director of Bar Studies and Assistant Professor of Legal Skills, teaches Leadership Inside and Out with Maryann Herman, Director of Academic Excellence and Assistant Professor of Legal Skills. London is passionate about instructing in the program because she thinks it builds essential career skills and confidence that may otherwise take years to develop.

“I did not come into this study until later in my career, but I realize that if I

had known some of these things earlier in my law career, it would have been really beneficial. It is a way to get the new generation thinking at this level years before I ever did,” she said.

Kebron Yeshitela Assefa, a 2L student who graduated from the 2020–2021 program, is reflecting on what she learned last year and using that knowledge.

“Every meeting in the program was a massive opportunity to learn about others and myself,” Assefa said. “One thing that stands out to me is how this program gave me the chance to reflect on my attributes. This, in turn, allowed me to hone my strengths and work on my weaknesses as I go through law school and my job as a law clerk.”

Empowered to Serve

The early adaptation of leadership skills and confidence building is only one facet of Leadership Fellows. A deeply intentional element of the program is related to the part that is unique to a Duquesne education—the focus on ethics and how to serve others. Leadership Fellows seamlessly meshes these components to create a program whose focus is career launching, impactful and meaningful for a broader society.

“The emphasis on leadership and the nexus with ethics is uniquely Duquesne. We have recognized this early and are making this investment for students to really grow and shine—maybe sooner than other law schools,” London said. “I do think Duquesne is a really special place; people here are largely attuned to this, and we are able to make an investment in futures through this programming.”

Maura Clark, a 2L student and 2020–2021 program graduate, found the Law School’s mission “Salus populi suprema lex”—“The welfare of the people is the highest law”—deeply entrenched in Leadership Fellows.

“One of the major takeaways I had from the program was always to keep in mind that, at its core, the legal profession is one of service to others, which aligns closely with Duquesne’s mission,” Clark said. “It was clear to me after completing



Dean Barton confers with Leadership Fellows Natalie Packert (left) and Maura Clark.

this program that Duquesne Law is teaching its students to practice what it preaches.”

This relationship between law, leadership and ethics is a link that Barton connected early on when developing the program.

“Our Spiritan mission and the Spiritan pedagogy guide has a lot in there,” she said. “We talk about education as a path to empowerment. Part of contemporary leadership is about different qualities, a vision, competence and poise, but also about being inclusive and focusing on other differentiators.

“Authenticity, caring, integrity and ethics—doing the right thing and knowing your own moral compass. This is leadership and is in direct alignment with our Spiritan mission of acting for a higher purpose.”

Second-year student Kaila Williams graduated from last year’s program. A former English teacher, she enjoyed the access to connections with fellow students and alumni, but the purpose in the program was equally impactful. She was particularly struck by the guiding principles in the classes.

“I think the program does a great job of tying in ethical practices with leadership and service in students’ everyday lives,” Williams said. “The community that is built through the program is heavily supported by the Law School and its associates. I believe the program strengthens the Law School’s mission of creating lawyers that not only excel in their profession, but also serve and support others.”



Tom Kline L'78 addresses this year's Fellows.

Empowered to Lead

Natalie Packert, a 2L student, is part of the 2021–2022 class that consists of more than 40 law students. She joined Leadership Fellows because she wants to use her law career to be impactful and to be a leader. She sees this program as a natural way to infuse those ideas to add momentum early in her career.

“It brings forward the mission and the ‘it’s time for bigger goals’ message,” Packert said. “There is the real-world law application when we will hear from alumni and other speakers. I am also interested in how to positively affect daily life and the workplace.”

Clark shared a similar assessment of the program.

“The Leadership Fellows Program taught me that being a good legal professional and leader goes far beyond the basic skills we learn in the classroom each day,” she said. “To be a good lawyer and a good leader, it is imperative to acknowledge

“I believe the program strengthens the Law School’s mission of creating lawyers that not only excel in their profession, but also serve and support others.”

– Kaila Williams, 2L

and embrace our differences as human beings, remain true to our values, and be resilient and courageous in times of challenge.”

The students in the program are part of a generation who want to change the world for the better, who want to be a guiding force in it, and who want to get a head start on making the world a better place. Stephon Burton, a 3L student, graduated from the 2020-2021 class. His desire to positively transform others was part of his reason for completing the program.

“The common good is the highest law, and that fits in perfectly with how we can use our gifts to further advance our goals of affecting positive change,” Burton said. “In my opinion, the program wholeheartedly fits in with how to be more ethical, more conscientious. I want to leave with a positive impact on the room. I want to walk away feeling like people are a bit better because I did my job.”

Prepared for What’s Next

Leadership Fellows alumni are continuing their knowledge and building off their heart for service through a current project. As part of a recent grant, they are working on a daylong program for high school students about the importance of democracy and the role of lawyers. They hope to have 80 high school students from the Pittsburgh area attend.

“It will focus on what democracy means, what freedom means and how lawyers play an important role in society,” said Jacob Broadway, 3L, who graduated from last year’s program.

The seminar resonates with the mission of the program because it will focus on education, a core proponent of leadership.

“One of the things Dean Barton talks about is education is a path to empowerment. This program teaches us that and helps us learn how to use that to better serve others,” Broadway said.

Barton is helping to guide them with the project, and is impressed by their work and watching what they learned come to fruition. She is encouraged by the students who have been through the program and those who are undertaking it this year.

“There are a lot of great reasons to teach leadership in law school; one is it is difficult to try to learn about it on your own after practice in 10 years,” she said. “We want to get a head start on it, to open minds and to think about it in an intentional way in law school.

“It is a continuing journey, to understand value-centered leadership,” she added. “Our graduates articulate their core values, know their why and their purpose, and that is a real differentiator. You want to work for a firm whose values align with your own values. It is a deep conversation about what graduates should be thinking about it, and this generation is really attuned with it and really gets that.” ■

2021 LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

Landon Allison
Michael Bethune
Nathan Boyd
Jennifer Brenner
Olivia Donia
Victoria Ferrebee-Phillips
Ben Fisher
Alexa Glista
Jessica Goodman
Jayda Guidry
Lauren Kanavy
Gabrielle Kolencik
Melanie Lewis
Maria Marcano
Victoria McClendon-Leggett
Margaret McIlroy
Katrina Mitchell
Josephine Mlakar
Olivia Muha
Falco Muscante
Anabelle Nietupski
Brian O’Loughlin
Natalie Packert
Noah Port
Meghann Principe
Madison Reed
Briana Robles
Tom Schierberl
Donald Shelton
Anna Maria Sicenica
Fiona Skinner
Jonathon Slusser
Michaela Smith
Victoria Smith
Jarek Sulak
Kate Sullivan
Samantha Thompson
Erin Volz
Marvi Wahla
Edward Walsh
William Frank Weber
Jamilah Wesley
Carolyn Zeis



The very best part of my job is working with our students. Helping them to meet professionals in the area, coaching them while prepping for an event and just being around their enthusiasm—it is all tremendously rewarding. I often speculate where their Law School education will take them, and I think of all of the hardworking, compassionate attorneys I have worked with. Do students know what a profound impact they can have on the lives of their clients with their advocacy? Because I do. I needed legal advice

so many times while raising my daughter, and I was, and continue to be, deeply grateful that the work I do gave me access to a caring network of legal professionals.

When my daughter was born with a disability, two things became clear straightaway: We were going to need a bulletproof sense of humor to navigate our new world (got that), and I was responsible for being her advocate (needed help). We hustled along nicely through Hadleigh's infant and toddler years. She was funny, smart and loving. If I had been able to hand-pick a child, that child would have been Hadleigh. Certainly I had to stand up for her needs with doctors, nurses, physical therapists and insurance companies, but I could handle those situations.

And then she started school.

Let me preface this by saying that I live in what is considered a good school district, and most of Hadleigh's teachers and aides were genuinely caring professionals. There is, however, a bewildering bureaucracy in school districts, and I did not anticipate how frequently I would have to intercede on her behalf to ensure she received the supports she needed to succeed. Our school district had never encountered a student with a physical disability who did not also need learning support, and it was largely up to me, and later on, Hadleigh, to bring attention to services that were not being provided, or being provided in an unacceptable manner.

This is where my attorney friends and colleagues stepped in to (unofficially) help me advocate for Hadleigh. There are a bazillion laws about special education and I am not a lawyer.

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

By Samantha Coyne, Assistant Director of External Relations

When I disagreed with the district, I could turn to the lawyers I knew for direction. Was the district required to provide transportation for my daughter in her scooter? If not, then were they required to provide another wheelchair to get her on the bus, and buy a scooter for her at school? Was the school's entrance ADA compliant when the button to open the door was two feet above a wheelchair user's head? What about gym class? Was the district responsible for providing adaptive equipment and

inclusive activities so that Hadleigh could participate? A lawyer assisted with all of these questions and more.

