MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

A most grateful thank you for your support

Dear fellow alumni,

Thank you for the many warm wishes of support over these recent months! It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve as Duquesne University School of Law’s dean and to work with such an amazing community of legal scholars. As our school year progresses, I share with you the achievements of our law students, a wonderful opportunity for our law school to serve our state judiciary and splendid news about our Duquesne Law faculty.

First, our entire Duquesne Law family is very proud of our recent Duquesne Law graduates who achieved a 90.74 percent first-time taker pass rate on the July 2017 Pennsylvania Bar Examination. I know you join with me in congratulating our students!

I do note that this passage rate exceeded the Pennsylvania first-time average pass rate by almost 10 points (81.21 percent average). It marked the 11th time in the last 12 years that Duquesne surged ahead of the statewide average. Only three of 10 Pennsylvania-area law schools had first-time pass results above 90 percent. Duquesne finished behind University of Pennsylvania in a virtual tie for second place with Penn State Dickinson.

Next, as you may already know, we at the Law School are privileged to serve our state judiciary in a unique and innovative way through the establishment of the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education of Duquesne University School of Law. The Kline Center launched this summer, thanks to a generous gift of $7.5 million from Pennsylvania lawyer and Class of 1978 alumnus Thomas Kline. A “first in the country,” the Kline Center is now serving our judiciary by assisting the Judicial Education Department (Department) of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in its development and delivery of continuing judicial education to our state’s jurists. Beginning in 2018, more than 2,400 judicial education credit hours are to be delivered annually to more than 600 jurists. This service is indeed a privilege for all of the Duquesne Law family, especially our students!

Joy G. McNally, a highly regarded lawyer and former appellate law clerk, is serving as the Kline Center’s interim director. She is already working with the Department, drawing upon her years of experience with Pennsylvania’s highest levels of courts to begin this unique judicial education program.

We are very pleased to share with you news about our faculty and our outreach to our law alumni family. Former Gov. Tom Corbett has joined us as a visiting professor and executive in residence. Corbett is teaching Law, Public Service, and the Executive Branch with Professors Joseph Sabino Mistick and John Rago. He is also helping to develop new public interest law opportunities for our students. With an extensive history of public service and numerous clinics, externships and other clinical programs at Duquesne Law, we are looking forward to even more collaborations and partnerships.

We welcome four new professors this semester: Jalila Jefferson-Bullock teaches Constitutional Law; Richard Heppner teaches Civil Procedure; Will Huhn teaches Contracts; and Ashley London is our new associate director of bar services (you can read more about them on pp. 5-6). On Nov. 16-17, Professor Bruce Ledewitz and Heidi Li Feldman of Georgetown Law Center presented the highly acclaimed symposium, Resurrecting Truth in American Law and Public Discourse, here at Duquesne (read more on p. 4). On Sept. 8, Professor Seth Oranburg hosted #FutureLaw, a gathering of rising law professors who presented and responded to papers and original research. Now in its second year, #FutureLaw featured inter-disciplinary fields involving crowd science, behavioral economics, statistics, learning theory and related areas. Soon I will circulate highlights of all of our faculty’s scholarship, so please watch for it in your inbox.

Finally, a most grateful thank you for your support, whether it be financial or your mentoring of a current student or recent graduate, and I thank everyone who helped us enroll an amazing first-year class. We so appreciate all of your efforts and care.

And sincere best wishes to you for all that you do!

Maureen Lally-Green, L’74
Dean

Maureen Lally-Green received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross medal at a ceremony at St. Paul Cathedral Sept. 24. The cross is given for distinguished service to the Catholic Church by clergy and laypeople, and is the highest honor that can be awarded to the laity by the pope.
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ON THE COVER: Tom Kline in front of Philadelphia City Hall.
Photo credit: Eve Zausner

STAY INFORMED

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Duquesne University School of Law graduates achieved a 90.74 percent first-time taker pass rate on the July 2017 Pennsylvania Bar Examination. The rate exceeded the Pennsylvania first-time average pass rate by almost 10 points (81.21 percent) and marked the third time in the last four years, and the fifth time in the last 11 years, that the rate exceeded 90 percent. In addition, this year’s result marks the 11th time in the last 12 years that Duquesne surged ahead of the statewide average.

Only three of 10 Pennsylvania-area law schools had first-time pass results above 90 percent. Duquesne finished behind University of Pennsylvania in a virtual tie with Pennsylvania State University (Duquesne 90.74 percent, Penn State 90.77 percent).

Over the last four years, Duquesne’s first-time pass rate has exceeded that of every other Pennsylvania law school, save only the University of Pennsylvania.

“So many people deserve credit for our excellent bar-pass rates,” said Duquesne Law Dean Maureen Lally-Green. “The students worked incredibly hard to achieve their personal best. Our faculty dedicated countless hours to their success. Our alumni gave of themselves as mentors. And the University stood behind us every step of the way. The performance reflects so well the strength of the community we have here at Duquesne.”

Help us connect with admitted students

Please assist us in bringing in the next generation of Duquesne Law alumni! The Offices of Admissions and Alumni Relations are working together to create new relationships between alumni and admitted students in Pennsylvania and across the country.

Admitted students weigh alumni connections and career prospects when making the decision about which law school to attend. We would like to show our admitted students the breadth and depth of our alumni base by connecting them with you.

The Office of Admissions will match alumni and admitted students based on geography and practice area (if applicable). Alumni participants will reach out to up to three admitted students per year, by simply calling them and welcoming them to the Duquesne Law community. They may have questions about why you chose Duquesne Law or how your Duquesne Law education helped you in your career.

Please consider participating in this important new initiative! Complete the brief ambassador form and we will contact you with further details.

www.law.duq.edu/alumni/alumni-ambassador-program
Two new scholarships honor esteemed jurists

The School of Law paid tribute to the Hon. Gustave Diamond, L'56, on Aug. 29 with the announcement of the Honorable Gustave Diamond Endowed Scholarship, established through the generosity of attorney John Gismondi, and unveiling of a portrait of the judge, funded through the generosity of attorneys David and Dawne Hickton. The new Diamond scholarship will benefit a law student from Washington County, Pa.

Judge Diamond was born in Burgettstown, Pa. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1946-48, and graduated from Duke University in 1951 and Duquesne University School of Law in 1956. After serving as a law clerk to the late U.S. District Judge Rabe F. Marsh, Jr. from 1956-61, Diamond worked as an assistant and then first assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania. In 1963, he was appointed U.S. attorney for the Western District, serving until 1969. From 1969-78, he practiced law in Pittsburgh and Washington, Pa.


Diamond was appointed a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist Nov. 2, 1988 and appointed chair of the committee Oct. 1, 1990, serving two terms.

Diamond was honored by Duquesne University in 1978 with the distinguished Century Club award as one of the 100 outstanding graduates of the University during its first century. He is also the recipient of the prestigious Solon Award of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Leadership and Excellence.

Gismondi noted that Diamond always treated lawyers with respect and was unfailing in his impartiality as a jurist. "Judge called himself the ‘little Greek boy from Burgettstown,’ but he became so much more than that. This is a ‘thank you’ for four decades of tremendous public service."

On Oct. 6, a second tribute and portrait unveiling was held in honor of Hon. Terrence F. McVerry, L'68. John R. “Jack” McGinley, Jr., Judge McVerry’s classmate and friend, announced that efforts are underway to establish the Honorable Terrence F. McVerry Endowed Scholarship. McVerry was inducted into Duquesne University’s Century Club later that evening.

Born on the Bluff and raised as the youngest of four boys in a Washington County coal mining community, McVerry commuted to Duquesne, where he studied political science as an undergraduate and stayed for law school. He worked in the family tavern and confectionery store and in the mines throughout those years to pay tuition and expenses. At Duquesne, he met his wife, Judy—they are the proud parents of three children.

Following his graduation, McVerry entered active duty with the U.S. Army Reserve and later became a commissioned legal officer in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, where he served until his honorable discharge as a captain in 1977.

McVerry worked as a trial prosecutor in the Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office from 1969-73, before beginning a 25-year career in general legal practice, including medical professional negligence litigation, corporate representation, and estate and family law with the firms of Grogran, Graffam, McGinley & Lucchino and McVerry, Baxter, Cindrich & Mansmann. In 1978, he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing Pittsburgh’s South Hills for six terms through 1990.

Former Gov. Tom Ridge appointed McVerry to a judicial seat in the Family Division of Allegheny County Common Pleas Court in 1998; he served in that position until 2000. One of the architects of Allegheny County’s Home Rule Charter, McVerry served as the first county solicitor under the new form of government before being nominated by President George W. Bush to the Federal District Court in Pittsburgh in 2002. He became a senior judge of the court in 2013 and retired from the bench three years later.

McGinley, who currently serves as the chairman of the Duquesne University Board of Directors, called Judge McVerry “my dear friend since the first week of law school.” Recognizing the need for endowed scholarships, McGinley stated he is proud to help establish one in recognition of McVerry’s long career as a public servant. He thanked his fellow classmates, including Louis Loughren, Herbert Conner and Stephen Frobock, along with friends and colleagues Vincent Grogran, Robert Cindrich and others, for their support.
Burns White announced its plans to fund a scholarship for first-year, diverse law students at Duquesne University’s School of Law. The annual Burns White Diversity in the Law Scholarship will be awarded to a deserving candidate who adds diversity to the incoming class, and will include a paid summer clerkship at the firm following the successful completion of the recipient’s second year of law school. In addition, each awardee will be paired with a mentor from Burns White for the duration of his or her legal education.

“Burns White is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in Pittsburgh’s legal community,” noted David White, ’L82, Executive Committee member. “This annual scholarship—which includes practical work experience and mentoring—will help to broaden opportunities for individuals with diverse backgrounds. We are pleased to be working with Duquesne University’s School of Law on this exciting new initiative.”

The first scholarship will be awarded for the 2018-2019 academic year. “Scholarship funds help us to ensure that all qualified students have access to a legal education at Duquesne Law,” said Dean Maureen Lally-Green. “We are most grateful to partner with Burns White to announce this incredible new opportunity.”

Admitted students under consideration for the award submit a resume and personal statement for review. A scholarship committee, which includes a Burns White representative, recommends the candidate.

Duquesne Law symposium draws record crowd

A Duquesne Law symposium in November drew a record crowd of law alumni and others interested in discussing the crisis of truth in American public life. Professor Bruce Ledewitz led the two-day event with Professor Heidi Li Feldman of Georgetown University Law Center. Shall These Bones Live? Resurrecting Truth in American Law and Public Discourse welcomed (from left) Feldman, Professor Lawrence M. Solan of Brooklyn Law School, Professor Louise Antony of the University of Massachusetts Amherst philosophy department, who gave the keynote speech, Ledewitz, Professor Alina Ng of Mississippi College School of Law, Professor Justin Dyer of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri and Professor W. Bradley Wendel of Cornell Law School. Moderators included Visiting Professor Wilson Huhn of Duquesne Law, Jennifer Ann Bates of Duquesne’s philosophy department and Elizabeth Cochran of Duquesne’s theology department. Professor Jane Campbell

Moriarty, Duquesne Law’s Carol Los Mansmann Chair in Faculty Scholarship, supported the scholarly program. The Duquesne Law Review will feature symposium papers in 2018.
School of Law welcomes new faculty

Jalila Jefferson-Bullock, a native of New Orleans, La., is an assistant professor at Duquesne University School of Law, where she teaches Constitutional Law. Jefferson-Bullock received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and American literature and language from Harvard College, Master of Arts in the humanities from the University of Chicago, and Juris Doctor from Harvard University. Prior to this appointment, Jefferson-Bullock taught Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure in Phoenix, Ariz., where she was an active member of the law school community.

