

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2017



Classmates Reaffirm Friendships; Justice Myron H. Thompson '72 Honored



Dean Heather Gerken on Justice Myron H. Thompson '72:

“He possesses one of the finest minds of any modern jurists, but he also has the compassion to step into the world of those whose lives intersect his only within his courtroom.”



Alumni and their families were greeted with beautiful weather, friendly faces, and a packed schedule of activities for Alumni Weekend 2017 on October 20–22. In addition to many chances for individual classes to reconnect over meals and discussions, there were opportunities for all to attend new diversity events, panels on civil rights and international law, a state-of-the-school address by Dean Heather Gerken, and an all-alumni luncheon.

This year's Award of Merit recipient, honored at the lunch on Saturday, was Myron H. Thompson '72. After graduating, Thompson became the first African-American Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama. After time in private practice and in the Alabama Legal Services Corporation, he was nominated to the federal bench by President Jimmy Carter and is a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

"He possesses one of the finest minds of any modern jurists, but he also has the compassion to step into the world of those whose lives intersect his only within his courtroom," said Dean Gerken in her remarks about Thompson.



In his remarks, Thompson warmly thanked those who had come to New Haven with him, including his family, his law practice partner, and friends. He also spoke of overcoming challenges in his childhood—from polio to segregation—and the Yale Law School student who inspired him to attend Yale College and Yale Law School.

"What I learned from that initial Yale Law student, what I've learned from the many students who have clerked for me over the years, is the importance of public service," said Thompson. "It has driven me and it's driven them."

The weekend closed with Sunday brunches, hosted by faculty members and alumni. 🍷



See more reunion photos on pages 88 and 114.

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Panel: Yale Law Women at Work: 5, 10, and 15 years after YLS



Panel on “A Civil Rights Agenda for the 21st Century”

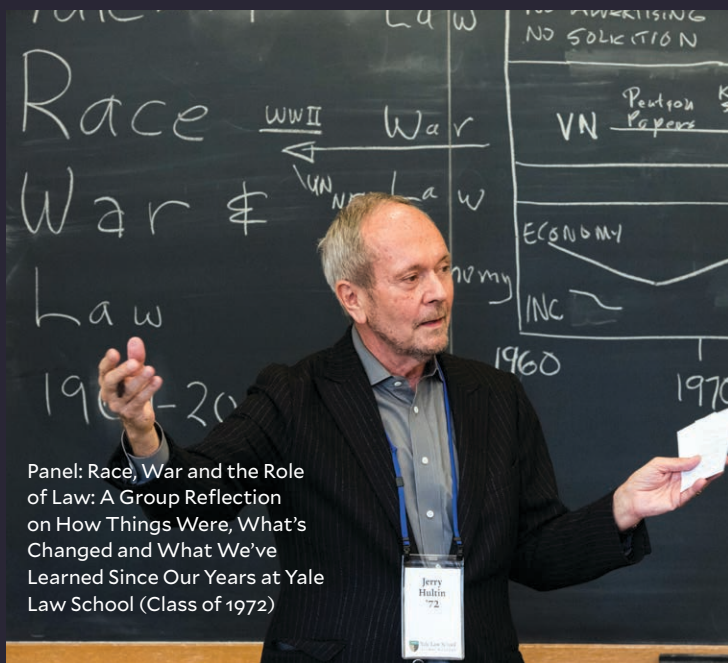
Margo Schlanger '93:

“I think what’s going on [in the travel ban court cases] is that there had been a rejection of equality in the immigration system... And what we’re left with is this moment in time—unless things change significantly in the courts and in the culture—where we are prepared to say immigration, too, needs to be a place where white supremacy has no role and where civil rights values can be given their full effect.”



Panel: A Civil Rights Agenda for the 21st Century, moderated by Bruce Ackerman '67





Panel: Race, War and the Role of Law: A Group Reflection on How Things Were, What's Changed and What We've Learned Since Our Years at Yale Law School (Class of 1972)



Members of the Class of 1992 at brunch at the home of David Grewal '02 and Daniela Cammack



Members of the Class of 2012 in the Sol Goldman Courtyard





Panel on "The Future of the International Legal Order"

Ian Solomon '02:

"What are we worried about?

Poverty. Inequality. Climate Change.

Issues of refugees and this backlash against immigration.
Human rights violations. What do these have in common?

None of these are issues the U.S. or any one country
can handle alone. Every single one of them,
if we want to address them, requires a degree of
coordination, collaboration, and cooperation
among a range of international actors, both states
and non-state institutions."



A discussion on criminal justice reform with
Senator Christopher Coons '92 and Professor
James Forman, Jr. '92 (Class of 1992)