Hadleigh had an individualized education plan, which meant frequent meetings with school district personnel. The situation can be intimidating because you and your child are typically outnumbered. Parents and the school district often want vastly different outcomes at these meetings. My frequent thought in many of these meetings was, "Oh my goodness, if I am ready to cry, swear and call people names, and I am armed with an understanding of the law, what do parents do who don't have these things? What happens to their kids?" I know I wouldn't have been as strong a champion for her rights without legal advice. Legal advice that was given with compassion and generosity.

All of us working at the Law School want to see our students enjoy success. We pray for their happiness and always try to lead by example. There is so much for them to learn, and being an attorney is not an easy vocation. There is so much I want to tell them. I want to tell our students that someday they will be in positions of influence, if not power. They will know people who could use some legal advice, and I want to tell them to offer to help. I want to tell them that this is what Duquesne lawyers do, and they do it with a kindness that is humbling. I want to tell them that their education and experience will someday have an enormous and lasting effect on someone's life. And I want to tell them that they can be superheroes. Capes encouraged, but not required. ■

The Evening Division: Since the Beginning, A Proud Heritage ■ Part One

By Jessica Wrzosek, 2L

The School of Law began as an evening program in June of 1911. Since that time, our evening division alumni have enjoyed great successes in their legal careers. We are pleased to profile a few of them below.



Woodruff chose the night program because he was still playing football throughout his academic career, and he was able to manage both of those commitments by doing so.

Hon. Dwayne D. Woodruff L'88

A graduate of the University of Duquesne night division Class of 1988, Judge Dwayne Woodruff is currently the Supervising Judge in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Family Division. He has held his position since winning his election in 1995. He oversees all juvenile matters within the family division and reports directly to the Family Court Administrative Judge. This has been Woodruff's only position within the court system.

Prior to becoming a judge, Woodruff played football for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was drafted from the University of Louisiana. While he was actively playing, he made the decision to further his career. In recounting his reasoning for choosing a career in the law, Woodruff remembered wanting to continue to pursue a path educationally that would not only require the same level of dedication that he had become accustomed to in his athletic training, but that would also ultimately result in a career in which he would be able to pit his skills and training against that of an opponent. In this way, he so elegantly described the parallels and similarities between the commitment required to perform well on game day and the discipline and training needed to represent a client to the best of our abilities.

Woodruff chose the night program because he was still playing football throughout his academic career, and he was able to manage both of those commitments by doing so. He praised the evening professors for their willingness to be cognizant that evening division students most likely were working full-time day jobs and were under a number of other stressors not as common to day division students. Woodruff was married with three children besides his position with the Steelers. He said, "My wife was unbelievable in caring for our home and me."

The advice Woodruff has for currently enrolled students is to stay on top of your classes. He says not to fall behind, as it is tough to catch up but very manageable if you go to class and study every night. And if you meet up for pizza, Woodruff's favorite toppings are sausage and pepperoni, but because his wife thinks he should eat healthier, he adds spinach.



“Working full-time and attending a full-time night law school program is obviously very challenging in and of itself. I’ve always thought that by starting work right after my college graduation and starting law school the following September before I had a chance to get used to having a lot of free time was a good strategy.”

Gretchen Haggerty L’80

Gretchen Haggerty retired in August 2013 after a 37-year career with United States Steel Corporation, a large, integrated global steel producer and its predecessor, USX Corporation, which also included Marathon Oil Corporation. From March 2003 until her retirement, she was Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer for U.S. Steel. She also served as Chairman of the U. S. Steel and Carnegie Pension Fund and its Investment Committee.

Prior to that, she served in various financial executive positions at U.S. Steel and USX beginning in November 1991 when she became Vice President and Treasurer and the first woman executive in the history of U.S. Steel.

Haggerty earned a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Case Western Reserve University in 1976 and attended Duquesne’s evening division while working full time at U.S. Steel. She was honored to be recognized in 1993 as a member of the Century Club of Distinguished Duquesne University Alumni. She is also a member of the Duquesne University School of Law Advisory Board.

Haggerty is currently a director of Johnson Controls International and Teleflex Incorporated as well as Laurel Valley Golf Club, the Strategic Investment Fund, and the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania. She also previously served on the boards of USG Corporation and Highmark, Inc., and a number of other nonprofit organizations.

Haggerty developed a strong interest in the field of taxation while she was at Case, in part because of the excellent professor she had for several tax and accounting courses. She worked for U.S. Steel Corporation as a typist in Billing and Invoicing for two summers while she attended college. She applied for a full-time position with U.S. Steel in its Tax Division and began a career there as a management trainee in July 1976.

Haggerty chose Duquesne because “I had to work full time to support myself, and Duquesne had the only full-time night program in Pittsburgh.” The following is an excerpt from her speech as commencement speaker for the Duquesne University School of Law commencement on June 4, 2017 explaining a bit about why she chose a career in the law:

“Now you might wonder why I’m speaking rather than a practicing lawyer or respected jurist. But Duquesne has asked me to speak on several occasions because I have greatly benefited from my law degree without being in the field.

“At the time I began working at U.S. Steel, there were several senior executives who had law degrees including the Chief Financial Officer and one of my early bosses in tax who ultimately went on to become our Chairman and CEO. Some employees joked that you might really need to have a law degree to be an executive at U.S. Steel. So, after I received my degree in 1980, I was not at all reluctant to accept an opportunity in a non-legal position in our corporate finance organization. As the ‘business person’ working very closely with our corporate attorneys, I learned a tremendous amount about how to get things done in this world and gained a great respect for the law and good corporate lawyers in the process. That turned out to be one of the best jobs I’ve ever had and really laid the groundwork for many of the opportunities that I had after that. I have continued to find a law degree to be a very useful asset in this complex world in which we live as I serve on several boards.”

Did Haggerty have specific challenges during law school that she felt the evening program helped manage? “Working full time and attending a full-time night law school program is obviously very challenging in and of itself,” she said. “I’ve always thought that by starting work right after my college graduation (with just a brief vacation) and starting law school the following September before I had a chance to get used to having a lot of free time was a good strategy. I was still motivated to study, and

I enjoyed my job and my co-workers who were all very supportive of my law school studies and really wanted me to succeed at both school and my job.

“I was fortunate to meet my husband in May 1978 at Duquesne. He worked full-time for a rival steel company and attended night law school at Duquesne in the class ahead of me. We did face a big challenge together later that year when he was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma—bone cancer in his leg. To save his life, he had surgery to remove his leg and then embarked on a year’s worth of very high dose chemotherapy every other weekend at a time when there were no drugs available to quell the severe nausea brought on by the treatment. Nevertheless, he continued working full time and attending law school at night full time, graduating with his class in May 1979, and passing the bar exam all while undergoing these debilitating treatments. We were married in September 1979, and 42 years later, live happily in Upper St. Clair. We have two beautiful, successful daughters—Kate, a Senior Manager of Space and Advanced Manufacturing Products for BWX Technologies in Lynchburg, Va., where she lives with her husband, Patrick Kelly, and Meg, a Senior Associate in Investment Banking at PNC in Pittsburgh.”

And finally, her favorite pizza toppings are mushrooms, green peppers and pepperoni.



“If we don’t know the rules for the game, we can’t change the game. We can’t fix something.”

Amber Vala L’21

Amber Vala graduated from Duquesne Law’s evening division in the spring of 2021. She is currently an Allegheny County Assistant District Attorney and has held her role since May of 2021. This is her first official post grad law job. When asked if this was her ideal position, she stated that she wanted to be a trial attorney and that she loves being in a courtroom. She said that she was planning to go into federal criminal defense prior to the pandemic, but that the pandemic threw a lot of things, including that position, into flux. Vala was fortunate enough to know some people in the DA’s office from her time working in the courthouse full time while attending law school and was able to get into the office.

When she was an evening student, Vala worked full time at the courthouse as a motions clerk. She said she was fortunate that her office and her supervisor really pushed her and allowed her to talk to and meet a lot of people. Consequently, Vala said that she “grew up” in the courthouse professionally. She praised the learning environment of the DA’s office. In having so much professional exposure to the various other professionals at the courthouse, such as such as defense attorneys, judges, clerks and staff, she has gained a bit more confidence going into a courtroom, and “not being as nervous in a trial setting, which is nice, and which is unique to Allegheny County.” She also spoke about how much she has come to appreciate the role the prosecutors play in ensuring that a defendant is charged correctly by being able to amend charges, or in some cases not charged.

Vala grew up in Scranton, Pa. Her father is from Laos, and she is a first-generation American who identifies as a Hmong American. Vala stressed the importance of remaining connected to her identity especially in the field of law in which minorities and women are still not as common. She graduated from Duquesne University with a degree in English literature and has a brother who is focused on engineering. She is a first-generation law student.

