



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

FALL 2024

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT:



Above, Ailis Nerad Family Law Clinic Student Manager

As a student manager I am able to help students grow in their ability to help clients with differing legal matters. I answer questions as they arise and help the students feel comfortable in the decisions they make. Being a part of the Family Law Clinic is a truly rewarding experience, both being in it as a student attorney last year and now being the student manager. I am able to develop my own skills and give back to the community.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION PROGRAM



Above, Student Caroline Benec

The Criminal Prosecution Program is a must for anyone interested in litigation or public interest. It is a way to 'learn by doing.'

This Clinic entails a rotational program at the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, which means that each student gets to work for about a month in each Division from Appeals to Violent Crimes and Firearms, General Trial and more.

Each week, our clinic meets with Judge David Spurgeon and Deputy District Attorney Jennifer DiGiovanni in court to review our weekly assignments, trials, and receives an advanced criminal procedure lesson from Judge Spurgeon and Prof. DiGiovanni. I am grateful for the practical experience in litigation.

FAMILY LAW CLINIC

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's Family Law Clinic has partnered with the University of Pittsburgh School of Law to launch a hotline for low-income clients to receive limited legal services for free. This hotline assures that those with family law questions are in contact with a student-attorney within 2 business days.

Professor Wesley Oliver and **Associate Professor Kate Norton** of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law over the summer attended CALIcon, a conference at the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle, Wash., where law faculty, law librarians and IT professionals gather to discuss the latest innovations in legal education and technology. The two presented on teaching programming in doctrinal and clinical courses at the Duquesne Kline School of Law.

PA INNOCENCE PROJECT



Join us in welcoming James “Jim” Kelly home. Jim walked free from Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Somerset after Judge Glenn Bronson granted the Commonwealth’s motion to dismiss all charges, resulting in his release and exoneration. Jim is headed back to Philadelphia after spending nearly three decades incarcerated for a 1993 crime that he did not commit. Jim, a proud father and veteran, is excited to return home and bask in a new normal surrounded by his grandchildren.

Jim’s innocence claim was backed by many over the years, including his former cellmate, George Bussinger, who raised money to help Jim obtain legal assistance. George’s efforts led to former Chester County Court of Common Pleas President Judge Lawrence Wood joining Jim's quest for freedom.

Jim is welcomed home by his family and legal team at the Project including our Managing Attorney Liz DeLosa,

who led our team, supported by Nilam Sanghvi. Many thanks to other Project staff members who worked on this case over the years, including Charlotte Whitmore, Shaina Tyler, Zach Stern, Ryan Becker, Haley Filippine, and Anjali Nahata.

Welcome home, Jim!

RE-ENTRY LEGAL SERVICES CLINIC

Last semester the students at the Re-Entry Legal Services Clinic counseled over 30 prospective clients in the best strategy to clear their records. Most of the clients are underemployed because of their records. Most of our clients had been arrest free at least 10 years, routinely volunteer in their communities, and brought recommendation letters. We are excited to have a group we can immediately assist.

This year, the students in the re-entry clinic completed three pardon applications and two expungements for clients who have been unable to gain employment due to their criminal history. Additionally, the students have advised several clients on their timeline for sealing their criminal history, currently aiding 24 clients with re-entry services, all of whom have reformed themselves from their past mistakes and are eager to make a positive imprint in their communities.

ELDER JUSTICE CONSORTIUM

On November 19, 2024, Professors Grace Orsatti and Kate Norton represented the Thomas R. Kline School of Law, Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education by attending the PA Supreme Court meeting with the Elder Justice Consortium in Harrisburg, PA. They presented a slideshow on the current work of the Elder Justice Consortium across the state to the judges.

VETERANS CLINIC



Pictured above Veteran Clinic students (l-r) Hunter Harrison, Rachel Schade and Family Law Clinic student (l-r) Emily Migdal

On Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 9am to 1pm, the Veterans Clinic students along with the Family Law Clinic and Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic Students attended the annual “Stand Down Pittsburgh” event on Saturday, October 19, 2022 from 9:30am to 1:00pm. “Stand Down Pittsburgh” is a day-long services fair for local veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The Stand Down event was a wonderful experience. Students were able to inform local veterans of the services Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University – Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education’s legal clinics and practicums offer. Students also had the opportunity to see firsthand the other services and programs that may be referred to our clients to better assist them.

PUBLIC DEFENDER PROGRAM



Pictured above Student Riley Del Rey

“Working as a law student in the Allegheny County Public Defenders Clinic is a unique, hands-on experience in criminal defense. Under the supervision of world-class trial attorneys, I’m contributing to the representation for indigent clients in various stages of criminal litigation, from pre-trial motions to hearings and trial work. The clinic allows me to apply legal theory to real-world cases, honing skills like negotiation, client advocacy, and oral argument. It’s also fostered a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system, especially the challenges faced by those who cannot afford private counsel. This experience is invaluable in shaping my ability to navigate complex evidentiary issues and courtroom procedure while advocating for justice, fairness, and constitutional rights,” states Riley Del Rey, 2L, Class of 2026

WILLS AND HEALTHCARE DECISIONS

LAWRENCEVILLE “HOUSING FOR ALL” RESOURCE FAIR

On Saturday, September 7 the Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic had a table at the Lawrenceville “Housing for All” Resource Fair from 12:30pm-3:30pm. This fair was sponsored by the Lawrenceville United & State Rep. Lindsay Powell and assisted members of the community, including seniors, regarding rental housing to homeownership, community land trusts available, tenant rights workshop, access to rent assistance, knowing the worth of their home and avoiding predatory practices against homeowners, home repair programs and accessibility modifications, financing programs for homeowners, and protections from property reassessments. There were 15+ housing and elderly related organizations at this tabling event, including the Wills and Healthcare Decisions Clinic of Duquesne Kline.

