Yale law School’s Middle East Legal Studies Seminar held its tenth annual meeting in Athens, Greece, from January 18–21. The seminar brought together scholars, students, jurists, and practicing lawyers for high-level discussions of legal issues relevant to the Middle East.

When the seminar was started by Yale Law School Professors Anthony Kronman ’75 and Owen Fiss in 1998, it was unusual for such a diverse group of Middle Eastern scholars to gather, let alone discuss potentially volatile legal issues. Over time, the group has coalesced around shared experiences and common ideas about the importance of law in the region. From only a few members, the group (which maintains its intimacy and focus by invitation-only membership) has grown to over sixty. Participants from
many Arab states (including Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey) attend. Members from countries traditionally in conflict have formed enduring friendships and have engaged in fruitful academic collaboration.

Each seminar is focused around a general theme and consists of panels that examine its significance in Middle Eastern legal life. The 2007 conference, on “Citizenship, Membership, and National Identity,” opened with a panel questioning the meaning and relevance of citizenship. Over the course of the weekend, panelists discussed the relationship between citizenship and religion, the effect of migration on citizenship, the challenge of competing allegiances, and recent transformations of international politics. The panels also served as a forum for dialogue on other topics of interest, including the role of third parties in reform efforts and emerging international standards for the rule of law. The participants, many of whom are actively involved in reforming or shaping legal institutions at home, left Athens with enriched perspectives on these issues and a readiness to apply them to their own work.

In addition to the focused panels, the seminar channels the expertise and experiences of its members into lunchtime discussions on current Middle East events. This year, such discussions explored the war in Iraq as well as the July 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Seminar participants were able to engage with these topics through the unique perspectives of Iraqi, Lebanese, and Israeli members with varying views.

“A unique part of the experience of attending the seminar each year is the opportunity to process events as they happen alongside colleagues who are influential in shaping those current events throughout the region,” remarked Asli Bali ’99, a Ribicoff Fellow at Yale Law School and regular participant in the seminar over the past ten years.

The next step for the seminar is the creation of the Journal of Middle East Legal Studies, a forum for publication of the work of the seminar as well as that of other Middle East legal scholars. Anver Emon ’04, LL.M, Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Toronto and a JSD student at Yale Law School, is spearheading the journal effort.

As the seminar has evolved, so too has the role of Yale Law School students within it. A number of this year’s presenters first became involved in the seminar as students. The seminar serves as a formative experience for these young scholars. They learn how legal academia functions and simultaneously forge relationships with academics throughout the world. On their way to becoming scholars, students and young alumni use the seminar as an opportunity to present their work to some of the foremost minds in Middle East legal academia, and thereby hone their arguments through open discussion.

“As student attendees, we were inspired to see the number of former students among the panelists,” said Gabe Rosenberg ’08. “Participating in the conference has been a great opportunity to learn about scholarly legal life.”

The student participants in MELSS have also continued the conversation back on campus at the Law School through the Middle East Legal Forum, a student group that engages with similar topics. The forum brings speakers to campus, some of whom are also members of MELSS, to discuss legal issues affecting the Middle East. In addition, the forum is currently planning a reading group on the Middle East that students will be able to take for credit beginning in the fall 2007 term.

“It was extremely rewarding to connect with so many prominent figures in Middle Eastern law, politics, and academia over the course of the MELSS conference,” said Alicyn Cooley ’08. “The goal of the forum is to continue to develop these relationships and to bring MELSS participants to the Law School to convey their invaluable perspectives to a wider audience.”

While MELSS has held ten successful conferences, its work and the challenges facing it have only just begun. For example, political turmoil has made it increasingly difficult for the group to meet in the Middle East. MELSS has used such obstacles as a lens through which to view the ever-changing political and legal climate in the Middle East. This strength is a testament to the group’s forward-looking perspective.

“The seminar still occupies the unique territory it held ten years ago,” noted Sterling Professor of Law Owen Fiss. “We continue to work together constructively to find shared thoughts and goals with scholars from regions throughout the Middle East.” That work has already started for 2008, with planning underway for next year’s MELSS meeting in Istanbul.

