

Kline & Specter Eletter February 2023

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Burke, Donnelly co-lead in \$19M verdict in nursing home death



Lorraine Donnelly (far left) and Colin Burke (right) with plaintiffs, daughters Bevin Newlin and Stacey Loehrs

Colin Burke and **Lorraine Donnelly**, assisted by **Migdalia Carrion-Barr**, **Natalie Ventre** and **Kyleen Mulligan**, won a \$19 million jury verdict — including \$15 million in punitive damages — against a Delaware County nursing home and its management companies for the family of a woman who, because of corporate neglect, suffered a broken hip, severe malnutrition, and a Stage IV bedsore that led to her death. The verdict was the largest in a nursing home case in Pennsylvania since VerdictSearch began tracking verdicts in 1994. The verdict last

month was for Patricia O'Donnell, who entered Brinton Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Glen Mills in March 2018 as a fall risk. But later that year, with no staff present, she suffered precisely what she and her family were hoping to prevent — a fall with serious injury that contributed to her decline and death. The

trial lasted one week during which it was shown that the corporate owners and operators of the nursing home intentionally kept the facility understaffed to increase profits. O'Donnell's hip fracture required surgical repair and made her more dependent on nursing staff, and over the next six months her health declined due to staff neglect. During a visit by her daughters in the summer of 2019, they noticed the seriousness of her condition and, after getting no help from the nursing home staff, they called 911 and had their mother taken to a hospital. However, despite 11 days of aggressive treatment for sepsis, a Stage IV infected bedsore, severe malnourishment and dehydration, she was placed in hospice. O'Donnell died at the age of 70. Defendants in the case included Vita Healthcare Group LLC and Imperial Healthcare Group. Burke and Donnelly were quoted in *Law360* as noting: "This Delaware County jury delivered a clear message that nursing home neglect will not be tolerated in their community. The substantial punitive damage award puts all nursing home operators on notice and will serve to achieve accountability and deter similar conduct in the future."

\$24 million settlement reached with hotel for victims of human trafficking

Nadeem Bezar and Emily Marks

reached a \$24 million settlement with the Days Inn in Philadelphia for eight victims of human trafficking, claiming the owner and management of the Roosevelt Boulevard establishment failed to protect the victims. The plaintiffs, whose names were withheld, were 14 through 17 years old. Their abuse occurred at various



Bezar



Marks

times over three years, with some of the victims held in rented rooms for days or weeks at a time. Most had previously been in the child welfare system or in foster care. Some were repeatedly beaten by the traffickers. Bezar said the trafficking was "open, obvious and notorious" and should have been recognizable to the hotel staff. Additionally, the owner had hired a convicted felon as a security guard and over the years had ignored numerous complaints about criminal activity at the hotel, including prostitution and drug use. Bezar told the news media: "The victimization of these young girls should not be tolerated. The criminal process has punished the traffickers. It's now time to hold the hotel owners accountable. Plain and simple, this type of activity should not be allowed to go on anywhere." The settlement was reached after a two-day mediation in which Bezar and Marks refused to agree to confidentiality of the settlement, saying there was a strong public interest in the outcome of the cases. "Instead of hiring qualified security and adopting and enforcing policies against criminal activity, the Days Inn did nothing and permitted criminal activity to continue unabated to the detriment of our clients," said Marks. Bezar, who heads the firm's department that represents victims of human trafficking, sexual

abuse and child abuse, said additional human trafficking claims are still pending, including against the North American Motor Inns in Philadelphia as well as a child welfare agency. ([See article](#))

Suit filed in case of slain child in foster care

Nadeem Bezar and co-counsel **Sherrell Dandy** filed suit on behalf of the estate of Hope Jones, the 3-year-old child killed while in Philadelphia's foster care system, NET Treatment Service Inc. The girl's foster mother, Kiana Casey, 30, a contract caseworker for the city, was charged in connection with the July beating death. Another woman, Jendayi Mawusi, who worked for NET, surrendered to authorities on charges of third-degree



murder, involuntary manslaughter, and endangering the welfare of a child. The highly publicized incident took place in the Eastwick section of Southwest Philadelphia. Medics were called to the scene and performed CPR on the girl, who was then taken to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she was pronounced dead. The Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office ruled the death a homicide and found that the cause was trauma due to blunt force. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* noted that the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office issued a statement calling the victim's injuries "extensive and disturbing."

