



Where

Am I Needed?



COMMENCEMENT 2015

The three speakers at the 2015 Yale Law School Commencement ceremony made the event a time of celebration and of reflection, entreating graduates to find ways to be of service, to face even overwhelming challenges with hope, and to discover a sustaining narrative in times of despair.

Don't let yourself fall into the temptation, the very natural temptation, of asking yourself just what you want and what's interesting to you. I'm going to suggest that you ask a different question. I want you to ask the question, 'Where am I needed? Where am I needed to go?'

— Gina Raimondo '98, the first female governor of Rhode Island





COMMENCEMENT 2015



MAYA HODIS NULAND

The day after graduation, I'm heading to Thailand and Indonesia for my honeymoon! Starting in the fall, I'll be an associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, and a year later, I'll be working as a law clerk for Judge Sweet at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

It is the true wish of all your teachers here on this stage that you may encounter the unimaginable adventures that lie before you with the same verve and intelligence, with the same unfailing self-respect, with the same moral courage, with the same pleasure and delight, that you have displayed during your time here among us. — *Dean Robert C. Post '77*

More than 200 graduates of Yale Law School participated in commencement ceremonies on May 18, 2015, at the William K. Lanman Center at Payne Whitney Gymnasium, joined by a celebratory crowd, including friends, family, and Law School faculty.

In his remarks to the graduating class, Dean Robert C. Post '77 referred to his recovery from a back injury and how overwhelming pain—from personal events like a slipped disc or world events such as an earthquake—can lead to despair.

“If the anxiety of these dangers overwhelms us, if we merely suffer blankly in their presence, we are lost,” Dean Post said. “But if we respond by situating these dangers in time, which is to say by contextualizing them in narratives that unite time past, time present, and time future, then we have the capacity to master them.”



JESSI SAMUELS

After a celebratory trip to Dublin, Ireland, this summer, I'll spend two years clerking—first at the District of Connecticut, and then at the Second Circuit. From there, I hope to pursue a career as a litigator in DC.





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JULIAN POLARIS

I'll spend next year in the Healthcare Division at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips in New York, followed by a clerkship for Judge Nicholas Garaufis on the Eastern District of New York.



American meritocracy has ... become precisely what it was invented to combat: a mechanism for the dynastic transmission of wealth and privilege across generations.

— *Professor Daniel Markovits '00*



GRACE KAO (LEFT, WITH MARSHALLS ON COMMENCEMENT DAY)

I am thrilled to be working for Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) in New York, as a Justice Fellow for the Immigrant Justice Corps. I'll be representing unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children in their removal proceedings, and helping them apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, asylum, or T- and U-visas.

Dean Post closed with the following advice for the graduates: "[I]t is the true wish of all your teachers here on this stage that you may encounter the unimaginable adventures that lie before you with the same verve and intelligence, with the same unfailing self-respect, with the same moral courage, with the same pleasure and delight, that you have displayed during your time here among us."

Professor Daniel Markovits '00 also addressed the graduates in a speech titled "A New Aristocracy." He urged the audience to celebrate their achievements while contemplating "what victory brings." Markovits commented that the graduates had reached a pinnacle of meritocracy by graduating from Yale Law School but described the negative side to this system.

"American meritocracy has ... become precisely what it was invented to combat: a mechanism for the dynastic transmission of wealth and privilege across generations," Markovits said. "Meritocracy now constitutes a *modern-day aristocracy*, one might even say, purpose-built for a world in which the greatest source of wealth is not land or factories but human capital, the free labor of skilled workers."



GINNY MCCALMONT (LEFT)

This summer I'll be splitting my time between studying for the bar and cuddling my four-month-old daughter, Eleanor. Then I'll spend the next two years clerking for two amazing women: first for Judge Hall of the District of Connecticut, then for Judge Murphy of the Eighth Circuit.



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Although Markovits admitted he didn't have a solution to these problems, he encouraged the graduates to be hopeful: "We are trained to think of economic inequality as presenting a zero sum game: to suppose that redistribution to benefit the bottom simply *must* burden the top. But this is not such a case: reforms that democratize training and talent would benefit *everybody*."

Following the remarks by Professor Markovits, Gina Raimondo '98, the first female governor of Rhode Island, briefly addressed the graduates.

Raimondo urged the graduates to look with clarity and courage at the world beyond the self. "[D]on't let yourself fall into the temptation, the very natural temptation, of asking yourself just what you want and what's interesting to you. I'm going to suggest that you ask a different question. I want you to ask the question, 'Where am I needed? Where am I needed to go?'" She emphasized that each of the class of 2015 has an obligation to serve "by virtue of the privilege and opportunity and talent that you have."

Using examples from her career, she also reminded listeners to remember that behind every decision you make is a person. With that in mind, Raimondo said, "We are counting on you in a very real way to bring honesty and humility and compassion to your business and to your community."

Two hundred forty-two degree candidates were honored at the ceremonies Monday, including 207 JDS, 27 LLMS, 6 JSDS, and 2 MSLS. [Y](#)



ALLISON DAVIDO

After the bar exam is over, I plan to spend a couple months traveling and relaxing before heading to New York City to start work at Cravath, Swaine & Moore. I had a great experience working in their antitrust practice last summer, and I'm looking forward to going back!



KWON-YONG JIN (CENTER)

For my post-bar exam trip, I will be traveling across the United States by train. I will then return to New York City in October to work at the corporate department of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.




RAPH GRAYBILL (CENTER)

Graduation is here! After many long years, I'll be returning home to Montana to clerk for Chief Judge Sid Thomas of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I'll be hiking, biking, and working on my fly fishing while not in chambers. I'm also looking forward to playing host in Big Sky Country to the amazing, talented friends I've met here.


SAM THYPIN-BERMEO

This summer, I'll be studying for the bar and enjoying Connecticut's many wonders. After that, I'll head south to work for the New York Civil Liberties Union and to clerk for Judge Greenaway on the Third Circuit and Judge Ramos on SDNY.


AMAR C. BAKSHI (LEFT)

I'll be working full time to grow Shared_Studios, a multidisciplinary art and design collective focused on carving wormholes in the world. Our first project, Portals, links people in personal conversation from Tehran to DC through big gold shipping containers. When you enter one, you feel like you're in the same room as someone in the other.

Visit Shared_Studios online at www.SharedStudios.com

