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Kline & Specter Attorneys to Investigate Shooting of Temple Student

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Thomas Bosworth (L) and Tom Kline (R) of Kline & Specter. Courtesy photos

The parents of Samuel Collington—the Temple University student shot and killed in North Philadelphia in November—have hired attorneys from Kline & Specter to examine the circumstances surrounding their son’s death.

Tom Kline and **Tom Bosworth** are set to conduct the investigation, which will look into a wide scope of factors that could have potentially contributed to the shooting.

“Right now, we are really just looking for information and answers, most of which are unanswered,” said Bosworth. “We’re really intent on leaving no stone unturned and figuring out as much as we can about the circumstances that led to Sam’s death and all the sources of information that we can gather to do that.”

Collington was killed Nov. 28 during a carjacking. He was 21. The suspected shooter, 17-year-old Latif Williams, turned himself in for arrest Dec. 1, and he is currently facing criminal charges including murder, robbery and recklessly endangering another person.

Williams had faced criminal charges in the past, Kline said, and part of the investigation will examine that background and whether decisions within the criminal justice system improperly allowed him to walk free.

Kline said he and Bosworth will also look into questions surrounding how Williams obtained the firearm he used, whether or not the crime occurred on Temple's campus, and if inadequacies in policing and security played a role.

"All of it's up for grabs, and all of it needs to be looked at," Kline said.

Kline said it is too early to say what claims may arise from the investigation, or indeed if any will arise at all.

"We need to assess the facts against the law. That's what we need to do," he said. "And I'm not going to prejudge it. I'm going to say that we are going to look at every aspect of it."

He added that a key priority in the investigation is ensuring that it does not interfere with the ongoing criminal proceedings surrounding Collington's death, which may mean allowing some time to pass before bringing any civil claims.