

Kline & Specter Eletter July 2023

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Robertson, Dagostino win \$8M medical malpractice verdict in Montco

Elia Robertson and **Lisa Dagostino** won an \$8 million verdict in Montgomery County, Pa. against Abington Memorial Hospital in the case of a botched cesarean section that caused the mother to suffer two cardiac arrests and an emergency hysterectomy. The verdict was for Laura Rongione, of Maple Glen, who was 32 at the time of the December



Robertson



Dagostino

2013 incident. She was awarded \$5.5 million for pain and suffering, post-traumatic stress disorder and loss of her uterus, which precluded her from having more children. Her husband, Randy, was awarded \$2.5 million for loss of consortium. "The evidence on damages was compelling," Robertson told *The Legal Intelligencer*, adding, "I think the defense really minimized what Laura went through in the last 10 years." Rongione arrived at Abington in labor with her second child, a son, who was born healthy. But after the cesarean delivery, the lead surgeon failed to adequately inspect the surgical field and missed damage to a uterine artery. After surgery, Rongione went into hypovolemic shock due to severe internal bleeding, suffering the cardiac arrests and requiring an emergency hysterectomy. The trial team of Robertson and Dagostino was supported by legal assistant **Kathy Spurka** in the courtroom and remotely by **Danielle Smith**, **Stephanie Blood**, and **Jeneen Iarrobino**. ([Read article](#))

Specters give lead gift for Share Food's Capital Campaign by contributing \$10 million



Shanin and Tracey Specter at the Share event

Tracey and Shanin Specter kicked off the Campaign for Food Justice for the Share Food Program with a personal \$10 million donation to help Share renovate its Philadelphia warehouse. “We feel very strongly that access to nutritious food is not just a necessity but a human right,” said Tracey Specter, adding, “Proper nutrition is medicine for the body and the mind. I hope this will inspire others to give.” More than 200 people attended the event held in Share’s 130,000-square-foot office and warehouse space, a converted ball bearing factory in Hunting Park Philadelphia. Shanin Specter noted that citizens can’t solve the problems of guns and violence “but one problem we can solve is hunger and it’s a problem we can solve with money.” Campaign funds will be used for a variety of projects, including a renovation of the warehouse, modernization of Share’s headquarters and expansion of its volunteer center, where more than 1,000 volunteers work each year. Share provides food to more than 300,000 school children for breakfast and lunch each day, provides food to more than 7,000 seniors and delivers 30-pound food boxes to thousands of people’s homes each month while also operating 105 food pantries throughout the region. It also operates an on-site Nice Roots Farm where it teaches about growing produce and collects and redistributes surplus food from stores and restaurants through its Philly Food Rescue program. Gov. Josh Shapiro attended the event and applauded the program and pledged government support for Share, which he said helps eliminate a “horrible gray zone” where people don’t make enough money to afford food or they make too much money to qualify for government assistance programs. He noted that Tracey and Shanin Specter have been “mentors to me” and reserved special praise for Tracey Specter, who chairs Share’s board of directors. “Tracey is a doer. She gets things done,” he said. “Those are the kinds of people we need in our society.” Share has set a goal of \$35 million for the Campaign for Food Justice. By June 1, the date of the Specters’ announcement, \$28 million had been collected. ([WHYY article](#), [Share video](#))

Tom Kline speaks at commencement, receives two honorary degrees

Forty-five years after receiving his law degree from Duquesne University, **Tom Kline** was back on the graduation stage at his alma mater, this time receiving two honorary degrees and giving the commencement address at what is now the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. Said Duquesne President Ken Gormley to his friend and the school's most generous benefactor: "Such a recognition is fitting. Your devotion to your profession and your generosity to your alma mater will support generations of Duquesne students far into the future."



Kline accepted his two degrees – Doctor of Law and Doctor of Humane Letters – in a celebration at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse at Duquesne. He imparted some words of wisdom learned over his more than four decades of practicing law, including one he practiced himself earlier in the year with a \$50 million donation to the law school: "It is incumbent upon us to give back to others ... from our family to our friends to our community to people who need us." Other advice included that graduates find a mentor and to mentor others throughout their careers, to listen and always ask questions, to build and guard your reputation. "Know that your reputation is the most important thing that you own," he said. Kline told the graduates to always be themselves, noting, "We are all unique individuals and we all have something special to offer." He offered some practical advice, such as paying attention to one's mental and physical health, noting that he walks 10 miles every day to stay fit. And it's important, he said, to not only devote time and energy to your profession but also not to ignore your personal life. "Lesson number one is to find happiness," Kline advised. "In order to find happiness you need to find a work-life balance, it's really important. It's not all work, it's finding what will make you happy."

