

# COMMENCE

2017

# BRING JUSTICE TO THOSE IN NEED

**The current political climate** was in the thoughts and words of the speakers at the 2017 Commencement, held May 22 at the William K. Lanman Center at Payne Whitney Gymnasium. In addition to the congratulations offered to the graduates, Dean Robert C. Post '77, Congressman John Lewis, and Professor Anne Alstott '87 urged students to use law to improve the world.

In his remarks to the graduating class, Dean Post spoke of the students' responsibility to create a new kind of politics, one that "respects disagreement, that learns from public dialogue, that embraces knowledge, and that affirms the rule of law."

Post argued that a new vision of politics requires a vibrant community. "It is only through inhabiting such a vision that we can master the terrors of police violence, or global warming, or international

# MENT

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instability, or economic collapse, or economic inequality,” he said.

After Dean Post’s remarks, he presented the official maces of Yale Law School to Heather Gerken, who would become dean on July 1. The first mace, which represents authority over the JD population of the School, is called The Walking Stick Mace; the second mace, which represents authority over the graduate students pursuing advanced studies, is a staff surmounted by an owl engaged in deep study.

Gerken acknowledged Post’s service to Yale Law School during the eight years of his deanship. “[Post] cherished the glories of Yale Law School while preparing us for the future,” she said.

Gerken went on to say that she likes that the Law School maces are different than the ones the University uses. They are “not fit for a king—they are walking sticks,” she commented. “They are meant to slip into the hands of someone who works, not someone who rules.”

John Lewis, the civil rights leader and Congressman from Georgia, also addressed the students. During the Yale University Commencement ceremony, Lewis received an Honorary Doctor of Laws. He spoke about his childhood and his early aspirations to be a minister. As he was growing up, he noticed the inequalities in the world, but his parents told him not to get in the way and not to get in trouble.

“But the actions of Rosa Parks and the words of Martin Luther King inspired me to get in the way. To get into trouble,” Lewis said about his actions during the civil rights movement.

“When you see something that is not right, not fair,” continued Lewis, “you have a moral obligation to say something or do something.” Lewis implored the graduates to be bold and brave and “bring justice to those who need it.”



Anne Alstott ’87, Jacquin D. Bierman Professor in Taxation, spoke about the privilege of being trained as lawyers through a story of medieval English Law and the first legal representatives. Drawing a parallel to today’s graduates, she said “In the modern world, *law* is the language of power—not only in the courtroom but in the halls of Congress, in state capitals, and in the offices of government agencies.”

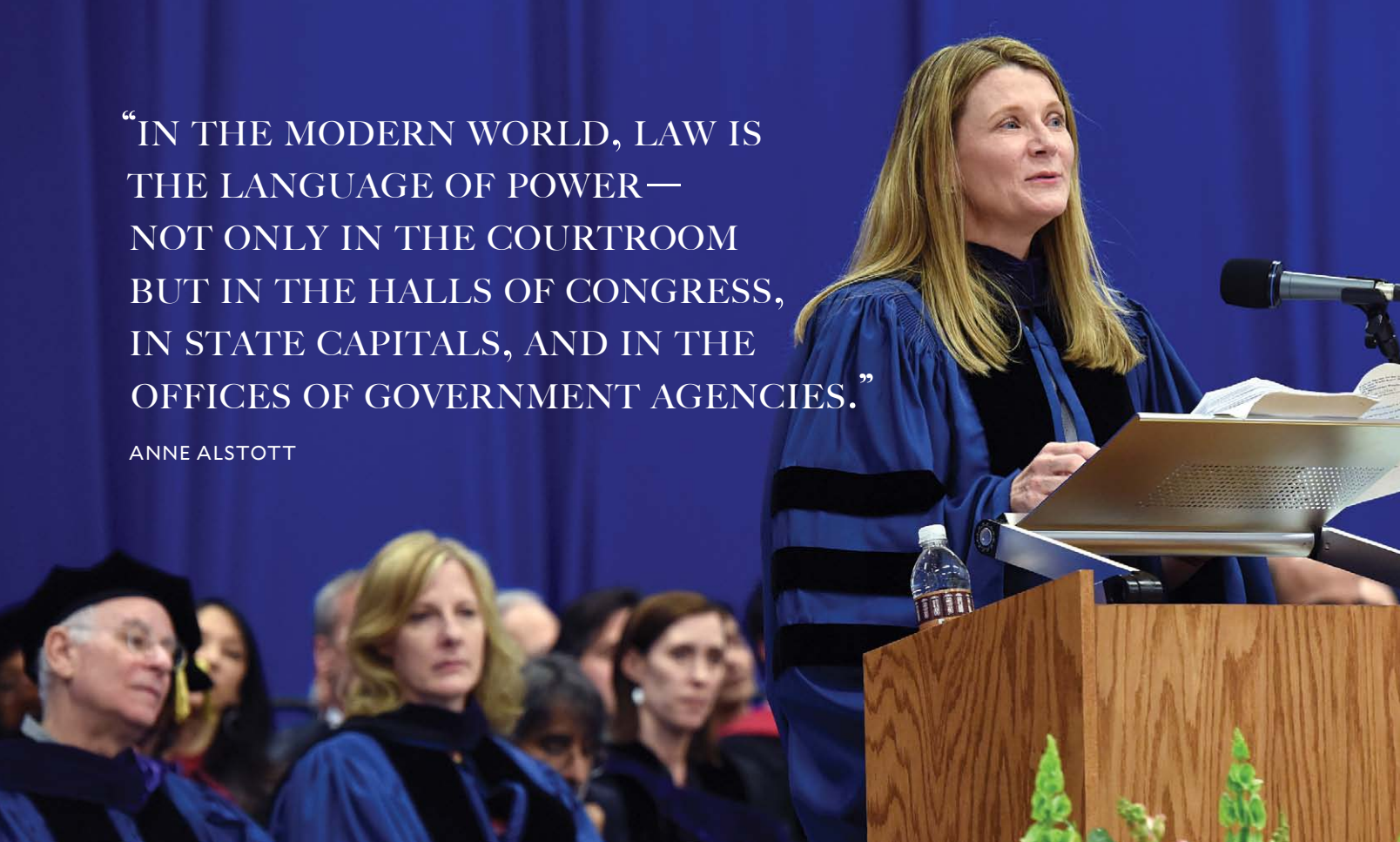
Alstott also spoke of how the graduates have already—and will continue to—use the language of law to serve social justice. Whatever one’s political beliefs, Alstott said, lawyers invoke the power of law for the best reasons. Alstott encouraged all to “speak the truth on behalf of others” in their future lives and careers.

