

Photographs by Robert Lisak

# Alumni Weekend

*BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION*

# 2003

YALE LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI RETURNED TO NEW HAVEN ON OCTOBER 31–NOVEMBER 2, 2003, TO VISIT WITH CLASSMATES AND FRIENDS AND TO PARTAKE IN A SLATE OF TALKS ABOUT THE LEGACY OF THE LANDMARK 1954 SUPREME COURT CASE *BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION*.



A highlight of the weekend was a panel discussion Friday night (left), in which six alumni who clerked in the Supreme Court in the period when *Brown* was heard and decided shared their insider perspectives on the justices who crafted the decision. Moderator Owen Fiss, Sterling Professor of Law, introduced the panel with the observation, “They understood the significance of the events that were transpiring. Maybe some of them in their own individual ways helped to bring *Brown* and all that it stood for into being.” The former clerks were Frederick M. Rowe ’52, William D. Rogers ’51, Ernest Rubenstein ’53, Raymond S. Toubh ’52, James R. Wimmer ’53, and Charles A. Reich ’52, who appeared via videoconference from Boston, where he was recovering from surgery.

Lani Guinier ’74 (opposite), the Bennett Boskey Professor at Harvard Law School, advanced the discussion of education equality begun by *Brown*, in her 2003 James A. Thomas Lecture, titled “Out of the *Grutter* and into the Mainstream: From Adversity to Diversity.” “Race...has been the neon light that attracts attention, but it is attracting attention away from a long overdue conversation about the role of higher education in a democracy,” said Guinier. “Higher education is not realizing its public, democratic mission.”

If you weren’t able to attend Alumni Weekend (or even if you just missed one panel), videos of many of the events are available online at [www.law.yale.edu/alumniweekend](http://www.law.yale.edu/alumniweekend).

“Race...has been the neon light  
that attracts attention, but it is attracting  
attention away from a long overdue  
conversation about the role of higher  
education in a democracy..”





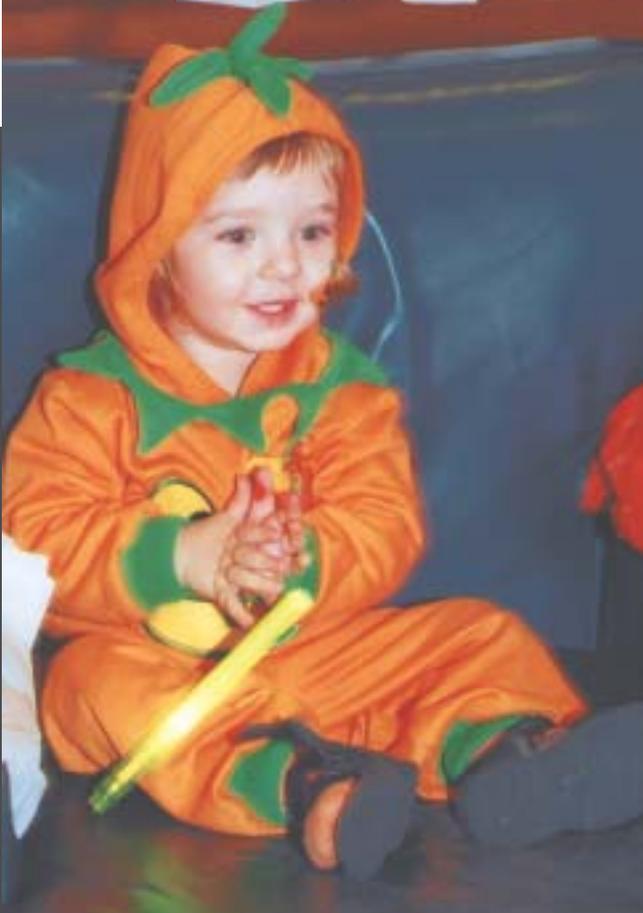
The first night of Alumni Weekend coincided with Halloween and, after nightfall, Dean Anthony Kronman invited spirits of the departed to join the hundreds of graduates convened for the Alumni Dinner. Kronman explained that he meant to invoke the spirit of graduates of the school who had been “champions of the cause that *Brown* embodies.” He continued, “Our School has given much to the world of ideas. We are entitled to be proud of that. But we are also entitled to be proud of what the faculty and students of the School have given in the struggle to make ideas of racial equality an institutional reality and the institutional reality a fixture of the heart.”

Former President William J. Clinton '73 (above) attended the dinner and spoke for a few minutes to the assembled alumni.

At the same time, more than a dozen young children of alumni celebrated Halloween in the Dining Hall with costumes (opposite, top), face painting, a Halloween house, cookie decorating, and, of course, some candy.

Alumni Weekend

2003



Rhonda J. McLean '83 (below), president of the Yale Law School Association, and Associate Dean James A. Thomas '64 enjoy seats on the podium during Friday's dinner. Lani Guinier gave the Thomas Lecture, established in honor of Dean Thomas and his many years of service to the Law School, on Friday afternoon.



## Alumni Weekend

2003

After a morning of panel discussions, the annual luncheon on Saturday brought awards and surprises. First, Dean Kronman presented the Award of Merit to Drew S. Days, III, Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law, a former solicitor general of the U.S., and a member of the Class of 1966 (below). Days addressed the legacy of *Brown* in his remarks: “There is little reason for us to despair that a culture of racial subordination over three centuries in the making could not be radically altered in only fifty years. And the strides that we have already made, despite setbacks and disappointments, have been truly remarkable.”

Then Yale University President Richard C. Levin made a surprise speech (right) thanking Dean Kronman for his years of service to the School. This was the last Alumni Weekend Kronman will oversee as dean, as his term ends in June 2004.





On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, alumni split into smaller groups by their class year and enjoyed Reunion Dinners and Brunches at locations around New Haven and the surrounding towns. The Law School Dining Hall was the site for the Class of 1998's reunion dinner Saturday night, and it became the Sunday morning brunch site for the combined Classes of 1943 and 1948. ∞

SAVE THE DATE

FOR

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2004  
OCTOBER 8–10, 2004