Before embarking on her career in academia, Jefferson-Bullock enjoyed a varied law practice for 10 years. She represented plaintiffs at a litigation boutique firm in California and in large, national class action cases in Louisiana. In 2005, she opened a successful practice with her sister, specializing in personal injury and general business advice matters. She also served as a public defender in Orleans Parish Municipal Court, where she represented indigent criminal defendants in matters ranging from simple misdemeanors to domestic violence.

Jefferson-Bullock believes strongly in public service. She was elected to the Louisiana State House of Representatives in 2003, where she represented a district in her home city of New Orleans. Respected by her peers and House leadership, she was appointed to the powerful Appropriations Committee, which oversees the state’s budget. Post-Katrina, she was an outspoken champion for the rights of the displaced, most notably, the right to vote.

Throughout her career, Jefferson-Bullock has been appointed to numerous community boards and commissions and has received several awards and recognitions for community service. Most recently, she was awarded the Living History Award in Phoenix for excellence in jurisprudence. She is a current member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and The Links, Inc.

Ashley M. London is the associate director of bar services and an assistant professor of clinical legal skills at Duquesne University School of Law. In addition to her role teaching bar preparation courses and providing individualized student counseling, London develops comprehensive bar preparation programming with a focus on student outcomes.

London discovered her passion for teaching after leaving private practice and serving for four years on the faculty at Charlotte School of Law in the Academic Success/Bar Preparation department in Charlotte, N.C. She previously worked at Legal Aid of North Carolina in the housing division and operated her own law firm, where she focused on civil litigation and served as guardian ad litem for special proceedings representing elderly and mentally handicapped clients.

Her professional writing includes serving as a contributing writer and substantive editor for the Case Management Manual for United States Bankruptcy Judges, 2012 Edition, and writing for the Mecklenburg Bar News and North Carolina State Bar Journal. Upon graduation from law school, London was selected from applicants nationwide to take part in the 2011 Volunteer Legal Intern Program in Washington, D.C., and was recruited by the Bankruptcy Judges Division and Article III Judges Division.

London was an award-winning local journalist for more than 12 years before leaving the “Fourth Estate” to obtain her Juris Doctor. Her work appeared regularly in print and on the radio and television in North Carolina. She covered the demise of the textile industry in a small southern town, as well as commercial real estate development in the fast-growing city of Charlotte, and even wrote the Queen City’s popular business gossip column.

Richard Heppner is a visiting assistant professor of law at Duquesne University School of Law. He teaches Civil Procedure and his scholarly interests include civil procedure, constitutional law, appellate advocacy, law and literature, and legal writing.

Heppner is also an attorney at Reed Smith LLP in Pittsburgh, where he is a member of the firm’s Appellate Group with experience drafting briefs and handling appeals in state and federal appellate courts around the country. His experience also includes serving as a law clerk for Judge Thomas Hardiman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and for Judge Nora Barry Fischer, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Heppner earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard University. He was notes and comments editor of the Harvard Journal of Law and Technology and a teaching fellow for a college constitutional history course. Heppner also earned a Master of Arts and doctorate in English literature from Tufts University. His literary scholarship and dissertation addressed the interplay of British modernist literature and literary theory. He taught English literature and writing at various colleges and universities in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania before attending law school. He earned his undergraduate degree in English literature from Kenyon College.
The Honorable Tom Corbett is a visiting professor and executive in residence at Duquesne University School of Law for the 2017-2018 academic year. The former governor most recently served as an adjunct professor at the Law School. Corbett continues to teach Law, Public Service and the Executive Branch with Professors Joseph Sabino Mistick and John Rago, and is developing new public interest law opportunities for students. He will also teach a new course, Functions and Duties of the Prosecutor.

As the commonwealth’s 46th governor, Corbett held Pennsylvania’s highest office from Jan. 18, 2011 through Jan. 20, 2015. Corbett has a long and distinguished career serving citizens as assistant U.S. attorney, U.S. attorney, chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Pennsylvania attorney general, and governor. Corbett has also served as a key advisor to U.S. presidents and governors.

Corbett received his undergraduate degree from Lebanon Valley College and his law degree from St. Mary’s University School of Law. He served his country as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard 28th Infantry Division from 1971 until 1984, rising from private to captain.

Wilson R. Huhn is serving Duquesne University School of Law as a visiting professor after teaching constitutional law courses online at the institution for a number of years. A distinguished professor emeritus at the University of Akron School of Law, Huhn was associate director of the Constitutional Law Center there and the C. Blake McDowell, Jr., professor of law and taught Constitutional Law, Advanced Constitutional Law, Jurisprudence, Commercial Paper, Secured Transactions, Evidence, Administrative Law, Health Law, Sexual Orientation and the Law, Law and Genetics, and other courses.

Prior to joining the Akron law faculty in 1984, Huhn served as law clerk for the late Judge Leo A. Jackson in the 8th District Court of Appeals and as an associate at Squire, Sanders and Dempsey.

The Akron Law graduating classes selected Huhn Outstanding Professor of the Year in 1987, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2015, the Akron law alumni awarded him the Outstanding Publication prize in 2004 and 2006, and the law faculty named him the Most Valuable Player for his contributions to legal scholarship, 2001-03. Huhn volunteers his time on community boards and is active organizing and coaching adaptive recreation programs for youths with special needs.

Huhn earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Yale University and J.D., cum laude, at Cornell University, where he was a member of the Cornell Law Review.

Staff updates

Grace W. Orsatti is the externship supervisor in the Clinical Legal Education program. She is a 2004 graduate of Duquesne University School of Law and received her Bachelor of Science in business administration from the Palumbo Donahue School of Business. Orsatti is currently a judicial law clerk for the Hon. Dwayne D. Woodruff, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. She previously served as a law clerk on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania for six years and as a law clerk on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for two years. Prior to her employment with the Court of Common Pleas, Orsatti was employed by BNY Mellon and worked primarily in legal compliance and regulatory enforcement.

Julia Tedjeske is the electronic resources and instructional services librarian at the Duquesne Center for Legal Information. She helps to maintain and promote the law library’s electronic resources, and she also provides research, reference and instructional services to the School of Law’s faculty and students. She earned her Master of Library Science, Master of Science in information science, Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Arts degrees, magna cum laude, all from the University of Pittsburgh. Tedjeske previously worked as an academic librarian at the University of Pittsburgh and La Roche College. She also practiced law for 16 years at several AMLAW100 firms.
Clinical Legal Education updates

Students in the Civil Rights Clinic work with income-qualified clients with civil rights litigation, record expungement and other legal services. This fall, the clinic once again successfully helped a client prepare for a Pennsylvania Board of Pardons public hearing.

Through one-on-one coaching and mock hearings, the students worked with the client to fine-tune and practice his presentation. They later shared the good news that the board granted a unanimous recommendation for a pardon.

“This process provided my first hands-on experience with a client,” said second-year law student Aaron McDonough of the case. “People can get ideas about (an individual with a felony). However, the second you meet this person, you erase any predetermined misconception or bias. He is a father, husband and son. He runs a successful business and volunteers in the community.

“What I came to learn was that this client was not an anomaly,” he continued. “Every pardon client has a story that is unique, but at the same time very similar. This client prefaced his story by saying, ‘I am going to tell you about someone who is no longer with us.’ This truly describes every pardon client we work with. The person they were when they were arrested is no longer there; who remains is a person deserving of a life without labels.”

Natalie Tupta, a third-year student who serves as manager of the Civil Rights Clinic, agreed that assisting clients with the clemency process offers important lessons.

“It is incredibly humbling to work with our pardon clients, because each of them teaches us about the long-term effects of the criminal justice system on families in our community,” Tupta said of the clinic’s work. “Our pardon clients are some of the most empathetic and accomplished people I have ever met, and it is an honor to assist them in accessing the pardon remedy.”

Associate Professor Tracey McCants Lewis supervises the clinic’s students. While they await Gov. Tom Wolf’s decision on the client’s pardon recommendation, the Civil Rights Clinic students continue to work with others in the areas of pardon filings and discrimination cases.

Interdisciplinary teams assist clients

Duquesne’s Education Law Clinic and Juvenile Defender Clinic provide holistic legal representation to families with students facing delinquency charges, school discipline and special education needs.

Interdisciplinary teams, composed of law students and graduate-level social work and school psychology students, work on cases for the clinics under the supervision of Assistant Professor Tiffany Sizemore of the School of Law and Dr. Tammy Hughes of the School of Education.

The two have decades of experience with education and juvenile justice issues. Sizemore currently supervises Duquesne’s two law clinics, and Hughes leads the University’s school counseling, psychology and special education department. As a result of the partnership and interdisciplinary teams, the Education Law and Juvenile Defender Clinics now offer an innovative model of representation, one that seeks to address complex issues that can perpetuate the “school-to-prison pipeline” that can begin when students are excluded from school.

The latest initiative of the clinics is a series of community workshops designed to educate families about individual rights in educational and delinquency settings. The workshops are held throughout the region, creating a new understanding of the collateral consequences of school exclusion and involvement in the juvenile justice system and offering no-fee representation to individuals.

Family Law Clinic expands service area, invited to Inns of Court

The Family Law Clinic is working with the Butler County Court of Common Pleas, Judge Kelly Streib, Neighborhood Legal Services, Duquesne Law alumnus Andrew Clifford and other law alumni to expand the Family Law Clinic’s services to low-income clients in Butler County.

In other news, Family Law Clinic students have been invited to participate in the Allegheny County Chapter of Matrimonial Inns of Court.

For more information about the clinic, contact Assistant Professor Katherine Norton, supervising attorney, at nortonk1@duq.edu.
THOMAS R. KLINE:
A Legacy of Education

Largest individual gift to the School of Law establishes the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education

Tom Kline, center, with Dean Maureen Lally-Green, President Ken Gormley and Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania: David Wecht, Max Baer, Christine Donohue and Chief Justice Thomas Saylor.
For Thomas R. Kline, L’78, teaching and education have always been inseparable from the legal profession. In addition to a lawyer’s responsibility to inform the judge and jury during a trial, each case is an opportunity to ultimately address a greater cause—to teach and inform society through litigation. Education, in its purest context, is an ongoing process in which everyone is potentially both teacher and student. When the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ordered mandatory continuing judicial education (CJE) requirements for the state’s judges in 2016, Duquesne President Ken Gormley was quick to act on the creation of the judicial education center he had already conceived during his years as dean of the Law School. Unsurprisingly, Kline was enthusiastic about the idea, and he offered a $7.5 million gift toward its establishment. This combined effort resulted in the Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education, which has now been officially unveiled at the Duquesne School of Law.

