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A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER AND THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Contributing in Many Ways—Philadelphia's Kline & Specter Attorneys Helping Others in Climb to the Top

With so many major verdicts and settlements already behind them, law partners Tom Kline and Shanin Specter have turned their attention in a big way—one involving cinder blocks and construction crews—to giving something back to the profession that has enriched their own lives in so many respects.

"Sometimes it feels like we've come full circle in our careers," says Specter as he stands in a large room of wooden beams and drywall which in April is scheduled to open as The Kline & Specter Courtroom at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where Specter graduated and now teaches.

He and Kline toured the site just days before dedication ceremonies at another facility, the recently completed Kline & Specter Squash Center, Drexel University's gleaming new facility of seven squash courts and audience seating that will host matches for the school's 18th and newest interscholastic sport.

"One of the great pleasures of our partnership for Shanin and me has been to undertake special projects that we hope will influence the lives of the next generations of students," says Kline, who serves as vice chairman on the Board of Advisors of the Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law.

Kline & Specter, P.C. and its attorneys have boosted charitable giving—more than 70 charities are on the list—as the firm has grown from an upstart in 1995 to what is now the biggest personal injury plaintiffs firm in Pennsylvania and acknowledged as among the best in the United States with 29 lawyers, seven of whom are also doctors.

The firm has won a litany of incredible verdicts and continues to cement its legacy by doing what Tom Kline and Shanin Specter always have: representing ordinary people faced with extraordinary problems.

"People come to our firm with horrendous injuries, and they are very much in need of assistance," says Specter. "I've never had a client who wouldn't trade whatever money I'd gotten for them for the restoration of their health, but being able to resolve their cases favorably and allow them to get necessary medical care is important to me."

Kline & Specter handles virtually all types of personal injury work, from medical malpractice cases involving birth injury and emergency room injury to auto accidents

involving airbags, defective brakes and seat belts. It also boasts a burgeoning whistleblower practice. Major victories include Specter's \$153 million verdict against Ford Motor Co. (a jury awarded \$52 million in a retrial of punitive damages) in the death of a boy run over by a truck with a defective parking brake.

Kline, who made front-page headlines in 1999 with a \$51 million verdict for a boy whose foot was severed in a Philadelphia subway escalator, recently won a highly publicized \$14 million verdict in a suburban courtroom for a teenager who lost her leg after she was run over by a school bus.

"I see myself first and foremost as a trial lawyer, having handled many kinds of cases from premises liability to drug product cases to mass torts," says Kline, who earned his law degree at Duquesne University School of Law.

Though the partners have worked together for decades, their individual paths to legal careers took different courses. Kline began as a sixth grade teacher while in pursuit of his master's degree and was writing his Ph.D. dissertation when he decided to become a lawyer. He recalls having an interest in law at an early age.

"I admired lawyers. I admired the legal process, and I always felt even as a youngster that I had an aptitude that would be well suited to being a lawyer," Kline says, noting that a childhood spent in the coal regions of northeastern Pennsylvania also helped steer him toward law. "I came to know and understand many things about people who were in need of legal help. I can remember our neighbor

becoming very ill as a worker in a beryllium plant. I knew people injured in the mines."

Specter's career in law was almost a given. His father, the legendary Senator Arlen Specter, graduated from Yale Law School and served as Philadelphia district attorney until 1973. "He would talk about his cases and I always thought they were very interesting," says the younger Specter, who earned his Masters in Law at Cambridge University (First Honors).

While their experiences helped shape Kline and Specter into what they are today, both say they are driven by the same thing: the chance to help their clients and improve public safety.

"Lawyers can make a difference not only in the lives of the people they represent but in the world at large," says Kline. "These cases influence not only public policy but corporate decisions and, ultimately, everyone's safety." ■



Tom Kline (L) and Shanin Specter