Lawsuit filed vs. PHA in fire that killed 12

Tom Kline, Aaron Dunbar, Frank Mangiaracina and Sherrell Dandy filed suit against the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) on behalf of the families and estates of five of the people killed in a rowhouse fire in the city's Fairmount neighborhood last January. In all, 12 people, including adults and children, perished in the building owned by PHA. The lawsuit alleges that PHA was responsible for the fire and deaths and cites a number of reasons, among them that the authority knew its four-bedroom apartment was overcrowded with 14 people, constituting a safety hazard. PHA failed to ensure the building complied with all codes and regulations, lacking a fire escape, fire extinguishers, smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, smoke alarms, early



detection system or a working fire suppression system. The suit claims PHA not only knew of the overcrowding, but that it was “deliberately and willfully indifferent” in respect to the inspection, maintenance and administration of the apartment. The tragic incident began when a child set fire to a Christmas tree on the second floor, trapping 13 people on the second and third floors. The lawsuit also names California-based Enor International Inc., whose Techno Torch

lighter was used by the child to start the fire. Those represented in the suit by Kline & Specter are Rosalee McDonald, who was 33 when she died, Destiny McDonald, 15, Quintien Tate-McDonald, 16, Janiyah Roberts, 3, and Quinsha White, 18. Kline & Specter represents three other victims, with complaints forthcoming. Kline told the news media about the highly publicized case: “This terrible tragedy resulting in precious loss of life could and should have been avoided. After a lengthy ATF investigation, ATF report, and our own independent investigation, we are now prepared to move forward, seeking not only compensation, but accountability.”

Lawsuit filed in “cold case” sexual assault at Penn State

In an unusual case, **Conor Lamb** and **Shanin Specter** filed suit in Centre County, Pa. against a Michigan man arrested and charged with the sexual assault of a Penn State student nearly 23 years ago. The “cold case” was revived thanks to advances in investigative genetic genealogy and the cooperation of a company that studies family histories. The victim, 19 years old at the

time of the attack, was jogging at a golf course at the university when her assailant ran up to her, hit her in the stomach and forced her by knifepoint into a wooded area where he sexually assaulted her. The woman is not named in the lawsuit. Her alleged assailant, Kurt Rillema, 51, who had been engaged in various businesses including as a managing member of a national mechanical contractor, was charged with that crime as well as another sexual assault in Michigan. In both cases, police obtained DNA but they did not have a suspect, with the DNA failing to match that in law enforcement databases. But this past January they received positive DNA test results from the private genealogy company. The civil suit notes that the Penn State victim underwent severe pain and suffering and continues to this day to suffer depression, anxiety, flashbacks and nightmares as a result of the attack. “Victims of sexual assault often suffer for life. Cases like



Specter



Lamb

this one are important to show that victims should never lose hope that it is possible to achieve justice for these crimes, whether through criminal or civil law, or both,” Lamb told the news media.

Suit filed in elevator assault case



opportunity to defend himself,” **Tobi Millrood**, who is among Regen’s attorneys, told WPIX-TV at a news conference at which the building management company was named as a defendant along with the assailant, Andrew Caban, a construction worker on site at the building. Caban was charged with assault and harassment and pleaded not guilty to the criminal offenses. Millrood said the attack was unprovoked. “There was no exchange of angry words. Mr. Regen simply indicated he had to get somewhere. He did not threaten, intimidate or do anything that would have provoked this vicious assault,” he said. Also representing Regen is **Jordan Merson**, a Kline & Specter partner who also heads Merson Law in New York, and **Nathan Werksman** of Merson Law. Defendants in the suit are M Daddio, Inc., ABC Management Corp., The Artists’ Condominium, and Andrew Caban.([See news coverage](#))

Bezar, in Ireland, inducted into IATL

Nadeem Bezar was inducted as a fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, with a ceremony held in Ireland. The academy is limited to 500 members from the United States and includes members from 40 different countries. It is made up of elite trial lawyers from various sides of the trial bar, including plaintiff and defense counsel in civil litigation, criminal attorneys, public interest and public service lawyers and international trial lawyers. Fellows are selected by invitation only and are inducted after a comprehensive screening process that includes both peer and judicial review. The academy notes that