Governor appoints Becker to PA Court of Judicial Discipline



Becker

Chip Becker was appointed by **Gov. Tom Wolf** to be a member of the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline. Created in 1993, the court has jurisdiction over all judicial officers in the commonwealth and hears formal charges concerning matters of judicial discipline brought by the Judicial Conduct Board against judicial officers of the commonwealth, including magisterial district judges, judges of the Courts of Common Pleas, the Commonwealth Court, Superior Court and justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The Court of Judicial

Discipline has broad authority in matters of judicial discipline and may impose sanctions ranging from a reprimand to removal from office. In his letter appointing Becker, who heads Kline & Specter's appellate team, Wolf stated:

“Please accept my best wishes for success in your responsibilities and appreciation for your dedicated service to the commonwealth.”

Safier a panelist on med mal case management

Regan Safier spoke at a Zoom conference titled “Philadelphia's New Medical Malpractice Case Management Program -- Everything You Need to Know from the Judges and Leading Practitioners.” The free event was co-hosted by the Philadelphia Bar Association, Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, and the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel. The conference was attended over Zoom by some 600 people, including lawyers, clients, insurance adjusters and risk managers. The object was to inform those involved in medical malpractice cases about the new medical malpractice case management program in the Philadelphia Common Pleas Court. **Judge Daniel J. Anders**, supervising judge of the civil trial division, and **Judge Susan I. Schulman**, judicial leader of the medical malpractice case management program, presented an overview of changes to the program as well as an update on expected pretrial conferences and trial dates for medical malpractice cases. Leading medical malpractice attorneys discussed the court's newly created mediation program and how to prepare for pretrial conferences and trial. They also offered first-hand experience on how to resolve cases sooner. Safier discussed the importance of communication between parties in an effort to reach early resolution. She noted discussions can begin pre-suit and pre-discovery, while expert opinions can be provided under the protection of settlement discussions to move toward earlier resolutions. The panelists included four attorneys and officials with Mcare and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



Safier

Duquesne president praises Kline in article



Tom Kline was the subject of the feature article in the recent Duquesne University magazine. Written by Duquesne President Ken Gormley, the in-depth, 13-photo piece (including a black-and-white shot of a young Tom Kline) recounted “Tommy’s” upbringing in the Northeast Pennsylvania anthracite coal town of Hazleton to his marriage

and early career and his founding, with Shanin Specter, of Kline & Specter in 1995 and through his many successes in the courtroom. And, of course, his recent \$50 million gift to the law school now named the Thomas R. Kline

School of Law of Duquesne University. The article, titled “Big Stakes,” gave an account of the festivities surrounding the announcement of the gift, with photos of the hundreds of students, dignitaries and news reporters who attended the event. Kline was quoted as saying: “Every time I stand up to give an opening speech I know someone’s future is riding on what I do. Those are big stakes.” Gormley wrote that the donation will be used for student scholarships, recruitment and retention of excellent faculty, expanding the law school’s prized bar preparation program, reimagining clinics to serve the poor and continuing an emphasis on public service. He added, “Tom’s celebrated career of pursuing justice and changes for the greater good matches perfectly with a law school committed to the good of the people.” Kline told students at the Duquesne celebration about his love of the law. “I cherish the card in my wallet that allows me to practice law,” he said. “I belong to a profession that is necessary. We are the guardians of democracy, the backbone of our nation, and we are all in this together.” ([See the article and photos](#))

Kline CLE guest, comments on upcoming Hulu series

Tom Kline was the featured speaker at a Delaware County Bar Association CLE titled “Changing the Culture of Greek Life in Pennsylvania and Beyond: Tom Kline Provides a Five-Year Perspective on the Piazza Litigation.” In an interview conducted by **U.S. District Judge Chad Kenney** of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Kline told the tragic story of Timothy Piazza, who died in a fraternity hazing incident at Penn State University. Kline’s representation of the Piazza family has resulted in significant change not only in rules regarding fraternities at Penn State but also in toughening state laws both in Pennsylvania and New Jersey over hazing of all sorts. The CLE discussion ranged from litigation regarding defendants, the choice of state versus federal forums, jurisdiction, venue, the social host doctrine and minors, fraternity member duty of care, voluntary assuming a duty of care, the anti-hazing statute, discovery and the Pennsylvania Criminal History Records Information Act. Kline discussed how lawyers can use litigation to affect positive social change. In a related matter, Robert Greenblatt, former WarnerMedia and NBC executive, told the *Hollywood Reporter* he is working on a project titled *Death at Penn State* based on the Piazza tragedy. The limited series is to be featured on Hulu with Lionsgate Television, though no date was given for the television release. Asked about the TV show, Kline told *The Philadelphia Inquirer* that Piazza’s parents, Jim and Evelyn, with whom he has worked to bring awareness to the problem of hazing, are pleased but not involved with the production. He said the project is independent in all respects, and they have no editorial or financial interest in it.

