1 Registrar Judith Calvert led the two deans and the rest of the faculty into the ceremony.
2 Family members and guests lined the way to catch the moment on camera.
3 Dean Koh congratulated graduates one by one.
4 The entire faculty took a moment to applaud the Class of 2004.
This year’s Commencement followed a familiar pattern—happy graduates, proud families, speeches from respected faculty members, recognition of the graduates’ hard work—but it also marked a departure, as Dean Anthony T. Kronman celebrated the final graduation of his deanship and passed the baton (in fact, two maces of office) to incoming Dean Harold Hongju Koh.

Said Dean Kronman, “As I hand these two emblems of office to Harold, I do so with affection and trust and perfect confidence that he will guard the traditions of this precious place and carry them intact, a further step along, toward the goal we’ve been approaching for longer than anyone can recall.”

The full texts of the speeches delivered at Commencement are available on the @YLS website at www.law.yale.edu.

“Do not leave this courtyard without resolving in your heart that yours will be a life that transcends selfishness, a life in which your talents are brought to bear incessantly to improve the lot of others and the world around you.” John Langbein
“From century to century, from graduating class to graduating class, from Dean to Dean, this School has remained a community of commitment to the values we share.... Congratulations, Class of 2004! We begin our adventures together, you and I!”  

Harold Hongju Koh
5 John H. Langbein, Sterling Professor of Law and Legal History, delivered the Commencement Address. He spoke about growing tensions in large-firm practice.

6 Dean Koh holding the two maces given to him by Dean Kronman. One, a walking stick with an elaborate gold handle that once belonged to Morris Tyler, mayor of New Haven in 1863–64, represents the School’s New England origins. The other, the staff of a chief of the Samburu tribe in Kenya, represents its global future.

7 & 8 Similarly symbolizing the School’s past and future, several graduates carried their children across the stage.