From left: Gina Bezar, Nadeem Bezar, Paul screenan, IATL immediate past president, and Joe Tucker, IATL vice President

fellows must demonstrate not only superior skill at trial but must have served in promoting the best interests of the legal profession and the highest standards of advocacy as well as excellent character, integrity and professionalism. The academy was chartered in 1954 with the general purposes of cultivating the science of jurisprudence, promoting reforms in the law, facilitating the administration of justice, and elevating the standards of integrity, honor, and courtesy in the legal profession.

Kline and Specter chosen to Power 101 list



As in prior years, **Tom Kline** and **Shanin Specter** were selected as among the most influential leaders in the Greater Philadelphia area by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. The Power 101 (previously the Power 100) includes leaders from various industries. Wrote Ryan Sharrow, the newspaper's editor in chief: "From real estate, economic

development and health care to hospitality, tourism and higher education, this year's Power 101 shows the scope of industries that play key roles as economic engines throughout the region. Many of the names selected are not only having an impact locally but also nationally." The list included a number of corporate CEOs and university presidents. But, the *Business Journal* noted, all on the list shared "the ability to influence change, a decision, a project, or a crucial outcome." The lengthy special section on the Power 101 had a page to highlight each selection. Of Kline and Specter, it had this to say: "When they're not securing multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements, the heads of the city's largest plaintiff personal injury law firm are leaders in the community. Last fall Tom Kline made a \$50 million gift to Duquesne University's law school eight years after he did the same at Drexel University, and Shanin Specter has taken a lead role in return-to-office policies for Covid-19."

Twenty-two at firm named by Super Lawyers



Twenty-two Kline & Specter lawyers were named Pennsylvania Super Lawyers or Rising Stars for 2023 by the independent survey group Super Lawyers. **Tom Kline** was selected as the No. 1 attorney for the 20th consecutive year – a record for any lawyer in any state – while **Shanin Specter** was chosen for the 20th year among the state's Top 10. Super Lawyers includes the best 5 percent or less of all lawyers in a state. Other Kline & Specter lawyers selected by Super Lawyers 2023 are **Lee B. Balefsky**, senior counsel and also a 20-year selection, **Charles L. Becker**, head of the firm's Appellate Division, who was named in Super Lawyers Top 100 Pennsylvania list, **Michael A. Trunk**, who was named for the 12th year, **Dominic Guerrini**, **Nadeem Bezar**, **Christopher Gomez**, **Priscilla Jimenez**, **Colin Burke** and **Tobl Millrood**, head of the firm's Mass Tort Department, who was selected for his 15th year. Named as 2023 Pennsylvania Rising Stars, designating them as among the top 2.5 percent of attorneys in the state who are 40 or younger or practicing 10 years or less, were: **Aaron Dunbar**, **Kyle Nocho**, **Phillip Pasquarello**, **Elizabeth Crawford**, **Braden Lepisto**, **Patrick Fitzgerald**, **Ben Present**, **Elia Robertson**, **Frank Mangiaracina**, **Terrance DeAngelo** and **Timothy Burke**. Super Lawyers rates lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who "have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement." Selections are based on independent research, peer voting across the state and review by a Blue Ribbon Panel.

Kline & Specter has new NJ office, partners

Kline & Specter partnered with the Cuneo & Leonetti law firm in opening its new New Jersey office in Collingswood. **David K. Cuneo** and **Mark A. Leonetti**, successful trial lawyers who have nearly seven decades of experience between them, became partners at Kline & Specter. Cuneo focuses on cases involving medical malpractice, motor vehicle accidents and other personal injury matters. He earned the designation as a Certified Civil Trial Attorney by the New Jersey Supreme Court.