Specter speaks at Ralph Nader’s Tort Law Day

Shanin Specter was the lead speaker at Tort Law Day held at **Ralph Nader’s** American Museum of Tort Law. Specter discussed the importance for trial lawyers not just to seek monetary compensation for their clients in



Specter

settlement talks but also remediation that will benefit society as a whole. He said this is true whether the goal be to repair a broken sidewalk or a defective automobile or medical device. Doing so, Specter told some 150 in attendance, many of them lawyers and law students, will increase the “fullness of your practice, what will stick to your ribs.” Said Specter: “Long after the money has been spent will be what you have achieved for your community, so you’ll feel good about yourself.” He said defendants and defense counsel are also often receptive to agreeing to remediation to avoid more injuries and

deaths, more lawsuits and adverse publicity. This, Specter said, is critical in an age in which there is an “epidemic in the United States of dangerous and defective products.” And one other value in helping society is that it improves the public’s appreciation of lawyers, of “how we are seen.” Nader, the famous consumer safety advocate, called Tort Law Day “a great opportunity to get a short course in tort law from leading trial lawyers and scholars.” The stated mission of the Tort Museum is to “educate, inform and inspire Americans about trial by jury and the benefits of tort law.” The museum was established by Nader in 2015 in his hometown of Winsted, Connecticut. ([Watch the complete video](#))

Kline speaks on “impact litigation”

Tom Kline was interviewed at a special Lawyers’ Club CLE on the topic of “impact litigation,” exploring many of his cases that produced not only large verdicts and settlements but also had an impact on society. Many of his results have prompted changes and improvements in health care, police regulations, product safety, and college regulations and state laws governing hazing, among other things. Kline was interviewed by **Rob Sachs, Jr.**, managing partner of the Philadelphia law firm of Shrager & Sachs and recently appointed as a member of the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners. The event was held at the Thomas R. Kline Institute of Trial Advocacy in Center City and was attended by members of Pennsylvania Superior Court. A reception was held afterward for members of Commonwealth Court.



Kline

Four lawyers join Kline & Specter, bring firm total to 54

Already by far the largest plaintiffs firm in Pennsylvania, Kline & Specter hired four more attorneys, bringing the total at the firm to 54. The latest include a congressman from western Pennsylvania, an attorney with more than 20 years of experience to join the Mass Tort Department, and two top law school

students who had been law clerks with the firm for more than a year and a half.

Conor Lamb is a former U.S. congressman who also served as a prosecutor in the Marines and in the U.S. Department of Justice. He works out of the firm's Philadelphia and Pittsburgh offices. Lamb first ran for the U.S. House in a special election in 2018, then twice won re-election to full two-year terms representing the 17th District that covers Beaver County and parts of Allegheny and Butler counties. In 2022, he decided not to seek another term and instead ran for the U.S. Senate, but finished second in the Democratic primary to



John Fetterman, the eventual winner. Before his time in Congress, Lamb worked as a prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, a position that followed his clerkship with a federal judge in New York. Lamb focused on dismantling heroin trafficking organizations and obtained guilty verdicts against several members of the “Uptown” crew and their out-of-state supplier. He also won convictions against firearms traffickers, bank robbers, other violent criminals, and distributors of illegal prescription drugs. Lamb earned both his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was the winner of the James J. Manderino Award for Trial Advocacy. He then went on to complete the Marine Corps' Officer Candidates School program before being commissioned as a judge advocate, serving from 2009-2017 on active duty and in the reserves, leaving with the rank of major. As a judge advocate, Lamb prosecuted general courts-martial for rape and sexual assault. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, the Sea Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



