



Commencement 2016

Flourish Together  
Yale Law School  
Celebrates  
its Graduating Class  
of 2016

▣ The clouds that threatened rain cleared and gave way to a sunny and warm commencement day this year. More than 200 graduates of Yale Law School participated in commencement ceremonies on May 23 at the William K. Lanman Center at Payne Whitney Gymnasium, surrounded by friends, family, and the Law School faculty. In addition to remarks from Dean Robert C. Post '77, attendees heard from Stephen B. Bright, the Harvey Karp Visiting Lecturer in Law, and Justice Rosalie Abella of Canada's Supreme Court. The speeches discussed the divided politics of our nation and the responsibilities of lawyers to improve the legal system.

In his remarks to the graduating class, Dean Post spoke of the great partisan division in U.S. politics today. "When asked, Americans report a lower opinion of Congress than of root canals, colonoscopies, Brussels sprouts, or traffic jams," he said. "Congress did manage a higher approval rating than telemarketers, North Korea, or the Ebola virus." Quoting Greek historian Thucydides and Lithuanian poet Czeslaw Milosz, he discussed making democracy work through ensuring that the process is open to everyone.



*Stephen Bright*



*Justice Rosalie Abella of Canada's Supreme Court received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Yale University and addressed the class of 2016.*

▶ Dean Post argued that the way forward was to find a way to unite. “We are thrown willy-nilly into a common lifeboat, and we flourish together or we do not flourish at all,” he said.

Stephen B. Bright spoke to the graduates about the importance of service. Citing examples of Yale Law School students and faculty members who have fought against injustice, he encouraged all to provide a voice for those who may not be heard. “We are abandoning our children to fend for themselves in a complex and hostile legal system that sends them to prisons where they may be subject to degradation and abuse,” Bright said.

Bright asserted that lawyers have the responsibility to improve the system in which they work. “I encourage you to use your knowledge and privilege to take risks for those for whom playing it safe was never an option,” he said. “Your greatest accomplishment may be the result of the greatest risk you take.”

Justice Rosalie Abella addressed the students after receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Yale University earlier in the day. She began by emphasizing the responsibilities of lawyers: “We need a legal profession that worries about what the world looks and feels like to those who are vulnerable.”

She told the history of her family and how her father’s struggles to practice law inspired her to become a lawyer herself. “I stand proudly before you, fellow graduates, believing as did my father that democracies and their laws represent the best possibilities of justice,” Abella said. “And that lawyers are the people who have the duty to make that justice happen.”

Two hundred and twenty-nine degree candidates were honored at the ceremonies Monday, including 201 JDS, 23 LLMS, 3 JSDS, 2 MSLS, and 3 PHDS in Law.



▶ **Max Nardini**

After the bar, I look forward to returning to New Haven in the fall to serve as the fellow for the San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project (SFALP) at Yale Law School. Afterwards I hope to pursue a career in consumer protection litigation.



▶ **Jaunita John**

*(second from right, with her family)*

I will be starting as a first-year associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in New York in September 2016, but prior to that I plan on traveling to a part of the United States that I have never seen before and taking a whirlwind trip to southern India. I am beyond excited to relax and celebrate three full years of academic and professional intensity! In the long run, I look forward to progressing in my career path, on which I hope to interact with many of my incredibly gifted classmates.





### Conchita Cruz

I will be a Patricia and Peter Gruber Fellow at the Urban Justice Center, where I co-founded the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) along with classmates Swapna Reddy '16, Dorothy Tegeler '16 and Liz Willis '17. I will provide remote legal assistance to refugee families across the United States, harnessing the talents of law students and using innovative methods to decrease response times, scale pro bono capacity, and serve clients in geographically isolated areas.

### Swapna Reddy

After graduation, I will have the incredible opportunity to continue building a nonprofit that I co-founded here at YLS with some of my closest friends. We started this project to respond to the legal needs of refugee women and children held in detention near the U.S.–Mexico border, and we are now working to bring ASAP's services nationwide.

