At Duquesne, our Catholic and Spiritan Mission sets us apart. Our Mission emphasizes ethics, education as a path to empowerment, service to the underserved, a profound commitment to justice, and is based on the premise of inclusion and mutual respect. Based on our Spiritan Mission, there is an intentionality around a holistic education and we care about our students as complete individuals.

Without question, Duquesne trains ethical, competent, and practice-ready lawyers. Our top-notch faculty teach, engage, and challenge our students to not only think like lawyers, but to be lawyers. Our graduates develop a strong basis of knowledge in the law coupled with a command of the skills needed to be successful in practice.

As the only Spiritan law school in the world, we serve God by serving students, imparting academic, analytical, and practical skills essential to applying legal principles to actual problem-solving for the good of individual clients, for the betterment of society, and in furtherance of justice. Our ethos of service is distinctly Duquesne.

While honoring our history and being clear about who we are today, we must develop a vision for our future—a vision that requires us to stretch and challenge ourselves to articulate a path and the pillars that will guide that journey. We are confident that generous benefactors will take advantage of the many opportunities to make a real difference by strengthening our existing programs while providing the opportunity to grow and achieve even greater results. We invite you to consider these vital priorities:

The Vision Fund

The Vision Fund encompasses three pillars that are essential to keeping Duquesne Law School on the forefront of legal education:

Developing Collaborative Learning Opportunities: Today, lawyers must know more than the law. They must understand the confluence of disciplines that impact their work and society. To prepare our students to practice law in this changing world, our approach to legal education also must change. Lawyers are now expected to work on cross-functional teams with experts in fields such as science, finance, and healthcare to solve complex problems affecting our societies, our government, our organizations. As such, we must support our students by providing interprofessional and multidisciplinary experiences—focused on teaching financial literacy, business acumen and emerging technologies—in our classrooms, labs, and beyond. We can foster collaboration with not only Duquesne's other schools, but also with other universities and technology firms.
We can create opportunities for these partners to help us and our students not just learn, but be at the forefront and in command of technology—perhaps even embracing an entrepreneurial perspective and inventing new technologies.

**Teaching Principles of Leadership:** Duquesne Law is uniquely positioned to draw from our Spiritan ethos in guiding a mindset that emphasizes not just leadership skills such as decision making, conflict resolution and crisis management, but complemented by ethics and value-centered leadership. We can commit ourselves to educating students who develop their self-awareness, cultural awareness, and global awareness as conscientious world citizens. Our students should possess intercultural competence and be capable of communicating across differences. They must also understand foreign legal culture and the impact that globalization is having on the practice of law. As a law school founded on principles of inclusion, our leadership must be reinforced with a drive to make our organizations more diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

Teaching this type of leadership will develop lawyers with vision who bring out the best in those around them, inspire others to share their gifts and talents, and lead governments, enterprises, boards, and organizations to make a positive impact in the world around us.

**Fostering Student Well-Being:** One of the hallmarks of our Spiritan pedagogy is a holistic approach, and we can tap into this strength by addressing the profound mental health crisis head on and make student and attorney well-being our top priority. We will implement courageous strategies to not only help our students in times of need and crisis, but integrate sustainable life habits and create a culture around healthy and fulfilled living.

We will produce healthy lawyers who make meaningful contributions to society. As lawyers, we can positively impact the lives of others with the words we write and speak. We are able to do great things for a higher purpose with this super power, but only if we are well.

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**Programmatic Support**

Our [Legal Research and Writing Program](#) is nationally ranked and provides more intensive courses and experiences than most other law schools, starting in a student’s very first days. Expert instruction from our full-time faculty members and an array of practicing attorneys is augmented by extensive resources found in our state-of-art writing center and law library.

Our award-winning [Clinical Education Program](#) is one of the instructional cornerstones of Duquesne Law. Students have the opportunity to participate in law clinics, externships, pro bono programs and fellowships that offer live client experiences and often include opportunities to appear in court. Duquesne’s extensive offerings include eight clinic and practicum programs, seamlessly blending hands-on experience for students with Duquesne’s historic emphasis on community service.

Our nationally-ranked [Bar Preparation Program](#) also extends throughout the entire Duquesne Law experience. Our graduates achieved an 87.88% first-time pass rate on the 2019 Pennsylvania Bar exam—one of only four Pennsylvania law schools to exceed the statewide average of 80.6%. Our ultimate bar pass rate is 96.72%.

Duquesne Law is committed to assisting graduates achieve first-time bar passage by providing comprehensive training. Our bar studies program of individualized student support begins during new student orientation, continues throughout our program of legal education, includes specific bar exam training, and continues after graduation.

**Keeping these programs at the cutting edge requires continual investment. Through your generous support, the Law School will continue to ensure all students are thoroughly prepared for the practice of law.**

**Strengthening the Evening Division**

Our Law School began as an evening program so that working people could pursue a legal education. Women and underrepresented populations were welcome early on. Our first woman matriculated in 1914 and our first African-American alumnus graduated in 1925. The legacy of our evening division is truly extraordinary—it is part of who we are and should always be a part of who we are.

Recent years have been challenging for law schools nationwide, and our evening division was not immune. As the employment market for legal professionals has contracted, and those working full-time experienced financial hardships, evening division enrollment decreased. But that is changing. Applications and enrollment are now trending higher. With your support, we can strengthen our evening division and maintain this momentum.

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