

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to close the chapter on this semester and approach the holidays, I look back on this year with gratitude. We deeply appreciate your continued support of Duquesne Law; it helps our community as we emerge from trying times and strive to innovate with bigger goals in mind.

This year's challenges did not stop us from creating new programs to serve our students. Our **Financial Toolkit for Lawyers**—an intensive week-long practical introduction to finance as applied to law—launched in January. Our students were exposed to vital accounting concepts, financial statements, balance sheets, income statements, and time-value of money exercises.

In the fall, our distinctive **Business Essentials for Lawyers Micro-Credential Program** began. This partnership with Duquesne's Palumbo-Donahue School of Business offers our law students practical skills in business, finance, and management as applied to modern legal practice. The collaboration gives our students a unique skillset and enhances their professional preparation.

Our third class of **Leadership Fellows** also began this fall. More than 40 student leaders in this program join us to focus on their own leadership development. Our Spiritan ethos guides this program and the mindset that emphasizes servant leadership and value-centered leadership.

I am proud to report our **graduates performed extraordinarily on the July 2021 administration of the bar examination**. In Pennsylvania, they outperformed the statewide overall passage rate by almost 11 percent. Our first-time taker pass rate exceeded the statewide average by more than seven percent, placing our law school a commanding third among 11 Pennsylvania-area schools in both overall and first-time bar passage rates.

These results demonstrate the quality of our education. We are sharing the powerful impact of our degree with an aggressive marketing campaign aimed at recognition among our peer schools. "Empowered to lead—Prepared for what's next" encapsulates our role in preparing future lawyers.

Everyone here at Duquesne Law joins in expressing thanks for our generous alumni. It has been a remarkable year, but we have even bolder plans for serving our students and the legal profession in 2022. I hope you will be inspired to share the spirit of the season by making a gift today. Please complete and return the enclosed envelope, or give online at duq.edu/SupportDULaw.

Thank you for your consideration and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

With warm regards,



April M. Barton
Dean and Professor of Law