He has won a number of major verdicts and settlements, including million-dollar verdicts in complex product liability litigation and a medical malpractice case involving delayed diagnosis of cancer. Cuneo earned his bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's University, where he is a member of the school's Track and Field Hall of Fame, then earned his law degree from Rutgers University. Cuneo, who has been selected to New Jersey Super Lawyers, the independent survey that names the best attorneys in the state, is a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association of New Jersey and the Camden County Bar Association. Leonetti focuses his practice on personal injury cases involving the catastrophically injured victims of motor vehicle accidents, defective products, slip and fall accidents and other personal injury litigation, as well as injuries occurring in the workplace. Among results he has achieved are a \$2.2 million settlement for a client injured in a fall on a defective staircase, \$1.58 million and \$1.2 million in motor vehicle accident cases, and a \$750,000 settlement in slip-and-fall litigation. Leonetti has also successfully represented thousands of New Jersey injured workers and their families in workers' compensation court. Previously, for 17 years, he was a partner and plaintiffs trial attorney at Taylor, Taylor & Leonetti, PC. Earlier in his career, Leonetti was an associate at the Haddonfield, N.J., defense firm Green Lundgren & Ryan, PC. He earned his undergraduate degree with high honors from Rutgers University, where he was a member of Zeta Psi fraternity, and his law degree from Widener University School of Law.

Baxter joins Kline & Specter



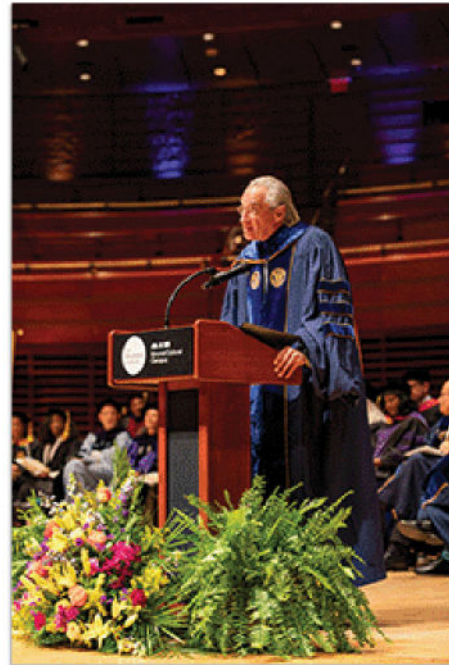
Baxter

Melissa M. Baxter, an office holder with two New Jersey legal associations and a practicing attorney for 10 years, joined Kline & Specter as its 57th attorney. She focuses on medical malpractice and catastrophic personal injury litigation. Baxter has been recognized every year since 2019 by the independent survey group Super Lawyers as a Rising Star, a designation reserved for the top 2.5 percent of attorneys in a state who are 40 or younger or practicing 10 years or less. Before joining Kline & Specter, she practiced at Rossetti DeVoto Medori & Baxter, PC, in Cherry Hill, N.J. She won numerous

impressive verdicts and handled cases involving medical malpractice, nursing home negligence, wrongful death, claims under the survival act, construction accident claims and motor vehicle accidents. Baxter is parliamentarian with the New Jersey Association for Justice and also secretary/treasurer with the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey. She is in line to become president of both prestigious organizations. She also is a member of the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of Pennsylvania. Baxter earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland, where she was on the cross country and track teams, and her law degree at Rutgers University School of Law. She is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Kline tells graduates at Drexel Kline Law to “better the world”

Four days after speaking at the Kline Duquesne Law commencement, **Tom Kline** addressed a packed house at Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center for the graduating ceremonies for the Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Drexel University. “A law degree is a badge of honor, with special privileges and special obligations, too,” Kline told the graduates. “You will be entrusted with the property, the lives, and the liberty of those who you will come to represent. Let me assure you, as someone who today celebrates his 45th year from receiving this same privilege, that this is a humbling undertaking.” He noted that with a law degree comes special knowledge and skills and also a special responsibility to help others. “My hope is that you will use this diploma, which carries both our names, to better the world, better your fellow man, and, yes, better yourself,” he said. Kline went on to



quote Abraham Lincoln as saying: “A lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good person.” The law school opened in 2006 and as the newest school within Drexel and has steadily risen in national law school rankings. It was named for Kline in 2014 after his \$50 million donation to the law school.

Klines stage performance about Dylan and the law



Tom Kline with Zac Kline (far right)

the lyrics and music of Bob Dylan and showed how Dylan’s words often invoked lawyers, judges, society and the law. Tom and Zac are not merely fans of Dylan but devoted students of his music, having seen him in concerts all over the world, from a dive bar in upstate New York and a stadium in Melbourne, Australia, to a music hall in Tokyo and The Met in Philadelphia. Music at the

Bob Dylan: Music, Lyrics and Justice, a performance written by **Zac Kline** from a concept by Zac and **Tom Kline**, played at the Thomas R. Kline Institute of Trial Advocacy at 12th and Chestnut streets. It was one of several performances of the show held over recent years and part of Kline’s long-running Trial As Theatre series. The show featured

performance included Jake Miller on guitar and Juan Yanez on violin, with Zac and Tom reciting from the long list of Dylan lyrics about the law.