Discussions explored the war in Iraq as well as the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Participants were able to engage with these topics through the unique perspectives of Iraqi, Lebanese, and Israeli members.
Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic Achieves Milestone with Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation

YALE LAW SCHOOL’S Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic marked a milestone in February when it filed a merits brief in the high-profile Supreme Court case, Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation. It is the first case in which the clinic has served as primary representative of one of the named parties, in this case, the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

At issue is whether taxpayers—the Freedom From Religion Foundation’s members—may sue to challenge a White House-sponsored program that is alleged to unconstitutionally aid religious groups with general federal funds, not funds specifically earmarked for the program by Congress.

“Working on Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation has presented an incredible opportunity to work on a Supreme Court merits brief as a law student,” said Paul Hughes ’08. “I have learned how to approach a case that will be heard by nine justices who have differing perspectives and concerns. It has been insightful learning how to craft an argument that has a broad appeal.”

“At first, it seemed like every other brief we have written in law school,” added Terri-Lei O’Malley ’07. “But the closer it got to the very last minute the brief could be sent to the printer, the more it sank in—this is the big league!”

Clinic faculty members include Andrew Pincus and Charles Rothfeld of the firm Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw; Clinical Professor of Law Brett Dignam; Elizabeth K. Dollard Professor of Law Dan Kahan; and Robert M. Cover Clinical Teaching Fellow Giovanna Shay ’97. Pincus argued the case on February 28, with students who worked on the brief in Court observing.

For more information on the clinic, visit www.law.yale.edu/academics/supremecourtadvocacyclinic.

Editor’s note: As this issue went to print, a decision was expected to be handed down shortly.
Dean Koh Elected to American Philosophical Society

DEAN HAROLD HONGJU KOH was recently elected a member of the American Philosophical Society (APS), the oldest learned society in the United States devoted to scholarly and scientific research. Other Yale Law School faculty who are members of APS are The Honorable Guido Calabresi ’58, judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law and Professorial Lecturer in Law (elected in 1997); and Judith Resnik, Arthur Liman Professor of Law (elected in 2002).

Two Yale Law School Faculty Members Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

SOUTHMAYD PROFESSOR OF LAW Akhil Reed Amar ’84 and Augustus E. Lines Professor of Law Henry B. Hansmann ’74 were among 203 new Fellows elected April 30 to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Amar teaches Constitutional Law and Reading the Constitution at Yale Law School. He is co-editor of a leading constitutional law casebook, Processes of Constitutional Decisionmaking, and author of several books, including America’s Constitution: A Biography.

Hansmann teaches Business Organizations; Contracts; Law, Economics, and Organization; and Legal and Economic History of Enterprise. His scholarship focuses principally on the law and economics of organizational ownership and structure.

“Induction into the American Academy signals rare scholarly pre-eminence,” said Dean Harold Hongju Koh.

An independent policy research center, the Academy undertakes studies of complex and emerging problems. Noted past Fellows include George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Albert Einstein, and Winston Churchill. Among the newly elected were former Vice President Al Gore, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and filmmaker Spike Lee.

Henry Hansmann ’74 Article Recognized

AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY Augustus E. Lines Professor of Law Henry B. Hansmann ’74 was recognized as one of the ten Best Corporate and Securities Articles of 2006 by Corporate Practice Commentator. The quarterly journal reprints the year’s top scholarly articles in the field, based on a poll of law professors who survey hundreds of corporate and securities articles. Hansmann’s article, co-written with Reinier Kraakman ’79 and Richard Squire, is titled “Law and the Rise of the Firm.” It was selected from a list of 450 articles.

Harlon Dalton ’73 Recognized with Elm Ivy Award

PROFESSOR HARLON L. DALTON ’73 was awarded a Yale University Seton Elm and Ivy Award for 2007. Established in 1979, the award honors individuals whose work strengthens the relationship between the University and the City of New Haven. Dalton was recognized for his involvement in community organizing and academic research to confront the health and social consequences of HIV/AIDS, as a teacher, author, and activist.

Carl Goldfield, President of the New Haven Board of Aldermen, Professor Harlon Dalton ’73, and Yale University President Richard C. Levin at the 2007 Elm Ivy Awards
Newark Mayor Cory Booker ’97 Addresses Tenth Anniversary Arthur Liman Public Interest Colloquium

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY Mayor Cory Booker opened the tenth annual Arthur Liman Public Interest Law Colloquium on March 1 with an inspirational keynote speech before a packed Law School Auditorium. Booker, a Rhodes Scholar who graduated from Yale Law School in 1997, gave “An Urban Mayor’s Perspective on Public Interest Advocacy.”

