

# A Letter From Dean Harold Hongju Koh



Dean Harold Hongju Koh and  
the Honorable Anthony M. Kennedy,  
Associate Justice of the United States  
Supreme Court.

## Dear Graduates and Friends of Yale Law School,

Over the past four years, this page has reviewed Yale Law School's 21st century commitment to closer engagement with globalization, public service, and the professions. This issue highlights the interaction among these trends through the growing global engagement with real-world issues of faculty and students, at home and abroad.

The cover story describes how, in a throwback to Freedom Summer '62 and the Haitian Refugee Litigation of '92, Clinical Professor Michael Wishnie's band of immigration clinic students have tackled the complex immigration issues that arise out of Connecticut's encounter with a globalizing labor force in two very different local cities, Danbury and New Haven. While these students have thought globally and acted locally, an array of international fellowships have enabled our students to global action. The J. Kirby Simon summer fellowship program, which honors a charismatic, community-minded Foreign Service Officer, made possible exciting student experiences abroad by current J.D. students in China, Bosnia/Herzegovina, India, and other locations. Other students pioneered an innovative online video petition "24 Hours for Darfur" ([www.24hoursfordarfur.org](http://www.24hoursfordarfur.org)), and a major fall conference on the future of energy.

The real-life challenges of a shrinking planet have equally challenged our faculty. When General Musharraf declared martial law over the resistance of independent judges and lawyers, members of our community pioneered a nationwide solidarity statement by lawyers, judges, professors, and law students in support of their Pakistani colleagues. Bruce Ackerman was honored with the Scribes Book Award for his trenchant post-9/11 book *Before the Next Attack*, and Amy Chua published her newest book *Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance—And Why They Fall*, which examines how history's "hyperpowers" rose to world dominance, before their ultimate demise. Sidley Austin-Robert D. McLean '70 Visiting Professor Tom Merrill recounted how his career-long engagement with legal practice made him a better teacher and scholar, and the connection between academia and practice has been the weekly focus of our vibrant Corporate Law Center. Even as Jeremy Waldron's Storrs Lectures

addressed incorporation of international and foreign law into domestic law, our Global Constitutionalism Seminar attracted two U.S. Supreme Court Justices—Anthony Kennedy and Stephen Breyer—as well as more than a dozen other international and constitutional court justices. October's Alumni Weekend polled our graduates and offered riveting insights into the forces—law, media, elections, and politics—that will help to influence next year's national elections.

As Fred Shapiro notes in "Quotable Yale Law School," our community engages the world as well through sound bites and memorable quotations. Finally, this issue relives the Summer 2007 YLS filming of movie scenes from the fourth installment of the Indiana Jones series. When that blockbuster debuts Memorial Day weekend, look for our wood-paneled Faculty Dining Room redone as a Dean's Office and the seminar room hallway restyled as Archaeology Department offices at Professor Henry (Indiana) Jones, Jr.'s fictional "Marshall College." Although Oscar-winning Director Steven Spielberg declined my request to title his movie "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Legal Realism," he did graciously assent (in what Hollywood calls an "Easter Egg") to adorn the faux Dean's Office wall with a photograph of Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun. Spielberg's homage honors Justice Blackmun's appearance as Justice Story in the movie *Amistad*. As you will recall, that movie memorialized the timeless (and recurring) saga of how immigrants subjected to forced labor found refuge in New Haven, aided by a band of idealistic Yale professors and students.

Warm regards,

Harold Hongju Koh