Marks speaks at judicial education course on human trafficking

Emily Marks was a presenter recently at a skills-based continuing judicial education course on human trafficking for judges in Pennsylvania. Nearly 120 judges from across the state were in attendance. Marks spoke on the topic of civil liability and human sex trafficking and discussed the types of civil claims victims of sex trafficking can bring against hotel owners and operators. In her latest case, in February 2023, Marks obtained a \$24 million settlement for eight victims of human trafficking with a Philadelphia Days Inn, where the owner and management permitted criminal activity to continue unabated. Marks told attendees at the forum that



Marks

she hopes “the civil cases that are being brought will put pressure on the hotels to take precautions against crime that is occurring on their properties, to put in place policies and procedures on how to detect and respond to illicit activity, and to adequately screen and supervise their employees to deter this type of conduct.” It is estimated that that nearly 25 million people worldwide are the victims of human traffickers. Introducers at the program, held over Zoom, were Pennsylvania Superior Court President Judge Jack A. Panella and Superior Court Judge Meg Sullivan. Several victim advocates spoke at the event as did Shea M. Rhoades, director of the Villanova Law Institute, and Andrea M. Levy, legal director of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

MEDIA

Kline comments to NY Times about police, prison guard indictments

Tom Kline was quoted in *The New York Times* in the case of a man who died after he was arrested and restrained in prison. A grand jury recently handed up indictments against eight New Jersey police and prison officers in the death of Mario Terruso Jr., whose family Kline represents in a civil lawsuit. Terruso was complaining of extreme nausea and other symptoms after his arrest in 2019, the newspaper reported. But his requests to be taken to a hospital were refused and he instead was transported to a prison in Atlantic County. *The Times* reported that an investigation by the state attorney general’s office found that the officers refused to take Terruso to a hospital because they didn’t want to get bogged



Kline

down on a Sunday shift awaiting a lengthy medical evaluation. Terruso, 41, died 13 hours later after being forcibly restrained and punched several times. Two corrections officers have been charged with manslaughter. Police took Terruso into custody because of an outstanding warrant for unpaid child support. Kline, **Patrick Fitzgerald** and co-counsel

**The
New York
Times**

Saltz Mongeluzzi & Bendesky, P.C. and Michael Donio claimed in the civil suit that officers used excessive force in the incident and he called the criminal indictments "one step on the long path to justice for his family." He told *The Times*, "They seek all those involved to be held fully accountable." ([Read the complete article](#))

Millrood notes perils of government immunity in injury cases

Tobi Millrood, former president of the American Association for Justice, commented for a lengthy *Philadelphia Inquirer* article on the pitfalls of immunity when it comes to personal injury cases against the government. "Immunity is dangerous because it runs the risk of excusing wrongful behavior," said Millrood, who heads Kline & Specter's Mass Tort Department. He was speaking in reference to a case that occurred in Delaware County, Pa. during the height of the COVID-19 crisis when two EMTs arrived at the house of a sick woman but convinced her to stay home and not be taken to a hospital. This despite the fact that 46-year-old Tamika Jones' lungs were so badly ravaged she could barely finish a sentence without gasping for breath, according to *The Inquirer* article. She could barely stand. The article went on to say an EMT failed to check her temperature, blood pressure, or heart rate or to determine whether she needed oxygen during the visit to her home on Jan. 22, 2021. The family sought to hold healthcare workers responsible for Jones' death, but lawyer after lawyer told the relatives that they had little recourse because of sweeping liability protections put into effect by Gov. Tom Wolf in 2020 to shield medical providers during the pandemic. The family's lawsuit, claiming a violation of Jones' civil rights, is seen as a possible test of that order. ([Read the article](#))



Millrood

Merson quoted on Trump sex assault case in New York

Politico quoted **Jordan Merson**, head of the firm's New York office, in the civil