The Kline Center, established in partnership with the Judicial Education Department (Department) of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), is the first of its kind in the nation. Under the new requirements, each year judges must complete three credits on judicial ethics and an additional nine credits in other legal areas. Starting in 2018, at least four of those mandatory credits must be delivered by the Department. The Kline Center is assisting the Department in its development and delivery of free CJE courses that will fulfill that requirement. “We expect it to become a national model for judicial education in a new era,” President Gormley predicted. “We are deeply appreciative to our alumnus Tom Kline, who has been committed throughout his career to the highest possible level of legal education in our commonwealth, and has stepped up to support his alma mater with this history-making gift to create the Kline Center.”

Kline’s own education began in his hometown of Hazleton, Pa. He received his bachelor’s degree from Albright College in Reading, some 50 miles due south of Hazleton, in 1969. From there he went to Lehigh University in Bethlehem, about 50 miles northeast of Reading and 50 miles southeast of Hazleton. He emerged from this regional triangle with a master’s degree in American history (and finished the coursework and first draft of his dissertation toward a doctorate in American urban and social history).

In his first career-oriented position, Kline spent six years teaching social studies to sixth-graders. While this may seem like an inconsequential blip for someone on his way to becoming a celebrated trial lawyer, those six years remain a proud foundation of Kline’s legal career. He is quick to point out that the fundamentals of education he experienced in the teaching of sixth-graders remain integral to his approach to the law and to the world. “Life, like law, is a continuing process of learning,” he states philosophically. But his professional ambitions stretched beyond the formal classroom. “I loved being a teacher, but I always wanted to be a lawyer.”

Armed with an impressive academic portfolio and a healthy amount of self-confidence, he began researching a wide array of law schools, but geographically he was pulled in a particular direction: He was attracted to Pittsburgh. Having grown up in the coal regions of Pennsylvania, he shared a kindred spirit with the Steel City. “At the time I wasn’t interested in coming to Philadelphia. That happened later. And, although I had applied to several law schools, Duquesne was the law school that I wanted to attend. No contest.”

After completing the formal application process, Kline decided to visit the campus. While this is not an unusual step to take, his approach was less than conventional. “Without an appointment, unannounced, I asked to see Associate Dean John Sciullo and I told him, ‘This is where I want to go to law school.’

**“Duquesne has always been near and dear to my heart.”**

— Thomas R. Kline, L’78
That was a day that changed my life because I was soon accepted to a school that trained me and many others extremely well for a career in the law.”

Graduating with the school’s Distinguished Student Award in 1978, Kline carries a deep sense of gratitude for his alma mater. “It’s important for everyone to give back to the community in a meaningful way. Duquesne has a long tradition of philanthropy, generosity and public service. I was fortunate to start my career at Duquesne with its mission of serving others.” After a clerkship with Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Thomas W. Pomeroy, Kline joined James E. Beasley’s law firm in Philadelphia. Beasley, a nationally renowned trial lawyer for whom The Beasley School of Law at Temple University is named, served as a valuable role model for Kline inside and outside the courtroom during the early years of his career and as an inspiration for the eventual naming of Drexel’s Thomas R. Kline School of Law. At The Beasley Firm, Kline met Shanin Specter, who went on to become one of the great Pennsylvania trial lawyers and Kline’s best friend.

In 1995, Kline and Specter opened their own firm. Concentrating in catastrophic injury litigation, medical malpractice cases and whistleblower representation, Kline & Specter, PC, continues to be a preeminent law firm in the United States. Having already established himself as a trial lawyer of extraordinary talent during his time with The Beasley Firm, Kline has since achieved a magnitude of success where describing his achievements in superlatives has become routine. For instance, after the high-profile Hall v. SEPTA case in 1999, which resulted in a $51 million verdict for a 4-year-old boy whose foot had been torn off by a subway escalator, the Philadelphia Daily News referred to Kline as “the Babe Ruth of personal injury litigation.” While that assessment might have reflected some local bias, the same court case led The National Law Journal to rank him as being among “Ten of America’s Top Litigators.”

During a career that now spans four decades, Kline has won hundreds of seven- and eight-figure jury verdicts and settlements. Among the more recent cases, in 2013 Kline won a $42.9 million verdict—one of the largest medical malpractice verdicts in Pennsylvania history—for a child born with cerebral palsy who had received substandard medical treatment at a Philadelphia hospital. That same year he won an $11.6 million settlement for a former University of Pennsylvania student who was a paraplegic as a result of falling through a raised skylight/ventilation opening at an off-campus residence. In 2015, Kline obtained a $2.5 million award for a young Alabama man in the first case to go to verdict among thousands filed against Janssen Pharmaceuticals, the maker of an antipsychotic drug linked to the growth of female breasts in boys and male adolescents.

Such accomplishments have led to his being among the most recognized attorneys in the profession. He was the 2016 recipient of the Michael A. Musmanno Award by the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, an honor awarded to the person who best exemplifies “the same high integrity, scholarship, imagination, courage and concern for human rights” as the late Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice. He is on the National Law Journal’s “Winning Hall of Fame” as one of fewer than 100 lawyers selected for compiling “significant bench or jury trial verdicts and who has a record of success over many years.” He has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by The Legal Intelligencer, a recognition representing “the figures who have helped to shape the law in Pennsylvania ... and who have had a distinct impact on the legal profession in the state.”

In 2015 Kline was elected to the prestigious American Law Institute, founded in 1923 and considered the leading independent organization working to clarify, modernize and improve the law in the United States. He is a past president of the Inner Circle of Advocates, the most exclusive trial lawyer group in the country, described by The Washington Post as a “select group of 100 of the nation’s most celebrated trial lawyers.” Super Lawyers has honored Kline from its inception in 2004 through 2016 as the No. 1 ranked lawyer among 65,000 lawyers in Pennsylvania, an accomplishment unmatched in any other state by any other lawyer. In 2015, Lawdragon, describing Kline as “the leading personal injury plaintiffs’ lawyer in Pennsylvania,” included him in its first collection of “The Lawdragon Legends,” a special group of “truly select lawyers” who have made the elite annual guide 10 times since its founding in 2005. And these accolades are just a few in an ever-growing ledger.

As his career portfolio testifies, Kline has represented clients in not only some of the most publicized courtroom victories but also some of the most influential—and that’s key to understanding the inner drive of this celebrated trial lawyer. He is able to obtain justice for his clients while also effecting positive change on the legal system and society as a whole. For Kline, true justice rises above verdicts and settlements. There are vital components of purpose and compassion that transcend each individual case.

“We are deeply appreciative to our alumnus Tom Kline, who has been committed throughout his career to the highest possible level of legal education in our commonwealth, and has stepped up to support his alma mater with this history-making gift to create the Kline Center.”

— Duquesne President Ken Gormley
“I know that I would not have been able to achieve what I have accomplished for clients that I represented—and hopefully I have influenced significant changes in the way that government and industry and physicians and others work in the process—without my start at Duquesne.”
— Thomas R. Kline, L’78

“What gets lost in the shuffle is the cause,” Kline explained. “Personal injury cases are by definition about achieving both money to compensate and money to deter—compensatory and punitive damages. But the cause is much larger and the goal is much higher, and I’ve set my sights on those goals. My goal has consistently been ‘what can I do to make the world safer or better through the individual who I represent in any particular case.’ Recognizing an obligation first and foremost to an individual client with the additional goal of achieving a larger measure of justice, of reform, of safety, of other benefits to society has become a very important part of my practice.

“I’ve been able to champion the cause against fraternity hazing through the tragic death of Tim Piazza; I’ve been able to champion the cause against sexual violence through the case of a man known as Victim No. 5 in the Jerry Sandusky case; I’ve been able to champion the cause against illegal police shootings through the case of a young man named Phil Holland. In each one of those cases, just to pick three examples, I have been able to champion for an individual but also for a greater cause. In each case there is a unifying theme. The devastation in these calamities starts with the need for help and the healing of families. Part of that healing can be the participation in the process of litigation, the results of which ideally provide a greater good for society.”

This same visionary approach has marked Kline’s dedication to philanthropy, which in turn has strengthened his commitment to education. On Sept. 17, 2014, Kline announced a $50 million personal gift to the law school at Drexel University, now named the Thomas R. Kline School of Law. “In a world where the discourse is coarse, and where incivility tragically appears to become the norm, we all need to use all of our energy to rise up against it and change it. That’s why education from the first day of law school to the last for a judge on the bench is vital.”

This viewpoint was a natural step to Kline’s becoming involved with the project that would ultimately become known as the Thomas R. Kline School of Law. “In a world where the discourse is coarse, and where incivility tragically appears to become the norm, we all need to use all of our energy to rise up against it and change it. That’s why education from the first day of law school to the last for a judge on the bench is vital.”

For Kline, the continuing education of the judiciary is vital to nourishing the higher causes of the legal system. There is a cycle of growth and healing that depends on there being no weak—i.e., uneducated—connections. “We mustn’t lose sight of civility and the necessity of having a fair and an open dialogue among lawyers and with the judiciary, which translates into the good of society. The very people I have represented for four decades depend on a judiciary which is rock solid, well-grounded and educated to make sure that justice is not only applied but efficiently sustained.”

The location of the Kline Center is an example of the synergistic coming together of the need, the solution and the donor. “I can’t overstate the influence that Ken Gormley has had on this project,” Kline said. “Ken knew that it would interest both ends of the spectrum: Teaching law students who are not yet lawyers and teaching judges who have achieved professional distinction and honor.”

The Kline Center will assist the Department to provide an innovative, high-level judicial education to more than 600 Pennsylvania jurists across the state, a concept that especially caught Kline’s attention. “The idea of Duquesne not going it alone but being a leader appealed to me because, in addition to other educational concerns, I have a great stake in the legal education provided by the Kline School of Law. Here was an opportunity to create a consortium of every law school, led by Duquesne.”

Kline is particularly adept at defining the mission of the new Kline Center in light of the CJE requirements established by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. “The law is dynamic. As the world changes, the law must of necessity adapt. Judges by definition need to know the law because they are the ones who ultimately apply the law. Knowing and understanding the law—how it intersects with changing technology and a changing world—is a core principle behind the establishment of the Kline Center. In order to function in a world of changing technology, science and medicine, judges need to consistently educate themselves individually and also as a formal group.”

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The location of the Kline Center is an example of the synergistic coming together of the need, the solution and the donor. “I can’t overstate the influence that Ken Gormley has had on this project,” Kline said. “Ken knew that it would interest
me because he knows of my career in the Pennsylvania courts. I have appeared in hundreds of courtrooms in front of hundreds of judges. I know the stake my clients have—and every lawyer’s clients have—in a well-educated and honorable judiciary. And there is no better place than my alma mater for launching this worthy project. You can initiate basic judicial education and have the box checked, or you can offer something unique and innovative. This project contains both of the latter components.”