Vala began attending Duquesne Law in the day division but decided to transfer into the evening division in order to allow herself the ability to work full time. In so doing, she was able to stay focused completely. She is more of a hands-on learner

so in her experience, she was able to learn through her work and then gain knowledge in her classes.

When discussing what her legal education has meant to her, Vala spoke about the gratitude she feels and that her family has felt as Hmong people coming from Laos, which she described as “not the most conducive to receiving an education,” and how gaining an education has imparted a sense of not only pride but of belonging within the country and an ability to give back. She stressed the ability to give back, particularly as a part of her culture and community. “Knowledge is power,” she said, “and an education in the law brings a specific type of power in knowing what our rights are and how to survive situations and how to help other people survive and how to fight for what we believe in. If we don’t know the rules for the game, we can’t change the game. We can’t fix something.”

Vala’s advice for current students? “School is tough and it’s going to be tough, but stick with it.” And her favorite pizza toppings are mushrooms and sausage. ■

GRETCHEN HAGGERTY’S ADVICE FOR LAWYERS

(TAKEN FROM HER 2017 DUQUESNE LAW SCHOOL
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS):

First, always be ethical; your reputation is too important to squander.

Secondly, you can find something of value for your future in every job or assignment, no matter how mundane; so work hard and be positive and enthusiastic even if it is not your dream job or assignment.

Third, step up and do more than you believe is expected of you. Don’t wait to be asked.

Fourth, be receptive to change. The world never stays the way it was for you in school and you should never stop learning. For those of you who have no financial training, get some. You will be a better lawyer if you do.

Fifth, do not hide bad news. Report it promptly to those with the ultimate responsibility. Have a plan to address the problem, but never deprive someone with the ultimate responsibility of the opportunity to weigh in because they actually may be able to help you change the outcome.

Sixth, “Your greatest strength is your greatest weakness,” a lesson from Bob Hernandez, a former boss of mine whom I greatly admire. Sometimes to succeed, you must really understand yourself and adapt.

Finally, in the end, it is the people who count. It is the people you remember. Your family, your colleagues, your friends.”

Evening Division DLAA Presidents

Benjamin B. Crone L’28

Hon. William S. Rahauser L’32

Carmen R. Capone L’37

Kenneth Christman L’38

Howard K. Hilner L’53

John L. Doherty L’66

June S. Schulberg L’69

Joseph E. Breman L’72

Robert J. Marino L’79

Jennifer Fox Rabold L’81

Robert S. Bernstein L’81

Garry A. Nelson L’82

Mindy J. Shreve L’83

William R. Friedman L’84

Hon. Michael E. McCarthy L’84

John P. Goodrich L’87

Carol S. Hesz L’90

Eric J. Zagrocki L’92

Jessica M. Jurasko L’04

Melissa Ruefle Spencer L’03

Maggie Lewis McHugh L’13

110 Years of Excellence in Legal Education

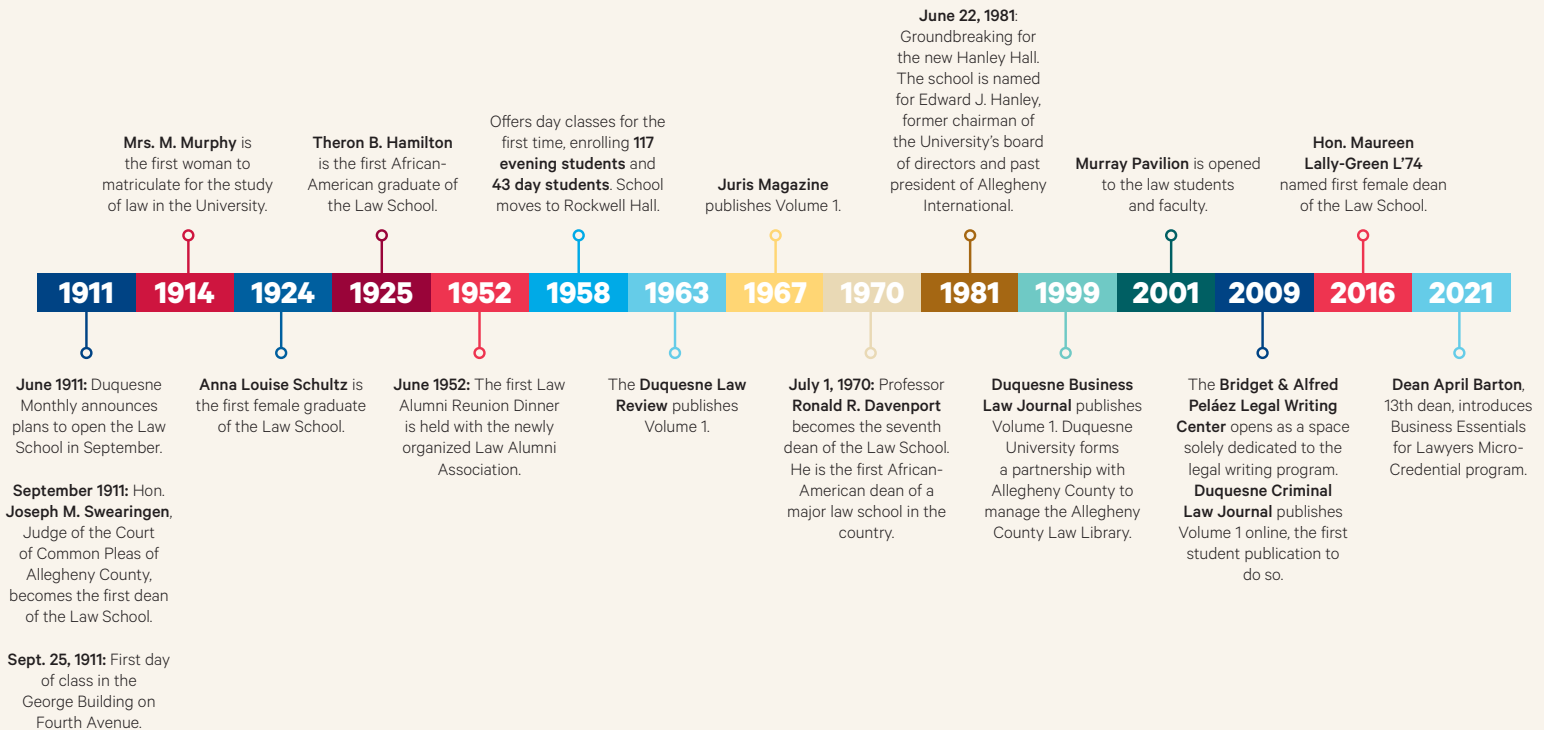
In June 1911, Duquesne University announced it would establish a law school that began as an evening program:

The reference to “those engaged in business” was notable. Classes in Duquesne’s Law School initially began in the late afternoon, making legal education available to many who held jobs. Over the first few years, it became apparent that this was still not late enough. In 1914, the *Duquesne Monthly* reported that classes would be held from 6–8 p.m. Monday through Friday:

“We have reason to believe that there is a large number of young men in Pittsburgh and its vicinity who have passed their preliminary examinations or who have college degrees entitling them to enter upon the study of Law, and who, because they have become engaged temporarily in other professions, find it practically impossible to attend classes that are held in the late afternoon, and would regard evening classes as a distinct and welcome convenience.

“We feel confident that this arrangement will appeal strongly, not only to a large number of prospective practitioners, but also to many business men who appreciate at its just value a knowledge of Law as a safe guide in business transactions.”

–One Hundred Years of Excellence, p. 10.



Young Alumni

PROFILE

Lisa Brunner L'14

Hometown:

Pittsburgh, Pa. I currently live in Las Vegas, Nev.

Education:

University of Pittsburgh, Ph.B., History–2009; Chatham University, M.F.A., Creative Writing– Poetry–in progress (on hold while I adjust to my new job).

Favorite movie:

Baz Luhrman's 2013 interpretation of my favorite book, *The Great Gatsby*. It perfectly captures the multiple dimensions of the characters.

What you are currently reading:

I just finished *The Cello Suites: J.S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece* by Eric Siblin. I am now reading *Fox & I: An Uncommon Friendship* by Catherine Raven and *She Explores: Stories of Life-Changing Adventures on the Road and in the Wild* by Gale Straub. I am always rereading *Ariel* by Sylvia Plath. I always have multiple books going at once!

Words you live by:

We all have the same 24 hours in the day.

What people might be surprised to know about you:

I have played the violin since I was 8 and have been teaching lessons since 2017. When I lived in Pittsburgh, I played with three community orchestras. I am also a published poet, with many poems about the experience of being a public defender. I also started hiking while living in Las Vegas, which is a completely new experience for me. But the red desert is so beautiful I can't help but want to be a part of it!

