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November 18, 2017: Resurrecting Truth at Duquesne University School of Law

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Title: Resurrecting Truth at Duquesne University School of Law

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11/18/2017--I was too busy to blog about the extraordinary Symposium at Duquesne these last two days: Shall These Bones Live?: Resurrecting Truth in American Law and Public Discourse. The Symposium took shape with the Time Magazine Cover question back in April, Is Truth Dead. There was a tremendous cast of speakers. The event can be watched by accessing the Symposium webpage [here](#). The keynote on Thursday was Louise Antony, well-known philosopher at UMass. On Friday, there were two panels and a plenary session. The first panel consisted of Justin Dyer, University of Missouri, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, Lawrence Solan, Brooklyn Law School, me and, as moderator, Jennifer Bates, Duquesne University Department of Philosophy. The second panel consisted of Heidi Li Feldman, Georgetown University Law Center and co-convenor of the Symposium, Alina Ng, Mississippi College School of Law, Bradley Wendel, Cornell Law School, and, as moderator, Elizabeth Cochran, Duquesne University Department of Theology. Will Huhn, visiting professor of law at Duquesne, moderated the plenary session in which he put a serious question to each speaker. These are extraordinary people and the program was a serious exploration, mostly non-partisan, of some of the deep sources of democratic disease in America and what can be done about it. I did not know any of the participants before, but the combination of discipline, style and approach was very helpful in elucidating where we are and where we might go. Several people told me they had never seen an academic gathering so seriously focused, not without humor, on a single problem. I felt, and I'm sure some of my students did as well, that this is what a law school should be doing today. But I don't know of another one that is. I am grateful for the support, planning and participation by the Dean of Faculty Scholarship at Duquesne, Jane Moriarty and for the institutional commitment by Dean Maureen Lally-Green, who cut short a trip just to be present at the Symposium. Lots of people worked very hard to pull this off. Duquesne is a special place. I was remiss in not mentioning and thanking Robert Taylor, retired professor of law, during the program, but it would not have made much sense to outsiders. People who know Duquesne could see his fingerprints all over this event. He held ones like it and he stretched the Law School during his time there beyond what law schools are usually capable of. And then there is his ongoing impact on me... .