Melissa Merk is an accomplished attorney who worked on complex litigation with two large, global law firms on cases involving pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Her practice with Kline & Specter focuses, similarly, on mass torts concerning product liability cases. With her former firms, Merk served as trial counsel in a number of matters, conducted and defended hundreds of depositions and, at one point, managed some 7,500 cases regarding pharmaceutical anti-psychotic medication. Immediately before joining Kline & Specter,

Merk was a partner at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, a law firm with offices across the United States and abroad and was vice chair of the firm's Products Liability Practice Group. In addition to work on anti-psychotic drug litigation, she also managed that firm's vaginal mesh litigation team. Before that she was an attorney with Reed Smith LLP, where she worked on commercial and product liability litigation, participating in numerous mass tort trials and helping manage thousands of mass tort claims. Merk was a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez for the District of New Jersey. She was also a law clerk at the Lawrenceville, N.J., firm of Hinkle, Fingles & Prior which

provides specialized legal services for seniors and families of children and adults with disabilities. Merk earned her bachelor's degree at Rider University and was named a Presidential Scholar each year there. At Rutgers University School of Law she was a Dean's Merit Scholar, lead articles editor for the *Rutgers Law Journal*, and was a teaching assistant for First Year Research and Writing and the Moot Court program. Merk is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the District of Columbia.

Grace Grimes, a top law school student and president of her law school's nationally recognized trial team, focuses her practice on medical malpractice and catastrophic injury litigation. Before becoming an attorney with Kline & Specter, she worked at the firm as a law clerk. As a student at the Kline School of Law at Drexel University, Grimes won "best performance" in six of her law school courses, but she accomplished more than success in her coursework. She led her trial team and was a teaching assistant, an instructor of



constitutional law to high school students, an intern with a criminal defense organization, a singer, an actor and a pianist. While in law school, Grimes won an award named for her future firm: the Kline & Specter Award for Exceptional Advocacy given to the graduating student who demonstrated outstanding performance as a member of the law school's trial team. She was the first-ever president of the team, which won the prestigious Texas Young Lawyers Association's regional trial competition in 2021 and 2022 and the Best Advocate award in 2021. As an individual, Grimes competed in the 2022 invitation-only Top Gun competition that included the nation's 16 best individual mock trial advocates. She currently serves as a coach of the trial team at Kline School of Law. Grimes earned her bachelor's degree at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University (ASU). During law school, she interned for a group that helps find free legal services for low-income residents, and the Defender Association of Philadelphia. As an undergraduate, she studied at the University of Ghana and worked with The Ghana Blind Union helping blind and visually impaired students improve computer literacy. Grimes also helped raise funds for the ASU Foundation and acted in training videos used to help raise charitable funds. She sang first soprano in the Honors Choir at ASU.



Michael Wozniak is part of the burgeoning team at Kline & Specter that focuses on human trafficking and child and sexual abuse. Wozniak's prior experience makes him well suited for this endeavor as he worked with prosecutors and judges in several jurisdictions before becoming a law clerk for more than a year and a half at Kline & Specter. While a law clerk, he drafted a response in opposition to a motion for change of venue based on pre-trial publicity in a case against a Philadelphia motel owner and operator on behalf of a teenage girl who was

enslaved and forced to perform sexual acts with men over a nearly two-year period. The court found for Kline & Specter's client in the matter. In other cases,

Wozniak prepared responses for dispositive and non-dispositive motions and constructed complaints for cases ranging from wrongful termination to child sexual abuse. He served as a judicial intern for U.S. District Judge Valerie E. Caproni in the Southern District of New York and U.S. Circuit Judge Patty Shwartz with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Newark, N.J. Wozniak was also a student assistant district attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, N.Y., and a summer intern with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, in Hauppauge, N.Y. Wozniak was a top student both as an undergraduate and in law school. He earned his bachelor's degree from Wilkes University, where he graduated *magna cum laude* and as a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society while also playing varsity baseball. He attended Brooklyn Law School, graduating *magna cum laude*, earning a certificate with distinction in criminal law, and served as an editor for two years on the *Brooklyn Law Review*. Wozniak won two scholarships at Brooklyn Law, served as a research assistant and was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Honor Society.

