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Drexel Renames Law School After Kline Donates \$50 Mil.

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Of the Legal staff

Drexel University's law school is to be renamed the Thomas R. Kline School of Law in honor of the Philadelphia litigator's \$50 million donation to the university.

University President John A. Fry said the donation was the largest single gift in Drexel's history and one of the largest donations ever made to a law school in the country. The announcement was made at a media briefing Tuesday at Drexel held by Fry, Kline, law school Dean Roger Dennis and university administrators.

Kline's endowment will in large part go toward the creation of the law school's Thomas R. Kline Institute of Trial Advocacy. Along with program changes to the school's existing trial advocacy curriculum, the creation of the institute entails the renovation of the building that will house the institute—the Beneficial Saving Fund Society Building, which is owned by Kline, located at 12th and Chestnut streets. The building is valued at roughly \$4.5 million to \$5 million, which is factored into the donation's total amount.

"It's been a tough number of years" for legal education, Fry said. "I think this gives us an opportunity to put this relatively new law school on firm financial footing ... and establish it as a real force for the practice of trial advocacy."

The law school, founded in 2006, was formerly known as the Earle Mack School of Law. However, Mack, a former U.S. ambassador, "graciously agreed" to remove his name from the school in an effort to help the university encourage funding from donors, according to Drexel's administration.

Kline, who is the chairman of the law school advisory board and a Drexel trustee, said in an email to *The Legal* he chose to donate to Drexel because of his close relationship with the law school, "coupled with a deep commitment to the city of Philadelphia and our legal community. This is where I work and live."

Asked why the sizable donation was not made to Duquesne University, Kline's alma mater, he responded, "I am grateful for my education at Duquesne, which remains, many years later, a wonderful law school with many extraordinary lawyers and judges among its ranks. I have had and will continue to have discussions with

Dean Ken Gormley at Duquesne. I expect those discussions to continue relating to my support for Duquesne."

There are multiple components to Kline's \$50 million donation, including a full scholarship named after Kline to be awarded to one incoming law student per year. The rest of the money, which Fry said was for unrestricted use, will be designated for faculty recruitment and retention, financial aid, program funding, and providing technological upgrades to the advocacy program.

Dennis said the institute's "location further embeds us in the legal community." At the briefing, Kline added the institute's close proximity to Philadelphia's Criminal Justice Center, City Hall, federal building and prominent law firms will provide students with "experiential education."

"That translates into students who become familiar with this community wanting to stay here. Some of the great lawyers of this century," including Ed Rendell, Arlen Specter and Richard Sprague, Kline said, "came from places outside of the city of Philadelphia and stayed here. We want to attract not only Pennsylvanians, but very high-caliber students from across the country."

Dennis said the program changes will add greater depth to the existing trial advocacy curriculum and will include "cutting-edge courses" in pretrial, courtroom, appellate and administrative advocacy, as well as the creation of an LL.M. degree in trial advocacy.

Kline added that he and the Drexel administration envision the institute being strong not only in teaching, but also in legal research. For example, Kline said the institute expects to recruit professors specializing in the subject of technology in the law, a growing field of study.

However, the ultimate goal of the donation, Kline said, was to put Drexel at the forefront of legal academia.

"My vision of the gift is that it will advance Drexel to the national stage and it will in turn enhance the university as a whole," Kline said.

Despite the fact that law school faculty and facilities will be expanding, the student body is not expected to increase. "We've stayed purposefully small," Fry said. "I think that's been a wise decision."

Dennis called the endowment a quality-over-quantity investment in the law school's future.

"We have a virtuous circle," Dennis said. "We get good students, train them well, and they get good jobs. Tom's gift really strengthens that virtuous circle."

According to a list Drexel provided of the largest donations to law schools dating back 15 years, Kline's donation ranks fifth. The largest financial gift, according to the Drexel statistics, was made by James E. Rogers to the University

of Arizona for \$130 million in 1999.

Legal affiliate The National Law Journal reported that in August 2013, the Chapman University School of Law was renamed the Dale E. Fowler School of Law following a \$55 million donation from Fowler.

In 2011, after a two-year period of inactivity in law school donations, Hofstra University's law school was renamed the Maurice A. Deane School of Law following a \$20 million donation; the University of Maryland's law school became the Francis King Carey School of Law following a \$30 million gift; and Indiana University's Indianapolis law school became the Robert H. McKinney School of Law after receiving a \$24 million donation, the NLJ reported.