A Letter From
Dean Harold Hongju Koh

Dean Harold Hongju Koh celebrated with Yale Law School graduates during Alumni Weekend 2006.

Dear Graduates and Friends of Yale Law School,

In an age of information and ideas, Yale Law School remains dedicated to the delivery of both. This issue of the *Yale Law Report* bristles with both traditions and innovations that guide the way the Law School now delivers legal information and ideas.

We begin with enhancement of tradition: the recent donation to the Lillian Goldman Law Library of the Roman and Canon law collection of the Library of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. This magnificent gift includes 1,100 titles in more than 1,600 physical volumes dating from 1500 to 1900, including not only several editions of primary sources, but also medieval and Renaissance commentaries, teaching texts, early court decisions, and classic legal scholarship by such luminaries as Bartolus, Savigny, Bynkershoek, and Huber.

But even as we enrich our traditional texts, we are moving on multiple fronts to stay ahead of the information curve. Although our graduates now commune constantly via email, websites, and Black-Berries, you may not fully appreciate how totally that same communications revolution has transformed Yale's legal education and scholarship. Literally every student now attends class with a laptop, connects constantly to our schoolwide wireless system, and learns about the law not just from lectures and seminars, but also by downloading articles, perusing blogs, and reading online court decisions, legislative drafts, and news stories. The Facebook, "The Wall," our nine student journals, and course assignments, syllabi, registration, and reading have all now moved online.

To make the most of these technological advances, we have revamped our website, *www.law.yale.edu*, developed more regular use of streaming media, and shifted a number of our print publications to the Web. A newly expanded Office of Public Affairs with Jan Conroy at the helm *(janet.conroy@yale.edu)* is instituting these and many other changes to bring you more dynamic content. Please feel free to email her your suggestions.

In an interview in this issue, Knight Professor of Constitutional Law and the First Amendment and director of the Information Society Project Jack Balkin—the founder of the must-read weblog *Balkinization*—discusses the many ways in which the "blogosphere" is affecting legal scholarship. Other online efforts include *The Yale Law Journal*'s widely read online companion, The Pocket Part at *www.thepocketpart.org*, and *Opening Argument*, a forum for political debate and discussion begun by Yale Law School students in 2005, which has recently launched its online edition at *www.openingargument.com*.

Even as they cover the Web, our faculty, staff, and students continue to generate print articles and monographs at a remarkable rate. Recently, Jack Balkin, Dan Esty, Paul Kahn, Jed Rubenfeld, Peter Schuck, and Fred Shapiro all produced widely read books, described within. One new chair-holder, inaugural Field Professor of Law Yochai Benkler, wrote *The Wealth of Networks: How Social Production Transforms Markets and Freedom*, which can be read not just as a book in hardcopy, but also viewed online in Wiki, pdf, html, and other formats.

So even as information goes global, our community grows more connected and intimate. Even graduates who have not visited the school in many years can visit our website any time to watch panels from Alumni Weekend, special lectures, and the memorably successful launch of our *Yale Law School Tomorrow* Campaign, *www.law.yale.edu/givetoyls/lawtomorrow.htm*.

But, remember: The more things change, the more Yale Law School stays the same: a place focused less on what the law is, than on what it might become. Don't take my word for it! Just visit *www.law.yale.edu/alumni/aw06videos.asp* and view "A Celebration of Yale Law School."

I guarantee that it will bring back happy memories!

Harold Hongju Koh