

“Child rearing is the one ‘no exit’ relationship that is left in society.”

Anne Alstott Confronts Challenges of Parenting

No Exit: What Parents Owe Their Children and What Society Owes Parents

Oxford University Press, 2004



After she completed the first draft of *No Exit*, Anne L. Alstott '87 says, “I had this experience of living the book I had already written.” One of her sons became sick, greatly changing her life. “A healthy kid is demanding in certain ways,” she says. “Then when you have a kid who is really seriously sick, those demands become significant, and they become wrenching, and they just absolutely override everything in your life.”

No Exit looks at how the need to provide continuity of care to children places a distinct burden on parents. While having a child is a choice, caring for a child is a vital role for society. Alstott says, “This is a book that tries to do the hard thing of saying that even a pluralist society has to value this one thing, because it’s different than any other way of life.”

According to Alstott, empirical studies all point to the same conclusion about parenting. “No matter how many things you control for—you can say, Does that really control for education? Does that really control for work experience? Does that really control for how driven people are?—and even when you

control for all of that, you still find that mothers work less, earn less, and achieve less than non-mothers do.”

Parents of sick children, and especially children with chronic illnesses or disabilities, face additional challenges, as Alstott found in both her life and her research. “When you have a kid who is sick, it intensifies everything else.... This is a very hard-hit group of people.... You very often find that parents stop working, usually one parent will stop working, you find families thrown into poverty, you find that whole trade-off between taking care of your kid and making ends meet for the family can become extremely severe.”

Alstott adds, “That’s where the ‘no exit’ of the title comes in, because child rearing is the one ‘no-exit’ relationship that is left in society, and has to be left.”

Alstott admits that the title of her book is aggressive, but she deployed the words “no exit” with a purpose. “I meant it to have a little bit of a sting.... As much as everybody loves their kids, delights in their kids... I wanted to separate out the Hallmark moment from the hard realities that I think every parent really faces.”

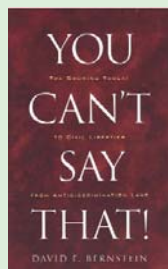
Alstott’s central policy proposal to improve the long-term economic prospects of parents is to create “caretaker resource accounts.” In her plan, caretaker parents of children under thirteen would receive \$5,000 a year, which could be used for child care, their own education, or their retirement savings. Alstott tailored her approach to provide maximum individual autonomy. “I completely sidestep this very contentious debate over whether mothers should work, whether mothers shouldn’t work. My thought is, give them the resources they need, and then let them choose. If they choose to work,

my proposals make them better able to work; if they choose not to work, my proposals make them better able not to work.”

Alstott says that she started writing *No Exit* because she wasn't satisfied with the literature on care work or the way family issues were discussed more broadly. “I think children and child rearing

are very much treated as Hallmark items in the political discourse,” she says. And while her policy proposals face various technical challenges, she says, “I think the foremost challenge is actually going to be to make politicians focus on this...and to get politicians to understand that this is what the everyday life of so many people is about.” ∞

Here's just a sampling of the many books recently written or edited by our alumni, faculty, staff, and students. We welcome your submissions. If possible, please send us two review copies of your book: one for the Lillian Goldman Law Library and one for the Alumni Reading Room.



David Bernstein
**You Can't Say That!:
The Growing Threat
to Civil Liberties from
Antidiscrimination Laws**

Cato Institute, 2003

Bernstein '89 points out that the goal of left-wing egalitarian activists to elevate antidiscrimination concerns above all others poses an especially acute threat to civil liberties. The First Amendment explicitly prohibits the government from interfering with freedom of expression, but antidiscrimination laws, Bernstein says, put that freedom at risk.

Gilbert Hahn, Jr.
**The Notebook of a Native
Washingtonian**

Hamilton Books, 2004

A distinguished Washington attorney for more than fifty years, Hahn '48 has had a lifetime interest in the welfare of the District of Columbia and his fellow Washingtonians. This book chronicles Hahn's social and political life as a native Washingtonian.

Randall Kennedy
**Interracial Intimacies: Sex, Marriage,
Identity, and Adoption**

Vintage Books, 2004

Kennedy '82 hits a nerve at the center of American society: race relations and our most intimate ties to each other. Kennedy challenges us to examine how prejudices and biases still fuel fears and inform our sexual, marital, and family choices. He tackles such subjects as the presence of sex in racial politics, the historic role of legal institutions in policing racial boundaries, and the present-day battles over race-matching adoption policies.