MEDIA

Millrood opines on Elmiron MDL

Tobi Millrood, head of Kline & Specter's Mass Tort Department, was quoted extensively in an article in *The Legal Intelligencer* on case management involving the coordinated litigation over Elmiron, a bladder treatment drug linked to vision loss. A mass tort program for the cases was created in September but individual lawsuits had already been ongoing for years in Philadelphia, with cases expected to reach trial in 2023. "It was a slow build of cases. When the case was young, there were relatively few cases. But a critical mass developed," Millrood told the newspaper. He said that as cases amassed and deadlines approached, both plaintiffs and



Millrood

defendant Janssen Pharmaceuticals, in a rare agreement, consented to coordinate the matter. Millrood said the next steps in the litigation is for the parties to begin case-specific discovery and trial selection, adding, "Parties will join in the position that we're relatively close and should have trials for sure in the coming year." He predicted that in Philadelphia the current 150 cases will increase to between 200 and 400, while the MDL lists more than 1,800 associated cases on its docket. He further said Philadelphia state court has an edge in the federal court MDL in the Elmiron litigation because of its proximity to witnesses and convenience to the parties. Because of that, he said, trials in Philadelphia will likely benefit from more live testimony as opposed to recordings. "Jurors are a lot more animated and interested and engaged in live testimony than videotape testimony," he told the *Intelligencer*.

Kline comments to WPVI6-TV on shooting arraignment

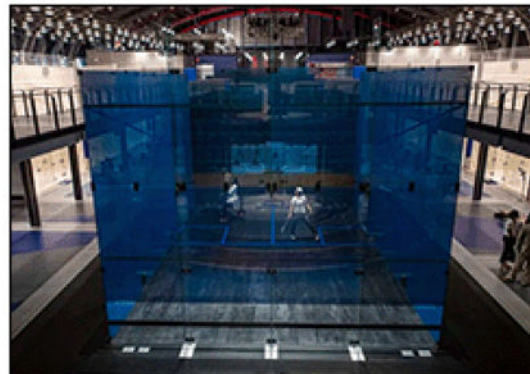


Tom Kline told WPVI6-TV that it was unusual for a preliminary hearing to be held in the case of four suspects in the mass shooting last September outside Roxborough High School that resulted in the death of a 14-year-old boy. “ ... There was much more evidence than is customarily presented. There

was a mountain of evidence in this preliminary hearing,” he commented. The four suspects were held for trial, as was expected. Two other suspects were being sought at the time. The ambush shooting claimed the life of Nicolas Elizalde, whose family is being represented by Kline. Investigators took the stand at the hearing and went over cell phone records, ballistics evidence, surveillance video and more that they said linked the suspects to the shooting in which four other teenagers were wounded. Kline told Ch. 6 he’s optimistic that justice will be served in the case. “There was a young man whose promise was taken away from not only his family, not only his mother, but from our world,” said Kline. “He was going to do great things, and we now are in sorrow.” ([View TV clip](#))

Article: Specter squash center seeks to “save the youth of our city”

Shanin Specter was featured in an article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* about how the Arlen Specter U.S. Squash Center is helping to introduce the sport to city youths while also attracting some of the nation’s top players to practice and play in Philadelphia. The article was headlined: “Could squash help ‘save the youth of our city?’ Shanin Specter and U.S. Squash believe it can.” It mentioned the goal of “giving back to the community” by making the sport accessible



to all youths, not just those from wealthy backgrounds. The article noted that was why, in part, City Council passed a resolution renaming the center’s location at 33rd Street at Drexel University as Squash Way. “We have one of the most vibrant urban squash programs for youth in the world at the Specter Center in West Philadelphia, combined with the Lenfest Center in North Philadelphia,” Specter told

the newspaper. “This comes at a time when we Philadelphians are desperately trying to save the youth of our city. The Specter Center is a shining light of hope against desperation.” The Arlen Specter U.S. Squash Center works with five city public and charter schools to attract and train young players. Specter said the goal is to double that number. “When you combine all the school programs with our urban squash programs, we are going to be introducing thousands of Philadelphians to squash. It’s a very heartening development for our city,” he said. The center, named for Specter’s late father, a squash enthusiast and five-term U.S. senator, is a mammoth complex with 22 courts and a high-performance coaching center. It is the host site for the squash U.S. Open every fall. ([Read article](#))