### Dorothy Tegeler

Next year, I will be clerking for the Honorable Michael P. Shea of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut and then joining three friends to continue the work of building ASAP! More than 150 Yale Law students, staff, and faculty have volunteered with and supported ASAP this year and helped to stop the deportation of hundreds of Central American refugee families. I'm graduating feeling so grateful to have been part of this community and excited to see what we can accomplish together for years to come!



(from left) Dorothy Tegeler, Conchita Cruz, and Swapna Reddy



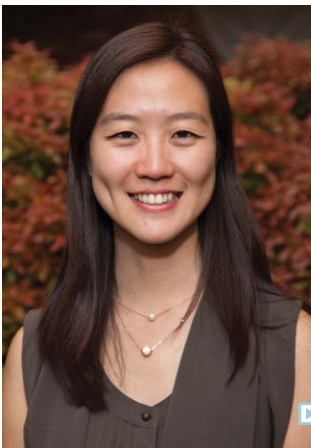
**Reginald Betts**

*(from left) Reginald Betts and Harold Hongju Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law, on the morning of commencement. After graduation, Betts will join Community Legal Services of Philadelphia as an Arthur Liman fellow.*

After three years of law school, I intend to spend a long summer enjoying my family. I may not have earned a vacation, but after three years of putting up with a law student, my wife and sons have definitely earned one. We plan on taking a tour of New England before heading to Canada.

**Jennifer Yun**

I will be going to my five-year reunion at Amherst College, which I'm really excited about. I'm spending the next two months in New Haven studying for the bar and then traveling during the month of August, before moving to Montgomery, Alabama, to clerk for the Honorable Myron Thompson '72 of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

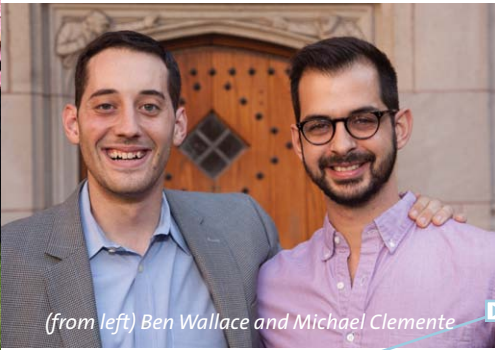


**Johannes Buchheim**

*with his mother*

After graduation I will return to Germany in order to complete my two years of mandatory clerkship required before passing the bar. I'm especially looking forward to the four months that I will be clerking at the Federal Constitutional Court. Parallel to this practical work, I will be teaching some courses at Humboldt University (Berlin) in order not to stray too far from the academic path that brought me to Yale.





(from left) Ben Wallace and Michael Clemente

### ▶ Michael Clemente

This summer I'm attending some conferences, and I plan on finishing a few writing projects. I'm then clerking for two years, first on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and then the District of Columbia Circuit.

### Ben Wallace

After graduation, I'll be camped out at the Delaware beaches studying for the Delaware bar. (Home sweet home!) In the fall, I'm heading to Ann Arbor to clerk for Judge Raymond Kethledge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Then, the following year, I'm heading to Washington, DC, to clerk for Judge Sri Srinivasan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.



### ▶ Stephanie Krent

(center) with her sisters

I'll be spending my first-ever summer in New Haven while I study for the bar. After that, I'm heading to New York City—first to work for Jenner & Block, and then to clerk for Judge Ramos on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.



### ▶ Sarahi Uribe

This fall, I will begin work as an associate at Cleary Gottlieb in Washington, DC. The following year I will serve as a law clerk for Judge Amy Berman Jackson at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

### ▶ John Rafael Perez

(second from left) with his family

Right after graduation, I will be flying off to South Africa for the first time. Once I get back, I'll have a road trip across the United States with my family. After that, I hope to attend discussions at the International Labour Organization in Geneva and then maybe squeeze in short trips to Germany and Peru. In September, I start at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton where I hope to learn more about international development.