School of Law Dean Maureen Lally-Green, who served as a judge on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania for 11 years, shares Kline’s confidence in the location. “We are thrilled that Duquesne University School of Law has been given this extraordinary opportunity to facilitate public service of the judicial branch in our commonwealth at the very highest level. We express our deep thanks to our distinguished alum Tom Kline, and to the Pennsylvania Courts, for proposing this important position of trust in Duquesne’s Law School.”

Kline’s long time law partner and best friend, Shanin Specter, offers this assessment of his friend and the Kline Center: “Tom sees that we can’t have a great legal system without great lawyers and that’s why we need to do all we can to support American legal education. He’s done that. And Tom sees that we can’t have a great legal system without great judges and that’s why this center right here and right now serves such an important purpose.”

Tom Kline’s story reads like a carefully constructed novel with high Hollywood mini-series potential, and it’s far from over. He has maintained an upward trajectory that has taken him to heights of the sort few in the legal profession can match. Yet his feet remain firmly planted on the ground. His academic roots are one explanation for this phenomena. “Duquesne has always been near and dear to my heart. I know that I would not have been able to achieve what I have accomplished for clients that I represented—and hopefully I have influenced significant changes in the way that government and industry and physicians and others work in the process—without my start at Duquesne. Duquesne gave me a bedrock and a solid foundation to begin a law career.”

But the primary source of grounding can be found closer to home. “Lawyers struggle with the balance between their professional life and their family life. I have two grown terrific children, my daughter Hilary Merson, a long time, committed preschool teacher, whose spouse Jordan is not only my son-in-law but also a brilliant lawyer and law partner at Kline & Specter; and Zac Kline, highly regarded and a successful playwright who is also a graduate of The Kline School of Law and a member of the bar. I have three beautiful grandchildren, Parker, Cole and Dylan. The center of our universe is our family. We tragically lost my late wife Paula to cancer in 2004. We were married 32 years and she was an exceptional spouse and mother. I currently have a beautiful and accomplished woman in my life, Brittney Schoenbeck. We have been together for seven years. She is a Kline School of Law graduate who, like Hilary, holds a master’s degree in early childhood education.

“Together we are a family who share the same ideals and values. We spend every minute we can together. Family is at the core of all of our existence. I have spent much of the past four decades representing people who have lost a lot in life, and there’s an object lesson in what I do: In your own personal life you need to always take stock and always take good measure of what is of paramount importance. And I always come back to the basic proposition that what is ultimately most important are the people you love.”

The Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education is a testament to a legacy of education fueled by compassionate service—a perfect reflection of the Duquesne School of Law.

**McNally named interim director of Kline Center**

Attorney Joy G. McNally has been named interim director of the newly established Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education of Duquesne University School of Law.

McNally has had the distinction of serving under several of Pennsylvania’s most distinguished jurists. She served as a law clerk to the late Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ralph Cappy, Jr., as well as to former Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille and current Justice Debra M. Todd. Additionally, she clerked for Judge Maureen E. Lally-Green (now Duquesne Law School dean) on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and (earlier in her career) for the late Judge Carol Los Mansmann on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Prior to her clerkships in state and federal court, McNally practiced law for 10 years at the firms of Cindrich & Titus, Cohen and Grigsby and Buchanan Ingersoll. She earned a Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, in 1983 from the University of Pittsburgh, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif and was topics editor for the *Pitt Law Review*. She earned both a Master of Arts in special education and a Bachelor of Science in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh.

Most recently, McNally taught as an adjunct professor in the Duquesne University School of Law, where she also served as a special advisor to then Law Dean Ken Gormley and assisted him in editing his latest book, *The Presidents and the Constitution: A Living History* (2016).
"Define the Issue"

The mantra of peacekeeper Bernie Bercik

As he was growing up in the Pittsburgh area, Bernie Bercik, L’84, saw Duquesne University as a beacon, as well evidenced by the ongoing dedication of its students’ and alumni’s service to the nation and the international community.

“Duquesne was well known to my family, especially with its strong connection to Catholicism and the Spiritans. My uncle, Richard Bercik, graduated in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree and my younger brother, Michael, graduated from Duquesne with a business degree. So after my graduation from Washington & Jefferson College, the Duquesne School of Law seemed like the natural choice.”

Bercik attended Duquesne’s evening program, working as a clerk for various law firms and going to classes four nights a week for three hours each night. “It was a wonderful four-year experience. It was literally like learning a whole new language,” Bercik remembers. “The first two years were at the old Rockwell Hall, and then I spent the last two years at the new facilities, so I saw the transformation.”

A colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve who served in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps and Civil Affairs, Bercik’s career turn came from a surprisingly casual decision. “I saw an advertisement in the Allegheny Bar Journal in 1989, ‘Wanted, Judge Advocate;’ all you had to be was a lawyer and you could qualify for a commission as a first lieutenant—two weeks a year, one weekend a month. I applied and forgot about it. A year later I got a call saying ‘congratulations’ . “Initially his commission fell into the expected routine, but the changing geopolitical landscape soon increased his active duty. “When I joined the Reserve, the United States was militarily in a static environment. Then, starting with the Balkans and followed by Iraq and Afghanistan, it became more expeditionary and brought to the fore my knowledge of civil affairs. This resulted in four activations, which put a whole different perspective on my life and career.”

Working in civilian affairs means bringing civilian expertise to active duty military operations. Bercik’s expertise, in addition to the law, includes reconstruction and project management. “I was in Afghanistan for just a little under six months, from October of 2009 until April 2010. I was on a joint task force, and ‘duty detailed’ by our chief of staff to operate the lead as project manager a $200 million construction project in Bagram. I was also in the Iraq theater of operations for about 14 months, and spent six months in Kosovo as an international legal officer.”

Upon his return from his deployment to Afghanistan, Bercik applied for a position working with the United Nations’ Capital Master Plan, a project designed to renovate the U.N. Headquarters in New York City—but his service record led to a position as procurement officer for the U.N. Procurement Division, Corporate and IT Procurement Section as an international civil servant. “They saw my deployment background and put me in the peacekeeping operations of the IT procurement department. I spent almost two years at the United Nations as an international civil servant, and I still keep in touch with my colleagues from that time, especially those in the peacekeeping department. The ‘Declaration of Oath’ I took as an international civil servant of the United Nations is framed and to this day is always hanging from my work station.”

His civil service involvement has been and continues to be active, including international missions beyond his service as an officer in the Army Reserve. “I’ve done a lot of work with NATO. In fact, last summer I returned from Spain from a conference that was convened to discuss the implications to Europe regarding the ongoing migrant crisis coming out of Syria.”

The common denominator in Bercik’s multi-faceted career has been a genuine dedication to true service regardless of his job title, a commitment he traces directly to his law school alma mater. During time spent in combat zones he was often able to get out and make an impact. For instance, in Iraq he was involved in restoring essential services in Karbala and implementing “caucus style provincial wide” elections in the Al Anbar Province. In the hazardous duty zones of Kosovo he handed out school supplies to schoolchildren and worked with the United Nations in resettling displaced Kosovar-Serbs back into their homes. In each case his energy was focused on improving the quality of life for the host nations’ less fortunate citizens. “I’m not a combat arms guy; I am a peacekeeper,” he states emphatically. “And that comes from the ideals of Duquesne.”

In his memory of his days at the Law School, which due to its impact he remembers vividly to this day, one particular vignette continues to nourish his career and his life. “When I was a struggling second-year law student, I went to Professor Sciullo, my Estate and Trusts professor. I walked up unannounced, and he couldn’t have been nicer—but he was also tough. Feeling a general sense of frustration, I said ‘I don’t know what I’m doing wrong.’ He asked, ‘What’s the issue?’ I didn’t know what he was talking about, but he continued to drill down: ‘If you know the issue, everything else falls into place.’ From that point forward I learned to define the issue in every case study. The key is not memorializing and knowing everything, but in defining the issue.

“Those are the two tenets that I have taken away from Duquesne. One, as a peacekeeper, which translated into being an international civil servant at the U.N.; and two, define the issue in terms of the operational environment. The United Nations was a culmination of my Duquesne experience—the Wilsonian international liberalism foreign policy along with Professor Sciullo’s words of wisdom guiding me.”

Most recently Bercik has relocated to Boston, Mass., with his wife, Mary Lynne. “I am working for a major pharmaceutical life science corporation handling their response to RFPs (requests for proposals). We have two wonderful sons, 9-year old Bernie and 6-year old John Paul. I settled into the family life a little later than most, and I couldn’t be happier.”

Wherever his journey takes him, Bercik remains mindful of his roots. “It’s tough to get back to Pittsburgh, but I always keep an eye on the Duquesne website for any nearby events, whether I’m in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston or wherever. The Law School will always be in my heart and mind.”

Bernie Bercik, center, in a Spanish military mess hall.
Duquesne Law celebrated its 103rd commencement on Sunday, June 4 with a baccalaureate liturgy in the University Chapel and ceremony in the A.J. Palumbo Center. 126 students were conferred the degree of Juris Doctor and three received Master of Laws for Foreign Attorneys degrees. Gretchen R. Haggerty, L’80, retired executive vice president and chief financial officer of United States Steel Corporation, was the commencement speaker. The annual Dr. John and Liz Murray Award for Excellence in Scholarship was awarded to graduate Robert Delmar Clark, Jr., and Professor Bruce Ledewitz.

Dean Maureen Lally-Green with Gretchen and Jim Haggerty, L’79.

Jamie Inferrera speaks on behalf of the class of 2017.
Congratulations, Duquesne University School of Law Class of 2017