Ethan J. Leib
Deliberative Democracy in America

Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004

While drawing on the rich theoretical literature about deliberative democracy, Leib '03 concentrates on designing an institutional scheme for embedding deliberation in the practice of American democratic government. At the heart of it is a process for the adjudication of issues of public policy by assemblies of randomly selected citizens—a fourth branch of government he calls the “popular branch”—resulting in the enactment of laws subject both to judicial review and to possible veto by the executive and legislative branches.

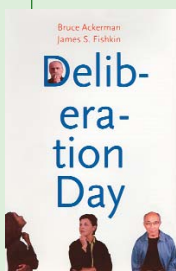
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**Bruce Ackerman,
James S. Fishkin**
Deliberation Day

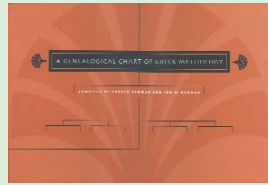
Yale University Press, 2004

Ackerman '67, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science, and Fishkin argue that Americans can revitalize their democracy and break

the cycle of cynical media manipulation that is crippling public life. They propose a new national holiday—Deliberation Day—for each presidential election year. On this day people throughout the country would meet in public spaces and engage in structured debates about issues that divide the candidates in the upcoming presidential election.



► **Books in Print**



**Harold Newman and
Jon O. Newman**
**A Genealogical Chart
of Greek Mythology**
*University of North
Carolina Press, 2003*

► Books continued from previous page

Lawrence Lessig
**Free Culture:
How Big Media Uses
Technology and the Law
to Lock Down Culture
and Control Creativity**

Penguin Press, 2004

While new technologies always lead to new laws, Lessig '89 shows that never before have the big cultural monopolists drummed up such unease about these advances—especially the Internet—to shrink the public domain, while using the same advances to control what we can and can't do with the culture all around us. What's at stake is our freedom—to create, to build, and ultimately, to imagine.

**Catharine A. MacKinnon
and Reva B. Siegel, Editors**
**Directions in Sexual
Harassment Law**

Yale University Press, 2003

MacKinnon '77 collaborates with Reva Siegel '86, Nicholas deB. Katzenbach Professor of Law, and other authorities to

appraise what has been accomplished in the field of sexual harassment law and what still needs to be done. Siegel's introductory essay considers how sexual harassment came to be regulated as sex discrimination. Other YLS faculty contributors include Jack Balkin, Guido Calabresi '58, William Eskridge '78, Judith Resnik, and Robert Post '77.

This work by Harold Newman and son Jon O. Newman '56 is the first comprehensive genealogical chart of virtually all of the named figures of Greek mythology that can be shown to be related. The product of more than 35 years of research, the book includes a 72-page continuous chart that links 3,673 named figures into a single "family tree" spanning 20 generations and an 80-page index that provides a citation to authoritative ancient sources for each relationship.

Jedediah Purdy, Editor
**Democratic Vistas: Reflections on
the Life of American Democracy**

Yale University Press, 2004

More than a dozen contributors consider the nature and prospects of democracy as it relates to the American experience—free markets, religion, family life, the Cold War, higher education, and more. Based on the Tercentennial DeVane Lectures delivered at Yale University, and edited by Purdy '01, essayists include Dean Anthony T. Kronman '75, Stephen L. Carter '79, and Ian Shapiro '87.

**Kent Roach and Robert J. Sharpe,
Editors**

Brian Dickson: A Judge's Journey

University of Toronto Press, 2003

Roach '88 LL.M. and Sharpe have written an accessible biography of one of Canada's greatest legal figures, Brian Dickson. Their book traces Dickson's life from a Depression-era boyhood in Saskatchewan, to the battlefields of Normandy, the boardrooms of corporate Canada, and high judicial office, while providing an inside look at the work of the Supreme Court during its most crucial period.

Marnia Robinson

**Peace Between the Sheets:
Healing with Sexual Relationships**

Frog, Ltd., 2004

Robinson '79 explains why relationships so often start out great—and then painfully deteriorate. Within the human brain a primitive urge to seek pleasure and reward can eventually drive people apart. Robinson offers ways to outmaneuver biology to bring couples to intimacy.

David Schoenbrod and Ross Sandler
**Democracy By Decree: What Happens
When Courts Run Government**

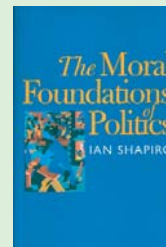
Yale University Press, 2003

Do you want unelected lawyers to control your government? They already do, argues this new book by Schoenbrod '68 and Sandler. Together, they explain how courts and lawyers have come to control many of the most important programs of state and local government from education and services for the homeless to foster care and prisons, and what should be done about it.

