

## development news

### Abrams Institute for Freedom of Expression Will Promote Freedom of Speech and Press, Access to Information

THE LAW SCHOOL IS NOW HOME to a new institute dedicated to promoting freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and access to information as informed by the values of democracy and human freedom. The Floyd Abrams Institute for Freedom of Expression at Yale Law School is made possible by a generous gift from Floyd Abrams '59, one of the country's leading experts in freedom of speech and press issues who both graduated from and has taught at Yale Law School. The Abrams Institute is administered by the Yale Information Society Project, directed by Professor Jack Balkin.

"We are thrilled that one of the First Amendment's greatest champions has made it possible for a new generation of Yale Law students to work for the values of free expression that he holds so dear," said Balkin.

The mission of the Abrams Institute is both practical and scholarly. It will include a clinic for Yale Law students to engage in litigation, draft model legislation, and give advice to lawmakers and policy makers on issues of media freedom and information access. It will promote scholarship and law reform on emerging questions concerning both traditional and new media. And it will hold scholarly conferences and events at Yale on First Amendment issues and on related issues of access to information, Internet and media law, telecommunications, privacy, and intellectual property.

"The First Amendment is a unique and enduring American contribution to the protection of liberty," said Abrams, a senior partner in Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP. "It is law but it is more than that. The vigorous defense of free expression is a cause, one rooted in distrust of virtually all government efforts to ban, prevent, punish or require speech. My hope is that the Abrams Institute will not only help to train a new generation of lawyers skilled in defending freedom of expression but to further that cause within Yale Law School, within our nation and throughout the world."

Floyd Abrams has been described by the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan as "the leading First Amendment advocate of our age." He rose to national prominence in 1971 when he was co-counsel to *The New York Times* with Yale Law School Professor Alexander Bickel in their successful defense of the newspaper in resisting the Nixon Administration's attempt to suppress publication of the Pentagon Papers. In the following forty years, he has argued numerous First Amendment cases before the Supreme Court including, most recently and controversially, his successful argument on behalf of Senator Mitch McConnell in the *Citizens United* case defending the right of corporations and unions to participate in election campaigns. Among his clients have been the Brooklyn Museum, in the case prompted by New York Mayor Rudolph Guiliani's attempt to close a controversial exhibit, and journalists such as Judith Miller who sought to protect the confidentiality of their sources. He is the author of *Speaking Freely: Trials of the First Amendment*.

The Information Society Project at Yale Law School is an intellectual center addressing the implications of the Internet and new information technologies for law and society, guided by the values of democracy, development, and equality. For more information about the Yale ISP, visit <http://isp.law.yale.edu>.



Floyd Abrams '59

Photographs by Harold Shapiro

### Yale Law School and Thomson Reuters Announce Establishment of Thomson Reuters Initiative at the Yale Information Society Project

IN SEPTEMBER, the Law School and Thomson Reuters announced the establishment of the Thomson Reuters Initiative on Law and Technology at the Yale Information Society Project (ISP), which will foster research and intellectual community in the burgeoning area of information law. The initiative is made possible by a generous grant from Thomson Reuters.

Administered by the ISP, the initiative includes the selection of two Thomson Reuters fellows—Adam Cohen and Bryan Choi—who will work closely with Yale faculty and staff studying cutting-edge issues at the intersection of law, technology and media; funding for workshops, a speaker series, and a conference focusing on these issues; and support for the leadership of the ISP.

"We face a world that is just beginning to realize the potential impact of information law and policy," said Yale Law School Dean Robert C. Post '77. "Thomson Reuters has given the Yale ISP the ability to remain at the forefront of these important discussions. We are thrilled with the opportunities this grant presents."

"As the leading provider of legal research, critical news, information and software to legal professionals, this initiative provides Thomson Reuters an opportunity to engage with innovative thinkers to continue providing the best ideas and insights on the implications of law and technology to the global legal commu-



Woodrow Hartzog was one of several guest lecturers who have taken part in the new Thomson Reuters Speaker Series on Information Law and Information Policy.

nity," said Thomas H. Glocer '84, then chief executive officer of Thomson Reuters. "By partnering with the Yale Information Society Project, a recognized center for thought leadership on these issues, we can continue to advance the discussion and spark ideas for combining technology and media in promoting justice and the rule of law."

Another important component of the initiative is the Thomson Reuters ISP Speaker Series on Information Law and Information Policy, which features leading experts in the field. The ISP is also convening weekly for "ideas lunches," and in the spring will host a cutting-edge conference on new issues facing information law.

For more information, visit [www.law.yale.edu/isp](http://www.law.yale.edu/isp).

### Robina Foundation Renews Support for the Robina Human Rights Fellowship Initiative

THE ROBINA FOUNDATION recently announced their intention to renew support of the Robina Foundation Human Rights Fellowship Initiative at Yale Law School through a grant of \$3,000,000 that will occur from 2012 through 2015. Originally established in 2008, the Robina Initiative contributes to the work of human rights leaders at all stages of their career: from first-year law students; to recent law school graduates; to senior human rights scholars and practitioners. The goal of the Robina Initiative is to foster a growing network of leaders who are passionate and committed to human rights work. In unison with the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights, the Robina Initiative works to leverage the robust international human rights community that exists at the Law School.

The Robina Initiative supports four types of Robina scholarships and fellowships that are critical to the continued strength of the human rights program at the Yale Law School: Robina Human Rights JD Scholarships; Kirby Simon Summer Human Rights Fellowships; Robina Post-Graduate Human Rights Fellowships; and Robina Visiting Human Rights Fellowships.

The Robina Initiative provides individuals with the opportunity to engage in enriching and illuminating experiences that reinforce paths toward public service that promote human rights and justice. This new grant will perpetuate an outstanding program that attracts some of the world's best and brightest human rights practitioners and scholars and encourages their work toward the advancement of human rights.

For more information, visit [www.law.yale.edu/schell](http://www.law.yale.edu/schell).

To learn more about Giving to Yale Law School, visit [www.law.yale.edu/givetoys/](http://www.law.yale.edu/givetoys/)