Mohammed Al-Bidhawi
Antoinette N. Arabia
Rebecca Rae Bailey
Benjamin John Baran
Kara Marie Beck
Devlin Matthew Bennati
Anthony John Bianco, III
Christopher J. Blackwell
Alexander Bayard Bladel
Kevin Thomas Brett
Alyssa A. Brown
Steven Joseph Brunner
Kaitlyn M. Burns
Robert Michael Byers
Anthony Sarafino Caliguire
Robert Maxwell Campbell
Bruce L. Castor, III
Danielle Marie Champ
Jeffrey Michael Childs
Robert Delmar Clark, Jr.
Alexandra Beth Cohen
Gabrielle Marie Conti
Emily Katherine Crawford
Jonathan Edward Dalziel
Alyssa Marie Dedola
Taylor Elizabeth Denk
Maggie Anne Di Vito
Elizabeth K. Dofner
Abigail Renee Donovan
Alyssa Marie Drake
Ryan Patrick Driscoll
Colin J. Drummond
Eric Andrew Efinger
Nichole M. Ehrheart
Molly Kay Emmett
Keila Estèvez
Zachary G. Evans
Daniel James Festa
Kyle Godfrey Fiesler
Zachary Tyler Fleming
Jesse Browning Francis
Susannah Rubinstein Glick
Ian Michael Grecco
Fayezeh Haji Hassan
Anthony Joseph George Hassey
Kristi N. Heidel
Megan Amanda Herbert M'Sadoques
Alexander Howard Hill
Casey Ellen Hogan
Zachary Robert Hudak
Jamie L. Inferrera
Francesca Iovino
Joseph Harold Janeda, III
P. Michael Jones
Joseph John Joyce
Brian Jug
Chalyn M. Kaufman
Megan Marie Kent
Benjamı̇n Andrew Kift
Andrew Todd Kiger
Amanda M. Kurtz
Steven McKee Liboski
Candice Cross Lindeman
Charles Robert Lipp
Katherine Harriet Edens Littlejohn
Jarrett Thomas Lonich
Carly Ann Loomis-Gustafson
Corey Allen Lucci
Patrick Ross Macaluso
Kandace Hunter Mandarino
Adam Michael Martello
Carlie Nicole Masterson
Andrew Tyler Mathews
Meghan Michelle Matscherz
Rachel L. Matson
Anne Marie McFadden
Amber Miles
Alexandra Elise Murray
Elizabeth Rae Mylin
Ryan B. Naumann
Lucille Mary Neff
Matthew T. Newman
John-Connor O’Brien
Terence Alexander O’Donnell
Nialyn Reid Pagliari
George M. Pappas, Jr.
Caleb A. Pennington
Rebecca Perison
Brittany N. Petricca
Stephanie Nicole Philipp
Domenic Pietropaolo
Nicholle Kaylynn Pitt White
Marcelina Rosaria Policicchio
Ryan Justin Porco
Christopher William Pruessner
Nicholas James Raker
Filip Rams
Abigail Sue Reigle
Kelsey Jo Lynn Reno
Carly Janelle Rice
Jessica Lee Rosenblatt
Joseph S. Rosenbloom
Jacqueline Hanna Russel
David Leonard Scherer
Emily Rebecca Schizimzi
Keanna Adinae Seabrooks
Chad Michael Shokrollahzadeh
Robert David Shope
Tamara Ann Siegert
Beth Anne Smith
Kathleen Danielle Snyder
Lorraine Cecilia Sullivan
Emilie Allison Swan
Anne Frances Talarico
Cezanne Smith Tollar
Rebecca Lynn Traylor
Michael Joseph Tully
Ann Katherine Ultsch
Anthony D. Vannelli
Alison R. Viola
Jennifer A. Vogel
Jessica L. Wilkin
Julie Ann Williams
Jennifer June Yeung
Zachary J. Zabawa
Sarah Marie Zeh
Where Do We Go from Here?: DACA’s Humanitarian and Political Concerns

Amber McGee, Staff Writer

Who is deserving of the “American Dream”? What does it mean to be an American? Are the Dreamers who proudly call themselves American wrong—and who decides? Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), implemented in 2012, gave thousands of undocumented immigrants the opportunity to come out of the shadows of illegality and pursue the “American Dream.” President Barack Obama crafted this program to address the struggle faced by undocumented persons who entered the country illegally as children through no fault of their own. As politicians swarm to bandage the open wound that is the U.S. immigration system, American values are now on trial among constitutional concerns and political power struggles.

Golfers Beware: You Might Be in Danger of These Legal Hazards

Nick Frost, Executive Editor

Golf is a game played by many and enjoyed by almost as many. Because it is a game, many people do not realize the legal issues they may walk into while on the course. Stolen property, property insurance claims, personal injury claims, a person’s right to a free car and other potential legal claims may come up on a golfer’s next round. With the game being so popular among lawyers, law professors and judges, it is fair to say these issues have arisen in Pennsylvania. How have the courts decided on them?

After Marriage: The Legal Landscape for LGBT Family Rights

Nicole Prieto, Editor-in-Chief

In 2013, U.S. v. Windsor struck down a section of the Defense of Marriage Act that prevented same-sex couples from receiving federal marital tax deductions. In 2015, Obergefell v. Hodges made gay marriage the law of the land. But even in the wake of these decisions, there remain challenges to delimiting the rights of same-sex spouses and their families. In 2017, in Pavan v. Smith, the Supreme Court repudiated Arkansas’s refusal to include the name of a same-sex spouse on a child’s birth certificate. Not long after, in Pidgeon v. Turner, the Texas Supreme Court declined to extend spousal benefits to state employees with same-sex partners—sending the case back to the trial court. What is the current legal landscape for LGBT family rights? And what uncertainties remain as the Court enters a new era?
The Art of Destruction of Art: Ai Weiwei Through an American Lens

Natalia Holliday, Web Editor

They say we must destroy to rebuild. Where’s the line? Chinese artist Ai Weiwei tested those bounds in 1995 with his renowned work “Dropping a Han Dynasty Urn.” In a series of three photos, the artist holds a 2,000-year-old Han Dynasty urn midair in front of him—before dropping it and shattering it to pieces. In 2014, a visitor to an Ai Weiwei exhibition in Florida paid it forward by smashing one of Ai’s painted Han Dynasty vases in protest. What legal lines do these acts cross? Would Ai’s claim of artistic “appropriation” of the artifacts fly in an American legal sphere? What weight does the First Amendment have in any act of destruction as art?

M&A Explained: The Amazon-Whole Foods Merger

Joe Baublitz, Staff Writer

Law, economics and business collide through mergers and acquisitions. When companies acquire or merge with one another, the ramifications can be severe. The decision to merge, especially with large companies, is affected by business decision-makers, in-house lawyers, regulators and economic factors. Amazon recently purchased health food giant Whole Foods. This merger gives Amazon a way to get into brick-and-mortar stores and expand its grocery business. It faced antitrust issues, however, because it is nearing monopoly status. How did Amazon survive the antitrust threat?

Christensen v. Tennessee: Revoking the Knock-and-Talk?

Karissa Murphy, Executive Editor

Investigators arrived at James Christensen’s house in 2013. Despite several “No Trespassing” signs, they proceeded onto his porch to exercise a “knock-and-talk.” From the porch, officers could smell an odor that they associated with manufacturing methamphetamine. Christensen refused to allow them to enter his home and demanded they leave. The officers believed, however, that they had enough exigent circumstances to search the home and kicked open the door. Christensen was then arrested and charged. In Christensen v. Tennessee, the Supreme Court will address whether private citizens can use “No Trespassing” signs to revoke officers’ implied licenses to conduct such knock-and-talks.

Standard 310: The ABA’s New Take on Credits

Kyle Steenland, Associate Editor

In the past year, the American Bar Association released Standard 310, which delineates what constitutes a “credit hour” and the requirements necessary to receive credits from an academic activity. These requirements necessitate an “equivalent amount of work” for activities. In compliance with the Standard, Duquesne University School of Law adopted new policies of its own. It places the “equivalent amount of work” standard at a minimum of 45 hours of work per credit awarded, and it requires anyone involved in non-classroom, credit-awarding activities to tabulate time. To further understanding of these new policies, Juris seeks to objectively explore the Standard’s definitions, the supporting motivations behind its enactment and the impact experienced by students and faculty.
After combined teaching careers of nearly 87 years, Nick Fisfis and Ken Gray say farewell

Professor Nicholas “Nick” Fisfis began teaching in the fall of 1969. At the time, he was working as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s office and was looking to move into private practice. Fisfis received a call from the School of Law asking if he would consider becoming a full-time faculty member. “I found out later that (the late) Al Peláez had suggested my name to then dean Louis Manderino,” he recalls. “I was interviewed and was hired.”

Fisfis graduated cum laude with both his bachelor’s and Juris Doctor in English from the University of Pennsylvania, where he served as editor of the Law Review. While serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania from 1964-1969, he was the coordinator of the Organized Crime Drive. For 48 years, Fisfis has taught 13 courses including Contracts, Secured Transactions, Negotiable Instruments, Constitutional Criminal Procedure, Agency and Sales. Fisfis estimates he taught 7,600 law students at Duquesne.

“Secured Transactions was my favorite course,” he says. “In my view, it is the course that is best suited to teach a student how to read a statute. Learning to do that is as important in the practice of law as reading cases.”

Fisfis recalls fondly many friendships during his tenure. “Although ‘mentor’ was not a concept when I began teaching, in retrospect, John Sciullo would have been a mentor to me, as he was for many of the young faculty members. Many alumni will remember Pat Basial, Bill Donaher and Ray Sekula. Fortunately, Ray is still with us.”

Fisfis has no intention of slowing down now that he’s retired. He and his wife, Virginia, children and grandchildren traveled to his ancestral home of Chios, Greece, from where his parents immigrated and where he still has many relatives. “I’ve become a landscape laborer for my wife, and a dog walker for my grand dog,” he jokes.

“I loved teaching the students. That was the most important aspect of my job, along with being with my colleagues.”

Professor Kenneth “Ken” Gray was teaching in Chicago when Duquesne made him an offer he couldn’t refuse. “I was asked to teach Property, which was better than practicing law—it turned out I was more suited to teach than practice.”

Gray began teaching at Duquesne in fall 1978. In addition to Property, he names Law and Psychology as a favorite course. “I may teach that one again,” he says. “Most students don’t know anything about psychology, so it is a worthwhile course.”

Many younger alumni are not aware that Gray and his students put on Gilbert and Sullivan productions in the 1980s. “We did ‘Trial by Jury’ and ‘HMS Pinafore’,” he recalls. “I tried to introduce humor into the classroom. I enjoyed teaching and working with the students who have been, uniformly, bright and interesting.”

Gray, a New York native, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and philosophy from Iona College, his Juris Doctor from Harvard, and his Master of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is the author of Mortgages in Pennsylvania, 3rd edition. For 11 years, he was a consultant to Justice Nicholas P. Papadakos of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

For a number of years, Gray was board chairman of the Fund for an Open Society, a classic civil rights organization promoting integration in housing. Additionally, for most summers in the 1980s and ’90s, he gave bar review lectures across the country.

Gray is also a leading expert on Bing Crosby, noting “I enjoyed his music from the time I was a child, and have collected all of his recordings.” In addition, he is an avid baseball fan. “I’ve visited 50 major league parks so far. They are building them faster than I can get to them.” As a Yankees fan, Gray says he attended Game 5 of the 1956 World Series when Don Larsen threw a perfect game; saw Roger Maris hit his 61st home run; and watched Jim Bunning pitch his perfect game against the Mets in 1964 at Shea Stadium.

Gray will continue his ballpark tour in retirement, and will also continue editing Mortgages in Pennsylvania. He will also look fondly on his days of teaching at Duquesne Law. “Interacting with and teaching the students on a daily basis has been very rewarding.”
Duquesne Law strengthens ties in Costa Rica

Robert S. Barker, distinguished professor of law emeritus, represented Duquesne and President Ken Gormley at a June 23 meeting with Justice Carlos Chinchilla, president of the Costa Rican Supreme Court, in San Jose. The meeting renewed an academic cooperation agreement between Duquesne’s School of Law and the Supreme Court of Costa Rica. The original agreement was signed in 2012 and provides a framework for professional and academic cooperation for lectures, classes, research and exchange programs between the two institutions. Through the agreement, several Costa Rican justices have visited Duquesne for seminars and talks. Barker, President Gormley and other law faculty have traveled to Costa Rica for similar events. Two Duquesne law students have also traveled to Costa Rica to take advantage of the agreement through internships and exchange programs.

Rhonda Gay Hartman (Visiting Professor)

PRESENTATIONS

• Gray Matter: Legal Approaches to the Medical Decision Making Capacity of Adolescents and Older Adults. American Society on Aging, Annual Conference on Aging in America. Hyatt Regency, Chicago, Ill. (March 24).