The two-day Colloquium, “Liman at Ten: Looking Forward to Another Decade of Public Interest Lawyering,” celebrated an outstanding decade of public service. To mark the anniversary, the program invited all past Yale Law School Liman Fellows (numbering more than forty) as well as the first director, Mary Clark (now an assistant professor of law at American University), to join with the newest fellows, scholars, advocates, and students to reflect on their own roles as advocates and discuss specific areas of public interest law such as criminal and juvenile justice, immigration, workers’ rights, and antidiscrimination. Joining in the program were the three deans under whose guidance the Liman Program was initiated and grew—Guido Calabresi ’58, Tony Kronman ’75, and Harold Koh—as well as Ellen Liman, Lisa and Lewis Liman ’87, and Doug Liman.

“When the Liman Program started in 1997, we funded one Yale Law School graduate as a public interest fellow and a few undergraduates at Harvard’s Philips Brooks House,” said Arthur Liman Program Director Deborah Cantrell.

“A decade later,” added Arthur Liman Professor of Law Judith Resnik, who has shaped and developed the Liman program, “and with the support of Arthur’s family and others, including many graduates of Yale Law School, the program has grown to fund seven law school graduate fellows a year and dozens of summer fellows at Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Brown, Barnard, and Spelman.”

The seven Liman Fellows appointed in 2007–2008 and their placements are Stephanie Biedermann ’07, Disability Rights Advocates, Berkeley; Jamie Dycus ’06, ACLU’s Racial Justice Program, New York; Leah Fletcher ’05, NRDC, San Francisco; Dan Freeman ’07, Civil Liberties Union, New York; Raquiba Huq ’07, Legal Services, Edison, NJ; Michael Kavey ’04, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; and Sia Sanneh ’07, Legal Action Center, New York.

Beginning with the 07–08 academic year, the program will be directed by Sarah Russell ’02.

To view a photo gallery of Liman at Ten, visit www.law.yale.edu/liman.

Amy Chua Delivers John M. Duff, Jr. Inaugural Lecture

AMY CHUA DELIVERED her inaugural lecture as John M. Duff, Jr. Professor of Law on April 9. In a lecture titled “Empire
and Tolerance: The Rise and Fall of World
Dominant Powers,” she discussed her
thesis that what connects history’s hyper-
powers is a remarkable pattern of toler-
ance and pluralism.
Chua joined the Yale Law School faculty
in 2001, after teaching at Duke, Columbia,
Stanford, and New York University. Her
expertise is in the areas of contracts, law
and development, international busi-
ness transactions, and law and global-
ization. She received Yale Law School’s
Distinguished Teaching Award in 2003.
Chua has addressed numerous gov-
ernment and policymaking institutions,
including the World Bank, the Brookings
Institution, the United Nations, and the
CIA. She has also lectured widely outside
the United States—in Argentina, Bolivia,
Chile, China, Mexico, Taiwan, Turkey, and
South Africa.
Chua is author of the 2002 New York
Times bestseller, World on Fire: How
Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds
Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability.
Her newest book, Day of Empire: How
Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance—
and Why They Fall, will be released this fall.

**Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito ’75 Judges Moot Court Finals**

U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE Samuel
Alito ’75 was one of three distinguished
judges presiding over the Spring 2007
Finals of the Morris Tyler Moot Court of
Appeals. U.S. Court of Appeals Judges
Rosemary Barkett (11th Cir.) and Rosemary
S. Pooler (2nd Cir.) joined Alito in listen-
ing to an impressive panel of Law School
students argue the case Rahman v. United
States, a real case that the Supreme Court
had previously declined to hear.
Arguing for the petitioner were Anna
Manasco Dionne ’08 and Krishanti
Vignarajah ’08. Representing the respon-
dent were Bryan Caforio ’08 and Jon
Donenberg ’08.
After hearing the arguments, the judges
took a brief recess to deliberate, then
returned to the “courtroom” with their
decision.
“We could not be more impressed by the
quality of the oral arguments heard this
afternoon,” Alito began, adding, “this is a
very hard case.”

For “minute differences in perfor-
mancess,” he said, the judges awarded the
Potter Stewart Prize for best overall argu-
ment to the petitioners.
“I thought the judges asked good ques-
tions,” said audience member Kristina
Scurry ’08. “And Justice Alito was just as I
thought he’d be—measured, thoughtful
and patient, but also challenging.”

