# alumni news

Yale Law School alumni have been gathering around the country. Here is a sampling of the get-togethers that have taken place over the past six months.



## PenJerDel Goes to Prison

YALE LAW School Association events can happen just about anywhere. This was most apparent on April 26, when a group of YLS alums went to prison! The YLSA of PenJerDel had a private tour of the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia.

The prison, they learned, was begun by a group of well-known and powerful Philadelphians who convened in the home of Benjamin Franklin in 1787. The group, which called itself The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, expressed its desire to improve the terrible prison conditions encountered in America and Europe. Dr. Benjamin Rush proposed a radically new type of prison: one that would induce regret and penitence, rather than bodily harm, in its prisoners. The first of its kind and the most expensive American building of its day, the penitentiary soon became the most famous prison in the world. Corporal punishment and abuse were abandoned in favor of a Quaker-inspired system of isolation. Later, prisoners worked together in workshops and could worship in an on-site

synagogue or chapel. Some of America's most notorious criminals were held in the penitentiary's cells, including Al Capone and bank robber Willie Sutton.

YLS alumni and their guests took a thorough tour of the historical site. Dr. Norman Johnston, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Arcadia University and an expert on the history of punishment, imprisonment, and the evolution of prison architecture worldwide, helped with the tour. After the tour, they met at a local restaurant for cocktails and appetizers. John J. Donohue III, Yale Law School Leighton Homer Surbeck Professor of Law, spoke of "Crime and Punishment in the U.S.," and Dr. Johnston spoke some more about the jail.









#### An Evening with Attorney General Jerry Brown '64

In March, a large group of YLS alumni and their guests, from a wide range of class years, gathered for a reception with California Attorney General Jerry Brown '64. The event was held at the San Francisco office of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP.

Prop 8

Shahana Basu Kanodia '99 and Krishanti Vignarajah 'o8 organized a dinner panel discussion on Guantánamo Bay that took place on March 26. Many Yale Law School alumni and their guests, as well as alumni from Harvard Law and Yale College, attended. Panelists Stephen Oleskey, WilmerHale; Ramzi Kassem, Cover Teaching Fellow at YLS; Justin Florence '06, O'Melveny & Myers; and moderator Shahana Basu Kanodia '99 presented a historical view of several Guantánamo cases, a detailed description of life in the prison, and several fascinating perspectives on some of the challenges and options for the Obama Administration.

### Dean Robert H. Klonoff '79 on "The Life of a Dean"

On February 25, about twenty YLS alumni and their guests gathered at the Governor Hotel in downtown Portland. Robert H. Klonoff '79, Dean and Professor of Law, Lewis & Clark Law School, spoke to the group about "The Life of a Dean."

### Southern California Discusses

About sixty-five Yale Law School alumni and their guests gathered on January 6 at the Los Angeles home of Carla Christofferson '92 and Adam Shell. After about an hour of chatting while enjoying wine and delicious appetizers, Professor William Eskridge, Jr. '78 spoke about Proposition 8 and other gay marriage issues. Professor Eskridge's talk was followed by an animated (and extensive!) question and answer session.



#### **New England Talks Gitmo**





#### Stan Tobin '58 Memorial Address

On April 26, Professor Anthony T. Kronman '75 addressed a large group of YLS alums in Pasadena for the second memorial address honoring Stanley E. Tobin '58. Kronman's talk was titled "Liberal Education and the Law."



Houston Hosts Hansmann '74 On April 28, the Yale Law School Association of Texas and the Yale School of Management hosted a dinner and discussion with Professor Henry B. Hansmann '74. After mixing and mingling, the group settled down to listen to Professor Hansmann's perspective on "Globalizing Commercial Litigation."

#### An Inauguration Reunion

As thousands of people arrived in Washington, D.C. for the Inauguration of President Obama, several members of the Class of 1977 were able to meet up on January 19 for a lunch organized by Jack McMackin '77 and Dick Keenan '77. There was lots of excitement and everyone had a wonderful time catching up!





#### **ALSO SEEN AND HEARD**... other YLS alumni events

Western Washington In Seattle, YLS alums met and mingled over wine. Guest speaker Kimberly Mills '98 MSL, spoke of her time as Associate Editor, Editorial Board, Seattle Post-Intelligencer and answered questions from the audience and host Karol Brown '99 about current events.

Northern California Events in Northern California included a joint meeting of alumni of Yale Law School and the Yale School of Management to discuss "The Financial Crisis: How Did We Get Here and Where Are We Going?" Professors from YLS, the Yale School of Management, and Stanford served as panelists. And in February, alums gathered again for a book discussion with Van Jones '93 about his new book, The Green Economy.

Minnesota In February, graduates enjoyed breakfast with the Honorable Guido Calabresi '58, U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit and Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law at Yale Law School. Following breakfast, Judge Calabresi delivered a lecture at the University of Minnesota on "Equality in the American Constitution?"

Miami The YLSA of Miami met for a night of good wine and stimulating conversation in February. Professor Jonathan R. Macey '82 discussed his book *Promises Made*, Promises Broken.

NEW HAVEN argolis '56 and Carla Ingersoll '07

CHICAGO

### Greenhouse '78 MSL Discusses Supreme Court

The Yale Law School Association of Connecticut and the Yale Club of New Haven invited alumni to the Law School on May 12 for a discussion and reception with Linda Greenhouse '78 MSL, Knight Distinguished Journalistin-Residence and Joseph Goldstein Lecturer in Law. The discussion was titled "The Evolving Supreme Court."

Candace Jackson '05 and her mother, the Hon. Gwendolyn Jackson



Chicago Grads Discuss the Nonprofit Sector, Federal Sentencing

On February 26, the Yale Law School Association of Illinois invited Jay Readey '03 to discuss the future of the nonprofit sector in a time of increasing economic crisis. In his talk, Readey presented his initiatives in the context of discussing whether social enterprise is the future of the nonprofit sector.

On April 21, the Yale Law School Association of Illinois hosted a dinner and discussion on the past, present, and future of federal sentencing, titled "Will Judicial **Discretion Triumph? Reflections on the** Supreme Court's Ongoing Federal Sentencing Revolution." Co-organizer Candace Jackson 'os moderated the event, which included the Honorable Lynn Adelman, the Honorable Raymond Jackson (Candace's father), Manish Shah, Assistant U.S. Attorney, and co-organizer Alison Siegler '98.



#### Happiness is ... a Night at the Theater

On June 4, the audience for the new play Happiness was filled with YLS alums from the YLSA of New York City. Happiness, a new musical about a disparate group of New Yorkers caught on a subway train under unusual circumstances, reunites director-choreographer Susan Stroman and book writer John Weidman '74, whose last Lincoln Center Theatre collaboration was the Tony Award-winning Best Musical Contact. A lively talkback after the performance joined Weidman, Stroman, actors, and the YLS alums and their guests in an interesting discussion of the play.

Washington, D.C. D.C. events included a January lecture on Proposition 8 by Professor William Eskridge, Jr. '78; an April book talk at the Brookings Institution on The Democracy Index with Professor Heather Gerken; and a talk by Gretchen C. Rubin '94, author of *Slate*'s "The Happiness Project" blog.

NYC Recent NYC events included a February theater trip to see August: Osage *County*, (starring Estelle Parsons, the wife of Peter Zimroth '66); a YLS Globalization Breakfast at which graduates discussed the weighty topic of "How to Close Guantánamo?"; and the YLSA of New York's Annual Spring Luncheon featuring Acting YLS Dean Kate Stith.