Julia M. Glencer

PRESENTATION

• Appreciating Law as a Literary Profession: Exploring Auchincloss and Camus. Continuing Legal Education Program (with Andrew Griffin, Esq.). Duquesne University School of Law, Pittsburgh, Pa. (April 29).

Rona Kaufman

PRESENTATION


Bruce Ledewitz

PRESENTATIONS

• Ideological Domination in an Age of Nihilism, Pepperdine Law Review Symposium: The Supreme Court and Politics. Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu, Calif. (April 8).


PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES

• Op-ed, Philadelphia Inquirer. “‘Trinity’ Case Marks Death of Originalism” (July 7).


Tracey McCants Lewis

PRESENTATIONS

• Conference keynote remix speaker, presentation on pro bono service, Allegheny County Bar Association’s Bench-Bar Conference 2017. Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, Pa. (June 16).


Jane Campbell Moriarty

• Professor Moriarty was ranked in top 10 percent of downloads for all authors worldwide on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN), with over 2,800 downloads, February-March.

PRESENTATIONS


• Presentation on Neuroscience and Law to Pain Research Network. Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa. (March 14).

APPOINTMENT

• Accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of Directors of PennFuture, a nonprofit focused on clean energy as well as protecting air, water and land and building sustainable communities for future generations.

Katherine L. W. Norton

AWARD

• Recipient of the 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Duquesne Student Bar Association.

Seth Oranburg

PRESENTATIONS

• *Corporate Governance, Legal Ethics*. Continuing Legal Education program with Eli Elias of Promontory Financial Group. Duquesne University School of Law, Pittsburgh, Pa. (May 13).

• *Hyperfunding*. Mon River Colloquium Conference. West Virginia University College of Law, Morgantown, W.Va. (March 24).

John T. Rago

PUBLICATION/ARTICLE


APPOINTMENT

• Appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania Suggested Standard Criminal Jury Instructions Committee, a PBI Publication (April).

Jacob H. Rooksby

Dean Rooksby continued his series of book talks on *The Branding of the American Mind* at Stetson Law, College of William & Mary and Virginia Commonwealth University. The book is available on Amazon.com.

PRESENTATION


MEDIA

• KDKA News, televised interview re: trademark law and Supreme Court case (April 27).

AWARD AND APPOINTMENT

• Recipient of 2017 40 Under 40 Award, presented by *Pittsburgh Magazine* and PUMP.

• Appointed to the Board of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Ann Marie Schiavone

PUBLICATION/ARTICLE


Tara L. Willke

PRESENTATION

• Panelist, *Teaching Ideas: Research, Critical Reading, and Citation*. Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference. Minneapolis, Minn. (July 21).
Young Alumni Profile: Sara O’Connor, L’12

Home: Richmond, Va.

Education: Allegheny College (graduated 2009)

Employment: Artist and owner, Sara O’Connor Fine Art; tutor and content creator with Law School Toolbox and Bar Exam Toolbox.

Morning ritual: I generally paint long into the night, so my mornings start a little bit later than they did in my law firm days. However, they still start with the same two things: coffee and checking emails! I generally like to get the administrative work done in the morning so that the rest of the day can lend itself to the creative process and painting or to working with students.

Favorite quote: “Let us step out into the night and pursue that flighty temptress, adventure.”

You opened your own art business. Tell us when you began pursuing your artistic side. Ever since I was little, I remember being obsessed with vibrant color and compelling, want-to-touch textures. I used to love getting messy in art classes, particularly ones involving pottery. Unfortunately, I foolishly told myself that art could never be more than a hobby. I knew I had to “do the right thing” and pursue a “normal” and “socially acceptable” career. So, without much internal debate on the matter, that’s exactly what I did. While I absolutely loved law school and many things about practicing law, my artist itch came back in full force and refused to be ignored about two years ago. So, I picked up a paintbrush and started painting. And I kept painting! After a year of living a double life as an attorney and fitting in as much art as possible, I decided to make the leap into art fully.

How challenging was it to make the career-altering decision of leaving big law to be a full-time artist? It was not a hasty decision, I’ll tell you that! My husband and I took a year of experimenting to see whether I liked selling my work and to see how my art was received by others. Also, a lot of my identity was wrapped up in the law. Who was I if not an attorney? It was honestly surreal allowing myself to trust in my talent and become the artist that my fans and clients love.

How do you balance your love of the law with your love of art? I don’t know if I’ll ever want to leave the law fully, and I always loved teaching, mentoring and advising others. With the Law School Toolbox, I get to tutor students remotely (sometimes covered in paint) to help them reach their academic goals. I honestly feel like I’ve won the professional lottery to have two of my passions be my profession.

What style do you love the most? I enjoy expressing myself through three distinct bodies of work: pointillism (painting one textured dot at a time), marble abstract (painting by pouring and tapping) and “kooky kritters” (painting goofy and whimsical animals). While it is hard to choose, I am currently obsessed with creating new pointillism works because of their texture and color combinations.

Where can we see your artwork? On my website and Instagram (saraoconnorfineart). You can also see me at an upcoming art show. This year, I was in the Three Rivers and Shadyside arts festivals. I will have an exhibition at the U.S. District Courthouse for the Western District of Pennsylvania from February to March 2018. Having my art in such a prestigious institution is a wonderful marriage of my two professional loves.

How did your legal education at Duquesne prepare you for this big step? To be a successful pointillism artist, you have to learn how to wed moxie, creativity and patience together. You also have to have the confidence to write and speak well about your work product and know you have something to offer a prospective client. Those traits and skills grew and were enhanced by my time at Duquesne. Plus, people just love the story of my transformation!

How would you describe the value of a Duquesne University School of Law education? Invaluable. I have had the pleasure of being both a student and an educator at Duquesne Law and would do it again in a heartbeat. Our writing program is top notch, our Mock Trial and Moot Court programs are fierce, and I cannot wait to see what is in store with the new Kline Center for Judicial Education.

For more information, visit Sara O’Connor at www.saraoconnorfineart.com or email her at saraoconnorfineart@gmail.com.
On Oct. 20, more than 300 alumni attended the annual reunion dinner to honor three of their finest: Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, L’72; Alka A. Patel, L’01; and George M. Janocsko, L’77. Guest speaker was Audrey Russo, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Technology Council.

Manning received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He serves as president judge of the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, which comprises 43 judges, 10 senior judges, 46 magisterial district judges and 1,200 personnel. During his 29-year judicial career, Manning has presided over thousands of criminal cases including more than 400 jury trials and 21 death penalty cases, in addition to more than 50 civil jury trials involving personal injury, product liability, medical malpractice and sexual harassment claims.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was given to Patel, the inaugural deputy director of the Risk and Regulatory Services Innovation Center at Carnegie Mellon University’s Heinz College. In this role, Patel develops and executes the daily and long-term strategic mission of the center, which is focused on data analytics, cybersecurity/privacy, artificial intelligence and safe cities. Prior to joining CMU, Patel was managing director and senior counsel at BNY Mellon. She has also worked in private practice representing start-ups, universities and Fortune 500 companies in business, technology and intellectual property work.

Janocsko received the Dr. John E. Murray, Jr. Meritorious Service Award. The first assistant county solicitor with the Allegheny County Law Department, Janocsko has served the county for nearly 40 years, representing it in a wide variety of cases in both federal and state court. He also has served as legal counsel to county departments, authorities, commissions and social welfare agencies and as a municipal solicitor and special counsel to local municipalities and zoning hearing boards.
Message from the DLAA President

Dear fellow alumni,

It is my pleasure to serve as the president of the Duquesne Law Alumni Association (“DLAA”) this year. Duquesne is off to a wonderful start this academic year. The law school is blessed to be led by Dean Maureen Lally-Green. Notably and perhaps a bit overdue, she is the first female dean of the law school. Additionally, the law school celebrates another solid performance on the Pennsylvania Bar Exam with a 90.74 first-time-taker pass rate. Last but certainly not least, more than 300 of you were able to join us at the law alumni reunion dinner on Oct. 20. The keynote was delivered by Audrey Russo, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Technology Council, and well deserved awards were presented to impressive fellow alumni: George Janocsko, Alka Patel and Judge Jeffrey Manning.

If you aren’t already a member of the DLAA, you may not know about the various networking opportunities available to you, both in the Pittsburgh region and throughout the state and beyond. In addition to the networking available to alumni, the DLAA also gives back to the School of Law through funding for an endowed scholarship, intensive bar preparation and career services funds. The current legal market is challenging for new graduates, and the DLAA Board is supporting the School of Law to assist new graduates get what they need to succeed: a pass on the bar exam and a job.

My mission for the DLAA this year is twofold: to assist current alumni and to help future alumni. In order to succeed with this mission, my first goal is to increase membership in the DLAA. 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!

Sincerely,

Kimberly S. Tague, L’04
President, Duquesne Law Alumni Association

JOIN THE DLAA TODAY!
law.duq.edu/alumni/alumni-association
1968  
**John R. “Jack” McGinley, Jr.** has been named the new chairman of the Duquesne University Board of Directors, effective July 1, 2017.

1969  
**Jack Hall** has formed Jack Hall, PC, focusing on ADR and products liability.

1974  
**Richard Perhacs**, shareholder at Knox Law, recently earned a Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. He released his first novel, *Cuernavaca*, in March 2014 and is working on his second.

1975  
**Sister Melanie Di Pietro** was awarded the 2017 St. Thomas More Award following the 59th Annual Red Mass held Oct. 18 in the Duquesne University Chapel.

1976  
**David A. Petersen** has been nominated as president-elect of the National Academy of Arbitrators and is scheduled to become president at the NAA’s 2018 annual meeting.

1978  
**John C. Conti**, President of Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C., has written an article describing the development of an opening statement that appears in the spring issue of *California Litigation*, the Journal of the Litigation Section for the State Bar of California.

1981  
**Patricia L. Dodge** has been re-elected managing partner of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP. She has also been elected to a two-year term as president of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation. Dodge was also awarded the Joseph E. Weis, Jr. Distinguished Service Award by the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County, given to a member who has rendered outstanding and exemplary service which greatly enhanced and inured to the benefit of the judicial system or the legal profession.

Robert R. Leight is now a member at Spilman Thomas & Battle, focusing his practice on white collar criminal defense and toxic tort defense.

1982  
**James Saxton** is active in the new medical device litigation group at Saxton & Stump and was named a member of Lawyers of Distinction, a community of distinguished lawyers within the United States.

1983  
**Andrea Geraghty** has received a special achievement award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s board of governors for her nearly 20 years of service on the PBA’s Judicial Evaluation Commission.

1984  
**Craig S. Heryford** joined Gordon Rees as the co-chair of the business transactions practice group and as a partner in the firm’s Pittsburgh office.

Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark, L’83, has been awarded the prestigious 2017 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, the highest honor bestowed to a state court judge by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The Rehnquist award recognizes a state court judge who possess integrity, fairness, open-mindedness, intellectual courage and sound judgment. Clark was presented the award in November during dinner at the U.S. Supreme Court hosted by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.