Kline quoted about university campus safety

Tom Kline commented for a lengthy article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* about crimes committed on and near college campuses. Universities are required to issue reports about such crimes in annual reports, but under federal law the mandate extends only to crimes that occur directly on campus or those committed on public property adjacent to campus or at off-campus affiliated university buildings. The article noted that three murders committed in 2021 that took place very near the Temple University campus were not mentioned in the school’s latest report because they did not technically meet the geographic requirement. One of the victims was Samuel Collington, who was killed less than two blocks from Temple’s North Philadelphia campus, yet his slaying was not contained in the latest crime report. In fact, none of the three murders appeared in the report. Kline, who is representing Collington’s family in civil matters, told *The Inquirer* that this was a “glaring omission.” He said: “In order to paint a picture of safety, you have to create some reasonable net around a campus rather than just the designated campus for Temple. Students live off campus at every major university in Philadelphia and certainly every school in the country, so the question is: Are students going to be safe when attending and living as residents in that community? And that can be broader than the campus map.” Limiting crime statistics to within the technical campus border – where campus police patrol but in clear sight of dormitories and other campus buildings – does not paint an accurate picture of the quality of life at an institution, especially when a large number of students live several blocks off campus. Some universities have addressed the concern of campus safety by extending police patrols beyond the strict school borders. *The Inquirer* noted that in October 2022, Drexel University began adding extra patrols where evening classes are conducted and near recreational areas that stay open later while also adding extra shuttle bus services for students. ([Read the article](#))

Philly Gay News notes med mal lawsuit

The Philadelphia Gay News quoted **Emily Marks** about the firm’s medical malpractice lawsuit against two doctors and Philadelphia FIGHT, an organization



Marks

that provides health care for at-risk youths, in the death of a teenager who died following routine foot surgery. Amir Bishop, 17, died of a pulmonary embolism shortly after his surgery to correct a flat foot in February 2019. Defendants in the case are Dr. Elaina Tully, who worked for Philadelphia FIGHT at the time; the operating physician, Dr. Steven Boc; Philadelphia FIGHT; and The Foot & Ankle Center of Philadelphia. The surgery to correct the flat foot was conducted at Hahnemann University Hospital but two weeks later Bishop experienced shortness of breath and progressive suffocation and lapsed into cardiac arrest. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful and Bishop, a senior at St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School in Bensalem, was pronounced dead upon arrival at Jefferson Frankford Hospital. The suit accuses Tully of knowing that the teenager had a family history of blood clots and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease but did not do any additional follow-up or refer him to a hematologist. It further notes that Boc discharged Bishop without adequate prophylaxis for deep-vein thrombosis which increased the risk of harm and contributed to a blood clot in the youth's lower extremities that traveled to his lungs. Marks told the *Gay News* that she is hopeful the case will get a trial date in 2023. "This is a tragic case involving the preventable death of a 17-year-old whose life was needlessly cut short by the failures of his medical providers," she told the newspaper. "I am optimistic that a jury will agree."([Read article](#))

Specter pens article on Singapore, suggests lessons



Shanin Specter wrote an article for Smerconish.com following a trip to Singapore in which he noted the current problems of America's big cities and touted the successes of the city-state on the Malaysian Peninsula. Titled "It's 2050 in Singapore," he described a real-life utopia that Singapore experiences in many aspects.

Drug dealing is rare due to government intolerance, albeit ruthless. Homelessness is virtually non-existent thanks to the reduced drug use, social and mental health services and housing provided by the government. Unemployment is also very low and health care is widely available and affordable due in part to the fact that many workers are required to put a portion of their wages into medical savings accounts. The nation of 5.5 million urban dwellers also has a low crime rate, including fewer than five gun deaths each year. And bans on littering and smoking in most places (even E-cigarettes are prohibited) help keep things clean. Specter also examined some problems with Singapore, such as the prohibition of gay marriage, limits on political protests and an "authoritarian tinge" that includes even a ban on chewing gum (except

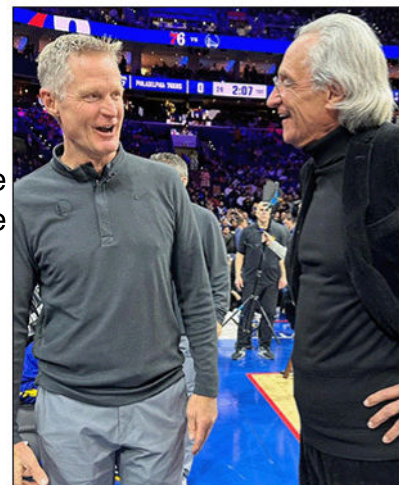
with a doctor's note). "America's big cities are ungovernable through a constitutional Catch-22, where the freedoms to possess guns, pitch tents on the sidewalk, and avoid mental health treatment have made everyone unsafe and nearly no one satisfied," wrote Specter. "Singapore prospers while America's cities wither. Until we demonstrate the determination to reform — through peaceful protest in our streets, at the ballot box and with our wallets — we will remain in a destructive cycle. Singapore did it. We can too." ([Read the complete article](#))