Merson

case of E. Jean Carroll, the columnist who said former President Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in a department store in New York in the 1990s. As the case was about to begin in late April, Merson, who represents five women who are suing Bill Cosby for sexual abuse, said Carroll's case would hinge on her own testimony and whether a jury believed her story. "It seems like Trump's legal team is going after her credibility, so her cross-examination when she's on the witness stand is going to be a very important part of the case," he told *Politico*. He noted that cross-examination for a sexual assault victim can be "very difficult" because the plaintiff is being challenged on something they typically find painful to talk about. Carroll had two friends who she told of the incident at the time who could corroborate her story, but the jury's decision still would ultimately come down to whether they believed her testimony. Merson said that if the jury did believe Carroll, her defamation claim against Trump would significantly boost any monetary award she is given. Carroll was seeking unspecified damages – and for Trump to retract the statement he made about her on his social media site. "Juries tend to be very sympathetic to survivors of sexual abuse, especially if there's any type of verbal disparagement thereafter," Merson said. "If the jury finds for Ms. Carroll, you could be looking at a very significant damages award," he predicted. The jury decided in favor of Carroll and awarded her \$5 million.

Dominion "sacrificed the public good" in settlement with Fox, writes Specter

In an opinion article on Smerconish.com, **Shanin Specter** examined the \$787.5 million settlement reached between Fox News and Dominion Voting Systems, which Fox had falsely accused of helping to rig the 2020 presidential election. Specter noted that although the settlement generously compensated Dominion, the agreement fell short in benefiting the general public. While the lawsuit and its discovery revealed lies told by Fox commentators and exposed the truth that the election was decided fairly, the full story remained untold by not allowing the trial – and important testimony by Fox personalities and executives – to

be told publicly. Fox, for one, was not forced to make a public acknowledgment to telling lies. Yes, the monetary payment speaks volumes, but, opined Specter, perhaps Dominion could have wrested admissions from Fox "if they'd been willing to accept less money in a settlement. And perhaps they could have extracted such admissions from Fox on the witness stand." He also faulted the company for failing at another goal of the tort system: remediation. Wrote Specter: "Enriching Dominion does nothing for the rest of us. Where's the full-throated admission of wrongdoing? Where's the agreement to fire or suspend the purveyors of bull? Where's the firing or resignation of corporate executives? Where are the policy changes? Nowhere, and



Specter

we are poorer for it.” He added that by Dominion “taking the dough and walking away” it sacrificed the public good in favor of profit. “Sure, Fox is disgraced,” concluded Specter, “but Dominion is not bathed in glory.” ([Read the editorial](#))

Kline comments on public safety concerns on Temple University campus



In an interview with CBS-TV, **Tom Kline** called it alarming that Temple University has not only failed to beef up security at its North Philadelphia campus as promised, but that the size of its safety force actually decreased from a year earlier. The improved safety pledge was made by Temple

officials after the November 2021 shooting death of 21-year-old student Samuel Collington, whose family is represented by Kline and co-counsel **Jack O'Neill**. After the incident just off campus, the university pledged to boost security by 50 percent, but a CBS investigative report showed that the campus safety force numbered 169 in December 2021 and more than a year later had only 155. “That, of course, is not only discouraging and disappointing, but it should be, to everyone involved, alarming,” Kline told the news station. CBS also interviewed Temple’s director of campus safety, Jennifer Griffin, who said there is no timeline for increasing the safety staff. She noted that many people would rather work from home these days and that it had been tough to hire qualified personnel.

Millrood comments on Philadelphia mass torts

The Legal Intelligencer extensively quoted **Tobi Millrood**, head of the firm’s Mass Tort Department, about the



state of the mass tort program in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. While noting that the program is not as enormous as it once was, falling to its lowest point in nearly a decade – at around 4,000 after hovering for years around 10,000 -- the newspaper noted the court’s Complex Litigation Center remains a national hub for coordinated litigation. Millrood suggested that the decrease in the number of cases reflected the court’s ability to successfully resolve large-scale litigation efficiently. “It underscores that Philadelphia continues to be really the best in practice, the best in class, of mass tort coordinations in the country,” Millrood told *The Intelligencer*. The paper noted that the caseload dropoff comes as the programs that made up the bulk of mass tort filings approach their closing stages, with data showing Risperdal and vena cava filter litigation had comprised 90 percent of Philadelphia’s 10,081 mass tort

cases in 2021 but those programs since wound down to fewer than 330 Risperdal cases remaining and the court's website no longer listing vena cava cases. In the meantime, four new mass tort programs have been created. Millrood said the current reduced inventory gives the court more breathing room to work through its cases, but he predicted the break won't last forever. "These things do go in some historical cycles," he said. "But if the past is prologue, unfortunately, there's very likely to be some kind of harm down the road."

