THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW
OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
TRIBONE CENTER FOR CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION

FALL 2026

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT:



Pictured Above, Federal Litigation Clinic Student Manager, Maddie Csikari

As Student Manager of the Federal Litigation Clinic, I coordinate the clinic's day-to-day administrative operations and serve as a liaison between students, supervising professor, and clients. My responsibilities include communicating with and coordinating clients, facilitating communication between students and faculty, organizing and mailing legal documents, and assisting with the logistical needs of clinic matters. Through this role, I help ensure that clinic cases and student assignments proceed efficiently and that students, professor, and clients remain informed throughout the process.

LAW CLINIC BOOT CAMP

On Thursday, August 20, 2026, the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education hosted an in-person Boot Camp orientation at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law. Director Allison Ware welcomed 70 students. The Rev. Raymond French, C.S.Sp. Senior Vice President for Mission & Identity lead the attendees in prayer and inspiration for the new academic year.

A student panel of Megan Goldstein, Rebecca Kasavich and Chase Mikles gave insight on their past clinical experiences by answering the audience's questions.

Students were able to meet their professors at the end of the Boot Camp program and discuss their courses expectations.

ELDER LAW PROJECT



Pictured Above, Elder Law Project Students (l to r) Kieran Shannon, Morgan Minnich, John Murray and Quinn Summers

This fall, the Elder Law Project Students have been assigned their first cases to work on with our Elder Law Project staff attorneys. These cases have included issues with consumer debt and financial exploitation. They have also started coming up with ideas for legal literacy presentations they would like to present to senior centers in Allegheny County this spring.

FAMILY LAW CLINIC

This fall the Family Law Clinic started initiating client calls, and many students are preparing to draft documents so that our clients may initiate their respective custody and/or divorce actions.

FEDERAL LITIGATION CLINIC



Pictured Above, Federal Litigation Clinic Students (l-r) Katie Hoener, Rachel Myles, Eva Spangler, Cleo Levesque, and Emma Coiner with Professor Adrian Roe in the judge's seat

The Federal Litigation Clinic has remained actively engaged in both immigration and criminal matters this semester. The Clinic has primarily focused on an immigration appeal, providing students with the opportunity to engage in federal appellate litigation and develop practical skills in client communications, legal research, writing, and advocacy more broadly. More recently, the Clinic was assigned a criminal case, expanding our work into the criminal defense context. Students are currently preparing for an upcoming suppression hearing. Together, these matters have provided students with meaningful hands-on experience in federal litigation across multiple areas of practice.

PA INNOCENCE PROJECT

On Tuesday, November 10, 2026 the Pittsburgh Office of the Pennsyvlania Innocence Project celebrated it's 10th anniversary. At this event, they featured two legends from the Pittsburgh Steelers, **Mel Blount** and **Charlie Batch**. Mel and Charlie are both important advocates for causes like ours, and we are excited to bring them into a conversation on issues surrounding wrongful convictions,



Pictured Above, Allison Ripple, Staff Attorney

In August. we welcomed Allison Ripple, a new staff attorney for the PA Innocence Project's Pittsburgh Office to the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education. She began her legal career as a Staff Attorney in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Allison is glad to join the team and advocate for wrongly convicted individuals across Pennsylvania.

We provide legal services, free of charge, to innocent people who have been wrongfully convicted. We work alongside people from investigating their case, to securing exoneration.

Our support for clients does not end at the prison gates. We provide reentry services when our legal clients are released and accept referrals to help other freed and exonerated people. Our support group offers a safe and supportive space for clients to share experiences and face challenges together.

In addition to our direct legal and reentry services, we advocate for policy and practice changes to improve outcomes for the wrongfully convicted and conduct educational programming to train the current and future generations of attorneys and service providers on innocence work and issues surrounding wrongful convictions.

The 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Pittsburgh office was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 (5:30-7:30pm) at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, P.C.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICUM

The Urban Development Practicum had students this semester placed on a wide range of community projects: from researching Pennsylvania's blight-removal tools (conservatorship, land banks, tax sales, and code enforcement) to supporting the Institute for Disability, Empowerment and Advocacy, working with Prof. Daniel Kunz and Catholic Charities, and helping local nonprofits with grant research, entity formation, and property title work. We're also planning an outreach to restart our Clean Slate expungement clinic with Father Dan Walsh.