**FACULTY TEA**

Professor Tracey Meares discussed her current research on criminal law policy
and criminal procedure during a Faculty Tea in March. Meares spoke about
her research on “Project Safe Neighborhoods in Chicago: Reducing Chicago’s
Homicide Rate Through Law Enforcement and Community Collaboration.”
Meares has been collaborating with faculty from The University of Chicago and
Columbia University on the project, which is focused in part on preventing the
Visiting the Law School

**Bengt Holmstrom**, an internationally recognized authority on the economic theory of organization, delivered the 2006-2007 John R. Raben Fellowship Lecture on February 19. He talked about “Corporate Governance in Context.” Holmstrom is the Paul A. Samuelson Professor of Economics and Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Alicia H. Munnell** (left), Peter F. Drucker Professor of Management Sciences at Boston College’s Carroll School of Management, discussed retirement issues in the 2006–2007 Storrs Lectures March 5 and 6. In a presentation titled “The Declining Number of Players in the Retirement Income Game,” Munnell addressed “The Withdrawal of Business” and “The Implications for the Individual and Government.”

**William F. Lee**, co-managing partner of WilmerHale, gave a Dean’s Program on the Profession talk on March 8. His topic was “Jury Trials in Complex Intellectual Property Cases: Do They Work?” Also giving Dean’s Program on the Profession talks this spring were two alumni—Bear Stearns General Counsel **Michael Solender** ’89, who spoke March 29 on “Careers in the Law—The Law Firm, Government, and In-House Perspective”; and Current Media CEO **Joel Hyatt** ’76, who spoke April 26 on “First Things First: The First Amendment, the Media Industry, and Democracy.”

**Theodore C. Sorensen**, of counsel in the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and former special counsel and adviser to President John F. Kennedy, delivered a Dean’s Lecture on March 12 titled “A World of Law—Then and Now.” Sorensen took his audience step-by-step through the drama of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, examining how Kennedy’s foreign policy decisions led to resolution of a conflict that threatened the very survival of the planet.

**Dr. Harold Varmus** (left), president and CEO of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, delivered the 2006–2007 Arthur Allen Leff Fellowship Lectures on March 26 and 27. Dr. Varmus discussed “Freeing Scientific Culture: The Fight to Provide Public Access to Results the Public Finances” and “How the Law Affects Contemporary Cancer Research: A Personal View.”

**Daniel Fischel** discussed “Markets and Scandals: Enron and Beyond” in the Judge Ralph K. Winter Lecture on Corporate Law and Governance April 23. Fischel is Professor of Law and Business at Northwestern University School of Law.

**Lani Guinier** ’74, the Bennett Boskey Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, gave the 2006-2007 Fowler Harper Lecture on April 30. She spoke about political representation in constitutional democracies in a lecture titled “The Political Representative as Powerful Stranger: Challenges for Democracy.”

On April 19, **Yul Kwon** ’00, winner of the reality TV show, *Survivor: Cook Islands*, gave a Dean’s Program on the Profession talk titled “How I Survived *Survivor* and Other Professional Challenges.”

Though he was initially disturbed to learn competing *Survivor* teams would be divided along racial and ethnic lines, Kwon persevered, saying he wanted to challenge the racial stereotypes he experienced growing up and present a positive image of the Asian American man. He said he was determined to compete fairly, relying on mutual trust and cooperation among team members rather than backstabbing.

Kwon urged Yale Law School students to “think outside the box” and not be afraid to take risks.

To watch streaming video or to download podcasts of selected events at the Law School, visit www.law.yale.edu/news.
This winter the Law School acquired seven Bloomberg terminals, a cutting edge news and information platform offered by Bloomberg L.P. that enables subscribers to monitor financial market movement and trades and legal and regulatory developments. With its exhaustive reams of real-time financial data, and tools that allow users to leverage the data’s usefulness, plus constantly updated electronic, print, TV, and radio news, the “Bloomberg,” as it is known, has revolutionized the way bankers, analysts, investors, attorneys and others access financial information.

One terminal is located in the Lillian Goldman Law Library’s reading room and is available to all students. Six faculty members have access from their own computers.