Specter guests on Ralph Nader radio program



Shanin Specter was the guest on the Ralph Nader Radio Hour celebrating Law Day on May 1, a day established in 1958 by President Dwight Eisenhower. The program, held in conjunction with Nader's American Museum of Tort Law, was conducted live over Zoom. Both host and guest discussed the importance of the civil legal system in which aggrieved and injured people can seek compensation. But Specter noted the importance of seeking more than just monetary compensation for clients. "In the appropriate case, with the client's approval, we

insist on remediation as a condition for settlement," he said of his firm, noting that all lawyers should seek to fix a problem when they settle cases. "If the word gets out to the American public that this is what trial lawyers are doing, that they're making our cities and our states and our nation safer, it will lift the tide of all of our boats as advocates." Specter said it may also help correct the inequity of caps on compensation set for governments and even some private institutions, such as hospitals. He noted in many states such caps are set as low as \$250,000, which, he said, prevents 95 percent of cases in such jurisdictions from even being brought. And, noted Nader: "My father used to say that if you don't use your rights, you're going to lose your rights." Toward the end of the show, Specter thanked Nader for his decades of service to the American consumer. "There is no human being in the history of America who has saved more lives and more persons from serious injury than Ralph Nader," he said. "We all owe you a huge debt of gratitude. God knows where we'd be without you, Ralph Nader." ([Hear the complete broadcast](#))

Fitzgerald back to school to impart lessons on the law

Patrick Fitzgerald presented The Case of the Busted iPhone, an intriguing fictional (though entirely believable) incident in which two students walking with their cell phones collide, causing one of the devices to fall to the sidewalk and shatter. The venue was not Common Pleas Court but Fanny Jackson Coppin Elementary School in

Passyunk, where Fitzgerald taught a lesson to 6th and 7th grade classes about the legal system and the practice of law at Kline & Specter. Students in each class participated in the mini-trial and were given a fact pattern involving a dispute over who was at fault for the sidewalk mishap. Several students in each class represented the accused and the aggrieved, making their respective cases to their peers, who served as jurors. “In each session, the students grasped the relevant legal concepts and asked thoughtful, engaged questions to determine who was at fault and why,” Fitzgerald reported. Each trial resulted in a hung jury with no one ultimately found liable.



PHOTOS

Specters' Churchill painting has them talking at PMA



Beach at Saint-Jean-de-Luz

A painting by Winston Churchill donated by **Shanin Specter** and **Tracey Specter** to the Philadelphia Museum of Art has been getting more than its share of attention. People have been stopping and staring at the work of art, impressed – and maybe a little surprised – that it was painted by the late prime minister himself. “It is located near some heavy hitters ... but visitors stop at the Churchill, take pics, etc., and seem just

utterly fascinated,” a friend and art enthusiast wrote to Shanin Specter recently. “It truly is a wonderful addition to the museum.” The painting, in room 265 at the museum, is titled Beach at Saint-Jean-de-Luz.[\(see it close-up with description\)](#) While Churchill is mainly known as leading Great Britain through World War II (and later from 1951-1955) he took up painting as a “hobby” as a source of pleasure and to relieve job stress. In all, he created more than 550 paintings.

Tom Kline talks during a game with Nick Nurse (far right), who was later named as the new coach of the Philadelphia 76ers.



COMMUNITY



Kline & Specter employees volunteered at Cradles to Crayons, where they inspected and sorted boys and girls clothing for distribution to disadvantaged children in the Philadelphia Area. Pictured are (back row from left) **Amy Binns**, **Tracy Leonardis**, **Amanda Kurecian**, **Jill Stewart**, **Katie Longer**, **Kim Kelly**, **Linda Cedeno**. In the front row are **Jen Pinto**, **Renata Baute** and **Shelby Redding**, with **Kyson Martin** seated.

(From left) **Sheri Patalinghug**, **Janis Ent**, **Jill Stewart** and **Kelly Broadus** volunteered at the Lighthouse Community Center in Pitman, NJ. They assisted in preparing meals for 146 community members and families.



"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

– Pablo Picasso

"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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