

Photos by Harold Shapiro

MAKING OUR DEMOCRACY WORK

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2015





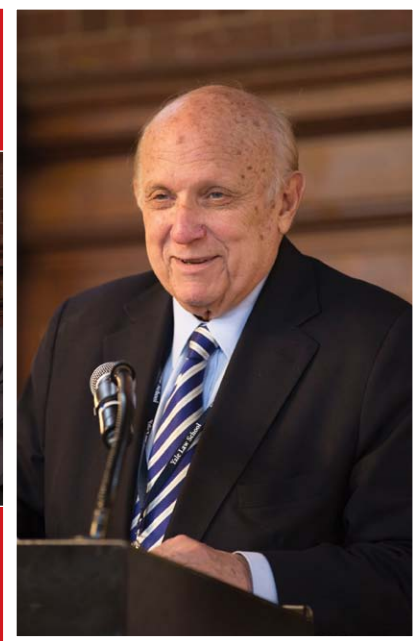
More than nine hundred alumni and their guests gathered in New Haven in October for Alumni Weekend 2015. The Class of 1965 was represented by 111 alumni marking the 50th anniversary of their graduation. The Classes of 1990 and 2010 each had almost one hundred alumni and guests attending.



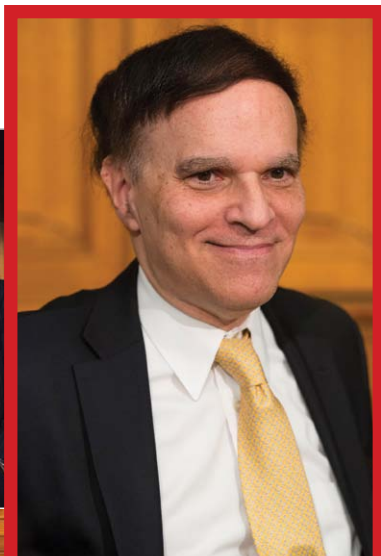


The theme of the weekend was “Making Our Democracy Work.” Panels tackled the topics of government institutions, income inequality, federalism, campaign finance reform, and voting rights. Throughout the weekend, alumni reconnected during meals, social activities, and informal gatherings.

The reunion classes collectively raised \$9.7 million with a participation rate of 57%. The Class of 1990 set a record for 25th Reunion class giving by raising more than \$2.5 million. And the Class of 1955 had one hundred percent participation in reunion giving, the third reunion in a row that it has achieved this feat.



Floyd Abrams '59 received the Award of Merit on Saturday, October 24. Abrams has a national trial and appellate practice and extensive experience in high-visibility cases, often involving First Amendment, securities litigation, intellectual property, public policy and regulatory issues at Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP. In November 2011, Yale Law School announced the formation of The Floyd Abrams Institute for Freedom of Expression, part of the Information Society Project, whose mission is to promote free speech, scholarship, and law reform on emerging questions concerning traditional and new media. Developed in cooperation with Abrams, the Institute includes a clinic for Yale Law students to engage in litigation, draft model legislation, and advise lawmakers and policy makers on issues of media freedom and informational access.



Robert A. Katzmann '80,
*Chief Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals
for the Second Circuit*

Making Institutions of Government Work

"In terms of the norms within the federal judiciary, there is a very strong norm that governs judges in their behavior. Judges do not think or act like partisan politicians. Regardless of prior background or experience, they share in common a respect for the judiciary as an institution whose viability depends upon the perception and reality of impartial, dispassionate decision-making. Judges, especially on an appellate court, understand the importance of working together. There is the feeling toward an institution that is removed from partisan politics. There is the pull of precedent, of an institutional framework guiding our decisions. What we do as judges is settle the present, while being respectful of the past and maybe foretelling something of the future."



(from left) Judge Robert A. Katzmann '80, Abbe R. Gluck '00
(moderator), Norman Ornstein, Gene Sperling '85



Abbe Gluck '00,
Professor of Law
States, Federalism, and Democracy

"Anyone who's looking at how government works can't ignore the role the states are playing in every major federal program. Congress is constantly delegating to the states; they're relying on the states. Some of this is a resource issue. Some of it is a political issue. It's a lot easier to convince Republicans to outsource a program to the States than have it run, say, a Democratic executive branch program. In the context of Obamacare, this is exactly why Republicans Senators were insisting that the insurance exchanges had to be run through the States, not through the Federal government as the House wanted."

(from left) Heather Gerken (moderator), Jessica Bulman-Pozen '07,
Abbe R. Gluck '00, David Schleicher





**Daniel Markovits '00,
Guido Calabresi Professor of Law
Income Inequality and Democracy**

“No thoughtful person can applaud the new economic inequality. But it remains intensely difficult to say—with factual precision and moral clarity—just in what ways and for what reasons the inequality is wrong. The nature and causes of economic inequality have been transformed since the middle of the last century, and familiar progressive moral and political arguments against economic inequality no longer suit current conditions.

“Perhaps most importantly, meritocracy—which for generations opposed economic inequality—today exacerbates inequality. Meritocratic education, in particular, gives contemporary economic inequality a snowball character. Prior inequalities engender new ones, of ever-increasing size. In fact, meritocracy today functions much as aristocracy did in a prior, land-based economic order—as an ideology that serves to legitimate an otherwise offensive distribution of advantage.”



(from left) Bruce Ackerman '67 (moderator), Daniel Markovits '00, Ilya Somin '01, Gene Sperling '85



Heather Gerken

J. Skelly Wright Professor of Law

Campaign Finance

"It is routine nowadays for campaigns to put into their websites footage of their candidate of really high quality resolution. Why do they do that? They do that so that people can pull that for the independent groups and use it for ads. It is routine for candidates to post press releases that they know the press will not pick up. Why are they doing that? Because they're sending a signal to their superPACs, with whom they cannot formally coordinate, about where they should spend their money. It is routine for campaign managers to serve as what are called 'conductors,' essentially figuring out how to get messages back and forth between the superPACs and the nonprofits and the campaigns, even though they are supposed to be independent, in order to make sure there is coordination. Meanwhile, it is routine for the donors to create vote cards, once thought to be a great tool of transparency, in order to signal to the candidate where they want them to toe the line, when they are toeing the line."



(from left) Anita S. Earls '88, Dale E. Ho '05, Samuel Issacharoff '83 (moderator), Daniel P. Tokaji '94

Dale E. Ho '05,
Director, ACLU Voting
Rights Project
Civil Rights
Post-Shelby County

"How did Obama win in 2008 if not by building a multi-racial coalition all across the country? Well, there was a surge in 2008 in voting by non-whites. If you compare just the sheer number of ballots cast in 2008 and 2004 among African Americans: 15% increase. Among Hispanics: 25% increase. Among Asian Americans: 20% increase. Among non-Hispanic whites: less than one-half of a percentage point increase between 2004 and 2008 in terms of ballots cast. The electorate diversified tremendously in 2008,



and Obama ran up the numbers among non-white voters. He improved upon Kerry's margins amongst all three major racial and ethnic minority groups in the country. And it's only after that election that we see a surge of these laws. It's awfully coincidental, isn't it, that these laws have disproportionate effects on precisely those segments of the electorate that are growing exponentially right now."

(from left) Heather Gerken, Floyd Abrams '59, Elizabeth H. Esty '85, Robert C. Post '77 (moderator)



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