Gregory Ruben ’08 uses the Bloomberg in the Law Library several times a day. “It’s an extraordinary resource,” said Ruben. “The news functions are better than anything else you’d get on the Internet. The Bloomberg ‘fix’ is that the second you walk away, you’re missing something.”

“Legally Female” Among Spring Conferences

MORE THAN 250 ATTORNEYS and students from across the country gathered for a conference on March 31 to talk about the challenges women face in the legal profession today. Titled “Legally Female: What Does It Mean to Be Ms. JD?,” the event opened with a keynote speech by The Honorable Janet Bond Arterton, judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. It also featured the launch of the weblog “Ms. JD,” an online community for dialogue and networking among women lawyers (www.ms-jd.org).

“the new blog will be a global meeting place for women in the profession,” said Julia Simon-Kerr ’08, one of the conference organizers and a member of Yale Law Women, which hosted the conference.

In welcoming attendees, Dean Harold Hongju Koh shared his personal experiences with accomplished women lawyers, some in his own family. He noted he is dean of a law school whose outstanding women graduates have gone on to do amazing things, including running for president, and said, “I am proud to live in a world that is legally female.”

Many other student organizations and Law School centers sponsored lectures and conferences this spring, including the Information Society Project, which hosted an Open Standards International Symposium in February and an Access To Knowledge 2 Conference in April. Other notable conferences included the 13th Annual Rebellious Lawyering Conference; the Yale Journal of International Law Young Scholars Conference (see page 11); the Robert M. Cover Public Interest Law Retreat; a Works-in-Progress Symposium sponsored by The Graduate Programs at Yale Law School; and The American Constitution Society Conference on Progressive Family Values.

“Legally Female” conference attendees broke into small lunch groups for discussion on a variety of topics such as networking and careers in corporate law, litigation, and public interest law.

ACTIVISM ON CAMPUS

24 Hours for Darfur

A GROUP OF YALE UNIVERSITY LAW, graduate, and undergraduate students have created a grassroots video advocacy campaign aimed at using the Internet to mobilize people around the globe to end the genocide in Darfur. Called “24 Hours for Darfur,” the project is hoping to solicit thousands of thirty- to sixty-second videos calling for an end to the genocide. Project organizers plan to compile and edit the video submissions into 24 hours of rolling footage to be screened on the steps of Congress and in front of the United Nations building in New York City.

To learn more, visit www.24hoursfordarfur.org.

“Legally Female” conference attendees broke into small lunch groups for discussion on a variety of topics such as networking and careers in corporate law, litigation, and public interest law.

To learn more, visit www.24hoursfordarfur.org.
Bernstein Human Rights Symposium Examines Reform in China, Introduces New Fellows

THE 2007 ROBERT L. BERNSTEIN International Human Rights Fellowship Symposium—“Defending Rights Through Law in China: Progress and Challenges”—was held April 12 and 13. Participants examined the nature of reform through law possible in China over two days of presentations and panel discussions.

Established in 1997, the Robert L. Bernstein Fellowships enable two Yale Law School graduates to devote a year to full-time human rights work. Former Fellows have worked on projects promoting and protecting human rights in such diverse locations as Argentina, Benin, Eritrea, Israel, India, Northern Ireland, South Africa, Thailand, and Tibet.

The 2007–2008 Robert L. Bernstein Fellows—Nick Robinson ’06 and Katherine Southwick ’05—were introduced during the course of the symposium.

Robinson will spend his fellowship year in India working with the Human Rights Law Network to develop resources and implement a strategy for addressing the right to water. Southwick will spend her fellowship year working with Refugees International, investigating and publicizing cases of statelessness around the world.

Participants at the 2007 Bernstein Symposium discussed human rights and legal reform in China.

Former Law Clerks Remember Thurgood Marshall

IN HONOR OF BLACK History Month, the Black Law Students Association hosted a panel discussion titled “Thurgood Marshall in Modern America: His Life, Legacy, and Impact Through the Voices of His Former Supreme Court Clerks.”

The panelists, all of whom clerked for Marshall, were: University of Chicago Law Professor Cass Sunstein; Harvard Law Professor Mark Tushnet ’71; and Yale Law Professors Dan Kahan and Stephen Carter ’79. Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law and former U.S. Solicitor General Drew Days ’66 served as moderator. In addition to talking about Justice Marshall’s legacy, his former clerks spoke about their memories of clerking for Marshall.