Employment:

Assistant Federal Public Defender, Capital Habeas Unit–District of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Why is this your dream job?

I came to law school with the specific mission of becoming a public defender. I wanted to advocate for those who could not advocate for themselves. The more I learned about the nuance of criminal law, specifically capital defense, the more I understood that Capital Habeas is a truly special arena: It allows the practitioner to be the courtroom advocate, explore a rich constitutional history, protect life, truly assist people in need, and be creative in both legal analysis and factual history. It's the best of everything, in my opinion. It also helps that all of my mentors who have long guided me in this area have been deeply passionate practitioners and caring teachers, so I am ecstatic and honored to join their ranks.

How did your Duquesne Law education prepare you for the practice of law, specifically this position?

During my time at Duquesne, I had an incredible group of professors who encouraged me and were very generous with their time answering my many

questions–hypotheticals that I came up with to different viewpoints of new developments in criminal law. I also was able to receive a tremendous amount of hands-on experience working with Professor (John) Rago as his research assistant and the Post-Conviction DNA Project (now a part of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project), and during my criminal law externship at the Allegheny County Office of Conflict Counsel, which turned into my first job. It also helped that Duquesne really does act on its commitment to public service—I was able to receive generous funding for summer internships in Kansas City, Mo., at the Death Penalty Litigation Clinic and in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. Having the true hands-on experience made a world of difference when I was ready to take on my own case.

How would you describe the value of a Duquesne University School of Law education in the world today?

I would describe my legal education from Duquesne as truly invaluable. When determining which law school to attend, I made several lists, and Duquesne placed tops every single time specifically because it offered a focus on criminal law, both in course offerings and experiential opportunities, that other schools did not. Starting law school with the laser-targeted mission to become a public defender, I knew that I needed to be at a university with the maximum offerings in criminal law. I can truly say that the knowledge, experiential opportunities and connections that I made at Duquesne have opened many doors. ■

Message from DLAA President

Dear fellow Duquesne Law alumni,

It is an honor to serve as the President of the Duquesne Law Alumni Association for the 2021-2022 academic year.

As the Duquesne University School of Law welcomes its 110th entering class and our society continues to transition through the many challenging phases of the pandemic, we are thankful to Dean April Barton for her stewardship and poise. Under her leadership, the School of Law was recently ranked sixth nationally for bar passage by *preLaw Magazine* and continues to develop and expand its coursework to provide opportunities for students to strengthen their leadership skills, including through the Leadership Fellows program.

In addition, our moot court and trial advocacy programs are some of the most respected in the country, while the clinical program is one of the most dynamic in the legal field. The bar passage results for the class of 2021 remained impressive.

We are in the midst of a very exciting year. The DLAA plans to host a number of events and programs to facilitate comradery and collegiality among our alumni.

The 69th Annual Reunion Reception was held Oct. 15 on the Academic Walk. It was an enjoyable evening under the stars and allowed us to celebrate three of our most successful alumni—Nicola Henry-Taylor L'96, Judge Mary C. McGinley L'02 and Professor John T. Rago L'87.

The DLAA's annual Pass the Bar event was held at Over Eden in Lawrenceville on Nov. 8 to celebrate the accomplishments of our 2020 and 2021 Duquesne Law graduates.

In the coming months, please be on the lookout for more materials from the DLAA on how you can stay connected to Duquesne University School of Law. From social events and CLEs to recruitment opportunities for law students or recent graduates who could support your practice, I promise that we have something for you! If you have not yet joined or renewed your membership, please consider doing so today. I look forward to seeing you at the next DLAA event. ■



Maggie M. Lewis McHugh, L'13
President, Duquesne Law Alumni Association

 JOIN THE DLAA TODAY: duq.edu/DLAA



IN THE COMING MONTHS, PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE MATERIALS FROM THE DLAA ON HOW YOU CAN STAY CONNECTED TO DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW. FROM SOCIAL EVENTS AND CLES TO RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW STUDENTS OR RECENT GRADUATES WHO COULD SUPPORT YOUR PRACTICE, I PROMISE THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!



From left, President Ken Gormley, John Rago, Nicola Henry-Taylor, Dean April Barton, Judge Mary McGinley.

69th Annual Law Alumni Reunion

We were pleased to be back on the Bluff for our annual Law Alumni Reunion on Oct. 15. Alumni and friends enjoyed perfect weather outside on Academic Walk this year, as well as each other's company, as we celebrated our DLAA Alumni Awardees. Past DLAA president Jack Goodrich L'87 was our emcee and introduced this year's honorees: Nicola Henry-Taylor L'96, Distinguished Alumna Award; Hon. Mary C. McGinley L'02, Outstanding Achievement Award; and Professor John T. Rago L'87, Dr. John E. Murray, Jr. Meritorious Service Award. Congratulations! ■



Read more about our award winners at duq.edu/LawAlumniReunion2021.



Clockwise from top left: SBA President Stephon Burton, a McGinley Fellow, greets Judge McGinley and Jack McGinley L'68. • Students Flora Dellishad, Jessica Wrzosek and Olamide Owwoeye. • Judge Mike McCarthy L'84 passes the gavel to Maggie McHugh L'13. • Dean Barton and members of the DLAA Board of Governors. • From left: 2019 alumni Chelsea Forbes Conway, Daniel Watson, Brad Burkholder and Marissa Stewart.

A Tribute to Eugene A. Vittone II L'97

By Joseph Sabino Mistick L'79, Associate Professor of Law

Washington County District Attorney Gene Vittone L'97 died Aug. 21 at 61 after battling cancer. Gene always carried a little shirt-pocket notebook in which he wrote the names of drug overdose victims in his county. If you were with him when he got the call, conversation stopped as he sadly added the most recent name to the list.

Gene had worked his way through Duquesne Law School's night division as a paramedic, and he never stopped believing it was his job to save lives. As a three-term DA, Gene remembered each opioid death and, along with the families of the victims, he suffered each one, too.

Believing drug addiction is a public health problem more than a moral failure, Gene pioneered the establishment of a treatment center in the county jail at the beginning of the opioid crisis. And he led the charge statewide for the widespread use of Narcan and other overdose antidotes.

Gene embodied the prosecutor's duty to seek justice, not necessarily convictions. He was unflinching when it came to prosecuting bad guys, but he knew in his bones that incarceration is not the right solution for all lawbreakers.

He knew society must decide who we are afraid of and who we are simply mad at—locking up those who scare us but finding less harsh treatment and rehabilitation for the others.

In Pennsylvania, we elect our prosecutors, and Gene ran as a Republican. But after the elections were over, you would be hard pressed to guess what political party he belonged to. He was a public servant first.

As Washington County Common Pleas Court Judge Brandon Neuman said, "You never heard Republican or Democrat from

Gene. He just wanted to do the right thing."

And Steve Toprani, Gene's Democratic predecessor in the DA's office, said Republican Gene was his first hire. He reorganized the office and had "an immeasurable impact on Washington County—especially in his own successful terms as DA."

Recently elected president of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA), Gene had been working on criminal justice reform proposals with Duquesne Law Professor John Rago. Three days before he died, still thinking of others, he texted Rago, "Was hoping to get more done as prez for you but that is in our Lord's hands."

Mike Jones, who gathered the tributes for Gene for the Observer-Reporter, wrote that "above all, the tributes about Vittone signaled his kindness and compassion." The PDAA wrote, "His big heart and kind soul will be deeply missed. To many of us, he was simply the most decent person."

Through all this, Gene was a family man who could always be found in the community, singing in church choirs and coaching youth sports, even after his own children had gotten older and moved on. He was the kind of guy who had life in perspective, who could be counted on to give good counsel when you feared that you had lost your own perspective.

At his funeral, tough prosecutors and cops and defense attorneys and politicians fought back tears. There is a sense that we have lost the best of us. But, if we remember how Gene led with kindness, and try to do that ourselves, this will be a better place. ■



Duquesne Law is Pleased to Announce Alumni Spotlight CLE Series

Duquesne Law is proud to showcase the knowledge and experience of our alumni via a series of CLE programs devoted to various topics of interest.

The series began Oct. 4 with "Emerging Trends in Managing Global Entities," presented by Devlin Aaron Fisher L'12 and Robert J. McHugh L'12, Global Sales Support Managers at CT Corporation.

On Nov. 4, Rocco E.

Cozza L'03, Founder, Managing Attorney, and Matthew Bolewitz L'15, Senior Counsel, Cozza Law Group PLLC, discussed "LLC Basics: A Roadmap for the General Practitioner." Turahn L. Jenkins L'04 spoke about "Criminal Defense Representation: The Do's and Don'ts" on Nov. 18. Concluding our series will be Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.'s Ashley R. Bozewski L'12 on the topic

of "Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets in Estate Administration" Dec. 9.