Clark was appointed to the Allegheny Court of Common Pleas by former Gov. Tom Ridge in 1991 and was later elected to a 10-year term. She served as Administrative Judge of the Family Division from 2006-09, becoming the first African-American appointed to the position. Clark was also the first African-American woman to serve as president of the Allegheny County Bar Association (2006-07).
Ray Middleman is now a member of the Pittsburgh office of Eckert Seamans Cherin Mellott, LLC.

Melaine Shannon Rothey was elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

Timothy J. Schweers has joined Shenderovich Shenderovich & Fishman as a civil litigator.

1985
Madelyn A. Reilly was chosen as one of the 2017 Irish Legal 100 honorees.

1987
W. Grant Scott has been re-elected to serve on the management committee of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP.

1988
R. Douglas DeNardo was named a member of the Nationwide Gift Planning Advisor Council for the American Cancer Society.

Hon. Rita D. Hathaway has been elected president judge of Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas, the first woman ever to serve in this position.

1989
Eugene Giotto has joined Cozen O’Connor as chair of the long-term care practice.

John J. McCague has been named to the board of directors of JDRF Western Pennsylvania Chapter.

Veronica Richards, of Richards & Richards LLP, has been named to the board of directors of Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority.

1990
Robert Hannen, member at Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC, was chosen to chair the commercial litigation practice for the Pittsburgh, Boston and White Plains, N.Y. offices.

1991
David M. Hoff, a member of Covestro’s legal department, was an awardee of the 2017 In-House Counsel Award from the Pittsburgh Business Times.

Colleen Ramage Johnston was one of 65 new fellows inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers at its spring meeting in Boca Raton, Fla.

1992
Robert J. Koch, a member of Covestro's legal department, was an awardee of the 2017 In-House Counsel Award from the Pittsburgh Business Times.

Daniel J. Sporrer is now a petroleum title curative analyst at Ohio Valley Land Services.

1993
Thomas Crowley has been named senior vice president, Key Private Bank at Keycorp.

1994
John Hartzell, Jr. has been named to the board of directors of executive committee at Houston Harbaugh as member and treasurer.

Daniel L. Rivetti has been elected vice president of the Western District Region of the Pennsylvania Defense Institute for 2017-2018.

1996
Hon. Jeffery A. Deller, chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, has been inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

Hon. Mary Murray was elected judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Hon. David Spurgeon has joined the Board of Trustees for the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation. He was also elected to a 10-year term on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

1997
Laura L. Reinhart has joined Burns White LLC as a member.

Eugene Vittone, II has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts.

1998
Matthew Smith has joined Cozen O’Connor as member.

1999
Donald R. Palladino, a member of Covestro’s legal department, was an awardee of the 2017 In-House Counsel Award from the Pittsburgh Business Times.
Adam S. Edmundson has joined the law firm of Unice Salzman Jensen, P.A. in Trinity, Fla.

Bernard C. John is now counsel at PNC Financial Services Group.

Ayanna Lee-Davis has joined FedEx Ground as a senior attorney handling business transactions.

Kimberly S. Tague, shareholder at Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky, married Jason McBride on Sept. 25, in Sonoma County, Calif.

Devon Turner Riley has joined the Philadelphia office of Cozen O’Connor as a member of the firm's new and expanding institutional response group (IRG).

Tyra Oliver will serve a three-year term as the at-large minority governor on the Pennsylvania Bar Association Board of Governors.

Nicole D. Sloane was awarded the Gideon Award, the highest honor given by the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania. It is awarded to someone who has significantly improved, promoted, elevated or otherwise benefited indigent defense in Pennsylvania.

Jason Bertram was selected as an attorney advisor for the Pittsburgh office of the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

Elizabeth Chiappetta, of Robert Peirce & Associates, has been inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.
Eleanor Vaida Gerhards has been appointed co-chair of Fox Rothschild LLP’s franchising, licensing & distribution practice group.

Nikki Velisaris Lykos, founding member of Johnston Lykos, has been inducted into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County.

Amber L. Falkenbach has opened her own practice, the Law Office of Amber L. Falkenbach.

Hon. Brandon Neuman was elected judge of the Washington County Court of Common Pleas.

Jason L. Ott has been awarded the David B. Fawcett Pro Bono honor by Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C. for giving his time to those in need.

Melanie Tiano has been named Director of Cybersecurity and Privacy at CTIA in Washington, D.C.

2010

Elizabeth DeLosa, managing attorney for the Pennsylvania Innocence Project’s Pittsburgh office, was featured in The Incline celebrating young lawyers who are influencing the legal profession in the Pittsburgh region.

Megan Harris-Però graduated from LEAD New York: The Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute, a competitive two-year leadership development program run by Cornell University.

Lisa Postlewait is now an assistant county solicitor for Allegheny County.

Rachel M. Roney was chosen by WHRL Magazine as one of Pittsburgh’s 50 Finest, which recognizes professional accomplishments as well as a commitment to giving back.

Kenneth Rose is a systems manager for the digital strategy subdivision at Carnegie Mellon University.

2008

Kathleen Charlton was elected district attorney of Armstrong County.

Bridget Johnson, formerly Guarascio, married Craig Johnson on May 6 at St. Paul Cathedral with a reception at Phipps Conservatory.

Jeremy Knaebel has been named a senior associate at DFL Legal LLP.

James D. Miller, of Babst Calland Clements and Zomnin, was selected as one of the 2017 Lawyers on the Fast Track by The Legal Intelligencer.

2009

Nicholas Bell, of Meyer Unkovic & Scott, was selected as one of the 2017 Lawyers on the Fast Track by The Legal Intelligencer.

2011


Jason Danks has been named an attorney at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP.

Caitlin Garber has joined TMS International as corporate counsel in its Horsham office.

Justin Martinchek has been promoted to senior associate at The Webb Law Firm.

Amanda McCracken Raber was recently named to the Board of Directors of Lending Hearts.

Catrina A. Melograna has joined Fallon, McKinley & Wakefield PLLC in Seattle, Wash.

Jeremy P. Rudkin has been named an associate at Babst Calland.

Curtis M. Schaffner has joined the Pittsburgh office of Buchanan Ingersoll Rooney P.C.

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Nicholas Bell, of Meyer Unkovic & Scott, was selected as one of the 2017 Lawyers on the Fast Track by The Legal Intelligencer.

Michael Quatrini and his wife, Megan, welcomed their daughter, Stella, on Nov. 20, 2016.

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Robert McHugh is now a compliance examiner at Federated Investors.

Timothy R. Miller, Jr. is now an assistant district attorney for Armstrong County.

Anthony Pavlik has been named an associate at Babst Calland.

Amy D. Rees has joined Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. as a member in its estates and trusts services group.

2013

Nicholas Borsuk-Woodman was chosen by WHIRL Magazine as one of Pittsburgh's 50 Finest, which recognizes professional accomplishments as well as a commitment to giving back.

Genevieve A. Pecharka has been awarded the David B. Fawcett Pro Bono honor by Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C. for giving her time to those in need.

Michael L. Rush was chosen by WHIRL Magazine as one of Pittsburgh's 50 Finest, which recognizes professional accomplishments as well as a commitment to giving back.

Ryan J. Wilk has joined Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC as an associate in the firm's labor and employment section.

2014

Annie Courtney is one of the founders of the newly formed Pittsburgh chapter of the Society of Women Environmental Professionals.

Robert Dare has joined the labor & employment practice group of the Detroit office of Clark Hill.

Andrew P. Griffin has joined Goehring Rutter & Boehm as an associate.

Michael Hilliard is now an associate attorney in the financial services department of Brubaker Connaughton Goss & Lucarelli LLC in Lancaster, Pa.

Anya Lernatovych has been recognized as one of Pittsburgh's 30 Under 30 by the Pittsburgh Business Times.

Ashley Locker is now an associate at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP.

Matthew McClelland has been named an associate at Babst Calland.

Megan Musial has joined Frank, Gale, Balls, Murcko and Pocrass, PC.

2015

Brandon A. Betts has joined Meyer, Unkovic & Scott’s employment law & employee benefits and private clients practice groups.

Theo A. Collins has been named an associate at Spilman Thomas & Battle PLLC.

Sean Donoghue joined Cozen O’Connor as an associate.

Kacie Farmer was chosen by WHIRL Magazine as one of Pittsburgh's 50 Finest, which recognizes professional accomplishments as well as a commitment to giving back.

Lindsay Sherwood Fouse has been appointed a Hearing Committee Member serving the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Anthony Jackson, a criminal justice attorney, was featured in The Incline celebrating young lawyers who are influencing the legal profession in the Pittsburgh region.

Colin May is now an associate with The Estate Planning Centers at the Coulter Law Office, LLC.

Martin McKown, in-house counsel for Duquesne Light Company, was featured in The Incline celebrating young lawyers who are influencing the legal profession in the Pittsburgh region.

Lindsay Nemit is now an associate at Pollock Begg Komar Glasser & Vertz LLC.

Laura D. Pitchford, who has been acting interim assistant district attorney for Butler County, has been promoted to a permanent position as assistant district attorney.

Joshua M. Suter is now a staff attorney in the energy and natural resources group of Babst Calland.

Brandon T. Uram is now an associate at Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.

Aaron and Emily Weiss (formerly Bittle) were married on June 16.

Maura L. Winters has joined Cozen O'Connor as an associate.
2016
Matthew Bolewitz has been named an associate at Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl LLC

Thomas Cocchi has joined Swartz Campbell, LLC as an associate.

Jeanmarie Larkin has been promoted to attorney at Edgar Snyder & Associates.

Justin Leonelli has been appointed to the board of directors of New Century Careers, a nonprofit workforce development organization for the manufacturing industry in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Marcus Lipinski has been named an associate at Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl LLC

Anna Robosson, Esq. has joined Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP as an associate in the firm’s immigration practice.

Maria L. Sasinoski is an associate in the corporate department at McGuireWoods LLP.

Kathryn A. VanDeveer joined Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir in the firm’s mineral title services and energy and natural resources groups.

Tynishia Williams has been selected to the Bar Leadership Initiative of the Allegheny County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

2017
Kaitlyn Burns is a law clerk at Venango County Judge Oliver J. Lobaugh.

Jeffrey Childs joined Robb Leonard Mulvihill as an associate.

Jamie Inferrera has started a three-year term as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors at Point Park University.

In Memoriam

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

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Frank G. Adams, L’95</td>
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<td>William S. Britt, L’64</td>
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<td>Joseph A. Hopper, L’70</td>
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<td>Christine E. Studeny, L’84</td>
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<td>Robert Agostinelli, L’73</td>
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<td>JoAnn C. D’Arrigo, L’75</td>
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<td>Marilyn Josephs, L’79</td>
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<td>Stephen P. Swem, L’72</td>
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<td>Michael A. Angelini, L’78</td>
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<td>Anthony DiNardo, L’53</td>
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<td>Dr. Blair J. Kolasa, L’60</td>
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<td>Rev. Daniel W. Whalen, L’79</td>
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<td>Craig A. Barr, Esq., L’93</td>
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<td>Mark S. Fenice, L’75</td>
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<td>Beth A. Paletta, L’90</td>
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<td>Lawrence Zurawsky, L’64</td>
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<td>Michael D. Bart, L’72</td>
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<td>Louis J. Grippio, Sr., L’65</td>
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<td>Paul V. Ressler, L’77</td>
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This list is provided through Duquesne University’s 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 we may update our records.