The Urban Development Practicum is dedicated to serving the community while providing law students with valuable opportunities to develop their client relations, problem-solving, and community engagement skills.

VETERANS CLINIC

This fall, the students attended Veteran's Court on a weekly basis. They met the team and a few students were assigned a veteran to work with. In class, they discussed problem-solving courts and their impact on the Veterans Clinic participants.



Pictured Above (l t r): Zoe Morse, 3L, Professor Daniel Kunz and Elica Semnani, 2L

On Saturday, October 17, students from the Veteran's Clinic and Urban Development Practicum attended the Allegheny County Stand Down event hosted by the Veteran's Leadership Program in Braddock. The Veteran's Leadership Program serves 30 counties throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio in connecting veterans to housing, wellness, career development, and other supportive services. Stand Down is a day of free services to at-risk veterans. Students who attended engaged in conversations with the veteran participants and provided information on pro bono legal resources.

Students of the Veteran's Clinic are trained in a holistic approach on the problem-solving

philosophy and recidivism-reducing techniques. This event allowed students to use their skills in real time and talk to veterans about their struggles and experiences.

Attending the Stand Down Pittsburgh event was an incredibly rewarding and inspiring experience. It was encouraging to see so many organizations come together to support local veterans. We particularly enjoyed speaking with veterans, hearing about their experiences, and gaining a better understanding of the resources and assistance they need.

We were also impressed by the number of organizations in attendance, many of which had not previously learned about the wide range of services available which were especially valuable because it equipped us with a better understanding of where to direct individuals who may need assistance in the future.

Another highlight was witnessing the community's involvement. From cosmetology students providing complimentary haircuts to volunteers distributing meals, it was wonderful to see people contributing their time and skills to support veterans.

Overall, this experience reinforced the importance of community engagement, collaboration, and accessible resources. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to participate through the Urban Development Practicum and to see firsthand the meaningful impact that community organizations can make when they come together.

WILLS & HEALTHCARE DECISIONS



Pictured Above Chase Mikles, 2D and Mihn Ho, 3D

On September 5, 2026 students from the Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic partnered with Life Memories Pittsburgh. The students had dedicated table space and was available for an ask and answer sessions about various estate planning topics. The event had approximately 22 attendees. The event showcased the clinic's dual mission of educating the community and giving students meaningful hands-on experience serving real clients.



Pictured Above, front row l to r: Tyler Chapa, Belle Chapman, Chase Mikles, Samantha Major-Mincer and back row l to r: Dana Taylor, Professor Quinn Morant, Minh Ho and Rebecca Kasavich

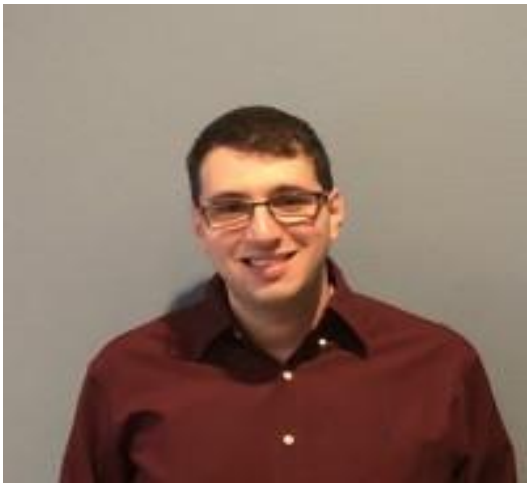
The Wills and Healthcare Decision Clinic was represented at a recent community awareness event on September 26, 2026 attended by approximately 40 participants. We were part of a panel that delivered a presentation regarding the significance of estate planning and outlined the resources provided by the clinic. The session provided an opportunity to engage directly with community members, answer questions, and raise awareness about the value of proactive planning through wills. Power of Attorneys, and Health Care Directives. The event helped strengthen community connections and expand outreach for future clinic partnership. Afterwards the Students prepare documents for the participates on the spot. We were able to provide documents to 8 individuals ranging from Wills, Financial Poa's and Medical Directives.