"I believe it is important for our Duquesne Law alumni to continue to be a part of the Duquesne University School of Law community by supporting the Law School and its programs," Fisher said. "This is why I have decided to assist with the CLE program. I hope that more of our alumni can do the same and reconnect with

the Duquesne community by sharing some insights into where their careers have taken them."

We are grateful to the professionals volunteering their time and expertise to support the CLE program. If you are interested in presenting a CLE on a topic of your choice, please contact Samantha Coyne, Assistant Director of External Relations, at coynes1@duq.edu. ■

ClassActions

Stay connected with Duquesne Law!
Update your email at duq.edu/lawalumniupdate or by emailing
the Law Alumni office at lawalumni@duq.edu.

1968



Murray Ufberg was honored by Misericordia University with a Doctor of Humane Letters Degree at its commencement ceremony May 15. Ufberg served as a trustee of Misericordia for 30 years and, for his distinguished service, was awarded trustee emeritus status in 2015 upon his retirement from the board.

1971



William C. Costopoulos has joined Saxton & Stump in Harrisburg to bolster its White Collar Defense practice and support the firm's Appellate and Post-Trial Advocacy and Attorney and Judicial Ethics and Discipline teams. After serving briefly as a Dauphin County Assistant District Attorney, Costopoulos began his career in private practice, handling many complex and infamous cases. His best-known cases include the defense of Dr. Jay Smith, the defense of former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larsen and the acquittal of former City of York Mayor Charles Robinson. Costopoulos is also an accomplished author of three non-fiction books and three novels.

1972

R.W. "Hap" Ziegler Jr.

was named chair of the County of Santa Barbara's Civil Service Commission. Ziegler is Chief Operating Officer for Mesa Consulting, LLC., a Santa Barbara, Calif.-based firm that helps businesses of all sizes, professional service organizations and nonprofit entities maximize success.



1979

Butler Buchanan III

is the 2021 recipient of the Renaissance Man Award from the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division (NBA/WLD). The annual award recognizes an African American man who has demonstrated commitment to the empowerment, advancement and full participation of women of color in the legal profession.



1980

Kenneth J. Horoho,

a member of the Pittsburgh-based family law firm Gentile, Horoho & Avalli, P.C., has been appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to its Committee on Rules of Evidence, to advise and assist the court in prescribing general rules governing all court proceedings in Pennsylvania.



Gino F. Peluso recognized by Saint Vincent College as a 2021 Alumni of Distinction in recognition of "exemplary service, commitment and the ways in which their accomplishments, affiliations and careers have honored the legacy of Saint Vincent."

1982

James W. Saxton

was named to Central Penn Business Journal's Power 100, featured as one of the most influential people in central Pennsylvania.



Francis C. Rapp Jr. joined Meyer, Unkovic & Scott in the firm's Litigation Group.

1983

Suzanne Belot Norton accepted reappointment to serve on the Ohio State Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Certified Specialty Board. Her two-year term will run through Dec. 31, 2023.

1987

Paul A. Lagnese was selected to serve a second term as President of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, the first person in PAJ's 54-year history to do so.

1992

Charles F. Pegher is now a partner at Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP, focusing his practice on trust and estate administration, litigation and estate planning.

1994

Kimberly Moses is now Senior Director and Deputy General Counsel-Privacy at Gateway Health.

1996

Kristen Del Sole is now a partner at Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP, focusing on probate, estate and trust litigation.

Brad Cramer

was promoted to Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer



of HarbisonWalker International. He previously held these roles as Vice President, and will continue providing advice and counsel to HWI's executive management and Board of Directors while overseeing all legal and compliance matters for HWI's domestic and international locations.

Lisa M. Petruzzi joined Meyer, Unkovic & Scott in the firm's Family Law Practice Group.

1997

Laura L. Reinhart was promoted to member in the Pittsburgh office of Cozen O'Connor. She has more than 20 years of experience in complex litigation, focused in the heavily regulated rail industry.

1999

C. Melissa "Missy" Owen

serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers at the association. Owen is a founding partner of Tin Fulton Walker & Owen, and her practice areas include state and federal criminal defense with a focus on white collar matters, financial crime, sex offense prosecutions and Title IX representation.



2001



Members of the **Class of 2001** celebrated their 20th reunion this summer at North Park, Allegheny County.

2003

Elizabeth Jones Poggi was appointed President and CEO of Smithfield Trust Company.

Edwin W. Russell joined Meyer, Unkovic & Scott in the firm's Private Clients Group.

2004

Joseph Richard Falcon III was appointed to the Newtown Township trails and greenways committee. Falcon is a member of Barley Snyder's intellectual property practice group and is a registered U.S. Patent and Trademark Office patent attorney.

2007

Jimmi Sue Smith will assume the role of chief financial officer of Koppers effective Jan. 1, 2022. Since February 2020, Smith has served as Koppers vice president, finance and treasurer, overseeing the global treasury management function.

2008

Elaine "Lainie" Moyer joined Young Moore in Raleigh, N.C., focusing her practice on complex civil litigation involving transportation and general liability matters.



2009

Jennifer A. Galloway joined Saxton & Stump's Trusts and Estates team as senior counsel and focuses her practice on counseling her clients and their families, as well as business owners and professional advisors.



Beth Kuhn is now Counsel at McDermott Will & Emery in London, and focuses her practice on capital markets.

2010

Jazmine Grant is now a Board Member at Pennsylvania Women Work, a nonprofit workforce development

organization dedicated to helping individuals find financial stability.

Anthony Justice is an associate at Tucker Arensberg, P.C., in the firm's litigation group.

2012

Ashley R. Bozewski joined Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C., as an associate in the firm's Estates and Trusts practice area.



Natalie Miller is Senior Corporate Counsel at Clear Channel Outdoor.

2014

Sara Aull is an adjunct lecturer at WVU College of Law, teaching Healthcare Law Torts for the fall 2021 semester. She continues to work in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel in the Torts Law Group and works as a group fitness instructor in Duquesne's Power Center.

Trisha R. Hudkins and husband Patrick welcomed a second daughter, Karter Mae, on March 6.



2016

Kathryn VanDeveer married Chris Gioia, a Navy reservist, volunteer firefighter, and guidance navigation and controls engineer with Astrobotic Technology, Sept. 5, 2020 in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Hillary and Casey **Rankin** welcomed baby Theodore "Teddy" Benjamin on April 10. Hillary is an associate attorney at Morgan Lewis LLP, and Casey is an associate attorney at Andrews & Price LLC.



Alyssa Pietropaolo was named a member of the 2021 Dukes from the Last Decade, awarded by the Duquesne University Young Alumni Council. The selection is made from nominees who are DU graduates from the last 10 years and have demonstrated outstanding professional excellence, commitment and service to their community and dedication to Duquesne University.



Elisabeth Rather Healey was appointed as associate provost for regulatory affairs and applied innovation at the newly launched Office of Research and Innovation at Duquesne University. She is a registered U.S. patent attorney, a chemist and a patent holder with more than eight years of experience in intellectual property law.



2017

Jaime L. Infrerrera joined Dinsmore & Shohl LLP in its public finance practice group.



2019

Allison M. Erndle is an associate at Burns White LLC, focusing her practice on Healthcare and Long-Term Care law defending doctors, hospitals and long-term care health facilities in medical malpractice and liability matters.

Ashlyn M. Grim joined Blank Rome's Pittsburgh office as an associate in its General Litigation group.



2020

Jacob Hanley is an associate at Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC., focusing his practice on a diverse array of complex commercial litigation matters.

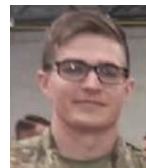
Sarah Linder married Christopher Marx in a small, private ceremony Aug. 8, 2020. The couple just celebrated their first year anniversary with family and friends.



2021

Arlia Duarte was awarded the Professor Louis Del Duca Memorial Award in Business Law from the Pennsylvania Bar Association. The award is presented to law school students from Pennsylvania's ABA-accredited law schools who demonstrate academic excellence, especially in courses related to business law, and intend to practice law in Pennsylvania.

Robert Fitzgerald was awarded a MAX by AccessLex retroactive scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. Fitzgerald serves in the National Guard, and this past year served his country in challenging ways during the COVID-19 pandemic.



In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we list the following School of Law alumni who passed away:

Hon. Joseph L. Cosetti 1975

Cosetti had a long career in public service, first as Pittsburgh city treasurer (1970-1977) and the Republican candidate for mayor in 1977, then as a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge for the Western District for 24 years. He was appointed to the federal bench in 1984 and became chief judge in 1985 until 1994, when he assumed senior status. He served as president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges from 1991 to 1992. Prior to graduating from the Evening Division, Cosetti worked as an economist at United States Steel and then Jones and Laughlin Steel, where he was chief economist from 1959 to 1970. He was also a member of the Army Reserve, attaining the rank of colonel after decades of service.

