



KORN FERRY



Position Specification

# **Drexel University**

**Dean, Thomas R. Kline School of Law**

August 2016

## POSITION SPECIFICATION

<b>Position</b>	Dean, Thomas R. Kline School of Law
<b>Institution</b>	Drexel University
<b>Location</b>	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
<b>Reporting Relationship</b>	Dr. Brian Blake Provost and Executive Vice President
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.drexel.edu/kline">www.drexel.edu/kline</a>

## THE OPPORTUNITY

Drexel University is seeking applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law. This position offers an extraordinary opportunity for a visionary leader with a strong track record of teaching, scholarship, and achievement to lead, promote, and drive innovation within the School, while expanding its reach. Reporting to and working with the Provost, the Dean will have responsibility for strategic, programmatic, financial, fundraising, and management operations that support the School's mission.

### Drexel University

Founded in 1891, Drexel is a privately endowed, comprehensive research university with uniquely distinguished educational programs known for providing students with leadership, experiential, and global learning opportunities. Drexel is ranked among the top 100 universities in the Nation and, with approximately 25,000 students, is one of America's 15 largest private universities. Drexel educates and engages students and communities at 3 separate Philadelphia campuses, regional sites, and international research locations in China, Korea, Brazil, and Israel. Drexel's recent history is one of unparalleled growth. In 2002, the University acquired its College of Nursing and Health Professions, School of Public Health, and College of Medicine, the nation's largest private medical school.

John Fry, appointed Drexel University's 14th president in 2010, has served higher education for his entire professional life. President Fry is transforming Drexel into what he has termed the "modern urban university of the future"—an institution that harnesses both its long-established and still-emerging strengths to serve its students, its neighborhood, its city and the nation. Under President Fry's leadership, Drexel is setting a new standard for translational research, cooperative education, online education, and becoming a powerful force for economic opportunity and development in the Greater Philadelphia region. President Fry works closely with M. Brian Blake, PhD, who joined the University leadership team as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs in August 2015.

Drexel University has one of the Nation's largest and most well established co-operative educational programs. Integrating real-world world experience with student learning, Drexel is committed to being the Nation's most civically engaged University, with community partnerships integrated into every aspect of service and academics. The University is one of Philadelphia's top 10 private employers and is a major steward in driving economic development in the region.

As such, Drexel has initiated Schuylkill Yards, an “innovation district” that will invest \$3.5 billion over the next 20 years to promote academic and corporate partnerships in the midst of one of the East Coast’s major transportation hubs. For additional information, visit [www.drexel.edu](http://www.drexel.edu).

### **The Thomas R. Kline School of Law**

Drexel University School of Law was the first new law school to be opened by a top-ranked, doctoral university in more than 25 years, with its first class of students matriculating in 2006. In 2014, after a landmark \$50M gift, it was named in honor of Thomas R. Kline, a nationally-renowned trial lawyer who practices in Philadelphia. The gift was the single largest in Drexel University’s history and the fifth largest ever received by a law school, enhancing support for scholarship and for the new Thomas R. Kline Institute of Trial Advocacy.

Founding Dean Roger Dennis will retire at the end of the 2016-17 academic year. As a result of Dean Dennis’ extraordinary leadership, the School has hired exceptional faculty and staff and has built a comprehensive program of legal education while integrating with other programs within the University. Dean Dennis led the School through the ABA accreditation process in the shortest amount of time possible, resulting in full accreditation in 2011. Dean Dennis has also been instrumental in building connections with the Philadelphia legal community, including the relationship that led to Thomas Kline’s landmark gift. Further, the School has recently implemented a professional practice requirement for JD students and created a Professional Development Fund to support students as they enter the bar and undertake their career search.

The School focuses on legal education for students who will serve their communities and recognize their obligation to provide legal representation and access to justice for all members of society. The School also fosters an environment where faculty and students critically examine and seek to improve the law and legal systems, the legal profession, and legal education.

The School’s students and faculty have built exceptional advocacy programs—including national successes in trial team competitions—utilizing, to date, modest resources. As part of the Kline gift, the Horace Trumbauer-designed Beneficial Savings Fund Society building, located in Center City Philadelphia in the heart of Philadelphia’s legal community, is being restored and renovated to serve as the Thomas R. Kline Institute of Trial Advocacy. Among the building’s features will include a large ceremonial court room, three smaller practice court rooms, a refurbished board room, and various administrative spaces, all featuring state-of-the art technology. The Institute will provide programming for all aspects of the School’s classroom-based advocacy curriculum. The new site will also enhance faculty interaction with students who undertake advocacy-based co-ops and clinical work. Additionally, the building will support continuing legal education trial and appellate advocacy programs.

