



# JUDGING

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2014





## ALUMNI WEEKEND OCTOBER 23 – 26, 2014

PHOTOS BY HAROLD SHAPIRO

Yale Law School welcomed 1,100 alumni and guests to Alumni Weekend 2014, which focused on the theme of “Judging.” Alumni reminisced with old friends and made new connections during class meals, a student organization fair, and panel discussions throughout the weekend of October 23 to 26. The centerpiece of the weekend was the presentation of the Award of Merit to three justices of the U.S. Supreme Court: Justices Clarence Thomas ’74, Samuel A. Alito, Jr. ’75, and Sonia Sotomayor ’79. (See page 34.) In a new event this year, alumni met with students from the Law School’s various affinity groups at a Diversity Reception, followed by individual Affinity Group Dinners, where each group honored a distinguished Law School graduate.



photos



video

To view the photos and videos from Alumni Weekend 2014, visit [www.law.yale.edu/aw2014](http://www.law.yale.edu/aw2014)

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Alumni Weekend 2014 featured five panels with alumni speaking on “Judging” from the viewpoints of judges, advocates, lawyers, and more. Included here are quotes from just a few of the panelists. To watch video of the panels, please visit [www.law.yale.edu/aw2014](http://www.law.yale.edu/aw2014).



**Goodwin H. Liu '98**

*Associate Justice, California Supreme Court*

Courts on Trial: Judging and Its Alternatives

“The United States is an incredibly law-dense society. We have a lot of law to contend with. If you have any doubt about this, I invite you to read the California statutes. There’s not a subject that is untouched by those books. All of our laws are born of good purposes; there’s always a worthy objective being served. But we should realize that every time we put a legal regime into place, it carries the unintended risk of widening the justice gap because enforcing or benefiting from a legal regime is often something that only people who have access to the law can achieve.”



**Stuart F. Delery '93**

*Acting Associate Attorney General for the Civil Division, Department of Justice*

The Least Dangerous Branch

“It’s worth remembering that a judicial resolution has a particular limited function. It clarifies the rights of specific parties before the court with regard to a specific issue. But even when the judiciary says what the law is, a court decision often produces only rough guideposts, and it’s often left up to the Executive Branch ... to give that decision... those guideposts real world effect.”



**Patricia M. Wald '51**

*former Justice, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; retired Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit*

Judging Across Borders and Around the World

“I still believe in the value and the need for international criminal courts perhaps now even more than when they began, but I also believe that they need to change some of their practices and structures to instill the trust that they need and will find essential for their important mission.”



**Paul Smith '79**

*Partner, Jenner & Block*

**Advocacy, Argument, and Persuasion:  
Four Views of the Cathedral**

“It’s not enough to have really convincing arguments based on the precedents. You also have to take into account whether the court that you’re talking to in that time and in that place is ready to listen to those arguments. Will it have a comfort level with what you are asking them to do so that you have a chance at success?”



**Margaret D. Marshall '76**

*Senior Fellow, Yale Corporation; retired Chief Justice,  
Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts*

**Picking Judges**

“To talk about the selection of judges, is to talk about the selection of those who decide important issues, *terribly* important issues that affect vast numbers of people. Federal courts are important, especially the United States Supreme Court. But most of the judicial work is done in state courts. The selection of state judges is critical.”



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“I can’t remember what they said, but ...  
I found it so exciting ...  
I said, I am going to run for governor...  
So that’s how I came to Yale, how I flunked the bar,  
and decided to run for Governor.”

— California Governor Jerry Brown '64



## Class of 1964 Panelists Chart Careers Since Law School

A special panel for the Class of 1964’s fiftieth reunion featured California Governor Jerry Brown '64, former Senator Gary Hart '64, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton '64.

During the discussion, which was moderated by Sterling Professor of Law Akhil Reed Amar '84, Norton spoke about her path to becoming a civil rights lawyer.

“That wasn’t just a romantic dream,” said Norton, recalling how during the time her class went to Law School, it was the apex of the civil rights movement. “You have to remember that at that time, there were very few black lawyers.”

Norton described the progression of her career, and how serving as a member of Congress enables her to continue fighting for equality. “I have had the great and glorious pleasure of fighting for statehood and equality of citizenship for people,” she said.

Brown listed the many different career paths he considered, from a priest to a physicist to a psychiatrist, and how none of them seemed to pan out.

“What was left was law school,” quipped Brown, who noted that at the time, he was uninterested in politics despite having a father in public life. But one night while studying for the bar and feeling somewhat “bored,” Brown recalled hearing his father and a colleague arguing over who should run for Governor.

“I can’t remember what they said, but ... I found it so exciting,” recalled Brown. “I said, I am going to run for governor... So that’s how I came to Yale, how I flunked the bar, and decided to run for Governor.”

Hart described a similar ambivalence about what career path to take. He started at the Divinity School and realized that he wanted to be “actively involved in something,” leading him to apply to Yale Law School.

“Fifty years later I am amazed I got in here, and I want to use this opportunity to pay tribute to this school and people like you, Jerry, and Eleanor, and the rest of you,” said Hart. “It was an empowering experience to be at Yale Law School and it fundamentally changed my life.”





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*The class of 1964*