Thomas M. Reich 1965

Reich, who also graduated from the evening division, was a pioneering baseball and hockey agent who represented players like the Pittsburgh Pirates' Dave Parker, John Candelaria and Manny Sanguillen and the Pittsburgh Penguins' Mario Lemieux. His larger-than-life personality helped drive the free agent market in its early years. He negotiated the first salary over the \$2 million average in 1982 (for George Foster). Prior to becoming an agent in 1970, Reich practiced law in Pittsburgh. He maintained ties to the region despite having homes on both coasts.

Judith Anderson	1985	Thomas P. Ravis	1967
Richard D. Ballou	1971	Paul A. Recht	1992
Peter E. Blystone	1952	Thomas M. Reich	1965
Charles R. Cornelius	1980	Jeffrey M. Robinson	1985
Hon. Joseph L. Cosetti	1975	Vincent J. Senko	1974
Michael G. Dailey	1979	Thomas L. Sivak	1969
Raymond J. Eifler	1968	Thomas W. Smith	1968
John W. Hardisty	1977	Peggy Michelle Smyrnes-Williams	1979
Hon. Eric Jones	1979	Dianne M. Stanley	1971
Richard J. Kabbert	2000	Charles J. Swick	1963
Harry M. Montgomery	1973	John R. Thomas	1956
Martin J. Moran	1970	Eugene A. Vittone II	1997
Peter T. Paladino, Jr.	1982	Paul Von Geis	1979
David J. Picker	1970		

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 Law Alumni Office at 412.396.5215 so that we may update our records.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



April Mara Barton, Dean and Professor of Law, was the keynote speaker at the Duquesne University Heritage Week Luncheon Sept. 28. She reflected on the students who are drawn to Duquesne University and how our School of Law's Leadership Fellows Program embodies the University's Spiritan mission.

Aman Gebru, Assistant Professor of Law, received two grants from Duquesne University: the 2021 Duquesne University Faculty Development Grant and the 2021 Rev. Alphons Loogman Faculty Research Grant. Publication and presentations:

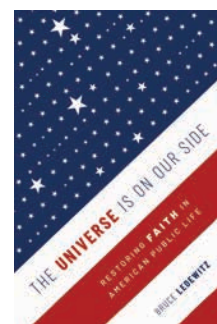
- *The Piracy Paradox and Indigenous Fashion*. 39 *CARDOZO ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW JOURNAL* 607 (2021).
- "Owning Innovation from Hackathons." Intellectual Property Scholars Conference (August 2021).
- Organized and hosted a panel on Intellectual Property, Race and Culture at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Amelia Island, Fla. (July 2021).

Jalila Jefferson-Bullock, Associate Professor of Law, was the recipient of the Presidential Scholarship Award and the Dr. John and Liz Murray Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship. Publication, presentations and media:

- *That's Enough Punishment: Abolishing and Defunding the Police and the Carceral State*. 48 *URB. L. J.* 625 [Fordham University School of Law] (2021) (with Jelani Jefferson Exum) (invited).
- Panelist, "Marijuana's Disparate Racial Impacts: A Restorative Justice Issue," Elsinore Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice, virtual (Oct. 4, 2021).
- *Constitution Day: The Tulsa Race Massacre and the Denial of Citizenship*. Duquesne University School of Law, virtual (Sept. 17, 2021).
- *Say Her Name: Breonna Taylor—Perspectives on the Breonna Taylor Case*. Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Amelia Island, Fla. (July 2021).
- "What is Critical Race Theory?" KDKA1020 Radio, Pittsburgh, Pa. (June 18, 2021).

Bruce Ledewitz, Adrian Van Kaam Endowed Chair in Scholarly Excellence and Professor of Law, published his book, *The Universe Is on Our Side: Restoring Faith in American Public Life* (Oxford Univ. Press). Publications, presentations and media:

- Book Review: *Secular Surge: A New Fault Line in American Politics*. By David E. Campbell, Geoffrey C. Layman and John C. Green. *Journal of Church and State* (2021)
- *Law's Quandary Can Only Be Solved by the Universe—and that goes for the rest of us, too*. Larry Grimes Lecture at Bethany College (Oct. 7, 2021).
- *Recent Developments in Pennsylvania Constitutional Law*. Duquesne University School of Law Continuing Legal Education (Sept. 25, 2021).
- *Constitution Day: The Constitution and Citizenship in America*. Duquesne University School of Law, virtual (Sept. 17, 2021).
- *The Electoral College and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact—What Every Voter Should Know*. Presentation to the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons (Sept. 13, 2021).
- "I am resigning from the pro-life movement," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (Sept. 12, 2021).
- "With Jews under attack, here is chance to act," *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle* (June 30, 2021).
- Biweekly contributor, *Pennsylvania Capital-Star* commentary page.



Jan Levine, Director of Legal Research and Writing and Professor of Law, publication and presentation:

- *A Curmudgeon's View of the Multi-Generational Teaching of Legal Writing*. 25 *Legal Writing* 79 (2021).
- *Don't Hide the Ball: Using Examples of Past Student Work Without Giving It All Away* (with Lori Schweer). ALWD Conference (June 2021).

Ashley London, Director of Bar Studies and Assistant Professor of Legal Skills, was one of five law professors across the country to receive the inaugural Access Lex-AASE ASP Faculty Scholarship Grant. Presentation and honors:

- *Practice Makes for a Perfect PT* (with April Milburn-Knizner). Association of Academic Support Educators (AASE) Virtual Conference, Seattle, Wash., hosted by the American University Washington College of Law (May 2021).
- Elected co-chair of the AASE Bar Advocacy Committee.

Marissa Meredith, Assistant Professor of Law, publications and presentations:

- *Out with the Old, In with the New: Learning the Traditional with a Non-Traditional Medium*. Allegheny County Bar Association Lawyers Journal (Sept. 10, 2021).
- *Addressing the Constraints of the Fourth Amendment*. Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases Vol. 48 Issue No. 8 (August 2021).
- Presenter, Work-in-Progress, *Tinder Love & Care: A Discussion of Online Dating Apps' Failure to Provide Effective Safety Precautions for Users*. Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Amelia Island, Fla. (July 2021).
- Co-presenter, *But You're Not a Real Law Professor*, ALWD Directors 2021 Biennial Conference, University of Michigan Law School (June 2021).
- Co-presenter, *Legal Writing Plus: Teaching Subjects Beyond Legal Writing*, 2021 Biennial Empire State Legal Writing Conference, New York Law School, virtual (May 2021).

Jane Campbell Moriarty, Carol Los Mansmann Chair in Faculty Scholarship and Professor of Law, published her case book, *Scientific and Expert Evidence* (with John M. Conley), 3rd ed., Aspen/Wolters Kluwer (2020). Publication, presentations and media:

- *Neuroimaging Evidence in the United States* (chapter) in *Law and Mind: At the Intersection of Law and the Cognitive Sciences*. Cambridge University Press (2021).
- Appearing as a Legal Commentator in Netflix series *Monsters Inside: The 24 Faces of Billy Milligan* (Sept. 21, 2021).
- *Conflicts of Interest in Criminal Cases*. Duquesne University School of Law Continuing Legal Education (August 2021).
- *Confidentiality, Attorney Client Privilege, and Crime Fraud Exception: The Intersections*. Duquesne University School of Law Continuing Legal Education (July 2021).
- *Neuroscience Evidence: From Here to Reliability*. Grand Rounds, UPMC Shadyside Hospital (April 2021).

Dana Neacsu, DCLI and ACLL Director and Associate Professor of Legal Skills, publications and presentations:

- *Cazul aparen ei ca normativitate transformativă. Exemple din dreptul American (The case of appearance as a transformative norm. Examples from American law)*. In honorem Flavius Antoniu Baias-L'apparence en droit, Bucharest, Hamangiu (September 2021).
- *An Ecological and Holistic Analysis of the Epistemic Value of Law Libraries* (with Paul Callister). Law Library Journal (2021).
- *March-In Rights Could Ensure Patient Access By Keeping Drug Prices In Check. They're under Attack* (with Peter Arno, PhD, and Kathryn Ardizzone, JD). Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) (May 2021).
- *Perspective asupra responsabilitatii precontractuale in dreptul American: teorie si practica* (Perspectives on pre-contractual liability in American law: theory and practice). Conferinta Internationala Gheorghe Beleiu, Bucuresti, virtual (May 20-21, 2021).
- *Theorizing Information Environments and Their Relationship to Law and Society* (with Paul Callister). International Conference of Information, Medium and Society, virtual (July 10, 2021).
- *The Epistemic Value of Libraries: An Ecologic and Holistic Analysis* (with Paul Callister). Boulder Conference, virtual (July 15, 2021).

