

# Alumni News



ALUMNI WEEKEND 2007 brought a record number of attendees—close to 1,100 graduates and their guests—back to the Sterling Law Building in October. It was wonderful to see so many graduates renewing friendships and making new connections with each other and with current students.

The theme of “21st Century Democracy” began with stimulating panel discussions on Friday afternoon. After dinner on Friday, a creative “polling game” led by Pam Karlan ’84 had graduates and their guests voting on various political questions using

hand-held electronic voting devices. The answers were immediately tallied, and the audience was instantly treated to bar graphs displaying the results. Creative, funny, and interesting, the game was a great tie-in to the weekend’s many discussions about politics, elections, and the media. (See page 34 for excerpts of panelists’ remarks.)

In keeping with the theme of the importance of the media and 21st century democracy, the Alumni Association recognized *New York Times* Supreme Court Correspondent Linda Greenhouse ’78 MSL with its Award of Merit on Saturday. Pauli Murray ’65 JSD and Jane Bolin ’31 were honored posthumously as we reflected on their achievements as African-American women in the legal world during a time when the law was all but closed to those who were not white men.

On Saturday morning, the YLS dining hall was buzzing with activity during a special “Breakfast Connections” event that matched alumni and current students based on areas of common interest. And, as always, the reunion dinners and brunches were a big hit. There was dancing, there was singing, and according to one graduate, it was “the best party I’ve been to in years!”

Streaming video of the panel discussions and photos of the dinners, brunches, and panels are available on the YLS website: [www.lawyale.edu/alumniweekend](http://www.lawyale.edu/alumniweekend).

And, of course, we’re hoping to see another record-breaking crowd in New Haven for Alumni Weekend 2008 when we’ll discuss the challenges facing the new presidential administration. Please join us at the Law School on October 3–5, 2008, when we’ll again share old memories and make new ones!

*Toni Hahn Davis*

Toni Hahn Davis ’92 LL.M.  
Associate Dean

**Martha’s Vineyard** was the setting for a late-summer gathering of alumni, students, and faculty. **John Firestone ’85**, **Pat Taylor ’71**, and **Arnold Zack ’56** hosted the cocktail party at the Firestone family cottage on the evening of August 16. This was the fourth-annual get-together of YLS friends on the Vineyard.



Those attending the August 16, 2007, party at “The Ark” in Oak Bluffs, Martha’s Vineyard, included: (from left) John Firestone ’85; William David Webb ’52; Pat Taylor ’71; Stephen Weiner ’68; Ellen Liman; Eliza Leighton ’05 (attended but missing from photo, Tom Milch ’76).

On October 4, the YLSA of **New England** met up again for a public book talk by **Charlie Savage ’03** MSL, who has written a recently-released book: *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy*. This was followed by a private YLS dinner with Charlie at Elephant & Castle in downtown Boston.

On July 9, the YLSA of **New York City** hosted a summer reception and informal talk on blogging by **Susan Crawford ’89**, professor of cyberlaw and communications law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Graduates, summer associates, and admitted students attended the event, which was held at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

The following month, the YLSA of NYC gathered at the **Westport** Country Playhouse for a reception and opening-night performance of *Sedition*. Barbara and **John Streicker '67** hosted the August 4 event. Playwright David Wiltse spoke informally during the pre-theater reception.

On November 6, the Yale Law School Center for the Study of Corporate Law sponsored an alumni breakfast in **Manhattan** at the Century Association. The topic at the breakfast was "Proxy Voting: Is the System Broken?" Panelists included Yale Law School Dean Harold Hongju Koh; **Professor Henry Hu '79**, Allan Shivers Chair in the Law of Banking and Finance, University of Texas School of Law;

**Charles M. Nathan '65**, Global Co-Chair of the Mergers & Acquisitions Group of Latham & Watkins, LLP; and Erik R. Sirri, Director of the SEC's Division of Market Regulation. **Roberta Romano '80**, Oscar M. Ruebhausen Professor of Law and Center Director, moderated a lively discussion.

On June 26, the Yale Law School Association of **PenJerDel** hosted a reception and dinner at Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads in Philadelphia. Dean Harold Hongju Koh spoke on "The New New Haven School of International Law."

The YLSA of **Washington, D.C.**, gathered on October 3 for a discussion by



*(Left) New York City YLS graduates and summer associates gathered in July to hear about blogging; (above and right) Philadelphia alumni gathered for a talk by Dean Koh in June.*



More than one hundred alumni, family, and friends were present as the YLSA of **New England** cheered on the Boston Red Sox at a September 4 game. Dean Harold Hongju Koh was among the YLS fans who watched the Sox defeat the Toronto Blue Jays. Graduates and their guests were also treated to a tour of Fenway Park, a reception with Red Sox President and CEO **Larry Lucchino '74**, and a dinner in The Players' Club.

► **Alumni News**

**William H. Jeffress, Jr. '70** on the Scooter Libby case. The discussion took place at the Law Offices of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal.