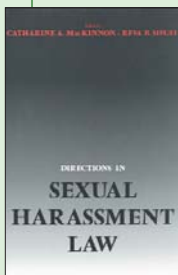
Ian Shapiro
**The Moral Foundations
of Politics**

Yale University Press, 2003

When do governments merit our allegiance, and when should they be denied it? Ian Shapiro '87,



William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor and Chairman of Political Science and Professor (Adjunct) of Law, investigates this most enduring of political dilemmas in this innovative book. Shapiro discusses the different answers that have been proposed by the major political theorists in the utilitarian, Marxist, and social contract traditions over the past four centuries.





James Gustave Speth
**Red Sky at Morning:
 America and the Crisis
 of the Global Environment**

Yale University Press, 2004

Speth '69, dean of the Yale School of Forestry and

Environmental Studies, warns

that in spite of all the international negotiations and agreements of the past two decades, efforts to protect Earth's environment are not succeeding. Still, he says, the challenges are not insurmountable, and he offers comprehensive, viable new strategies for dealing with environmental threats around the world.

Robert Stevens
**University to Uni:
 The Politics of Higher Education**

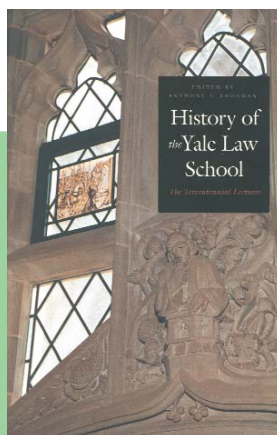
Politico's Publishing, 2004

Stevens '58 LLM draws on a lifetime of experience at the highest levels of university education around the world to provide an authoritative and accessible account of the history and politics of higher education in Britain in modern times.

Michael Irven Swygert
**And, We Must Make Them Noble:
 A Contextual History of
 the Valparaiso University**

Carolina Academic Press, 2004

In this book, Swygert '68 LLM traces the evolution of one small law school in America's heartland—the Valparaiso University School of Law—and examines the individuals who fashioned a distinctive form of legal education, one that provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills of law practice, while still furnishing opportunities for the development of moral, ethical, and religious values. ∞



Anthony T. Kronman, Editor
**History of the Yale Law School:
 The Tercentennial Lectures**

Yale University Press, 2004

In the spring of 2001, Yale Law School marked the University's Tercentennial with a lecture series devoted to tracing the history of YLS from its early 19th-century beginnings in a New Haven law office to

the present time. The series consisted of six lectures: one by former professor Robert Stevens '58 LLM, entitled "History of the Yale Law School: Provenance and Perspective"; two by Sterling Professor of Law and Legal History John Langbein, entitled "Blackstone, Litchfield, and Yale: The Founding of Yale Law School" and "Law School in a University: Yale's Distinctive Path in the 19th Century"; one by Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and Legal History Robert Gordon, entitled "Professors and Policy Makers: Yale Law School in the New Deal and After"; one by Larned Professor Emeritus of History Gaddis Smith, entitled "Law, Politics, and the University in the 20th Century"; and one by former visiting professor Laura Kalman, entitled "From Legal Process to Law and Economics Without Stopping at Critical Legal Studies: Yale Law School in the 1960s and 1970s."

The six lectures were gathered into a book published in March of 2004 by the Yale University Press. Dean Anthony Kronman '75, assisted by a gift from the Anchorage Charitable Fund through the generosity of Elizabeth R. and Michael A. Varet '65, arranged to send a copy of the book to every YLS graduate and to every current YLS student and faculty member. (The books were mailed to graduates in the spring; if you have not received your copy, please contact the YLS Office of Alumni and Public Affairs at 203 432-8464.) ∞

ALSO OF NOTE

Edward H. Bonekemper '67
**A Victor, Not a Butcher:
 Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked
 Military Genius**

Regnery Publishing, 2004

**Nora V. Demleitner '92,
 Douglas A. Berman, Marc L. Miller,
 and Ronald F. Wright '84**
**Sentencing Law and Policy: Cases,
 Statutes, and Guidelines**

Aspen Publishers, 2004

**William N. Eskridge, Jr. '78
 and Nan D. Hunter**
**Sexuality, Gender and the Law
 (Second Edition)**

Foundation Press, 2003

**Jerry L. Mashaw, Richard A. Merrill,
 and Peter M. Shane '77**
**Administrative Law: The American
 Public System, Cases and Materials
 (Fifth Edition)**

West, 2003

**Austin D. Sarat '88,
 Lawrence R. Douglas '89,
 and Martha Umphrey, Editors**
Law's Madness

UMP, 2003 ∞