Two hundred and forty-five degree candidates were honored at the ceremonies, including 213 JDs, 24 LLMS, 4 JSJs, and 4 PHDs in Law. 🌱



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ANNE ALSTOTT







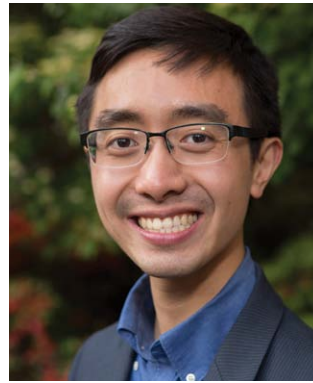
## Tiffany Bailey

I will be returning to Long Beach, California, this summer, where I will bask in the sunshine and study for the bar. In the fall, I will head to San Francisco and clerk for the Honorable Justice Leandra R. Kruger on the California Supreme Court. The following year, I will clerk for the Honorable Marsha S. Berzon on the Ninth Circuit.



## Léa Brière-Godbout

In the fall of 2017, I will pursue SJD studies at the University of Toronto. My doctoral research will focus on the discursive transformations in the field of equal protection doctrine in Canadian constitutional law. In 2018, I will have the honor to clerk for Justice Richard Wagner at the Supreme Court of Canada.



## Eric Chung

Growing up, I did not know any lawyers or Yale graduates. I am so honored and humbled by how much this moment means not only to me but to my family and to my hometown in Michigan. The YLS community has welcomed me with open arms and has so wonderfully guided me by way of encouragement, knowledge, and inspiration, and I aspire in my career to channel back to others all that has been shared with me.



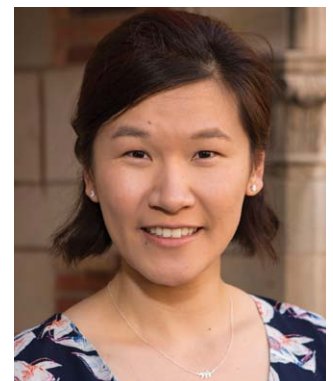
## Elizabeth Dervan

After graduation, I'll be headed down to Washington, DC to join the U.S. Senate Finance Committee as a Heyman Fellow with their Democratic Staff. There, I'll have the opportunity to work on major programs in health care, including Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act. As someone who came to YLS with a love for health law, I couldn't be more excited to get started.



## Helen Diagama

Immediately after graduation, I will be studying for the bar in sunny New Haven. After that, I plan to move back home to my beloved borough of Queens, New York and start working as a corporate associate at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in NYC.



## Helen Li

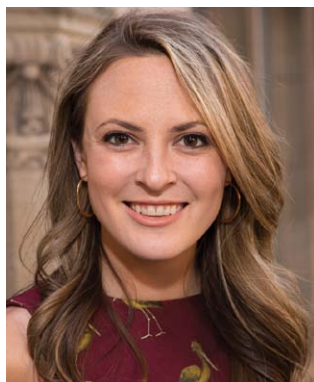
I'm going to study for the Connecticut bar in France! After taking the bar, I'll start work with Connecticut Legal Services, focusing on childhood lead poisoning and other environmental justice issues in the state.





### Andy Mun

After the bar exam, I plan on backpacking in South America. Starting in the fall, I will spend two years at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in New York. After that, I will clerk at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, and then at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. I am truly blessed to have been part of this community, and I look forward to witnessing my classmates working tirelessly to make this world a better place!



### Jenna Pavelec

This summer, I'm moving to Covington, Kentucky, to clerk for Judge Amul R. Thapar of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. The following year, I'll head to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to clerk for Judge Raymond Kethledge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.



### Alexandra Perloff-Giles

Starting in June, I'll be heading back to my hometown of San Francisco to clerk for Judge Marsha S. Berzon on the Ninth Circuit. After that... who knows?



### Shannon Prince

I look forward to completing my doctorate at Harvard University before becoming a litigator— and hopefully a published author! One of my literary works can be read in Issue 122 of *Transition* magazine.



### Daniel Rendleman

The Rendlemans, Illinoisans at heart, will be trading one coast for another. My wife Katy, our kids, and I will see as much of America as we can as we make our way to Washington state. This fall, I will start work as a JAG attorney for the U.S. Army.



### William Stone

This summer I'll be in studying for the New York bar. In August, my wife and I will escape to South Africa to celebrate our honeymoon before flying to Scotland for my best friend's wedding. In October, I'll start work at Davis Polk in New York, where I'll be for one year before clerking for Judge Paul Engelmayer on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and Judge Joseph Greenaway on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.



### Brandon Thompson

Next year, I'm clerking for Chief Judge Howard on the First Circuit Court of Appeals. I'll be clerking for Judge Woods on the Southern District of New York in 2018–2019.