On July 19, more than twenty alumni and summer associates gathered at Chambers Kitchen in **Minneapolis** for a Midsummer Night's Happy Hour. It was the first such gathering of the YLSA of Minnesota in many years.

The YLSA of **Minnesota** hosted a luncheon with Sterling Professor of Law John Langbein on September 6 in Minneapolis. Professor Langbein discussed a project he is working on dealing with changes to the law regarding wills and other donative transfers.

On November 12, more than twenty-five alumni gathered at the Mission America Kitchen & Bar in **Minneapolis** as the YLSA of Minnesota welcomed Dean Harold Hongju Koh to town over drinks and appetizers.

Dean Harold Hongju Koh joined a small group of graduates for an intimate dinner at **Wisconsin's** Coquette Cafe on November 29. The following day he saw more Wisconsin alumni at a reception in Madison hosted by the University of Wisconsin School of Law, where Dean Koh gave a lecture.

On June 20, the YLSA of **Western Washington** held a reception and dinner at the Palisades Restaurant in Seattle, over-



*Alumni and their guests mingled at events in downtown Minneapolis this past July, September, and November.*

looking the water. Dean Harold Hongju Koh and **Cyrus Habib '09** spoke to the crowd of more than thirty alumni and current students, updating them on the current activities at YLS.

The Western Washington contingent gathered again on September 18 for a wine and cheese reception at the **Seattle** home of **Donna Haggarty-Robbins '86** and David Robbins. William K. Townsend Professor of Law **Ian Ayres '86** informally discussed his new book, *Super Crunchers: Why Thinking-By-Numbers is the New Way to Be Smart*, during the reception.

On July 8, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law **Stephen L. Carter '79** was the guest of honor at a joint YLSA of **Northern California** and Yale Club of Silicon Valley event. Graduates and their guests attended the Menlo Park reception with Professor Carter prior to a public reading and book signing of his new novel *New England White*.

On Sunday, August 5, more than eighty YLSA of **Northern California** alumni and their guests traveled to the lovely vineyard of **Dick Keenan '77** and Kathy McNamara in Santa Rosa, California, for a wonder-



*Roger Leishman '90 and Jamie Pederson '94 were among those who gathered under clear Seattle skies to welcome Dean Koh to the Pacific Northwest.*



On June 21, alumni in **Portland, Oregon**, had their first gathering in years at a Summer Solstice Happy Hour. Close to twenty alumni and their guests enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones. Then on September 19, they met again for an informal dinner with Charlie Savage '03 MSL, to discuss his new book *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy*.

ful afternoon picnic. In addition to taking a walk around the vineyard and enjoying great food, wine, and laughs, Dick Keenan and other YLS alums discussed the wine business.

On September 20, the YLSA of **Northern California** met again in Mountain View, California, for a book reception with William K. Townsend Professor Ian Ayres '86. The reception was followed by a book talk and signing of Professor Ayres's new book, *Super Crunchers: Why Thinking-By-Numbers is the New Way to Be Smart*.

On November 15, alumni from the Yale Law School Association of Northern California met with John M. Duff, Jr. Professor of Law Amy Chua for drinks and conversation at the Elephant & Castle in **San Francisco**. They gathered after hearing her give a book talk at the World Affairs Council on her recently released book, *Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance—and Why They Fall*.

On September 20, the YLSA of **Southern California** co-sponsored a discussion with the American Constitution Society with Charlie Savage '03 MSL, discussing his new book *Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy*.

On November 6, the Yale Law School Association of Southern California held a fascinating discussion with Professor **Elyn R. Saks '86** about her recently published book, *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey through Madness*. Almost thirty alumni and



guests gathered at the **Los Angeles** office of Winston & Strawn to hear Professor Saks discuss her book.

Sterling Professor of Law and Legal History John H. Langbein met with alumni, students, and admitted students during an informal lunch in **Oxford, England**, on July 4.

The Yale Law School Association of **Europe** hosted a "Yale Law School in London" gathering on October 21 and 22. Dean Harold Hongju Koh joined YLS alumni, faculty, admitted students, and their guests for a museum exhibit outing and dinner on Sunday, followed by a full day of panels, tours, meals, and fun on Monday. Panel topics included "The View from the United States: U.S. and International Law Post-Bush Administration" and "The View from Europe: International Dispute Resolution." ∞

The YLSA of **Southern California** had a busy July and August. On July 25, young YLS alumni, current students, and admitted students joined up with their counterparts from Stanford Law School for a joint Happy Hour in downtown LA. That was followed on August 7 by an outing to cheer on the WNBA's LA Sparks, co-owned by **Carla Christofferson '92**. Carla dropped in to say hello during a pre-game reception. More than fifty alumni and their guests (including lots of young Sparks fans!) came out for the event.



(Above) Those who gathered in London included (from top left): Professor Jay Pottenger, Jr. '75 and Anne Dunning; admitted student Nicolo Nourafchan and Dean Koh; admitted student Ryan Keller and Miriam Longchamp '93; (left) Northern California graduates and their guests gathered for a vineyard picnic at Kick Ranch in August.