In a relatively short period of time, the School has recruited faculty who are both exceptional scholars and practitioners, and has developed an innovative curriculum that integrates rich theoretical and doctrinal knowledge with experiential learning clinics, in-class simulation, pro bono service, extraordinary co-curriculars, and Drexel’s signature focus on cooperative education. Moving forward, the School aims to attract students who share Drexel’s entrepreneurial spirit and who are deeply committed to becoming innovative and socially conscious professionals.

Located in Philadelphia, amid the sixth largest legal community in the country, the School’s students engage with practicing lawyers through cooperative education and pro bono programs.

Further, curricular concentrations in Business and Entrepreneurship Law, Criminal Law, Health Law, and Intellectual Property Law mirror the strengths of the University, the bar, and our region's economy. The School has over 400 students across its JD (including multiple joint degree programs), accelerated two-year JD, LL.M., and Master of Legal Studies programs and over 30 full-time faculty engaged in teaching and scholarship, with an additional 48 part-time faculty. For additional information, please visit [www.drexel.edu/kline](http://www.drexel.edu/kline).

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEAN**

---

The Kline School of Law seeks an exceptional leader to serve as its next Dean. Reporting to and working with the Provost, the Dean will have responsibility for the strategic, programmatic, financial, fundraising, and management operations that support the mission and vision of the School and its role within Drexel University. The Dean will:

- Serve as the chief academic and administrative officer of the School, representing the School to constituencies within Drexel University, to alumni, prospective and current students, the legal community, and to other law schools;
- Build and enhance collaborations and partnerships with other colleges within the University, as well as external partners, including those from the legal community and from other institutions of higher learning;
- Lead the effort to define and execute a vision for the future by articulating the School's opportunities and challenges in a strategic planning process that includes growth in masters programs and online education;
- Promote and enhance a strong, student-centered agenda that enhances education, School morale, civic engagement, and reputation;
- Navigate multiple nationwide trends in legal education while maintaining enrollment stability;
- Maintain and build the brand of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law and work collaboratively with Thomas R. Kline on many aspects of the advancement of the goals of the School and the Trial Advocacy Institute;
- Serve as the School's lead financial steward, including leading a development team charged with increasing the resources available to the School;
- Build and maintain critical donor relationships and appropriate external visibility;
- Promote student employment outcomes upon graduation through external partnerships; and
- Uphold and model the School's excellence in teaching, scholarship, and professionalism.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS**

---

The successful candidate will have the highest commitment to academic and scholarly standards and be an accomplished leader in the field of law. She or he will be able to develop a vision for the School based on a deep understanding of trends in legal education and practice as well as the School's mission. Successful candidates will also bring the following professional experience and traits:

- Experience as a strong advocate for legal education and the ability to help answer the question of how to maintain relevancy in changing times;
- Significant financial management experience;
- A proven track record of sustainably building an institution's external reputation, brand, and identity;
- An ability to foster diverse career opportunities for students by partnering with the local,

- regional, and national legal community;
- An awareness of, and ability to capture, the unique components of an institution in order to identify and manage its cultural, historical, and evolving strengths and challenges;
  - The ability to communicate skillfully with diverse groups of colleagues, students, and community members; and
  - Impeccable personal and professional integrity.

## **LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS**

---

Compelling candidates will also demonstrate:

- The ability to articulate a clear academic and organizational vision for the School, pursue that vision, and initiate and implement change when necessary;
- Effective communication skills to promote interdisciplinary, inter-college collaboration, cooperation, and scholarly activity;
- The ability to lead with transparency while building consensus;
- The skillset to innovate based on an informed understanding of legal market trends;
- The ability to understand and measure accomplishments while holding people accountable;
- Enthusiasm to create and promote an open and inclusive environment; and
- Awareness of self and impact on others while being responsive to feedback.

## **EDUCATION**

---

Leading candidates will have a distinguished record of accomplishment and experience relevant to legal teaching and scholarship and/or the practice of law. A JD is required.

## **COMPENSATION**

---

Drexel University offers an attractive compensation and benefits package, commensurate with the successful candidate's background and experience.

## **NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS**

---

Applications should consist of a detailed cover letter and curriculum vitae. For priority consideration, please apply by **September 30, 2016**. To ensure full consideration, inquiries, nominations, and applications should be submitted, in confidence, to:

[Kline-Law@kornferry.com](mailto:Kline-Law@kornferry.com)

## **KORN FERRY CONTACTS**

---

<p><b>Ken Kring</b> Co-Managing Director Global Education Practice Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 656-5309 Ken.Kring@kornferry.com</p>	<p><b>Josh Ward, Ph.D.</b> Senior Associate Global Education Practice Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 656-5362 Josh.Ward@kornferry.com</p>
--	---

*Drexel University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer and does not discriminate against persons on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, marital status, age, disability, pregnancy, medical condition, or covered veteran status.*