GRANTS

The Thomas R. Kline School of Law, \$177,800, a continuation award from the PA IOLTA Board to be used to continue to develop and enhance clinical legal education programs for law students.

Katherine Norton, Thomas R. Kline School of Law, \$8,000, from the E. Louis Feldman Charitable Trust, to support the project *Re-Entry Legal Services Clinic: Overcoming Barriers Initiative*.

Dr. Tammy Hughes, School of Education, and Professor Kara Dempsey, Duquesne Kline Law School, \$30,000, from The FISA Foundation, to support the project *Operating Support for the Youth Advocacy Clinic*.

Dr. Tammy Hughes, School of Education, and Professor Kara Dempsey, Duquesne Kline Law School, \$50,000, from the Fred J. and Shirley H. Jordan Foundation to support the project *Operating Support for the Youth Advocacy Clinic*.

EXTERNSHIPS



Pictured above, Extern Luc Kaiser

“My externship placement with Judge Regan provided a valuable perspective on the practice of law and ample opportunities to apply my legal research and writing skills. I highly recommend students work with a judge, as it is an opportunity for significant growth,” said Extern Luc Kaiser.



Pictured above, Extern Thane Zeeh

“My externship [at Fair Shake] provided the perfect blend of legal education and practical, real-world legal experience that simply isn’t available in a traditional classroom setting,” said Extern Thane Zeeh.



Pictured above, Extern Nicole Norman

"During my externships at Rogers Tamburro and the Allegheny County Public Defender's Office, I obtained hands-on experience in immigration law and crimmigration. The knowledge and experience I gained from these externships prepared me for my career in immigration defense and helped me obtain a position at a Pittsburgh Immigration Law Firm, where I will continue to work once I pass the PA Bar," said Extern Nicole Norman.

Butler County Office and joined Pittsburgh in 2021. A Duquesne Graduate '08, she worked as an Associate Attorney at the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg Domestic Violence Legal Center, and served as a Judicial Law Clerk in Clarion, Elk and Cameron Counties. She has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in English Literature, and has a Certificate in Western European Studies all from the University of Pittsburgh '05, Summa Cum Laude.



Pictured above, Adjunct Professor Adrian N. Roe

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



Pictured above, Adjunct Professor Jaime Latronica

We welcome Professor Jaime Latronica back to Duquesne as an Adjunct Professor of Law for the Elder Law Project. She is currently the Manager for Special Projects at Neighborhood Legal Services "NLS." Ms. Latronica was a Staff Attorney in the NLS

Welcome back Professor Adrian Roe to the Federal Litigation Clinic. Professor Adrian N. Roe was an Immigration Judge for the Boston Immigration Court (2023-2024) and has 40 years of experience as a litigation attorney having law offices on the Boulevard of the Allies in Pittsburgh. His practice includes civil litigation, criminal defense (mostly in federal court), and immigration litigation. He was also a member of the Roe & Simon, LLC firm. He graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in History in 1981 and from the Boston University School of Law with a J.D. '84, having served on the Boston University Law Review.



Pictured above, Adjunct Professor and Externship Supervising Attorney, Rebecca Edmiston

We welcome Professor Becca Edmiston. Becca is a proud alumna of Duquesne Kline School of Law. Since graduating in 2018, she practiced dependency and education law at KidsVoice and served as Duquesne Kline's Assistant Director of Career Services. Currently, Becca practices family law for a domestic violence organization and is thrilled to return to Duquesne Kline once again as part-time Externship Supervisor and Adjunct Professor.

PRO BONO RECOGNITION

**Hours of legal service by students
(May 2023-May 2024):**

- 15,240+** Hours of legal service to the public through the law clinic
- 16,783+** Hours of legal service to the public through student externships
- 3,474+** Hours of legal service to the public through pro bono programs

MISSION STATEMENT

"Salus Populi Suprema Lex" is Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University's motto meaning the welfare of the people is the highest law. This is particularly fitting with respect to the Pro Bono Program. The law school's faculty, staff, and students have a long tradition of serving the community and helping those in need. The Pro Bono Program at the law school goes one step further by providing a structure through which students can recognize the professional obligation to serve the disadvantaged. Duquesne Kline School of Law's Pro Bono Program encourages and facilitates its law students to serve the public interest with the goal that these law students will then serve the public interest in their professional careers.

Tribone Center for Clinical Legal Education

Office Address: 912-914 Fifth Avenue
600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15282
412-396-4704
duq.edu/law/clinics

Education for the Mind, Heart and Spirit