John Towers Rice, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, publication and presentations:

- *The Road to Bostock*. 15 FIU L. REV. 423 (2021).
- Discussant, "Professional Responsibility in Our Turbulent Times," Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference (July 2021).
- Discussant, "Contract Issues in Employment Law: Contract Disclaimers, Company Policies, and Other Contracts Issues," Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference (July 2021).
- Discussant, "Silver Linings Playbook: Lessons Learned During a Pandemic," Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference (July 2021).



John T. Rago, Associate Professor of Law, has been reappointed by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Max Baer to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing. He was also one of two academic reporters selected by Gov. Tom Wolf to serve on a working group statutorily created under Title 61 to "examine circumstances surrounding those who have committed criminal homicide while under supervision by the [Parole] board." As a member of the Homicide Review Team (HRT), Rago is working to identify "appropriate changes in applicable statutes, regulations, guidelines, best practices, protocols and other standards" to determine what improvements can be made to avoid or minimize the tragic results of these cases.

Ann Schiavone, Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship and Associate Professor of Law, presentations:

- Organizer, *Constitution Day: The Constitution and Citizenship in America*. Duquesne University School of Law (Sept. 17, 2021).
- Panelist, “LGBTQIA+ Rights and Religious Liberty,” Duquesne Law Federalist Society Chapter (Sept. 16, 2021).
- Co-presenter, *But You’re Not a Real Law Professor*, ALWD Directors 2021 Biennial Conference, University of Michigan Law School (June 2021).

Tiffany Sizemore, associate professor of clinical legal skills, publication, presentation and awards:

- *Youth and the Juvenile Court System: A Community Foundation’s Commitment to Integrating Voice and Community Expertise* (with Michael A. Yonas, Jennifer C. Sloan, Anna Hollis and Kathi Elliot). *The Foundation Review*, Vol. 13, Issue 2 (Shifting Power in Philanthropy) (August 2021).

- “Salute to Legal Excellence” Award, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Oct. 28, 2021).
- Panelist, “Marijuana’s Disparate Racial Impacts: A Restorative Justice Issue,” Elsinore Benuu Think Tank for Restorative Justice, virtual (Oct. 4, 2021).
- “See the Best in Me” Award, Gwen’s Girls Annual Summit, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Sept. 22, 2021).

Tara Wilke, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Law, presentation:

- Co-presenter, *But You’re Not a Real Law Professor*, ALWD Directors 2021 Biennial Conference, University of Michigan Law School (June 2021). ■

Oranburg to Explore Virtual Worlds with Hayek Fund for Scholars Award

Seth Oranburg, Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Business Essentials for Lawyers Micro-Credential program, received the Hayek Fund for Scholars Award from George Mason University’s Institute for Humane Studies (IHS). The funds he received from the award were used to purchase virtual reality equipment and to hire a research assistant, second-year law student Tom Schierberl. Together, the two are going to explore virtual reality worlds in the context of the law.

“Although it may sound far out, virtual worlds are increasingly becoming a commercial reality; the gross domestic product of these worlds is already equal to that of Bulgaria’s, and virtual economies are growing much faster than many real-world ones,” Oranburg said. “I’m so pleased that IHS recognized the importance of this forward-looking research. As we move into an increasingly technology-driven future, it’s important to consider how technological changes will impact our values, such as freedom, democracy and equality.”

Virtual interactions can have interesting uses in law, according to Schierberl.

“Virtual reality gives us the opportunity to volumetrically record an interaction. Meaning, in the event of a contract dispute, we can play back the contract’s formation in 3D to hear what was said, where it was said, where the persons were in relation to one another.

The recording can be played while still in virtual reality—you can make the recording the size of a virtual apple or fill the entire virtual room,” he said.

Schierberl finds the most interesting part of virtual worlds the manipulation of the recording to view the contract’s formation from every individual person’s perspective at the time of formation.

“It is like a movie that lets you control the perspective, and that could be a great tool in contract interpretation going forward as virtual reality becomes



more prominent,” he said.

The duo is honored they received this award, and Oranburg is anticipating the good he will be able to do with it.

“Exploring this uncharted commercial territory marks a turning point in my research agenda, and hopefully a leap forward for my career, but more importantly the IHS funding supports the notion that we should strive toward achieving the good in society even when that society exists in new—and even virtual—spaces.” ■

Neacsu Named Director of Law Library Services



Dr. Dana Neacsu

Duquesne University's School of Law is pleased to welcome Dr. Dana Neacsu as the new Director of Law Library Services and Associate Professor of Legal Skills. She will lead the School of Law's Center for Legal Information and the Allegheny County Law Library.

Neacsu joins the School of Law after working at the Columbia Law School Library in New York, N.Y. She had worked there since

2000, serving in various roles including reference librarian, administrator, head of public services and most recently as

supervisor of the inter-library loan services.

Prior to joining Columbia Law, Neacsu was a European civil law court judge and an assistant professor of law, and worked with the New York City Corporation Counsel's Office as an attorney.

Neacsu holds degrees from three countries: Romania, France and the United States. Her PhD is from The State University of New Jersey, her master of library science degree is from the City University of New York and her master of law degree is from Harvard Law School. Internationally, she earned her other degrees from Ecole de Droit et des Etudes Politiques in Caen, France, and Universitatea Bucuresti, Facultatea de Drept in Bucharest, Romania. ■

Duquesne Law Welcomes Visiting Assistant Professors

Dr. Linh K. Dai joined the School of Law faculty this fall. She teaches in the areas of torts, human trafficking and international human rights. Her other teaching and scholarly interests include criminal law, criminal procedure, constitutional law, and women and the law.

Dai has devoted her scholarships to advancing the rights of women and children in Asia. She has conducted extensive research on laws, power, exploitation and justice on women's and children's rights and gender equality in Asia. Her important work in these areas is a way to give power to those who do not have a voice.

Interested in diversity and service, Dai participated and served as an executive planning committee member for the Southeast-Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference and served as co-chair of the Law Student Writing Competition.

Mentoring is also important to Dai, who was chosen to be one of the Fellows in the Preparing Future Faculty Program. While an instructor at Northern Arizona University, Dai was nominated for the 2016 Teacher of the Year Award by faculty, staff and students.

Before joining Duquesne, Dai was a visiting assistant professor at St. Thomas

University School of Law. She has also taught at McNeese State University, Northern Arizona University and Arizona State University. Dai earned a PhD from Arizona State University, a certificate in international humanitarian law, an LLM in law and government from American University, a concentration certificate in civil and constitutional rights, a specialization certificate in gender and the law, a JD from Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, an MPA from Hamline University, and a BA from Metropolitan State University.

John Towers Rice teaches corporations and also researches and presents on issues relating to business litigation, professional responsibility and non-discrimination law.

A native of Greenville, S.C., Rice graduated from Clemson University in 2008, and then earned his law degree with a concentration in advocacy and dispute resolution from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville College of Law in 2012. During law school, Rice competed on the Dean Jerome Price Evidence Moot Court Team and was one of 10 law graduates nominated to the Order of the Barristers, and the College of Law faculty



Dr. Linh K. Dai



John Towers Rice

recognized him with ALI-ABA Scholarship and Leadership Award.

Rice previously taught at the University of Tennessee College of Law and the University of Massachusetts School of Law. He also served as a law clerk for the Supreme Court of Tennessee and was in private practice where he focused on professional liability defense, commercial and business disputes, probate and fiduciary litigation, workplace investigations, and appellate practice. He is a member of the American Bar Association and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He is admitted to the Tennessee and South Carolina bars, as well as the bars for the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Middle Districts of Tennessee and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. ■

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■ Religious Liberty and Abortion Law | *By Alexa Glista*



The Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, where the constitutional right to an abortion was recognized, has long been opposed by many Christian religious groups who believe that life starts at conception. Surprisingly, religion appears to be playing a new role in the abortion debate. Texas’s “Heartbeat Bill” went into effect on Sept. 1, 2021 and is now the strongest anti-abortion law in the country, banning abortion after six weeks. The Supreme Court declared it would not block the law. In response, the Satanic Temple, which the IRS recognizes as a religion, announced that it would be fighting this law by invoking the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), to demand exemption from abortion restrictions on religious grounds. The debate around abortion is now taking a turn to be a debate about religious liberty.

■ Those Who Are Forgotten Under the Family and Medical Leave Act | *By Hannah Schaffer*



Many agree that the first weeks of a child’s life are fundamental to their development. However, the United States does not offer universal federal paid parental leave. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is the closest policy the United States employs. FMLA was created with the intent to help employees balance work and family responsibilities. The act provides employees with up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave per year for either medical or bonding leave. However, many people are not covered by FMLA. FMLA only applies to employees who work 30 or more hours a week and have been with that company for at least three months. Additionally, FMLA does not apply to employees who have multiple employers, therefore disproportionately affecting women of color. Three out of five mothers cannot take leave under FMLA, for the sole reason that they cannot afford to go unpaid for three months.

