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Duquesne University's law school to see improvements after 'substantial' donation from renowned lawyer and alumnus Thomas R. Kline

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Duquesne University's law school will see significant improvements this spring after **Thomas R. Kline**, one of the nation's top litigators, gave a "substantial" donation to the school that bears his name.

Mr. Kline, a Duquesne law graduate, agreed to fund a new façade and front entrance to the Thomas R. Kline School of Law, university officials

announced Wednesday. The amount of his donation has not yet been determined because design plans are still being finalized.

Ken Gormley, Duquesne's president, called the donation "truly inspirational."

"This new grand entrance is more than a monument to our continued pursuit of bigger goals," Mr. Gormley said. "It signals a ramped-up commitment to excellence and a renewed promise to serve our students and the legal profession for the good of others."



Mr. Kline, who co-founded the Philadelphia-based Kline & Specter firm in 1995, graduated from Duquesne's law school in 1978.

Throughout his career, his clients have included a child abused by former Penn State football assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, the parents of a Penn State student killed in a hazing incident and the parents of a boy who was abused by a priest within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Duquesne's law school was named for Mr. Kline in September after he gave \$50 million to the institution, the largest gift in the university's history. The law school at Drexel University in Philadelphia also bears Mr. Kline's name after he gave \$50 million in 2014.

Additionally, Mr. Kline committed \$7.5 million to Duquesne in 2018.

His past donations were used to build The Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education, which supports the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania by providing continuing education opportunities for judges across the state.

His latest donation will be used to construct a new limestone, granite and glass façade at the building's Locust Street entrance; a refreshed two-story open grand entrance hall; and an exhibit and conference room overlooking the entranceway.

Once the new entrance hall is completed, renovations will be made to the student lounge on the building's first floor.



Construction will begin in mid-May. Exterior renovations are expected to be completed by late October.

A total amount for Mr. Kline's donation will likely be released when the project is completed, Duquesne spokeswoman Rose Ravasio said.

"We're delighted that we will have a new look to the law school for an exciting new era," Dean April Barton of Duquesne's law school, said. "It will change the experience for every student and visitor to the Duquesne Kline School of Law."