A life well lived: John W. McGonigle, L’65

John William McGonigle died Sept. 23, 2017. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, he was an incredible husband, father, grandfather, friend and professional colleague. McGonigle was the vice chairman of Federated Investors, where he had worked for 51 years. He loved to travel and play golf, but his true love was his wife of 54 years, Mary Ita, three children (Kevin, Christine and Michael), their spouses and 11 grandchildren. A graduate of Central Catholic High School, Duquesne University and Duquesne University Law School, McGonigle never ceased to focus on what he could do to help his family, his friends and the Catholic organizations that were a part of his life. He was truly a great man who positively impacted so many people in so many divine ways.
Let Them Eat Cake:
Federalist Society event spotlights religious liberty

Kristin Hoffman, 3L

On Sept. 25, the Duquesne University School of Law Chapter of the Federalist Society hosted its first event of the fall semester, “Let Them Eat Cake,” a SCOTUS review on religious liberty cases. The discussion included last term’s Trinity Lutheran decision and a preview of the highly anticipated Masterpiece Cakeshop decision of this October term.

The lunch-time event included special guest, Professor Richard Duncan from the University of Nebraska School of Law. Duncan is a graduate of Cornell Law and a former editor of the Cornell Law Review. He has written a number of books and two of the leading law review articles on the Free Exercise Clause. The event also included our very own Professor Bruce Ledewitz, a renowned expert in the field of law and religion and law and the secular. Ledewitz is an active participant in Federalist Society events and was invited to speak at a similar event at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law the next day. Ledewitz offers a unique perspective on religion and the law.

The discussion primarily focused on the upcoming Masterpiece Cakeshop decision and how each of the speakers thought the case would be decided. Interestingly, the conversation focused more on the freedom against compelled speech than it did on the Free Exercise Clause. Both speakers agreed the case would likely be decided as a freedom of speech case, and predicted the case would be decided in favor of the cake maker. Only time will tell whether those predictions are correct; earlier this month, the court set the date for the argument as Dec. 5, 2017.

The lunch included cupcakes, of course. The event embodied the Federalist Society organization’s motto of “debate, discuss, and decide.”
Women’s Law Association hosts Domestic Violence Awareness event

Ann Booth, 2L

In commemoration of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Women’s Law Association, along with Maggie McGannon, L’16, hosted the second annual Panel of Local Leaders against Domestic Violence. The panel included Judge David Spurgeon, L’96; Deputy District Attorney Michael Sullivan, L’99; Sabrina Korbel, attorney for the Civil Law Project of the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh; and Duquesne Professor of Clinical Legal Skills and Externship Coordinator Katherine Norton. The panel encouraged a very real conversation about the dynamics of domestic abuse as well as a practical approach to addressing a victim who needs an escape plan.

Spurgeon discussed safety initiatives and referenced resources to ensure the victim receives proper instruction and protection. He explained that while someone may have the best intentions when instructing a victim in an abusive home, the most productive route would be to refer the victim to a professional who can arrange an exit strategy and a safe environment. Spurgeon also discussed pending legislation with regard to the electronic monitoring of violators of protection from abuse orders.

Sullivan spoke to the nature of the victim and the importance of patience and respect, as a person is in an abusive relationship will not necessarily be a cooperative witness. Korbel explained family stability and trying to keep the lives of the victims as unchanged as possible while keeping their protection at the forefront.

Norton explained how to navigate a sensitive situation where the victim has not identified his or her relationship as abusive. With the majority of students in attendance participating in a legal clinic, she wanted to ensure that everyone knows how to respond if approached by a victim of domestic abuse.

Towards the end of the discussion, the consensus was to keep the conversation going long after the conclusion of the panel. Domestic violence is an ever-present issue affecting people from all races, cultures and classes. Students and staff at Duquesne Law School have made a great effort to promote awareness and support survivors.

The School of Law co-hosted a book discussion with the Allegheny County Bar Association Oct. 19 featuring Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds, co-author of My Life, My Love, My Legacy with Coretta Scott King. Reynolds is pictured here with Bethany E. Miller, Esq., left, and Dean Maureen Lally-Green.

Professor Rhonda Gay Hartman’s Health Care Law class joined forces with students and faculty from the School of Pharmacy Oct. 13 to lobby U.S. congressman and senators to support legislation granting provider status to pharmacists under Medicare law. The law students and their pharmacy counterparts met with representatives of Sen. Bob Casey, Pat Toomey and Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Keith Rothus, among others. Participating law students were Julianne Curtis, Allison Erndl, Alexandra Gvozdik, Elise Hahn, Courtney Kraus, Megan Malone, Dominic Mayle, Maria Miller, Hattie Parent, Drew Rummel, Melissa Sarnicke, Brandon Schall, William Shields, Stephanie Shriver-Byrne, Margaret Stockdale and Paul Toigo.
Wellness at Duquesne Law

In fall 2016, the School of Law faculty met and discussed the recently published article “Suffering in Silence: The Survey of Law Student Well-Being and the Reluctance of Law Students to Seek Help for Substance Use and Mental Health Concerns,” by Jerome M. Organ, David B. Jaffe, and Katherine M. Bender, Ph.D. Faculty were also directed to mental health resources available online from the ABA (abaforlawstudents.com/events/initiatives-and-awards/mental-health-resources), including the Mental Health Toolkit.

As a result of that meeting, a Wellness Committee was established. The following Wellbeing Policy was adopted in spring 2017:

The wellbeing of our law students is of paramount importance to Duquesne University School of Law. We encourage and support student wellbeing for the mind, body and spirit.

At Duquesne University School of Law, we are concerned about law students’ personal wellbeing as well as their academic achievement. Law students are encouraged to develop healthy habits that will sustain them through the demands of law school and their legal careers. One of the keys to success in law school involves managing the volume of work and the stress associated with the workload. To manage stress, students need to stay healthy by doing the following: making healthy food choices, exercising regularly, treating illness as it crops up, handling an emergency or injury right away, seeking help whenever necessary.

In particular, the faculty and administration of the School of Law recognizes that the stresses of law school may lead to drug and alcohol abuse and dependency and mental health issues. Early intervention is the key to avoiding or addressing such problems. Accordingly, any student struggling with any such issues is strongly encouraged to immediately seek help from one of the resources listed below.

Based on a yoga initiative started by the Student Bar Association (SBA), the Wellness Committee worked to create dedicated space for weekly yoga in the School of Law, located in the Broughton Mindfulness and Meditation Center (formerly the Broughton Computer Lab). Through a generous anonymous donor, the cost of the yoga instruction is covered for the 2017-2018 academic year. The SBA recently authorized funds for the purchase of yoga mats. The Wellness Committee is also creating toolkits for students on various topics, supplying sanitizer and disinfectant wipes, and coordinating with the University food service provider to have healthy, affordable options for students.

Efforts to increase student wellness began last spring when SBA coordinated with the School of Music to offer free ukulele lessons during the lunch break. The School of Law was awarded an ABA grant to purchase ukuleles for students who do not have them, and free classes (“Duke Ukes”) are available weekly this semester. Additionally, SBA continues to sponsor “Therapy Dog Tuesdays” from Therapy Dogs International, a popular day with the students.

Dean Maureen Lally-Green with Barbara Ross, L’87 (with Skippy), left, and Nancy Loerbel, L’01 (with Baru), volunteers from Therapy Dogs International.
Career Services Update

The Career Services Office (CSO) rolled out a new program for our first-year students this year: **OCI Boot Camp**. While CSO has offered OCI (on campus interview-based) programs in the past, including an OCI Information Session and OCI Interviewing panel presentation, more intensive coaching would benefit our students. Boot camp was held in the summer before the start of OCI and was designed to prepare our students for the OCI interview process. We focused on resume preparation, cover letter guidance and interview preparedness. After the program, the CSO offered individual coaching meetings prior to interviews.

The student response was overwhelmingly positive. 2L student Courtney Brennan commented, “The on-campus interview process can seem daunting; however, the information and advice provided through the OCI Boot Camp helped me put forth a thoughtful strategy in order to navigate the interview process efficiently and connect with a firm that matched my professional goals and ambitions.” Brennan will be working at Burns White this summer.

Employers noticed and commented on our students’ finesse as well, and the students’ performance was reflected in the number of interviews, callbacks and offers they received. The CSO will continue to offer this program in subsequent years, as it proved to be an important differentiator for our students in the crowded OCI job market.

Do you know that more than 250 alumni participate in the **Alumni Student Mentor Program**? The program was developed to give our students an opportunity to talk with alumni about their work, including practice area, setting (small firm, government, etc.) or geographic location. Many students come to law school without knowing the exact career path they want to take. Students’ decisions certainly take shape during their participation in law clinics, internships and work. But the ability to talk with alumni who will give them advice, suggestions and a glimpse into their daily lives adds an extra layer of information for students to consider as they contemplate their future endeavors.

It’s easy to sign-up for the Mentor Program at duq.edu/law/mentor. After we obtain your information, students will contact you directly to request a meeting, often over coffee or lunch. The amount of time you commit to the students is totally up to you. We hope that in addition to learning about your experiences, students will develop valuable networking skills and connections to build upon throughout their careers. Thank you in advance for your support of the students!

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National Jurist names Duquesne among law schools with most improved employment rates

A 2017 issue of *National Jurist* features Duquesne Law in a list of top 20 law schools that have significantly improved employment rates over the last five years. The legal education magazine has Duquesne Law at No. 18, using methodology comparing adjusted employment rates for the Class of 2011 with rates for the Class of 2016.

We are proud of the recognition and hard work of our Career Services Office, led by Maria Comas, L’00, and the many law alumni who participate in career services events and programs. Congratulations to all!

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Most Improved Employment Rate
National Jurist, 2017

SAVE THE DATE

DUQUESNE DAY OF GIVING

2.8.18
BY THE NUMBERS

ENTERING CLASS OF 2017

796 Total Applicants

148 Class Size

50.7% Women
49.3% Men

27.7% from Out-of-State

LAUNCH YOUR LEGAL EDUCATION HERE

4 Programs
J.D. Full-Time Day
J.D. Part-Time Evening
J.D. Part-Time Day
LL.M. for Foreign Attorneys

5 Dual and Joint Degrees

3 Study Abroad Programs in China and Europe

15 Clinical and Fellowship Programs including:
Veterans Clinic
Pennsylvania Innocence Project
Urban Development Practicum
Juvenile Defender Clinic

Federal Litigation Clinic
Unemployment Compensation Clinic
Family Law Clinic
Civil Right Clinic
Education Law Clinic

Statistics as of November 2017. Duquesne University School of Law participates in the American Bar Association’s matriculation validation service. LSAT and GPA percentiles have been verified by the Law School Admission Council based on matriculant lists provided by Duquesne Law.