■ **Elizabeth Holmes and Theranos: How “The Change in Healthcare” Turned Disastrous and Its Larger Implications** | *By Madeline Olds*



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash.com

Healthcare is always trying to be advanced to be more safe, effective and simpler for patients and doctors alike. However, in pursuit of that ambition, there can be dire effects. That is the case with Elizabeth Holmes, CEO of Theranos. Holmes founded Theranos, which developed efficient blood testing by only needing mere drops of blood to obtain test results for multiple illnesses and health problems. This innovation led many to invest in Theranos, making it a multi-billion-dollar company. Yet, this success was not based on truth, but rather fraudulent data, statements and promises on the part of Holmes. With a highly publicized federal fraud trial and the collapse of Theranos, the effect of Theranos is being seen across multiple industries.

■ **Custody in the Time of COVID-19 Vaccination** | *By Anabelle Nietupski*



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay.com

Suddenly we are living in a time where vaccination status is a political, religious, social and moral statement. How can custody be negotiated when a vulnerable child has one parent who is vaccinated against COVID-19, and the other is not? While it is not a judge’s place to inject “their” personal preferences into a custody dispute, they are tasked with protecting the interests of the child to the best of their ability. In developing case law, we see both sides of the debate, with a strong pattern yet to develop. Will COVID-19 vaccination issues lead to a new era of custody mediation?

■ **State and Federal Legislators Challenge Decades-Old Supreme Court Abortion Law Precedents From Both Sides of Aisle** | *By David McPeak, Editor-in-Chief*



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay.com

In 2018, Mississippi enacted legislation banning most abortions after 15 weeks. That law has given rise to a case directly challenging the United States Supreme Court’s decades-old abortion precedents under *Roe* and *Casey*. In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health*, the Court is asked to revisit the constitutionality of *Casey*’s undue burden test which restricts states’ ability to regulate pre-viability abortions. The Petitioners in *Dobbs* argue that the pre-viability guideposts staked out nearly 50 years ago under *Roe* have become outdated, have proven unworkable and have only shallow constitutional construct. Meanwhile, Texas has passed a law which challenges *Roe*’s central holding even more aggressively than Mississippi’s. At the federal level, the House of Representatives recently passed legislation which seeks to codify *Roe* and *Casey* while also limiting states’ ability to regulate abortion in ways courts have previously upheld as consistent with *Casey*’s undue burden regime.

STUDENT BRIEFS

The 20th Annual Katie Westbrook 5K & Dog Walk



This year's Katie Westbrook 5K and Dog Walk, organized by the Student Bar Association, was held in person on Academic Walk Oct. 16 and virtually, where participants sent pictures of their route/time to the dedicated Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KatieWestbrook5KandDogWalk>.

We had nearly 100 participants registered, as well as 23 dogs! The participants gathered for a morning of racing, walking, yard games, a bake sale, snacks, a raffle for two sets of Steelers tickets (two winning tickets were pulled), and other fundraising games and sales. Several student organizations were represented, including the Health Law Society's first aid station, the Women's Law Association's T-shirt sale and the Duquesne Italian American Law Society's biscotti at the coffee stations. Katie's mother, Beth Westbrook, attended, and we remembered Katie's life by celebrating with the Duquesne Law community.

This event was held the morning after the 69th Law Alumni Reunion, making it convenient for alumni to join us while they were in town. All proceeds from the race went to the Public Interest Law Scholarship Fund, to directly benefit our law students. If you'd like to know more about Katie Westbrook or donate, visit our web page duq.edu/KatieWestbrook5K.

Health Law Society Blood Drive

The Health Law Society hosted a blood drive Oct. 25 from noon-5 p.m. in the Towers Multi-Purpose Room on campus. Vitalant (formerly Central Blood Bank) sent its professional staff to campus to perform the drawings discreetly, and followed all safety protocols. Donating blood saves lives, and the Health Law Society was proud to sponsor this blood drive, which was open to all University students, staff and faculty, not just the Law School. If you would like to schedule an appointment at a Pittsburgh location, visit www.vitalant.org or call Vitalant at 1-877-258-4825 for more information.

Animal Law Society's Howl-O-Ween Pet Contest and Phi Alpha Delta Bake Sale

The Animal Law Society teamed up with Phi Alpha Delta the week of Oct. 25 to bring the Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest and Bake Sale in person to the student lounge. Last year, we were limited to holding the contest online only, but still managed to raise a good amount of money for Humane Animal Rescue on Pittsburgh's North Side. The bake sale was back this year as well, with treats individually wrapped. Pictures of adorable costumed pets were on display, and the pet who received the most votes was declared the winner. This event gets everyone in the Halloween spirit, and a bake sale is always welcome. To see costumed pet contestants and winners, visit the Howl-O-Ween web page <https://www.duq.edu/academics/schools/law/student-life/special-events-and-programs/howl-o-ween>. ■

Student Paper Accepted for Publication in the Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law

The prestigious Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law recently accepted for publication a paper by third-year law student **Robert Diehl**. The title of Diehl's paper, published this fall, is "Model Civilian Review Board: Accounting for Class, Race, and Power in Municipal Policing."



Robert Diehl

Diehl, who is from Erie, Pa., originally wrote his piece for Professor Jan Levine's Advanced Legal Writing: Drafting course. The paper was expanded as a directed research independent study project this spring, with the goal of seeking publication.

"Professor Levine encouraged us to draft a legislative fix for an issue we were personally passionate about. The problems of police violence and social conflict were ones I'd been passionate about for a number of years, but more recently I had read about some high-profile failed attempts to reform the practices or culture of a municipal police department," Diehl said.

The paper's timely and relevant subject matter explores attempts to reform municipal police departments through community oversight and holding officers and police departments accountable for violations of department policy or law.

Diehl's work led him to explore the historical sources of policing and the institutional autonomy given to many police departments. His article provides a statutory framework for a community to review police actions and hold its police department accountable to the public interest.

Diehl's subject is one of importance that provides thoughtful legislation.

"The topic of Robert's paper is quite timely and of great interest as the nation looks closely at the role of police and holding them accountable to the communities they serve. Very few law students at any law school are able to publish a paper in another school's journal. The Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law is a prestigious specialty journal at an outstanding law school and their decision to publish his article is quite an honor," Levine said.

While awaiting publication, Diehl spent his summer working remotely for Kirkland & Ellis in New York in the corporate restructuring practice and currently serves as an executive articles editor for the Duquesne Law Review. ■

COMMENCEMENT 2021

COMMENCEMENT 2021

The School of Law was proud to host its 107th Commencement exercises on May 16. The day began with a livestreamed Baccalaureate Mass. The Commencement ceremony was held in-person at the Cooper Fieldhouse, with masking and social distancing requirements. This event was also livestreamed.

Dean April Barton presided while Duquesne President Ken Gormley, former dean of the Law School, conferred the degrees. 157 students participated. Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark L'83 was the event's distinguished speaker.

Professor Jalila Jefferson-Bullock was the recipient of the Dr. John and Liz Murray Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship. The student recipient of the Murray Award was Stanley Marciniak.

Duquesne Law is looking forward to welcoming back to campus the class of 2020 for their own in-person graduation ceremony on December 17, 2021. ■



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
School of Law
BY THE NUMBERS

93.33%
Ultimate Bar Pass Rate
(two-year rate-2018)

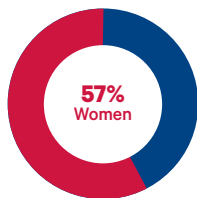
#6
Bar Passage Nationally
preLaw Magazine 2021

ENTERING CLASS OF 2021

LSAT			GPA		
158 75th Percentile	155 Median	153 25th Percentile	3.72 75th Percentile	3.43 Median	3.08 25th Percentile

865
Total Applicants

162
Class Size



8:1
Student Faculty Ratio


20-48
Age Range


50 Different
Majors

17%
first generation
college students
83%
first generation
law students


43% More
than 1 Year
Post-Graduate


75 Undergraduate
Institutions
Represented

RANKINGS

-  **A** Employment of Graduates
preLaw Magazine 2018
-  **A** Criminal Law
preLaw Magazine 2021
-  **A-** Family Law
preLaw Magazine 2021
-  **A-** Top Small Law
Employment
preLaw Magazine 2019
-  **25** Legal Writing Program
U.S. News & World Report
America's Best Graduate Schools 2021
-  **41** Part-Time Programs
U.S. News & World Report
America's Best Graduate Schools 2021

Statistics as of Aug. 19, 2021, the first day of classes. Duquesne University School of Law participates in the American Bar Association's matriculation validation service. LSAT and GPA percentiles calculated by the Law School Admission Council on Oct. 5, 2021, based on matriculant lists provided by Duquesne Law.