PROFESSOR Reva Siegel ’86, Jennifer Harris ’09, Andrew Verstein ’09, and Professor Alvin Klevorick traveled to China as part of Yale University’s delegation to the country in May. Here the YLS group is pictured in front of the construction site for the 2008 Olympic Stadium.

Yale University President Richard C. Levin led the delegation of 100 Yale students, faculty, and administrators in China at the invitation of China’s President Hu Jintao.
The “New” New Haven School of International Law


By insisting that law is more than formal legal institutions, that international law is best studied by evaluating social practice, and that international legal scholars take a policy-oriented approach to determining what constitutes effective world order, the “New” New Haven School, like its predecessor, is pushing legal academics and practitioners toward a more nuanced vision of what international law is and ought to be.

YJIL’s conference brought together the architects of the New Haven School with a new generation of international legal scholars to discuss topics including the historical legacy of the New Haven School and potential applications of the School’s lessons to current problems in international law and foreign affairs. The conference also included a panel devoted to scholarship by current YLS students, and a special plenary session to discuss the extent to which a “New” New Haven School is emerging. The proceedings will be published in a special commemorative issue of The Yale Journal of International Law (Volume 32, Number 2).

A number of YLS alumni participated in the conference, including Robert B. Ahdieh ’97, Rosa Ehrenreich Brooks ’96, Sarah H. Cleveland ’92, Laura Dickinson ’96, Ryan Goodman ’99, Professor Oona A. Hathaway ’97, Derek P. Jinks ’98, Janet Koven Levit ’94, Noah Novogrodsky ’97, Hari Osofsky ’98, Dakota Rudesili ’06, Myres S. McDougall Professor of International Law W. Michael Reisman ’64 LL.M., ’65 JSD, Beth Van Schaack ’97, Siegfried Wiessner ’83 LL.M., and Melissa A. Waters ’98. The conference was made possible with the generous support of the Oscar M. Ruebhausen ’37 Fund and the Dean’s Office.

To find out more about the Young Scholars Conference and YJIL’s other activities, visit www.yale.edu/yjil. YJIL encourages its alumni to send their contact information to yjil@yale.edu in order to receive updates on upcoming publications and events. Contact information can also be sent to The Yale Journal of International Law, Yale Law School, P.O. Box 208215, New Haven, CT 06520-8215.

— Phyllis Maloney ’08, YJIL Managing Editor

YJIL Executive Editor Adam Strait ’07 (left) catches up with former YJIL Editors-in-Chief Nick O. Stephanopoulos ’06 and Gretchen Hoff Varner ’06 at the conference’s afternoon tea.

Yale Law Federalist Society Flourishes

It may come as a surprise to some, but one of the most successful student organizations at Yale Law School during the 2006–2007 school year was the Yale Law Federalist Society, a group of conservative and libertarian law students committed to “preserving the mainstays of our free government: federalism, the separation of powers, and judicial fidelity to the text of the Constitution.”

“We dissent from the tired liberal orthodoxy reigning in America’s law schools and at Yale,” reads the statement on the Yale Law Federalist Society website.

Though Society members may disagree with what they see as the mainstream thought at Yale, that very tension serves them well, according to Christopher Angevine ’08, vice president of events for the group. “I tell conservative students they should come here because it will make them better lawyers,” he says. “It helps you hone your debate if your beliefs are constantly challenged.”

From what used to be a small group of self-described “true believers,” the Federalist Society at Yale has grown to approximately 80 members and is attempting to reach out to a wider audience by offering more events and encouraging a diversity of viewpoints.

“Our events are attended by a mix of students who represent the full range of Yale’s ideological spectrum,” said Eugene Nardelli ’07, president of the Federalist Society. “In fact, some liberal students so regularly attend that they have asked to be added to the email list.”

The Society hosted twelve major events this year, some jointly with Yale Law School’s American Constitution Society, on topics such as gay marriage, the constitutionality and advisability of punitive damages awards, the influence of blogs on the practice of law, and free speech issues raised by depictions of Muhammad in a Danish newspaper. Most events drew more than 100 people.

About 350 attended a lecture given by John Stossel of ABC’s 20/20 in October on “Freedom and its Enemies,” and Dean Harold Koh debated international law with Harvard Law Professor Jack Goldsmith before a group of 150 in March.

For more information about the Yale Law Federalist Society, visit www.yalefedsoc.org.