PHOTO GALLERY:



Tom Kline with radio personality and 76ers executive advisor **Sonny Hill**, a.k.a. "Mr. Basketball." A member of the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame, Hill was an announcer for the 76ers and with *The NBA on CBS*. He was a player with the old Eastern Basketball League and founded the Sonny Hill Community Involvement League, which today consists of about 60 teams serving more than 800 student athletes. Kline met with Hill before the 76ers 123-103 win over the Sacramento Kings. The two share a bond going back to the Eastern Basketball League when Hill was a Hazleton Hawks player and coach.

Tom Kline chats on the sidelines with Golden State Warriors Coach **Steve Kerr** before the game. The Sixers went on to win 118-106.

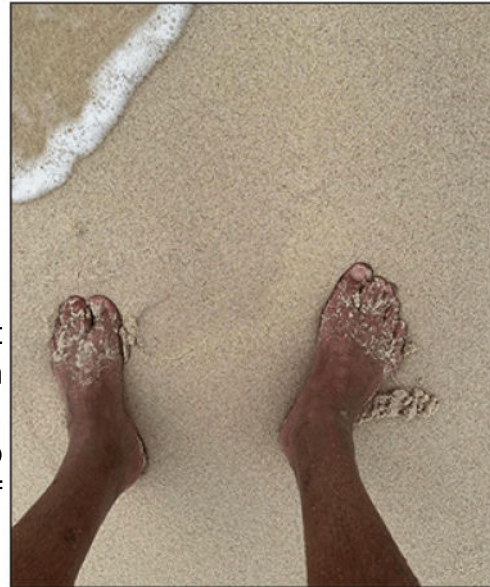


Sixers fan **Tom Kline** strikes the Liberty Bell (not the real one) before the 76ers game against the Toronto Raptors. Kline, a 22-year season ticket holder, was announced to the crowd as "one of the great all-time fans" of the team. The Sixers won 104-101 in overtime. [Watch the video](#)



These feet were made

for walking ... **Tom Kline** walks for exercise, logging each step on his Fitbit. In 2022 that amounted to precisely 7,363,875 steps, or an average of 10 miles or 3,650 miles for the year, that's enough to have gone easily from coast to coast. Seen here are Kline's dogs at the edge of the Atlantic.



CHARITY:

Among its many donations, Kline & Specter made a sizeable contribution to As I Plant This Seed, which provides youths and families with the resources and skills needed to change their outlook on life and equip and empower them to ultimately decide their own outcomes. The organization provides access to education, information and training, works to lessen neighborhood tensions, mitigate trauma and combat community deterioration, juvenile delinquency and at-risk behaviors in the urban context.



Linda Knellinger collected 175 pair of socks from firm employees as part of the Socks for the Streets fourth annual sock drive. The program also collected toiletries, hygiene products, snack bags, clothes and meals for veterans and the homeless in Philadelphia and the surrounding area. Begun several years ago by the son of one of Knellinger's friends, the program has grown immensely, collecting 35,000 pair of socks since 2019. That's not counting 2022. The socks are used not only to help keep people warm but also as a means of outreach to help people get into treatment, shelters and recovery programs.

David and Tammi Inscho hosted the Second Annual Charity 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at the Phiieldhouse in late December, raising more than \$3,000 for Unity in the Community, which works to combat gun violence in Philadelphia through a variety of initiatives. The tournament was for kids 12 and under. Firm attorneys **Nadeem Bezar**, **Priscilla Jimenez**, and **Amanda Kurecian** contributed by sponsoring teams.



“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

– Maya Angelou

“One of the country’s leading personal injury firms”
Philadelphia Inquirer

“The most powerful plaintiffs firm in the city”
Philadelphia Business Journal

“A powerhouse law firm”
The New York Times



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