Pictured Above Tyler Chapa and Rebecca Kasavich

On October 10, 2026 students from the Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic partnered with Life Memories, LLC to host a successful community presentation on estate planning drawing approximately 28 attendees. Three clinic students presented core estate planning documents including Wills, Financial Powers of Attorney, and Medical Health Care Directives. The students emphasized how these tools empower individuals to protect their loved ones and plan for the future. Following the presentation, students met one-on-one with attendees to answer questions and provide tailored guidance. The event showcased the clinic's dual mission of educating the community and giving students meaningful hands-on experience serving real clients.

EXTERNSHIPS


Pictured Above, Extern Jake Salzer, 2E

"I spent two months working at a Public Defender Office in Florida for my externship. I was able to contribute and help the attorneys with their serious case, and it worked well within my schedule as an evening student," stated Extern Jake Salzer, 2E.


Pictured Above, Extern Bella Thomeier, 2D

"I had a wonderful experience working at Yablonski, Costello & Leckie PC during my summer externship. I had the opportunity to strengthen my legal research and writing skills, observe various court hearings, and assist the team with a range of legal issues. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had such meaningful mentorship and hands-on experience following my 1L year!," reported Extern Bella Thomeier, 2D.



Pictured Above, Extern Jehosha Wright, 2E

"My externship experience was outstanding. The best part was how flexible it was and how the court reinforced my confidence from project-to-project. Because of my externship, I feel more than adequately prepared for the next semester," stated Extern Jehosha Wright, 2E.

PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

SAVE YOUR HOME "SHY" PROGRAM: Law Students helped the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Civil Division work with attorneys and housing counselors to assist homeowners on mortgage foreclosure issues. After completing the training, the students dedicated no more than 3-5 pro bono hours per week to the program.

On November 6, 2026, students joined the PA Bar Association Pro Bono Service Team for a free CLE pro bono event "PA FREE LEGAL ANSWERS CLINIC: HELP CLOSE THE JUSTICE GAP." The PA Free Legal Answers Clinic is a virtual platform where low-income Pennsylvanians may post civil legal questions (housing, family, estate planning, and debt, among others) and receive free advice from attorneys. Students were matched with attorney volunteers to help answer civil legal questions.

GRANTS

Director Allison Ware received $10,000 from the E. Louis Feldman Charitable Trust of the PNC Charitable Trusts to support the Landlord Tenant Clinic Expansion Project.

Dr. Tammy Hughes, School of Education, and Professor Kara Dempsey, Thomas R. Kline School of Law, received $35,000 from the FISA Foundation to support the Youth Advocacy Clinic.

Dr. Tammy Hughes, School of Education, and Professor Kara Dempsey, Thomas R. Kline School of Law, received $102,000 from the McAuley Ministries to support the Youth Advocacy Clinic's Mercy Corridor Community Outreach Project.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS:



Pictured Above, The Hon. Elliott Howsie, L'98

The Honorable Elliot C. Howsie, L'98, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, and Adjunct Professor for the Public Defender Program at the Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education received the Dr. John E. Murray, Jr. Meritorious Service Award at the 74th Annual Law Alumni Reunion Dinner on Friday, September 25, 2026. The honor is presented to a candidate in recognition of services rendered and contributions made to Duquesne Kline Law Alumni Association and the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. The focus of this award is service and commitment.

PRO BONO RECOGNITION

Hours of legal service by students (May 2025-May 2026):

13,382+	Hours of legal service to the public through the law clinic
18,549+	Hours of legal service to the public through student externships
2,080+	Hours of legal service to the public through pro bono programs

MISSION STATEMENT

Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University educates lawyers to excel in the ethical practice of law, to preserve the highest ideals of our profession, and to promote equal justice and democratic discourse through leadership, service, and civic engagement. We do so, inspired by our Catholic Spiritan tradition and law school motto, "Salus populi suprema lex"-"The welfare of the people is the highest law."

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Education for the Mind, Heart and Spirit