



Renowned Pa. attorney Thomas Kline to speak at Duquesne law commencement, months after historic \$50 million gift



MADDIE AIKEN
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

MAR 16, 2023

5:48 AM

Thomas R. Kline, the attorney who has tackled some of Pennsylvania's highest profile court cases in recent decades, will deliver the spring commencement address at the Duquesne University law school that now bears his name.

Mr. Kline's speech will send off the first class of graduates from the Thomas R. Kline School of Law, which was named in September after the [Duquesne alumnus donated \\$50 million to the school](#). The donation was the largest in Duquesne history.

"Tom Kline's commitment to Duquesne, the profession and, most importantly, our students is truly extraordinary," April Barton, dean of the Duquesne Kline School of Law, said in a news release.

Mr. Kline, who co-founded the Philadelphia-based Kline & Specter firm in 1995, earned his doctorate from Duquesne's law school in 1978.

During his lengthy career, Mr. Kline's clients have included a child abused by former Penn State football assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, the parents of a Penn State student killed in a hazing incident, and the parents of a boy who was abused by a priest within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The law school at Drexel University in Philadelphia also carries Kline's name after he provided it with a \$50 million donation in 2014. Before his \$50 million gift to Duquesne, the Hazleton native committed \$7.5 million to the Pittsburgh university in 2018.

The Duquesne Kline School of Law's commencement ceremony will be at 11 a.m. May 13 at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.